

Littlehampton United Church

Mini
Newsletter 11



Keeping
our church
together

Hope

With some of the restrictions on our movement being lifted, there is a feeling of hope, that one day life will continue as it once did. That day is probably still a long way off, since scientific work on developing a vaccine against Covid-19 and all the testing then required will not be completed for some time yet. In the meantime, we all hope for something better to emerge as a result of all that we are going through. Will the low pollution levels continue to improve the health of humanity and nature? Will the important role played by low paid workers during the height of the crisis now be recognised and the equality gap permanently narrowed?

What are you most hoping for? What does hope look like?

Val is hoping that the weather will improve and her beans will set. I'm hoping the weather will improve too—then I can watch cricket on TV.

I ask the question, what does hope look like for you? Perhaps you would like to send me your ideas for inclusion in the next newsletter?



In the letter called "Hebrews" the writer links hope with faith:

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" He goes on to illustrate how faith is seen in action by citing several Israelite heroes. People who showed their hope in God, through their faith by the things they did. In chapter 12 the writer exhorts us to lay aside every burden and run with perseverance the race which is set before us. Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

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From the minister's desk

He says, *"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD Almighty is with us....."* (Psalm 46:10-11).

I wonder how many people who could be still and do nothing? Many adult people are like children when parent ask them to be still for a moment while s/he is busy doing something. Before you know it, the child will be up and about refusing to follow the instruction to be still.

The Lord God Almighty asked David to be still and know that he was God. David might have wrestled with the instruction and started to be like Abram and Sarai who when asked to wait upon the Lord for a blessing by making them father and mother of many nations. Abram and Sarai couldn't wait for the promise of God, decided that God was getting too late to give them children. The two decided that Abram should take Hagar and have a child with her. They couldn't wait and be still and know the power and promise of God to be fulfilled.

Many people around the globe are facing the challenge to be still and know the power of God at this time of world pandemic because of coronavirus and lockdown. People want to go back to the old way of doing things, they can't wait any more. People want to go back, to church buildings, to places of work and they want go on holidays. I wonder how many of us have the sense of reverence as we wait upon the Lord and let God speak to us?

God has presented us with this profound opportunity where we need to be still and know that he is God. God wants to be exalted among nations and this maybe the time for Him to be exalted in the earth by all the peoples. Many peoples can't any more to meet in flesh with their loved one they last saw 3-4 months ago. Many can't no more to go back to church building and meet with their Christian brothers and sisters and share the love of Jesus Christ in Fellowship. What we all know, "God is with us." And we are all in this together!

Naison M Hove.

6/07/2020.

News from Africa



Zimbabwe – THE BOREHOLE PROJECT

Here is a lovely picture of the borehole being used. How heart-warming to know that we have been able to help make a difference. We take our own access to clean water for granted but there are so many people around the world who don't have this luxury.



Kenya—Unity School, Mombasa

Although all schools remain closed, the teachers at Unity School are still setting and marking students' work. (Unlike the UK, only a few schools are helping students in this way) This is the third time Henry has visited school to collect his folder. Altogether 397 children have been contacted and work given out.

It now appears that the Government of Kenya are preparing to write off a whole school year and this school year— 2020 will recommence in January 2021

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Meanwhile, enjoy this poem. I heard it read by a little girl called Vera at her grandmother's 80th birthday party—with the hope of living beyond the age of 91!

Granny's been to the hospital,
She needed an upgrade again;
Her body's been stripped and refitted,
By an army of white-coated men.

Her new teeth are pure carbon fibre,
Her specs were designed with a laser;
She can now bite through plates if she wants to,
And her eyesight's as fast as a razor.

She's got digital hearing aid power,
And her pacemaker's nuclear I'm told;
They replaced her hip with a stainless steel joint,
And her Zimmer's now radio controlled.

There was a special offer on memory,
She got 64 gigs of it free;
She can now recall where she left grandad,
And that I owe her 35p.

Her toilet's controlled by computer,
Her electric shopping cart's fun;
Her stairlift's got internet access,
I can't wait till I'm ninety-one.

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

News of the Family

Michelle, Pauline's daughter, is making slow but positive progress in her recovery from Coronavirus.

We pray for all in pain and awaiting treatment for their sickness.

Doreen's arm is mending and she is now awaiting an appointment for the plaster to be removed

We continue to pray for all who await anxiously the chance to be re-united with families.

Jane Allan is now able to walk with the aid of a stick but is feeling very isolated. Phone calls would be appreciated.

The Leadership Team

For the first time since early March, the Leadership Meeting met this week, in the church.—socially distanced, of course. Two main items were discussed at length: First, our response to “Black Lives Matter” - how can our own church demonstrate our commitment to eliminating racism? Secondly, how and when might the church be open for prayer and worship—and what will a “Service” look like when we do hold one?

At the moment the property committee have taken advantage of the lock-down to get on with building and redecoration that would have caused major disruption. The pathway and door to the Knight Hall are nearly complete, as are the replacement windows. The sanctuary is having a new coat of paint. Although some of the work will not be finished until some time in September, the sanctuary should be available by mid August. We are now planning, within Government guidelines, to enable people to come to church once again. The next newsletter will give details of when and what you can expect when you arrive, including the safety procedures that will be in place.

A Prayer

I came across the following prayer—written before the lock-down, and before I read Naison's message.

I think that during the past 3 months, God has been answering, by giving plenty of time to pause and to enjoy the view.

Lord, sometimes I feel as if I'm on a fast train.

Life rushes by and I don't have time to pause.

Lord, I want to take time to see the view

that your wisdom, through Jesus, gives me;

to come to you in prayer,

expecting far more than I could ever believe possible.

Bless me with your presence, Lord.

Amen.

Jesus said: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Matthew 11: 28,29