The Magazine

April
2020

Wallasey Village Church

The United Reformed Church in Wallasey Village

Letter from Jeff

Dear friends,

As you are all aware there is ever growing concern, here and across the world, regarding coronavirus. In the light of this I want to share with you current advice which we, as a church will follow, but I also want to encourage you in the face of this pandemic and to remind you that whatever we face as a fellowship and as individuals that God is with us and God is for us. In 2 Timothy 1:7 the Apostle Paul reminds us that "…God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Many organisations, sport's venues, businesses and churches are suspending events until further notice. We will do that with our activities as we try to keep fellowship, pastoral care and worship as our focus. We have decided to cancel any meetings such as Elders, Church meeting and other business meetings We are strongly urging everyone to be very cautious about their interactions with one another here and to practice good hygiene (washing your hands, covering your mouth when you cough, etc.).

There are some steps we can all take in order to reduce the chance of anyone contracting the coronavirus :

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport, or being in public places.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you feel unwell, stay at home, do not attend work or school or church.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces .

We have suspended worship and closed the church buildings. We are hoping to get the services recorded so that you can catch up if you're not able to attend.

Let me leave you with four things we can all do.

-Pray – for God to aid scientists in discovering a vaccine quickly. And for the witness of the church; that we will not allow the coronavirus to quarantine our faith

-Act responsibly. Wash your hands and follow health official's guidance.

-Respect the space of others.

-Trust God and rest in His peace.

"The Lord gives strength to his people! The Lord blesses his people with peace! (Psalm 29:11)

Every blessing.

Jeff

Food Supplies

If you are in at home and need food deliveries, here are some useful numbers: You avoid the germy queues in the supermarket, don't have to wait for delivery slots and support local business.

Win -Win.

- **Colin's fruit and Veg (Liscard Precinct)**

  07837 179703. text or ring to place your order. Free delivery over £5.00. Also, the butcher next door: message on Facebook or ring 01516302195 to order. Note they are getting very busy. Colin may be able to liaise with the butcher.

- **Birkenhead Market traders are delivering as well:**
  - ◊ **Wards Fish** - 0151 666 1842
  - ◊ **Moneysworth** - 0151 647 3039
  - ◊ **Fruit and Veg** - 07966 274 295
  - ◊ **Malambs meats** - 666 2983
- If you put in a supermarket order by **click and collect, Argyll Taxis** will collect and deliver for to your house. 0151 201 1111

- **Mortons Dairies** do door step deliveries You also get to cut your plastic use with the glass bottles . Click on the link: www.mortonsdairies.co.uk or 0151 677 5237 They also deliver groceries

The Quick and easy read Bible

I thought it might be an encouragement for you to know how the "Quick and Easy read Bible" are continuing to go out to a variety of individuals and groups

More recently they have gone to:

Seacombe URC (Ten copies)
Marlowe Rd URC (Ten copies)
St Luke's Church (Ten copies)
The man working on our buildings (three copies)
Indoor Bowls (16 copies)
Alcoholics Anonymous, Sunday (19 cop ies)
Alcoholics Anonymous, Wednesday (1 copy)
New members of Tuesday Coffee morning (ten copies)
St Pauls Church, Rock Ferry (ten copies)

I've also had a request for Bibles from friends who attend St Cleopas, Toxteth.

So far, we have been able to purchase 800 Bibles from the donations given, with about 65 left. If you would like to donate a small gift towards this ministry, please let me know

Please pray that people will not only read the "Quick and Easy-read Bible", but will see and understand something of the great Love that the Lord Jesus has for them and respond to that love.

Ron Taylor

Wirral Foodbank

During the Coronavirus outbreak, Wirral foodbank is continuing to support people with emergency food.

There is only one centre open

Mon– Thurs 10:30am—12:30pm at

Salvation Army

Vincent St, Birkenhead, CH41 2RH

To use this you will need a red food voucher.

Food can be donated at:

Wirral Foodbank Warehouse
Open Mon—Thur 10:am—12:30pm
And at the following stores:

- Tesco (Heswall, Rock Ferry, Bidston Moss)
- Asda (Birkenhead, Liscard, Arrowe Park)
- Sainsbury's (Upton, Greasby)
- Co-op (Greasby)

If you would like to make a financial gift use https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/ or

Please send cheques made payable to:
Wirral Foodbank
Unit 14 Wirral Business Centre
Dock Road, Birkenhead, CH41 1JW or
You can make a direct payment to our bank account:
Bank Sort Code: 40-10-22, Account Number: 52391236

Maintaining income from personal giving—Message from Synod

For each and all of us, our personal giving to our local church is an expression of our discipleship and this income is vital to the church locally and across our three nations, and to all the work that we do together in Christ's name. People need to be gently reminded that the financial needs of the church continue whether or not the congregation is meeting and that our responsibility to support it continues as well.

