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ONWARD

Newsletter of Hallfold United Reformed Church

July 2020

Dear Friends,

We hope you are all keeping well and virus free. The weather has again been mostly kind to us with only a few dull, rainy days. However, the gardens were becoming rather dry and needed a good down pour of rain.

As you are probably aware, effective as from 4th July 2020, the Government has further eased the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions in England for many organisations, including places of worship. At Hallfold we really welcome this positive piece of news and the church Elders, together with the URC, are in the process of developing a plan which will allow worship to resume in our church building whilst maintaining the health and safety of the congregation and all other user groups. Assuming there are no further developments in the spread of the virus, our plan is to open the church to its congregation early in August. We will advise you of a firm date as soon as it is available.

Unfortunately we will have to make a number of changes to our Sunday morning routines. As now, access to the church Sanctuary will be through the main church door. On entering the building you will be greeted by the duty Elder but sadly a handshake (or hug) will not be possible. You will be invited to make use of the hand sanitiser station which will be located in the foyer. We hope that you will avail yourself of this facility. Should you feel more comfortable, when in company, using a face mask, please bring one along as we have no plans to provide masks. A ‘one-way’ system will be used once inside the building to ensure that there is no need to pass others when using the relatively narrow corridors. Inside the Sanctuary you will notice that a number of the seats have been withdrawn from use and those which do remain will have been spaced out. Please do not attempt to move the chairs; they will have been deliberately positioned to comply with social distancing requirements. Generally, there will be single chairs and blocks of two, three and four seats to allow members of the same household to sit next to each other.

In the first few weeks hymn books will not be required since the government’s scientific advisors request and recommend that no singing takes place within the confines of the building to avoid the spread of potentially infectious respiratory droplets. Ministers who are booked to lead worship will be invited to come. But, if any prefer to stay away for a while longer, the Eldership will plan and organise all other services.

Initially, services may be a little shorter than they have been traditionally, mainly because of the lack of hymn singing. It will feel strange to be without hymns in a church with a congregation that enjoy a real good sing! However, it will be good to meet up with other members of the church family who have now been separated for nearly four months.

At the end of the service you will be guided by the duty elders, either into the main hall or, should you wish to leave, through the main church door. The Elders are considering ways to safely serve refreshments after the service but it may be there are no drinks or biscuits available for the first few weeks. Please bear with us as we work out what is best for your safety.

Should you wish to take advantage of it, the hand sanitiser station will be available for your use when leaving the building. Nevertheless, on your return home you should ensure your hands are thoroughly washed.

We would politely ask that if you are feeling at all unwell, you stay away. Better to be safe than sorry. These are strange times but if we all comply with the rules now, normality will return quicker.

Psalm 48 v 14 - This God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide unto death.

Our lives are in Thy hand;

O God we wish them there.

Our life, our friends, our souls we leave,

Entirely to thy care.

Answers to last month’s puzzle.

* Joseph Dawson
* Ernest Ashworth
* Joseph Whitworth
* Richard Nuttall
* Taylor Earnshaw
* Maria Stott
* Mr & Mrs J H Williamson
* Miss A M Holt
* Arnold Papworth
* R C & E Stott
* Miss Mina Thorburn
* Mr & Mrs J Royston