

Littlehampton United Church

Mini Newsletter 7



Keeping
our church
together

New Life—New Hope

Even though the hot spell of Summer that we enjoyed a week or so ago, appears to have passed, there are still many signs of spring as our gardens flourish. In the last week I took these two pictures:

Lambs near Washington and Cygnets on Mewsbrook Lake



The recent news has been dominated by the aftermath of the murder of a black American man by police officers. Naison has addressed the serious issue of Racism in his pastoral letter. Let us all pray that the world-wide reaction will, indeed, give New Hope.

Several of our church members have commented on the Government's decision to allow churches to open for private prayer. Our leadership Team will be joining together in a virtual meeting on Saturday morning to discuss if and when this could be implemented. Apart from the physical arrangements in the church, entering and exiting, we also have to ensure the safety of our people. Most of us are over 70 and, therefore, very vulnerable. We also have a number of people shielding and the advice is to stay that way. We will consider the recommendations from our two denominations as well as the government and will let you know how we intend to proceed.

From the minister's desk:

The Lord Jesus said, “..... *I am going to the Father.*” (Jhn 14:12b) A promise fulfilled with the Ascension festive celebrated a few weeks ago. When you come to think of it these five words leave us with awe, fear, anxiety and lost in the mystery of God’s divine providence. The world that God created and sent His begotten Son to redeem it from anarchy to peace, rage to calmness, oppression to liberty, conflict to peace, hate to love, violence to justice, diseases to wellbeing, and all the evils that have tarnished the beauty of God’s creation. On the face of it one can draw the negative conclusion that Jesus left a window of suffering in the hands and control of unjust societies.

What we saw on our television screens a few weeks ago was awful, the callous killing of black American, George Floyd in police custody is evil. Here is what happened at the scene where George Floyd was cruel murdered;

“He called out to his Mom who died 2 years ago on this same day:

Handcuffed.

Face Down.

Knee on his neck.

They did nothing.

He called the officer "Sir."

They did nothing.

He begged for his life.

He begged for water.

He begged for mercy.

They did nothing.

His nose bled.

His body trembled.

He lost control of his bladder.

They did nothing.

He cried out, "I can't breathe."

They did nothing.

Twelve more times.

"I can't breathe."

"I can't breathe." "I can't breathe." "I can't breathe." "I can't breathe."

"I can't breathe." "I can't breathe." "I can't breathe." "I can't breathe."

"I can't breathe." "I can't breathe." "I can't breathe"

They did nothing.

One last time, he gasped, "I can't breathe."

They did nothing.

He lost consciousness.

They did nothing.

A firefighter demanded they check his pulse.

They did nothing.

Off duty medical personnel begged them to stop.

They did nothing.

Deprived of oxygen.

His organs screaming.

His brain frantic.

They did nothing.

They watched George Floyd die.

His life fading.

A slow death.

They did nothing.

A lynching on the ground.

They did nothing.

For eight agonizing minutes.

Four officers watched.

He cried out for his Mom...

A grown man...

Crying out for the woman who gave him life....

As he feared joining her in death.

And still they did nothing.

A black man.

A gentle giant.

Murdered because he was black.

And still, they've done nothing.

The officers should be arrested.

And still they've done nothing."

How long should we allow the other's knee to be on the neck of people of colour? If racism is an evil act, we need to root it out from all our institutions. I am convinced this "we can do," that is if we believe in the following words from Acts of the Apostles;

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance..... We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites. We live in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia. We are from Pontus, Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia. Others of us are from Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene. Still others are visitors from Rome. Some of the visitors are Jews. Others have accepted the Jewish faith. Also, Cretans and Arabs are here" (Acts 2:1-4,9-11 NIRV).

My call to all, is that we need to challenge the evil pandemic of racism that is embedded in our societal institutions. This is a systematic problem that needs a systematic solution when we are all with one accord.

Lastly, the information about re-opening church buildings is very sketchy from the government and the two denominations (United Reformed Church/Methodist). The leadership of the three churches will meet to map out the plan for re-opening for prayers and other activities that can be offered within the guidelines of social distancing and self-isolation from government and the information that came from the two denominations

PEACE AND GRACE

Naison M Hove

7-13.06.2020

News of the Family

Please continue to pray for Pauline's daughter Michelle who is recovering from the corona virus.

Doreen Redington, after a long wait, had her arm X-rayed and doctors pronounced that it is fractured. She now has her arm in plaster and is considerably more comfortable.

We also pray for all those shielding and many who await anxiously as they see their much needed medical treatment retreat over the horizon of ever increasing waiting lists.

Newsletter from the Friends of the Mombasa Children

Some of you are already on our mailing list and will have received the latest Newsletter. If you would like to read about the situation in Kenya concerning Coronavirus and how the lockdown is affecting Unity School, please contact me by phone or email and I'll send you a copy.

This newsletter was written and edited by Chris Azzaro, who can be contacted on 01903 718070 or by email: christopher.azzaro@sky.com

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome

There is also information about our church on the website:

Littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk