

Church Family Newsletter 9th May 2020

Dear Church Family,

A slightly later newsletter this week with VE day yesterday, I hope you could enjoy some of the celebrations from your home, as we celebrate peace won in Europe in 1945. Some of you I imagine will remember it well. I loved the scenes of so many people coming together at Buckingham Palace dancing and singing – a scene even more poignant knowing we can't come together right now.

This Sunday - Acts 8:4-25

Scattered church: God's power amongst them.

Join us to see God's power vs other power, and how God used a time of scattering to advance the good news about Jesus further and faster.

Food bank update

We support a local foodbank: <https://communitystorehouse.co.uk/>



[The Community Storehouse - Foodbank in Paddock Wood](https://communitystorehouse.co.uk/)

The Community Storehouse is Paddock Wood's food bank, enabling those who have to share with those who don't have. We all know what it's like to be anxious, but perhaps we don't know what it's like to feel worried about where the next meal is coming from to feed ourselves or our children.

communitystorehouse.co.uk

To let you know of an update from them, that might help you or someone you may know...

To clients both new and old:

If you are unable to get hold of vouchers we are accepting self-referrals.

If you are without work and struggling but don't think you're eligible then we're here to help.

If you're concerned about social distancing then we are giving out pre-made bags at the door so the risk is minimal.

Please don't suffer in silence, we're open again on Thursday morning from 9.30-11.30am....

Good news stories...

Annette's good news story to encourage you...

Last Wednesday afternoon I found a vase of beautiful flowers on my front doorstep - rose buds and some gypsophila as well. It was absolutely beautiful and so well arranged, with a ribbon around it. There was also an envelope beside it with my address only on the front, not my name. I took it inside and opened the envelope. There was a very pretty card inside with a message of "Best wishes from Cass", with some very encouraging verses inside. It was such a lovely surprise. I didn't know who Cass was, so it was a mystery! It kept my mind busy for the rest of the day. The following morning, I asked Roy if he knew anything about it, as he is involved with caring for people in the community. He told me that he knew that a lady in the village was planning to send flowers and cards, but he didn't know this lady in person. Thanks also to Deirdre, the post delivery lady, who delivered a "thank you" note for me to Cass. Those flowers are still giving me great joy.

Monthly Prayers for our church...

We weren't able to have our usual Monthly prayer meeting this week, so we put together a number of prayers for our ministry as a church and wider service. A list of some prayer points is found at the bottom. Prayers are also available in video format on our Facebook page.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5

We offer up our prayers with thankfulness. We thank you God for sending your son Jesus to conquer fear and death. We thank you that because of His victory on the cross we now have life eternal in you. Who else is worthy of our thanks, our prayers and our praise? We entrust all things to you, faithful God and loving Father.

1. Staying connected as a Church Family

We pray for our Church family, that we may still grow together in faith, knowing our Lord Jesus Christ is in our midst. We thank you that many people from our Church are helping others, showing the love of Christ, especially to those who may not otherwise experience you. Thank you that we have a message of hope rather than leaving us in despair.

2. Church Service and Activities

Praise the Lord that we can continue our Church services and some other meetings online. We thank you Lord for everyone involved in these, whether leading, speaking, praying, organising or filming. We thank you that it's not only our services that are able to continue but also home groups, youth groups, one-to-one Bible studies, online thoughts of the days and Sunday Club. We pray for these to continue and that many more, through social media and the internet, will join with us in worshipping you.

3. Home Life

Father, we pray for families as they try and balance living, working and schooling from home, as this can be stressful at times. Please help them and remind them to spend time together, and also with you. Help us to see the blessings that are coming from this time of slowing down and to praise you for them. Please give guidance to parents to show their children you in this time and to lead and teach with patience.

We especially lift up to your care those who are living alone or are apart from loved ones. May they know your special comfort and care for them.

4. Specific prayers you can pray for our Church

Please pray for:

- Wisdom

For Brendan, and our Church Leadership, on how we can continue to serve God, church and community through this and for when lockdown is eased.

- Pastoral needs

That God would help us to look after the suffering and vulnerable during this challenging time.

- Church Finances

This time apart means a significant loss of funding for the church, pray that God would continue to resource and bless us through the gifts of so many people.

- Our new Church office

That it might arrive at the right time and be a blessing to our Church.

- Alpha

Please pray for those who joined us for Alpha at the beginning of the year, which was cut off just before we finished. That they would come to know God and find all their answers in Him at this time.

- Forest School

As Ed is now a fully trained Forest School Practitioner, please pray for wisdom in planning, for future opportunities and how to show Jesus through it.

- Youth & Children

That they would use their extra time to deepen their faith and love for God and any anxiety would be placed at Jesus' feet.

-Rev Brendan