

Immanuel Newsletter

Sunday 25th April 2021

Website: <http://www.immanuelurc.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ImmanuelURC>

Thought for the week: "I don't believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is so vertical. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other person. I have a lot to learn from other people". (Eduardo Galeano - Uruguay)

The Honesty Box – This is a new section of the Newsletter, open all of you. You are invited to share your thoughts, your expectations, your hopes, even your frustrations (if you have any) as Immanuel prepares to re-open for worship. We do well to realise that each of us is in a different place, cope in different ways, needs different things; we won't all respond to the same situation in the same way and at a similar rhythm. It would be great if we can share your story: how has this time affected you, what has it done to you; this way we can feed into each other's needs and times. This is something we will have to learn on the way ahead. So please write...We would welcome something once a week for all to read and reflect upon, so feel challenged and send in your contribution, either to Ceri (immanuelweeklynews@yahoo.co.uk) or Robert (robert.jordan@btconnect.com). If in one week we have a large amount, we will spread them over different weeks.

As I haven't had any contributions from anyone else this week I will write a few lines of my own on my thoughts about getting back to normal life for **Honesty Box**.

The other day I drove down the hill, past Immanuel to deliver a card to a friend who was 50. I thought how strange it was that I used to drive that way 3 or 4 times a week, but I haven't been that way for about a year. I noticed a great big hole opposite Christ Church that is new!

I want to return to Worship in church all singing (not dancing) no masks, soon. Until then I have found the online and TV services a good substitute. I really enjoyed the recorded services around Christmas time. Hearing familiar voices was almost as good as being there.

It may seem daunting at first to make those first steps back outside, but once you have, everything feels much better. So I look forward to seeing you all again in person, as long as I can get out of bed in time! Ceri Bevan

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.

Zoom Coffee morning

We have not had one of these for quite some time, so let us meet on **Saturday 1st May, between 10.30 – 12.00**. Let us share what we have been feeling, what we have discovered, what we would like to be doing. And as soon we will be celebrating worship again, let us share our thoughts on what we would like to go on at Immanuel.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81773057749?pwd=Y0dKOC90QmZiaGsyNXZrOGU5MkIBQT09>

Meeting ID: 817 7305 7749

Passcode: 961486

Family News: We remember Tracy and Wally Knight, as last Thursday the funeral of Raymond John Leonard Geater (Tracy's cousin and Wally's closest friend) took place at the Crem. Ray and Wally recycled tonnes of cans with the proceeds went to Cancer Research UK.

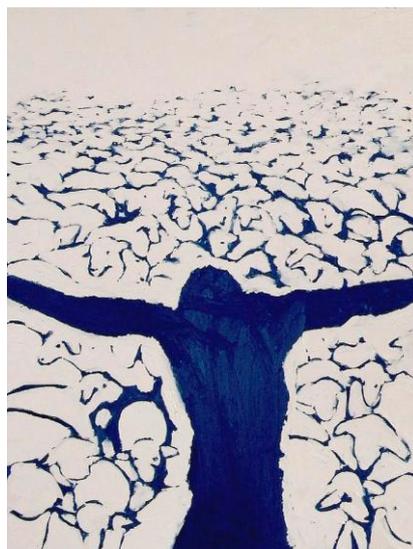
Please Include in your prayers:

- Let us learn to be "we" not "them/us"
- Highworth URC
- Those who are recovering from health treatments.
- Those who are mourning the death of family or friends.
- All those we know who are facing exceptionally difficult circumstances.
- The vaccination in our country and the world.
- The Old Town Partnership of Churches
- 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.
- The homeless, and rough sleepers
- Courage of faith to confront injustice, discrimination, hatred, racism.
- All areas of the world living violence, hatred, war, famine...

Resuming worship at Immanuel: after consulting with the members on their lists, Elders met through Zoom to consider the way forward. 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. We will also celebrate Communion.

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.

Illustration for today's Reflection



The good shepherd. Daniel Bonnell