

Letter to WSAM churches

30th July 2020

Dear Friends

Hello and greetings to everybody reading this. We want to keep everyone in our communities in touch, and to let you know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Worship this coming Sunday (2nd August)

We are hoping to continue to write and distribute the Sunday Bulletin with its order of service over the next few months, as many people can't safely get to worship in our buildings; in fact, if you know anyone who doesn't get it and would like to, please let us know (or encourage them to) and we'll add them to our lists.

The 'Sunday at Six' Zoom worship will take place again, providing online worship from the comfort of your armchair... This week in our journey through some of the stories in Genesis we look at Jacob wrestling with God and getting his hip put out of joint. All are very welcome to join us - let me know if you would like details. These services offer us all the opportunity to keep in touch and to worship safely. They are also the only services where we actually sing hymns(!) to Ellen's spirited piano accompaniments, albeit not all together in one place.

The 'After Church Coffee' Zooms will continue too, for a relaxed chance to chat and exchange news at 11.30 on Sunday mornings. Modelled on the friendly and lively conversations we enjoy over coffee in the hall after services on a 'normal' Sunday when such things are possible, they have the advantage that we get to chat to more people each week. And of course new faces are very welcome - just ask for the link to join in.

Billingshurst will have a short service at 10.30am. Please phone Brenda in good time if you would like to be there, as space is quite limited, and wear a mask.

Petworth will also have a short service at 10.30am - if you intend to be there please make sure Maureen knows. Again, space is limited and please remember to wear a mask.

Pulborough will again have a short service outdoors in the church garden at 10.30am, weather permitting! There will be no hymns, and no access to the building, except to use the toilet if essential. Despite being outside, space is still limited so it is vital you let Gerald know by Thursday evening at the latest that you intend to be there. Masks are optional outside.

For all services please remember that it may be chilly, so dress accordingly. Bring your own Bible or cushion if you want them, and a bottle of water, as the kitchen is not in use. Please use the hand sanitiser as you arrive, sit where you are directed, and leave promptly at the end. There will be a retiring collection, as we can't pass anything round.

Please remember to wear a mask - they are even more important in church than they are in shops. Remember the virus hasn't gone away - the number of cases in West Sussex is continuing to go up in recent weeks.

Before you even consider attending worship you should assess your personal risk:

<https://urc.org.uk/images/Personal-Risk-Assessment-example.pdf>

There is also a short film available online to explain how to work out how high your personal risk is: <https://youtu.be/ytJJQ3MBAbQ>

***** If you, or anyone you've been with, has any symptoms of Covid-19, or has tested positive in the last 14 days, please don't come out and put others at risk! *****

News of church family and friends

I'm sorry to have to let you know that Barbara husband died on Wednesday morning.

Meredith is hoping to re-start the Messenger from the September issue, providing that we can get it printed and also that we can provide her with enough material - so put your thinking cap on and let her know what you could contribute, please!

I am also trying to get back to a routine of having a day off every week - most weeks this is Thursday, although it sometimes has to be flexible. So if you get my answerphone, please leave a message and I will get back to you when I can.

School holidays have arrived - all the best to those holidaying, whether at home or away - enjoy yourselves!

Have a good weekend, and stay in touch - with each other and with me.

Anne Lewitt

These letters and Bulletins, with some details removed for confidentiality, are now being added to our church websites so that they are more easily and widely accessible.