

Church Family Newsletter 23rd January 2021

Dear Church Family,

I want to encourage you today, during another bleak week about some of the positive things that are happening in our church now, behind the scenes, and for the future...

Firstly now... join us for **zoom coffee after the Sunday morning service** for half an hour from 10:10am it be great to see some faces! Bring your own coffee!

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87105034254?pwd=eUpTZml0dWFtSmo3cFUwbUk2c1kxQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 0503 4254

Passcode: coffee

We are already looking and **planning for life beyond covid**, what we can do and look forward to. This may not be able to happen for a while, we do realise that, but we want to be planning now for when we can.

We are especially excited about Festival Church, and we will be in the coming weeks seeking to raise funds and grants towards this new initiative, and there will be more info on what we want to do in the coming weeks.

Through the publicity we have already had with Festival Church in our diocese, it has got other local rural church interested in what we are doing with that, and we are looking to see **how we might encourage, work and partner with other churches** as we pioneer a new style of rural church and ministry.

This partnering is already starting to happen, and Ed shares below of some of the ways his work, gifts and talents are being utilised with other churches right now, through lockdown.

Remember, the word of God cannot be restrained, even through covid! Which leads me on nicely...

This Sunday: Acts 12:1-11 The Great Escape

I know the church feels so held back by covid at this time. We wish we could meet together, chat with friends and neighbours, do community work. But we can't... yet.

But to reassure you, the word of God is never chained by circumstances. The church in Acts experiences death and imprisonment and yet:

Acts 12:24: The word of God continued to spread and flourish.

Peter's Great Escape from his chains in prison, shows us that **word of God can never be chained by circumstances**, not then and not now! See the full story of the great escape this Sunday from 9:30am:

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

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

Youth and Children update from Ed!

I hope that you enjoyed our online Church nativity, the kids did an amazing job in portraying Jesus' birth! Well done to all the children who took part or contributed in any way. Across both Frant's Nativity and Eridge's Nativity, 45 children took part which was great to see!

Since starting a new lockdown, we have once again started up our online groups and resources for the children and youth in our parish. These include our online; Encounter Youth Hubs, to which we have added another group making 6 in total each week (13 young people in total), and School Assemblies. This term, in most Encounter Hubs, we are looking at a series called 'Can a Christian...?' which picks up on different relevant, current day topics each week. With new Hubs, we will be going through Youth Alpha as it is such a good resource to use to explore the foundations of our faith.

Exciting things that are happening – Frant school have asked if they can share our online school assemblies with the whole federation (4 schools in total). This is a great encouragement for me, and hopefully Frant Church as a whole.

We are also in conversations about helping other parishes who don't have a paid youth or children's worker, to provide resources such as online Sunday school lessons, mid-week groups, and (after covid) help set up Forest School groups. From next week I will be helping at Hartfield and Colemans Hatch Churches as part of their main online service, to help engage children and families there. It is a great use of my time and resources as we will be able to use that material in our Assemblies also.

Please do pray about these things, and for God's blessings on each of our young people.

Share for Prayer

Betty Leefe's funeral is this week in church, pray for her friends and family as they give thanks for her life.

Give thanks for answered prayers for **Roy Randall**, now home from operation and pray for his continued recovery.

Clare Scully asked us to pray for her cousin's daughter, **Melissa**, a mum who currently has covid in ICU with pneumonia, she has strong faith, but obviously very scary for her. Please pray for healing for her and love and comfort for her children.

Pray also for **Frant Committee** meeting over zoom on Monday, as we review and plan our mission and ministry in Frant.

If you would like to add someone to our share for prayer, please email the office:

office@frantanderidgechurches.org.uk

Every blessing,

-Rev Brendan