

**Letter to WSAM churches**

**12th August 2020**

Dear Friends

Good Morning! You might even receive this a little earlier than usual (rare for me, I know!) as I try to finish using the computer and broadband before the forecast storms arrive... if ever. We could certainly do with some rain for the gardens and fields - here's hoping for the blessing of rain in a useful quantity.

**Worship this coming Sunday (16th August)**

We will produce the Sunday Bulletin, with its order of service, as usual. I hope everyone in our congregations now gets it; if anyone doesn't and would like to, please let me know.

The 'Sunday at Six' Zoom evening worship will take place again, providing online worship which is mostly live and which also gives you the chance to sing hymns to Ellen's piano accompaniment (as loud as you like - unless you mind what the neighbours think)! When Ellen was away she kindly recorded the accompaniments for us for a couple of weeks, and we discovered that the sound reproduction was infinitely better, so we are hoping to continue with this whenever possible. This week we reach chapter 45 in Genesis: Joseph, now a powerful person in Egypt, is reunited (and reconciled) with his brothers. All are very welcome to join us, either online via computer of some sort or by ordinary landline phone - let me know if you would like details.

The 'After Church Coffee' Zooms (one each for the Billingshurst and the Pulborough congregations) will continue too, for a relaxed chance to chat and exchange news at 11.30 on Sunday mornings. Modelled on the friendly and lively conversations we enjoy over coffee in the hall after services on a 'normal' Sunday when such things are possible, they have been a source of laughter and support in recent months, with advice on good walks, wildlife sightings and plant swaps! And of course new people are very welcome, again either online or by phone - just ask for details.

**Billingshurst** will have a short service starting at 10.30am, everyone welcome but please remember it's important to phone Brenda in good time, and don't forget your mask.

**Petworth** will also have a short service at 10.30am - again all are very welcome but if you intend to be there please make sure Maureen knows, and remember a mask.

**Pulborough** will have a short service outdoors in the church garden at 10.30am, weather permitting! There is no access to the building, except to use the toilet. All welcome but it's

important you let Gerald know in good time if you intend to be there. Masks are optional outside, but you can't go inside, even to the toilet, without one.

For all services please remember to dress for the weather - either suncream and sun hats or raincoats and umbrellas may be needed outdoors this Sunday! Obviously one of the advantages of knowing who is coming is that we can let you know if services have to be cancelled at short notice. 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 asked, and leave promptly at the end - there will be a retiring collection. Remember masks are now a legal requirement indoors.

Before attending worship the URC asks us each to assess our personal risk. Nobody can take that decision for you. There is an online way of doing it on the URC website here: <https://urc.org.uk/images/Personal-Risk-Assessment-example.pdf>

Or if you would like a paper copy of that, just let me know. Alternatively there is a short film available online to explain how to work it out: <https://youtu.be/ytJJQ3MBAbQ>

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

### **News of church family and friends**

For those wanting to attend (online) the funeral of Alan, Barbara's husband, on Wednesday 19th August at 12 noon, please get in touch with me for the link. Please hold Barbara and the family in your prayers.

Don't forget to think what you could let Meredith have for the September Messenger - I haven't been given a deadline but it must be imminent!

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.