

Letter to WSAM churches

23rd July 2020

Dear Friends

Hello and very warm greetings to all of you - I hope you've had a good week!

Worship this coming Sunday (26th)

The Sunday Bulletin with its order of service will be distributed as usual to everybody; in fact, if you know anyone who doesn't get it and might like to, please let us know.

Also the 'Sunday at Six' Zoom worship will take place again, as we continue our journey through some of the stories in Genesis - this time the story of Jacob marrying two sisters in quick succession - Leah and Rachel. All are very welcome to join us - let me know if you would like details. These services offer us all the opportunity to keep in touch and to worship safely. The 'After Church Coffee' Zooms will continue too, for a relaxed chance to chat and exchange news at 11.30 on Sunday mornings, and again, they are not restricted to those who have joined in before - new faces are very welcome - just ask.

Billingshurst will have a short service at 10.30am. Please phone Brenda in good time if you would like to be there, as space is quite limited.

Petworth will also have a short service at 10.30am - if you intend to be there please make sure Maureen knows. Again, space is limited.

Pulborough will try, for the first time, a short service outdoors in the church garden at 10.30am, weather permitting!! There will be no hymns, and also no access to the building, so no toilets. Despite being outside, space is still limited so it is vital you let Gerald know in good time that you intend to be there.

For all services please remember that it may be chilly, so dress accordingly. Bring your own Bible or cushion if you want them, and a bottle of water, as the kitchen is not in use. Please use the hand sanitiser as you arrive, sit where you are directed, and leave promptly at the end. There will be a retiring collection, as we can't pass anything round.

Also please remember to wear a mask - they are even more important in church than they are in shops. Remember the virus hasn't gone away - the number of cases in West Sussex has been going up rather than down over the last couple of weeks.

Before you even consider attending worship you should assess your personal risk:

<https://urc.org.uk/images/Personal-Risk-Assessment-example.pdf>

There is also a short film available online to explain how to work out how high your personal risk is: <https://youtu.be/ytJJQ3MBAbQ>

***** If you, or anyone you've been with, has any symptoms of Covid-19, or has tested positive in the last 14 days, please don't come out and put others at risk! *****

News of church family and friends

I'm sorry to have to tell you that Revd Peter Newell died on 5th July. His funeral will take place at 12.30pm on 31st July, and will be available online, either via Zoom or on the church YouTube channel:

In happier news: congratulations to Keith and Rosemary and their grandson, Owen, who graduated from York with really excellent results and intends to go onto postgraduate studies in music, still in York. Well done to him, and to the very proud grandparents!

Now that the lockdown is easing, people are starting to go away - either to visit friends and family, or for belated and rescheduled holidays. We wish them all well - enjoy yourselves!

Unfortunately there are others who are unwell, becoming less mobile, or in hospital; and we also wish for them both healing and hope, and hold them in our prayers.

Other notices

I have spent a few very enjoyable minutes this week in the wildlife garden just in front of the manse at Pulborough, counting butterflies (particularly on the Buddleia bushes) for the Big Butterfly Count organised by Butterfly Conservation. So far I have seen at least seven species. Has anyone else been joining in with this?

Have a good weekend, and stay in touch - with each other and with me.

Anne Lewitt

These letters and Bulletins, with some details removed for confidentiality, are now being added to our church websites so that they are more easily and widely accessible.