

YouTube <https://tinyurl.com/t2ejz2a>

Saturday 4th April 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Following on from the Newsletter, this letter provides an update regarding CoViD-19 and also some suggested resources.

It would be hard for anyone not to be up-to-date with the main elements of the response to the pandemic, and John has covered most of the issues relevant to St Matthias.

Kevin Foster, in his latest weekly update, has given this useful information about the Community Helpline:

Community Helpline Reaches 2,000 Calls,

Staff at Torbay Community Development Trust (TCDT), Ageing Well Torbay (AWT) and Brixham Does Care are working with voluntary groups across the Bay and have set up a phone line for people in need of help because of illness or isolation and also for those that are prepared to offer help.

They have now dealt with 2,000 calls from residents in a couple of weeks!!!

The phone line, which will be staffed 24/7, covers Torquay and Paignton. The number is [01803 446022](tel:01803446022). Brixham Does Care can be contacted directly on [01803 857727](tel:01803857727) (Mon-Fri, 9am-4:30pm).

Rev Nathan Kiyaga has been doing an amazing job of keeping the Church Leaders in the Bay informed and has asked if there are any in our communities who can offer help to our neighbours. We know many of you are already doing a fantastic service either through the volunteers that Tessa has been overseeing or through offering to become an NHS volunteer.

But if you have more time on your hands than you know what to do with (!) then read on:

Prescription collection and shopping for different people

More volunteers are needed to help with collecting medical prescriptions and getting shopping to people in the homes of those people who have requested for that help.

Please complete this form or let those in your circle do so tinyurl.com/sg7jt7k

The difficulty has been in getting through the queues at supermarkets and pharmacies for the volunteers. The good news is that conversations have taken place with the pharmacies and an arrangement for a new way of doing things will be discussed next week Monday. In the meantime, more hands would make the worker lighter. To put the situation in perspective, there were 343 calls to the phone lines asking for help this Tuesday. Those calls came on the back of other needs from the previous day and week. Any help will be much appreciated.

Food Hubs

Two hubs have been confirmed one in Paignton and one in Torquay. They are bringing together 13 voluntary organisations. Whilst there is funding that will go to these provisions, please keep collecting provisions for them as they will need more than the support they are getting. The need is just increasing especially as there is an increasing number of furlough staff in different sectors.

SCAMS

We mentioned these previously, but it is VERY important that you are vigilant. There is an increase in the number of scams circulating, some irritating, others malicious.

HOAXES - Please do NOT forward warnings about potential viruses etc. until you have checked out how genuine they are. Several people have forwarded emails and WhatsApp warnings to their contacts believing that the threats were genuine and new. However a quick look on the internet reveals that most of them have been doing the rounds for several years.

PHISHING – where someone tries to get personal details from you – is a more worrying danger. If you are contacted by ANY organisation – the bank, HMRC, the DVLA, your insurer, your phone or broadband provider, etc. – and you are not expecting it, it is likely to be a threat. You can see where an email REALLY comes from by hovering over the sender details (it might say ‘BT Customer services’ but if you look at the details it is something like suenandbarnie223@wizbangpop.ru which is never going to be where BT will send an email from!)

HELP! – I have heard of someone recently receiving a request from a friend that they needed £500 as a matter of urgency and could they please send it. It sounded plausible, but a phone call to the friend in question reveals they did not send it and the bank details are not theirs.

RESOURCES

The Newssheet includes reference to some good resources available, notably SPRING HARVEST HOME at springharvest.org/spring-harvest-home/

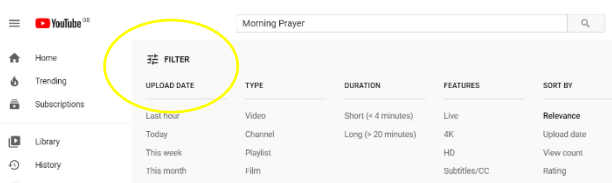
Spring Harvest Home



Save the date and join Christians around the world for an amazing week!

If you would like to join with Morning Prayer on ZOOM, as mentioned by John, on a Monday or Tuesday, you would be welcome – please ask for the details of how to join.

Alternatively there are a number of churches offering Morning Prayer on YouTube each weekday, such as Hope Church Upton (found at tinyurl.com/uwaeplq) or St Mary Magdalene with St Martin Church (found at tinyurl.com/shnc824), which you might like to explore.



Did you know you can make searching for recent clips easier by filtering the results to last day or week?

DEVOTIONS and APPS

YouVersion.com offers some good devotions – one by our own Mel Menzies – in its Bible App Plans on bible.com





They are running a 5 day devotional based on the Alpha book – ‘Why Easter?’

www.bible.com/en-GB/reading-plans/14896-why-easter

BOOKS



One of the online Christian bookshops, Eden.co.uk , has some great resources you may like to look at – they also have things you might want to send to friends and family whom you won’t be seeing this Easter.

Our local Christian bookshop – Chociewords.co.uk – is also open for business and it is sometimes good to support a local, Christian shop rather than a massive multinational!



As we come to Holy Week, we pray that you will find time to follow the path of Jesus and his disciples from your homes, as we look to the Cross, wondering at the amazing sacrifice of Jesus for each of us.

Keep safe, stay at home and be a blessing.

Paul Barton