

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

(A Baptist Union and United Reformed Church)

Woodside Road, AMERSHAM, Bucks, HP6 6AJ

Minister: The Revd Ian Green BA MTh

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Dear Friends,

We miss each other! So, this letter is just one of the ways we are using to stay in touch. Our prayer and longing is that, when it is deemed safe again, we shall be able to meet up and enjoy the company and fellowship of each other.

I know I've said this before, but once again, I want to thank you for your financial generosity in supporting AFC at this difficult time. I'm told that many in our congregation have 'changed' the way they give so that, even without a Sunday service, their offering can still be received. Thank you!

This week we heard the sad news that Mr. Derek O'Connor has passed away. Derek's beautiful reading voice was heard on one of our recent audio-services. We are very conscious that Derek's wife, Tricia, is not in the best of health, so we send our prayerful best wishes to the family at this time of bereavement. Derek's funeral service will be held at the Crematorium on Thursday 28th May at 2.30pm.

Jim Collins's service will be available to view on-line, until this Sunday, at: <https://we.tl/t-TBkUgc2H2v>

Today the church car park will be having some work done on it as various pot-holes are attended to.

Following the Prime Minister's statement to the nation on Sunday evening we have received an official notification from The United Reformed Church that, for the time being, all churches should remain closed. However, our deepest prayer is that, in the not too distant future, we will be able to open our doors once again for worship, fellowship and service and we will do this as soon as we are given the 'green light'.

So, we will continue with the weekly audio-service, buoyed up by the recent statistics that around one in five people in the UK have tuned into a church service via the internet during the crisis. Last week we updated the AFC website with links to various denominational and church resources to be used during these days of Lock Down.

Well, this letter is being written during Christian Aid week 2020. Normally, after morning service some of us would, this Sunday, have made our way up to London for Circle the City, joining hundreds of other Christian Aid supporters in a sponsored walk. Christian Aid are keen to tell us this event hasn't been cancelled – just postponed to later in the year!

Christian Aid was founded 70 years ago as a response to the refugee problem following the end of WWII. Today, working in 37 countries, its mission is to bring humanitarian relief and long-term development whether that's peace building in South Sudan, encouraging resilient farming in Kenya or assisting communities in the Philippines after the typhoon. As this year's caption goes: *Love Unites All.*

Erna joins me in sending you our prayerful best wishes.

The Revd Ian Green