

Letter to WSAM churches

5th August 2020

Dear Friends

Hello and greetings! I hope you're all able to enjoy the blue skies and sunshine, and the fresh fruit and vegetables in gardens, allotments and shops. Even the blackberries are starting to ripen in the hedges - my dog loves them and helps herself to the ones she can reach, somehow managing not to scratch herself, while leaving the higher ones for us to pick. God's creation feels generous and mellow at this time of year!

Worship this coming Sunday (9th August)

We will produce the Sunday Bulletin, with its order of service, as usual. It's the one thing which hopefully goes to everyone in all three congregations; if anyone else would like to get it, please let me know.

The 'Sunday at Six' Zoom worship will take place again, providing online worship which is live and which also gives you the chance to sing hymns to Ellen's piano accompaniment (as loud as you like - unless you mind what the neighbours think)! This week in our journey through Genesis we look at Joseph (whose coat probably, sadly, wasn't really technicoloured) being sold into slavery by his brothers. All are very welcome to join us - let me know if you would like details.

The 'After Church Coffee' Zooms will continue too, for a relaxed chance to chat and exchange news at 11.30 on Sunday mornings. Modelled on the friendly and lively conversations we enjoy over coffee in the hall after services on a 'normal' Sunday when such things are possible, they have the advantage that we get to chat to more people each week. And of course new faces are very welcome - just ask for the link to join in.

Billingshurst will have a short service with Holy Communion starting at 10.30am. Please phone Brenda in good time if you would like to be there, as space is quite limited. You need to wear a mask - this is now a legal requirement.

Petworth will also have a short service at 10.30am - if you intend to be there please make sure Maureen knows. Again, space is limited and you must wear a mask.

Pulborough will have a short service outdoors in the church garden at 10.30am, weather permitting! There will be no hymns, and no access to the building, except to use the toilet if essential. Despite being outside, space is still limited so it is vital you let Gerald know in

good time if you intend to be there. Masks are optional outside, but you can't go inside, even to the toilet, without one.

For all services please remember to dress for the weather - sunscreen or sun hats may be needed outdoors this Sunday! Bring your own Bible or cushion if you want them, and a bottle of water, as the kitchen is not in use. Please use the hand sanitiser as you arrive, sit where you are directed, and leave promptly at the end. There will be a retiring collection, as we can't pass anything round.

Please remember to wear a mask - this week they have become a legal requirement for everybody inside churches as well as other similar indoor public spaces.

Before attending worship you should really assess your personal risk. There is an online way of doing it on the URC website here:

<https://urc.org.uk/images/Personal-Risk-Assessment-example.pdf>

Or if you would like a paper copy of that, just let me know. Alternatively there is a short film available online to explain how to work out how high your personal risk is:

<https://youtu.be/ytJJQ3MBAbQ>

***** If you, or anyone you've been with, has any symptoms of Covid-19, or has tested positive in the last 14 days, please don't come out and put others at risk! *****

News of church family and friends

Some of you will remember Revd Amanda who ministered here a number of years ago,. She is quite seriously ill at the moment, and would very much appreciate the prayers of WSAM friends.

Please also hold in prayer the people of Lebanon after this week's disastrous explosion in Beirut. Embrace the Middle East (the Christian charity which used to be known as Biblelands) asks our prayers for those who have lost their homes and loved ones, for those who are caring for the injured, for the rescue teams, for the Church, and for their local Christian partners as they seek to comfort and serve the families they work with. Their website (embraceme.org) also has a link to donate to the crisis.

Don't forget to think what you could let Meredith have for the September Messenger! Have a good weekend, and stay in touch - with each other and with me.

Anne Lewitt

These letters and Bulletins, with some details removed for confidentiality, are now being added to our church websites so that they are more easily and widely accessible.