

# 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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Registered Charity Number 1137287



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Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Friends,

The other day, whilst reading a book for a Ministers' Discussion Group, I came across the wonderful phrase '*self-forgetful love*'. The author was using it, in a particular sense, in relation to the kind of commitment often shown by a parent towards a child. I think, however, that we experience it in so many contexts and it always enhances and blesses our lives. I was talking to a church friend the other day and he shared with me his deep appreciation for the work his daughter is doing as a frontline paramedic. She often has to escort folks with COVID 19 to hospital. That means she will be there when a husband or wife might be saying 'goodbye' to each other for possibly the last time. It was a moving conversation and made me realise afresh the devotion that so many people have shown in the work they have done for us, and alongside us, during these last few months.

Today we held two committees and, under the new guidelines, we were able to meet in two gardens. One was the Church Officers' Meeting, the other was the Finance and Property Sub Committee. There was a moment, in the second meeting, that we were sitting outside in a circle, physically distancing, holding up our umbrellas! But at least we were talking face to face. It's a start!

When we are given the green light to hold services again in the building at AFC we do recognize that by no means all of the congregation will feel they can return. Many will want to continue 'shielding' at home. We hope that we might be able to webcast the service using both sound and vision. In that way perhaps we might think of ourselves as ONE congregation meeting in two places: in church and at home. We have quite a lot of work to make that possible and that's our task throughout June.

Next Monday morning our Elders' will come together for an informal Zoom meeting. It will give us an opportunity to talk about the pastoral life of the church. We hope that maybe in July we will be able to have a physically distanced Elders' Meeting in the Alfred Ellis Hall. Both our denominations and The Charity Commission have said they understand that it will be difficult for us to hold Church Meetings at the current time. It is our hope that maybe we will be able to do something about this in the early autumn.

We continue to try our best at communicating with one another and this week we are delighted that *Family News* for June is available and will either be posted or emailed to you. Another form of communication is via Facebook and, as of last week, our Church Administrator, Laura, has taken over responsibility for updating this.

We continue to hold the family of Mr John Fox in our thoughts and prayers following his passing. John's funeral service will be held at The Crematorium on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020. We also heard of the death last week of one of our faithful LunchBreak members, Anne-Marie. We will miss this lovely 95 year old French lady who always had a smile on her face every Tuesday.

May you know God's blessing and joy in all you do today.

Erna joins me in sending you our prayerful best wishes,

Ian