

changing church

TOOLKIT | THE GATHERING CHURCH

5 KEY QUESTIONS

FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

ON REOPENING CHURCH

1. What does it look like to love Jesus and our neighbour in the context in which we find ourselves?

Gathering is important, but we must do so in a way that doesn't put people at risk. This may lead to some ministry settings being opened sooner for those who are isolated and lonely, but also proceeding with caution, remembering those who are particularly at risk. And remember, more people have been checking out church online and making a commitment to follow Jesus - so how do we remain missional in this moment?

2. What is the wise way to proceed as we reopen?

It will be important to stay up to date on the latest information, government guidance and scientific findings. However, wisdom is employing prayerful deliberations and collective decision-making as we handle that knowledge.

3. How do we ensure our approach is gracious and honouring?

We are going to have to make difficult decisions in this season and other churches are going to act differently. We need to humbly reflect on our own possible biases, influences and pressures. We need to honour others who choose a different path and have the grace to acknowledge there will often not be a 'right' way or there will be times when we get it wrong.

4. What is our role within the broader community?

The vast majority of churches have been meeting the needs of the most vulnerable during lockdown. They have also identified significant needs around mental health and personal debt. With government and third sector organisations spending under pressure, the church has a great opportunity to stand in the gap.

5. Who decides what?

There are going to be a whole range of decisions that have to be taken, probably over a reasonably long period of time. These will raise issues around good governance, compliance, risk and opportunity. It is helpful to discuss and agree who is accountable, responsible, needs to be consulted, and who should be informed at each stage.

It is important that we move ahead soaked in prayer, rooted in scripture, passionate for the gospel and committed to one another in love.

