 **Westfield URC**

**Weekly Notice Sheet**

**For 1st November 2020**



 **If you have anything you want to share with the fellowship week by week please email it to Kath by Tuesday evening or ring and we will try to include it on the next weekly sheet.**

**Items to Marjorie for December / January newsletter by 15th November please.**

**Secretary: Kath Lonsdale: 01274 315203; 07759525936**

**kathlonsdale@talktalk.net**

**Treasurer: Marjorie Hunt: 01274 677115**

**Westfield elders invite you to use the readings, prayers and reflections at 10.30am Sunday morning, if you are unable to be in church, to help us worship together in Spirit. This week Christine Milner leads our service .**

**Advanced notices**

Sunday 1st November

 6.30pm evening service Neil

Tuesday 3rd 7pm Bible Study

Wednesday 4th 2pm Bible Study

 **Sunday 8th November Remembrance -Andrew & Kath - 10.30am with the wreath laying and 11am silence inside following the same Covid secure set up we have had since September. We Remember & Pray for Peace**

**A representation of the Guides and Rangers may meet with Andrew outside church socially distanced to lay a wreath and share in some prayers and the silence. This would happen at 10.50am until just after 11.00am and Kath will continue this part of the service inside.**

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**A very Happy birthday Glynis**

**from your Westfield friends**

 

**Letter from the United Reformed Church Moderators:**

**who have considered the question “When should a church consider closing in light of increasing rates of Coronavirus?”**

**At this stage, it is not possible based on infection rates or other criteria to give a definite point at which a local United Reformed Church should close as Covid-19 rates increase.**

 Current Government guidance in England, Scotland and Wales allows places of worship to remain open even when higher levels of alert and restriction are in place, although the “fire-break” lockdown in Wales WILL require places of worship to close to the public, which includes for acts of worship.

 However, the United Reformed Church stresses that whilst Governments allow churches to remain open, this is permissive, and not an obligation. The Elders’ Meeting (and equivalent council in LEPs) are best placed to understand and assess the risk locally, bearing in mind the nature of the premises, and the activities that take place (including worship and other church-related meetings and groups) and external lettings.

 Due consideration needs to be given the vulnerability of the people. Without the appropriate volunteers to manage activities and the premises, churches will not be able to maintain Covid-secure buildings, in which case activities must cease until that can be remedied.

 Further, churches are reminded that Risk Assessments are not documents to be created and then ignored. It is essential to put into place the mitigations identified in order to open and operate safely.

 Equally, when risks alter, the “venue managers” or “person responsible” (in Government terminology) – almost always the Elders’ Meeting within the United Reformed Church – will need to consider whether the changed circumstances require changes in practice to further reduce the risks prevailing, which might include closing for a time.

 When a church enters the Tier 3 (Very High) risk level in England and any equivalent state should a similar system be developed for Scotland and Wales, we strongly encourage the Elders’ Meeting to consider whether it is now appropriate to close for worship and other non-essential activities (which would leave foodbanks, support groups for vulnerable people, etc. able to continue to operate as they did during the national lockdown).

 Whatever decision is taken by the Elders, they should document the reasons for their decision. This does not place an obligation on churches in the highest risk areas to close, but it is a strong encouragement that this is considered.

 In all cases, if Governments tighten up their position, churches must follow that Government policy and regulation, and nothing here is intended to supersede that guidance.

*The Synod Moderators, published on 21/10/20*



**Noticeboard witness:**

**If you have a bible text for sharing an Advent, Christmas or New Year message to those walking or driving past our notice board please let me have it/them by today please so I can get some more posters printed by mid November.**

***Blessings Kath***

**Westfield URC, Westfield Lane, Wyke, BD12 9DB** [**www.WestfieldURC.org**](http://www.WestfieldURC.org)

**please look at the calendar for future information or ring any elder Marjorie, Pauline, Neil, Glynis or Kath.**