

Open Door Church Sunbury

April 2020 Newsletter



Welcome to our monthly Newsletter letting you know what's going on at Open Door Church. This Newsletter can be accessed through our website www.opendoorchurchsunbury.com/. In this issue you will find:

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Standing on a Rock, Not Sinking in the Mire!

We are living in unprecedented times, not just as a nation or as a church, but as a globe. We have never been in a time like this before, where we have had to live in isolation, unable to meet and be physically present in relationship and worship. There have been times when people have met on a Zoom meeting and seen brothers and sisters in Christ and there is palpable joy and we cannot contain the excitement at seeing our church family.

I am so impressed by those in our community who are working as a key worker in hospitals, care work, social work, food retail and the security services. We have a number on our own church who are serving in this way and we are so proud of those who are risking their health working in this way.

We also have many who are serving the vulnerable in our community by supplying food and medicines. We as a church have seen the Community Chaplains work spring into action in our community and local residents have seen we are a church who cares for them at their lowest moment in life. We also have been able to supply volunteers and finance to the St Saviours Foodbank who are a hub for supplying food to the vulnerable in our community.

However, the serious nature of this infection means that everyone must play their part in not spreading the virus and obeying government guidelines. We are a nation facing a plague together!

We are fearful but we are trusting in God.

It is thought that Psalm 18 borrowed material from 2 Samuel 22 and therefore was probably written by King David of Jerusalem and so we see that the King we know so much about declared that God was his rock: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (Psalm 18:2). David knew God was his rock that he built his life upon him.

We are all facing coronavirus generated situations and the different issues it raises: isolation, fear of lost security, fear for loved ones, concerns for our own health and job loss. But we know that we will not sink because, though we are in the mire, we stand on a rock; and that rock is Jesus.

But how can we continue to stand on the rock? By being what this church has a reputation for doing well: loving one another (John 13:35) and spiritually and practically being there for one another (Acts 4:32). We need to care for each other's needs. We need to be praying for one another. We need to be asking how each person associated to the church is doing. We need to be a family.

I am thankful to Small Group Leaders and so many of you who are caring for those who are struggling. Please be reminding them that we have a God who gives hope and joy (Romans 15:13) and is the rock on which we stand. Be a listening ear, a praying voice and a practical help.

Lastly this is a gospel opportunity, people are looking for hope and we have a hope in Jesus and so “always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15). At this time when we are not going to sink because we trust in Jesus, a rock to build our life upon; be ready to tell others about our hope and help in times like these; we shall not sink but we can share our hope! Share our Jesus!

Andy - On behalf of the Elders

ODC's 'Virtual' Response to Covid-19 Lock-Down

As you know, physical get togethers are not permitted during our country's time of 'lock-down'. Various events will be cancelled or postponed until it is safe for us to meet up together in person. Until we hear about lock-down measures being lifted, we are hosting live virtual meetings as a church. Do you know that we are uploading **Daily Devotionals**? Various ODC members share their hearts as we work through Romans together. You can access these through YouTube. We are also broadcasting **Live Sunday Worship and then a Sunday Sermon**. Due to technical difficulties, some meetings are on Facebook and some are on YouTube. Follow these links to see where you can find what you're looking for.

YouTube Open Door Church Sunbury Page

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEp4_ARIXOvsSDCYoHVzjBA click on 'Videos' to see all the talks available.

Facebook Page

https://www.facebook.com/opendoorchurchsunbury/?epa=SEARCH_BOX click on 'Videos' to join Live events.

We plan to go ahead with **Daily Devotionals**, weekly **Sunday Virtual Meetings**, the twice monthly **Thursday Prayer Meetings** and the individual Small Groups are hosting different weekly contact (see midweek Small Groups available below).

Please stay in regular contact with others at ODC - 'click' to taste and see what's going on. **An email is sent our daily with the link for the Daily Devotionals and weekly for how you can access the Live Sunday Meetings. If you are not receiving these group ODC emails, please contact the church office and ask to be added to the mailing list** (contact details on the next page). If you need help accessing online/digital technology, please contact the church office and we will try and help you.

Looking For a Midweek Small Group?

