

Dear All,

How much changes in a week? Thankfully we have a God who is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). It is with huge sadness that we now have to shut the church building - but we have a God who is not confined to one place and can be worshipped and spoken to anywhere!

In this update is information about staying in touch, giving and finances and prayer & worship resources.

Staying in touch - Facebook Page

To keep people informed and to provide resources we have now set up an Euxton Parish Church Facebook page (rather than the group that we previously had which was quite limited). (NB Profile picture is a picture of the church building.) If you are on Facebook then please do like the page and share it to your page so that others can know what is going on too.

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



Staying in touch - Church updates

With the recent instructions that we are to stay at home, the standing committee have taken the decision that we can sadly no longer hand deliver letters - hence if you are not receiving this by email then it has been posted to you. We will keep sending these letters out by email but after this we do not have the resource to post them out. Therefore, if you are one of the people receiving this by post then please can you either let me know your email address or ask a friend or family member if we could use their email address and then they could read it out to you. If you are struggling with both of those options, we don't want to lose touch, so please ring me and let me know your phone number and we will connect you with someone from church. If you know of others who would appreciate receiving this then please ask them to email me.

Staying in touch - Clusters

Staying in touch is crucial at this time when we are staying at home and many are feeling the isolation. I've decided that each day I am going to video call a different friend and have lunch with them and then later in the afternoon I'm video calling someone else to have a cuppa together. Looking out and after one another is vital and never more so in the coming weeks. If you can't video call then why not at least set up a phone call with someone different each day, maybe there is a friend that you haven't been in touch with for a while that you could now reconnect with?

As a church family, we want to stay in touch and support each other. To this end, we are hoping to set up cluster groups, small groups of 7-10 households. Each group will have a co-ordinator who would ring or email each household at least once a week to see how they are doing. If any help was required then you'd be able to contact the cluster co-ordinator. It might be that as a cluster you decide to set up a whatsapp or email group. My prayer is that this might be a good way of staying connected with other members of our church family - some of who you may know and others you might not.

Romans 12:4&5 says "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." So, whilst we might not be able to physically gather, we are still part of one body or one family.

If you would like to be part of a cluster, all you need is a phone number or email address, then please let me know before Sunday (29th) evening. We shall then look to put clusters together at the beginning of next week.

Giving and church finances

Many of you have been asking about how to keep giving to church and what we are doing regarding our finances.

Expenditure - The standing committee met last night and reviewed our expenditure and are following the diocesan guidelines. Whilst the building is closed, there are still expenses that we will need to pay and our only source of income is donations. We are doing our best to be good stewards.

Income from envelope givers - I know that many of you who give through the envelope scheme are asking what to do. Firstly, can we encourage you to switch your giving from envelopes to standing orders? (You have complete control and can stop at any time). I attach a form which you can complete and send to your bank. Alternatively, if you have online banking then you can set this up online. Otherwise, then please fill your envelopes as normal and we will collect them when we are all able to worship together again.

Income from one off donations - You might normally give using the contactless machine or through the plate when you come to church. As we are not able to gather at the moment then you clearly aren't able to donate that way. Can we encourage you to either set up a standing order (instructions above) or maybe make a one off donation via bank transfer? Our bank details can be found on the standing order form.

Income from Gift Aid - We are entitled to 25p extra for every £1 that is donated from tax payers. If you are a tax payer and donate (whether regularly or one off donation) then please can you complete the attached and return? As Tesco says 'every little helps'!

We appreciate that everyone is in a place where we are not sure what the future holds. Please do not feel that you have to give, especially if this is going to put you in a tricky financial position. As a church, we hold to God's promise that He will provide for all of our needs (Philippians 4:19). Do seek God and trust His promises and His leading.

Prayer and worship resources

Coming out with this letter is a prayer booklet which you can use at home for your own prayer time. I will try and put something out each week with the readings for the following week as well. Also attached is a family prayer & worship ideas sheet. If you find other things helpful then please do get in touch so we can share with the rest of the family. A special thank you to Jane, who has sent me some different ideas as we all wash our hands for 20 seconds (I don't know about you but I got bored with happy birthday weeks ago!).



We'll be using the Facebook page to put up various resources and linking to online content.

Reminder

The clocks change on Saturday night, going forward an hour. Which will mean lighter evenings!

We are all in a position which we never expected, but now more than ever it is time to draw together as a church family, seek God and trust His leading. If you can offer help or need assistance in any way then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With my love and prayers at this uncertain time,

Jo