

St. George's
United Reformed Church
Little Sutton



22nd May 2020

Welcome to Virtual St George's News Sheet

Affirmation of Faith

Over the last few weeks, the URC Sunday *podcast* services have been using the following "affirmation of faith". You may find it helpful:

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust:

our world belongs to God!

From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until His Kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever.

Our world belongs to God!

We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living,

for our world belongs to God!

As committed disciples, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in his world,

for our world belongs to God!

With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended, we expect the Day of the Lord. And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness will fill the earth when Christ appears,

for our world belongs to God!

(from the Christian Reformed Church of North America)

Prayer Topics

This month, you could pray:-

- For home carers, health visitors, district nurses;
- For schools, teachers, governors, parents, pupils as they think about opening;
- For taxi drivers, bus and train staff, door and security staff;
- For workers and managers in factories, workshops and building sites as they try to get back to work;

Suggestions for our Prayer Topics?

Please pass your ideas on to David or Christine.

Message from the Mersey Synod Moderator

Thursday was Ascension Day (Acts 1.6-11). It marks an important stage in the disciples' journey, for they would see Jesus no more. The disciples had been on a rollercoaster ride from the point at which Thomas encouraged his friends to go with Jesus to the tomb of Lazarus saying, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' (John 11.16) They rejoiced at the raising of Lazarus, which was closely followed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Then they hit the pit of despair when he was arrested and crucified. Next came the wonder and joy of Easter Day. By the time they reached Ascension Day, Jesus' post resurrection appearances had almost become the new normal. However, they had to end. As Jesus had said at the Last Supper, 'It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.' (John 16.7) Jesus had to go, to make way for the gift of the Spirit at Pentecost. God's new normal was indeed on the way. Let us spend the time from now until Pentecost in prayer, as did the disciples (Acts 1.14), in preparation for our own new normal.

Revd Jacky Embry

Ready for the new “normal” ?

The *URC* document encourages us to pray and reflect. Here are a few more extracts:-

We are on a journey through a pandemic, not knowing our destination, but aware we follow in a line of saints of old, who have set off before us in the footsteps of Jesus, walking the way. We may travel with faith and doubt, hope and fear, and, perhaps, have a holy encounter along the way. Pilgrimage is about risking such a journey, faith is knowing that we are accompanied by God, hope is in a Kingdom destination, and love may be experienced with companions.

As you look forward to lockdown being ended, how do you respond to the following statements?

- We will return to being church in our traditional ways as soon as possible.
- We recognise that health and social restrictions will be with us for a long time; so we cannot just do what we’ve always done.
- We will learn from the lockdown days, mindful that some churches have been able to reach new people in new ways.
- Our return is governed by what is financially possible.
- Our return, along with practical considerations, will be shaped by discerning God’s new mission for us locally and nationally.

For each statement, draw a smile 😊 if you agree, or frown 😞 if you disagree.

Note: at St George’s we had decided, before the pandemic, to close, probably next Saturday 30th May. That plan is on ice – we cannot hold an Elders or Church Meeting to make decisions, and cannot arrange a final service to celebrate the life of St George’s.

So as we each think of the future:

1. what sort of worshipping community do you now want to join?
2. how will you contribute to the “new normal” life of that church?

Christian Aid



Just a reminder that *Christian Aid Week* was scheduled for last week. We do not have any official envelopes; but if you like to give, please put your gift into a plain envelope and write on it "Christian Aid". We can send it to *Christian Aid* once the lockdown is over.

Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, started by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York of the Church of England in 2016. This year it runs from 21st to 31st May. In the past St George's has taken part, and held a special prayer event in the sanctuary.

This year the suggestion is that Christians all over the world promise to some spend time to pray for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, for our family and friends, and for guidance about how to be more effective in our own witness.

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 30th May is the date for our next virtual Coffee Morning.



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

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