



**ST ANDREW'S**  
ST BARTHOLOMEW'S

*hope for all ages*

## **Newsletter Update May 7<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Dear All,

In these difficult days, I pray that the Lord is giving you strength and peace. We all find it challenging, not least thinking about how we are going to resume church life. The Bishops are meeting as I write and deciding how to advise congregations on the next stage. Certainly, it won't be straight forward. So, watch this space. I will let you know as soon as I have received something definite.

In the meantime, we are trying to do the best we can. So that you know:

- Susie and I are trying to keep in touch with particularly isolated people with shopping and meals. I am also doing the 'Daily Thoughts' on YouTube and Facebook which I hope you have managed to access.
- Laine is keeping in touch with families, giving them updates and suggestions of things to keep the children occupied. She is also delivering parcels to them.
- Harry is keeping in touch with the youth. On Monday, he has a Youth Zoom meeting when they play a game, highlight and talk about a spiritual discipline. Then on Friday he has a prayer drop-in for any young people who want prayer. He also posts regular updates on social media.
- Dave is keeping in touch with individuals and helping me with 'Daily Thoughts' and Sunday talks.
- Rhi is working hard with Flo putting together the worship clip for Sunday which takes hours of tech stuff.
- Also, thanks to Dave Starr, Ben Witchard, Alex Anderson and Mark Brookes for all their continuing tech skill, advice and help.
- Loraine and the wardens are working hard to keep the centre operational.
- The whole church and centre has been cleaned from top to bottom during this lockdown. Many thanks to the Ashworths and Staff Team.
- If you have changed personal details (address, mobile numbers, email etc) please inform the church office, at [admin@stastb.church](mailto:admin@stastb.church) Many people are not on our list, so please let us know your details. If you didn't get an Easter card from us then it is because we don't have your details.
- We are also collecting food for the Springbank Foodbank in Cheltenham.

We still have an AWAKE prayer meeting on Thursday 7.15-7.45pm by Zoom, and Healing Prayer on Fridays 6-6.30pm by Zoom. Do join by emailing me for the passwords, and do pass on requests for prayer. The Prayer Chain is also still running. On Mondays at 2pm, there is a Chat Zoom for anyone who wants to connect with others, particularly if you are struggling in these days.

The Courtyard/toilet project is still on track to start work at the start of June. So, please continue or initiate your pledges. This is going to be an exciting innovation to return to after this lockdown. If you are unable to fulfil your pledge due to financial changes, please inform Chris Jones at [c.jones54@sky.com](mailto:c.jones54@sky.com)

Sadly, there have been a few deaths in the church family, not all by COVID-19. I have taken, or will take, funerals for Anne Boden, Sybil Daniell, Peter Smith, Mike Hynd, Richard Shorting, Peter Wheatly, Peter Allen. Do pray for their families. It's hard enough to lose a loved one but much more so in these days of restrictions.

Our prayer this Pentecost is from Romans 15.13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Keep safe. Keep active. Keep prayerful. Keep faithful.

*Jonathan*