



nacukie news

Newsletter United Kingdom, Ireland and Isle of Man

August 2020



COVID-19 - Update on the Opening of Churches

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to continue with the monthly update on how the UK & Ireland District is planning for the opening of churches. Since last month, we have finalised the instructions for attendees and have held a number of meetings for ministers and some of our interested members to attend. The feedback I have received is that these sessions were helpful, and a number of questions could be raised and answered. The divine service on Sunday 2nd August was also an important milestone. For the first time since mid-March a small congregation was present, and we could enjoy a richer musical experience thanks to the broadcast capabilities of YouTube. This divine service was also an opportunity to test our COVID-19 Health and Safety measures and I am pleased to report we could learn some important lessons which will help us in the future.

In last month's newsletter I wrote that I had the hope we could open some churches in August and, apart from the divine service in Camberley, this sadly has not been possible. There are a number of reasons for this including the concerns raised by our ministers and members, many of whom belong to vulnerable groups, as well as the ongoing level of risk posed by the virus being in general circulation.

I regret the continued delay, but in consultation with the district ministers, firmly believe this was the right decision to make for August. I do, however, recognise that each one of us views the level of risk to ourselves differently. I therefore want to share the burden of responsibility with you all individually and ask that if you have not yet done so, that you contact your local minister and let him know your thoughts on a return to church. I have the hope that, provided all health and safety measure can be met, a small handful of congregations in our area could potentially hold divine services locally in September. I am aware though, that the situation can change overnight both locally and nationally so patience, understanding and very good communication is required by us all.

In the meantime, we continue to actively and patiently wait on the Lord.

With love and greetings

David Heynes

Announcement

Changes to the District Structure for the United Kingdom and Ireland

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our District Apostle Krause plans to hold a divine service here in Camberley on the 6th September 2020 at 10am which will be broadcast via YouTube and by telephone link for all in the UK and Ireland to connect to and participate in.

During this divine service new tasks and responsibilities will be assigned to support the Lord's work in our working area.

For the UK North District – Priest Elvis Beya will be assigned to assist Bishop David Middleton and will work alongside District Evangelist Leo Aspden. Priest Beya is 31 years old but in those 31 years he has made experiences which most of us wouldn't make in a lifetime. As a young boy he had to flee with his parents from his homeland and lived for 17 years in refugee camp. He is a police sergeant in the Norfolk Constabulary and is used to dealing with many challenging situations on a daily basis. Priest Beya exudes joy and has a wonderfully positive and enthusiastic nature. He will continue as rector of our Norwich congregation. Elvis is married to Grace and they have three boys aged 7 and 2 as well as their recent arrival born a few weeks ago.

In the UK South District – Evangelist Gary Heynes will be assigned to assist



District Elder Stephen Pieron to support the congregations in the district. Evangelist Heynes brings a number of years of experience as district youth leader and has managed many youth events including giving some 150 young people from UK and Ireland the opportunity to attend the International Youth Weekend in Germany last year. Evangelist Heynes has a senior role in a Global Accounting firm and has the ability to retain his good humour and be calm and serene when dealing with challenges and issues. He will remain as UK and Ireland district youth leader. Gary is married to Ines and they have two daughters aged 13 and 10.

Shepherd Neil Woodman will also be assigned to assist the District Elder Pieron in the UK South. Shepherd Woodman is a trustee of the church charity and is the European Finance Director of an international software company. He is highly organised and is able to inspire and develop a team ethic to make full use of the gifts and talents of those around him. He will remain as rector of London Central. Neil is married to Adelle and they have three children aged 20, 18 and 14.

Both Evangelist Heynes and Shepherd Woodman will work alongside District Evangelist Blanchard in assisting District Elder Pieron.

For the West district, Evangelist Craig Esterhuizen will be assigned to assist District Elder Jan Clement and work alongside District Evangelist Karl Milton. *“Along with our bishop I have the privilege of working closely with Evangelist Esterhuizen who manages the administration office of the UK and Ireland Church.”* Beyond that he leads the Minister Development Programme for the Church and is chaplain for the South African military veteran’s organisation in the UK. He has a passion and drive for the Lord’s work; finding ways to help and support those around him. Evangelist Esterhuizen will remain as rector of Lyndhurst. He is married to Gail and they have two daughters and two grandchildren.

For our congregations in Ireland, Priest Denzil Jacobs will be assigned to assist District Elder Jan Clement. Priest Jacobs works as a paediatric therapist specialising in autism and Down’s Syndrome, as such he cares for the vulnerable and those in need on a daily basis. Outside of church and work he competes in iron-man events and is a fund raiser for children with Down’s Syndrome. As you would expect from a sportsman, Priest Jacobs has endless energy and is also a great communicator. He will continue as rector of Tullamore. Denzil is married to Elaine and they have a busy home life with 5 children.

I am deeply thankful to our heavenly Father for opening the door to this blessing and of course to the brothers who will be assigned to these new responsibilities. I also want to especially thank their wives and children as I very much recognise the sacrifices they also make on our behalf.

