

Weekly Notes for Sunday 21 March 2021

Hello everyone,

Lots to tell you ...

From the latest Synod weekly update ...

"We are, in the UK, officially a year into our response to Covid-19. We have been deeply affected as individuals and society by loss: of life, of health, of freedoms, of income. We have also seen joys and opportunities. We have seen God move in extraordinary and unexpected ways. On Sunday 21st March, Churches Together in England asks that we mark this anniversary of the start of the first national lockdown and the ecumenical #PrayersOfHope initiative.

They are also calling us to a National Day of Reflection and Prayer on Tuesday 23rd March: a minute's silence at 12 midday, followed by a ringing of church bells and later a doorstep vigil at 8pm.

We will be praying for those looking with anticipation towards the continued relaxation of restrictions, as well as those feeling anxiety about it."

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to hold Anne & David Nunn in your prayers now that Anne has moved to into specialist rehab at Askham Village Community and David is only allowed to visit for a short time once a week.

Please continue to pray for the Palm Sunday weekend when we will meet the ministerial candidate over Zoom. We pray for God's guidance, trust and love to be with us as we and the candidate discern whether the way forward is right for all of us - so we can continue God's work in the three churches in the future.

WORSHIP

Tomorrow morning's service is being led by Rev Dr Mike Wilson. It's the usual Sunday morning link. If you need it, please email Maggie.

Future Services – all Zoom

21 March	1030	Rev Dr Mike Wilson
28 March	1030	Ministry Candidate
1 April Maundy Thursday	7.00 pm	Rev Deborah McVey - Holy Communion
2 April Good Friday	7.00 pm	Rev Deborah McVey – Meditative service
4 April Easter Sunday	10.30 am	Rev Liz Caswell – Holy Communion

MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE

As you will now know, we will be meeting the Ministerial Candidate over next weekend 27 to 28 March (Palm Sunday). The following is planned...

Saturday 27 March 3.30pm Virtual Tea Party (zoom) to meet and chat with the candidate using break out rooms.

Sunday 28 March (Palm Sunday) 10.30 Candidate preaching.

After worship, there will be another opportunity to meet this person over coffee through zoom breakout rooms
Later in the day or the next day, church members will be asked to reconvene for discussion and a vote. The timing of this will be confirmed in a few days. Zoom links will be sent out very soon.

TIME FOR TOTS

If Time for Tots is to reopen after the pandemic, it needs fresh vision and people to lead it.

Please keep this in your thoughts and prayers - maybe God is calling you to offer? Or someone you know?

This is the time to talk, decide and offer.

Please talk to Rosemary Heald or Mary Simuyandi if you want to know more.

HELP - WORSHIP CDs

CCLI (Christian Copyright Licencing International) have told us that we can use any hymns/songs from CDs produced by a number of publishers, including Hillsong and Maranatha.

You will find a full list of publishers half-way down this page [Streaming Your Services – CCLI](#).

If you have some worship CDs, and you have a few minutes to spare, it would be useful if you could check them, and if you find a likely CD, let Martin Harriss know and we can add the names of the tracks to a list for use in our Zoom streamed services. THANK YOU.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

Nicola Grieves, our synod's Children's & Youth Training Officer is offering a third opportunity for Safeguarding training for those who missed out recently. This training is for everyone who volunteers to work with children or vulnerable adults at Sawston Free Church. It is highly recommended!

The complete course (via zoom) is delivered in three weekly sessions. Tuesdays, 6th, 13th and 20th April all start at 2.30 to 3.45pm. Please email Nicola to book your space - cydo@urceastern.org.uk.

Hope – Justin Welby's new hymn for Covid

From Rosemary Heald ...

This new hymn has just been recorded in Cambridge. I find it very relevant and moving, with a beautiful, singable new melody, ideal for a congregation to pick up quickly.

Hope, a hymn based on words by Justin Welby and music by Sarah MacDonald -

Click on this [link](#) to have a listen.

ONLINE

Don't forget there is a really rich selection of URC resources on line.

[This week's weekly update is here](#) and includes – *Synod News: Vaccinations, Synod Meeting, Safeguarding – Beyond the Synod: CLP, Westminster College events, IOPT webinar – Beyond the URC: Myanmar, WCC opportunity, Climate Crisis news – Families at Home*

And also have a look at www.unc-eastern.org.uk and www.unc.org.uk. I cannot emphasise enough how helpful these website pages are and they really are updated regularly!

A PRAYER

This week's prayer is a prayer of Hope, taken from the National Day of Reflection resources (23rd March)

Loving God,
As we journey towards Easter,
help us to live as people of hope,
knowing that beyond the pain of the cross lies the joy of resurrection.

Inspire us in our worship, through our churches and in our homes,
that we may bring glory to you and joy to others.

Be with those who are struggling in mind, body or spirit,
and give courage to those who are facing uncertainty and change ahead.

Help each of us to keep our eyes fixed on you,
that we may reflect your light to all whom we meet. Amen

Amen

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

Keep safe and look after yourselves.

Maggie

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