

**Monday 20 April 2020**

Dear Friends

*Happy are all they who take their refuge in them – Psalm 2.12*

**Sue Davidson**

It is with considerable sadness that I share the news – that very many of you will know already - that Sue Davidson from All Saints died suddenly and peacefully in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Sue was a devoted advocate for the Church – Treasurer, PCC member, member of the Choir amongst so much else – with a strong faith and a wonderful sense of humour. Above all else she was simply a lovely person with a deep sense of commitment to others.

All our thoughts and prayers are with Gordon, their daughters, Fiona and Sally, and the wider family. Bereavement is always challenging, but especially so in the current climate with all the restrictions in place. I have promised Gordon that we will organise a service of thanksgiving in church as soon as we are able to do so. I spoke with Archdeacon Nikki this morning who assures us of her prayers and is writing to Gordon.

The scripture at the top of this letter is taken from the Psalm set for Morning Prayer today. For me it describes Sue’s faith – honest, uncomplicated, trusting – and a suitable guide too for all of us for whom these difficult days have just become even more challenging.

**Church during Lockdown**

After a week away which was preceded by all the busyness of Holy Week, it feels to me that church life will begin to settle down this week to a new ‘normal’, the duration of which remains very unclear. All Saints will have their DCC meeting this Wednesday at 2pm courtesy of zoom, and Sunday worship using zoom will recommence this coming Sunday, the Third Sunday of Easter at 10.30am. The gospel reading for this coming Sunday is the ‘Road to Emmaus’, one of my very favourite stories from the New Testament. You’ll find the passage at Luke 24.13-35 if you would like to read it in advance.

**Bible Study Coffee Morning – Thursday at 11am**

We also need to think of some new initiatives to help sustain our fellowship and mental health. There are some ideas in the pipeline but please do try to think of some new ways of meeting online and by telephone. This may be a perfect time, for instance, to think about starting some ‘house’ groups? I can provide all the zoom set up instructions you need.

For my part, beginning this coming Thursday morning (23rd April, 11am-12noon), I will host a new online bible study group. Each week we will take a different passage from the gospel of Luke, read, reflect, discuss and debate it. It’s an opportunity for fellowship and for deepening our understanding of scripture. Anyone is welcome to join and contribute. The first passage is the story of The Rich Man and Lazarus, Luke 16.19-31.

Joining instructions are:

Online: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86518251669

Telephone: 0203 481 5240 or 0131 460 1196.

Meeting ID: 865 1825 1669; no password needed.

Another idea I’m exploring is online training. I had been intending to run a couple of sessions on leading intercessions after Easter and am still very happy to do this via zoom. If you already lead intercessions, or would like to consider doing so, please let me know if two or three online sessions about this would prove helpful. Similarly, if there are other subjects you would to receive some training on, or would like to offer some training yourself, please get in touch.

Finally, a reminder that Easter lasts for several weeks yet – a time of considerable confusion for the disciples whose hopes and dreams were one moment dashed, and another moment revived… So, if you’re feeling a little unsure of your footing in these difficult days, others have been here before us! Together we will keep the hope of Easter alive.

With continuing love and prayers,

David Ford

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