The above new assignments will result in a few changes in the structure of the districts.



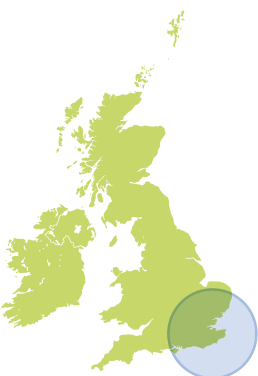

The congregation of Hitchin will move from the UK North to the UK South District. Bishop Middleton will however remain rector of the congregation. The congregations of Camberley and Lyndhurst will move from the UK South to the UK West District.

Please pray and prepare for this divine service and especially that both our District Apostle and Priest Jacobs will be able to travel to the UK.

Thank you to you all for all the many labours of love in the congregations both now and in the future. We continue in love for the Lord and for one another.

With love and greetings

David Heynes

<p>UK North</p> <p>District Rector Bishop David Middleton</p> <p>Assisted by District Evangelist Leo Aspden Priest Elvis Beya</p> <p>Belfast, Cambridge, Corby, Gateshead, Glasgow, Isle of Man, Leicester, Manchester, Norwich, Nottingham, Sheffield</p> 	<p>UK West</p> <p>District Rector District Elder Jan Clement</p> <p>Assisted by District Evangelist Karl Milton Evangelist Craig Esterhuizen</p> <p>Birmingham, Bristol, Brynamman, Cardiff, Camberley, Gloucester, Lyndhurst, Plymouth, Swindon, Tiverton</p> 
<p>UK South</p> <p>District Rector District Elder Stephen Pieron</p> <p>Assisted by District Evangelist Andre Blanchard Shepherd Neil Woodman Evangelist Gary Heynes</p> <p>Brighton, Chelsfield, Gillingham, Hitchin, London Central, Romford, Thames Ditton, Walthamstow, Welling</p> 	<p>Ireland</p> <p>District Rector District Elder Jan Clement</p> <p>Assisted by Priest Denzil Jacobs</p> <p>Cork, Dublin, Carrickmacross, Limerick, Trim, Tullamore</p> 



Introduction

'There is no silence,' Cornelia Kiananua, Youth Leader.

Our NAC youth have been affected in various ways by the impact of Covid-19. Staying connected via technology is not an issue – but what about their faith?

Cornelia Kiananua is a social worker, specialising in mental health and working with adults and young people, she is also a youth leader in Walthamstow. Last year, she helped the youth travel to the international youth convention in Germany.

It was a very special trip and Cornelia adds: 'We supported one another, and I find now that when we reflect back; we recognise we made spiritual experienc-

es that we can still draw on.' Throughout lockdown Cornelia participated in various online sessions with the youth, discussions have included Covid-19 and unfairness in society.

'Our youth are the next generation, and we want to be a ray of hope and persevere. We've had Zoom calls, motivational meetings, bible study and musical events. Some of the youth were robbed of graduations, proms and family celebrations, but there is no silence, we are continuing to see how we can support and connect.'

In her day job, there have been challenges in supporting clients, requirements to wear PPE and working with people with significant mental health issues, exacerbated by the pandemic. Cornelia says: 'It was very intense, and we were working under extreme conditions. However, it is better now, and I am back to face to face support, which helps a lot. I love my



job and the feedback I get is that people recognise that.'

As a highly sociable soul, one of the things Cornelia really misses is fellowship within the congregation. 'I'm am liveliest around other people and I want to empower others, doing things with love and patience. We will use these testing times to build our faith and resilience.' ■



Thoughts

In times like these – Hymn 190.

When our bishop called me and asked if I would write for the newsletter, I pondered on what I could write. Later in the day I was listening to a government daily briefing and the words, 'In times like these,' were said. Those words seem to ring out

above all others, and I was reminded of the hymn.

We are indeed, living in strange times. I am sure most of us seniors, have not experienced anything like what we are now living through. Yes, some will have lived through times of deprivation, war, hardship, illness, even torment, but today's circumstances are different to all those. We are asked to isolate, not a natural thing to do. We are asked to stay home, not a natural thing to do. We are asked to keep a distance from our loved ones, certainly not a natural thing to do.

How much do we want to socialise?
To venture out and to hug and kiss our loved ones!

I am reminded of the prophet of old, Jeremiah. He thought he was the only one loyal and faithful to God. He became miserable and doubtful, but our God sent him comfort and assured him he was not alone!

It is just the same for us!

We might be on our own, we might be 'shielding,' in isolation, we might be distant from our love ones but remember,

our Father is with us, each one, we are not alone. We are each precious in His sight. **Please remember this!** And we are blessed with technology, the phone and the computer. Do not be afraid to call your rector, your brother, your sister, your neighbour. And of course, do not forget to pray.

I am reminded of something the late Evangelist Douglas Heynes said in a service, 'Whatever our stage in life, we will have our battles.' These words have stayed with me over the years.

So, my dear ones, be strong, stay connected, and we will one day be able to **HUG** one another again. ■

*Retired District Elder
David Beamish*