Now more than ever, you need the fellowship, care, support and love that a Small Group brings. Throughout this time of 'lock-down', don't get isolated. Small Groups are a place to love and be loved, serve and be served, pray and get prayed for, worship, have fun, make friends, study and grow in God. Currently the following 4 groups meet and you'd be very welcome to join:

Tuesdays

Jewel Small Group – led by Julia Wicks wicks.julia@yahoo.com

Whitworth Small Group – led by Graham & Susan Whitworth grahamwhitworth114@gmail.com and susanwhitworth@gmail.com

Agape Small Group – led by Andy Phillips (temporarily) andy@opendoorchurchsunbury.com

Wednesdays

Joy Small Group – led by Andy & Army Hudson andrewhudson771@gmail.com armyhudson1@gmail.com

Currently most groups are having some kind of virtual interaction to combat the government guidelines to stay at home. Some are using WhatsApp chatter, some have virtual get togethers using Zoom or Skype online. Please contact one of the above leaders to find out what they are doing to 'virtually' meet during this time of no actual physical meetings and see if this works for you! Don't be a stranger!

Connect Festival and Newday

Please note that Connect Festival (the new name for Westpoint) has been cancelled on the August Bank Holiday due to the Covid-19 virus; but at present Newday is due to proceed.

Community Chaplains

'Community Chaplains' is a voluntary Christian chaplaincy. Through building caring relationships, they hope to strengthen secular and church links and provide pastoral, spiritual and practical support to strengthen our local communities. Barry Colyer, Phil Goater and Nigel Holden have volunteered as Community Chaplains from Open Door Church. Please pray for them as they boldly support our local communities. For more info, please click <http://www.communitychaplains.uk/>

St. Saviour's Foodbank Contributions During Covid-19 Lock-Down

More than ever, the Sunbury Foodbank needs donations right now. The only way to give at the moment is financially. You can do this through ODC's account (but please advise Kevin so he can allocate your specific gift) or direct to St. Saviour's designated web page: <https://stsaviourssunbury.churchsuite.co.uk/donate/fund/mtsn6ar1>. Please give what you can and as a charity they can buy the most urgently needed items.

April's Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Thursday 2nd	20.00-20.05 20.30-21.30	NHS Neighbourhood Cheering from your doorstep! Virtual Prayer Meeting. Please check emails for whether this is via YouTube or Facebook Live.
Sunday 5th	11.00-12.00 11.00	Virtual Sunday Meeting. Please check emails for whether this is via YouTube or Facebook Live. Speaker: Jez Hawthorn Community Food Bank Sunday – virtual gifts please!
Thursday 9th	20.00-20.05	NHS Neighbourhood cheering from your doorstep!
Friday 10th	10.00-11.00	Virtual Good Friday Meeting. Please check emails for whether this is via YouTube or Facebook Live. Speaker: Martin Smith
Sunday 12th	11.00-12.00	Virtual Easter Sunday Meeting. Please check emails for whether this is via YouTube or Facebook Live. Speaker: Andy Phillips
Thursday 16th	20.30-21.30	NHS Neighbourhood Cheering from your doorstep! Virtual Prayer Meeting. Please check emails for whether this is via YouTube or Facebook Live.
Sunday 19th	10.00-10.20 10.30-12.15	Virtual Sunday Meeting. Please check emails for whether this is via YouTube or Facebook Live. Speaker: David Goater
Thursday 23rd	20.00-20.05	NHS Neighbourhood cheering from your doorstep!
Sunday 26th	11.00-12.00 19.30-21.00	Virtual Sunday Meeting. Please check emails for whether this is via YouTube or Facebook Live. Speaker: Malcolm Kayes Virtual Small Group Leaders Meeting. Please check emails for whether this is via YouTube or Facebook Live.

Eldership & Church Staff Contact Details

ODC Contact Details				
Andy Phillips	Pastor & Full-Time Elder	01932 788226 & 07546 913118	andy@opendoorchurchsunbury.com	Day off: Fridays
Gavin Rendall	Elder	01932 883331	g.rendall@ntlworld.com	
Jez Hawthorn	Elder	01784 462171	jez251bass@gmail.com	
Ollie Elliott	Pastor	07496 213602	ollie@opendoorchurchsunbury.com	Days off: Mondays & Wednesdays
Loretta Wyatt	ODC Administrator	01932 782005	office@opendoorchurchsunbury.com	In Office: Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Charis Phillips	ESOL Lead & Children's Work Coordinator	07845 736731	esolopendoorchurchsunbury@outlook.com	In Office: Wednesdays & Thursdays

