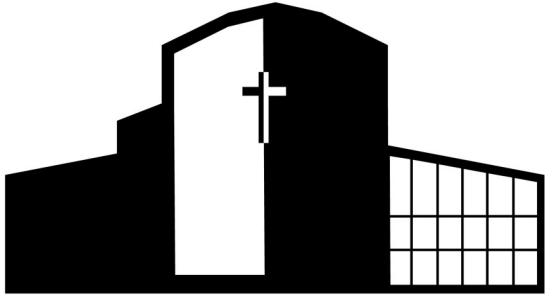


Sinfin Moor Church

A Local Ecumenical Partnership serving Sinfin Moor and Stenson Fields

Arleston Lane, Sinfin Moor, Derby DE24 3DH



SINFIN MOOR CHURCH

February Newsletter

(Published on Sunday 7th February 2021)

Find us at: www.sinfinmoorchurch.org.uk

or www.facebook.com/sinfinmoorchurch

Welcome and Introduction from the Editor

Here we are in February and still we are unable to meet as a Church.

From what we hear via the grapevine, there is a really good number of our Church family received their first vaccine, this means that as we get further into the month, each person will have achieved more than 50% immunity.

That does not mean we can behave differently because we are still in a lockdown introduced by the Government.

So you may start to ask yourself, when can we have communal worship at our Church again. The answer, as you would expect is, we don't know, but certainly as February moves on, the Stewards will think more about it, and when a decision is made, we will notify you in much the same way as we did when we decided to close.

You will realise by now that with so little going on at our Church, there are no events to tell you about or anything like that. The intention is with this issue of the Newsletter is just to keep contact, show that we are thinking of you and that things are happening behind the scenes and generally to keep you informed.

This month our message is brought to you by Nathan Sant writing from his home in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. At the editor's request, he tells us a little about life there during these difficult times.

We bring you details about where our Christmas offering went and how helpful it has been.

We tell you about our 2020 income from the Gift Aid Scheme and also about the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) for which we have now become eligible for.

The Building Works Fund is brought up to date for you.

We asked Vincent Martin to let us know how he is progressing with his treatment and he's been kind enough to provide that.

The Church Treasurer tells us about how we are fairing financially in these COVID-19 times, so there is no need for the rest of us to worry about such things, although there is no doubt some of you do.

We bring you our Prayer Diary in the hope and belief that our corporate prayer will help those on our list. Please pay particular attention to note at the bottom of page.

The rest of the Newsletter is the normal so we do hope you enjoy it.

The Message by Pastor Nathan Sant

Hello from Zimbabwe

This message may be a little different from what you are used to. I know several people have asked what it's like down here, so we thought we would let you know.

Currently Zimbabwe is in another (if not perpetual) downturn, our economy is in tatters, and so is most of our infrastructure. The government are trying to pull us out of the slump, but after years of mismanagement and corruption, the country is in dire straits. We do have our own currency (ZWL) and, at the time of writing, the exchange rate is about 82ZWL to \$1US dollar. This sounds good, however, this is only at the bank rate. We have a black market that runs at over \$120ZWL to \$1USD which in turn means that most shops and businesses have to change their prices on a regular basis as we import nearly all of our goods, this is due to the infrastructure of our economy being so bad that we don't produce much.

With all of this going on we have also started to use US dollars as a sort of unofficial currency as they hold their value more. This has meant that goods are available as "normal" but they come at a higher price due to duties and any other costs that are occurred through the border. The big problem with all of this is that your average Zimbabwean is paid in ZWL and can't afford to buy the USD in order to get the normal goods, so they are stuck having to "make a plan" in order to get what they need. It gets very confusing and very infuriating as there are several businesses that are taking advantage of innocent people with the exchange rate, all to make a quick buck or two.

We also have problems with our municipal water and our electricity. Up until recently, the whole of Bulawayo has been on water rationing due to a combination of low water levels in our dams, and poor management of pumping equipment/infrastructure. This meant that all residential areas were only getting running water one day a week - if they were lucky!

