

St. George's
United Reformed Church
Little Sutton



5th June 2020

Welcome to Virtual St George's News Sheet

A Prayer from the Taizé Community, France

God of love, look upon your family.
Come to the help of our humanity
stricken by so much suffering.



Comfort those who are weeping,
support those who are boldly
taking up the challenge of solidarity.

Through the resurrection of Christ,
you open up for us a horizon
as yet uncharted, where a new light is appearing.

And so, just like on Easter morning,
we can find hope again and say with our lives:

“Christ is risen!” - “Yes, he is risen indeed!”

With grim news besetting us every day,
we ask God to come. **Amen.**

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

Ready for the new “normal”? - Part 3

The *URC* document asks the important question “**What is the New Normal for your Church?**”

1. **Do churches still need buildings?** Churches have survived the last few months using phone calls, broadcast or podcast services and posted information. Would being free from the worry and expense of buildings give churches new energy to engage in mission in the community?
2. **What might worship look like?** People have worshipped God quietly at home, praying alone, reading and hearing the same Bible passages as others but not necessarily at the same time. Could online “streamed” services become more common than the physically attended service?
3. **What might work in the local community?** With physical meeting restricted, or at least different, for a long time, what kinds of activities should the church support? How can the church help people outside the congregation in a socially-distanced community?
4. **How do we collaborate?** If physical meetings to discuss the practical business are difficult, how do the congregation and leaders work together to ensure safety, good stewardship and mission? How does the church walk together in the footsteps of Jesus?

One comment heard at a recent *Life after Lockdown* conference was: “Lockdown is not a sabbath to rest, but a jubilee to reset”.

Chester Zoo



Chester Zoo is facing a financial crisis. They are not allowed to open for visitors, but the animals still need looking after and feeding. Please pray for all at the zoo (humans and other) – if you can help by a donation or adopting an animal then ask David for information, or look online at chesterzoo.org.

Virtual Coffee Morning?

On Saturday 13th June we could talk to each other in another virtual Coffee Morning. If anyone would prefer an Afternoon Tea time, or a different idea, please contact David.



Prayer Topics

This month, you could pray:-

- For refuse and recycling collectors, street cleaners, and staff at the recycling centres;
- For all who are treated unfairly, who suffer abuse or discrimination;
- For all who are on furlough, or have been made redundant, and are struggling financially;
- For all who are afraid to go out again, and those who are exhausted from staying at home;

Suggestions for our Prayer Topics?

Please pass your ideas on to David or Christine.

Desert Island Discs

Staying at home under lockdown can feel a bit like being shipwrecked on a desert island, waiting for rescue.

Why not use the time to compile your own list of “**Desert Island Discs**”? Prepare a list of eight tunes, songs or pieces of music; mark one as your absolute favourite; pick a favourite book and one luxury item. If you are willing to share, then we could perhaps listen together when it becomes practical. For now, just settle into a chair and put on your favourite CDs or downloads, or stream to your phone. Relax, and imagine the waves breaking on the shore.



Neighbour

Our neighbour at 402 Chester Road is **AgeUK**. Here is a short history.



- In 1940 there was no welfare state, and World War II brought hardship to many older people. A group of individuals, charities and government was formed and became the *National Old People's Welfare Committee*.
- When the welfare state was born, the committee coordinated work among older people in the UK. Meanwhile disasters and conflict in central Europe, Asia and Africa led to a *Help the Aged Refugees Appeal* for older people suffering abroad.
- Renamed to *Help the Aged*, the appeal continued to fund-raise for emergency aid overseas and it also started housing and day-centre projects in the UK.
- In 1971 the *National Old People's Welfare Committee* became independent of the government and was renamed as *Age Concern*. It developed its own services and commissioned reports especially on older people from ethnic minority groups.
- In 1980s, *Age Concern* also helped support training for unemployed older people, and *Help the Aged* opened shops selling second-hand goods.
- In 2000s, *Age Concern* and *Help the Aged* merged to become *AgeUK* at home and *Age International* for overseas work. The range of services in the UK expanded, with more practical support, information, and campaigning for older people.

For more information on the services and work of *AgeUK*, visit the shop when it re-opens, or look online at ageuk.org.uk.

Printed Service

Our friend Revd Chris Davies is providing a written service for each Sunday – please ask if you would like a copy included with your news sheet.