

St. George's
United Reformed Church
Little Sutton



15th May 2020

Welcome to Virtual St George's News Sheet

Message from the Mersey Synod Moderator

We have been in lockdown now for a number of weeks. Israel was exiled around Babylon for a similar number of decades. The second section of Isaiah, chapters 40-55, dates from the later part of that time. It is there that we read, *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you."* (Isaiah 43.2). The Israelites needed that reassurance all those centuries ago. They had been a long time in exile and gone through many trials. They needed to know that God was with them in that foreign land and would stay with them to see them out of exile and on into their new lives back in Israel.

Let's allow those words to remind us too that God is with us in our present difficulties - in our houses and our new daily lives. And that God will journey with us through whatever we meet in the weeks and months ahead, until we can meet in person again and fashion a new way forward in the light of all that we have experienced and learnt in this time.

Revd Jacky Embry

Prayer Topics

This month, you could pray:-

- For taxi drivers, bus and train staff;
- For workers and managers in factories and workshops as they try to get back to work;
- Pray for the place where you live – your street, estate or community;

Suggestions for our Prayer Topics?

Please pass your ideas on to David or Christine.

Ready for the new “normal” ?

The *United Reformed Church* has issued a document to encourage us to pray and discuss the future of the whole Church during and beyond the pandemic. It is long (22 pages!) so just a few notes will be included in these news sheets.



We are between Easter and Pentecost. Like the first disciples it is tempting to plan and expect to go back to the old ways, and hope that we will soon have the church which we love “back to normal”. But if we are honest, that seems very unlikely to happen!

We all have different experiences of the pandemic, so moving forwards will also be different for each of us. The pace of change is unknown; we will need to be patient and open to a different form of spiritual life.

So, this week, here are a few questions to think about while we continue in the lockdown:

- How can we stay positive in our relationships with each other and with God?
- In terms of church life, has there been anything new which seems valuable that you would like to continue, or anything else you think we should try?

Answers to a *Spiritual Basket of Fruit* Crossword

Across

- 4. PATIENCE
- 5. JOY
- 7. SELF-CONTROL
- 9. GENTLENESS

Down

- 1. FAITHFULNESS
- 2. PEACE
- 3. GOODNESS
- 6. LOVE
- 8. KINDNESS

Prayer for Vision 2020

(from the Vision 2020 plan for mission in the URC)

Lord of life,
who was revealed in Christ,
the Way, the Truth
and the Life for all people,
grant to your church,
and each of us as part of it,
new ways of hearing the gospel,
new ways of seeing its truth
and new ways of encountering you in the every day.

As we seek to be more Christ-like,
may we build communities
that are open and welcoming
and find courage and wisdom
to match words with actions
in celebrating and sharing
your overwhelming love in Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Candle reminder

Please remember that we are asked to light a candle at 7pm each Sunday evening, if we can and it is safe to do so, as a sign of hope.



Virtual Coffee Morning

Saturday 16nd May is the date for our next virtual Coffee Morning.



If you are free, then at about 10.30am, make yourself a drink of tea, coffee or whatever you prefer. Toast a teacake or crumpet, sit down with the telephone, and call someone for a chat.



This time, for people with a smartphone, we would like to include a **WhatsApp** group call at 12noon – please contact Elaine or David if you would like to join. (Next time we will try *Skype* for people with a smartphone or computer).

We can all still use the good-old telephone, so please brew-and-chat anyway.



Cheers!

Scarecrows?

You may remember the Little Sutton Scarecrow festival of 2019. Little Sutton PALS are hoping that there will be more scarecrows from 21-28 June 2020. If we're still in lockdown, making a scarecrow is a great project and spotting them around the village will make an interesting health walk.



Pastoral Emergencies

For pastoral emergencies, please contact David who can put you in touch with a Minister.

Contact Details: Website: stgs-urc.org.uk

Secretary: David Shimmin

email: secretary@stgs-urc.org.uk