

## **Weekly Notes for Sunday 10 May 2020**

Hello again,

Don't you just love spring with everything coming to life in the garden? We are nearly done with our weeding but not quite there yet!

### **PRAYER**

I have some prayer requests for you ...

Brian Pegram was taken into Papworth Hospital this week with chest pains and after a few days he had a stent procedure and is now back home. We thank God for modern technology and pray that he makes a good recovery.

My own daughter, Elspeth, was admitted to Addenbrooke's this week after being ill for several days and was told that there is a problem at the site where she had brain surgery several years ago. She has just undergone some detailed tests and scans to find out more and on Thursday we will find out the plan for her treatment. She is due home today but will have to go back in at some point for surgery. Please remember her in your prayers.

Please remember patients in hospital in your prayers - all are unable to have visitors. And please continue to pray for the staff who are pulling out all the stops to care for patients in this really difficult and stressful time.

Colin Ball, husband of Julie Ball, from Our Lady of Lourdes, very sadly passed away this week. Please pray for Julie and her family.

### **WORSHIP**

Rev Paul Whittle is leading our virtual service tomorrow/Sunday at 10.30am through Zoom. Please try to join it before 10.30am to get settled in. If you need the link or login details, please call Maggie.

AND PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE FULL (AUDIO & VISUAL) RECORDING OF THIS SERVICE WILL APPEAR ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

However, the size of the Zoom image on the homepage has been reduced to maintain anonymity of the 'congregation'. Many thanks for this change Martin.

### **COMMUNION**

As on Easter Day, we will be celebrating 'virtual' Communion during the service. If you want to partake of Communion elements, whether bread and wine, or a suitable alternative, please have them available, so you can join me in Communion at that point of the service. On the other hand, if you prefer just to feel the peace of the moment without partaking, that is equally valid. Paul Whittle



**Christian Aid Week** is from 9 – 16 May – this week. As this year all fundraising events had been cancelled, we are still celebrating Christian Aid week and the work it does and what it is doing at the present. Covid-19 has impacted the poorer countries of the world as you can imagine. They are struggling with healthcare and loss of income during this lockdown time. We are asking you all to please support this charity and instead of supporting our events, or using the envelopes in the

church, by donating on the Christian Aid website (<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give-money/make-donation> telephone 02075 232269) or alternatively you could give us a cheque (made payable to Christian Aid) or cash which can be collected from your homes if you let us know.

Tomorrow/Sunday we will hold a Christian Aid service on Zoom, led by Rev Paul Whittle and that week there will be daily worship streamed from the website and a daily fun quiz!

Please support this charity if you are able.

Thank you, and stay safe

Mary, Pam and Tony

#### **MAY SERVICES (via zoom) ...**

10 May Rev Paul Whittle – Christian Aid – with Holy Communion

17 May Rev Paul Whittle

24 May Go4th with Rev Dr Mike Wilson

31 May Joint Pentecost service

Please let Maggie know if you know someone who doesn't have access to the internet who would like a transcript printed from the zoom services.

#### **MINISTRY CANDIDATE**

As some of you will know, though others may not, the elders have been considering a possible candidate for the ministerial vacancy. After prayerful and careful consideration, it has been determined that it is not right to proceed further, and so, if you hear rumours of a candidate, we were considering someone, but that is no longer the case. Paul Whittle

#### **ONLINE**

Don't forget there is a rich selection of resources on line as highlighted in previous emails - children's activities and worship, church virtual services, Paul Whittle's blog, the URC websites, some wonderful Christian music & songs on YouTube, prayers focussing on Coronavirus, etc.

#### **THE UK BLESSING**

Many will already have seen this film, [a blessing over the nation](#), sung from churches across the UK. Despite having watched it several times I haven't spotted a URC church in there! It's been viewed well over a million times in the last few days. It gets more and more uplifting as it builds... "He is for you!" A definite lift for us all, especially on top of the news that people are searching for prayer at record levels in this time of crisis: are our churches' websites and social media pages helping them to find the answers? [Premier Christian New searches for prayer](#) (I did see a version which included Christ the King, Milton Keynes, a Local Ecumenical Partnership which includes the URC – and spotted (I think) the URC minister there, Revd. George Mwaura, who candidated from Eastern Synod.) Paul Whittle

#### **SCRUBBERS!**

The 16 SFC Scrubbers and Friends made 54 total items this week for Papworth Hospital:

14 bags

11 sets of tops and trousers (22 items)

7 trousers

11 tops

Contact Rosemary Heald [timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:timefortots@sawstonfreechurch.org.uk) if you'd like to join in this group effort. We need accurate cutters-out of donated fabric, and experienced sewing machine users (running stitch and zig-zag essential)

#### **FLOWERS**

A huge thank you to Rosemary Harriss for putting fresh flowers each week inside the doors at SFC. It shows that, though the building is closed, we are around and alive and thinking of everyone.

## A PRAYER FROM CHRISTIAN AID

May your love that never fails strengthen the weak,

encourage the fearful, calm the anxious,

heal the sick.

Through your church – your washed hands and feet on earth –

distant but still present,

virtual but still connected.

apart but still helping.

God in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Please remember to share this email with others you know who don't receive email.

Stay safe and keep well our lovely church family! And thank you so much for your support.

Maggie

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