

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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Dear Friends,

In her last *Prayer and Reflection*, published tomorrow on the website, The Revd Heather McIntyre invites us all to look back on these days of Lockdown, light a candle and give thanks to God for all we have learnt and experienced. Heather has shared the journey with us thus far and I know that so many people have found her weekly *Reflections* such a help. Thank you, Heather, from us all.

We have now opened the church for Private Prayer on three occasions and, although such a spiritual discipline isn't in our Tradition, it's been good to have a total of 19 people coming into the building so far. We will continue to do this for one more week.

Following the Government's announcement and the publication of denominational guidelines we hope to re-open on Sundays for morning worship soon. We have in mind that this might be on 5th July 2020, but I have long since learnt in this crisis that nothing is certain until it happens; but that, at least, is the date we are focusing on at present. When we do open it's expected we won't be able to sing, which I know will be an enormous disappointment to many, but that doesn't mean to say we will not have music – we will! We hope that at least one of the hymns will be sung by an AFC Virtual Choir. If you are a singer and would like to record a suggested hymn at home and send it in, that your voice may be blended with others, then do email me and we'll add your name to the ranks of our virtual choir members!

Over recent months so many people have contributed to our website. If we total up all those who have written the three articles a week, alongside Heather's Reflection, The Minister's Letter, and my weekly Blog, that comes to a staggering ninety contributions over three months. I want to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped us with this, your contributions have been so appreciated. From next week, as the website is slightly re-designed, there will be, per week: one congregational contribution, a Minister's Letter, my weekly Blog, the Sunday Order of Service (published on Saturday) and the Livestream Service (available Sunday onwards).

Perhaps I could finish this letter by expressing all our thanks to Michael Autton and Matthew Green for the audio services over the last three months. Perhaps this broadcast, more than anything else we have done, has bound us together in a truly exceptional way. They both rose to the challenge on week one and have simply been wonderful in their faithfulness in this 'ministry'. I have estimated that every audio-service takes between three to four hours to produce. Michael and Matthew THANK YOU so much for all you have done for AFC and Christ over these recent months.

In the coming weeks we will embrace new opportunities slowly and prayerfully, but always with hope and trust in our hearts.

Erna joins me in sending you our very best wishes,
Ian