

Weekly Notes for Sunday 2 August 2020

Hello everyone,

I do hope you have had a good week. I love the summer – I love seeing all the activity happening in our garden. And with our recent weather, everything is blooming. But, I don't like the weeds that are taking over – too much growth there! Please let me know what you're getting up to. I miss those little chats with folks.

Please remember we are worshipping with St Mary's tomorrow so the Zoom link is different.

Please read these notices carefully – there's a lot happening and some new announcements about how to eat well and cheaply, and how to have fun! Keep reading ...

FOOTPRINTS CAFÉ – Eat Out to Help Out

Footprints have registered for the above Government Scheme.

Throughout August on each MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY ONLY, our FOOD and DRINK will be HALF PRICE! (it will be limited to a maximum of £10 discount per transaction).

This includes all takeaway food.

Please come along and support us.

HOLIDAY CLUB

Holiday Club at Home - The Great Bread Bake Off. For Children aged 4-11

We are really disappointed that we are not able to have our annual Holiday Club this year at Bellbird school. However, we have exciting news about our Holiday Club at home. The Great Bread Bake Off. There will be five days of interactive videos with storytelling, music, lots of fun and not forgetting the mysterious 'Mr Mouse'. If you watch this short film you will be able to find out more about it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SKgKrEAYZ8>

We aim to go live on Monday 17th August and we have boxes with crafts and activities for each day. The box is full of everything you need for the 5 days and we will be really pleased to deliver the box to you ready for the 17th August.

If you would like to join in please can you let Maggie know how many boxes you would like by 10th August.

Our grateful thanks to Nicola Grieves (Synod Children's & Youth Development Office) for making this happen.

QUIZ NIGHT

Brigades are holding another Zoom Quiz Night on Saturday 15th August 7-8pm

Four rounds of speed and initiative, knowledge, logical thinking and Fun! Suitable for all ages! Please join in. Fun is guaranteed!

Registration details to follow.

APPEAL

As highlighted last week, click the link on the homepage to find some appeal information about the vent tower that sits on the church roof. Please read this – this is an appeal to raise money for some much-needed repair work to the church roof. A Gift Aid form is included. If you are able to help please return the completed form (paper or email) to me (Maggie) or Lynne.

SPECIAL REQUEST

The service on Sunday 16th August will be a special service led by the Elders and will be Songs of Praise. So we are asking you to email me (Maggie) with the name of your favourite hymn and a few words about why it is your favourite. And if you are willing to say those words yourself during the Zoom service. If speaking like that isn't your thing, please don't worry – one of the elders could speak on your behalf instead.

Please email by 4th August. We're hoping for a really good mix of hymns & songs!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for Duxford Primary School who had a devastating fire last night. Please remember the pupils and staff who had just started their much-needed summer break and had been looking forward to their return in September and a much planned new 'normal'. Pray for them and the local authority as they deal with the aftermath.

Julie Robinson's mum is very poorly in hospital. Remember her (she is not allowed visitors) and the wider family in your prayers.

Please remember those who are managing to get away for a holiday. Pray for safe travel and much relaxation.

Please pray for local businesses who may be struggling having reopened recently.

Please do remember to let me know of any prayer requests.

WORSHIP

Tomorrow's Zoom service is special service with St Mary's at 10.30am. It is Rev Alan Partridge's last service before he retires. The link for this is different to the normal one that SFC uses. Please try to join Zoom before 10.30am to get settled in. Please email Maggie if you need the link. Please note this service will NOT be recorded.

The service sheet will be available on their website soon - www.stmaryssawston.org.uk/services. On this page you will also find a safeguarding note with respect to Zoom services – please read it beforehand.

August services (via zoom) ...

2 August With St Mary's (Zoom) for Rev Alan Partridge's last service before he retires.
9 August David Lloyd
16 August Songs of Praise– you choose the hymns!
23 August Go4th
30 August Rev Paul Whittle

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. We currently deliver paper copies to 5 people.

ONLINE

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

A PRAYER FROM THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Living God,

In our hour of need we turn again to you, for we have nowhere else to turn.

We put our faith in you, because you have proved your faithfulness time and again.

We reaffirm our love for you because you have never let us go.

We thank you that you are not distant from us.
but have drawn near, in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
He has shared our life, tasted our death and defeated it;
He understands our worries and our fears.

