



'WHAT'S HAPPENING & PRAYER SHEET'

June-July 2020

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope." Psalm 130: 5.
"Pray constantly." 1 Thessalonians 5: 17.

DATES:

SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS!

Churches Together Meeting and AGM (which was arranged for 27th July) is postponed to **Monday 14th September**. It will be at **7.30pm** in the Crypt, St Edmund's Church, Westgate Street, IP33 1QG.

Churches Together late Summer Celebration on **Sunday 27th September 1.00-5.00 pm.** in The Abbey Gardens.

SOME NEWS FROM CHURCHES:

From Garland St. Baptist Church:

We have had online messages each week on YouTube and our church website. So many churches have been pushed to use the internet which, in time, I think will be a blessing. Jane Jennison posted the link on Nextdoor (and Facebook), feel free to share the link with others!

At Christ Church, Moreton Hall, we are:

- trying to maintain community through our Home Groups
- providing a thought for the day working through the Psalms through a video link on Facebook and the church website
- experimenting with Zoom for meetings. We had our first Zoom prayer meeting last Wednesday
- We continue to offer a live-link service every Sunday morning at 10.30 lasting about 45 mins which is gathering people not only from the local estate but also around the UK and across the world to participate in it
- We are part of the Borough's support network for vulnerable and isolated people and we have provided food and clothing where necessary
- We continue to support the West Suffolk Vineyard food bank.

We value your prayers as:

- we try to maintain the outside of our building to look nice and prevent vandalism
- we maintain the inside of our building as best we can in the circumstances
- for all the people who are unwell or are self-isolating
- We particularly remember those on the estate who have died – two so far, and other church members known to us, including those with other causes.

We value your prayers for us and continue to pray for all the other churches and leaders on a regular basis so they may come through this time of trial and know the grace of God as they do so.

At Southgate Church: Since lockdown was announced in March, youth and children's groups have stopped meeting together, as they used to. But...this hasn't kept us apart! Sunday Club Each week, the Sunday Club team send out activity packs to children and young people. The packs include a bible story, crafts and activities. We get together on Zoom on Sunday afternoons too which has been lots of fun. SPOTS (parents, carers and toddlers group) We've been keeping in touch with families and toddlers from our Spots group by sending them weekly letters, crafts and even recipes for budding bakers. We get together on Zoom for a story and singing time too. It's been wonderful to receive photos of the children enjoying the crafts and activities they've been sent. Youth Club and Liquid – We've been keeping in touch with the young people through weekly letters and activity packs delivered to their homes. We've a sunflower growing competition. We had our own VE Day celebration, we celebrated Star Wars Day and we even had best-selling author Bob Hartman, join us on Zoom for Storytelling Week. Our letters and Zoom meet-ups have been a great way for the young people to keep in touch, have fun and create a sense of togetherness even though we are apart.

Nobody knows how long this strange time in our lives is going to last but we hope that despite the difficulties, we'll all have some positive memories to look back on, and know that through this time, we made the days count. If you like what we're doing and have a toddler, child or young person who would like to receive one of our free weekly packs, **please go to Southgate Church's website southgatechurch.org.uk and go to the 'Connect with us' option.**

In Horringer: there is a lot of paired prayer going on by phone, and our usual Pastoral Care plan is more active. Each week we have guidelines for Sunday worship. Many people are also using radio, TV, and on-line services.

Give thanks for all the new things happening at cross-church neighbourhood level, and the up-surge of giving to the Food banks. Let's continue to support them, and pray for those in greatest need in our town, and villages.

CORONAVIRUS: Pray for the controlling of the Coronavirus outbreak, healing for those ill, and comfort for those dying and those bereaved. Pray for the work to find a safe and effective vaccine. Pray for the NHS, Care-staff, and other key workers. Pray for the gradual lifting of restrictions, and those for whom this may bring fresh problems to face. Pray for Parliament to have integrity and God's guidance and over-ruling, and for peace and unity in our country, that as a Nation we will work together for the common good and for mutual respect.

PRAY for our churches, for pastoral care, neighbourhood concerns and gospel outreach, and Christian influence in national and local public life. Please circulate this sheet if you can.

For more information about Churches Together see our web-site: [Churches Together in Bury St. Edmunds and District](#). For regular information about activities join our google group (instructions are on the web-site).

HC.