

Weekly Notes for Sunday 9 May 2021

Hello everyone,

I hope you have all had a good week. Lots of exciting news this week. We will be running a Holiday Club this summer 'in person'! And our usual Christian Aid fundraiser Afternoon Tea is going ahead albeit later in the year in a new venue! These little chinks of plans for the summer with good things to look forward to are a great source of hope.

[Latest Across the City is here.](#)

Church Meeting on Sunday 2 May 2021

As you will remember, a special Church meeting was held last week to find out everyone's views on the way forward with respect to Live & Zoom services. It was a really good meeting with lots of views expressed. These were all noted and have been considered in detail by the Elders.

Although some people want us to open up straight away, there were others who want us to take it gently. We recognised there are a number of technical issues to be resolved to enhance the experience for both zoomers and those in church. And with following the zoom team's emails, I can see they are very motivated and working very hard to push this forward and doing much research into what other churches are doing on the technical side.

Elders agreed we should wait until the zoom team feel a hybrid service is technically possible. And we should consider starting slowly with one a month whilst we all build up confidence and recruit more to the zoom team.

An outside Pentecost service was suggested but when looking at Covid safety and the limited time available, unfortunately the idea had to be dropped.

So the zoom team know our thoughts and that the Elders are happy be guided by them on timing. It it was really good to hear everyone's views last week and provided much needed feedback for the way forward. I know some will be disappointed that we are not starting back immediately, but with good reason. We will let everyone know when we know more on timing.

Fabric Update

Damp update. Following the cold and wet winter many of the problems caused have been rectified or have returned to normal. Thanks to those who helped dry out and clean the Kitchen.

The Church floor however remains a concern. Several areas have lost strength due to the damp. Three of these were repaired but at least two remain. The Fabric Committee will be monitoring the floor and anticipate that significant repair work will be required in future.

ONLINE

Don't forget there is a great selection of URC resources on line. [This week's weekly update is here](#) and includes details of different seminars and training courses. Well worth a look.

- Church Leadership Training
- Thinking about Hybrid Church? Can Synod help?

- Safeguarding Training – more dates available

Everyone who is DBS checked because of the work they do within the church needs to attend regular safeguarding training courses – this course is perfect for that. You just need to contact Nicola Grieves (cydo@urceastern.org.uk) to book a place.

- **Holiday Club – Supersleuths**

There is a zoom meeting on 12th May to discuss ideas. Sawston will of course be running another Holiday Club this summer with the very talented Nicola Grieves, Children's and Youth Development Officer. This will take place during the first week of August in the mornings at Sawston Free Church with some time spent outside at Bellbird School. Interested in helping? ...

Holiday Clubs 2021 – Supersleuths

If you are interested in finding out more, Nicola will be hosting a Holiday Club conversation on Wednesday 12th May, either 2.30pm or 7.30pm

Nicola Grieves is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Email Maggie for the link if you are interested.

Topic: Children and Youth work conversations. Please do join the conversation if you would like to think about what might be possible or share some ideas.

Get your detective hat and coat on, grab your magnifying glass, there are some cases to solve and Supersleuths need you! Picking up the URC Children's and Youth Work theme for 2021, Heroes and Villains, the team have come together to write the URC CYW's first ever holiday club programme. Packed with Bible stories, drama, prayer, games, activities, snack ideas, original songs and much, much more. Supersleuths is set in a 1950s Detective Agency and explores the stories of seven Bible characters from both the Old and New Testament.

INDUCTION – REV PHIL NEVARD

Phil's Induction will take place on Sunday 5 September as part of morning worship in Sawston. More details to follow nearer the time.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember David and Anne Nunn in your prayers. Ann is making progress in the rehab centre but it's proving to be a really long tough journey for them both.

Please continue to pray for Phil & Lythan Nevard as they plan the next few months before leaving Devon in late July for their future roles in Cambs.

Please pray for India and the awful situation there with Covid-19.

INDIA'S CORONAVIRUS CRISIS: urgent support needed

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain's joint appeal [Emergency Coronavirus Appeal](#) is to provide essential support to vulnerable communities in India where the situation with the pandemic has become desperate.

It is impossible to have missed the devastating news coming out of India over the past week. The country, home to 1.3 billion people, is currently in the grips of a deadly second wave of Covid-19 – and with hospitals unable to cope with the ever-increasing number of cases, and oxygen supplies scarce, the situation threatens to overwhelm the country's health systems.

To find out more information, ways to pray and to give if you are able, please go to their website <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/indias-coronavirus-crisis-urgent-support-needed/>

WORSHIP

Tomorrow morning's service is with Rev Dr Mike Wilson and includes Holy Communion. It's the usual Sunday morning link for zoom – please email Maggie if you need it.

Future Services

9 May	10.30am	Rev Dr Mike Wilson <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Includes a speaker from Christian Aid</i>
16 May	10.30am	David Lloyd
23 May	10.30am	Go4th
30 May	10.30am	Faith Paulding



SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday 11 September in the afternoon in the Challis Gardens - time to be confirmed

This will be a Cream Tea fundraiser for Christian Aid

Please put in your diaries!

We have just heard that the Christian Aid Week organisers have created our own online giving page for Sawston Christian Aid Group. You can make your donations by linking to:

<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/sawston-christian-aid-week-2021>

All donations and any gift aid permissions will go directly to Christian Aid. We will be able to know the Sawston total in due course. To find out more information or fundraising ideas, please go [here](#) or contact Mary on 01223 837433.

RACIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM - 15 May 2021 10am-12.30pm

Please join the Methodist Church in a morning of discussing racism in the Church and wider community.

Please join us for this significant gathering where we will be taking time to listen to people's experiences of racism in the Church and wider community, sharing and reflecting on our own experiences of injustice as a diverse community, and considering what our action for transformation might look like.

Speakers for this event are:

- Bevan Powell Connexional Officer for EDI,
- Reverend Jill Marsh, Connexional Inclusive Church Implementation Officer,
- Reverend Jennie Sweet Kirby, Retired Methodist Minister and
- Jasmine Yeboah, former Youth President of the Methodist Church.

We aim for this to be a safe space where people, whatever their backgrounds and experiences can openly and honestly share and question, without embarrassment, to then feel equipped to act.

This gathering is led by the East Anglia District of the Methodist Church in Britain. All are welcome! Please join us, and invite others, to widen and deepen our conversations and action for change, towards justice, dignity and solidarity.

To attend please register your attendance on Eventbrite by following this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/racial-justice-symposium-tickets-146623507859>

A PRAYER

Loving Lord Jesus,

You told the disciples not to be afraid on the first Easter Sunday.

**Help us not to be afraid as the restrictions are eased
but to trust in Your strength.**

Give us the strength we need to move towards the uncertainty of a new normal.

Enable us to speak of you to those in distress and those who are afraid.

Fill us with The Holy Spirit and empower us to live our lives for You.

Amen

John Collings, Lay Preacher, Rutherglen URC

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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