

Warwick Unitarians

Newsletter

April and May 2020



It is with great regret that we have decided, in line with Government advice and in common with many other Churches and organisations, that the Warwick High Street Unitarian Chapel will cease to hold worship services and other activities from Friday 27th March.

We will inform members of the congregation when we intend to restart our usual schedule of services as soon as it is clear that it has become safe to do so. We are all too aware of course, and should warn you, that this may not be for some time.

In the meantime. We would urge you to follow Government advice on taking precautions to avoid infection by the coronavirus, including self-isolation and social distancing backed up always by extensive hand-washing.

Keep safe, and we look forward to the day when we will all be able to meet together in our lovely Chapel again.

Malcolm Burns (Chair) and the Chapel Committee.
March 2020

Had we been able to continue meeting we would have welcomed Sandy Ellis, Gavin Lloyd, Diane Rutter, Sue Woolley, Angela Maher, Mark Hutchinson, Kath Forder and Jeffrey Bowes during the next couple of months. We remain deeply grateful to each and every one of them for their ongoing support for our small community and hope that we will be able to invite them back again in the not too distant future.

We also wish Ant Howe who was such an inspiring leader and faithful supporter for so many years every success as he leaves Kingswood in May to develop his ongoing position as Ministerial Tutor at the Unitarian College.

We held our AGM on 8th March after a shortened Kaleidoscope service. Cherry was able to report positively on our current financial health despite many extra costs this year. The Committee was re-elected with inclusion of Christine Thompson who had been co-opted mid-year.

The last Midland Unitarian Association before the closure was held in Birmingham on the 14th March. Although one speaker couldn't come because of coronavirus related illness, Andy Phillips from Sheffield and our own Diane Rutter talked interestingly about the running of a thriving congregation. Diane in particular gave us a quick tour of the awesome range of all her activities in support of Kingswood and the neighbourhood. When things settle again there may be some hints of possible new directions for us!

Sadly the General Assembly, which brings together so many Unitarians from all over the country to discuss ideas and build up the Denomination will not be taking place either this year.

The sudden and rapid growth of the Covid-19 pandemic has brought many disruptions to all our lives, and doubtless will continue to do so, but it also gives us a challenge and an opportunity to show ourselves at our best. As Unitarians and followers of the example and the teachings of Christ we are presented with the opportunity to really live up to his example in a life of service to others.

We too can make a real effort to put others first and to help one another in love. It is an attitude that everyone needs to share in the coming weeks, and one which may help us to refocus our lives and indeed our whole society.

Let us remember that we have had many reasons to be thankful for all that we have. There are many others in our local community but also around the world who do not have homes to be safe in, or food supplies to keep them healthy, or friends and families to trust and love.

As we look at our present situation, we realise that we take these things for granted while others cannot, so we should not fail to look outward in our concern for others in greater need than our own. This is what is meant by living a life of love.

And in our prayers, let us remember those who are already setting this example, those who work in the Health Service and in Care Homes, ambulance staff and the police, the unseen workers delivering food supplies to our supermarkets and the drivers delivering to our homes, the teachers who will keep schools open during lockdown and the catering staff providing nourishment for needy children.

THE CHAPEL TEAM

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