

Littlehampton United Church

Mini Newsletter 18



Keeping
our church
together

Dear Friends,

We find ourselves in “Lock down” again. Just in case you have not heard from elsewhere, there will be no services held in Littlehampton United Church until we are given the all clear. Doubly disappointing , first because the number of people infected with Coronavirus in Arun District has risen in recent weeks and, also, going to church on Remembrance Sunday is an important act for many. Having almost completed my preparations for the service I would have led this Sunday, I have put down some thoughts and prayers on the next page of this Newsletter.

If I’m not in church on Remembrance day, I usually like to watch the act of remembrance from the Cenotaph. This year, will be different as people are asked not to visit Whitehall but a service will still be broadcast. I recommend that you look at the viewing schedules of the broadcasting companies to find out what and when is being shown. Naison will be leading a service via zoom at 10.30am The link and order of service will be sent to all who read this Newsletter by email. Some Local churches will be showing their services on U-tube .



Another event, for which , in recent years, we’re usually preparing by now, is our Christmas Tree Festival. Even if the lockdown is lifted in early December, the restrictions on numbers would render such an event unmanageable. We will, have our tree in the church because, hopefully, we’ll be meeting again. We will also have a tree and the large Nativity figures in the foyer to be seen by passers by.

The Christmas events that we shared with The Friends of the Mombasa Children last year raised over £1000 and we realise that with the added problems of the pandemic in Kenya, funds to maintain Unity school are needed more than ever. With the limitation on holding fundraising events, we are appealing to the generosity of our supporters to maintain the work at Unity School. Norman Redington has written to me to say that because of his need to support Doreen at the present time, he is unable to organise the Christmas Card presentation this year. I am pleased to inform you that Peter Spencer has offered to prepare the presentation of greetings to be shown in church and we will also endeavour to distribute your greetings in a Newsletter nearer Christmas, to enable all to share in this.

In the meantime, if you would care to send your greetings message to Peter: email: flyboff@hotmail.com or by post: 91 Norfolk Gardens, Littlehampton BN 17 5PF, the presentation will be organised. Donations towards the Christmas Meal at Unity School, that, last year included the purchase of new clothes, together with the on-going refurbishment, can be made either to Peter or myself, via our Treasurer Nigel Stapley, or on-line via the church website.

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

We will remember them

In November each year, Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day are both poignant opportunities to remember those who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars, as well as later conflicts, and those affected by war today. Perhaps this year, we might remember those in the NHS who lost their lives in treating and caring for others. We respect the sacrifice of all who put the needs of others first and paid the ultimate price.

At various remembrance services, at school or in church, I have often used illustrations to talk about sacrifice. Sometimes pictures of service personnel, sometimes of school visits to Commonwealth War Graves. This year, having had our minds focused on Black History, I decided to look up some of my father's photos from his war service in Iraq and the former Persia. Troops of the 7th Indian Division wearing elaborate turbans are prominent in my memory, although I suspect that my brother now has the photos. More recently, in Kenya, I visited a most picturesque, almost quaintly English looking church—except that it was built by Italian prisoners of war taken during the North African campaign of 1940. "British" troops in Egypt and Libya included Australian, Indian and African regiments bearing names such as "The Kings Own Mombasa Rifles". When I taught in Reading I was reminded by several families that their fathers had first left the Caribbean to join the British army. How easy it is, when we remember, to think that only people from our own country were involved.

As we remember the fallen, we recall that suffering is world wide. So let us pay respect to all who died and those who still put the lives of others before their own.

"We are not asked to give what we do not have, solve every problem, or get everything right. We are only human, after all. We are called to walk humbly with our God, accepting our limitations, but, at the same time, doing everything we can in pursuit of justice and mercy. In keeping this as a priority, God promises us, that no matter how difficult things get, the Holy Spirit will always be with us to strengthen and guide us "until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). It can be hard to act justly and love mercy, but everyone has the chance to make the world a better place. As we walk around our communities, go to work, shop for groceries, enjoy our hobbies, there are chances to build relationships with those around us, to show kindness, to grow our awareness of issues around us and to help find solutions to problems as they emerge in the different communities we're part of. In making the most of these everyday opportunities, we can play our part in reducing the divisions, inequalities and injustices which fuel negativity." *Taken from an article sent by the URC Moderator.*

While searching for a remembrance day hymn, I received this from Rory McClure of Parkside Church. He was having a similar problem, so he wrote the following:

You can hear the whole hymn sung— The U-tube link is https://youtu.be/s_QMD2bM95w

*Shall we forget the servicemen
The noble and the brave?
In mind or body broken now
Or lying in the grave.*

*No, We'll remember them
With awe and gratitude.
For the peace that we all still enjoy
Was the victory they pursued.*

*Shall we forget the Christ of God
Who came to fight and win?
Slain on a greater battlefield
To conquer death and sin.*

*No, We'll remember Him
With love and gratitude.
For the peace that we now have with God
Was the victory he pursued.*



Thanks to Jill Belchamber for the remembrance display in the church window.