We are incredibly fortunate, as we have a borehole which is connected into the house, however the high density living areas are not so fortunate. This has meant a rise in water borne viruses like Cholera and Dysentery; it has also not helped with the spread of COVID as people cannot keep themselves clean on current water rations.

Electricity has been a problem recently because people are stealing the copper cables, which they then sell in order to get money for food. (We are currently in a Lockdown to combat COVID-19 which has put many people in a desperate situation as most Zimbabweans live hand to mouth.) This has meant that we have had regular power cuts and again we have been fortunate as we have a generator, however many Zimbabweans are not as fortunate.

I do apologise if this is all very depressing, but this country has been poorly managed and has been ravaged by corruption for 40-plus years which has meant that our roads, healthcare, water, electricity, manufacturing, farming and businesses are all antiquated and in some cases dilapidated.

But...

There is another side to Zimbabwe which is absolutely incredible and amazing. The people of Zimbabwe are the most hard working, resourceful and entrepreneurial people I think there are in the world today. They have managed to survive for the last 30 plus years, of

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

destruction and collapse, through making a plan... like I said earlier no water - we drill a borehole, no electricity - we get a generator, no food - we start up a shop selling imported food. Add to this all of the entrepreneurial businesses that have opened up - small grocery stands on every street corner, clothes being sold out of the back of cars, borehole water distribution, shoe repairs under the trees... anything to make money in order to live. It truly is an incredible place for ingenuity and testimony of survival.

Zimbabwe is also an incredibly beautiful place to live in. thirty minutes from Bulawayo is a granite wilderness called the Matopos National Park. This is where Cecil Rhodes himself is buried, and it is quite simply stunning. There are waterfalls and natural rock slides (when it rains), there are dams and many picnic places to sit and enjoy the beauty and tranquility. The Matopos also has rock paintings that are hundreds of years old and it's own game park where you can see rhino, giraffe, zebra and many other plains game.

Matopos is one of several game parks/conservation areas within Zimbabwe. Our largest, Hwange National Park is the same size of Belgium, and is about two and a half hours drive from Bulawayo. It is an amazing unspoilt wilderness area. We try to get to Hwange as often as we can as it truly is a special place. On previous visits we have seen a herd of about 500 elephant, we have seen lion, leopard, painted wolf, hippo., giraffe, buffalo and many, many more animals. It is absolutely stunning.

Three hours north of Hwange national park is the majestic Victoria Falls. This is another stunning place to visit as the river Zambezi crashes over a cliff and down into a ravine. The 'Falls' have become a bit of a resort in Zimbabwe, with several hotels and tourist attractions. You can bungee jump off of the bridge (111m high), go whitewater rafting, Walk with lions, elephants, back safari, play golf on a PGA golf course and many more exciting things.

From a faith point of view, Zimbabwe is a Christian country.

As a family, we are involved with a church called Revival Centre. Nathan is an elder on the leadership and also their youth pastor. He is also Spiritual advisor and trustee of a non profit high school called the Ark of Hope. Michelle is the Children's and Families Ministry Leader for Revival Centre, and she also runs the Year 1-4 'Time With Jesus' at Lily and Ella's junior school.

So there you have it, that is what it is like to live in Zimbabwe at the moment. Although it is tough in some parts, there are many good things that outweigh the hardships.

Thank you so much for all of your love prayers and generosity towards us. We love and appreciate you all.

Blessings

Nathan (The Sub Saharan Sants)

Christmas Offering

It is our practice to give away the offering we receive at the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion Service and the Christmas Day Morning Service.

It is fair to say that our two 2020 Services were not as well attended as in previous years and this may well be because of Covid-19 situation and the fact that people were staying at home.

Despite there being smaller numbers attending, those that came were most generous and we have been able to give just over £100 each to the 1st Sinfin Guides and the Sinfin Brownies, both of which use our building under normal circumstances.

The reason we chose them is that their respective Associations have required them to pay their annual subscriptions despite the fact that for most of the year 2020, they have been unable to meet and therefore, have had virtually no income.

