

Sunday 21 June 2020

Valuing Life

Dear All

I hope that you are keeping well in all senses of that word. As COVID constrictions continue, it can be hard to keep going – we're beyond the first crisis response and into the longer haul of waiting and wondering. Can I urge you all to continue sharing the glimpses of God's glory you see and spending time in prayer and reading the Bible as we wait through this time together. You'll find an update on our plans to open the building for private prayer later in this letter.

On a different subject - hasn't the rain this week been amazing? I don't think I've ever seen such big raindrops as we had on Wednesday! It's been good for the garden but has made it more difficult to meet up with others and for some has brought the risk of flooding in their homes. Let's remember to pray for them and for the Council, finding ways to protect homes and properties. Once again, it has also sparked great kindness and stories of communities helping one another – a great example of the 'Greater Togetherness' Lusa spoke about last Sunday.

This week we continue our series based on the Tearfund video '[The World Rebooted](#)' - this Sunday exploring the second strand 'Valuing Life' with some challenging Bible passages which I think raise lots of questions. I would love to hear your thoughts and feedback.

Accessing Sunday's Service

As you are probably aware by now, we pre-record our Sunday Service and put it together as a YouTube playlist that goes live early on Sunday morning. We are continuing to do our best to help everyone access it easily as well as getting it out in the public domain so others might join us. Please think about sharing with family, friends and neighbours.

Here are the main ways you can access the service:

- On Friday, an email with a link to that week's service is sent to all our regular members. If you open that email on Sunday and click on the link in blue writing, it should take you straight to the service. (If you click on it before Sunday, there's no harm done, you will simply see a 'placeholder' slide!)
- The link is also posted on our website, along with a link to the service sheet for those who like to see it.
- Some people instead find the service using a YouTube app on their TV. To do this you need to open the app, find the St Mary's Nanpantan channel, AND THEN GO TO PLAYLISTS to find this week's service.
- For those who cannot access the internet, we are able to post paper copies of the service sheet along with an audio CD.

Please do get in touch if you need further help – we want to keep everyone connected as best we can.

Opening Church - Update

Plans are moving on and while nothing is yet finalised, I thought it would be helpful to share our current thinking with you. We are hoping that we may be able to open on Sunday afternoons, beginning Sunday 28 June, at 3pm for 2 half hour slots. The 2m rule means there will be 6 spaces in the pews in the first half hour - (a space is for an individual or 2 members of a household) and 4 spaces in the second half hour (because the designated spaces move forward a pew to avoid using the same area twice). If necessary, people will be asked to wait outside and we hope to be able to open the woodland as an alternative place to pray, with a one-way system in place.

Please be aware that in order to accommodate everyone who has expressed interest, we anticipate weekly visits may not be possible. If people are disappointed in not getting a space the first week, we would hope to be able to prioritise them the next. However, we would prefer not to have to implement a booking system and hope we can work this out on an ad hoc basis. This is all a work in progress, yet to be discussed at PCC. Please continue to pray for us that we might make good decisions that allow us to open at the right time and safely.

LCP Prayer for Loughborough

Loughborough Churches Partnership has produced a video of church leaders praying an amplified version of the Lord's Prayer for Loughborough. It will be shown at the end of Sunday's service and you can watch it here: [LCP Prayer for Loughborough](#). Please share the link with local friends and neighbours.

Jesus said: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that [my sheep] may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10 v10

With love in Christ, Adele