



Outward-Looking

A few of us have been learning a bit more about ACORN, something I was talking about at our Annual Church Meeting last month and it really fits well with our church value of being outward-looking.

ACORN is a spiritual practice, where each day you pray words to effect, 'LORD, today, who do you want me to connect with outside the church family.' This is the 'A' of ACORN—ASK. It is simply about asking God to open our eyes and ears to the people around us.

The 'C' is for CALL. When we've asked God to give us a 'nudge' to reach out to someone. We can trust that he will answer that prayer and call us. Maybe we'll come across someone in the course of the day and we'll sense God calling us to speak to them. Maybe we'll get the nudge to phone someone we haven't spoken to for a while. We might even find someone reaches out and approaches us.

When that happens, all we have to do is OBEY and open up a conversation, with a simple 'how are you?'. Find out how life is for them at the moment and be willing to really listen. As you listen, realise that God will already be at work in that person's life in some way. How can we affirm that and help them to see that too? Ask God to prompt the conversation further.

There is no particular 'result' we want from these conversations; this is simply about asking God to help us be more aware of him and what he is doing in people's lives, so that we can respond with his love. ACORN is just as much (if not more) about what God is doing *in* us as *through* us. It's about being amazed and encouraged to know that he is at work.

Which brings us to the 'R', REPORT. A really important part of ACORN is having a small group of others who are also practicing this way of being outward-looking. You report back to one another and reflect on the conversations you've had; helping each other NOTICE things about the encounter and see where God might have been in it all; perhaps suggesting ways of keeping the connection going and taking the conversation further.

ACORN is a very natural way of helping us to be more outward-looking. I'd be really surprised if many of us weren't already doing it in some way, without even realising it, but the practice of reflecting with others can be a real encouragement.

When Jesus left his disciples with the Great Commission to 'go and make disciples of all nations', it wasn't with the sense of 'make a special effort to go specifically to a certain place and evangelise'. The form of the verb is more along the lines of '*as you are going*, make disciples.' As you go about your day, as you go through life, as you go about your business.... make time, make conversation, make connections, so that others can discover what you've discovered: that God is real and he's here and he's interested in them and he loves them.

What this space for more updates on ACORN and how to get involved.

Catherine

Funeral of Pamela Skipwith

Pamela's funeral will be on Tuesday 29th June at 12.45pm. Numbers allowed at the funeral will be somewhat limited due to the continued requirement for social distancing, so do please check with Guy before planning to attend. However, the service will be on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82512221683?pwd=cmsreUhpWFVycm1aelhjTFNtZytkUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 1222 1683 Passcode: 141721

Prayer



Please continue to pray for Guy Skipwith and all his family, on the very sudden death of our dear friend and church family member, Pamela. Please pray for Nita Heath's son Antony and grandson Ben. Please pray for Muriel Rowley.

Regular Services

To join any of our regular Zoom services, click on the links below. If you need a copy of the liturgy for any of the services, please contact the Church Office.

Sunday 9.00am Communion Service in church

Sunday 10.30am ZOOM (Breaking Bread)

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

[pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Readings: Acts 10.1-23; Matthew 28.16-end

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday Evening Compline 7.00pm ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRlTW5Xdz09)

[pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRlTW5Xdz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78321229825?pwd=R2lUZUJjMDRnTGhINIFPejRlTW5Xdz09)

Meeting ID: 783 2122 9825 Password: 3164610

You can join any of the above meetings by phone using any of the following numbers and the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240
0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874

Open Air Service

We will be holding an open air service in the churchyard on **Sunday 11th July at 4.00pm**. Being outside means we can sing some songs and hymns, so bring a deck chair or a picnic rug and join us (and pray for sunshine!).

Midweek Communion Services

We are planning to reintroduce our midweek Holy Communion services at 10.00am on Thursdays, starting on 1st July. To begin with these might need to be held in the main body of the church, rather than in the Resurrection Chapel, depending on what social distancing restrictions remain in place at that time. However it will be lovely to gather again for this traditional, yet relaxed and welcoming service. Do spread the word and let others know, who might be interested in coming.

Opening Church During the Week

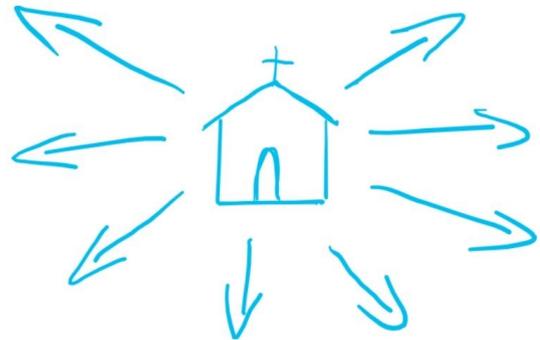
In July we want to begin opening our church again for visitors during the week on **Wednesdays from 10.00am to 2.00pm** and on **Saturdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm**. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered their services and we'll be in touch to check your availability. If you can help with this important ministry to our town, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Avril Innocent (07794 260029).

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required

Jam—No Stock Long-Life Cartons of Fruit Juice—No Stock
Sponge Puddings / Slab Cake—No Stock Biscuits—No Stock
Rice Pudding No Stock Custard No Stock
Tinned Spaghetti—No Stock UHT Milk—Low Stock
Packets Pasta in sauce/flavoured Rice - Low Stock
Toilet Rolls Cleaning Products
Shampoo / Conditioner Shower Gel
Washing Up Liquid Laundry Powder / Liquid Tabs
Wet Dog Food Dry Cat Food

Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am. If you are unable to bring donations to the Parish Rooms or to the drop-off points in our local supermarkets, please contact Catherine McBride or Carol Corney, who can arrange to have someone come and pick up your donations.



St Mary's Brass Band

I bet you didn't know we had one!! Our Brass Band isn't the musical variety, it's the faithful band of volunteers who help to clean the brass items and fixtures in our church. The group could really do with a few more willing pairs of hands. The 'hours' are flexible to suit you. If you would like to know more, or are interested in helping, then please contact Nita Heath on 01630 655559.

Staying in Touch

Our Church Office is not staffed at the moment, but e-mails and phone messages are being picked up regularly:

Phone: 01630 653505 **E-mail:** stmarysmd@btinternet.com

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Vicar: Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Phone: 01630 656943

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.

