

## Weekly Notes for Sunday 24 May 2020

Hello again,

I do hope you're all keeping safe and well. I can understand if boredom has well and truly set in. The other day I saw one person trimming the edge of the grass verge outside their home! I think that person really has run out of ideas on how to fill their time – seems a bit desperate to me! 😊 But seriously, if you find that the boredom is really getting to you, perhaps there are some things we could try as a church together. I know people elsewhere are doing virtual quiz nights. If someone wants to pick up that idea or something similar for SFC, we can easily find a volunteer to “drive” zoom so no worries on the technical side. Let me know if you'd be interested in running such an event or taking part. Just an easy social evening like that could be a great mood booster.

Another thought I have had since we started shielding in our house – if you're relying on supermarket order deliveries for your food shopping and some of your favourite things are missing or have been substituted by some things you really don't want, please let me know. We do have a number of church members and friends who are not shielding and who would be very happy to pick up those bits and pieces from a supermarket. No matter how trivial or silly you may think it will appear to others, if it's causing your frustration, it's a big deal to you, we do have some willing volunteers - so just let me know.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for all the staff and pupils at the Village College as they mourn the loss of their Head of Science, Gary Whitton, who has died of cancer. He was an outstanding teacher and a much-loved colleague to all.

And please pray too for the staff at all schools who are now trying to work out how and when to open up again whilst keeping the wellbeing and safety of the staff and pupils as top priority.

Elsbeth is having her surgery on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June so she's now waiting very patiently. Please remember her in your prayers.

And again, please pray for those who are “shielding” which includes many of our own members and friends. We pray that they are able to cope and have access to support as and when needed, and that they feel able to ask for that help. We remember in particular those who are shielding alone – a lot of elderly people are really struggling with the lack of company.

### WORSHIP

Rev Dr Mike Wilson with the Go4th team is leading our virtual service tomorrow/Sunday at 10.30am through Zoom. Please let Mike know what you think about the service. This is the first time as a virtual Go4th style service so we're keen to have your feedback.

Please try to join Zoom before 10.30am to get settled in. Like before, 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'.

**Please note that next week's service will be a joint Pentecost service with St Mary's. The Zoom join up instructions for that may be different so please look out for my email detailing that.**

May/June services (via zoom) ...

24 May	Go4th with Rev Dr Mike Wilson
31 May	Joint Pentecost service with St Mary's
7 Jun	Rev Deborah McVey (Month of Prayer for Christian Toddler Groups)
14 Jun	Rev Paul Whittle including Holy Communion
21 Jun	Rev Dr Mike Wilson
28 Jun	Go4th

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

### **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.

### **Update - SCRUBBERS!**

This week, SFC Scrubbers and Friends sent 7 tops, 6 trousers, 10 sets (=20 items) and 4 bags, totalling 37 items to Papworth Hospital, who are very appreciative.

It is now time to wind-down our efforts as cases diminish, manufacturers start up and imports are received. We will make our final donation next week. Thank you to everyone who has supported with time, skill or fabric donations.

Rosemary Heald

### **A PRAYER FROM CHURCHES TOGETHER IN ENGLAND**

God, our rock and shield, we pray for our land, and all nations and places in our world, as many endure the effects of the illness Covid-19 and the Coronavirus pandemic.

For those who are ill, grant healing;

for those who mourn the death of loved ones, bring comfort;

for those who care for the sick, grant strength and endurance;

for those who are isolated or whose livelihoods are threatened, give courage and hope;

for all who take difficult decisions, from governments to health practitioners, give wisdom and compassion to accompany the knowledge and experience that they bring.

Deliver us from this disease, we pray, and enable all nations and communities to grow in collaboration and unity as we face this challenge together.

Grant a legacy of enduring common purpose in facing all that threatens our global common good.

We pray in Jesus' name, in the unity of the Spirit,

Amen.

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

Stay safe and keep well everyone! And thank you so much for your support.

Maggie

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