

Warwick Methodist Church
Keeping in Contact During Covid-19
Number 15 – 19th May 2020

Dear Friends,

Back in January – which feels like a lifetime ago – we held two meetings at church to look at “Our Church’s Future Story”. One of the exercises we did was to look at a Wants and Wishes Grid:

What we have that we want to keep	What we don’t have that we wish we had
What we have that we don’t want	What we don’t have and don’t want

At the meetings, the ideas which came were of course about the life of the church – that was what we were there for. It is frustrating that the pandemic has interrupted us when we had a sense of energy about moving forward with things which we hope would enhance the life and vitality of our church. Once lockdown is over, we will probably need to revisit these questions, because the situation will be different.

It struck me today, though, that this grid could be useful in a whole range of situations, including in our individual lives. Coronavirus has changed things, and while some of those

changed will eventually be unwound, that will not be possible, and in some areas we may conclude it is not necessary.

For example, less car use means much lower levels of air pollution and has been good for wildlife. Many of us have learned how to hold meetings over Zoom. When we have freedom to travel as much as we want, might we decide to continue to hold at least some meetings over Zoom, so as to save on time, carbon footprint and pollution? Some of you may have begun to use these technologies to maintain contact with family and friends who you can’t see physically at the moment – and that may be something you want to continue if they live some distance away. These things, however, can never fully replace face to face contact with living breathing human beings. Have you perhaps built relationships with neighbours as a result of looking out for one another, or chatting from your respective driveways after “the clap”?

Take a look at that grid above, and ask yourself those questions in relation to life during lockdown, and also to church life. What have you missed? What have you not missed? What have you discovered that you value in ways that you had not appreciated? All these things will be important when we are able to move on to the next phase.

Thinking about Zoom, we have now had to successful "after service coffee" meetings starting at 11.30am on Sunday. The one this coming Sunday will be hosted by Jenny Beaglehole:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2065474882?pwd=RWpDdkR1Zk8rQUswY1pQQkZLR0tDUT09>

Meeting ID: 206 547 4882

Password: 246919

If you have not used Zoom before and would like to join in, do give me a call before Sunday and I will happily talk you through how to get connected. The most common comment from those taking part is "it's lovely to see people's faces."



One thing we have received regular appreciative comments on over the years is the wayside pulpit which looks out onto the new seating area at the top of Northgate Street. Here is the current poster, for those of you not able to physically visit – I do hope this sentiment is true for you.

If that is not how you feel – what would need to change to make it true? What steps could you take towards that? May you find ways to connect with God, with family, with friends, in these strange times.

And finally... we would like to continue to witness to the people of Warwick that the church is alive and well, so David and I plan to put a new display up in the church windows for Pentecost. If you can find some red, orange or yellow paper (or white paper that you can colour), please draw round your hand and cut it out, write your name on, and either stick it

through the church letterbox, or mine (101 West Street, CV34 6AH), or post it to me. You can also leave them with the Withams. The deadline is next Thursday, 28th May. Why not do several hands? The more the merrier, and the more powerful the witness!

Keep safe; keep caring; keep praying.
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