

BEXLEY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

“CORONA CLARION” Issue 10: 17th August 2020

Well, the Corona Clarion is still going strong! Bad luck if you thought there might only be 9 issues!

Prayer calendar. Aug 16th: Sue Clark, Angela Davis; **Aug 23rd:** Elizabeth Wharlow, Gill Brooks, Margaret Hunt (Footscray). Please remember these friends in your prayers.

Re-opening – we are still hoping to recommence worship in the Hall on September 13th. Please remember the following points: The Hall will only be open from 10.15; you must wear a face covering inside the building & keep 2m away from other people; you must use hand sanitizer; we will keep your name on an attendance register for 4 weeks; only the accessible toilet will be available & you must be sanitized after use (cleaning materials will be provided); there will be no refreshments & you will need to bring your own water if you wish to drink during the service; there will be no offertory.

Thinking and giving If you look outside your window you will see that we have used the latest satellite and digital technology to deliver a drone carrying an offertory bag to your front door. This will then be delivered back to our church.

Actually, we haven't! However, the offertory is an important part of our tradition of worship - it's one of the few places where we all agree. All the events where our church raised money or collected donations have been cancelled for over five months. You might want to think about how you could reach out with some support. Our two methods are a cheque, payable to 'United Reformed Church Bexley' to Philip Shepherd, 115 Albert Road, Bexley, Kent, DA5 1NT or a bank transfer to Barclays, sort code 20-06-72, account number 60896845. We are deeply thankful to all who have continued faithfully with their regular giving (and beyond!).

Living God, you give to us beyond measure; you give to us without counting the cost. Accept whatever giving I can offer and use it that life may flourish and your kingdom come. Amen.

Thank you all for the very generous cheque you gave me before I moved, it is humbling to experience such generosity. I would also like to thank all who have sent cards and best wishes in other ways; the flower card from the church was unusual and beautiful.

I am very gradually getting settled into a lovely manse but one that is quite a bit smaller than the one in Bexley. It thankfully remains reasonably cool despite the heat. My study overlooks a school with the playing fields and playground between me and the buildings. I understand it is an infant/junior school.

The fly in the ointment was a fall in the garden in Bexley the day before I moved, when I hurt my knee quite badly. It is still bruised, swollen and cut but movement is much easier, only I can't kneel and get down to low cupboards and shelves.

Thank you all once again and I pray God's blessings for you in the future. **Alison**

Interim Moderator We are pleased to say that Colin Watson, of St. Andrew's, Balham URC, has been appointed as interim moderator for our pastorate. His role is to steer the three churches through the process of finding a new minister. We hope that we will all be able to meet Colin soon.

Answer to the word search in the last issue of Corona Clarion – which book of the NT is missing?
Thessalonians

'Pilgrimage in a Pandemic' to Bethlehem - On Sept 22nd at 18h00 you can experience a virtual tour of Bethlehem. We can accommodate up to 300 people on Zoom, but if you can't find a spot, then please join us on YouTube where there will be plenty of seats. Here are both links for the event:

Zoom Link

<https://zoom.us/j/3123755704?pwd=Q0lIM1BDdlh4dnIrUDVKMWRZUVJIQTO>

YouTube Link

https://youtu.be/8aMCZf6_Ln4 **Suzanne Pearson (URC Administrative Assistant Commitment for Life)**

John's Exercises 9 I know that most of you don't like to get down on the floor but you can get down and up with the aid of a chair! Here are some suggestions for those of you that feel more confident.

1. Lie on your back with your arms spread at shoulder height with palms facing down – bend both knees and keep feet firmly on the floor – now move both knees to the right side (if possible, touch the floor) – repeat to the left side. Complete the sequence up to 10 times.
2. Lie on your back with both knees bent- raise your buttocks off the floor 10 times – pause briefly between each raise.
3. Lie face down on the floor – support your weight on your forearms and toes- raise your body so that it is just clear of the floor and is like a rigid plank – aim to hold the position as long as you are able- 20 seconds is good.

Try the above. Maybe you can do more than you think you can? **John Johnstone**

Puns for Educated Minds

The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

HYMN R&S 553 The music for this hymn was to be played on the Sunday after we went into lockdown. Stephanie felt that the words were appropriate for us today:

To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear,
Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word
That you shall be my people and I will be your God'.

From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
Dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace;
And in their heart was written by God this saving word:
That 'You shall be my people and I will be your God'.

We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid,
Can journey to the future secure and unafraid
Rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word:
That 'You shall be my people and I will be your God'. **From Stephanie Honey**

May we be blessed in the knowledge that, 'You shall be my people and I will be your God'. Amen.