



# nacukie news

Newsletter United Kingdom, Ireland and Isle of Man

July 2020



## Foreword

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

## Preparation.

Apart from our congregation on the Isle of Man, where they can now physically attend a divine service; we will experience the divine service for the departed either online or by telephone.

The preparation for this special event will therefore be different this time around in many congregations where activities such as choir and orchestra practices or fellowship events would normally be taking place.

A service for the departed has a very special place in our belief as New Apostolic Christians. It is an opportunity for us to be actively involved in the Lord's work by praying for the souls in eternity. We can also connect very closely to loved ones and faithful brothers and sisters who have gone before us. I remember as a child that a week before the divine service our rector would encourage us to switch off and unplug our televisions so we could properly prepare.

The bible relates that Jesus often withdrew from those around Him so that He could pray and connect with His father in heaven to find new strength for His great commission (Luke 5:16). It is also important that we prepare ourselves by withdrawing and making time to pray and meditate on the love of God. The divine service for the souls in eternity is a wonderful opportunity to be active in the Lord's Work. Let us be well-prepared and be ready to receive His word and grace; to gladly intercede for the souls in eternity and to experience the closeness of our loved ones who have gone before us.

I wish for all of us a blessed preparation and divine service for the departed.

Love and greetings

David Heynes



## Update: Opening of churches

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to provide you with an update following the announcement of new guidelines for the opening of churches in July. Firstly, I am sure we are all delighted that the virus appears to be better controlled and the level of risk has reduced in the UK and Ireland.

Over the past few weeks we have been drafting a policy for members and ministers in anticipation of this announcement. These documents will be made available shortly and we can progress with completing health and safety measures as required by the authorities, as well as working with the owners and managers of the rooms and halls we hire, to understand and meet their individual policies. We will then provide training on the local measures which need to be in place to reduce risk of infection and to be COVID compliant. We will also issue instructions for those who plan to attend in person. As you see, there are a number of steps in the process and our greatest concern as trustees and lead ministers is to ensure the safety and well-being of those attending divine services. We will therefore take the time necessary and proceed with utmost caution.

Due to on-going social distancing guidance, we assume that approximately one third or less of the seats in the auditorium can be used and we will therefore require advance notice of who plans to attend to avoid exceeding the capacity allowed. Those who do attend will, for the time being, experience a divine service in a different way to what we are used to. For example, singing and praying the >



> Lord's Prayer out loud will not be permitted. Ideally, a CE approved\* personal face masks will also be required.

We will continue with the online services as many of our members (including some ministers) are shielding and are unable, or would prefer not to attend in person, which we all need to respect and understand is a personal choice.

On **26 July 2020**, we will make our first careful steps in holding a divine service with a congregation present. This will take place in **Camberley** and will be transmitted via YouTube for all to attend online or by telephone. We then hope for a gradual re-opening of congregations in August, but please note this depends on several factors, and not every congregation may be able to open.

You may have also read that Conference Centres have not been given Government permission to open in July. This very sadly affects the UK Convention Weekend we had planned in September and this is now cancelled. Many of us have been looking forward to this event for months and indeed booked rooms at hotels. We sincerely regret having to make this difficult decision however, the continuing uncertainty makes it impossible to plan and to ask you to commit to attending when we don't have confirmation that the event can go ahead.

The trustees are aware that the financial status of some of those who have booked rooms has changed in the past months and in these cases, we will reimburse some or all the costs incurred for pre-

paid rooms if the hotel is unwilling to do so. Please email [Ev Craig Esterhuizen at admin-hq@btinternet.com](mailto:Ev Craig Esterhuizen at admin-hq@btinternet.com) if you would like to take up this offer or have any other associated concerns.

We would like to thank all those who have personally donated and would like to carry over these funds to 2021 when we hope to host this event.

With love and greetings

David Heynes

*\*CE approved: indicates the manufacturer is compliant with EU health and safety regulation.*



**Isle of Man**

## Services Resume on the Isle of Man.

After a long period of not attending social gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 15th June 2020, the Government of the Isle of Man removed all social distancing.

Thereby, allowing gatherings to start taking place as there hadn't been a positive case reported on the island in more than 25 days. As a result, the Committee of the Ramsey Town Band made contact with Priest Ray Gillis to advise him that our congregation was permitted to make use of their hall for services once again. This was great news for us!

The Rector, Priest Glenn Smith, made contact with Bishop David Middleton and Apostle David Heynes to let them know of the situation. They were delighted for our congregation to start holding divine services again. This news created much joy among the office bearers with many of them sending their best wishes and prayers for us on re-convening divine services in the Isle of Man.

Our first post-lockdown service was held on Sunday, 21st June 2020. It was wonderful that we could be together as a congregation once again where we could shake hands at the door and embrace each other, especially with our dear Priest Ray Gillis and his daughter Carolyn who sadly lost their wife and mother, Maureen, during lockdown after she had suffered a period of ill health.