Gift Aid and GASDS

Many of you will know that for many years we have been able to claim back the income tax paid by the folk in our Church on the money they have given to the Church as part of the formal Gift Aid Scheme. We have already received over £4,000 from the Inland Revenue for 2020.

We submitted our claim for the year 2020 just after the start of 2021 and received it in the bank account about 5 days later. The benefits of modern banking systems.

There is now a new scheme (well, new to us) that we are part of called the **Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme** which is referred to as **GASDS**. This scheme allows us to claim back the income tax on other gifts to the Church of less than £30. The maximum amount we can get from this is £2,000 a year which is based on a donations total of £8,000. The good thing about this is that we don't need any you (the congregation) to do anything, we just have to keep records of money given. We have just received just over £1,700 from this which has helped because our normal Gift Aid is reduced due to us not receiving as much in 2020 from our offerings.

This income so early in January will definitely help our cash flow whilst we are closed and have no money coming in for Sunday offerings, or rent from our user groups. We are fortunate that we have a good number people that pay their offering straight into our bank account and this has also been a great help during the various lockdowns.

If you want to know any more about all of this, you can always talk to our Church Treasurer who will be able to explain to you any more details you may want to know.

Of course we would not normally go in to so much detail about this but we really trying to keep you up to date with things also fill the Newsletter!

Building Works Fund (BWF)

As you would expect, this fund has not progressed much at all in January due to the latest closure of the building. The precise amount in the account is £14,854.17 which includes the money from the service held on 3rd January plus a cheque I have received. Money from this is allocated for the additional work to replace the final wooden doors and windows on the north and east sides of the building.

Introduction by the Editor

I had some correspondence with Vince Martin during January and I took the opportunity to ask him, if he felt up to it, to write a little piece about how he is doing and his treatment, below please find that update.

Treatment for Multiple Myeloma

Dear friends,

The journey continues with the treatment for my Myeloma. It has so far proven resistant to the ranges of chemotherapy that I have been receiving.

The recent plan was for me to have a stem cell transplant using my own cells again followed by a donor transplant. This would hopefully be a way of keeping the levels down, although it is no guarantee.

The Myeloma I have seems to be particularly aggressive, and it has been very difficult to get it under control. Unfortunately over Christmas the levels of the paraprotein (which the hospital monitor) began to rise again, meaning that I'm unable to have the transplant until they are extremely low, something that is proving to be a bit of a challenge.

I am due to start another round of chemotherapy using a drug that has never been used in Derby before called Belantamab. It is extremely toxic and most side effects reported in clinical trials centre around patients eyes, particularly the cornea, which is a bit of a concern. It is one of the only other options left I'm sorry to say, but the consultants and my hospital team seem confident that it should help.

So given the situation we've stopped thinking about future treatments and are just currently focusing on the now, and taking each day as it comes. I'm okay in myself, and find incredible solace in prayer and the faith that God is supporting me on this journey. Linda and I are still shielding in order to make sure we are keeping safe.

I am so very grateful to you all for your prayers and words of encouragement, I really don't know what I'd do without them, and please believe me when I say how thankful I am. Your support means the world. We do hope to see you all again soon once the world returns to some normality, in the meantime, look after yourselves and please stay safe.

God bless you all

Vincent Martin

Our Treasurer Writes:

Our 2020 Accounts have been inspected and 'found' to be correct, and so they ready for approval by the Church Council, and then accepted at our AGM along with the Treasurer's Report for that year. As usual I am grateful to our Inspector of Accounts, Ray Forey for making sure that we are all correct.

You will have read on page 3 about our 2020 Gift Aid and the additional money through the GASDS which has meant we have received a little more for 2020 than we did the previous year. What this has provided is a good buffer of money in the account to deal with our normal everyday expenses during the closure.

