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| ALLERTON  CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |





April 2020 Newsletter

Dear Friends

As I write this letter in March 2020 it’s virtually inevitable that I will include something related to Coronavirus (Covid-19). At present the Government’s advice is heading in the direction of virtual self-isolation for many of us for at least two or three months, something none of us have probably experienced before. On Tuesday 17th March we made the hard decision, in line with advice received from both the UK Government and various Christian denominations, to stop meeting in person until further notice. So far it is being suggested that this may continue until June at the earliest.

All of this means that we will not be able to physically meet together as we are so used to doing at Allerton Congregational Church. Instead we will be looking at doing things rather differently. This will include producing devotional resources that people can use at home. One particularly good resource I have found so far has been a weekly service sheet produced by individuals in the Methodist church. My intention is to produce my own adapted version with my personal reflections on the Bible readings. I shall also be producing an extended version and recording a video of the reflection for those on the Internet.

At this very difficult and anxious time there are all kinds of questions that we might have about what coronavirus means for us, our families, friends, neighbours and country. I’d love to be able to give some simple answers that would make us all feel better, but I cannot. Instead what I would like to share with you is the simple message that God is still in control and we can continue to trust Him through all that is going on.

In one of my favourite Psalms, we find this bold statement, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.” (Psalm 46:1-3)

In other words, whatever is going on round and about us we can still place our trust in God, who truly is our refuge and strength.

God loves us so much that He sent His only Son into this world to rescue us from sin and hell (John 3:16-17). Paul explained it like this to the believers in Rome, “while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly”, I.e. us. Even though we are all sinners, who were dead in our sins, Jesus died for us on the cross that our sins might be forgiven and that we might be reconciled back to God for eternity. This is great news, and points us to the hope that we all have in Jesus Christ not just for this life, but also for eternity!

Yours, Fred.

Collection

February 23rd £179.50

March 1st £100.10

March 8th £109.27

March 15th £177.67

As you will all be aware, we will not be holding services for a number of weeks, and Slimming World are also not meeting, but the Church still has financial commitments to meet. During this enforced halt to our regular weekly income, I would encourage those who are able, to set up a monthly standing order with your bank to cover your regular offering. For those who are unable to do this, could I encourage you to put on one side the amount you would normally place in the weekly offering in order that you can make good the shortfall when services recommence.

The Bank details are:  Sort Code: 30-91-12  Account no: 00229351  Name: Allerton Congregational Church

Please let me know if you set up a standing order and I will let you know when it is received.

Many thanks, David Muschamp, Treasurer

Every Sunday Services suspended for the time being

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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