

Church Family Newsletter 12th June 2020

Dear Church Family,

There is a lot of upheaval in our world right now, and I want to encourage you that our response in all things ought to be based on our Christian understanding of humanity and how we reach out with the love of God for healing from sin, brokenness, hurt, pain, and loss.

Everyone is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and therefore have supreme worth and value because of our relationship to our creator. These last few months it seems has brought out in many ways the best and worst in us. In amongst the wonderful things that we see people do, we have also seen and been reminded of our failings as humanity.

We realise that all are flawed, all need help, all need repentance and forgiveness from God, and to live in a way that honours our God and those he has made. We should be first to point out our own shortcomings and need of Christ.

Only Jesus was perfect among the people of humanity and we look to him as our inspiration and guide as to how we live and conduct ourselves to friend, neighbour and even enemy. As we do so we reach out to all with his love, that they might find their worth in God, and be united as people together under his loving rule.

This Sunday Acts 16:16-34 Scattered Church: God Sets Free

Join us for our final service in our scattered church series. From next week we will start a new summer series looking at the teaching of Jesus to see how we can relate to God and each other.

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

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

Join us 9:30

Join us after our service for Zoom coffee catch up!

Last week we tried our first "zoom" coffee after the online service. A good number of you joined us and it was great to see each other and catch up. Congratulations to the two people who had never done zoom before and joined us!

We started as a big group, but then divided into smaller groups to chat more easily.

Join us online again after the service on Sunday if you can, bring your own tea/coffee!

Click this link to join zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86349723007?pwd=V0c1VjIwdWhkeGI2bjNoT0NlOXgwUT09>

Copy Meeting ID: 863 4972 3007

Password is: coffee

Hope to see some of you there!

Frant Church to be Opened for Individual Private Prayer

The Government have now allowed churches to reopen for private prayer. With much care we will be initially opening part of the church twice a week on Sunday afternoons 12pm-4pm and Wednesdays 9am-2pm, and reviewing this weekly. In order to safely clean, much of the church will be roped off, but still leaving plenty of space for social distancing for individuals praying.

The first date the church will be open is Wednesday 17th June.

Services will continue online.

Family Support Work Update

As many of you know we have close and ongoing links to FSW (Family Support Work) who support some of the very needy families in Sussex. As you can imagine the need for support in the past months has increased, at the same time their ability to fundraise has decreased.

To let you know of some recent needs **locally** which really opened up my eyes to the impact FSW has:

Michelle (Rotherfield/Uckfield) says: *I had two new referrals last month for families struggling with their mental health during Lockdown. I think they really appreciated having someone to talk to at the end of a phone to offload. I now have weekly phone calls booked in my diary, which is a rarity these days!*

I have been working closely with [a local] school who have been concerned about a couple of families' overall wellbeing. Some children have started to self-harm. School have supported some vulnerable children throughout the lockdown by allowing them attend school P/T. And some parents are allowing their children back today satisfied that measures have been put in place.

Food continues to be a much-needed resource. My list of recipients has increased and they have been so grateful for the deliveries. It has been a huge help.

One parent has lost her job and is still waiting to receive Universal Credits. She is behind in her rent and her landlord is threatening to take her to court. Luckily, the law states they cannot be evicted during Lockdown.

Another parent is still working at a care home and trying to hold the family together. Her husband is registered disabled and they have two teenage children with Autism and ADHD. I have started to introduce 'social distance' meet ups in the park as some of the more vulnerable families I work with are desperate to see a familiar face. It is so rewarding seeing a smile on their face when we meet.

For more on what FSW does and to donate, see their website:

<https://www.familysupportwork.org/>

Every blessing,

-Rev Brendan