You will have already read on page 3 about our Christmas Offerings to the 39th Derby Brownies and 1st Sinfin Guides which we hope will help them along. The Brownie Leader Helen Chesshire and Guide Leader Amanda Jenkins have both asked the we pass on their thanks and appreciation for money. Helen has told me that she is now on maternity leave, we pass on our best wishes for her forthcoming happy event this month.

In January we were also able to allocate the money from our 2020 giving to good causes and hopefully you will find something about that in the Newsletter. Money went to the Umbrella Group in Derby (which had been nominated through Doreen Hickman by her grandson James Brown and her daughter Claire Woolley) and also the Ark of Hope in Zimbabwe.

I received a phone call from The Umbrella Group to say thank you for the generous donation as soon as they had opened the envelope. They have promised a formal letter of thanks but this has not yet arrived.

We received a letter of thanks from Milly Black, Principal of the Ark of Hope School in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe saying:

Dear Sinfin Moor Church

Thank you so much for your very kind donation of £500 towards plumbing our borehole into the school. Without your donation we would not have been able to take on this very important project. As you know water is incredibly important during these unprecedented times, unfortunately our municipality do not have the resources to keep a constant supply of water flowing to residential areas. This means we only get one day of water a week, if we are lucky. Your donation has ensured that we can keep a healthy and safe environment for our staff and students regardless of whether we have municipal water or not.

We managed to change your donation into US Dollars at a rate of \$1.37 to the pound. That means that your total donation came to \$686USD.

Again, thank you so much for your constant kindness and generosity towards our school, we really do appreciate you.

Yours sincerely

Milly Black

Principal of The Ark of Hope

If you would like to see a copy of the original letter, please let me know. It is truly amazing how far how our donations go in Zimbabwe and the impact our Church is having out there.

Ian Sant

Church Flowers for 2021

We will take this opportunity to thank all those who have sponsored the Church during the very strange year of 2020 when we have not been able to meet as often as we would have liked to.

The list to sponsor the Church flowers (thank you Doreen) in 2021 is in place on the Welcome Area notice board for you to put your name on the appropriate date.

Church flowers in February were unsurprisingly not sponsored.

Annual General Meeting

This is currently planned for 21st March after the Morning Service. We do not know yet if we will have a Morning Service on that date let alone hold the AGM!!

That said, we plan to have as much in place ready for when we can hold this important event in the life of our Church.

We hope to have the Annual Reports available by the 7th March, if you want a copy you will have to let us know. Please let Ian Sant know, by email (ian.sant@ntlworld.com) or phone (Derby 721927) indicating if you want an electronic copy or a paper copy. The paper copies will be distributed with the Newsletter assuming that our Morning Worship has NOT resumed by then.

We do not have to make a new Electoral Roll this year but it does have to be displayed and can be amended in line with the rules of the Church of England.

Derby Bible Week

Advance notice of the Derby Bible Week event for 2021 where, God willing, we will have Rupert Bentley-Taylor speaking from 1 Kings 18 & 19 on the very relevant subject of:

Faith in the darkest times

As you know we had to cancel last year's Derby Bible Week because of the pandemic; this year we are planning to hold the event on-line with the meetings being 'premiered' each evening at 7:30 pm, from Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd, April. There will also be the facility for people to view later. An electronic copy of the publicity flyer is attached which contains further details of the event. Derby Bible Week is affiliated to Keswick Ministries. Further details of how to access the event will be available nearer the time.

Minister Vacancy

We have had no contact from the Diocese on the vacancy and we can only assume the process is ongoing.

It has been said that we are a 'coping Church' well and it has to be said that at the moment we are doing well considering the circumstances.



