

St. George's United Reformed Church Little Sutton



26th June 2020

Welcome to Virtual St George's News Sheet

Virtual Coffee Morning?

Saturday 27th June is the date of our next virtual Coffee Morning. From 10.30am, pour out a cuppa and reach for the biscuit tin, then phone someone for a chat. (We plan to run a *WhatsApp* session at about 12noon that morning.)



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.

Prayer Topics

This month, you could pray:-

- For South America, where the COVID-19 infection is very high and rising;
- For all affected by terrorist attacks, and for those trying to protect us from violent extremists;
- For calm, moderation, forgiveness, understanding and humility in all of us.

Suggestions for our Prayer Topics?

Please pass your ideas on to David or Christine.

Scarecrows

The **Little Sutton Scarecrow Festival** is running until 28th June. Scarecrows have popped up all over the area – see the PALS Facebook page for details and a map facebook.com/groups/1802566369976861 (look up *Little Sutton PALS*)



Good News from Abroad

The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, a partner of the United Reformed Church, has provided financial support and resources to two care homes in West Midlands that have been affected by Covid-19. The church in Taiwan sent personal protective equipment, along with iPads so that residents who are locked in can be in touch with their loved ones. The iPads are also being used for video medical appointments.

A Prayer from the Church of South India

God our Father,
by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness
and returns again to light:

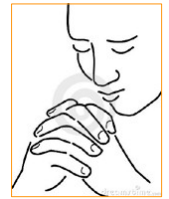
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems,
and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.

To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Advance notice for 4th July

The Mersey Synod of the URC has passed on an invitation for local churches to take part in a day of prayer and fasting, thinking and praying about the COVID-19 pandemic and all its effects and implications.



The date suggested is **Saturday 4th July**, which coincides with the relaxation of some of the current restrictions.

This is an individual activity which we would join at home.

If you don't want to pray non-stop for 24 hours(!) then you could set aside your mid-morning cuppa and pray for ½ hour; you could abstain from chocolate, coffee or alcohol and pray occasionally throughout the day; you could miss one meal and sit quietly with some music while you spend time with God.

If you do wish to take part, then it is important that you choose something which suits your personality, situation and will-power; this is not an exam, but it is a chance for us to pray seriously for a while. We will provide some practical ideas next week.

Little Sut-ton

Sometimes it can be interesting to find out where words come from:

- In this area, many place names end with **-ton** (*Sutton*, *Hooton*, *Willaston*, *Thornton*). This is believed to come from the Old English word “*tun*”, meaning a farm or enclosed fields. *Sutton* could have been originally “*Sud-Tun*”, meaning “South Farm”.
- The weight “**ton**” (20cwt before metrication) comes from the Old English “*tunne*”, which was a large oak cask containing 256 gallons of wine or ale, which happens to weigh about one ton. (anyone feeling thirsty?)
- In Regency times, the word “**ton**” (from Latin *tonus*=musical tone) was used to refer to those who dressed in the highest fashion and best style, as with the famous “Beau” Brummel.



(with thanks to various dictionaries and Wikipedia)

Affirmation of Faith

While Church of England congregations regularly face the front of the church and say the *Creed* together, in the non-conformist tradition we tend to use hymns to express our faith. In June, the podcast Sunday services from the URC have been offering the following *Affirmation of Faith*; it is translated from the Reformed Church of France, and is quite thought-provoking.

We believe in God.

Despite His silence and His secrets we believe that He lives.

Despite evil and suffering we believe that He made the world so that all would be happy in life.

Despite the limitations of our reason and the revolts of our hearts, we believe in God.

We believe in Jesus Christ.

Despite the centuries which separate us from the time when He came to earth, we believe in His word.

Despite our incomprehension and our doubt, we believe in His resurrection.

Despite his weakness and poverty, we believe in His reign.

We believe in the Holy Spirit.

Despite appearances we believe He guides the Church;

despite death we believe in eternal life;

despite ignorance and disbelief, we believe that the Kingdom of God is promised to all.

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