



Abbey Lane & Newport United Reformed Church incorporating Saffron Walden Methodist Church

Proclaiming the Gospel – Growing in Faith – Reaching out in Service

6 June



Photo by Stephen Rapkin of the entrance to Abbey Lane

Welcome to our weekly newsletter

(Order of Service and Letter to be sent separately)

Sunday Service 6th June (Holy Communion)

Worship Online and in Abbey Lane
at 10:30 a.m.

Led by Rev. Christine Fowler

This service will include the sacrament of Holy Communion: if you are attending face to face please bring your own bread, glasses of wine will be provided in the pews.

If you are joining us on-line please have your bread and wine available.

To attend in person please book in advance:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/>
and type Abbey Lane Sunday Service into the 'search events' box

Zoom meeting and Passcode details are listed on the order of service sent separately, or call our Church Contact on 01799 528325

If you prefer to watch live on the website please go to <http://saffronwaldenurc.org.uk/services-recordings> where you will also find a recording of the service to YouTube each week available from Sunday afternoon.

We're making progress! By the time you receive this newsletter it will be half term holidays for those of us with school age children. This week's edition has therefore been prepared ahead of time and is a short edition as we are taking a small break. Meanwhile we want to highlight good things happening as life shapes into 'new normal' with AV for worship and Bible Study.

Over half term Greg Watson and Joey Hughes are looking forward to meeting up with John Luke online to start learning about the AV and streaming system he installed, and how we operate it. This week for the service with Rev. Christine Fowler - which includes the sacrament of Holy Communion - arrangements for joining from home and sound system in Abbey Lane will remain the same, using Greg Watson's laptop. Starting from the 13th June, we will be trying out the permanent cameras and microphones that have been permanently wired into the church and getting a small team trained up.

At time of writing there is no further indication from the government about social distancing, so attendance is likely still to be spaced in person. This also means we have no guidance yet about congregational singing. We will therefore continue a Zoom connection to enable fellowship with those at home and will review whether we need a booking system to attend in person.

Once we are confident with our tech, and social distance restrictions ease, we can look forward to having the new set-up our permanent operation, and hopefully that will also mean a return to live music. Thank you for your continued patience; rest assured we will keep you updated on progress.

Psalm 9: 10

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

Iris photographed by Mary Duxbury for WhatsApp group



Ministers	
Revd Roy Fowler	01279 814 809
Church Secretary	
Val Bowtle	01799 526 271
Vestry Phone & Church Contact	01799 528325

Elders	
John Ford	07969 850 109
Stephen Rapkin	07730 393 603
Karen Start	01799 522 096
Elfreda Tealby-Watson	01799 530 175
Margaret Howell & Meg Nettle	Non-serving Elders offered pastoral care



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Reminders for your Diary

5th June – first training on the new AV tech Prayers please for all involved for a smooth session

5th June World Environment Day The United Nations lead this day as the launch of the UN Decade, a 10 year environmental initiative to 'Reimagine, Recreate, Restore'. #GenerationRestoration More information at <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

8th June Bible Study - we will start a study of Ephesians on Tuesday 8th June. Details below.

18th July Farewell Service for Rev. Roy Fowler on his retirement. SAVE THE DATE! Worship will be on line via Zoom for WEBS pastorate together. As we are still uncertain with regard to Covid19 restrictions this seems to be the best way for us to 'meet' together with no concerns about numbers or travel arrangements.

25th July Farewell to Tina Wilson Tina is due to start her training for ministry in September. Join us at Abbey Lane or from home when she leads worship before her summer break ahead of study at Westminster College.

Bible Study of Daniel: Adversity, Faith, Kings, and Divine Power

One of the 'positives' of lockdown has been the ease with which we've been able to organise and attend small group Bible studies. We (about 12 of us in two weekly sessions) have just concluded a series of sessions on the book of Daniel and we've all found it rewarding and stimulating. We'd like to thank Stephen for sourcing the interesting materials for these studies which you could explore yourself at <https://scottishbiblesociety.org/resources/conversations-daniel/>

Stephen writes, "We probably all had some awareness of Daniel in the Lions' Den and the 'Writing on the Wall' at Belshazzar's feast, but we've found out so much more by exploring these stories in detail. Radiating from these stories has been the certainty of Daniel's faith in adversity and God's protection of the Jewish people - 'God's people' in Old Testament terms - during exile in Babylon. We pray that God will care for us even if our faith cannot match that of Daniel. God be with us, individually and as God's people as we move forward in uncertain times."

Elfreda adds, "After writing recently about the Scottish Covenanters' protest against the Divine Right of Kings

it occurred to me that maybe Stuart King Charles II didn't interpret the lessons of Daniel in the same way we did - each strange tale had an almost folklore quality to it, and the Kings' inability to recognise God's supremacy resulted in weekly cries of 'Will they never learn?' in Thursday group!"



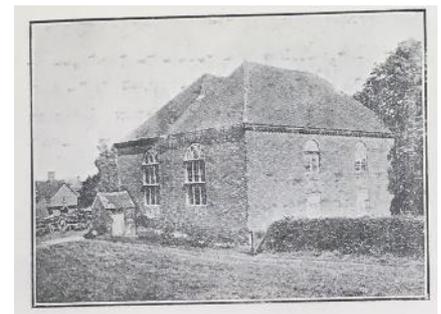
Join us?

Bible study groups have taken a short break and now meet again from Tuesday to begin something very different - a six session study on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Is it really a letter? Did Paul actually write it? Do questions like this matter? Much more importantly, how do we make Christ the cornerstone of our lives?

Stephen emphasises, "If you've not joined us before there is nothing to fear and we'd be delighted to welcome you. It would be great to get everyone involved - God's Word in the Bible should be the bedrock of our faith - 'Scripture alone' as Martin Luther said." From the 8th June we will meet via Zoom at 9.30 on Tuesday mornings, but could set up another session at a different time and date.

Church Family

Apologies that due to our absence there is no church family news this week nor WhatsApp feature. Stephen Rapkin has provided this photo puzzle for your enjoyment instead. "A rather grainy photo. Does anyone know where this is? Answer next week." But if you think you know email Stephen on scrapkin@yahoo.com.sg



Ancient Prayer for Day 6

from the Methodist monthly prayer cycle

*Thirsty for you, O Christ, let us drink of the Living Water.
Hungry for you, let us taste the Bread of Life. Lost without you, let us hear the Shepherd's voice. Amen.*

Anselm of Canterbury (c.1033-1109)

