

Warwick Unitarians
Newsletter
September and October
2020



Worship on Sundays at 4.30
in the High Street Chapel, Warwick

6 th September	Diane Rutter
13 th September	Gavin Lloyd
20 th September	Diane Rutter
27 th September	Gavin Lloyd
4 th October	Diane Rutter
11 th October	Rev Sue Woolley
18 th October	Rev Jeffrey Bowes
25 th October	Gavin Lloyd

Please follow Covid19 guidance and the notices set out in the Chapel, using hand sanitiser, and avoiding physical contact.

Please wear a mask or face covering.

Our services last about an hour, with prayers, reflection, music and an address. Sadly, at the

moment hymn singing is not permitted, though we may listen to recordings of hymns being sung for us. Refreshments cannot be shared at the end of the service either, so our opportunity to share in each others' company is reduced, though when the weather is kind we can gather in the garden.

We are particularly grateful to Diane Rutter and Gavin Lloyd for agreeing to lead our worship repeatedly at this time, providing us with stimulating addresses on each and every occasion. It is most pleasing also to be able to welcome Jeffrey Bowes and our District Minister Sue Woolley back again (no less stimulating I hasten to add!) We hope that all of them enjoy the opportunity to share worship with a congregation in person after the months of virtual services and communication confined online. It has been joyous for us to be able to gather together again with their help.

We may be the first Chapel in the Midland District to have managed to reopen yet, but that is not a matter for pride rather than for relief, and we hope that others will be able to follow suit relatively soon. Our decision has been driven by the fact that our Chapel lends itself to what we understand is the

right social distancing, because it is a large open space without fixed furnishings. But we do rely also on the willingness of members of the congregation and our invited speakers to respect and accept the measures that we each believe to be the minimum precautions we need to take. Every individual has their own reasons for wearing the protection they think right for them, and I am sure that we all know of others who have set themselves different standards.

We should all be washing our hands regularly and in particular before and after going out. We should all be using a sanitiser – though the rarer anti-viral ones are probably better than the more commonly met anti-bacterial ones. The Government has difficulty deciding when and where we should wear masks or face-coverings, and what kind of materials they should be made of.

I rely on hand washing and sanitiser when I collect and sort shopping from Sainsbury, but my sister in law will leave it untouched in the house for 72 hours, and others sanitise the packages before touching them. Which side of that fence do you sit on?

A neighbour wears gloves to retrieve her post from the front door. I confess to being less meticulous, but I respect her need to feel confidence in the circumstances. I would prefer to drive to London rather than travel by train, though those who have used trains and buses assure me that spacing and sanitisation there is excellent.

The young are understandably getting restless under the restrictions and feel less susceptible to infection, though they are no less likely to be the carriers that can pass it on to others of us who are more susceptible. This may become more significant as students return to Warwick and Leamington. We try to set an example of distancing when out walking, but stay away from the large-scale gatherings that we see reported on so frequently and luridly in the media.

That is our way of staying safe.

We have a limit of 16 separate socially distanced users in the Chapel at any one time (couples can sit together) – and as I write this has proved too small for most other organisers who usually hire our Chapel.

These are drearily worrying times and we know that they are not going to resolve at all soon, but we all hope that by taking the right steps and not taking risks we shall get through this pandemic and reach a calmer safer place the other side.

May it be so.

As we focus on our own distressing circumstances it is right that we should not forget others in the world who are suffering from both the same world-wide coronavirus but also having to cope with other misfortunes and disasters. We held a Chapel collection last month for the victims of the terrible tragedy in Beirut and sent a worthwhile sum to support the Red Cross in its work in Lebanon. A drop in the ocean of their needs but a demonstration of our sympathy. We will hold another such collection in September and again in October.