

Dear Church Family,

*'Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.'*

Psalm 90:12

The writer of the 90th Psalm makes the link between gaining wisdom at the core of our being and recognising how long we have lived and may hope to live.

Numbering our days keeps us aware of the passage of time and awake to the fact that we will only pass each moment and each day once.

Our time is precious and how we use it matters.

We all make mistakes and miss opportunities but somehow we need to do what we can to live wisely and well at whatever age and stage we find ourselves.

The rhythm of life will include action and rest; speaking and staying silent; intervening and standing back amongst the whole gamut of what makes up the shared human experience.

Numbering our days can help us to see how far we've come and where we might go.

Reflecting on what has been can be the catalyst to moving forward with integrity; learning from the times we've fallen short and building on the times we've made the best choices.

~

### **Prayer Update**

Please keep praying for Paul Eatough who was admitted to Aintree Hospital on Monday following significant blood loss. Tests and scans are taking place to find out what's happening in the ongoing treatment he has been receiving to clear the large blot clot he's carried for several months.

### **One-Off Service - Sunday 6th September, 10:30**

If you haven't done so already please let us know **by return** if you are planning to join the one-off service on Sunday 6th September.

To enable us to organise the hall please include the following information for everyone attending in your family group or 'bubble':

- Name(s)
- Address(es)
- Telephone Number(s)

(All details of the service are in an appendix at the bottom of this email.)

### **Month of Prayer**

A month of prayer will take place in October. We plan to make the Prayer Room available for people to sign up and take part whilst observing all appropriate safety protocols.

We want everyone to engage in prayer and have the opportunity to be in our building even if we are not meeting in large groups at the moment.

We also want to encourage Prayer Walking and praying at home.

## **Items for the Philippines**

Linda Iddon is preparing to send a large box of items to the Philippines for Christmas in support of the children looked after by POCM

If you can donate any of the following please contact Linda on 0784211551 who is willing to collect them from you.

- New/second hand boys and girls summer clothes and shoes
- Bath towels
- Soap / toothbrushes/ toothpaste / shower gel
- Brushes and combs
- Small toys/ soft toys new or second hand
- Colouring books and crayons (wood or wax)

They are required by the end of September so they will arrive in time for Christmas

## **Tree Removal**

Work will begin this weekend to cut down and remove all the Leylandii trees which make up the hedging on our boundaries; the Trustees have secured an extremely competitive quote for the work which will be carried out by Paul Crabtree.

We have decided to take this action as the conifers have become very tall and intrusive to both of our neighbours so we needed to take action in reducing their height and reach. Having sought advice we felt that to trim and reduce them would leave nothing much more than unsightly bare trunks so we've opted to get rid of them and start afresh - and completely removing them is actually cheaper than pruning them to the extent that would be necessary

We are planning to replace them with native British species which will provide more biodiversity and more interesting, habitat rich boundary screening.

The Climate Change group led by John Whitton will be discussing all the options in this regard and organising work groups to prepare for and plant the new stock.

## **Church Cleaning**

For the last two years, Josh Gidney and Matthew Bower have done an excellent job cleaning the church each week.

Due to other work commitments, they will now sadly no longer be able to continue with this. We are really sorry to lose them, but we now need to find another cleaner (or two) to continue the work, which is of course a paid role.

From experience, we have found that it works best if our cleaners are church members or are people known to the church. If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please call or text Stuart Roberts on 07762 890004 or email him at [sturob777@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sturob777@yahoo.co.uk). Alternatively, you can contact any of the leaders or trustees.

## **Help with PEEP Cleaning**

PEEP will be re-opening on Monday 21st September and meeting thereafter on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays with two shorter, restricted sessions.

Jan will be managing these on her own and it would be a great help if anyone could volunteer to clean tables, chairs, handles, surfaces and toilets between 10:30 - 11:00 on one of those days.

Please email the church office if you would be able to help out.

[hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk)

## **Online Media**

Our next online service will be available this Sunday... please refer to the HBCC Family Facebook page for more details.

All services can be found on the HBCC Facebook page and some are also on YouTube.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hesketh-Bank-Christian-Centre-137989929662209/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI-q5TmlygGFnooTXluT6kg>

Wednesday Devotionals and Friday Focus continue as usual.

## **Life Groups & Small Groups**

Following the meeting with Life Group leaders on Tuesday it is now clearer what would be involved in using the larger spaces of the buildings for socially distanced meeting if groups are ready for that. It will be up to existing groups to decide whether they want to meet this way.

Plans for some new small groups are ongoing. If you expressed a desire to be connected to a group in the recent survey you will be receiving an email about new groups.

If you didn't indicate this in the survey but are interested please contact either:

Stuart Taylor - [stutaylorhbcc@gmx.com](mailto:stutaylorhbcc@gmx.com) 07739 236815 or

Steve Barrett - [stevenbarrett7@gmail.com](mailto:stevenbarrett7@gmail.com) 07703 798279

## **Stories, News and Celebrations**

If you have some news, a story, or if you would like us to share special birthdays, anniversaries or occurrences in our weekly bulletin....send details to the church email address at [hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk)

## **Giving**

There are still ongoing expenses as a church community even though we are not meeting in the building. Many of you give regularly and very faithfully and we're so grateful for your continued support. If anyone would like to make any one-off gifts you can do this through online banking.

Bank Sort Code: 40-24-14

Account No: 10429627

Finally, if you need help or support during the week, you can reach us on the numbers below:

Mark-07526 989665

Linda-07732 074420

Steve-07484 268297

Alex-07701 042458 (Youth and Young People)

Steve - on behalf of The Leadership Team 27.08.2020

## **Appendix - One-off Service**

Details of one-off service inside the Main Hall on Sunday 6th September at 10:30.

The safety measures include:

- Registration and contact tracing information
- Specified seating
- Masks worn by all
- No singing
- People guided in and out - and sadly no hanging around
- Hand sanitiser on entry and exit
- One way system
- All doors and windows open
- Toilet protocols - for emergencies only

The service will be relatively short and include only spoken contributions from the front - eg Bible reading, talk, testimony and prayers. We will use some 'on screen' material and recorded music but there would be no singing; no refreshments and no separate children's or young people's groups. This means any children attending would have to remain with parents at all times.

Of course we would love to see as many as possible, but we would ask people to consider their vulnerability in line with the factors which indicate an increased risk of being seriously ill if the virus is contracted - the factors are:

- Age
- Gender (men are more vulnerable than women)
- Ethnicity
- Pre-existing Medical Conditions

If you would like to attend the service please reply to this email. To enable us to organise the hall please include the following information for everyone attending in your family group or 'bubble':

- Name(s)
- Address(es)
- Telephone Number(s)

We will need all the above information for contact-tracing purposes in the event of a positive case of Covid-19 among people at the service.

The online service will go out as normal on that day.

We will be continually reviewing any changes to government guidance and the possibility of meeting together on a monthly basis.