

Letter to WSAM churches

16th July 2020

Dear Friends

Greetings to all of you - thank you to those of you who have been in touch this week, and thanks to all of you for keeping me up to date. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Last Sunday both Billingshurst and Petworth opened their buildings for brief services with no hymns and with small congregations widely spread through the building - a strange way to worship, but better than nothing, perhaps? We will make the most of what we are able to do, whether online or in person, even though only a sub-set of the congregation can gather at any one time.

Worship this coming Sunday (19th)

The Sunday Bulletin with its order of service, and the 'Sunday at Six' Zoom worship will continue, not just this week but for the foreseeable future. These are important as the means by which we can all keep in touch and worship safely. The 'After Church Coffee' Zooms will continue too, for a relaxed chance to chat and exchange news.

There will be another Synod service, including Communion, online - see details below under 'other notices'.

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

For both these services please remember that it may feel chilly since all windows and doors are kept open. Bring your own Bible or cushion if you want them, and a bottle of water, since 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. Also please remember to wear a mask. The URC has this week clarified that masks should definitely be worn in church, and why:

<https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3535-coronavirus-urc-guidance-around-face-coverings?fbclid=IwAR255MjaSV13rkRJ4W0xMRMcRTJ85zHJjJisxFeEJ4KfjOnnUsd5xfOXJ6w>

Before you consider attending worship you should assess your personal risk. There is now a short film available online which was produced by a URC minister to explain in a quick and easy way how to work out how high your personal risk is:

<https://youtu.be/ytJJQ3MBAAbQ>

***** 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. *****

Future worship in Pulborough

I commented last week that Pulborough's garden was a potential asset. We have already been able to hold several meetings outside, and now the Elders are proposing to try a short service of worship outside on Sunday 26th July at 10.30am, weather permitting(!) This will not include any hymns, and you should bear in mind that it will be harder to hear outside - there is a lot of traffic noise and obviously no hearing loop. There will be wooden chairs set out at 2 metre spacing (bring your own cushion if you need one) and capacity will be limited by the size of the lawn. Please also bear in mind that there will be no access to the church building, so no toilet facilities; and that the surface is rough and uneven and due to Covid distancing regulations we can't just give you a hand as we normally would, so you need to be independent and steady on your feet. Above all, please let Gerald know if you intend to come, as space is limited.

News of church family

We think of Rose, whose 90th Birthday is this Sunday. She has only been able to talk to her family via face time recently, but her daughters are able to visit her outdoors this week, just in time for her birthday. Happy Birthday to Rose!

Other notices

The Synod Service this Sunday will be live streamed on the Reigate Park Church YouTube channel at 10.30am:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFZoGU6sFvF9pgI2IDKglHw>

General Assembly went very well last weekend - you can read more on the news page of the URC website: <https://urc.org.uk/news.html>

Pulborough subscribes to the URC's Reform Magazine, which is usually left on the table in the welcome area for anyone to read. I have just finished the last couple of months' copies; if anyone else would like to read them, please just let me know.

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.