

Join our Pentecost Mission service 'live' online at 10.00 am

Find us on: <https://tinyurl.com/warehamchurches> or search on YouTube for Wareham Church Family. If you do not have access to the Internet, then you can dial 01202 078008. After a brief automated greeting and a pause, you will start to hear this Sunday's service.

Sadly, we are not able to meet together to celebrate our special Mission event, but in addition to the service, let us bring you here the latest thinking and news about this key activity in our church life.

Our Preacher who agreed to speak today is the Revd. Mark Gibson, of S.I.M. – Serving in Mission – recently back from Burkina Faso, teaching in the Fulani Bible School.

How are our own Church Mission Links doing?

Revd Andy Bowerman, with the Mission to Seamen, based in Dubai

'Merchant sailors face months of isolation at sea as the coronavirus crisis blocks ships from docking at UAE ports while other vessels have been abandoned altogether.'

Plunging oil prices and closed ports have piled more pressure onto shipping companies that provide a vital supply-line of imported goods. Food, fuel and water is running out on the Panama flagged *Mt Iba*, a vessel with five crew on board for more than 24 months.

"Our situation is very bad, like modern slavery," said chief engineer Naywin, who is owed £50,000 in back-pay. "We are all suffering. Our diesel and freshwater supply is very low, and taxi boat services have stopped visiting us because of the coronavirus so it is very difficult for us to get fresh food."

Mr Naywin has been forced to cancel the university education of his two children as he can no longer pay the fees. Closed ports and quarantine measures have left the *Mt Iba* marooned at its anchorage almost four miles off Hamriya Port, just north of Dubai. She is one of 5 ships that Mission to Seafarers is supporting abandoned at anchorage during this time.

As the coronavirus pandemic puts huge economic pressure on the industry, the Mission to Seafarers continues to offer an urgent lifeline to abandoned crew on board anchored vessels. Why not use the words of the Mission to Seafarers prayer as you think of them for a brief moment today.

'Heavenly Father, we pray for all who sacrifice their home and family life, to work as seafarers. We think of the many months at sea, enduring the hardships and dangers of heavy seas, storms and strong winds far away from home. Look with favour on all seafarers who miss their families and loved ones, comfort those who feel isolated or lonely, scared or insecure. Bring them safely home to shore, and at the end of their contract, return them into the loving arms of their families and friends.'

Ruth Guinness, teaching at the Evangelical Bible College in Malawi

Greetings from Blantyre, Malawi. You have been much in my thoughts and prayers due to the coronavirus situation. Here in Malawi it sometimes seems unreal. As of May 20th, we have 71 coronavirus cases and 3 deaths – a vast difference from the UK!

Although some measures were introduced, a planned lockdown was stopped by the courts, in order to protect people who live from hand to mouth. Since then most people have returned to normal life. However, schools, and the Bible College, are still closed.



In SIM, we are trying to teach about prevention and help to protect people. With my neighbours I helped to make some face masks. A group of women, who learned to sew through an SIM project, have been making hundreds of face masks, and SIM has assisted some clinics.



I have not been to church, although some local churches have continued to meet. I did prepare a sermon and sent it by WhatsApp – the pastor preached it to those who did meet!

I am keeping in regular contact with my students, making sure that they are keeping up with work and encouraging them spiritually. I do miss the interaction with classes!

Please pray for the Bible College as it faces very difficult questions going forward – the current programmes are not sustainable financially.

Please pray too for Malawi in the run up to Presidential elections on or before July 2nd.

I have been challenged to see this time as a gift from God – I hope you too are able to accept this gift and overcome the challenges of coronavirus measures.

God bless you – Mulungu akudalitseni.

Terekeka School in South Sudan, recently visited by Mike Quinlan

Wareham Parish has had a link with St Stephen's School in Terekeka since 2005 and I was privileged to visit the school in March and meet Bishop Paul Modi and senior staff. South Sudan is one of the poorest countries in the world and has the highest rate of illiteracy with only 27% of the population able to read and write. St Stephen's School provides education for over 800 children at primary and secondary levels. Parents are asked to pay a small amount (£12-£30 per year) but only about 50% can afford even this much. The teachers are given small allowances (£24 per month). The World Food Programme provides a daily meal for the children. The school has three well-built classroom blocks, but other classrooms have mud walls and may only last a few years.



The school is very short of textbooks and has no laboratory for science subjects. Bishop Paul looks after a large diocese with over 100 churches spread over a distance of 160 miles. Over the years Wareham Parish has sent about £3,000 each year to support the school and this has helped pay teachers' allowances, construct new buildings, and buy textbooks. Like many countries South Sudan is in lockdown with over 300 reported cases of coronavirus. This has affected food supply as much is imported. It also makes it difficult for people who rely on daily work to buy food. Please pray for a good harvest and for protection from coronavirus in a country where social isolation is impossible and medical facilities are minimal.

