

The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday August 9th

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



God willing we hope at Rugby Road to a certain extent to gather together as the Lord's people. We pray that slowly we can get back to something like normal. We are aware that winter is on the horizon and a second surge of the virus may lead us once again to suspend our gathering together.

Paul says in Philippians 4v1.

Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

Paul longed to see his Philippian brothers and sisters. They were his 'joy and crown'. As a result of our union in Christ true brothers and sisters have a particular bond

The Greek word for 'longed for' is *epipothetoi*. It is a strong word that is found nowhere else in the New Testament. It speaks of an intense longing almost to the point of pain. A yearning with sincere affection. At this time it is touching as we see loved ones reunited after longing to see them again. But also so saddened when those who are dying can't see the ones they love because of the virus.

Paul loved the saints in Philippi and was longing for the joy of renewed fellowship but being in prison he was unable to fulfil that need.

With this lockdown, it has been right to obey the law of our nation in not having services in our Church. We are to cooperate with those authority figures and obey the local and national laws of the land, within the boundaries of God's laws (1 Pet. 2:13-14). We are to pray for those in authority as long as it does not go against our obedience to God and His word. I know the intense pressure that has been put on our government through Church leaders, including John Stevens of the FIEC, asking them to loosen the lockdown as soon as it was safe to do so.

Here in Rugby Road we are grateful to Graham as he has organised many things, including the risk assessment, so meetings can begin to get underway.

John MacArthur is the Pastor teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley California. The government in the state of California has ordered all churches in the state to close down their services and meetings because of the Corona virus. Grace Church although at the beginning closed its doors has now gradually reopened and the Elders of the Church have respectively informed the government of their decision. Although I personally disagree with the decision we must remember there are huge differences between the USA and the UK and the different political pressures governments are under before we jump to too many conclusions.

I have also have great respect for him as a bible teacher as through his Commentaries and books I have been truly blessed. I do believe that part of what is behind this is a deep yearning for Brothers and Sisters in Christ to gather together just as the writer to the Hebrews reminds the people to do.

In MacArthur's commentary on Philippians 4v1 He majors on the word 'longed for' in the NKJV. He translates it as 'a deep pain of separation from loved ones.'

Paul goes on to say that he does not derive his joy from circumstances as he is in prison but his joy is for the fellow believers in the Church in Philippi. With these things there is always a balance.

John Stott was one of many who said;

'Every heresy is due to an overemphasis upon some truth without allowing other truths to qualify and balance it.' (Between two worlds. John Stott)

On the one hand we have a responsibility to our government and to our neighbours. We must balance that for the need for the Lord's people to gather.

'Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another and all the more as we see the Day approaching.' Hebrews 10v25.

It must be remembered that the writer to the Hebrews was writing to the Church, particularly in Jerusalem, in difficult times under persecution. As in many countries where Christians face persecution today it is very dangerous for Christians to worship together but they do. This time is different, we are not prevented because the government does not like us, but because of concerns of spreading the virus. But now it is believed that with strict limitations we can and at Rugby road we are taking those tentative steps. It is for each one of us to pray through this. The balance of the need to gather together as the Lord's people and loving our neighbour so as a Church we don't increase the Pandemic. That is why we must seek the Lord soberly. We shall at Rugby road continue to support those who believe it right to continue to 'stay at home' and we shall continue with the Corona Chronicle and now live streams so as many as possible in our fellowship can still 'gather together' as a fellowship.



If the magistrate for a greater good, (as the common safety,) forbid church assemblies in a time of pestilence, assault of enemies, or fire, or the like necessity, it is a duty to obey him.

1. Because positive duties give place to those great natural duties which are their end: so Christ justified Himself and His disciples violation of the external rest of the sabbath. "For the sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath."

2. Because affirmatives bind not 'ad semper,' and out-of-season duties become sins.

3. Because one Lord's day or assembly is not to be preferred before many, which by the omission of that one are like to be obtained.

Richard Baxter Puritan Pastor



We held the first of two Test Services last Sunday August 2nd. This was led by the Rev Jim Winter, did not include singing and lasted forty minutes.

Nine people attended the service all with face coverings, masks or visors, and suitably socially distancing. It is now mandatory for the face covering to be worn during the service.

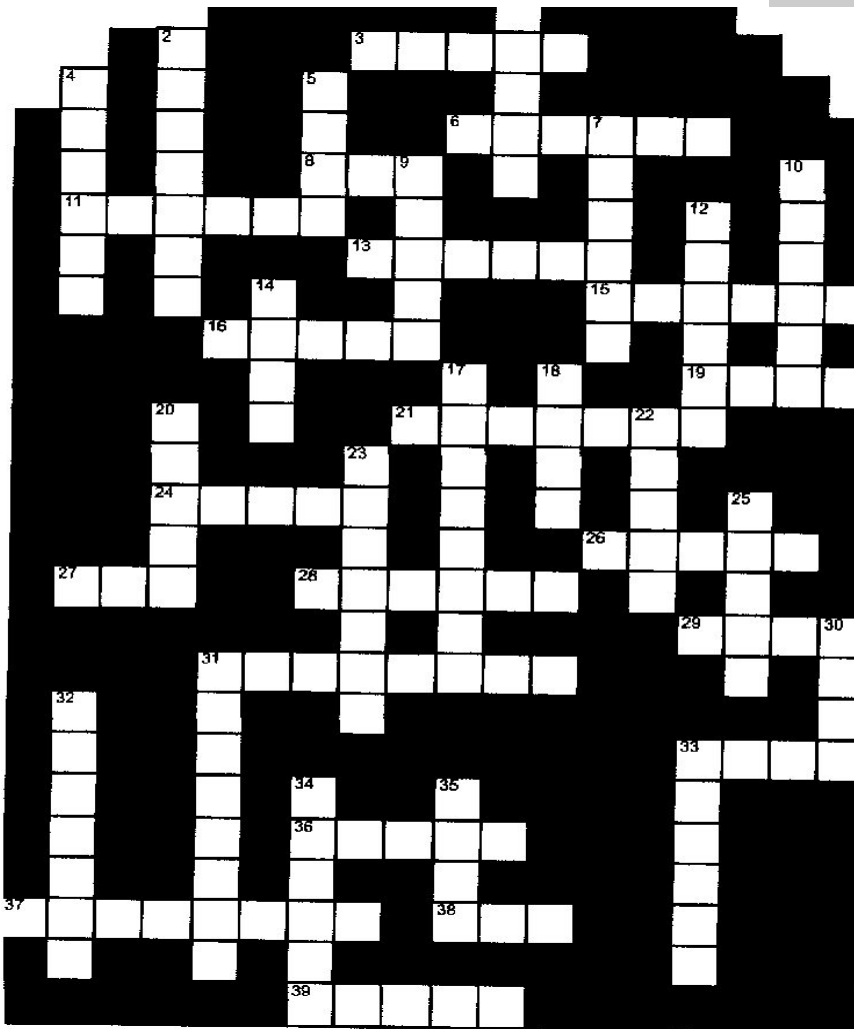
The Visors worked very well and we have a supply for the congregation to use, take home and reuse each Sunday.

Using my iPad we were able to do a live streamed service going out over the Internet. This was watched by about a dozen people.

We hope to get in place a permanent much improved system in September.

This Sunday 9th August is also a test service when Dennis is preaching.

Sunday August 16th is when our services will be open to everyone with the proviso that there is social distancing and face coverings used. Jim Winter will be our preacher on that day.



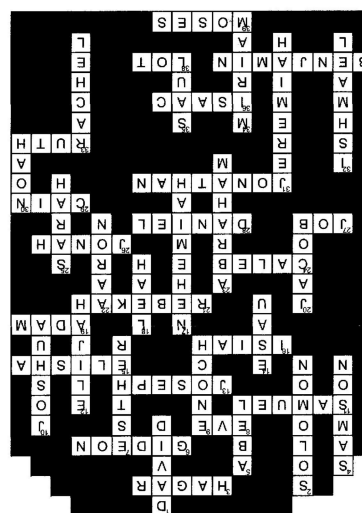
Down

1. A man after God's own heart; the second king of Israel
2. The wisest man who lived; the son of David and Bathsheba
4. He was commanded by God not to cut his hair
5. Son of Adam and Eve who was killed by his brother
7. Jewish queen of the Persian king Ahasuerus
9. He walked with God and was not for God took him.
10. The leader of the Israelites after Moses who led the people into the promised land
12. A prophet of God who was carried to heaven in a chariot of fire
14. Jacob's twin who sold his birthright
17. Cup bearer of the King of Persia, he rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem
18. Jacob's first wife and Rachel's older sister
20. He tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing instead of his oldest son
22. Moses' brother and spokesman
23. Father of the Israel nation
25. Wife of Abraham and mother of Isaac
30. God had him build an ark to save his family from the flood
31. The weeping prophet
32. The son of Hagar and Abraham
33. Jacob worked fourteen years for Laban to marry her
34. Moses and Aaron's sister
35. The first king of Israel

Across

3. Mother of Ishmael, called God "The One Who Sees"
6. A judge of Israel from the tribe of Manasseh who set out a fleece before God to confirm His instruction
8. First woman
11. A prophet and judge; Hannah's son
13. His father made him a coat of many colors
15. A prophet of God who picked up Elijah's mantle
16. A prophet who lived in the 8th century Kingdom of Judah and who prophesied the birth of Christ
19. First man
21. Wife of Isaac, mother of Jacob and Esau
24. One of the twelve spies sent into Canaan; one of the two spies who returned confident in God
26. An unwilling prophet who was swallowed up by a great fish
27. A good man who God allowed to be tested
28. He survived a den of lions
29. Son of Adam and Eve who killed his brother
31. Saul's son and David's friend
33. The Moabite who married Boaz
36. The son of Sarah and Abraham; the child of promise
37. Rachel and Israel's youngest child
38. His wife turned into a pillar of salt
39. God used him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt

Answers



Hymns, Prayers and Bible Readings.

Psalm 95 Call to Worship

1 Come, sing praises to the Lord above,
Rock of our salvation, Lord of love;
With delight into God's presence move,
For the Lord our God is king!

*God is king above the mountains high,
The ocean deep, the land and sky;
Mighty continents and islands lie
Within the hollow of God's hand.*

2 Come to worship Him and bow the knee,
Praise our shepherd with humility;
Humble creatures in His hand are we
Sing the praise of God the king!

God is king ...

3 Hear the story of God's people now,
You with stubborn hearts who will not bow;
Learn what happened long ago and how
God can show you who is king!

God is king ...

4 Forty years God kept the prize away,
made them wander till they would obey,
exiled all of them until the day
they would honour him as king!

God is king ...

After Venite, Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)
© Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns

Bible Reading Philippians 317-4v1 NKJV

Our Citizenship in Heaven

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

4v1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

PRAYER

Lord, we cannot ask for healing if we do not admit that we are sick. We cannot ask to be made whole if we do not admit that we are broken. We cannot worship with our whole lives if You are not Lord of our lives.

We confess that we have sinned against You in the way we speak to each other and about each other; in the way we respond and do not respond to You; in the way we act and the way we live.

In You, Lord, is our forgiveness, hope and healing. Forgive us we pray. Come into our midst and grant us peace beyond understanding; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Michael Saward

GIVING GOD THE GLORY

From Revelation 15

Great and marvellous are Your deeds,
Lord God almighty;

Just and true are Your ways,
King of the ages.

Who will not fear You, O Lord,
And bring glory to Your name?

For You alone are holy;

All nations will come and worship before You,
For Your righteousness has been revealed. Amen.

PRAYING FOR OURSELVES FOR HOLINESS

From Isaiah 35

Lord God,

Lead us in the way of holiness,

Cleanse us for our journey,

And teach us to be wise;

Guard Your redeemed,

Crown Your ransomed ones

With everlasting joy;

Let sorrow and sighing flee away

And gladness overtake us;

In Jesus Christ our saviour. Amen.

GOING OUT FROM WORSHIP

From Revelation 22

He who is the first and the last, the beginning and the end says, 'I am coming soon!' The Spirit and the bride say: come!

Jesus says, 'Yes, I am coming soon!':

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.