## AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH *(A Baptist Union and United Reformed Church)*

### Woodside Road, AMERSHAM, Bucks, HP6 6AJ

Minister: The Revd Ian Green BA MTh

## Associate Minister: The Revd Erna Stevenson BTh MSc

Registered Charity Number 1137287



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Thursday 26th March 2020  
  
  
  
Dear Friends,

We thought that once a week, during these challenging days, we’d send out a letter from the church to help us all stay in touch and feel a little more ‘connected’.

I do hope you are well and staying optimistic. We are all learning to do things differently and that includes ‘Church’.   
  
I was impressed yesterday to hear that some of our church members took part in a choir practice on Tuesday evening – via Zoom! That’s an internet platform that enabled thirty of them to sing along together! People are innovative and resourceful; it’s part, I believe, of what it means to be ‘made in the image of God’.

I know that many of you were able to tune into the audio service via the AFC website last Sunday. We are very grateful to our ‘sound engineers’, Michael Autton and Matthew Green who enabled this to happen, at ‘the speed of light’! We very much look forward to this being a regular feature of our life together for the next few months.   
  
However, we do recognize that not everyone in the congregation has access to the Internet, so we are looking into the possibility of providing the service, especially on Easter Sunday, on a CD. Do contact either myself or Janet Reid if you, or someone you know would like that.  
  
We have a few people in the congregation who are offering to do shopping and collect prescriptions for folk who cannot get out. If you would like such help, or know of a person who would appreciate it, please contact me and I’ll put you in touch with them.  
  
The Church Officers (Janet Reid, Bob Marshall and myself) met today – via ‘Zoom’ – and discussed issues such as: Pastoral Care/Building Security/Website updating/Audio Service and of course Finance.  
  
Our treasurer, Bob, has written a letter that will be printed in full in the April edition of Family News. I’m reprinting the final couple of paragraphs here:  
  
*Some of us may be wondering how to continue making regular contributions to Amersham Free Church. We are encouraged to think prayerfully about our giving and consider making changes that we feel are appropriate for us at this time.*

*For those who pay by standing order – thank you. If you contribute through the weekly envelope scheme you may wish to post a cheque to me at my home address. Alternatively, you may choose to make a transfer direct into the Church’s bank account either by standing order or bank transfer. If you wish to make your contribution directly into the bank please let me know (Email, post or phone) and I will give you the church’s bank details and a reference to use.*This Sunday, the 5th in Lent, the lectionary reading takes us to the Raising of Lazarus: a story that reminds us that God wants us to have life, life that is good and life that is whole. We hang on to that thought and we pray for all who are striving to keep us safe, develop a vaccine and enable us to get through these next few months and beyond. We also pray for those who are working so hard in the NHS, and those who are already suffering or who have become bereaved through Covid-19.   
  
May the God of love and life give us the strength and courage we all need for the ‘facing of this hour’.  
  
With my prayerful best wishes to you all,  
  
  
The Revd Ian Green

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