STOP PRESS from Terekeka

We have just heard that the roof over four of the Primary School classrooms (one of the better-built blocks) was blown off by a violent storm on 12th May. The school urgently needs funds to pay for a new roof so that the school can re-open when the lockdown is lifted.



Malcolm and Yanet Taylor with YWAM in the Dominican Republic.

Malcolm & Yanet Taylor along with their children Patricia (6) and Samuel (4) are leading a YWAM ministry in San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic. With a vision to see lives restored, spiritually and physically, they are actively engaged in serving the local Church by mobilizing them, and visiting teams, into mission. Using a combination of evangelism activities, construction, marriage courses, conferences, counselling, media ministry and community outreaches, they are supported by a group of local volunteers who come together to share God's love to those who need to hear his word.

Earlier in 2020 they hosted a Methodist Church from the US who raised the funds and came to help build a Church and clinic facility in a village community. Malcolm & Yanet acted as project managers for this project, designing the building and coordinating the construction. They hosted their work team and liaised with the local Church who are now pastoring this facility. They are continuing their ministry in this community and are seeking support to see a full-time medical clinic established in this village.



The coronavirus has brought a lot of changes, but as the country goes through these uncertain times there are new opportunities to minister. Please pray with them as they seek the Lord's guidance on these emerging ministry opportunities and how to resource them. Please also pray that they will keep themselves safe from the coronavirus. For more information please visit: www.ywamseries23.org
Email: info@ywamseries23.org

What about our local initiatives? How are they doing?

Not Just Sundaes, in South Street

Not Just Sundaes Community Café is an independent, not for profit charity. Our ethos is to provide a welcome for all. Our youngest visitors enjoy our toys, others relish the peace, whilst many are keen for company and share conversation with our wonderful staff of volunteers. The cake is very popular too!

We open our doors to many groups who offer support to the local community. These include mental health support groups, social meetings for young adults with special needs, depression support network, alcohol recovery groups and craft groups who meet to share and socialise. Additionally, several local organisations find NJS a safe space to hold meetings with clients.



We provide pastoral support to both local secondary schools, Purbeck and Lytchett, through our youth consultant. We have secured some external funding which enables her to spend one day each week in both schools; and when our own funds are sufficient, we run self-esteem courses for small groups of students. These take place in the café at lunchtime and allows us to demonstrate our policy of 'outrageous generosity'.

The café is currently closed but please pray that we will soon be able to re-open and restart our ministry as a practical demonstration of God's love for all in a welcoming environment. There are also some ongoing costs that we need to cover while we are still closed.

The Wareham Blessings Fund

We are pleased to report that with your support we have been able to help our local community in many ways. We have provided a variety of cookers, flooring, prepaid prescriptions, wheelchair hire, walking boots and wellingtons, water rates, car repair & MOT, a voucher to buy special food diet for a child, carpets, and vets bills. This week we helped a single mum replace her broken cooker. In her words: *'Thank you so much to everyone involved in getting me a cooker sorted. This has really lifted my spirits today.'*

Total spend in the last twelve months – £3,764.

We have worked with Citizens Advice Services in Wareham. They call us the last resort when they cannot get help for their clients anywhere else.

Over the time of the lockdown, we have still been there when needed. It is a privilege to be able to serve the community in your name.

Jean Dixon, Barbara & Steve Wells.

We also want to add a 'guest mission' – the Christian television broadcaster to the Arabic World

SAT-7

Bringing the Good News in Arabic, Farsi, and Turkish to 25 million viewers in the Middle East and North Africa with programmes for adults and children.

Satellite TV crosses boundaries with good teaching, discussion, entertainment, and worship.

How can you help?

Firstly, please use the updates in this document to help you to pray for our mission partners overseas and locally.

Secondly, if you are able to give financially to support our mission partners, donations can be made through the online giving page

<https://ladystmarywareham.myknowchurch.co.uk/giving>

using the drop-down bar to select your chosen Mission Partner.

If you would like to give to more than one, please use the 'Mission Sunday 2020' drop-down bar and send an email to Debs Barclay at parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk to let her know the amounts to go to each of your chosen Mission Partners.

If you are not able to give online, please call Debs at the Parish Office on 01929 550905 for alternative ways of how to give your donation.

If you would like further information about any of the people or organisations mentioned please also contact the Parish Office on 01929 550905 or

Email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk

Thank you for supporting God's church in mission, both overseas and locally, during this challenging time.

This bulletin comes to you from the PCC's Mission Committee.