aldwickbaptistchurch

Vision: Loving God, Loving Each Other, Loving Lost People

ABC NEWS

Aldwick Baptist Church

The Glory of Zion (Isaiah 60:1-4, NIV)

'Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
[2] See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
[3] Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

As the coronavirus contains to spread across the world (*darkness will cover the earth*) and panic buying, driven by selfish people, is paralysing our supermarkets (*thick darkness is over the people*) it is good to know that God is still in control. Whatever goes on around us we can and should be celebrating our glorious rescue through our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not changed by anything that the world throws at us.

Darkness is for lying down; **light** is for rising up. Darkness is for gloom and sleep; **light** is for shining. When the **light has come**, we must respond, and **arise, shine**!

First, we receive God's light (*your light has come*), and then we have a service to put forth (*arise, shine*). You can't shine until **your light has come**, but once it has come, there is something wrong if you don't **arise** and **shine**!

The present crisis is transient; God's promise of our eternal destiny is unchanging. The virus might have temporarily closed our churches, but God's love remains freely available to all who simply believe in Him.

My town's motto is "*Out of darkness cometh light*". This is especially true today. We must continue to shine for the Lord by looking out for those in need. Derek.

MESSAGE BOARD

A MESSAGE FROM SIMON – As you now know, on advice from the Baptist union and the Government, we have closed down all of our activities. This includes Nick's Ladies Craft Evening planned Thursday 26th March and our AGM on Thursday, April 23rd. As I said last week as coronavirus spreads and it is only wise to take some precautions. To put it simply, there are, in effect, three 'fs'.

The first thing we need to remember is that we are a people of 1. faith and 2. not of fear. God is with us all of the time, and is able for us at any time. This does not mean that we will not catch the virus, but it does mean we have hope in the present, as well as eternally. May this be a witness to those unbelievers we know, who might be panicking about this.

But our third 'f' is that we should not be frivolous. We need to be very hygienic at all times. The best way to do this is wash your hands regularly with soap and hot water and to avoid physical contact wherever possible.

Even though it is difficult try to keep on eye on your neighbours, especially if they are elderly. It would be really helpful to give them a ring every few days to check they are alright. Please use the "Hello" cards printed in this news sheet and also sent to you through mail chimp if you email address is registered with us.

Please listen to the Government's advice and try to follow their guidelines. If you are in need of help yourself then ring one of the leadership team or email the church. I will be back on call myself from next Monday. God bless and be safe. Simon

Contact and Church office information

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A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER – Although this might be the last thing on your mind at present, the church still needs to operate on a sound financial footing. Most of our costs are fixed and not affected by the closure of our activities. If possible, can you continue to give on a regular basis? I will be sending out further details of how this might work in a separate email. Derek.

TODAY'S FLOWERS - IN MEMORY OF SHEILA - Had there been a service at ABC this Sunday I would have donated the flowers in memory of Sheila. It would have been her 86th birthday on Monday. The flowers would have been arranged by our daughter Helen.

Flower arranging was one of the many gifts Sheila had. Many years ago she had attended flower arranging classes so had become very skilled. She really enjoyed both the choosing of the flowers as well as arranging them. She passed her skill on to Helen.

When we joined ABC Sheila quickly offered her services and went on the flower arrangers' rota.

Another attribute she had was her singing. This was a very important part of her life. As well as singing in the choir during our 58 years membership of Orpington Methodist Church Sheila sang with the local Operatic Society, performing in over 50 shows. So it was not surprising that on joining ABC she wished to continue to sing. She became a member of Brenda's worship group. She also enjoyed membership of the Community Choir. It was a sad time for her when her ill health made participation in the worship group and the choir no long being practical.

Her faith was very important to her and she enjoyed being able to express it in these practical ways. Ernie Payne

A MEESSAGE FROM BRIAN GOLDSMITH –Praise be to God for His hand of protection. On my way to visit Hazel mid afternoon (Wednesday) I was involved in an accident just 5 minutes from home. Car is probably a right off. An ambulance was called & I was given an immediate check over. Apart from a chest bruise & shock daughter Debbie came to my rescue. I'm home now but I was concerned that Hazel would be worried. I was able to speak to her by phone that apart from the shock I'm still in one piece. Earlier in the day Joy Smith kindly phoned me & prayed. That was reassuring. I now aim to rest until I feel able to get to St. Wilfred's which I hope will be tomorrow. Brian.
Please pray for Brian and Hazel right now - Derek

A MESSAGE FROM BOB HOBART – "As I am not able travel, I would like to let those of the congregation of whom I am acquainted know that I am voluntarily in 'lock down' and they are not to distress themselves on my behalf. I am well and fit as I can be. I am content with my own company for you see I have a great friend - his name is Jesus and he looks after my welfare. Love you all and I would like to give you a direct quotation from the pen of John as is recorded in his gospel. It is in answer to a question put to him By Judas Thaddeus John ch 14 vs 23 = 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. God bless you all, keep safe." Bob.

A MESSAGE FROM INGRIDA - Aleesia's operation went ahead yesterday as planned. A tumour the size of a golf ball was successfully removed. She has been eating fish fingers and mashed potatoes followed by chocolate! She is in the main ward and no longer isolated. May be allowed home later today or tomorrow. The tumour is being tested and the results will be while yet. The family is rejoicing and want to extend their heartfelt thanks to all who have supported them through their many prayers. Please can we continue to pray for protection and an excellent recovery for this dear little soul.

CHILDREN'S CORNER - What a strange week we have had! The world has gone topsy turvy! Lots of people are worried about being ill (but most people won't be), we can't play with friends in big groups and even schools have shut down! We are not able to come to church and we will miss seeing your smiling faces every Sunday. But God is still with us and we can still praise him by singing and dancing to a favourite hymn and remembering to ask Him to be with us if we are worried. In Matthew chapter 28 verse 20 Jesus says: And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Helen

PRAYER: Dear Father, this is a very strange time for us and we ask you to help us to keep smiling despite not being able to do the things we want to do. We ask you, Lord, to be with those who are ill and also those who are lonely because they are unable to go out. We thank you for always being there for us even when the world around has changed so quickly. Amen

not missing the 5am till 6am devotional programme, as the radio talks their voices.

… and finally

URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS - If you have, or know of, an urgent need for prayer then please contact Simon as first responder. He will then activate the prayer chain as appropriate.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR –Brain and Hazel Goldsmith, Joy Smith, Pam Brown, Stella Filby, Maureen Jones, Joan Brett, John Richardson, Aleesia (Peta's grand-daughter, friend of Ingrida), Joy Puffett, Marion Bryant, Pat and Mick Parker, Val Collett, Pam Ryan, Tony Brock, George Woods, Sid Evans, and for any others in our fellowship who are unwell at this time. Please also pray for all of us who have to self-isolate over the coming weeks.

A DAILY UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS FROM THE BAPTIST UNION – We want to keep you up-to-date with information and updates about Coronavirus so that you can take appropriate action. We are issuing regular bulletins through our website at https://www.baptist.org.uk/Group/Group.aspx?ID=337630