

From our Church Secretary

As I write this, it's hard to believe that it's less than 4 weeks ago that the Elders voted to put my name forward as Church Secretary, and just 2 weeks since Church Meeting appointed me! It's humbling and a great privilege to be asked to take on this role. It's one that I wouldn't naturally take on, being more of a "numbers" than a "words" person myself, but I will do my best.

Before I agreed, I was warned by previous church secretaries (including the one I'm married to!) that it wasn't the list of regular responsibilities that would be the challenge. Instead, it would be having to deal with things beyond my control, coming out of the blue and not on any list! I'm someone who likes to plan and be in control of events (I don't like rollercoasters or car cruise control for that reason!) and I always knew this would be difficult. Little did I know what awaited us.

In these uncertain times, the support and encouragement I've received from others in the Free Church has been amazing! Catherine, Elders, and members of our Coronavirus taskforce have been faced with having to make fast and difficult decisions, sometimes quickly overtaken by subsequent Government announcements which forced a rethink. We are trying to share the workload but even that is a challenge when we can't physically meet together. We are having to learn new ways to do things.

On a personal front, I've noticed how much longer the phone and video calls have been with our family. I even managed a video call with my mother in her care home, which she enjoyed in spite of some technical difficulties! Barbara and I have just been listening to the URC Sunday Service podcast, which I would recommend.

I now need to think about the agenda for next Wednesday's Elders' Meeting. Looking at the minutes of our last face-to-face meeting on 4th March, it reads like something from a different age! Many of the "Matters Arising" now seem irrelevant or of no consequence. However, this is an opportunity to look forward not back, and find new ways of doing the things that we value as a church. In all this, it's also important that we look after ourselves so that we can better support others.

Take care,

David Duffett

Church Secretary

29th March 2020