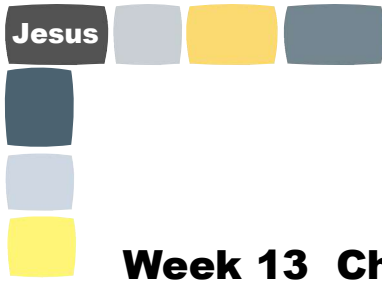


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Week 13 Church Shutdown 13th June

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“The Church has left the building”

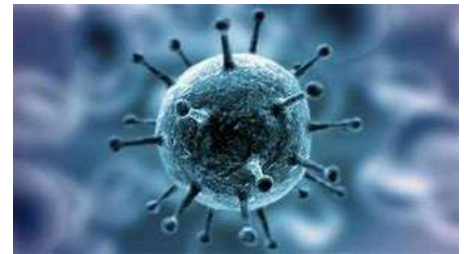
Don't know if anyone spotted my deliberate mistake on last weeks newsletter? I was a week ahead of myself with the date ! It's the 13th now and it's week 13 I don't know if you are superstitious but that's too many 13's!

After weeks of selfless acts of kindness and self giving, human kind has reverted back to it's default position worked out in violence , lawlessness and utter disregard for the well being of others. No one can justify what happened in the USA but the response has been disgraceful and only goes to show the depravity of the human heart whatever the colour of the skin that hides it!

But enough has been said and shown by the media that tends to stoke the fires of unrest rather than promote peace and justice.

The good news is that it looks like the government may allow churches to open up in some form in July. If we don't have a second wave of infections spread by the mass demonstrations! (Sorry I'm jumping on my band wagon again)

But opening up churches is not as simple as it may first appear! There will be lots of challenging things to think about for the leadership team, how do we maintain social distancing, whether or not to require masks, to sing or not to sing, what do we do with the children's work and so on - the conversation is fraught with potential division.



Some will be eager to meet in person and impatient to wait much longer to get back to normal. Others will insist it's unwise to meet at all until there's a vaccine and plenty will fall somewhere in between.

Have you noticed how remarkably confident so many of us are in our views right now? Unfounded certainty - on the part of lay people, leaders, modellers, and so called experts alike - is a contagion at least as viral as COVID-19 itself.

Even if we think these precautions are a needless overreaction, can you not sacrifice your ideal for others who believe the precautions are necessary, likewise, those who think the lock downs should continue should not pass judgment on those who question the wisdom of the government's ongoing restrictions.

We as church should strive to honour people on both sides of the spectrum Romans 14 : 13 *Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.*

Or 1 Corinthians 8:9 :- *Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.*

So will you pray with us that the government will make wise decisions and that we as church will follow their advice, and may our church be a beacon of humility and seek to uphold each other and honour God in all that we do.

Stuart.



The Mission we are supporting this quarter is **SIM** and their website states you can give via Bank Transfer, or Telephone Donation – Telephone 01449 766464 for details or to make a card

payment, **or** by cheque payable to SIM UK at: Serving in Mission, Wetheringsett Manor, Wetheringsett, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5QX, stating clearly if you would like your donation to go to a specific person or project.

For your prayers

Give thanks that Rachel is making steady progress and getting stronger each day.

Please pray for wisdom as they consider their future ministry in the light of Brexit and Sjoerd's need to get "settled status" which involves being resident in the UK for the next five years.

Please pray for Ron and Reni both struggling with ill health at the moment.

Give thanks that Mavis is making a good recovery after her fall.

Father God

Through every season of life - may we know your rich blessings.

On Celebration days - may we know Your joy

On difficult days - may we Know Your peace

On sad days - may we know Your comfort.

Every day - may we know Your love

And may we always feel Your presence close at hand.

Some folk believe computers were invented in Bible times - after all Eve had an Apple and Moses used a tablet. And we can all agree that the computer is a marvellous invention, but the human brain is even more amazing. God created us with an incredible capacity to input, store and recall information. When we're young, the "database" is relatively empty and there's tons of storage space. As we learn more, the available space decreases. With so much information stashed away, it's little wonder it takes a while to recall facts once we reach a certain age. There's a lot of stuff to sift through!



And it's not just mankind that's blessed with such "technology" He made animals and birds with in-built "Sat Nav" enabling them to travel thousands of miles without the aid of maps or the need to stop and ask directions.

Creator God, I put my trust in You, confident that You are way ahead of anything man can invent or achieve. You have the safest hands and the keenest mind in the universe.



If you need any help during the social isolation then please contact either Sara on 07736 972683 or Stuart on 07467 024552

Keep in touch let us know how you are getting on either on the Cornerstone Facebook page or our email address on page 1