



Thursday 26th March

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We do hope that you are coping wherever you are.

During this week a team have been working through our church directory in an effort to establish who might be in need of some practical support during this season, and a number of you will have had a phone call.

It is inevitable that we might have missed someone out and for this we apologise. If you, or someone that you know, has been missed then please do let us know either by phoning the office (which Pere is managing from home) or email.

Those in need of some help have been put in touch with one of those who have volunteered to assist, and we hope that now the majority (if not all) needs are being met.

CHURCH BUILDING

Despite the news items and broadcasts, it does appear that there are a few people who are unaware that the Church building and the Church Centre are **closed** in line with the Government instruction.

CHURCH SERVICES

We are putting together a service of Communion which will be posted on YouTube and Facebook on Sunday morning. There will be a copy of the Order of Service available to download from the website so that you can join with us.

The reading, collect and song words will be part of this week's news-sheet.

Lena has filmed a session of Godly Play and we hope that all of those who are usually in her group will join in to be a part of the circle. This will also be posted on YouTube on Sunday morning.

There will also be services on the Radio and television, as well as on the Church of England and Exeter Diocese websites.

MEETINGS

The Annual Church Meeting has now been cancelled but we do still need to approve the accounts and have the annual report. We have been told that because we can't hold a meeting all offices and members will remain as they are until such time as we are able to hold a meeting, which must be before the end of October 2020.

HOUSE GROUPS

Are you keeping connected?

It was wonderful to hear how many people are phoning one another to keep in contact.

If your group has anything to share with the wider church family please let us know so that we can pass it on.

YOUTH

Jack is organising something for Friday – I hope you know about it, but if not check the Facebook page!

NEIGHBOURS

If you are aware of anyone who is NOT able to get emails or use the internet, please do let them know what is happening.

FAITH of FEAR?

My aged mother told me that Nicky Gumbell from Holy Trinity Brompton (and of course Alpha?) had posted an excellent sermon from 2 weeks ago.

It really is very relevant and I commend it to you –

Find it hear <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1QemxVqZ1U>

Or search “Faith not Fear – Nicky Gumbel”

HOAXES

At times like this there are always going to be pranksters – some malicious.

A number of hoaxes have re-surfaced, normally along the lines of ‘so-and-so has a friend in security/IT/the Government and warns you not to... Please forward to everyone you know’.

Recent ones include ‘WhatsApp Gold’, WhatsApp Deluxe’, Martinelli’ or a video ‘Dancing with the Pope’. You’ll find them as far back as 2016!

Before you rush to forward it, please do check out a reliable on-line source such as Snopes.com.

Please stay at home and keep an eye on the website or Facebook for updates.

<https://st-matthias-church.org/about-us/covid-19-corona-virus/>

Yours in Christ,

Paul Barton