



Sinfin Moor Church

A Local Ecumenical Partnership serving Sinfin Moor and Stenson

June Newsletter

(Published on the 31st May 2020)

Find us at: www.sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk

or www.facebook.com/sinfinmoorchurch

Welcome and Introduction

The last Newsletter we produced was on the 15th March, the date of our Annual General Meeting, little did we realise then what the next two and a half months (and counting) would hold for us individually and as a Church.

Individually, we have all been in 'lockdown' in one form or another; some have not been able to leave the home, others have only been able to do their daily exercise. Some are able to do their own shopping whereas others have had to make special arrangements to obtain the food needed, whether this is family or friends or delivered from one of the shops or maybe even, a food bank.

It has been and continues to be a difficult time for all of us as we witnessed on the TV News the terrible suffering and loss of life that this Covid-19 virus has brought. The hard work of the NHS and Care staff as they coped with the number of patients, the loss of life and the difficult working conditions. For some of us it has been very hard to comprehend the sheer scale of the numbers involved as we sat in our homes trying to keep safe.

These have been unprecedented times in my lifetime, and I bet it has been the same for most of you.

The good news is that so far as we know, all of our Church family have been OK and we have had no reports of anyone contracting the virus. That said, it is important to note that our communication system is not fool proof, we should recognise that is 'as far as we know'. We give thanks to God for His grace and mercy and pray for all those who have died and lost loved ones in this crisis so far.

We decided it was time for a Newsletter although you will recognise the style and much of the content is different; it will not have some of the usual features that we normally include. The main reason for doing this Newsletter is to bring you up-to-date with what's been happening and where we are at this moment in time.

We have had no indication when we will be able to meet again as Church though when we do, it is likely to be different to what we are used to because the social distancing will have to be adhered to for one thing. We certainly have a big enough church for this to happen and no doubt initially, not everyone will feel comfortable with coming along for a while.

Finally, thanks to Rev'd Eileen Bangay who responded to the call for a message for this edition.

Gwen Lunt (wife of Rev'd Raymond Lunt) - It is with sadness that we tell you that Gwen passed away Friday evening (29th). As you probably know she has been ill for sometime but has kept cheerful, faithful and bright to the end. We have no other details

The Message by Rev'd Eileen Bangay

For most of my life, God has been trying me to just "be" instead of just "being busy". Thanks to the current situation, I have had no alternative. I have found out what life is like for many widows of my age. I have also found that I need a mixture of routine with the zest

(Continued on page 2)

of something different. So, my day has its routine, aided by my little dog. I need things to look forward to. So, Thursdays sees my daughter shopping for me. The zest there is that we have decided that a chocolate éclair equates to a hug, so she buys two éclairs leaving them in my grocery for me to pass one of them onto the window sill, from which she can collect it. I

Our Prayer Group is now working as Prayer Partners, so that, at 10am on a Thursday when we should be meeting in the Quiet Room, instead one of us will phone our prayer partner and after talking about things, take it in turn to pray about what is important to us, and then say The Lord's Prayer together and it seems to be working quite well. Then on a Friday, the man from Wiltshire Farm Foods delivers some of my meals for the coming week.

I have been really blessed - my God-daughter Jodie and her children made me pictures of Rainbows for my window and my neighbour's too. Then, for VE Day, they made me some bunting for my window.

Now, some of us remember the first VE Day and someone has suggested that, eventually we have a VC day - Victory over Corvid 19 Day.,

Most people have been so good, protecting others and themselves. At Heath Court no one is allowed in the Resident's Lounge. No one who needed a cleaner was allowed to have one in - fortunately from this weekend that has been relaxed but cleaners have to wear mask, gloves and aprons and management needs to know which day and what time they are expected. We can only use the Laundry one at a time even though there are three washers and three dryers, but there is not room for people to self distance in the room. You might guess pre-covid, it was a really good place to meet and have a natter.

We have survived all these changes and have adapted. There have been such acts of kindness and cheery waves. The City Council set up Derby Direct to get groceries and prescriptions to those without someone to do this for them so that we could all stay safe. And within 12 hours, at least 15 people in Sinfin Moor had volunteered to help. That was lovely and just as it should be.

Thursday evenings at 8pm people have been out in our Car Park or leaning out of their windows to clap for carers. It has been lovely to see.