Some individuals and families will suffer serious financial hardship as a consequence of this crisis and we need to be sensitive to that and support those people as we are able. But there may be others who could increase their regular giving during this crisis period and they need to be encouraged to do so.

There are some practical ways in which we can try to maintain this vital income:

- If you are not already doing so, think about standing orders or bank transfers;

- try to set aside weekly offerings until we can collect them and get them into the bank

- Contact our treasurer Ann Barr if you would like to set up a standing order.
aebarr@btinternet.com

Lord Jesus Christ,
You taught us to love our neighbour,
And to care for those in need
As if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
To comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
And to assure the isolated
Of our love, and your love,
For your name's sake.
Amen.

People News

Thank you

So much for the lovely tulips I received last week also a big thank you to Joan and Ray for delivering the flowers in such awful weather. I am feeling a lot better now and look forward to see you all at church very soon.

Barbara Vernon

Please remember in your prayers all those who are worried about the coronavirus, their health and their finances.
Also: Carolyn Hughes, Helen Lawton, Heather Hughes.

Pray for persecuted Christians

Heavenly Father may our Brothers and Sisters in Pakistan know that they are loved and valued by you today that you see them as treasured and precious. Please restore and heal the many girls and women who have been abducted, and comfort believers who are currently imprisoned accused under blasphemy laws protect them from any violence and mob justice. Help your church in Pakistan to shine as a light in the darkness for your GLORY . Amen

There will be no church services in April or until further notice.
There are no Church events or local events in April
There is no access to church buildings

Please keep checking on the church website. We are hoping to have Sunday services recorded and available on line soon.

Sunday 5th April	**Palm Sunday**
Thursday 9th April	**Maundy Thursday**
Friday 10th April	**Good Friday**
Sunday 12th April	**Easter Sunday**
Sunday 31st May	**Whit Sunday**

Pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine.

Cast all our anxiety on him because he cares for you. —1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. —*Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*

Kristy J. O'Hara-Glaspie of World Vision's office in the U.S. contributed to this piece.

Pray for people at higher risk of developing the disease.

Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 — the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones.

Pakistan is an up and coming Holiday Tourist Destination for British Backpackers. It has a population of about 204,596,000 of which 4,015,000 are Christians. The country is strongly Muslim with Islamic groups increasingly influencing the Political parties, The Army, and the Government.
Christians are Targets of violent attacks. Homes are burnt down, they suffer Hunger, starvation, Slavery, bonded labour, girls and women are raped, and kidnapped by the extremists. They are treated as unclean by Muslims in general. The only work they can find is dirty sanitary jobs, cleaning sewers etc.
There are 12 million child labourers, who are often exposed to physical violence working a 14 hour day for very little money.
Christians are abused under the infamous blasphemy law. If they are accused they can be imprisoned or even killed. They are afraid to express their faith freely in case something they say is misinterpreted as blasphemy. It's estimated about 700 Christian Women and girls are abducted every year and often forced to marry older Muslim men.
Christian Churches are closely monitored and have been regularly targeted with attacks. There are women in solitary confinement in prisons for being Christian. Asia Bibi was on death row, in solitary for over 8 years before she was released. Asia said it was her faith that got her through each day, she always believed one day she would be free.
Barnabas and other Christian organisations help by providing Christians with a monthly food package. . They give hope and a future to thousands of children, vulnerable Widows and their children with food parcels, medical care,rent, plus other needs as and when they arise. and all his children are attending school.

Barnabas fund supports 124 Christian Schools across Pakistan giving hope and a future to thousands of children, they support vulnerable Widows and their children with food parcels, medical care,rent, plus other needs as and when they arise.

Dear supporters.

As all of our thoughts are on the Covid-19 situation, we wanted to share an update on Christian Aid's response. We value our volunteers enormously and want to ensure you all keep safe when fundraising for Christian Aid Week. The health and safety of our community, including loyal supporters like you, is of the utmost importance to us, and we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis.

Advice for Christian Aid Week

Many of you will have been planning house-to-house collections and events. Under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections should not go ahead. In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies or Lent lunches, where food is shared, cannot go ahead. We are looking at alternative ways to virtually meet, share and pray with supporters over the coming months in the likely absence of physical church services.

We are working on alternative plans that will allow people to take part in Christian Aid Week in different, creative ways – by post, by text and online that strengthen our communities during this challenging time. Christian Aid Week is our single-most important fundraiser, so we would welcome your ideas on how we can creatively show love for our neighbours at home and abroad, as a community.

Christian Aid Week 10—16th

Our global response

Christian Aid and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and we will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates start to develop as they are in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease. We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19. Please pray for us in this vital work, and support us where you can by making an online donation.

We are praying for all those affected by this new virus, both in Britain and overseas, for all those working on the frontline and for wisdom for our leaders. We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves. During this challenging time, we all need to take seriously the science and advice being offered, remaining calm but vigilant. If you have any specific concerns or questions please email us at info@christian-aid.org or call our helpline on 020 7620 4444.