Future Diary Dates & Information

- ✓ Next Virtual **Pastoral Team** meeting is **Sunday 3 May** from **19.30-21.00**
- ✓ **Men's Weekend Away.** Over the weekend of **Thursday 25-Monday 29 June 2020**, the men from ODC are planning a trip to Ben Nevis. Mike Sivyer is the organiser and says "The plan is to hire a 17-seater minibus and drive up together through the night, leaving at 21.00 on Thursday 25. Importantly you must book your bunk house accommodation place individually at <https://www.ben-nevis-inn.co.uk/> . Please let me know when you've booked at mike_sivyer@ntlworld.com. Plans may change depending on who is coming, so please let me know asap, thanks Mike."
- ✓ On **Thursday 25 June** there is an **Accessible Church Day Workshop**. It's aimed at leaders wanting advice how to include all those with learning difficulties. For more info, click - <https://commission.global/event/accessible-church-workshop>
- ✓ **Alex & Anna Garratt** are visiting us on **Sunday 7th July** to talk about their upcoming **mission year-out to West Timor in Indonesia**. This Sunday will be focused on **World Mission**.
- ✓ **Newday 2020** this year the youth festival is from **Monday 3 to Sunday 9 August**. For more info see leaflets on the welcome desk or contact Ellen Robson on 07902 046434.

Please Pray for...

During the coronavirus crisis we are publishing a weekly prayer log – please email Andy if you want to be on it or are not receiving it – andy@opendoorchurchsunbury.com

- **Michael Anns** – please pray for Michael who went into hospital for an operation and now has caught coronavirus. At present he is in Woking Nuffield Hospital. Please pray for his healing. Please also pray for Muriel Anns and the wider family at this worrying time.
- **Sivyer family** – Please be praying for Judy Rendall and Mike Sivyer and their mother Rosa Sivyer following the death of Ray Sivyer (Mike and Judy's Father).
- **Boris Johnson** – who is in Intensive Care with the coronavirus. Pray for his speedy full recovery.
- **All NHS Staff, Social Care Staff, Food Retail Workers, Essential Service Workers, First Responders** – any **Key Workers** – Please pray; especially those in Open Door Church – James and Sophie Nelson (Tesco), Dr Kavi Manaktala (NHS Doctor re-enlisted), Kim Hollaway (NHS Receptionist), Cherry Davis (Disabled Social Care), Pradeep Manaktala (Owner of extreme behaviour social care homes), Kimberley Thiel (Older Persons detached carer), San Thandar (Residential Care Home Supervisor), Kat Lacey (Manager Addiction Care Homes), Nicky and Charis Phillips (Prison Education), Andy and Army Hudson (DWP Workers)
- **Andy Phillips** who for health reasons needs to self-isolate. Please pray for him and our other **elders Gavin & Jez**. Pray that they keep well and are able to be there to support and lead us through this unprecedented time.
- **Rolando De Guzman** and the Elders at Cavite Open Door Commission Church.
- All of the **Proctor family** as Dave & Jan's **daughter Ruth passed away** suddenly on 31 January. Please pray for God's comfort and love for this family as they try and make sense of what's happened.
- **The Domantay family** after the sudden death of father Gerry. Please lift his family up to our Lord: wife Rovie and girls Kesha, Althea and Kheren.
- **The UK** as we face the coronavirus crisis that we as a nation might turn to God.
- Pray for **Hong Kong and Taiwan** and the growing threat of mainland China to their freedom and democracy. Please pray for **Chinese Christians** who are suffering terribly under the increasingly brutal regime. Pray for **Pastor Wang Yi** who has been sentenced to 9 years for preaching the gospel.
- **Claire Rodericks** who is recovering from surgery and for Kim & Brian who support her family
- Healing for **Sarah Page** who has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.
- **David and Coral Goater, Charis Phillips and Ellie Cross** who are on the Foundations Leadership Training course.
- **Paul Piang** as he leads the Burmese speaking congregation of Open Door Church which is called: '**Encounter Worship Centre**' now based at ODCC
- **Miro Fic** and his church in Silbas and the emerging apostolic work in the Balkans.
- **Rachel Smith** who is serving Exmouth Church whilst studying for a Theology degree at Moorlands College.
- **Jez, Emma** and wider family as they support **Jez's Mum, Esmee**, who is very unwell and Jez as he battles with depression.
- **Alfredo Almazan** who is one of the Elders at Cavite Open Door Commission Church and has been diagnosed with lung cancer but his treatment has ceased due to the lockdown in the Philippines.
- **Food and Essential Medical Supplies** – For our Commission churches in the Philippines and India as the two-thirds world countries face into the coronavirus crisis with limited resources and healthcare.