Things might have been so much quieter - we have had time to be quiet and just enjoy God's company, as well as time to just sit and read the newspaper or just knit or whatever else we feel like doing.

I often say, jokingly, that Retirement is the best job I've ever had - the hours are wonderful, the money is rubbish! Seriously though, this is a chance for us to rethink how we live our individual lives and community and even church lives. We shall never get this chance again. There is nothing in this life, good or bad, that God cannot use to teach us how to get into a better relationship with him - Jesus did all the hard work, shifting the rubbish of our sins and selfishness out of the way that can block that loving relationship God offers us. We can hear him speak in so many ways, a shout across a road, something we read or hear in the media. The channels are all open and now, with time to just sit and read our papers, or knit, or garden or dust, we can have the open relationship He has always wanted with us.

God bless and keep you always a blessing to others.

Eileen

Giving to good causes

We were able to give some money to Evelyn Jepson-George at the beginning of March to help with the visit she was planning to make to Ecuador. Her thank you note explains what she was going there for and be aware that she had to self-fund this herself which is why we gave her the money.

"Thank you and the church council for generous sponsorship of £500 that I received at the weekend.

I felt incredibly privileged to have your support and I will work my hardest to help the environment, wildlife and communities in Ecuador whilst I am there.

Camps International have advised that this will be postponed for a year but hopefully though, I will be able to share my experience with you all upon my return next year.

Thank you again for your generosity, thoughts and prayers,

Evelyn"

ED's note: Our very best wishes go with Evelyn when she is finally able to make this trip. If you know of a good cause, preferably Christian based but it does not have to be, please let one of the Stewards or Church Council know and it will be considered.

Building Works Fund (BWF)

Apart from gaining a little interest (about £5.75 a month) nothing has happened to our BWF. We can tell you that it stands at £11,700 at this time.



If you have envelopes for the period the Church has been closed, please do consider putting your money in and placing it in the offering basket.

Importantly, the same applies to our normal weekly offering because, as the name 'Weekly' implies, we hope you will put your money in the appointed envelope every week and put them in the offering basket when you next come to Church, whenever that is.

The new normal offering envelopes which began in April will accompany this Newsletter for some of you.

50th Church Anniversary

We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in September 2020 come what may, whether we will be able to celebrate the fact properly remains to be seen.



We were able to celebrate our first event on Saturday 14th March when we held our Safari Meal. This was held at the Church because of the Covid-19 situation and was attended by about 16 people and they all survived the experience.

We had a 3 course meal with starters provided by Chris and Julie Froggatt, the main course was courtesy of Melanie Sant and bringing up the with desserts was Gill Priestley. All those that attended certainly had their fill and a very pleasant time was had.

Thanks to Chris, Julie, Melanie and Gill for providing for us so well and to those who attended.

Obituary

It is with sadness we have to tell you of the death of one of our founding members, John Swinburn. John died on Monday 23rd March 2020 aged about 86 years though he has suffered from dementia for the past few years. John served the Church in those early years in many roles and was certainly Church Secretary for a long while. He and his family moved to Taunton along time ago so there are probably only a few of us left who remember him and the sterling work he did. Please remember his wife Wendy, Helen and the family in your prayers.

Annual General Meeting

Although this took place over 2 months ago (15th March to be precise) we have not been able to report on it due to our Church being closed.

27 stayed (with 5 apologies received) for the meeting which was chaired by Melanie Sant, one of our Stewards.

We had annual reports from all but one of the groups we had requested and it was encouraging know well most of them were doing.

The Stewards and Church Council were thanked for work since the last AGM in 2019.

One important event noted was the change to the Live at Home Group who morphed into the Sinfin Moor Church Friendship Club, a group wholly supported by the Church and no longer part of the Methodist Live at Home Scheme. They now have their own constitution and organising committee and are thriving again.

The Treasurer's Report and SOFA were accepted without comment.

Wendy Roe submitted the 2020 Electoral Roll, the new list is on the notice board which you can check when the building is open.

Our elections took place and below are those appointed:

Church Secretary: Julie Froggatt.

Church Treasurer (for 2021): Ian Sant.

Church Stewards: Julie Froggatt
Amanda Jenkins.
Margaret Platt.
Wendy Roe
Ian Sant.
Melanie Sant.

