

Littlehampton United Church

Mini
Newsletter 3



Keeping
our church
together



He is risen

He is risen indeed!

Sadly we were unable to share the traditional Easter greeting in church this year, however, Val and I were up early on Easter Sunday to move the Lenten Cross out into the church garden and add some flowers.

Not as thickly covered in flowers as might have been if we had all been in church, or the flowers in my garden had not passed their spring best, but I am sure this sign of hope cheered many as they drove or walked passed .

*Christ is alive, let Christians sing,
His cross stands empty to the sky.*

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

Message from the minister's desk.

Greetings to you all friends in the Name of Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia praise the Lord. May I start by thanking many of you who prayed and made contact by all means of modern technology, when you heard about my lockdown predicament in Zimbabwe. I want to thank God for answered prayers for my safe return from Zimbabwe when it seemed I was going to be stuck there forever. I arrived safely in UK on the 5th April after what seemed like globe-trotting between Zimbabwe and Southern African trying to getting flight back to the UK.

Secondly, a word of encouragement in these unprecedented times facing the Church and the world due to the COVID 19. The prophet (Isaiah 43:1-3) has this to say, "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour."

We are called not to fear because our God is with through this difficult time. He will see us through this worldwide pandemic of coronavirus the Holy One of Israel, our redeemer and sustainer. The God who is "Immanuel; God with us." At the fullness of time COVID19 will come to pass and normality will resume, we will meet in flesh again. Let us hold each other in prayer for that is the weapon we have to fight the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

Stay at home and Keep safe. Blessings

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Zimbabwe Adventure ~ Water Well Drilling. From Naison Hove

Firstly, I bring greetings from the people of Zimbabwe especially the Murambi~ Mbirashava village. As one old woman said, " *We had lost hope for life, but life has come back to us because water is life. People we have not met and some we shall never meet in life. Thank God for their generosity.*"

I left the UK on the 10th March with Air France via Paris and arrived in Johannesburg on the 11th March. I spent a night in Johannesburg with a friend. I proceeded to Zimbabwe on the 12th March 2020 an hour's flight journey from Johannesburg to Bulawayo.

After three days of flight recovery in Bulawayo I started the ball rolling by talking to drilling company called MAKANAKA INVESTMANT (PVT) LTD, T/A POTE HOLDINGS, ZISHAVANE. I then engaged the T/A POTEHOLDINGS to do the job of surveying the river bed/water table underground but the findings were a bit worrying. The first attempt of drilling was 60 metres in depth, couldn't find water that was going to last for a long time because the water table was at the surface and not deep enough to sustain the village. However, this spot would work with a manual pump if it was continuously raining.

This hole took about 5 hours of drilling with no sign of getting water, and they had to stop to come back the following day to try another site that was 530 metres from the above that was drilled for 60 metres deep. Lo, and behold the geological survey report was 55% chance of getting water at 45 metres deep. The rigging got the water table at 50 metres deep and could be pumped up by use of a submersible electric Solar power pump. This is the recommendation from the Geological **Surveyor**.

Now the water has been found the challenge is to equip the borehole for it to be up and running with a Solar system that will generate the energy from the sun, a plentiful commodity in Zimbabwe.

The cost for the equipment is estimated at \$5 500,00 to the nearest dollar. I have attached the quotation from one reputable company who have been recommended by the Presbyterian Church who have used them before. (The quotation is not included here to save space)

A THANK YOU TO YOU ALL

May I at this point thank you once more for your generosity and support for making the dream come true. I cannot underestimate your generous sacrifice that you have shown to get the first phase of the water project achievable. I am confident that we can finish this project once everything is back to normal after the lockdown because of the world pandemic of COVID19.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THIS PROJECT

Last but not least, there are theories of speculative nature about the cause of COVID19, mostly causing fear and anxiety. What we do know is that lives have been lost and many will continue to die worldwide, until a cure or vaccine is found. Please follow the government guidelines in order to stay safe and prevent the spread of coronavirus. I hope to meet with you all, after the lockdown is over and share with you my adventure in Zimbabwe where you could ask me questions.

