

Littlehampton United Church

Mini Newsletter 5



Keeping
our church
together

Today, as we drove past the church on our way home from Tesco, (Our weekly dose of excitement) I wondered how long before we are able to return to our building even for prayer, let alone a service as we used to know them. Probably a long time yet, but while we may miss meeting together there is still plenty of opportunity to worship. Many of us had never heard of technology such as “Zoom” but now use it regularly to join services, bible studies or talk with our friends and families. Families of our church members live all over the world—as Norman Redington mentions later in this newsletter. Val and I have been in touch with our Step-Granddaughter in Japan as well as friends in Kenya.

All this world-wide connectivity reminds me of something I once saw on a fridge magnet:

God is **everywhere**

So you can talk to Him **anywhere**

I could add **“anytime”**

Some people like to use long words like Omnipotent and Omnipresent. I prefer to say that God is there for us all—at all times and all places whenever we might need Him.



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

From the minister's desk:

This week I want to share with you the following prayer as we continue with the lockdown and the new guideline "Stay Alert."

Almighty God, we pray for the sick and infected: heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of coronavirus. For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic diseases. Provide for the poor, especially those who have no choice, but have to go back to places of work. For the young and the strong: Give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help. For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: provide them with every necessary support. For the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter system: Protect them from disease, and provide isolation shelters in every city. For families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.

We pray, for all parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions. For those in need of regular therapies and treatments that must now be postponed: Help them to stay patient and positive. For business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees: Give these women and men wisdom, and help them to lead self-sacrificially. For pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: Help them to creatively imagine how to pastor their congregants and love their cities. For frontline health care workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us. Provide them with safety and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy. Help them to be knowledgeable about the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, as well as the changing protocols. Help them to stay clear-minded in the midst of the surrounding panic. Deliver them from anxiety for their own loved ones (aging parents, children, spouses, roommates). Give them compassion for every patient in their care. Provide for them with a sense love and not duty, vacation for service, especially if they fall ill and are unable to work.

God, help Christians in health care to exhibit extraordinary peace, so that many will ask about the reason for their hope. Give them opportunities to proclaim the gospel. We know that you are good, and will do more good to deliver the world from this pandemic that has brought the global communion on its knees. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who through love, laid down his life for mankind. Glorify his name as you equip us with everything needed for doing your will. **Amen.**

Naison

11.05.2020

News of the Family

Please remember in your prayers: Jill Luff . Who, we understand, is now in Worthing Hospital

Pauline's daughter Michelle who is at home having tested positive for corona virus.

Please continue to pray for Tom Bromley, recovering from the corona virus.

How are you passing your time during the lockdown ?

Pauline and Richard took up the 2.6 challenge on 26th April (as it was Richard's birthday) to raise funds for St Barnabas Hospice. We played 26 games of table tennis (final score,14-12 to Richard) and then walked 2.6 miles, to date we have raised just over £100.

From Norman Redington

We hear people saying they are bored stiff, although we have now been shut in for two and half months that is not the case with Doreen and I, we have from the start formed a routine with a number of activities covering a typical day. We phone a number of our friends and family especially those who are single or unwell, also Sykpe our friends in Canada and Nicole and little Pippa twice a week and it is surprising how quickly Pippa, although she is only 2yrs. old this August, chatters to us by use of the screen.

We are very lucky as we have Roy and Jane our neighbours who have shopped for us speaking every day and looking after us in many ways allowing us to stay in.



I spend my time in the mornings enjoying the sunny days gardening and decorating our summer house as seen in the pictures above. This has taken me two months to complete and along with friends giving me plants and with the beautiful weather it is a joy being outside getting fresh air and exercise.

Doreen's ankle is healing slowly but now we think that she has a " Tennis Elbow " the doctor explained that the very sharp pain she is experiencing may take some time before she gets any relief and will have to take maximum painkillers and plenty of rest. As now she is unable to lift the right arm out of her lap I have been promoted to chief cook and bottle washer.

From Irene McWatt (Irene worships at St Andrew's URC in Holmes Lane, Rustington, and noticed my picture from Norway in the last Newsletter)

A friend of mine asked if I'd been doing anything during lockdown, I said I'd been making greeting cards for the food bank – 44 cards so far. I took a photo of some of them to show her, but I am happy to pass this on to you as well. I don't use cut outs from cards – I use my own photos, paper cutters for floral greetings, or stickers to make up cards for children. I then wrap them in cling film for protection.



Your memories of VE Day 1945

Joan Bromley remembers a fantastic street party, tables piled high with food, set out down the middle of her street in Teddington, Surrey. All the more exciting as she had only returned home a few days before from Newport in Wales, where she spent the war as an evacuee.

Pauline's parents met at the VE day celebrations in the square at Storrington. Pauline and her family had planned to commemorate the event with a visit to her father's grave but had to postpone until safer times.

Norman Redington recalls memories of VE day and earlier:

VE DAY brings a few memories back to me although I was only 8 years old at the time.

I remember that on VE day there were tables laid out in the village with many people celebrating and a march past of the Home Guard for which my father was a sergeant.

What I remember leading up to this very happy day was while laying in bed I could hear the flutter of the doodle bugs flying over our bungalow in East Preston and to be told at a later date that a number of them had landed in Poling. I used to go down to the beach and watch the barrage balloons being raised and lowered with their thick steel cables attached and after the war my father made shower curtains out of the balloon material. At the bottom of our garden there was a large area of land which was occupied by the Canadian Tank Regiment with many tanks covered with camouflage netting. Many were looked after by my parents and neighbours; only to say all were killed in the fighting in France.

Then or Now?

With talk about how the present situation will return to normal becoming commonplace and even how churches might one day re-open their doors, I came across this:

“Without doubt, great problems lie ahead. The world will not recover quickly from the upheaval that has taken place. There is much work for each of us. “

I thought this very pertinent to our present situation and could be from any of our political leaders, except it was from Field Marshal Montgomery as part of his personal message to all ranks, dated 9th May 1945. “Monty” also said “ We must remember to give praise and thankfulness where it is due . This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes.”