



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

'The Pew sheet without any Pews' (Emergency Bulletin No 1 / 21.02.20)

Dear Friends

The world has changed in a week. In company with all other organisations, the Church is following Government guidelines and not meeting for worship while the coronavirus emergency is on.

We shall be issuing a weekly bulletin with news, prayer requests, information about virtual services, plus anything else that might be 'in the notices'.

The April/May 'In Touch' was sent by email last week to all addresses we currently had. If you know of anyone who has missed out and would still like a copy please let us know. We would prefer to send by email, though other methods are still possible.

Whilst we cannot physically attend church we can share in worship virtually. On Sunday at 8am on BBC 1 and Radio 4, the Archbishop of Canterbury will lead a service for Mothering Sunday from Lambeth Palace. These new televised services are intended to be a regular event, but the 8am service on Radio 4 has been broadcast for many years.

The URC has 'Daily Devotions' <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/>. You can either sign up for regular emails or just access a podcast or daily devotion from the links on the left hand side of the page. From Sunday 22 March at 10am, an additional post will go out, a radio-style / podcast service with hymns, readings, prayers and a sermon. The Sunday Service email will contain an order of service and words for you to sing along with the hymns.

There will also be additional services during Holy Week.

The Cheltenham Network Church (CNC) are running 'Virtual Networks' with daily prayers, Bible Study, Alpha and services cnc.church

Pip and Jims, Leckhampton will be live streaming a Mothering Sunday Service at 10am <https://www.facebook.com/pipandjims>

As a separate attachment, you will find this week's edition of 'Live Your Faith' from Roots on the Web. This will be an important worship resource for many people.

Prayer Requests

The prayer requests for this week are:

- At St Andrew's:- Hanna, Mary, Carol
- At Prestbury:- Frances, Andrew, Elizabeth, Julie, Dave
- For Mothering Sunday

- For all those with the virus and for all those who are looking after them.
- For all those who are self-isolating because of age or health conditions

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the prayer list, please let us know and they will be included in the next bulletin.

Practical Help

Practical help for those who are vulnerable, elderly, or self-isolating is being organised across the county.

For example, Prestbury Parish Council (PPC) is coordinating volunteers who will be able to deliver food and medicines within the local community for free. If you live in Prestbury and feel you need assistance in the collection of food or medicines, or you know of somebody who lives there who requires assistance then please contact 01242 575179 or email: parishclerk@prestbury-pc.gov.uk

Information about other groups providing support and other information is available on the Cheltenham Borough Council website <https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/community-support>

A Message from Rev Dee Brierley-Jones

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

In these turbulent times, I am thinking of you and praying for you. Also, I want you to see and be able to stand on some of the specific scriptures I am praying for you – please see below..... I suggest you read them, meditate on them, declare them over yourselves, your family and friends. These are promises to pray in turbulent times!

May you be encouraged and strengthened in prayer by the “faithfulness of God and the power of his word”

Here are some of the scriptures for you:

- HEALTH– Jeremiah 17:14
- PROTECTION– Psalm 20:1
- FINANCES– Philippians 4:19
- NO FEAR– Isaiah 41:10
- PROVISION– Matthew 6:31-33
- FUTURE HOPE– Jeremiah 29:11
- PEACE– John 14:27
- STRENGTH– Colossians 1:11-14
- HEARTS AND MINDS– Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Timothy

“May the grace of our Lor, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and for evermore.”

Janet, Fiona and Brian