

Dear Church Family,

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.' Hebrews 12:1&2

The writer to the Hebrews speaks of the large group of people who have gone before us; the scene is that of a crowd watching a race, a race in which we are running.

Hebrews encourages us to shed any excess 'baggage' so we can run the race without being hindered.

Hinderances can come in all shapes and sizes. Attitudes we take; grudges we hold; habits we find it hard to break or unforgiveness which blocks us from being forgiven ourselves.

Jesus is both pioneer and perfecter, Alpha and Omega, of our life of faith.

Jesus endured suffering and shame in order to know the joy of reconciling all things to God.

May we be encouraged by thoughts of the many faithful people who have run the race of a God-centred life through the years, just as we are doing now.

May we fix our eyes on Jesus and run in his footsteps.

Prayer Update

Jill Zak is now out of hospital but weak and tired. She is on medication for her low sodium levels and now needs to rest and recuperate.

Meg McEnery has had a bad third week of viral symptoms and is on a second round of antibiotics.

Dorothy Douglas's funeral will be taking place on Thursday 14th May at 12:30.

Keith Douglas's son has been told his dad is 'over the virus' but is still in quite a bad way with other health conditions.

Online Services

Our next online service will be available on Sunday from 10:30.

All services can be found on the HBCC Facebook page and are now also on YouTube.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hesketh-Bank-Christian-Centre-137989929662209/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI-q5TmlygGFnooTXluT6kg>

Post Service Zoom Catchup

Alex will be running a Zoom session for anyone who'd like to connect with others live after the premiere of the service on Sunday. This catchup will start at 11:00.

If you would like to join in you will need to have the Zoom App on your computer or tablet. Zoom works fine on phones as well but you can't see more than a few people who are taking part if you use it on a phone

To download the free version of Zoom go to <https://zoom.us> and click on 'sign up for free'.

Details of the catchup meeting will be posted on the HBCC Family Facebook page immediately following the service; these will be a meeting ID and password.

Special Birthday Congratulations

Happy Birthday to Margaret Pye for next Tuesday (12th May) when she will celebrate her 60th!

*Please can you let us know if you would like us to share news of special birthdays, anniversaries or occurrences in our weekly bulletin. Send details to the church email address - hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

Next week is Christian Aid Week and as there can be no envelope collection this year the charity is being innovative about fundraising.

If you would like to give to the work of Christian Aid, which is doing such valuable work helping people in some of the poorest parts of the world, you can donate online at:

caweek.org

or by phoning 020 7523 2269.

If you would like to watch some great short personal videos about faith in action, visit the CA website visit: caweek.org/resources, and search for 'Faith in Action' films.

Online Giving

Don't forget you can give directly to the church using online banking.

Bank Sort Code: 40-24-14

Account No: 10429627

Contact Numbers

You can reach us on the numbers below:

Mark	- 07526 989665
Steve	- 07484 268297
Alex	- 07701 042458 (Youth and Young People)

Please also keep in contact with all the groups of which you are part with the social media tools at your disposal.

Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives

Grace, peace and every good to you,

The Leadership Team 07.05.2020

(This bulletin is available in the 'latest news' section of the church website along with all previous communications.)