I am keeping you all in my prayers.

With every blessing, *Amanda Khozi Mukwashi*

Letter from Matt

I wanted to send an email of support for churches who may be interested in some youth work resources in this time of uncertainty. Many school and church groups have stopped in light of the situation but I am confident it doesn't mean the church's connection with young people has to stop also!

I have attached a document with some resources that I believe could be helpful. Some is sessional material that could be downloaded and sent to parents to use with their children. If you use social media then some of the material may be used there too or you could encourage young people to follow other social medias.

Safeguarding is something you will have to be careful with but I am more than happy to answer questions regarding this.

I am here for any support that you may need. Please feel free to email me or call me and I would be more than happy to help! I will be sending emails over the next couple of weeks of support and encouragement. If you would prefer not to receive these emails please let me know and I will take you off the list.

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Thanks to Matt for this piece and the Resources pieces off the following pages

Resources (for young people)

Wirral Youth for Christ

Emily from Wirral Youth for Christ is using Pulse Instagram page to provide Christian discussion sessions for young people. Fun activities will be used alongside them also.

Instagram: pulsewyf

Guardians of Ancora is a Scripture Union resource for primary school aged children. It is a free app where children can play a jumping puzzle game and follow the stories of Jesus. I have used this with children many times and it is great! Encourage parents to try with children! https://guardiansofancora.com/

British Youth for Christ have fantastic resources from ages 7-25. They are offering a free 12 week trail for this online resources.

http://resources.yfc.co.uk/

Tearfund have some great sessions on different relevant topics for young people. https://weare.tearfund.org/groups/?cli action=l584628526.118

Continued on next page

Resources (continued)

Updated each day with short studies with voice recordings alongside them. Also UCB has a radio station too young people may want to listen too.

https://www.ucb.co.uk/wordforyou

Youth work sessions to engage young people. Similar to youth for Christ resource.

https://www .energize.uk.net/

Great Youtube Channel that is updated daily. This channel has challenges and fun activities on for young people.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-XShc828CUoD3dM8CfKlxg/videos

This app has Christian content such as music videos and some testimonies.

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.subsplash.thechurchapp.itruth&hl=en_GB ITruth App

And website:

https://makejesusknown.com/itruthtv#/

From the editors

Unfortunately as you will have heard, Church Services have all been suspended for the foreseeable future. The Church has not been closed - we, the people, are the church—only the buildings are closed. The church will continue to function as best as it can under the care of our minister, Jeff and the Elders. There will be no paper copies of this edition. It is thought that paper may help spread the virus.

Please adhere to the government guidelines for coping with this disease. Give help where you can to those older or less fit than yourselves.

Pray for help for yourself and others, for the medical teams and for the key workers. Pray particularly for those in other lands, whose medical systems may not be so advanced as ours, particularly for those in war-ravaged areas or refugee camps.

I hope to see you before too long, I will be quite hairy, not having been to the barber for months.

All items for inclusion in the May *Magazine must be in the hands of the editors no later than* Sunday April 19th

Contributions should be emailed to JoyceHumphreys@virginmedia.com .

Handwritten (print) or typed contributions may be given to the editors or sent to:.

14 Prospect Vale, Wallasey CH45 6TQ

tel 0151 513 3678

Regular Activities

Activity:	Meets:	Notes	Where?	Contact
Fusion	Tuesday 7:00—9:00pm	Helpers at 6:30pm	Village rooms	Matt Bentley
Little Stars	Thursday 10.00-11.30		Large hall	Christine Johnson 07581071979
Indoor Bowls	Thursday 1.30 - 4.00	Oct – Mar	Large hall	John Steel 637 0674
Rainbows	Thursday 5.15 – 6.30	Term time	Large Hall	Maz Sprenger 0790 3380683
Brownies	Thursday 6.00 – 7.30	Term time	Small hall	Emily Antley
Guides	Thursday 7:30—8:30	Term time	Large Hall	Gill Smart 630 0504
Breakfast church	9:15am—10:00am			
Sunday Worship	10..30– 11.30			Please see centre pages for details

www.wallaseyvillage.urc.org.uk

email wallaseyvillageurc@gmail.com

Elders' contact details:

Ann Barr: 0151 638 9602 or 07557 339 169

Chris Doran: 0151 923 4298 or 07743 161 971

Hazel Welsh: 0782 117 1534

Ron Taylor: 0151 512 8970

For Minister and secretary see next page.

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Finance/Website	Ann Barr		638 9602
Church Cleaning	Karon Laing		638 7569
Heating	Peter Evans	7 days notice for changes please	638 2446
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Magazine/ Newssheet editors	Joyce & Gron Humphreys	14 Prospect Vale Wallasey, CH45 6TQ	513 3678 07484628534

A memory of happier times

We look forward to seeing you all in the church again in the not-too-distant future