



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

# The Free Church (United Reformed) Saint Ives

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## WEEK 3 - FREE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

5th April 2020 PALM SUNDAY

Warmest greetings to all members and friends,

We hope that you are managing OK in our third week of lockdown. Different people have different coping strategies. Some are going for a daily walk; some are doing gardening, and many are doing spring cleaning and even indoor decorating. We are glad that many have family and neighbours who are looking out for each other and helping each other fetching groceries and picking up prescriptions. It is good to keep in contact with others even if you are shut inside most of the time. Elders and Catherine are trying to keep in touch by telephone and by email and with these weekly devotions and newsletters. If you do need anything, do please do not hesitate to ring Catherine or your elder and we will seek to sort something.

Elders have had a further conference call and have decided that as our church is closed, including the porch chapel, we have asked eleven of our staff to go on furlough (leave) and to apply for the government scheme through which they may receive 80% of their usual pay. Mick Lovell, our caretaker is kindly continuing to work for us, going into the church regularly to check for security and to do some maintenance jobs, including putting up bars on the lounge windows. If you wish to contact the church, please redirect to the minister or church secretaries – details below.

As we are not able to gather for worship, Catherine has written Devotions, with a Bible reading, Reflection and Prayer & Action sections. As well, we are seeking to get up to speed with our IT and I recorded in on a video link which with Peter Davies' help may be found on the homepage of our church website, [www.stivesfreechurch.org](http://www.stivesfreechurch.org) following the link to 'Worship at home' on the Worship tab. Also, on the Worship tab is a link to '20 Minute Worship'. If you'd like to have a go at producing one of these please write something and let us know. Further devotions for the Easter weekend will be available soon.

The website homepage also includes a link to a booklet 'Continuing to support each other' produced by the URC Walking the Way team. We will endeavour to keep the website updated with any new resources or information that we receive, so please look at it regularly.

Other opportunities for worship include listening to *Morning Service* on Radio 4, *Good Morning Sunday* on Radio 2, watching *Songs of Praise*, putting up a **candle in your front window at 8 pm** on Sunday evening.

May God bless and keep you,

Catherine and Alan

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