

Littlehampton United Church

Newsletter



Keeping
our church
together

Dear Friends,

Since we are unable to meet as church, I thought it would be good to keep in touch with each other via a special newsletter. Normally the Church Magazine is published bi-monthly but in these exceptional times, two months is a long time. I hope we can produce this, scaled down version, every three or four weeks. It will be circulated by e-mail and paper copies delivered where possible to those not using the internet.

Last Sunday I was saying that we would keep our services going for as long as possible. The Prime Minister's press conference on Monday afternoon changed everything. My diary, previously full of exciting things is now empty, so I've started to get on with jobs and hobbies that were waiting for the time to do them. Next on the list is to clean the conservatory roof.

Although meeting in church is not an option, there are many opportunities to worship via the television and, even more, if you have access to the internet, on U-tube. Keep an eye on the TV listings as things are changing quickly as the broadcasting companies adjust to the emergency. Wesley's Chapel is broadcasting a very traditional Methodist service every day at 10.00am and two services on Sundays.

You can access the services from Wesley's Chapel through our own website – there is a link that will take you straight there, or by going to Google and type Wesley's Chapel. Services are recorded so that you can watch them at any time.

I also noticed that All Saint's Church in Wick have recorded services (without a congregation): Google "All Saints Wick" and you will find them. Rev. Tom Robson leads these more informal services.

Meanwhile in Zimbabwe

Work on the borehole has begun. Naison has sent these pictures of the drilling rig arriving on site.



Other news from Africa

The Government of Kenya have closed all schools and colleges, so our friends at Unity School, Mombasa have no children to teach. Not even the children of key workers. But worse still, many of the parents have low paid jobs in the tourist industry – and are now unemployed. Friends of the Mombasa Children is hoping that our supporters will enable us to pay most of our teachers a percentage of their salary during the emergency. If we can find a way to help the children with food supplies, we will do so.

News of the Church Family.

With most of us staying at home because we come into that vulnerable age group that the NHS does not wish to end up in hospital, people are finding that keeping in touch by phone, email or various social networks is the thing to do.

If you have news to share, this could be the place to do it. Phone or email me with information and I will publish it here..

I decided that our church noticeboards looked rather less that exciting, displaying posters of church services that are not going to take place, so I produced a few new posters to take up the empty spaces. The Lenten Cross has also been updated with more of the artefacts of Lent added. Enjoy the pictures on the next page.

Best wishes and may God keep you safe .

Chris Azzaro



The Lenten Cross

The symbolic objects continue to be added to the cross. Last weekend the purple cloth was added and next will be the whip.

On Easter Sunday we will move the cross into the church garden and add the flowers to signify the risen Christ. I cannot invite you all to visit the church to add your flowers, so I will attempt to get enough flowers on the cross to make it look good fairly early on Easter Sunday. By Easter time the coronavirus will, in all probability, be an even more serious threat to us all.

The reality is that none of us know exactly what lies ahead over the next weeks and months. But the Lord does and we can trust Him even when we feel uncertain.

Which reminded me of the poem, famously read by King George VI as part of his Christmas broadcast in 1939. "I said to the man at the gate of the year"

Some of you will know the similarly sensed words from the more recent song "Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water", composed by Gene MacLellan.

Or as St Paul wrote in Romans 8 verses 37—39

In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

There is also information about our church on the website

Littlehamptonunitedchurch.org.uk

I Said to the man who stood at the gate of the year



I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown"; and he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light, and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night. He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone east. So heart, be still! What need our human life to know if God hath comprehension? In all the dizzy strife of things, both high and low, God hideth his intention. God knows. His will is best. The stretch of years which wind ahead, so dim to our imperfect vision, are clear to God. Our fears are premature. In Him all time hath full provision.

Then rest; until God moves to lift the veil from our impatient eyes, when, as the sweeter features of life's stern face we hail, fair beyond all surmise, God's thought around His creatures our minds shall fill.

Minnie Haskins (1875-1957)

WEEKLY OFFERTORY. Many of you may be wondering what to do about your