Church Council: John Archer.
Colin Attenborough
Eve Dudden
Ivan Vickerstaff.
Melvin Worton

Derby Anglican Deanery: Wendy Roe.
Ian Sant.

Methodist Circuit Meeting - No nominations although Ian Sant attends as Treasurer.

URC Synod - No nominations - Ian Sant receives the papers.

Churches Together for Derbyshire: Wendy Roe.
Ian Sant.

South Derbyshire Association of United Reformed Churches:

Ian Sant. Note that Ian Sant is the Administrator for the Association.

Names were added to a number of positions including Inspector of Accounts, Room Bookings, Christian Aid, Gift Aid, Safeguarding and Electoral Roll Officer.

Special thanks were offered to those retiring from a number of positions and the meeting finished within the expected hour.

Our next AGM is planned for Sunday 21st March 2021..

The minutes will be reviewed by the Church Council when they are able to meet although a copy can be had by any member of our congregation. If you want a copy, please speak to a Steward. They will be formally approved at our 2021 AGM as normal.

What's been happening?

You will aware that our building has, to all intents and purposes, been closed since the middle of March.

We have kept an eye on the building throughout, both externally and internally to make sure that nothing untoward has happened and so far, all is well.

Whilst it has been quiet, we have had the flooring replaced in the Activity Room and next week (beginning on the 8th) the main corridor from the bottom entrance door to the swing doors, and also the corridor by the Boiler Room flooring will be replaced. This was one of the recommendations in the last Quinquennial Report that was done. By its very name, this a report that has to be done by a qualified person on the state of the building every 5 years.

By the time you read this, work will have started on painting the Kitchen, Corridor (by the Boiler Room) and the Activity Room.

Currently we are getting quotes to replace the last of the wooden windows and doors on the north side and rear of the building. We are planning to 'brick-up' the other windows at the rear to increase security.

Much work has been done to bring a couple of important documents up-to-date. The first being the Church Terrier and Inventory which lists the physical assets of the Church. Secondly, we have brought up-to-date our Log Book which records all the repairs, coming and goings of items (e.g. chairs) and also where we have disposed of items.

We are not yet sure when the building will be able to be opened again or what we will have to do to it to enable that to happen. We are receiving advise from the Diocese since we operate in an Anglican building.

Church Weekend

This is planned for September and we are not sure if it will be able to happen in the current situation..

We are waiting to see how it develops and if the Hayes contact us with any information we will let those planning to attend know as quickly as we are able,

Derby Methodist Circuit Superintendent

Rev'd Jenny Dyer, the Circuit Superintendent, is due to finish in August to move to a new Circuit in Stoke-on-Trent. We have been asked to consider making a donation to a farewell gift and this matter will be dealt with by the Church Council in the normal way.

If anyone wants to make their own particular contribution, please speak to our Church Treasurer who will give you the necessary details.

It is difficult to know whether the planned Farewell Service on 24th July will take place for Jenny unless the restrictions for worship are lifted in good time. If this happens we will let you know.

The 'new' Circuit Superintendent Minister is to be Rev'd Colin Emerson who is the Minister for Borrowash, Draycott and Spondon. It is hoped his appointment will be for 5 years although this has yet to confirmed.



Sinfin Moor Church Prayers

*"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6 v 18 NIV)*

Please pray for (in no particular order of importance):

- Rev'd Raymond Lunt following the death of his wife Gwen on Friday (29th May) evening. Our thoughts and prayers reach out to Raymond and his family at this time.
- the SMC Inter-regnum (vacancy), and the ongoing work to identify a suitable person to provide dynamic ministry to SMC.
- the Church congregation keeping safe, especially those not well and those we know who have upcoming operations and appointments.
- ways to keep our relationship with Jesus alive and functional during these unprecedented times.
- the church as a whole that it will find new ways to reach out to those who don't yet know Jesus.
- For the health and wellbeing of all those living on their own.
- new ideas to bring unity between our churches.
- Mark Winstanley (Linda Martin's brother) who has had chemotherapy and radiotherapy.
- Melvin Worton as he continues his treatment, and Jacqueline as she supports him.
- Vincent Martin - as he receives treatment, and Linda as she supports him.
- Brian Shaw - who has shingles, once recovered he is then to have a heart operation, pray for Wendy at this time.
- Kath Nelson (Eve Dudden's sister) who has been in hospital and diagnosed with cancer; also for Keith, her husband who is now looking after her at home.
- Philip Brown (Great Nephew of Ellen Treece) is now stable continues to give thanks for his progress.
- Richard Dockray (David & Verity's son) who is at Bible College continuing his studies and his gardening work.
- Nathan, Michelle, Lily and Ella Sant as they continue in Zimbabwe where there is a lockdown but also water shortages.
- those who have lost a loved one as a result of Covid-19.
- NHS Staff, Carers and others who have performed such heroics in caring during the pandemic.
- all the groups and organisations who use our building that they will be able to continue to meet when the pandemic is over.
- the Monday Morning Prayers, Fellowship and coffee in the Welcome Area when it is able to resume.
- the SMC Youth Council when it is able to resume.
- the group planning our 50th Anniversary celebrations this year, that they may be successful whenever the celebrations can take place.

