

Church Family Newsletter 29th May 2020

Dear Church Family,

Well it looks like there is a degree of hope with the slight easing of restrictions again next week, however I am all too aware that for those shielding this easing up changes little and may actually increase their sense of loneliness and anxiety. Please all continue to be looking out for the vulnerable through these next few weeks, and pray with me and others that God would aid and protect all people during these next few weeks.

A prayer from the Church of England you can join us in today:

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

This Sunday - Pentecost Scattered Church: Never Alone

For so many of us the last few weeks have been some of the most isolating moments of our lives... this Sunday let's encourage each other in the truth that God is always with us by his Holy Spirit, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" Jesus says at the end of Matthew 28, we are never truly alone when we have God's presence with us.

Join us from 9:30 on:

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDtsdqyqX6S8yZZI5S-pK6Q>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/frantchurch>

Release international Be inspired by their Live event last weekend...

Imtiaz shared with me this live event last Sunday from Release international called **"All out for God"** which looked to the persecuted church for inspiration during this time when we can't meet. I was particularly struck by the example of Christians in North Korea who simply can never meet together (that image we have of Christians like them meeting together and hiding under a blanket or table to pray is false... it would be far too obvious to the authorities!) they pray and sing praise out loud with their family in the hills and mountains around where they live! Their courage and faith when they can never meet together is immense and hugely encouraging for us through this.

See their video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxZSYpf6E9s>

Youth and Children's news from Ed Pascoe

This week another Encounter Hub was created, making 4 in total so far. This is such a good time for them to grow as small groups. It gives them more of a voice to ask questions and more opportunity to fully understand things. Brendan has even joined in, giving a 'Grill the Rector' experience, which, I hope, have given the young people a chance to get to know him, and visa versa.

We continue with our Youth Alpha programme which is such a good programme for our young people to not only explore their own faith but to learn good tools for evangelistic conversations. As we saw from this week's session, no real historian or theologian who has looked into the matter, denies the existence of Jesus. The evidence is there for all to see. We now have to decide if He is who he says He is. Please continue to pray that this will impact the spirituality of our young people in a positive way.

May God bless us by his Holy Spirit this Pentecost.

Come Holy Spirit, come!

-Rev Brendan