News of the Family

Please remember Alison Spencer in your prayers as she recovers from surgery and now isolates herself in readiness for more hospital appointments.

John Stevens is still awaiting hospital treatment.

Doreen Redington did get to the hospital last Monday for the intended operation on her arm. The surgeon, decided, on seeing the amount of movement that Doreen now has in her arm, that the planned operation would not improve matters. The pain is being caused by problems around her shoulder joint. Doreen is now awaiting a scan to find out what can now be done to relieve the pain.

Charity Christmas Cards

The Friends of the Mombasa Children have sold Christmas Cards as part of their Fundraising activities, as those who have visited the Friday services or the Christmas Fair, will know.

Since my visit to Kenya this year was cancelled, there is no new card, but I have put together a collection of previous cards, all of which are available to purchase.

Cards measure 15cm by 10.5cm (approx. 6" by 4") Printed on glossy photo paper, 240gsm. Inside is blank.

Please order from Chris Azzaro See page 1 for phone or email address.

All cards are £1 including an envelope

Funds raised from the sale of Christmas Cards will be used to support Unity School, Mombasa. You can find out more from the website

www.mombasachildren.org.uk

1



Christmas Greetings

Wishing you Peace and Joy at Christmas

3



2



4



Unto Us a Child is Born

Please note that as all cards are printed to order, the final date for receiving orders is 15th December 2020

Friends of the Mombasa Children CIO is a registered charity, Number 1155625

Stop Press—Just received from Revd. Naison Hove

My visit to Zimbabwe was both good and challenging concerning the water project

Let me start with the good news

The water from the second well was certified clean and safe for human consumption (Reg No. ZWW202010) This registration is valid for 15 years when it will be due for renewal (with payment of the necessary fee!)

The Challenge

It has now become apparent that there are some significant challenges to be overcome due to a drop in the water table to continued draught. This is the fourth year running without rainfall. This means that the output of the bore hole is significantly reduced. On a sunny day the pump is able to pump between 9 x 20litre or 11x20 litre containers of water which is not enough to supply the needs of the village. At the moment it is only able to supply sufficient water for between 9 and 11 households. And then only when it is sunny! I have consulted the drilling company about the way forward and they have agreed to add an additional 30 metres to the depth of the bore hole, so it will then be 80 metres deep There are 600 households that make up this village and are to benefit from this water project when it's up and running well. (see quotation marked appendix 1)

The plan for installing an inverter and batteries has been put on hold for the moment until the bore hole has had an additional 30 metres added. The cost for this is currently estimated as £1,760. This money is available if the funds intended for the batteries and the inverter are used. So, I am suggesting this is how the problem is addressed as I have outlined below.

My first proposal is that we use the money that was raised to install the inverter and batteries for re-drilling with the hope that water table will be sufficient to supply water for the whole village. Even with the little water they get when it is sunny the pleasure and joy this has brought to the people is enormous! One woman said '*I never knew that I could open the tap and water will run down like a river in this village in my life time. May God bless the generous friends who gave their all, the friends I will never meet in my lifetime in person.*'

My second proposal is to fund raise for the inverter and batteries that will boost the solar system so pump the water from the well when it is cloudy using the power that has been stored in the batteries. (see quotation marked appendix 2)

Recommendation

As part of the social gospel to the wider world and our world mission we need to continue this mission outreach of helping the chosen village to have clean water. The dream will become a reality if we continue with our fundraising efforts towards the installation of an inverter and batteries to sustain a continuous provision of clean water to the village. We need to continue to pray for this project which has been part of our pastorate's mission outreach and acknowledge the generous help received from friends in London.

I am hoping that the benefits of this project will, once it is up and running, be huge. I am very optimistic a lasting solution will be reached once the re-drilling is complete.

Cyclone Idai affected area of Mutare

During my visit I managed to visit the Eastern Highlands - outside Mutare town which is on the border with Mozambique, and was affected by cyclone Idai. I visited the toilet block and the block of two classrooms. which was built with the money from our three churches (St Andrews URC, Emmanuel URC and LUC) in 2018 and 2019. Unfortunately, the week I visited the area, the schools were closed due to COVID-19 and a Civil Service strike.

Last but not least, I would like to offer my appreciation and thankfulness to **Worthing Pastorate (St Andrew's U R C, Emmanuel U R C and L U C)** and my friends at **Askew Road Church** who through your fundraising is enabling my home village to have a supply of fresh water where there was none before.