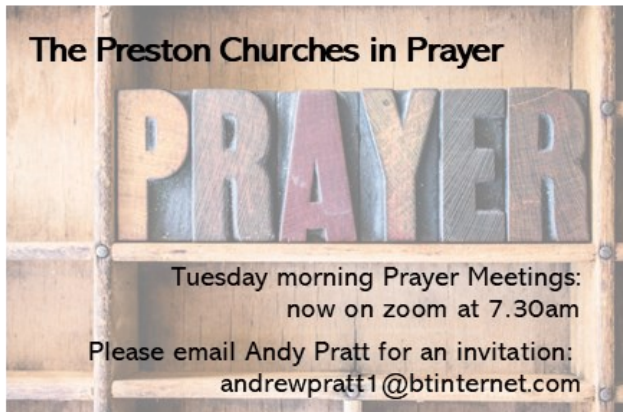


# Church Without Walls

Issue 30 November 1st 2020



## Update from APCM

Thank you to those who came to our Zoom APCM on Monday and if you were unable to make it, here are the headlines:

**Wardens:** *Andy and Pat will continue in their role as church wardens*

**PCC:** *Lesley Garstang, Paul Harrison and Val Kay will continue serving and Andy Hirons is joining PCC*

**Deanery Synod and PCC:** *Stephanie Rankin will continue in this role and Mel Holloway is joining for the first time.*

**Safeguarding:** Dave thanked Anthony Riley who has stepped down from being Deanery Synod Rep and being Parish Safeguarding Officer. Julia Bell who is our DBS coordinator has kindly agreed to take on this role for the immediate future. Please contact Julia with any safeguarding concerns.

Dave expressed his appreciation for all who serve on PCC and to the wider congregation who give their time, money and talents to serve the Lord and one another.

Dave shared a vision for our church in the midst of the pandemic. Speaking from Psalm 102 v 12 – 17 he identified five 'R's' to help hang the vision on.

**Refocus** our vision on God as the sovereign and compassionate Lord v 12 – 13

**Rebuild** the church Lord and start with us! v 13 & 16

**Recommit** to gathering – as living stones each one of is precious to the Lord v 14 & 1 Peter 2 v 4 – 5

**Reveal** your glory – v 16. May our words and actions reveal Jesus to our community!

**Renew** a desire to pray v 17. We can be confident in both God's desire and power to answer our prayers

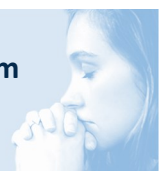
### What to look out for in the next few months?

- *Live streaming Sunday morning worship with the service still being available on YouTube channel*
- *Consider how we might give financial help to other parishes across the Diocese*
- *Pray and ask how we might respond with compassion to those who are struggling in our community*
- *Creatively re-imagine how we might celebrate Christmas this year and share the wonderful news of Jesus birth*
- *Recognise and support those with increased mental health needs at this time*



**Prayer Meeting Monday November 2nd at 7.30pm**

[click here to join this via zoom](#)



 **St Stephen's**  
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES

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## Responding to a request for help and a Bishop's talk

Some of our church family attended the online Diocesan Conference a couple of weeks ago. One person was moved by this to respond to a request for help:

*A couple of weeks ago I had a request from Jacqui Bimson who leads Bethel Church in Preston with her husband. They are helping and supporting the 'working girls' in Preston by going out on the streets on a Saturday evening and getting to know them. They are in the process of buying a home to house some of them.*

*They are asking for donations of certain items to help them out; these are:  
underwear, wet wipes, deodorant, water, hats, gloves, scarves, umbrellas, food - e.g crisps, biscuits, things they can eat quickly. Jacqui says that one of them is 'on fire for Jesus' and several others are new Christians.*

*After listening to Bishop Jill talking about fire and an underground army of folk who are poor, broken-hearted, prisoners etc, I wanted to ask Church members if they would be willing to help by donating some of these items.*

- Mel

There will be a box in church until the end of November for any of the above items.



## A RELEASE INTERNATIONAL EVENING WITH REVD HASSAN JOHN FROM NIGERIA

***Violent Christian Persecution in Nigeria: Serving Christ and Gospel in a Hostile Nation*** will explore Hassan's journey with Jesus in the northern territories, where nomadic Fulani herdsmen are brutally attacking Christian villages. We will hear his testimony of how Christ has strengthened him and walked with him through these dark trials.

To book a place, please go to the [Release International website](#), click the region that you wish to 'attend' then click the link for your 'free ticket from Eventbrite' to register for a **free ticket**. You can also register for a free ticket with a **donation** if you would like to contribute to the ministry of Release International. All funds raised at these online events will be split 50/50 between our work in Nigeria and our general funds at Release International.

We are holding 4 events, all at 7.30pm, for supporters in different regions, but if you can't make the date for your region, please join whichever you are able.

Dates are as follows:

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov (Wales)

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov (Scotland)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov (England)

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov (Northern Ireland) - plus Facebook and YouTube (public livestreaming)

**Cedar House** is limited to online counselling at the moment, due to some staff testing positive for Covid 19. This doesn't work for some clients, so they have asked us to pray:

- For God's protection over Cedar House and all the team.
- For healing for those who are suffering now from Covid or its after-effects
- For clients left high and dry again
- For the many local people who are desperate for counselling but can't get help
- For wisdom and guidance for the trustees as we make decisions about the way ahead
- A client – not a Christian – has asked for prayer for his carer Wendy, who has just been diagnosed with breast cancer. He asked for us to get as many people as possible to pray.



Remember to give this number to anyone you know who would appreciate being able to hear a message of hope at this time



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

