

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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Dear Friends,

This letter comes to you with both my prayers and Erna's, our Associate Minister. We pray that, even in these challenging days, you are experiencing God's peace and strength during this time when we cannot meet together in our usual way.

We also hold before God our Link Missionaries, Liz and Sergio Vilela, serving with the BMS in Mozambique. They tell us that now educational establishments are closed Liz can no longer do her Pre-School Playgroup work and that Chloe and Joshua are being schooled at home. Although the government say the country only has ten known cases of the virus the border with South Africa is beginning to close, bringing with it serious food shortages. The Vilelas make the important point that in a country where 70% work today so they can eat tomorrow, the idea of social distancing brings real challenges.

As a church we are delighted to hear that our Baptist Senior Regional Minister has been elected to serve as President of The Baptist Union for 2021-2022. We wish Geoff Colmer God's richest blessing as he prepares to take on this national role among us.

Yesterday we heard the news that Mr Jim Collins, one of our longest serving members at AFC, has passed away. Jim joined the church back in 1946 and died just two days before his 92nd birthday. You may recall that Jean passed away on Easter Sunday two years ago. AFC is indebted to the Collins family for such faithfulness and loving commitment over decades. May Jim rest in peace and rise in glory.

My thanks to all of you who submitted a greeting for our Pass The Peace project for Easter Day. We received so many greetings and they are all available on the website to read.

I want to thank you too for your ongoing financial support of AFC through this crisis. I'm told by our Treasurer that some folk have changed the way they give, replacing their offering usually given at a church service by now sending in cheques, setting up Standing Orders or completing Bank Transfers. Please be aware that we are deeply grateful for such thoughtfulness and commitment.

May you, today, know God's blessing and joy in all you do.
With my prayerful best wishes,

The Revd Ian Green