Contact Details

It has become apparent how difficult it can be sometimes to keep in contact. As a Church we are fortunate to have our Church contacts but we have discovered as we prepare to send out this Newsletter, that we only have a relatively small number of email addresses for people.

Those of you who receive an electronic copy of this Newsletter will know that we do have your email address otherwise you wont be reading this. Those of you who have received a paper copy of the Newsletter will realise we do NOT have your email (assuming you have one). If you want to be on our mailing list, please let Ian Sant have your email address for future reference. Thank you.

Gift Day 2019 (yes that is the right year)

Technically this should have closed on 31st March 2020 but with not having any Services for the last two weeks of March, there has been no possibility for the final contributions to be made. If you still plan to give will you please do so when we are able to worship together again. Once it has closed, we can tell you the final amount you have given.

In the meantime, you will have read that we have spent what money has been given (and more besides) to put a new floor down in the Activity Room.

Christian Aid

You will be aware that Christian Aid Week has come and gone and we, as a Church could not participate because we are closed.

When we are able to worship together again, we will arrange for Christian Aid envelopes to be made available so that if you want to make a donation you can.

We will get the Church Council to consider a response as well.



SMC Financial Situation (the Treasurer)

It is now 2½ months (and counting) since we had any money coming in from our Church Services, it may have crossed your mind how we are fairing.

Our only source of income has come from a number of people in our congregation who make their offering directly through the bank account every month and this has been a really great help. In fact, as the as lockdown happened, I was contacted by one family for our bank details so they could start giving in this way. Thanks to them for being so aware.

Our monthly outgoings at this time is over £1,200 a week and this has not reduced at all. To ensure our bills are paid, I am transferring money from our Reserve Fund to help out. You will realise that this is why it is important to have money put away in such a fund so that we can call upon it when the need arises. I doubt if anyone would have foreseen this current situation as reason.



Newsletter

It is hoped you have enjoyed receiving a Newsletter again.

The style and size of this edition is completely different to what we normally do, and we have done that on purpose.

What do you think of it?

Do you prefer this in A4 size or do you like the A5 booklet better?

If you have an opinion, please let me know.

Ian Sant

CHURCH MINISTER AND CONTACT DETAILS 2020/21

Minister*	Vacancy	
Secretary*	Julie Froggatt	722222
Stewards*	Julie Froggatt Margaret Platt Ian Sant	Amanda Jenkins Wendy Roe Melanie Sant
Church Council	John Archer Eve Dudden Ivan Vickerstaff	Colin Attenborough Vincent Martin Melvin Worton
Safeguarding	Julie Froggatt	722222
Room Bookings	Melanie Sant	721927
Webmaster	Vincent Martin	728295
Welcome Centre		
Manager	Wendy Roe	762664
Prayer		
Co-Ordinator	Eileen Bangay (Acting)	
Newsletter Editor	Ian Sant	721927 (ian.sant@ntlworld.com)

- denotes members of the Church Council along with the Treasurer.

Since our building is, to all intents and purposes closed, we have not published the contact details for our User Groups.

Just to cheer you up, we thought we would share these with you. They are actual things that have appeared in Church bulletins!

Smile Smile Smile Smile

Tuesday at 4pm there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in church basement Saturday.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Thursday at 5pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be 'Little Mothers' will meet with the pastor in his study.

Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Wednesday the ladies liturgy will meet. Mrs Johnson will sing 'Put Me In My Little Bed' accompanied by the pastor.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.