

Weekly Notes for Sunday 5 April 2020

Hello again.

I do hope you are all keeping safe and well and behaving yourselves. Life does feel very strange and difficult, doesn't it? But we are so lucky to have gardens so getting some fresh air is possible for us all. Though I know some people who have run out of things to do that they are now cleaning kitchen cupboards! Our garden is so big and needs so much tidying up that we'll never run out of things to do! We miss Bill & Elspeth so much but thank God for Skype!

I have some specific prayer requests for you ...

- Simon and Julie Robinson's son, Michael, and his wife, Rachel, both doctors, have moved to ICU in the hospital where they work and are working with coronavirus patients. They feel their personal protective equipment is inadequate so feel very much at risk from infection. So please pray for them.
- And my brother-in-law Andy (Matthew's sister's husband) is in ICU on a ventilator with coronavirus. He has other serious underlying medical conditions so we're very concerned for him. Please pray for him and his wife, Philippa, who is now in 14-day self-isolation at home by herself.
- We have no updates on Brian Watkins. As far as we know he is still in ICU on a ventilator with coronavirus in both lungs but there are signs he is fighting the infection. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Worship

I know that some of you are listening to the URC worship on Sunday mornings via a link you're emailed on Sunday mornings. Please let me know if you would rather hear it on a CD. During Holy Week, there will be extra emailings on Wednesday and Good Friday.

And did you know there's now Sunday Worship on BBC1 at 10.45am on Sunday mornings and also Songs of Praise on Sundays at 1.15pm? It's in Glasgow this week – just saying!

And don't forget that lots of individual churches are doing their own thing on Sunday mornings, to name but a few ...

- **Linton Free Church** (Chris Kemshell's church) Visit www.lintonfreechurch.org.uk/c19 for more info.
- **Crossway Church URC** (Jacob Bali's church) Goto www.crosswaychurch.org.uk/
- **Ipswich Road URC** website is hosting recorded services by one of the Norwich Area ministers each week - they can be found at [Ipswich Road URC](http://www.ipswichroadurc.org.uk/) - you just need to click on the [picture icon saying worship](#) and it goes straight to it. Past services are also on the site - all under the tab "Worship Together". Additionally, there is a "[Messy Church at home](#)" page on their website which is open to all.
- **Downing Place URC**, Cambridge are recording services on to [YouTube - Downing Place Services](#)
- **St Mary's Church** in Sawston has a lovely variety of resources to see and hear at <https://www.stmaryssawston.org.uk/services/>

There's a huge wealth of resources out there with respect to worship. Please go and have an explore on Google! If you find anything special, let me know and I'll include the details next week.

From Paul Whittle

Don't forget Paul's regular blog which offers a variety of brief reflections on being the church - <http://gettingthechurchsorted.blogspot.com/>

Paul is also posting a brief video broadcast on YouTube two or three times a week. If you want to find them, do a search in YouTube on 'paul r whittle'

NEW! He has also produced some podcasts/brief reflections just for SFC and Castle Camps as our Interim Moderator. Definitely well worth a listen! Just click on the links ...

[Palm Sunday](#) , [Maundy Thursday](#) , [Good Friday](#) More to come next week.

Prayer

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.' (Psalm 46:1, NRSV)

As so much is re-shaped by Coronavirus Covid 19, let us pray with:

people left unwell, beckoned by death or bereaved.

people providing professional health care and advice, looking after loved ones at home or working to create treatments and cures.

people shaping the response of nations and neighbourhoods, of commerce and industry, of service & voluntary organisations and of communities of faith.

people who are anxious or afraid, alone or isolated.

Living, loving God, we praise you,

and through times of peril we lean into you,

for in Jesus Christ.

You have trodden paths as difficult as ours,

revealing there a love that nothing defeats,

a love that bears us through.

Even as we strive to behave responsibly,

and to care reliably,

so we feel after you

that in these uncertain times

we might trust you are with us,

our refuge and strength,

and our faith, hope and love might be renewed,

through Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

Please get in touch with any of the elders if you need support or a chat.

Keep safe.

Best wishes,

Maggie

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