

**Holyhead Road United Reformed
Church
Sunday 14 June 2020**



Along with all places of worship in the UK,
our church building is now closed for all activities
until further notice.

Ministers: Revd Debbie Brown 024 7659 6433; brown_debbie@sky.com
Revd Bill Young 024 7671 7223; bill@morvern.com

Lectionary readings this week: Exodus 19: 2-8a; Psalm 100; Matthew 9: 35-10: 8; Romans 5: 1-8

Communicating and Worshipping:

Please contact the ministers or Elders with any concerns or prayer requests.

A 'Podcast' service uploaded every Saturday by **Revd Bill Young** is available to listen to on the web-page: revdbill.uk/worship-material. The podcast link also allows for downloading a service transcript. **Revd Debbie Brown** will lead phone-in worship this Sunday morning at 11:15. You can join on any telephone by calling the number **0330 606 0403** and listening to the instructions. When you are asked for it, enter the following access code on your phone pad: **442786#**.

A message from Debbie:

Dear Friends

We have celebrated Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday; after receiving the power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit the Apostles went and preached the message of Jesus. In what ways can we be working together to make a difference in our communities during lockdown in demonstrating the life of Jesus in passion and action?

Sometimes it is difficult for people to think about hope and transformation in a hurting world, especially at the moment, with Covid-19, the effects of injustice, war and climate change. I believe God is a God of passion for justice and we, as God's people, are called to speak about the hope that is within us. This passion calls for us all to play our part in working for love, justice and peace and we have a responsibility to care for God's creation.

There are various Zoom and YouTube meetings coming up soon with regard to climate change, being greener and more eco-friendly in our churches and communities and much more. Look out for the notices and let us think about what we can do together and how we share our ideas, because when we love our neighbours as ourselves and work alongside them, we are addressing the spiritual, physical and social needs of our communities. So, as we look towards our vision for the future may we start by sharing the hope that is within us and with the people who are in our areas. May we follow the examples that Jesus has set for us.

It is with sadness that we have to report the death of Brian Hier last Monday, 8 June 2020. He was at home and with his family. Many of you will know that he had been unwell for a number of months. It is likely that a small, family funeral will be followed by a memorial service in due course, and further information will be made available when details are known. Please remember Hazel and the rest of the family in your prayers.

The national URC has issued a statement and prayer about anti-racism following the events arising from the death of George Floyd. This can be found on the church Facebook page, the News page on the church website, or via this link: <https://urc.org.uk/latest-news/3476-urc-leaders-say-that-we-must-all-be-anti-racist-following-the-brutal-killing-of-george-floyd.html>

Future Re-opening of the Church Building:

You may have seen that some public statements are being made about places of worship being allowed to re-open in the near future. However, there is a great deal that we do not yet know, and we still await further guidance both from the Government and the United Reformed Church.

The Ministers and Elders met recently to consider when it might be possible to permit the re-opening of the church building. In view of the need to have strict infection control measures in place and to ensure appropriate social distancing arrangements, it was decided that **we will not be in a position to re-open the building for acts of worship for some time yet**. Even allowing personal prayer by a very small number of people would impose a number of practical difficulties. It is appreciated that this will be disappointing to many, but the safety of all those who use our building is of paramount concern to us, and this could not be guaranteed at the moment.

The church building will also remain closed to those who hire the premises for their own activities. We will be liaising with them to consider what arrangements will need to be put in place to enable these activities to re-commence at some future point. However, the large number of different people with responsibilities for the control of events and cleansing introduces its own challenges, and we need to proceed carefully in order to minimise any risk of infection.

We will supply further updates over the coming weeks as decisions are taken.