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St Peter's Wolvercote e-news 19 March 2020

Dear Friends

This is the first of our e-newsletters that we plan to send out twice a week. Midweek we will send out news and notices, while on Saturday night we will send out readings, prayers and a sermon or homily for Sunday, for you to use in your prayers on Sunday. We hope this will help us both to keep close to God and aware of his loving care for us, and also give us a sense of our continued unity and fellowship together. Our thanks to Val Tate, Caroline Pepys and Julia Goddard for making this possible.

This Sunday we are intending to open our churches for prayer from 9:45 – 10:45am, as well as opening St Peter's for prayer from 9:00 – 9.30am Mondays to Fridays. We feel that we can do this because our churches are reasonably safe and spacious places.

We must emphasise that this is for prayer and sadly not for socialising! It is essential that we all wash our hands as we enter and leave the building, that we avoid touching anything more than we have to, and that we observe social distancing. We show our love for one another by giving each other plenty of space, and in fact staying physically as far away from each other as possible!

Sadly we have to advise that those who are in vulnerable categories (including myself) should not attend. While we hope we will be able to continue with this, the situation is changing all the time, and we will be guided by further advice.

Meanwhile we are encouraging all of us who are self isolating to keep in touch with each other by phone or email, and not only with each other but also with others we know in the community. If you are aware of any practical needs for shopping etc, please contact Julia who will be either in the church office or working from home. And equally let her know if you would be able to offer this if it is needed.

Please remember in your prayers those who were already ill before this crisis, who may find no one is able to visit them. Your prayers especially please for Tim and

Margaret Williams who has been in St Luke's hospital for seven weeks now. Your prayers will be very much appreciated.

Otherwise our ministry team are well, but most of us are "social distancing" and may soon be self isolating. This includes not only the older members of the team, but also Sarah Flashman, whose husband Steve is vulnerable, and Anne Dorman and myself who have underlying health conditions.

That leaves only Shei Crowther and William Whyte! Do please pray especially for Shei, who will be looking after the majority of our Funerals.

I was very fortunate to go on Retreat last week at Lee Abbey – perfect timing! – indeed I came home only four days before Lee Abbey closed to new visitors. I was glad of the opportunity to share something of my Retreat in my sermon at Wytham, and the 12noon service last Sunday, and if you're interested, you can find my sermon on the website, under the title "Like a blazing fire".or click [here](#).

Lastly to mention that we have all been invited to join in with a National Day of Prayer this Sunday, March 22nd, and you can show your support for this by lighting a candle and placing it in a visible window of your house at 7.00pm on Sunday evening.

I'd like to finish with the Collect for this coming Sunday:

O God,

You know us all to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright:
grant us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers
and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With love and prayers
Charles

Other news

The Flying Goose

Distributors are asked to collect their bundles of the new *Flying Goose* from St Peter's this Sunday 09:45-10:45 or weekday mornings 09:00-09:30. Please contact Diana Edwards (01865 451206 or diana.elwell95@gmail.com) if you are unable to deliver your usual round, or if you're willing to help out taking an additional round.

Electoral Roll

The annual revision is ongoing. If you'd like to join the electoral roll, contact Val Tate (01865 559316 or valtate@btinternet.com) who will arrange for you to receive an application form.

The last day for applications is **Sunday 5 April**.

use these details: 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester. GL1 3BD; tel: 0333 002 1260;
email: info@parishgiving.org.uk. Any questions to Peter Bridges (01865 558705)

Dovecote Children and Families Project

We received this note in response to a donation from St Peter's Christmas Collections:
"I am writing on behalf of the Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee to thank you for your very generous donation of £580 in support of the Dovecote Children and Families Project. The donation awarded will be used to cover core running costs associated with delivering inclusive, good quality, low cost after-school club session three times per week, i.e. insurance, equipment etc. Once again thank you for your support"
Carol Richards, Dovecote Centre

Storage facility needed

Physionet is a charity which collects discarded mobility aids from hospitals and nursing homes, stores them until a container load is ready, then sends them overseas to countries which desperately need them. The organisation is looking for a storage facility (approx garage sized) in the Oxford area. If you can help, please contact Diana Clews (07810 204069) or Harry Franks, Trustee (01803 833316).

Partnership Link - St Peter's side

For the foreseeable future, this e-newsletter will replace ***St Peter's side of Partnership Link***. Caroline, Val and Julia are co-authors, sharing the job of pulling the e-newsletter together. If you have any notices, continue as usual to send them to stpeterslink@gmail.com by 6:00pm Tuesdays.

We are aware that there are people who may not have received this newsletter because we don't have their email or because we don't have permission to email them. We will willingly add these people to our mailing list. In the first instance, send requests to our Data Compliance Officer (that's Val Tate at valtate@btinternet.com).

There is a link at the bottom of the page you can use to stop receiving the e-newsletter should you so wish. However, we would encourage us all to stay in touch because the situation is changing daily and this is a good way to receive relevant information. There are initiatives developing in and around Wolvercote to support people physically and mentally through the months ahead. We'll give you more details as soon as possible.

We are anxious to reach and include those people who do not have email. If you know who this might be and can pass on a printed copy of the newsletter, we'd be most grateful. Or let us know who it might be and we'll do our best to deliver a copy.

Partnership Link - common side

Thanks to Jenny Gerrard, click [here](#) to read this week's news from the Partnership.

And finally.....

Please let us know what information you'd like to receive, or suggest how we might better meet your need for support through the e-newsletter. Email to stpeterslink@gmail.com

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