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| ALLERTONCONGREGATIONAL CHURCH |



May 2020 Newsletter

Dear Friends

Recently I was watching a sermon on YouTube and came across a really interesting quotation. It comes from an American missionary called Paul Washer. He said this, “No-one needs to hear your heart. They need to hear the Word of God.” Now at first this might seem a bit harsh and unfeeling, but let’s just take a few moments to think about what this might actually mean. In times of crisis we will often have strong emotional responses and those feelings might fluctuate over the course of a few hours, or days. So, for example, in the current pandemic we might see a headline about soaring numbers of cases or deaths which naturally makes us feel sad and fearful. Then we might read a story talking about restrictions lifting soon and we might feel hopeful because of that.

This shows us very clearly the reality of what God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah. In chapter 17, God addresses the sins of Israel so that the people might recognise their failings, seek forgiveness and repent. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”(Jeremiah 17:9). As well meaning as our heart-felt words might be they are not always reliable or helpful. At a time like this I believe we need a more reliable and solid foundation on which to build our lives and our hope for the future.

Paul Washer suggests, rightly in my view, that a much better place to turn is the Word of God, or the Bible. The Scriptures are the main way in which God has revealed his truth to us. We know that God loves us (John 3:16) and cares for us. We know that he promises to be with us to the very end of time (Matthew 28:20) and he has also promised to be our God if we will be his people. Looking to the promises of God found in Jesus Christ is by far the best way to get through tough times. God’s Word is consistent, trustworthy and a true source of hope and encouragement.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the young pastor, Timothy says this about the Scriptures. “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”(2 Timothy 3:16-17) It is through the Bible that God gives us all that we need to live by so that we may be equipped to do his will. All we need to do is follow Jesus in obedience to his word by faith.

In Christ we have all the hope we could possibly need for the future – eternal life with him. By reading his word we are being trained as his people, corrected of our mistakes and by his Spirit we are equipped for every good work that God wants of us. Let us seek to live to God’s glory by reading his word, obeying it and trusting it each and every day.

Yours, Fred.

Update from the Treasurer:

Following my appeal in the last newsletter, it is encouraging to note that a handful of members have set up standing orders for their offerings, for which I am very grateful.

Members may be interested to know the magnitude of the impact that lockdown has had on our income. Our weekly income from collections and regular lettings is around £240.00 per week but this has dropped by 80%. On the outgoings (excluding energy which is covered by investment income) these remain at around £220.00 per week after adjustments for no use of the Church.

So, if you were still thinking about setting up a standing order then please do so to help the church in this difficult time.

The Bank details are:

Lloyds Bank - sort code: 30-91-12 - Account - Allerton Congregational Church - account no: 00229351.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Every blessing

David

Greetings from Carole

I had a lovely walk this afternoon, combining my daily exercise with delivering the weekly service sheet for the members of our congregation who are unable to access the information electronically. It was lovely to take advantage of the beautiful weather, and I was really happy to see the majority of our friends that I called on were enjoying time in their gardens. Some were out for their daily exercise, whilst others were enjoying time sat in their gardens, which gave me the opportunity for a catch up with them, at an appropriate distance!

Having delivered most of the service sheets this week, I realised that I had forgotten to deliver one. As I arrived this person was sat in their garden looking through photos of their Diamond Wedding. I had a lovely chat and a cup of tea with them, again ensuring we kept our proper 2 Metre distance. Everyone wanted to know how one particular deacon was doing, after their recent fall, and also how my neighbour Sheila was doing who is a regular attender at our Thursday Fellowship and Ladies Circle Meeting. I know that Sheila really appreciates the phone calls she has received from a few of our members, it is so lovely to know we are a very inclusive church and are keeping in touch with each other. Let’s keep this up for as long as we remain apart. Apart from our friends I visit every week it has been lovely to speak to a lot of others on the phone.

Our Days in Lockdown

In the week before Boris Johnson imposed Lockdown in the UK, we knew life had started to change for us.

Gone were the days of needing to set the alarm to get up for work. Now it’s one furloughed worker and the other with no meetings to attend and less work to do. Our social diaries are empty for the foreseeable future.

For 35 years nearly, we have had our milk delivered but now our order has increased due to us being home 24/7 and we’ve added eggs to our delivery too. It now also arrives before we rise!

The Lane we live on is quieter, no cars visiting the residents, but now it’s replaced by a steady stream of the neighbours taking their daily exercise. Our daily walk takes us on different routes, exploring the beautiful countryside around home and noticing the increasing number of well manicured gardens as we pass by.

Meals are planned and more thought given to using up and not wasting anything – overripe bananas made into a delicious Banana Loaf instead of being thrown away. Our Online supermarket delivery brings supplies every 2 weeks, our trips to get extra food are very infrequent, we avoid any mixing with others.

Evening time comes and we connect with family and different groups of friends, using the technology of FaceTime or Zoom. Virtual Coffee Mornings, a quiz night or just a good old natter keeps us close to the people we love and care about.

Suddenly you realise it’s getting late and it’s time for bed and another day has passed in Lockdown.

As we face these uncertain times our prayer is that we all stay safe and healthy and can meet again soon.

Jane and Chris

Greetings from the Kershaws

I have had a conversation with Trevor Kershaw this week, he and Ruth are well, although Trevor seems to have had a touch of the virus and was unwell for about a week. He seems to have recovered thankfully.

He sends his greetings to everyone and hopes we all stay safe and well.

Janet

Every Sunday Suspended for time being

## Website: allertoncongregationalchurch.org.uk

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