Sinfin Moor Church Prayers

"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you , ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. (John 15 v 7)

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

- the SMC inter-regnum (vacancy), and the ongoing work to identify a suitable person to provide the right ministry to SMC.
- the Church congregation keeping safe, especially those not well, those we know who have upcoming operations and appointments and those awaiting test results.
- 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.
- Pat Hartland (Kath Crawford's sister) who continues to recuperate..
- Mark Winstanley who has now had a stent fitted. (Linda Martin's brother).
- Melvin Worton as he continues to improve, and Jacqueline as she supports him.
- Vincent Martin - having completed a highly-intensive treatment phase which is consisting of chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and Linda as she supports him.
- Emily (one of Amanda's older guides) who is now recovering. (See Guides report on page 4)
- The family of Jill Lomas from Blackfordby who passed away in Burton Hospital on 2nd January 2021 (family of Ivan and Barbara Vickerstaff).
- Brian Shaw - who is continues to recover after his heart operation, pray for Wendy too.
- Philip Brown (Great Nephew of Ellen Treece) is now stable, 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 their work in Zimbabwe.
- all the groups and organisations who use our building that they will be able to resume when restrictions allow.
- the Monday Morning Prayers, Fellowship and coffee in the Welcome Area , that it may resume when restrictions allow..
- the SMC Youth Council when it is able to resume.
- all the churches that have felt unable to reopen or find themselves with financial problems during this time.

Please remember to let Ian Sant know of any updates to these prayer requests.

Normal Weekly Meetings (Contact details below):

Monday	10.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prayer, Fellowship and Coffee Morning.
	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
Tuesday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cubs
	8.30 - 9.30 pm	Footlights Stage School Adult Fun Tap
Wednesday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Sinfin Moor Church Friendship Club
	6.00 - 7.30 pm	Brownies (Term Time)
	7.00 - 9.00 pm	Guides (Term time)
Thursday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	1.15 - 2.45 pm	Parent and Toddler Group (Term time)
	5.30 - 6.45 pm	Beavers (Term time)
	7.15 - 8.45 pm	Scouts (Term time)
Friday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	7.00 - 8.00 pm	Footlights Stage School - Ballet
Saturday	9.00 am - 3.00 pm	Footlights Stage School (various classes)

Contact Details

Asian Men Mr Pabla (07845 891442)
Over 60's Group Monday to Friday from 1.00 ~ 5.00 pm.

Footlights Stage School Faye Elliott (07779 665181)
 Anne George (01332 721108)

Various types of dancing classes, for all ages and abilities in the Middle and Back Bays, all day on Saturday and on Tuesday/Friday evenings. See the bottom of previous page for further details.

SMC Friendship Club Eirlys Smith (TBA)
 Wednesday afternoon in the Middle Bay from 2.00 ~ 4.00 pm

Brownies Fran Dolby (39thderby@gmail.com)
 Wednesday in the Back Bay from 6.00 ~ 7.30 pm

Guides Amanda Jenkins (01332 754770)
 Meet on Wednesday in the Middle Bay from 7.00 ~ 9.00 pm

Parent and Toddler Group Sarah Liddle (07468 423807)
 Thursday in the Back and Middle Bays from 1.15 ~ 2.45 pm

Scouts Matt Baker E-mail Scouts119Derby@outlook.com
 Thursday in the Back Bay from 7.15 ~ 8.45 pm

Cubs (Nelson Pack) Sam Reynolds E-mail Cubs119Derby@outlook.com
 Tuesday in the Back Bay from 6.30 ~ 8.00 pm

Beavers Lesley Holmes (01332 768581)
 Thursday in the Back Bay from 5.30 ~ 6.45 pm

Livewell Kellie Townes (01332 641254 or livewell@derby.gov.uk)
 Monday in the Back Bay from 5.00 ~ 7.00 pm.

Free support with losing weight and healthy lifestyle changes for those register with a Derby City GP practice.

Please advise the Editor if there are any changes.

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
Acting Prayer Co-Ordinator	Rev'd Eileen Bangay	
Newsletter Editor	Ian Sant	721927 (ian.sant@ntlworld.com)

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

We rather liked the one below about face masks and condensation, if you normally wear spectacles you will know exactly where that is coming from. Just space for four of the usual humorous Christian one-liners. We smiled most about Bertha!



The missionary from Africa speaking at Calvary Memorial Church is:
Name: Bertha Belch.
Announcement: "Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa."

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

Eight new robes currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of several others.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24th October in the Church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Smile Smile Smile Smile