



Cheltenham United Reformed Church

'The Pew sheet without any Pews' (Emergency Bulletin No 2 / 29.03.20)

Dear Friends

In company with all other organisations, our Church is following Government guidelines and not meeting for worship while the coronavirus emergency is on.

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

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

Whilst we cannot physically attend church we can share in worship virtually. As usual on every Sunday there is a service at 8am on Radio 4. There is also televised Sunday Worship at 11.30am on BBC 1 as well as Songs of Praise at 1.15pm. 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 and there will be additional services during Holy Week. TCiWH have a live-stream service which can be found on the Warden Hill facebook page or at www.stpetersleck.org

Anglican Church buildings have now had to close completely and so your local Parish Church will no longer be available for private prayer.

Prayer Requests

The prayer requests for this week are:

- At St Andrew's:- Hanna, Mary, Carol, Katherine
- 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
- Our world as it confronts COVID 19, especially our NHS, carers, those who deliver goods and those who have to work to keep society functioning.
- Governments and leaders throughout the world as they tackle the spread of the virus

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.

This week's Lectionary Readings

Ezekiel 37 v1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8 v6-11, John 11 v1-45

Pastoral Groups at St Andrew's

By now most of you will have been contacted by one of the Elders. These conversations are intended to be two way so that help can be offered for any concerns you may have.

Pastoral Thought from Tony Jeans

Today, Wednesday March 25th is Lady Day - the Feast of the Annunciation. In mediaeval England, the calendar started today i.e. the year number changed.

In the Free Church tradition we do not reflect much on Mary of Nazareth, the Mother of Jesus though we do not dispute her title of "Mother of God". Today's URC Devotion considers Mary at the foot of the Cross and her agony watching her Son suffering and dying. Also, many of us are familiar with the mediaeval poem "Stabat Mater Dolorosa" which has been set by many great composers of the Catholic Tradition.

At this time, there will be many people who will have to watch loved ones suffering and indeed dying. We need to hold them in our prayers - both those known to us and the great number we just hear about.

Blessings and peace

A Note from Mary Cummings

Obviously I am not sure whether the Reading Group will go ahead on 21 May 7.30pm at Karinya. Book to be read is 'The Sixteen Trees of the Somme' by Lars Mytting.

Anyway as most of us will have more time at home thought I would give you the following book for August – hopefully. 'The Salt Path' by Raynor Winn.

Wishing you good health in this difficult time.

Please note: The Clocks change to BST on Saturday/Sunday

Practical Help

Gloucestershire CC has now set up their Covid-19 emergency help hub <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gloucestershires-community-help-hub/>. Here you can volunteer or make the volunteers aware of a need for yourself or a neighbour. There is also a helpline on 01452 583519 Monday-Friday 8.30-5pm. The volunteers will deliver shopping and medicines, put out bins, walk dogs, prepare meals or just ring those in isolation for a chat.

“The Lord bless thee and keep thee, the Lord make his face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee, the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee Peace”

Janet, Fiona and Brian