

31 December 2020

St George's United Reformed Church, Morpeth

BULLETIN No. 5

Minister: Rev Julian Sanders

Telephone: 01670 225539

Email: sanders.julian@talk21.com

Dear Friends,

The level of rising infection with the new strains of Coronavirus is causing great concern with many of the most vulnerable within our community. We have for many weeks now been able to open the church under the guidance and regulations issued and have created a safe environment for people to come and worship. We feel this is a vital part of our well-being both individually and as a community, and we endeavour to allow people to worship together whenever it is safe and reasonable to do so. However, increased restrictions have been imposed in our area due to the rapid spread of the current strain of the virus and we are prompted to act with caution at this current time.

Although no changes have been imposed on places of worship, the elders have been asked to consider if they feel it is right for the church to continue to open at this time. It is felt that, both with the rising infection rates and with the adverse weather expected over the next couple of weeks, the risk to those who might attend worship outweighs the benefit it might provide. It is with sadness that we again have taken the decision to close the building at this time until it is felt that we can do so with confidence that it is safe for all those attending.

The nation faces rising infection against a situation of ever increasing numbers being vaccinated, and over the next couple of weeks the overall effect of these two opposing forces will become clearer. We as an eldership will meet again on January 11th to review the situation and reassess the risks involved in opening the premises again.

There will be no service at St Georges this Sunday (Jan 3rd) and until further notice.

The church will not be open on Wednesday 6th Jan and until further notice.

We endeavour to provide as many opportunities for worship and for meeting together as possible during this time and therefore we will focus on providing the following:

The **Sunday morning service** will be available to watch from 10:30am each Sunday on 'Morpeth and Area URC' channel on Youtube. A link to this will be sent via email, and on our Facebook page and website.

Printed copies of the service will be distributed physically and by email, and CD recordings of the service will be made available to those who request them.

The **Worship on Wednesdays** will be distributed by email to those who have requested copies.

A **virtual coffee morning** will resume from Friday 8th January from 10:30-11:30am on Zoom, and the information to join this meeting will be re-published.

We want to allow the opportunity for everyone to be able to participate as much as they are able. If you are not able to access any of the above and would like to, then please get in touch with me, or an elder, so that we can help to include you in these things.

We also realise that there are plenty of other ways in which we can be keeping in touch with each other and supporting each other. If you have any ideas of what might be helpful, then please get in touch so that we might help facilitate that in some way.

We continue to pray for all our friends and hope you have a bright and happy New Year.