

## AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

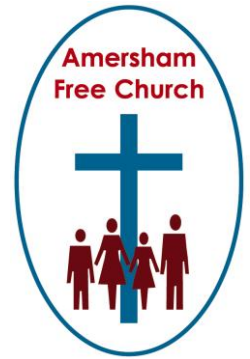
(A Baptist Union and United Reformed Church)

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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Friends,

It was a great privilege to join with some of the family of Mr Jim Collins at his funeral yesterday. We note, once again, that Jim was our longest serving member and we look forward to gathering, at an appropriate moment in the future, for his Thanksgiving Service at AFC.

During these days of Lock Down a free telephone service has been recommended to us; one that has options of hearing a message from The Archbishop of Canterbury, the singing of a hymn and some prayers. Some of our members have tried it out and think it could be a blessing to others. The number to call is: 0800 8048044.

It was a joy this week to hear from The Revd Edwin Quildan, minister of our link church of St Margaret's and St George's, Harlesden. All of Edwin's congregation remain in good health and are enjoying the services and bible studies he's posting up on YouTube.

Christian Aid Week is almost upon us, 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May. We shall miss the opportunity to 'Circle The City' and raise funds for Christian Aid that way. We can support Christian Aid by logging on to their website and learning about this year's appeal and their e-envelope scheme at: <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk>

We are pleased that Laura, our Church Administrator, has now finished producing our new Church Directories and these will be delivered (one per household for the time being) to you over the next few days. I think they will help us have good and up to date information which will help us keep in contact with each other during this unusual time.

We had our weekly Zoom meeting this morning. From that I want to say another big 'thank you' for your continued financial support for the church. Income from the congregation has remained high, with many people switching the way they give enabling their contribution to be collected even though we are not physically meeting in church. Thank you for your generosity. I want to assure you that when the government and our denominations give the 'green light' AFC will do everything in its power to provide the safe space for us to meet once again. We doubt that a 'return' will be anything other than gradual. Until then we will continue to put our efforts into the audio service, website and phone calling.

Just yesterday I was speaking to one of our members over the phone and she told me: *I've come to the conclusion that people need people.* I think she's right! Community is at the centre of the Christian message. At the moment we are discovering new ways to express and experience 'fellowship' together. My prayer is that our sense of 'togetherness' will continue to grow and deepen during these days that contain both challenge and surprising joys.

Erna joins me in sending you our prayerful best wishes.

The Revd Ian Green