

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends.

In the coming week The Hurst and Helsby's Church Councils will be meeting to direct its attention upon the matters of the use of our buildings for corporate worship, funeral care and other missional imperatives. As our leadership teams and councils debate matters of risk and pastoral need, I ask please that you hold them prayerfully at this time. For Blakelees, a meeting has been called for later in August, and information will be sent out in good time.

For those of you who have been joining in the weeknight worship provided by the Circuit, this is felt now to have come to the end of its first requirements, namely at the time of its inception, the service was designed to give congregations the chance to continue to see and hear from their ministers on a regular basis. Now the majority of sections are finding ways to offer worship online (with the majority engaging in zoom services each week) the Circuit service is going to be playing a reduced part in the life of the Circuit. It is envisaged that the service will become once per month as of August, but that other materials that might help sections with the provision of worship either in buildings, or online, will still be provided from the channel. Many of you will know that I have spent much time in the preparation and presentation of this material, and as we have begun to produce our own weekly service, so have the resources available for other activities and engagements been cut. My thanks to the team locally who have taken slack both in the provision of the worship each week, finding readers, welcomers etc. but also to those with pastoral ministries who have covered for and worked alongside me in this time too.

If you haven't had chance to catch up with last night's worship, which was led from members of Rev'd David Goodwin's congregations, it can be found at <https://youtu.be/Q0IFx7TDmZo> . David offers reflections on the presence of God in strange times that you may find quite helpful.

As churches begin to consider and evaluate the need to provide both online and local resources, we are looking at how we apportion resources within the Circuit. To that end I would again ask for your prayerful consideration as the Circuit plan and the breakdown of ministerial responsibilities is considered for September.

It is with great joy that we have Deacon Tim Coleman offering the sermon this week for our section worship, Tim will be looking to answer something of the question posed last week "what is Good News to you?". Thank you to those who have sent through short videos of what the Good News "sounds like, feels like or looks like" to them, I'd be appreciative of a few more over the coming weeks.

As said last week, as we move into the next phase of the lockdown, and as we begin to find a sense of the emerging pattern for our church life and its mission, we hope to continue to offer support, fellowship and worship online. My great thanks to all who have been involved so far, for those who have been part of bible studies, fellowship groups, online worship and other aspects of our missional life together, it has been good to continue to work together as members within the mission of God in the section and I hope we will find opportunities to continue to resource one another through our online presence. For those without online ability, our zoom sessions (bible studies, fellowship on Sundays and prayer times) can be accessed by phone using local rate numbers, these numbers are on the invitation page for the different activities that are taking place, you must phone the number, then dial the numeric number of the meeting ID, followed by the pin code for the meeting.

As always, if you want to talk, about anything, please send me an email, WhatsApp, Facebook message, text or even phone the manse, it's always good to talk.

With every blessing

David