To All Friends of Beacon Community Church.

We live in challenging days, never experienced in our lifetimes, we love meeting and coming together and use the times to worship God. We make decisions to attract as many as are able to join us and enter this tremendous experience. The current situation with the spread of the coronavirus and the statements coming out from government mean that we cannot take such an open hearted approach.

**Rev Paul Brown together with all our leaders have come to what is a heart wrenching decision.**

In line with Government guidelines and in agreement with other local denominations. Beacon Community Church will close for all activities and services, with the exceptions of funerals for the foreseeable future.

In particular there will be a short service next Sunday, 22nd March for prayer and bless those who can serve the community in collecting shopping and medication. There will be no organised meetings thereafter until further notice.

We should emphasise that “Church is a community, not a building". The closure of the building does not mean the end of Beacon Community Church, as a family of Christians who work, witness and worship God.

Far from it. Over the coming days the leadership will be developing ways in which we can contact each other, support each other, and pray with and for each other.

**So, watch this space** – and expect to hear from us again about networking and live-streaming and making addresses and prayers available by electronic means.

And will be backed up with hard copies for those needing them

To this end Pastor Paul Brown will be in Church Mon - Fri from 23rd. Between 9-10 am and 7- 8pm - you can join in prayer from home etc.

Our desire is to keep the love of God alive and burning in each other’s hearts and lives, so that no-one feels forgotten. There will be some of our congregation who depend on the fellowship of a Sunday Service, and many of our other actives, to help with their loneliness and isolation. This virus will only make it worse.

Let us individually try to ensure that people are not left out. Phone and chat and also pray with them.

We would ask you all to be patient with us and one another. It might be that we try things and they don’t work. We are certain to find that we can do things better as we go along. So please forgive us if things don’t go well at the start and help us to learn.

**Finally,** as you can see, these changes throw up all kinds of needs. If you see a need and have the time and energy and ability to help solve it do please offer your services. Contact Pastor Paul Brown with any issues you may have!

As we batten down the hatches to face the coming storm, remember “keep checking your compass”. SO let’s turn to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith and demonstrate the presence of God’s Holy Spirit in us by our love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.  Let’s pray with Moses. “May the Lord bless us and keep us, and make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us, May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon us and bring us His peace.

Yours faithfully - Rev Paul Brown