

Littlehampton United Church

Mini
Newsletter 15



Keeping
our church
together

By the time you read this newsletter we will have held our first service in the church since the lock-down began.

How did it go?

On Sunday 6th September eighteen people met for worship, led by Revd Nigel Stapley. Nigel focused our thoughts around Matthew 9:17 “No one puts new wine into old wineskins”. Nigel challenged us to let go of things we once felt to be precious when there are other, more important matters that require our attention and energy. Suitably chosen music included “Calm me, Lord” by Margaret Rizza, “In the darkness of the still night” also by Margaret Rizza helped us to think on his words. We also listened to the well known hymn “Lord of all hopefulness”.

Arrangements for nethe coming weeks:

There are still places left for the service on Sunday 13th (to be led by Chris Azzaro) but the Communion Service on 20th (to be led by our Minister Revd Naison Hove) is filling up fast. Please remember to email or phone Chris in advance to avoid disappointment.

Following the latest government announcements on the prevention of coronavirus, we can still go ahead with our services but need to be very careful on maintaining distances and wearing face masks.

News from the Methodist Circuit:

Revd John Scrivens has taken up a part time post as Minister at Selsey

Christ Church invited Revd Helen Higgin Bothan to be their minister. (Christ Church is an LEP like us)

Revd Ian Couchman will be the new minister at Shoreham and Lancing.

If you would like to see the welcome service , it can be found at <https://westsussexcoastanddownscircuit.co.uk/2020/09/07/watch-again-circuit-welcome-service/>

Please remember all our ministers and their congregations in your prayers

News of the Family

Jane Allan is now living in Ashdown Lodge, North Lane, Rustington. Although Jane is now living closer to most of us than her home in East Preston, you need to check with the care home if you are thinking of visiting.

Please remember Stella and Doreen in your prayers—both ladies are in pain awaiting medical treatment.

Education Sunday

As students and children return to school, some for the first time since March, it is no co-incidence that this Sunday in September has been designated “Education Sunday”.

Schools returning for the new term have attracted many media headlines, not least, the fear that much learning has been missed during the lock-down.

Education is about more than learning facts, it is about finding out about life, and this year many young people have been learning lessons very differently. The word comes from the latin, *educatus*—meaning, *to bring up*. There is an African saying “It takes a whole village to bring up a child”. Nowadays, parents tend to leave it to the professionals—called teachers, although many a parent this year have discovered the joys of teaching their children at home, thanks to the pandemic.

Although many mistake education for training, it is far wider reaching. Some of the best bits come outside the classroom; the school visits, drama, music or sports events. Former students often surprise me by telling me of the bits they remember best. “Do you remember taking us to the school field with a protractor, ruler and a piece of string and telling us to find the height of a tree?”.; or learning to negotiate the tube when travelling from the Science Museum to the Royal Opera House.



Finding out the role of an international airport and the career opportunities it offers.

Classes 7 and 8 from Unity School, visit Moi International airport, Mombasa.



But you still can't beat a ride in the fire truck!

Getting schools ready for the return of the children has never been so problematic. This year my sympathy goes to all Headteachers and their Senior Staff who have spent much of their so-called Summer Holiday preparing for the new term. How do you cope with all the added complications of preventing the spread of coronavirus while dealing with the ever changing advice from the wise ones at the Department for Education. In all my years of teaching I never had to deal with any situation as potentially hazardous as having several hundred children, or in some schools, well over a thousand children, socially distanced or in “Bubbles”.

Oh, for the good old days of a first rate education: *“On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays it was Court Hand, and Summulea Logicalis, while the rest of the week it was Organon, Repetition and Astrology. Afternoons were: Mondays and Fridays, tilting and horsemanship; Tuesdays hawking; Wednesdays, fencing, Thursdays, archery and Saturdays, the theory of chivalry with the proper measures to be blown on all occasions.”* - T H White, *The Sword in the Stone*.

Now, the requirements of the National Curriculum put English, Mathematics, Information Technology and Science paramount, barely leaving time for art, music and drama. No moving around the classroom—except by the teacher, remembering to wear a face mask in the corridors and keeping in your own bubble at break and lunch times. All the older students are now on examination courses without much idea on how they might be examined next summer. The good side of it all—most children are natural optimists—they usually see hope where adults see problems. Let’s pray that hope will not fail them this time.

So, although I won’t be preaching on the subject of education on Sunday morning, we will remember our pupils, students and their teachers in our prayers.

The Collect for Education Sunday

Lord God, Your Son Jesus Christ sat at the feet of others to learn, and sat on the mountains to teach:

Bless those who teach and those who learn, those who seek and those who find;

So that our homes, schools, universities and churches may be filled with a longing to learn and to grow, to serve and to give;

Through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

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 next service is planned for 13th 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 are suitably distanced apart.

If a couple or "bubble" wish to sit together 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 in the garden, 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.