The word that was chosen for this divine service was taken out of Psalms 43:4. This word was really fitting as it was about coming to the altar of God and bringing joyous praise. After the reading of the text we sang Hymn 108, 'The Father's House is Our Delight,' and this was indeed a delight for us! We could, for the first time in three months, come to the Lord's house to bring praise and thanks to our heavenly Father. He has protected us and been with us in each and every moment through these troubling and worrying times. The high point of the service was that we could once again celebrate holy communion.

What made it even more special, was that 21st June happened to fall on Father's day. How wonderful that we could be in our spiritual Father's house, to celebrate this day with Him. >



> A lovely fellowship was enjoyed together after the service with the families Gillis, Van Wyngaardt and Smith catching up and sharing our experiences in these troubling times.

We pray that the day will come soon when all of our brothers and sisters in faith can also start returning to their congregations to experience the same as us here on the Isle of Man. ■



Isle of Man Congregation

**Glasgow**

## A Nurse's Prayer.

Jenny and Millicent are mother and daughter and both are nurses on the front line of the pandemic. They live in Glasgow and describe what the last few months have been like.

Jenny says: 'I work full time as a general nurse in the Medical Assessment Unit receiving patients arriving by ambulance, it's a busy environment and can be challenging. This is a job that comes from the heart as my patients are vulnerable.' Originally from Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, Jenny and her family have been in the UK for 19 years, she is married with three children, Millicent being her eldest at 21.

'I always wanted to be a nurse – ever since I was a little girl and, although it was difficult to juggle childcare at times – I studied and worked my way through the degree course – graduating in 2015,' she adds.

With two people in the family working with Covid-19 patients – they take great care not to pass the virus on to the rest of the family. Clothes worn home from hospital go immediately into the washing machine and then it's a shower before greeting anyone.

Jenny says: 'The family worry a lot about my safety - but I believe I should go to work and support the nurses coming off night duty. I pray for strength and really want to help. We have lost both colleagues and patients to the virus and although it is so upsetting it was a privilege to look after them and provide the very best care I can give.'

Not only does Jenny have to consider herself and how she copes at work – her daughter Millicent is in her final year of nursing and was deployed to assist in various wards including high dependency, while still studying for her own degree.

Wearing full PPE and getting to grips with the rapid response required to manage deteriorating patients was a real chal-

lenge at first. Millicent is delighted that she will graduate at the end of June 2020. She says: 'Things have settled a bit now and I am so thankful for my mum's support, her experience in the job is invaluable! I am confident that nursing is my job for life and feel proud that we have both contributed in the way we have.'

Both of them regularly share the highs and lows of their day in the hospital. Jenny recalls how difficult it was telling family members that both their parents had passed away with nursing staff holding their hands.

She adds: 'When a patient becomes aware they have the virus, they are so scared, and many ask that I stay by their side. I have to gently explain that there are ten other people I need to nurse also. I love my job and I'm really proud of Millicent too – she just gets on with it, I think she will be a great somebody someday!' ■



Mother and daughter



Jenny Ngwira



Millicent Chimalilo



Stephen Pieron

## Working from home

# How to keep positive while working from home.

Working from home is something that some of us had occasionally experienced prior to the lockdown. Perhaps it was to stay at home to take a delivery or meet a service team coming to our home. At the time it felt novel. Then came the lockdown and suddenly this became the norm.

Communicating with colleagues and the boss took on a new form. Communication applications soon became our new view of the world. We started losing out on some modes of communication such as body language. We all feel the need to communicate. It is a basic human need, that is why language developed and evolved to the present-day social media methods of communication. I think of a punishment used in war times where prisoners of war were put into solitary confinement for long periods and this drove some prisoners mad, not being able to make daily contact. We should **never underestimate our need to communicate** in all its various forms.

On-line meetings start taking up the majority of our day when we work from home, so **sharing** cameras and our recent lockdown experiences with others just for a few moments before any meeting really helps to get the feeling you are really part of your team. Try to encourage this practice as it can be very uplifting. Whilst I was never affected, I am sure that having young children at home creat-

ed its own challenges, but I recall lots of on-line meetings being disrupted by cats, dogs, lawn mowers and children asking questions. This was amusing and was a reminder that everyone was in their home environment.

Another way to stay positive is to **get into a routine**. Changing out of our pyjamas into some casual clothes, breaks the mode of our day. One of my colleagues shared an experience where they were sitting in their pyjamas on a conference call, when the Chief Executive called for everyone on the call to open their camera so that a new member of staff could see his new team members. This colleague quickly had to find a sweater to get out of this awkward situation. Sticking to our normal office hours and taking regular **breaks** is vital for keeping positive. At work we might gather around the photocopier or in the kitchen or have a brief conversation with a colleague. If you live alone, then leaving the laptop during the break and **speaking to someone** is a good way to keep positive.