Help us to respond as your children now.
We pray for this pandemic spreading across our world,
remembering all who have lost loved ones.
and praying for those seriously ill at this time.

We uphold the National Health Service.
as it responds to this added pressure on its already overstretched services.
We pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring professions,
who work to help and support people as best they can.
We remember those working behind the scenes.
testing samples, confirming results, giving information to patients.
We uphold others trying to understand this virus better.
working to create an effective remedy.

We pray for our Government,
as it works with the best medical advice.
to guide us on how we should respond.
and what action we should take.
We pray that these guidelines might be taken seriously.
and that all would put them into action.
May this crisis bring out the best in us, not the worst.
Help us to live by faith and not by fear;
to build bridges not barriers,
and to resist all who would speak ill of any other group.

May we not forget our responsibility to one another,
not least to the vulnerable and voiceless in our communities.
Help us to find ways of keeping in touch and offering reassurance.
to those with underlying health issues;
for any who feel particularly vulnerable.
or in danger at present.
As the virus spreads.
we pray for the disruption it causes to normal life,
bringing new fears and anxieties:

We pray for those who have been laid off as their work disappears;
for financial hardship for individuals and businesses;
for the impact on the economy and pensions, when austerity has already left its mark.
We pray for those whose trips, both for business and pleasure, have been cancelled;
and others where events, long anticipated and planned for, have been postponed;
for those making contingency planning for home based work or child care or exams.
May our inconvenience not blind us to others' loss.

We remember those.
who cannot visit loved ones in locked-down care homes;
for the elderly whose social contacts have been severely curtailed;
help us to find creative ways of keeping in touch,
of assuring them they are not forgotten or ignored.

May congregations find new ways of living though this time.
May we not forget our faith, but draw strength from it.

So may our worship be heartfelt,
our fellowship deepen
and our service increase.

God of grace and God of mercy,
hear our prayers at this time.
Strengthen us, by your Spirit, so that:
we may carry on our lives as best as we are able,
looking out for others,
showing love in action,
being faithful in prayer,
and bringing encouragement, hope and peace;
always trusting in you.
our Rock and our Redeemer.
These prayers we bring to you.
in Jesus' name.

Amen

Rt Revd Colin Sinclair, Moderator of General Assembly

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

Stay safe and keep well everyone!

Maggie

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Hello everyone,

We have just come back from a lovely week away on North Norfolk. Was so nice to get away and enjoy lots of fresh air, sun (and rain), sand and sea. And to finish it off nicely, Elspeth had her stitches removed when we came back and it's all looking good and healthy! 😊

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to pray for Doris Phillips in hospital and her family.

The funeral of Joyce Pamela Mascall takes place at Sawston Free Church on Tuesday 28th July. Please pray for Joyce's family as they mourn their loss.

And please remember those in our church carrying risk assessments with respect to the Coronavirus. Our buildings remain closed except for the café and the occasional funeral. Much planning and risk assessment has to be carried out before each funeral or before any organisation wishes to start up again.

Please do remember to let me know of any prayer requests.

WORSHIP

Tomorrow's Zoom service is being led by Rev Paul Whittle and includes Holy Communion. Please be ready with your wine and bread or substitute. All are welcome to take part.

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

July services (via zoom) ...

19 July	Rev Paul Whittle inc Holy Communion
26 July	Go4th

More details next week.

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. We currently deliver paper copies to 5 people.

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Prayer from the World Council of Churches

O Loving God of life, God of compassion,
as crisis is shaking our world, we turn to you with all our worries:
for our loved ones, for our societies, for jobs and economies,
and for how the most vulnerable among us will be affected.
Transform uncertainty and fear into love and care.
Give us courage, wisdom and consolation.

Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray:
for the sick and those who are caring for them,
for the researchers who are working to find

medicine and vaccine,
for those who must take difficult decisions
that affect many,
for international cooperation
in the service of justice and peace,
for spiritual leadership
that is faithful to your will.

In your mercy, help us to hold on to what is right, true and beautiful.

Through Jesus Christ, whom we have come to know as our Saviour and Healer.

Amen

Archbishop Dr Antje Jackelén, Church of Sweden

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 again for your ongoing support.

Maggie

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