



A weekly newsletter for churches in the Rochdale, Bury and North Manchester Newsletter 1 —25th March 2020



Introduction:

Dear friends across the Missional Partnership—this is the first of what I hope will be a weekly newsletter that I am planning on sending to all 12 churches in the Partnership. Please email this on to people in your churches. If it safe to do so, and abiding by the restrictions of isolation, for those not on email perhaps people could print it off and push it through people’s letter boxes.

The image (top right) reminds us that we are part of a wider denomination and that we all face this time of isolation together. The image (top left) reminds us that we are part of the North Western Synod of the URC (image taken from the North Western Synod website).

My thoughts on this newsletter are that we will make it available weekly until we are able to meet face to face again as church. This is not to replace the monthly newsletter that Wendy Smith puts together for us but to supplement it. I am conscious that some people will feel especially lonely at this time. Let us all commit to praying for one another. God bless, Richard.

Weekly Worship

Each week I plan to put together a short act of worship. Last week I sent out the first of those. These will start by being Word documents with suggested links to music on YouTube. I hope in the coming weeks to make these available via video too (but watch this space!) The music is an issue when it comes to video and the correct licence etc. for publishing online. The Word version of the service will be available on the Bamford Chapel and Norden URC website : <http://www.bcnchurch.org.uk/worship/> (Scroll down to the table and next to the relevant date will be the service you can download as a Word document.) I will use the BCN website as I have access to it and can operate it in its basic form. They will also be emailed out to the reps on the Steering Group. I ask that the reps then forward on to whoever you feel would like them. URC daily devotions are available via email at: <https://devotions.urc.org.uk/> (inc. full Sunday service)

If you want to add items into the weekly newsletter please let me have them: richardbradley@cantab.net I am thinking of good news stories, prayer suggestions, things that will bring a smile to your face. At present I won’t say when I want them by but will use them as soon as I can. I hope to have the newsletter sent out/on the Chapel website by the Wednesday of each week. They will also be put on the Bamford Chapel and Norden URC Facebook page which along with another Elders I administrate. I think we should keep it to 2 A4 pages for the time being. It can be printed in monochrome if desired.

Scripture Union ‘Daily Bread: words for life’

In my daily Bible Reading notes On Monday 23rd March the reader was invited to read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11. The title for the day’s reflection was “Life in the light”. The words of Rachel Warner, the writer of these reflections on 1 Thessalonians, explores a little about what it means to live as “children of the day” (v5 NIV) ie children of light. As I read this reflection it seemed to speak to our current situation as we are in some form of ‘lockdown’. The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to encourage the Thessalonians...perhaps you could read this letter over the coming days. I pray it will encourage you and I as we continue to live as children of light. God bless, Richard

Prayer suggestions for the coming week:

Wednesday:

Radcliffe and Stand URC; Dundee URC; the NHS and those who they’re treating.

Thursday:

Besses o’th’ Barn URC; Trinity, Cheetham Hill & scientists working on a vaccine for Covid-19.

Friday:

St Andrew’s URC/Methodist Church, Bury URC & Those isolating who love alone.

Saturday:

Blackford Bridge URC; Greenmount URC & Those key workers helping others by working.

Sunday:

Hall Fold URC; Littleborough URC & and all acts of worship taking place either virtually online or in written text form. That we may know we are united by the Holy Spirit.

Monday:

Alkington & Providence URC and those in other parts of the world also struggling with Covid-19.

Tuesday:

Bamford Chapel & Norden URC and those who have lost loved ones of Covid-19.