

# Littlehampton United Church

## Mini Newsletter 25



Keeping  
our church  
together

While reading a communication from the URC I was impressed by this short message from Revd Andy Twilly: The Bible verse I want to particularly highlight this week;

*“Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD!”* Psalm 27: 14.

I love the honesty of the Psalmist... how he pours out his heart before the Lord, yet always with a sense of trust and anticipation that God is still in control, that God will bring a new day, and whilst he waits, having an unwavering conviction in that new tomorrow, a new dawn.

### **Services and Bible Study on Zoom**

The code you need is 254 574 5519 password; 349515

Or you can join in by phone 0203 481 5240

Sunday services are at 10.30 am and Tuesday Bible Studies at 7.30pm see below.

### **News of the Family**

After a long wait, John Stevens went to hospital for his surgical procedure. However, after being prepared for surgery, a final x-ray revealed that the offending stone had gone and he was sent home early. John would like to thank all who have wished him well.

Dereck Lansdale was taken to hospital on Tuesday. He was diagnosed with Bell's Palsy. Derick is now home, having had steroid injections. Please remember both Derick and Stella in your prayers.

Please note that Malcolm, our Pastoral Secretary, has a new phone number: 07729 029467

### **Lent Bible Study**

This week (16th February) Naison will be starting a Lent course. “The Poets Gospel” published by Churches Together in Britain. A Gospel in blank verse. With rhymed parables. Turn over to read more in Naison's letter.

### **Lent Cross**

With Lent starting this week on Ash Wednesday, our Lenten Cross will again be placed in the foyer, visible to passers by. Each week another object symbolising some aspect of the Easter story will be added.

## *From the Minister's desk*

Greetings to all our newsletter readers in the precious name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. I hope this letter comes to you and finds you in good health as you endure the double portion of the problems currently at hand, local and internationally due to the world pandemic of the coronavirus and the national restriction of lockdown. March will mark twelve months since the proclamation of the first official lockdown restrictions, resulting in closure of churches for public worship. This year we celebrate the discovery of vaccines by scientists that will help to contain the spread of the Covid 19 virus. I want to encourage everyone to take up the vaccine when it's offered to you for your protection and protect others from this menacing disease.

Secondly, this is a calling letter for this year's lent course, found by clicking the following link: <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent-study-2021/>

I am hoping that those who will be able to attend will find it stimulating and inspiring as we envision to be disciples of Jesus Christ's body "the church." This is a call for Discipleship and for mission as we dream together moving from maintenance to *mission*. Mission is about activities and programmes that define, shape who we are and what we do as a community of God's people. Programmes need commitment from all us for the community to progress and flourish. Church is about people and the people who make up the community – the Christ-like community that empathizes on the justice, peace and love, of Jesus Christ to all people who seek the face of the Lord through faith. We need to seek the mind of God at this difficult of time of coronavirus and lockdown restriction that has prohibited us from meeting in flesh as churches for divine worship.

What I am calling all of us to do is to find time to be with God firstly, to find time to do the work and mission of God. The Gospel of Matthew 6:33; *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* Desmond Tutu in his famous words once said, *"I belong because I participate, I am because of other people around me,"* paraphrased.

The invitation *to all, is for all* to find time and participate in building the kingdom of God through *learning God's word* together at this time of lent. God has a special place for you in the life of this church, all are welcome.

*I wish you all a blessed and fruitful Lent*

*Naison M. HOVE.*

*Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021*

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Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome