

Saint James' Church

Accrington

With

Saint Clement's

Green Haworth

News Sheet

April 2020

Serving our Community

Dear friends,

It is so strange not to have regular Sunday worship now, but the danger of passing the Covid-19 virus around is so great that around the world churches have made the decision to suspend public worship services.

However, we also recognise that the church is not about the buildings but the people who gather there. So the church is not ‘closed’, rather it is being forced into thinking much more about the importance of praying as individuals and as families, and being active in serving the community around us.

Naturally many people are reaching out to offer help to their neighbours, and that is absolutely brilliant. But as Christians we have something more we can offer. We can give peace of mind and heart, we can give hope and we can help others receive the gift of new life in Jesus.

When we know the love of God for us we have peace within, as ‘perfect love drives out fear’ (1 John 4:18). Many people are very fearful just now. Knowing the one who holds the future is a great antidote to fear. For the Christian there is no longer the fear of death for we know that Jesus died to put an end to death, and rose again to give us the hope and the promise of new life beyond the grave.

So when you are shopping for others, or running errands, or calling them to see how they are doing, make sure you spend some time praying for them too – praying for them to know the love of Jesus in their lives and having his peace in their hearts. You could slip a card with a Bible verse into their shopping to let them know you are thinking about them. Even if you are stuck at home you can spend some time praying for people around you, and those who are helping you by doing your shopping.

“So let us learn how to serve, and in our lives enthrone him, each other’s needs to prefer, for it is Christ we’re serving. This is our God, the servant King, who calls us now to follow him, we bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to the Servant King.” (Graham Kendrick)

Your friend and Vicar
Ian

Announcement

This announcement was released on 20th March 2020

“The patrons of the parish of Congleton are delighted to announce that Revd Ian Enticott currently Vicar of Accrington St James and St Paul and Priest in Charge of Accrington Christ Church has been appointed as Rector of Congleton. This is subject to all legal formalities being fulfilled. There is currently no date fixed for the induction and there will be further information on this in due course.”

I know this will come as a shock to many of you. I have really valued being the Vicar of the United Benefice and we have made some long-lasting friendships here. This announcement was originally planned to be released on Mothering Sunday, but events in the country meant that it had to be released online instead, so apologies if this is the first time you have heard it!

I am still serving in the parishes here for the time being and expect to be here until at least July. Without Sunday services it is difficult to communicate with everybody. If you are online, you can find out what is happening at church on the acny pages:

St James: www.acny.org.uk/11418

St Clement's: www.acny.org.uk/11419

or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesaccrington/>

The church is now closed for all activities. But there are Digital Resources available online: <https://bit.ly/CVdigi2020> and I would like anyone who can to join in praying at 9.00 a.m. on Monday to Friday mornings and watch the weekly video I am posting on the above websites. To keep some sense of normality we could watch it at 10.15 a.m. on a Sunday.

The Food Bank currently remains open and we still need donations of food. If you are mobile then they can be left at the Vicarage door in the plastic box you will find there. Alternatively you can phone Ian and Fiona on 01254 433590 or text 07510 248359 to arrange collection.

Equally, if you are in need of help or just someone to chat to then please phone on this number. I will be writing to all members of the electoral roll shortly with further information.

Blessings. Ian Enticott