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Dear Church Members,

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Sustaining faith during the lockdown

Thank you all for the kind comments we have received over the last few weeks for our Sunday morning services. It is a great fillip to Jonathan Corwin and me to know that you are being blessed by them and we hope they will continue to grow in attendance. You may not realise this but for a few days after the service is broadcast you can still watch it in recorded mode so, if for any reason, you are late on Sunday morning, or it is not convenient then, you can still join in with the worship and be blessed by it.

We also do a recorded thought for the day every day to be found on the church's Facebook page and Jonathan Ford's Facebook page. It comes out in two versions. The longer one is about ten to fifteen minutes and the short version is two to four minutes. We meditate on a Psalm, and then we pray for the estate and for church members, sometimes we pray for other issues as well. We have had many kind comments about these and people are watching them regularly in the United States of America, Spain, New Zealand and Australia. One church has actually downloaded some of the Psalms for their own group Bible studies.

New possibilities for worship and discipleship

As we become more competent and confident with the technology it may be possible to do other things. However, resources and time are very limited so we only want to do things that will really bless and help people. It is possible to do an Alpha course on line with the ability to share comments in small groups. If you are somebody who would be blessed by that, please do contact Jonathan Ford by email.

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

It would be good if we could gather as a church by one of the technologies, Zoom being the most popular but there are others, perhaps once a week to pray together. It might also be possible by the same means to do a group Bible study. Again, if you would like to be part of these activities please let Jonathan know by email.

After church

It may well be possible to have Zoom meetings for people who have watched the church service so they can share thoughts. Some people from other churches call this Zoom coffee meetings, where you sit around drinking coffee and are able to chat to other church members. Again this is possible and if you would like to do that please let me know.

Helping the local community

As many of you know, we are part of the local authority scheme for contacting vulnerable and isolated people on the estate. We have already helped one family in the last few days and the possibility is that we can help others. If you would like to be part of that network, or if you know anybody who is in need of our help please let Jonathan know.. It is also worth remembering we still have our Parish Nurse who is offering a very effective telephone ministry at this time.

The Future

At the moment we are still in a lockdown situation and there is no guidance yet as to when we might return to normal church services. When we do, they will probably be very different from what we have experienced in the past. So please bear with us in these difficult times and we will let you know what is happening as soon as we possibly can.

I would be grateful if you would continue to pray for Jane and me and all the church leaders as we seek to support one another. Special thanks go to the home groups who are doing a great job of supporting one another and also to those who phone round other folk. If you are somebody who has not been contacted by someone from the church recently and would like to be, please let us know. If you are feeling vulnerable and isolated we are very sorry and will get to you as soon as we possibly can.

Many of us I know are using this time to reflect and pray, to get closer to God and be greatly blessed and to improve their spiritual wellbeing. In some ways, there is a sort of spiritual revival going on quietly in many homes. It is also interesting to know how many people who do not attend church are getting involved and watching what we are putting out. Therefore, we must continue to pray for great blessing upon the estate, and upon people's spiritual walk. To that end, I hope you will join me in the ten days between Ascension Day (21st May) and Pentecost (31st May) when we hope each one of us will pray for five people we know to become Christians.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Revd. Canon Jonathan Ford
Minister of Christ Church, Moreton Hall.