

## Church Family Newsletter 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Church Family,

### **Stay at home, stay connected.**

We are at the beginning of what is going to be a hugely challenging time for our world, but also ourselves. Restrictions on movement are hard, but I want to encourage you through this...

### **Stay at home.**

The government has told us to stay at home at all times, unless absolutely necessary. The loving thing we can do for our neighbours, family and friends is to keep away during this time, to protect them. Sadly, this has meant our church is totally closed now to any visiting or personal prayer.

### **Stay connected with our community.**

Someone said to me "we are isolating but not isolated" I hope that is the case for you too.

**Keep in regular touch** with friends, neighbours and community. If you want help, or are able to help, do get in touch with us. In Frant, Roy Buchanan is coordinating our community care effort (tel. 750791) and Lesley Lynn (tel. 864304) is involved in our Eridge response.

Keep **giving to the foodbank**, for some people this will be more needed than ever. With the church out of action at the moment, you might want to think about giving direct financially instead... this is what the community store house said to us:

*We are being constantly blessed by our local communities who are offering to support us in many different ways. With financial donations we are now receiving we are able to try buying some supplies in bulk that are difficult to find in the supermarkets on the shelves.*

*Should you wish to donate financially you can send a cheque, payable to 'The Community Storehouse ', and send it to The Community Storehouse, The Wesley Centre, Commercial Road, Paddock Wood, TN12 5AP.*

*Alternatively you can donate online.*

*Our bank sort code is - 40-36-35*

*Our bank account no. is - 11298410*

*The name of our account is: - The Community Storehouse.*

*Could you please ask individual donors to use a ref. of 'Frant'*

*- then it will give us an idea that it has come from your church.*

*To 'Gift-Aid' email [enquiries@communitystorehouse.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@communitystorehouse.co.uk) for a form, or make a donation directly through our website: [communitystorehouse.co.uk](http://communitystorehouse.co.uk) where you can tick to Gift-Aid and is automatically claimed.*

### **Stay connected with God.**

Every day we are encouraging everyone to light a candle in our windows and say a prayer as we go through this crisis.

Connect with us at church through our Facebook/YouTube page (**search "Frant Church" / "Eridge Church"**) – **our services are now online** through them – please **"follow" us** to get it updated to you automatically.

Although it is really hard not meeting physically together, we must thank God for the way in which he is using the new way of reaching out to people in this crisis – as of writing **our service last week**

**has been 'viewed' 2000 times** by people, and I know a number of people who have watched the service who never usually go to church.

We will be having a new service online every Sunday so not only look out for it, but if you "**share**" **our service on your own Facebook page** etc, you will help others in our community see what we are doing through this. My prayer is that through this crisis many people will join us in looking to God in hope, especially as we come towards Easter.

This Easter we will celebrate again the fact that Jesus rose from the dead - God is more powerful than anything we face and has done something about it. I pray that we may all know that hope and peace in our hearts through this.

With my prayers for all of you,

-Rev Brendan