

Thought for the week: ““Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.” – Maya Angelou

Family news: Congratulations are in order - Pam and Dave Western have become great-grandparents for the first time. Best wishes to you both!

We give thanks for the life of Doreen Wheeler, who for over 70 years lived in Upham Road, who was a part of Immanuel Women's Fellowship, her daughter Jan attended Sunday School and was later married at Immanuel. She died the day of her 102nd birthday on 22nd February, and the funeral service and burial took place at Christ Church, led by Robert.

The service of Thanksgiving for the life of David Barnes will take place at the chapel of Kingsdown Crem on **Monday 22nd 1.30.**

We have just heard that **Gill Sparkes wife of Eric at Bath Road** passed away on Tuesday. Service with live link at Kingsdown Crematorium on 9th April, more information to follow next week.

We send our condolences to Eric and family.

Resuming worship at Immanuel: Elders met on Thursday in Zoom to talk about this, after they had consulted with the members on their lists. There were a few different responses on the matter, and the decision is to return to worship on **Sunday 16th May at 10.30.** This is the Sunday before Pentecost, allowing us all to prepare for the celebration of Pentecost. Of course, this decision is subject to no further changes on the “roadmap” set out by the Government and guidelines from the URC. It is also subject to having enough people to staff the services as needed. The use of masks and distancing is still to be complied with.

Election of Elders

Elders have agreed a plan for election of Elders, taking into account that last year this did not happen, and Elders who had completed their term were asked to stay on, never imagining this would be for a whole year. The plan is as follows:

As from **April 1st**, list of eligible members list and nominations forms will be distributed by Elders to their pastoral list, in doing this they will arrange ways to pick up/forward the forms to the Church Secretary. Nominations will close on 2nd May, and the Church Secretary will produce a list of nominees, after which the Church Secretary and/or Minister will approach these Nominees to seek agreement on nomination. These names will be published in the Weekly Newsletter on two Sundays, and then on **Sunday 30th May**, after the Service, we will hold a short church meeting where voting will take place, Only Church Members can vote, and votes will be those present and those who cannot come to church who have sent in their voting paper.

SECURITY OF PERSONAL DETAILS

We thought it was a good time to advise everyone to be very careful about giving out any personal information such as bank details or phone numbers without good reason. Sadly the news regularly brings us stories of identity fraud and scams and unwanted phone calls and the like, including people pretending to be banks or HMRC etc, and we do not want anyone from Immanuel to suffer from any

of this. So for the same reason please be careful not to give out personal details of anyone else at Immanuel without their permission.

Changing our clocks: Remember, next Sunday 28th March, clocks need changing. If you don't, you might get late/early somewhere, for something....or not. Whatever, the clocks still change!

Discussion Group: Our next Zoom Discussion Group – “Reflecting on the Reflection”, will be next **Tuesday, 23rd at 2:00** for about 45 minutes. The link for the meeting can be found at the foot of the Reflection each week. Looking forward to seeing you and sharing thoughts, as we Reflect on the Reflection.

Please include in your prayers:

- Fairtrade
- Highworth URC
- For all those we know who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances.
- For the vaccination in our country and the world.
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches
- Jonathan Edwards – who is to be the transitional minister for Central Church.
- The URC: nationally, the 13 Synods.
- The South Western Synod: Ruth the Moderator, Gwen the Synod Clerk, and all who work for the Synod Office, and the churches of the Synod.
- for the homeless, and rough sleepers
- our leaders in politics, economics, churches, culture, health, commerce, industry, trade unions, armed forces, and all walks of life: wisdom and call to serve.

Hymn for today

Refrain:

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain with no life.*

1 If we have died with him then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him. [Refrain]

2 If anyone serves me then they must follow me;
wherever I am my servants will be. [Refrain]

3 Make your home in me as I make mine in you;
those who remain in me bear much fruit. [Refrain]

4 If you remain in me and my word lives in you,
then you will be my disciples. [Refrain]

5 Those who love me are loved by my Father;
we shall be with them and dwell in them. [Refrain]

6 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
peace which the world cannot give is my gift

Sing Praise 49

Question: how can you relate this hymn to the Reflection for today?