

August 2020

Dear Church Members,

Pastoral Letter

Thank you so much for all your prayers and support while Jane and I were on our holiday. We had a great time and personally I feel buoyed by the knowledge that you were all praying for us and wishing us well. Thank you, too, for all the kind words for our fortieth wedding anniversary celebrations.

Worship

As we approach a new season of church life, Jonathan Corwin and I are seriously looking at how we can recommence worship in church on a Sunday morning and still have it fed live to the internet. This is so that any who feel unable to attend can still join in. While congregational singing is still not allowed, we are encouraged by the news that the government will now allow us to have a small band of singers and musicians during the service. I hope some of our musicians will be able to help us with that.

Leadership and governance

However, there are some very important decisions to take which we want to get right, so please do pray for the church leadership. I would ask you also to pray very much for Heather and Jonathan who have carried a terrific load throughout this pandemic and have been a tremendous support to me personally. They are really a wonderful set of Churchwardens and I am very grateful for them and to them. Please pray for the PCC as we consider having meetings again in the autumn. We will need an annual meeting of the church sometime in October. Once the PCC have agreed the date we will let you know.

Pastoral care and answered prayer

We rejoice in the news of Sid and his ongoing yet miraculous recovery and we continue to hold Ian Baxter in our prayers. He seems to be making slow but steady progress although he is still in hospital. It really does show us the power of prayer and the comfort we can have from it. We are hugely indebted to the excellent work of paramedics, doctors, nurses and our excellent NHS in what must have been a very difficult time for all of them. Thank you also to all the home group leaders and their work in supporting you all.

Ministry and evangelism

You will be pleased to know that the on-line prayer meeting has continued throughout the summer. This will continue along with Alpha and the thoughts for today on Psalms. We are going to try to do an Alpha day on Zoom. We will be praying for the Holy Spirit to come upon people and I would ask you to pray for that to be a powerful time for all involved, particularly for those who have recently committed their lives to Christ.

Again, if there is anything that you need from us, or any particular prayer requests, please let us know.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,
Revd. Canon Jonathan Ford