

Dear Church Family,

Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

I so hope you are well and my thoughts and prayers are with all our church. Last night the Deaconate met via video call to discuss how we move forward in **BEing** Church, while **DOing** Church is different in these days.

We have three priorities at this time and we wanted to share them with you.

1. A service on Sunday via YouTube.

A link to our service will be available on the church website www.welcomechurch.org.uk from [10:30am on Sunday 29th March](#) and the link will remain available for you to share and watch again.

It will include worship, children's talk, sermon and prayers and we really hope that as a Church we join together, in our various homes as one [at 10:30am on Sunday](#).

2. Pastoral care.

This is a difficult time for many of us and we are committed to prayer every day for one another. If you have a pastoral issue we want to let you know how you can access support.

To access support and pastoral care your House Group or Life Group leader should be your first point of contact. If you don't belong to a small group then you should contact one of the below

- i) Families, Children and Youth -Joanne Martin
- ii) Young Adults -Phil and Janet
- iii) 40-70+ -Caroline & Ian
- iv) Elderly -Sue Lade

If you would like someone to pray with you, you can contact Laura Selby on [01435 864102](tel:01435864102). (Please note this phone line will not be answered 24 hours a day but will be checked regularly throughout the day).

You can also contact any of the Deacons, or Andy Caldwell by leaving a message on [01435866276](tel:01435866276)

3. Communication with you.

All pastoral support is being done by phone or video link. If you want to video message we have found "google duo" to be most helpful at this time. It works on most smart phones and tablets just look for it in the App Store of your phone or tablet.

The government advice for us to work from home means that Janet will no longer be checking the Church Phone line as regularly. However, the church email address is still active and you can contact Janet on that.

office@welcomechurch.org.uk

I hope to email the whole church a couple of times a week. A number of House Groups are exploring WhatsApp groups and other methods of keeping in touch, and your House Group leaders will let you know more. We are also on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/welcomechurchheathfield/>

If you have difficulties with any of the technical aspects of this new way of BEing Church please can you contact me on adc.caldwells@gmail.com and I will do my best to help you or find someone who can. We do have a couple tablets which we could lend you from the church so that you can connect on Sundays.

Finally, **Jill Boniface** sent us this wonderful thought and we'd like to share it with you ...

"The golden idol

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced a massive golden idol – and a king with an ultimatum. They had to worship the idol or be burnt alive.

With the utmost politeness, they told the king they would have nothing to do with his demonic monstrosity. They preferred to take their chances with the One True God.

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up" (Dan. [3:17-18](#)).

Today we face a different idol. Its name is Fear. But the God we serve is the same yesterday, today and forever, and He is still able to save us!

Yes, it's only natural to be afraid – but let's take a stand like them and refuse to worship the Fear idol. Giving in to alarm, panic or despair won't help us and it doesn't glorify God, who loves us so much and has promised He will never leave us.

The crown not the corona

The other day it suddenly dawned on me that 'corona' in coronavirus means 'crown'. According to Wikipedia, the name comes from the appearance of the virus particles.

*I don't want to be crowned with coronavirus. **I'm not talking about catching it but allowing it to hang over me and define who I am.** I don't even want to imagine it on my head! God has promised far better crowns for us.*

*David tells us we are already "**crowned with glory and honour**" (Ps 8:5). He lists God's wonderful blessings of forgiveness and healing, adding, "**He redeems my life from the pit and crowns me with love and compassion**" (Ps 103:4).*

*Isaiah describes how the redeemed will be crowned with "**everlasting joy**" (Is 51:11). He says that the work of the Holy Spirit will "**bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair**" (Is.61:3).*

The coronavirus crown doesn't belong on our heads. Let's choose a garment of praise and wear our true crowns with pride!"

Prayer

Father God, we acknowledge our fears at this time, and we lift them to you. Thank you that you crown us with everlasting joy, beauty and make us children of the King.

We declare today that you reign, that you are crowned with many crowns as the King of Kings and we bow before you and you alone.

We lift those people we care for ...

We lift those situations that worry us ...

We lift our nation ...

And our world ...

May we be salt and light. May we know your hand on us and your peace with us. May we know that you are seated on the throne. In the name of Jesus. Amen

With warmest Christian love

Andy