



The Cellar Café ON THE MOVE

FROM

Dr Chris Jagger, Chair of the Warehouse Christian Trust (Cellar and Skillway)

21 May 2020

Dear Friends, supporters and kind sponsors of the work of the Cellar,

Greetings and blessings from the trustees.

As you know, we are in the sad and frustrating situation that, along with the rest of the nation's hospitality industry, The Cellar café has now been closed since mid-March, and we have no clear understanding of when business can resume. Since the café closed its doors, The Cellar team has kept in touch with our regular customers and members of 'the Cellar family' by phone and has offered support in the ways we can. We continue to share our blessings and sorrows – of which there have been several recently.

This does mean though that we are not going to be commercially viable in our present accommodation this year, and I write to inform you that the trustees have taken the difficult and very sad decision not to renew the lease on the premises in Crown Court which expires on 22 May. Having prayerfully considered all options, outcomes, and best and worst case time frames for coronavirus restrictions, we believe that the end of the lease at least offers a financial reprieve for the charity, when the future is so uncertain.

Nevertheless, we have been in Crown Court for over 40 years, and it is with heavy hearts that we are going to leave the café and find a new home.

Please be assured. We are going to continue to operate as a caring and pastoral team and to employ our staff, currently on furlough, after the lock down is over. We envisage finding temporary local accommodation to continue the supportive work for our vulnerable 'flock', particularly those struggling with special needs or mental health issues. We will continue to support our local food banks and to do all that we can through our network to meet the needs of those struggling with poverty.

We are gearing up to assist the local community in the recovery phase after the pandemic and in one sense we will be able to give a more flexible response outside the Cellar and possibly home visiting to give practical help where necessary.

We are proud of our ecumenical links and conscious that the Cellar family is servant to both the local churches and also to the wider community. This will continue to grow and develop and if any of our local churches require help in any way with services, worship, sermons, healing prayers and more we are in a strong position to get alongside and assist if required.

Our ministry in the street has been growing steadily and our prayer and worship station will continue and be taken to higher levels with possibilities for revisiting Send prison and encouraging and blessing those who are in lock down for reasons other than ours! Our impromptu worship band has visited Farnham Rd Hospital and been a blessing to both staff and patients struggling with mental health issues. This has been a great privilege. I sense that the Lord wants us to develop the singing and worship outreach and to consider having a praise and worship rock gospel group engaging members of our Cellar family and regular customers.

A daily 'gathering' locally will be sought for morning coffee and lunch time provision and friendship. Befriending has been a strong part of our work and when struggling folk feel that they are accepted and belong it can bring healing and a sense of freedom and joy. Post prandial prayer walks after lunch is a thought that has been muted and this could assist with getting folk physically and spiritually fit!

Our passion to reach out to folk who would not normally come to church but who are wounded and broken in mind or spirit remains as strong as ever and our arms of love continue to be wide open. We are so grateful to Debbie (Cellar manager and 'Mother Goose') and Emma our faithful deputy manager and all our volunteers for their amazing work and witness. We all stand together to face the challenges of the future and are firmly trusting in the Mighty Living Lord Jesus for both direction and provision.

Please continue to support us in prayer and sponsorship in the usual way, and do stay in touch!

Blessings and love in abundance,

Dr Chris

The Warehouse Christian Trust
Chairman of Trustees – Chris Jagger
Treasurer – Ray Brown
Charity Registration Number 277631

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