

Littlehampton United Church

Mini
Newsletter 14



Keeping
our church
together

The Leadership Team

The Leaders of the church have now met on three occasions during the lock-down, either using technology or, sitting 2 metres apart and wearing our face masks, in the church. This has given us the opportunity to see the hard work that has been put into re-decorating the sanctuary as well as the modifications to the Coffee Lounge and Knight Hall.

We have, of course, spent time planning for the re-opening of the church for worship with-in the limitations of avoiding the spread of covid-19 but we have also spent time discussing our response to **“Black Lives Matter”**.

The following statement, which will be displayed in church and on our website, is our response:

“We believe that God’s love and grace extends to all people. We welcome all into our church family and into a walk with Jesus Christ, regardless of race, gender, marital status, nation of origin, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, economic status, or any other label placed upon people. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on any of these grounds. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, if you seek to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8) you are welcome into the life and ministry of Littlehampton United Church.”

From Dawn Tyrrell

Thank you all so much for my beautiful picture of the Church which will go in my new study and for my gift card. I have been out today with a friend and attached is the picture of my purchases which I shall enjoy in my new house.

I will stay in touch and once there will be able to send you photos to show everyone.

Thank you all for your support over the years and I will miss you all - I will be down to see you when I can.

Take care and God Bless you all



Last week, in the hot sunshine, Littlehampton Churches Together went ahead with the annual Summer Camp for young people.

Although the following is now out of date, I thought that you might to know about the arrangements that were made for the event to take place.



PRAYING FOR SUMMER CAMP

Monday 10th – Thursday 13th August

In past years we have produced a Prayer Card for each child but, as Churches are not meeting at the moment, we are sending this round to the Church Leaders to be passed on to their congregations.

Thank you for your interest in this Camp. This is the 18th year of Summer Camp and we are taking children aged 9-11 from the primary schools which make up the Littlehampton Family Group of schools. The children will go up to camp each day and home each evening. Only the adult team members will camp on the site.

We have 34 children joining us this year.

We have 33 Team members, 13 of whom are under 18.

We have a team of catering staff, led by Sue.



- ... that we are able to hold Summer Camp
- ... that we have 34 children and a good team of leaders and catering staff
- ... that we will be able to share the hope we have as we talk with the children and young people about the Lord
- ... for good health and safety
- ... for safe transport – provided by Compass Travel
- ... for fine weather
- ... for great fun
- ... for the children and young people as we talk with them about Jesus
- ... for the families back home
- ... for the Camp Team
- ... for the follow-up



Re-opening the church

At the start of the lock-down I experienced something new—not going to church.

I have to admit that my own preaching commitments together with preparing the audio-visuals for services (Sometimes twice on Sundays and regularly on Fridays) were taking up so much time that I was beginning to feel over-loaded. Then, all of a sudden, I had plenty of time; no family gatherings, theatre visits cancelled but, most noticeably, I could choose where I “went” to church—without leaving the sofa.

At first the BBC broadcast some excellent services from various Welsh Cathedrals, then, when the broadcasting schedules changed, I explored and enjoyed the wonders of U-tube, visiting various local places of worship.

Now, the time has come to plan how we can re-commence worship at Littlehampton United Church. It will be different—church, but not as we know it. One of the things I find hardest, and I am not alone in this, is the thought that we have to limit the number of people we can admit inside the church. Many of you will have experienced this in shops, restaurants and even National Trust properties.

But in churches, we have always tried to encourage as many as possible.

So, to avoid the embarrassment of turning anyone away, we are asking people to “book” ahead. If we are fully booked when you e-mail or phone, you will be at the top of the list for the following week or the next time you wish to come to church.

On the back page of this newsletter is a little more information on what to expect when you arrive.

“When we meet it must be to meet each other and in doing so we meet God”

We are confident that God still talks to us and shows us how to live.

We gather in this sacred space,
Made holy by God’s love;
And ask again the Spirit’s grace
That faithful we shall prove.

We seek to serve the present age,
To witness to God’s Word,
To share the feast with child and sage
That love’s true voice be heard.

Now may the blessings we receive,
Be taken from this place,
That those we meet know we believe
In God’s redeeming grace.

Taken from a hymn written for the 200th anniversary of Primitive Methodism, published in “The Weaver, the Word and Wisdom by Michaela Youngson.

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

RETURNING TO CHURCH FOR WORSHIP.

Before coming to church

In order to prevent the spread of coronavirus, we have to space people at least 1.5m apart. This has reduced the number of people who can be accommodated. To avoid disappointment, please let the church secretary know if you wish to come to worship. The first service is planned for 6th September at 10.30am
Please do not come if you are unwell or have recently had symptoms of coronavirus.

ARRIVING AT CHURCH

You will be welcomed to **enter by the Old Door** (In the High Street to the left of the foyer) Please wait in the garden area if there is a queue.

You will be asked to leave your name, and, unless we already have them, your contact details.

Please **wear a face covering or mask.**

There will be antibacterial gel at the entrance for you to clean your hands.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

You will see that the seating arrangements are very different - there is a one-way system and chairs arranged in a horseshoe.

If a couple or "bubble" the chairs can be moved together and/or additional chairs introduced from those stacked at the side. There will be stewards there to help you with this.

DURING THE SERVICE

There will be no singing of hymns but some hymns and music will be played on the computer system with words projected on the screen.

Bibles and Hymn books will not be available . We ask you to bring your own bible if possible .

A microphone will be set up at the front of the church reaching out as far as possible into the congregation for those who wish to 'share' during the service. The Minister will use this or the pulpit microphone as no radio mics will be used. Readers will use the Lectern mic as usual.

Although the congregation will need to keep their masks on, the Minister will wear a visor and Readers will remove their masks while reading so that everyone can see their mouths when they are speaking.

LEAVING THE CHURCH

At the end of the service you may remain in your seat for prayer or quiet conversation. The stewards will direct you around the one way system when you are ready to leave.

If someone needs to use the toilet then they will use the same route as for exiting and use the toilet in the porch at the back of the church.

After the service please do not congregate to chat at the back of the church but do so, whilst safely distancing, outside having exited through the foyer. Remember to remain socially distanced from others.

You are welcome to bring a drink with you for during and after the service.

All these precautions are put in place following the government's guidelines and to keep everyone as safe