

Dear Church friends,

So many weeks into this lockdown/ different way of living, I am wondering how things are with you all? I really hope you are keeping well and coping with any new challenges that this time has brought you. I must admit, I have found it quite hard to stay upbeat at times – so much is different and very unknown, isn't it. Thankfully, God is never changing and a constant through all the change and uncertainty.

I have one little experience from this week I'd like to share, hoping it might be an encouragement to you too, but let's get all the important notices done first!

1. **Sunday Services.** The church building will not yet be opening for wider use, as we need to ensure we can do this safely and securely. At first, access is likely to be very limited (e.g. one person at a time). Nonetheless, our online services continue every Sunday at 10:30am, and they seem to be very widely enjoyed! All you need to do is click on this link to get you there....
<https://www.facebook.com/christchurchmoretonhall/live>
2. **Study groups.** Jonathan has asked me to let you know that he soon plans to start an online bible study group. Please email Jonathan, revdjonathanford@gmail.com, to register your interest, and also let him know what days/times might suit you best. We also hope to have an online Alpha group in place very soon.
3. **Church website.** After some very hard work on the part of Steve Lovell, Colleen Hart and Jonathan Corwin, we can now receive one-off secure donations via our church website. You can find this on the website homepage or via the "church life" menu option. Our church website is managed by ChurchInsight, a Christian company, and any donations given online will almost entirely come through to our church. However, it is important to note a couple of charges levied to any transaction: *18p plus 2.28% of the donation amount will be taken from each donation* These charges are shared between ChurchInsight, Stripe (a payment processing platform, similar to PayPal) and VAT. Any gifts to the church given via Standing Order or one-off bank transfer do not attract these fees. Please contact our treasurer, Colleen Hart, if you would like further information: colleen@missymee.plus.com. We sincerely appreciate your ongoing financial support, especially at this uncertain time – thank you so much.
4. **Mission links.** Those who tuned into our Pentecost Sunday service will have heard Vatha's excellent short talk about the "six ways of mission". A church member asked if the links Vatha mentioned could be made available in this week's newsletter. Vatha has kindly sent me a copy of her talk (with links displayed at the end) for anyone who might like to follow up on her suggestions. You can find this [here](#). Thank you so much Vatha!
5. **Christian Aid Week.** Further thanks go to everyone who helped us raise the amazing amount of £2,265, well exceeding the target of £2,000! Howard informs me that the Just Giving page is still up and running, and he hopes the total may rise yet further when people see the information about Christian Aid in the latest Moreton Hall Directory. Thank you so much Howard and Jane for all your hard work helping us all to support Christian Aid.

Many of you will be familiar with the magnificent Magnus, our lovely dog. He has been such a blessing in so many ways over the past two years, perhaps especially so at this time. Listening to the teatime show on BBC Radio 2 on Thursday, Claudia Winkleman asked listeners to send in messages about cute ways their pets show that they are happy. Now, I've never sent in such a message before, but almost couldn't help myself sending in a few lines about Magnus. An hour later, I suddenly heard "Heather from Suffolk writes...." – on National Radio! It felt so strange, exciting and almost surreal to hear my words being read out and enjoyed by a famous celebrity!

Later it struck me that if I felt like that about being "noticed" and "chosen" by Claudia Winkleman, how much more should I feel good about myself and excited that all my prayers are noticed, thoroughly listened to and appreciated by the King of the whole universe! He pays meticulous attention to everything that matters to us, and to all our prayers – and loves to hear it when we thank Him, ask Him for help, or just chatter about our day and how we're feeling. I will try to remember that more often...

God bless you all – and, once again, please don't hesitate to get in touch if we can help you in any way.

Love and very best wishes

Heather

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