If there is no one around, still take that short break, **call a friend** or use part of it to look at your congregational WhatsApp groups to see what is going on. They have flourished under lockdown, with daily messages from our Bishop and District Evangelist Aspden. We are often advised to **read the bible**, so why not **read a verse** each day. If you have a favourite verse or hymn, read it and be reminded why it means so much to you. My favourite verse, which was written inside the cover of my first bible that I received as a child, is in Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths”*. We will find a **word of inspiration** from so many sources. Seek and you will find.

**The biggest plus** of working from home is the removal of the drudgery of commuting to work. Suddenly we have extra time in our day. Use this time wisely. We could be tempted to sleep them away. Remember that a **balanced day** is best comprised of 8 hours sleep, 8 hours work, and 8 hours play. The hours of play might be used working in the garden or on a project at home. Taking walks, learning a new skill or language are all

options that will contribute to feeling positive. Set yourself some **targets** and work towards achieving them. Pat yourself on the back when you achieve them. This all contributes to keeping positive.

As the days of lockdown rolled on, the monotony of working from home took on a new dimension and different challenges arose. Some of you may have seen the movie **“Ground Hog Day”**. In essence, it is a comedy about a reporter who has to do a mundane job and he lives the same day of his life over and over again. Each day he awakes to the same radio announcement, he meets the same people, goes to the same places, however, he can recall the previous days. Soon he realises that the way he acts and reacts to his surroundings affects those around him. He realises the value of having skills, his knowledge and understanding of the people around him and he uses this to influence the next time he relives the same day. Before long he recognises how his own shortcomings influence a day and he starts using this discovery to alter his day. If you get a chance to watch it, I recommend it.

So why mention this movie? Well, during lockdown it can feel like we are reliving the same day over and over again. **Use your experiences, your skills, your knowledge and learn from your weaknesses to change your day in a positive way**. It is so easy to dwell on the negative and get pulled down. **Look for the positives in life and dwell on them**. As one beautiful hymn we sing reminds us; “count your many blessings daily one by one”. ■

*With greetings of love,  
Stephen Pieron*



Cherie and Stephen



Working at the office

# My Experience in working at the office during lockdown.

*District Elder Jan Clement has continued to work full time throughout the Covid-19 crisis. He talks about a typical day and explains that it is the little gestures that make all the difference.*

My day begins at 6.00 a.m. enjoying breakfast with my wife Nicola and preparing our lunches, I am on the road by 6.30am for a 55-mile journey to the office.

The day already starts with an early phone call from our bishop, usually within 5 minutes of setting off, and his first words are, 'good morning, how are you?'

We chat for 5-10 minutes, that is a daily treat. If he misses a call for whatever reason, maybe over running of the thought for the day call, I get a little disappointed. Our bishop shares who was on the 6.00 a.m. call and, knowing a brother or sister is already up, especially a sister in Cornwall, I then also take the opportunity to make a call (hands free of course) and we chat for about 20-30 minutes and close with a prayer for the day.



*District Elder Jan Clement, famous for his taste in shirts!*



*District Elder Jan Clement with stock of PPE awaiting distribution*

I am a general manager for an engineering distribution company and classed as a key worker. Since lockdown we haven't stopped. We supply companies like large food and drinks manufacturers and hospitals in Taunton and Exeter.

Normally our business deals with engineering components to keep industrial and utility equipment moving. But how the world has changed since Covid-19, now 40% of our business is supplying masks, gloves, sanitiser, wipes and other products associated with health and safety.

My lowest moment was when I had to make a choice to furlough staff and one of them was my daughter. I had to wear the business hat, rather than the dad's hat. It was a tough decision but the right one and we still get on great despite that. However, I know she has been enjoying the lovely sunshine whilst off work.

I finish work at 5.30pm and around 5.00pm I make a daily face call to a brother or sister and we chat and pray together. On the drive home I randomly flick through my phone contact list and whenever a brother or sister answers, I start also with, 'how are you?'

We chat and pray and usually the drive home to North Devon allows me the opportunity to make three or four calls. One particular day the random call was to our apostle and that was nice too, to ask him, 'how are you?'

I usually arrive home between 6.30pm-7.00pm and quickly change in time for Tim's, 'Songs of Fellowship', the Devotional, a minister's call for West or Ireland or to prepare for Sunday service.

My most joyful moments are when I am able to send a random gift to someone, maybe a few masks or a bottle of wine. Recently I received a story book from a company that manufactures the Henry and Hetty Hoover and I forwarded it onto one of our Sunday school children.

I thanked the company for their gift and asked, as it was book edition five, where I could find books 1-4 so I could make up a set. They kindly sent me a full set with a puzzle which I forwarded to our Sunday school child, wow, that shows the positive way mankind has been during this pandemic!

Before I get home, I stop off and have a few social distant moments with my retired rector and his wife and bring them a little bag of goodies and treats, they struggle to join the online experiences, but share what we can to make their day or week also a nice experience. ■