News from the family:

Norman Redington has sent the following:

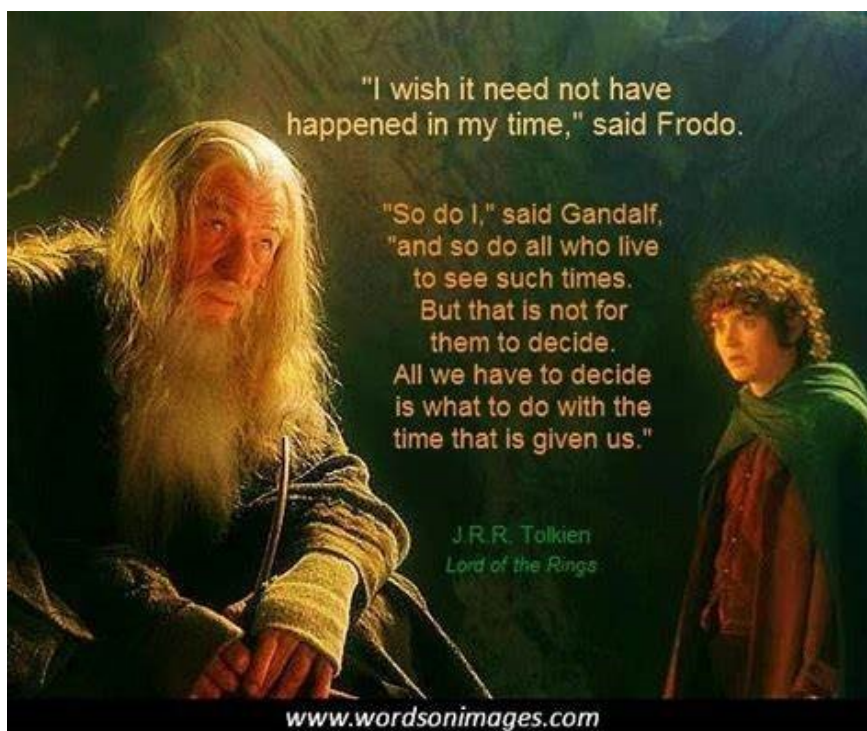
“We watched all the Easter services including the Easter message from Kings College. Doreen is beginning to walk now without the boot and is finding it hard work, while I am catching up with the garden along with the on going work with both Turning Tides and the Church improvements with John Stevens.”

We pray for Jackie Turvey and her family following the sudden loss of a family member.

It seems that many of us enjoyed the Easter Sunday programmes on the BBC. Several members have commented on the U-tube clips from All Saints Church. If you are reading this on-line, you can also log into Naison’s Sunday service and Wednesday Bible Study. You will need to download a free “Zoom” app first. Then email Naison for the password and login details. (nmhove211@gmail.com)

In a previous life, I had to talk to students and their parents about making choices for which subjects to study at GCSE. The “Lord of the Rings” trilogy of films had recently been released and the quote “All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us” was a suitable introduction.

Last week I saw the full quote and realised how appropriate the wording now felt in our present circumstances.



A thought on this week’s lectionary reading from Acts chapter 1, verses 6—14

Jesus’ disciples wanted a definitive timetable. They asked Jesus questions like “When will Israel be restored? The resurrection had happened—what was next? But Jesus, ignored the questions and spoke about the Holy Spirit.

Every afternoon journalists question the government: “When will the lock-down be over”. In true politician style, they are not given an answer. Whichever minister is speaking they refer to the factors that are required before the question can be answered. We all want a timetable, but just like the disciples, we are not going to get one yet.

Jesus replied (verse 8) “You will receive the power of the Holy Spirit and be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth”. Then Jesus is hidden by a cloud. Perhaps the writer (Luke) is recalling the transfiguration, the cloud that filled the temple (1 Kings 8: 10-11) and the pillar of cloud that guided the people to the promised land (Exodus 13:21). The cloud was not the end—it was the next step.

Perhaps, even when we have cloudy days, physical or metaphorical, God is always close.