

Pastoral letter

Please find attached a letter from our acting Superintendent Minister, Rev Colin Emerson.

Pastoral Visitors

Please keep in touch with your Pastoral Visitors, as they will try and keep in touch with you. We are especially thankful for their dedication and service at times like this. Please be patient and understand that they are subject to the guidelines of health and hygiene to keep themselves safe and well.

National Radio Broadcast

This Sunday, 22 March, 'the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby is to lead a national broadcast'. This will be in the normal Sunday Service slot on Radio 4, from 8:10am. Radio Derby are also broadcasting this same service at 8:00am.

Other Weekly Radio Broadcasts

09:45am Mon - Saturday BBC Radio 4 Long Wave or Radio 4 Extra Daily Service; a 15min service of music, prayers and scripture.

3:30pm Wednesday, repeated Sunday 3pm BBC Radio 3 92-95 FM Choral Evensong: sung evening prayer, usually with an anthem, in a Cathedral style.

In addition Songs of Praise continues on Sunday afternoons. There are other broadcasts which can be found on BBC Sounds or elsewhere on the internet.

Light a Candle of Hope

The Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a call to prayer in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This is for all churches and people of prayer to join on Sunday 22 March, Mothering Sunday.

They write... We are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving heavenly Father and the future he holds.

At 7:00pm **this Sunday**, if you are able, light a candle in the window of your home as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

We would pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19 virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions.

There are already stories being told of wonderful acts of kindness across neighbourhoods. Alongside your prayers, consider taking the opportunity to telephone, write to or email someone who is isolated, buying some additional food for your local foodbank, or something similar. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

Please pray...

For all suffering from the symptoms and effects of Covid-19 including those in social isolation and also for all who are caring for the sick. To start a message on our prayer chain, please contact any of these people- Stuart and Ann 768159, Ottmar and Janice 343710, Ruth 701027 or news@newmount.net

Newmount News

Today: 22 March 2020 - Mothering Sunday.

Contact Us

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SENIOR STEWARD: Peter Blount Tel: 01332 510098

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKER: Sue Muessig

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NEWS SHEET news@newmount.net or 01332 701027 by 8pm Thursday

WEBSITE: newmount.net **TWITTER:** @NewmountChurch

The weekly news sheet is also available on our website or by email.

Welcome to Newmount News.
In line with Government guidelines regarding Coronavirus Covid-19 there are no services at Newmount and all church based weekly activities are suspended until further notice. The Minister and Stewards are monitoring the ongoing situation and will update as and when there is a change.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song. Isaiah 12:2

From the Rev Colin Emerson

20th March 2020

Dear Friends,

You don't need me to tell you that we are living in strange and uncertain times. Who would have ever thought that travel to other countries would almost come to a halt, that people would be encouraged not to work (or at least work from home), that schools would be closed down, or that every church in the land would be closed for Sunday worship. And yet this is where we find ourselves.

The word isolation has been used a lot in recent days, as people are being encouraged to self-isolate and distance themselves from each other. As Christians we believe in community, from the earliest days of the church the followers of Jesus have committed themselves to pray, to study, to fellowship together and to care for one another. The challenge for us at this time is to do these things while at the same time being separated in distance. I hope that in the weeks that lie ahead we will find innovative ways to still be community and ideas are being shared amongst the staff and leadership teams as to how this can be done. Obviously, one of the easiest ways for us all to feel connected is to speak to each other on the phone and perhaps we should commit ourselves to ring a couple of different people each day for a chat, making especially sure that those with no family support are not forgotten. Why not end your conversation with a prayer?

In terms of pastoral support, the Circuit Staff, lay and ordained, will be providing care as fully as possible, in line with government and connexional guidance. We are all only a phone call away at anytime of day or night. Please do not be afraid to ring us for a chat, a prayer, or even advice. Please also rest assured that you are and will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

For those with computers and smart phones, another way of remaining connected and up to date with what is going on is to check the Circuit and your Church websites. You will find on them a variety of resources and information, including prayers and liturgies for your own private devotion. There are also lists of organisations who require help as they support others, like for example those who use food banks or are homeless. The information will be changed regularly so keep in touch.

This morning I received an email containing this text from Philippians 4:6-7, Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. I pray that during these coming days, with all their uncertainties and challenges that you may know the peace of God, through Jesus, for he holds all our anxieties and fears and promises us that he will be with us always.

In his precious name

Your friend and superintendent minister

Colin Emerson