



**10:30am Morning Worship**

**The Revelation Churches: Son of Man**

Revelation 1:12-20

Speaker: Simon Downing

This service will include communion

**6.30pm Evening Worship**

**Just Worship – The beauty of the Lord**

Psalm 27:4

Speaker: Simon Downing

15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

09:00 – 12:00noon – Café Connect

10:00 – 12noon - Craft Club

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

10:00 – 12noon - Coffee Pot at the Council offices.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

09:00 – 12:00noon – Café Connect

19:00 – 20:30 - Community choir

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

10:00 – 12noon - Coffee Time at West Meads

14:30 – 16:00 – New Life Group

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

10:30 – 11.45 – Morning worship with Roy Connor

18:30 – 19:30 – Evening worship with Derek Robinson

**NEWS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

**SUNDAY MORNING** – In today’s sermon, Simon will be leading us into a new series based on the Revelation Churches as revealed to the Apostle John in a vision. We can only imagine what went through John's mind as he **turned** towards the voice he heard. It was probably not exactly the same sound as he remembered Jesus' voice to be (John described it *as of a trumpet*, Revelation 1:10). Yet he knew from the voice's self-description (*Alpha and Omega*) that it was Jesus. This was John's opportunity to see Jesus again, after knowing Him so well during the years of His earthly ministry. And yet as He turned and saw Jesus, John was so overwhelmed by what he saw that he fell at His (Jesus) feet as if dead. Of course, Jesus comforted John with a compassionate touch. Jesus tells John, as He tells, “Do not be afraid”.

**SUNDAY EVENING** – This Sunday will be a ‘Just Worship’ evening – where we worship God simply for who he is. This evening will be centred around the words of Psalm 27:4 in which the Psalmist says that he asks one thing of the Lord – that he may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord. This is something that we can all endorse in our lives and the life to come. **DO NOT MISS THIS.**

**TODAY’S FLOWERS** – have been donated to celebrate Alan and Davina’s diamond wedding anniversary. Congratulations from us all.

**TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY** - Bible study on Tuesday 17 March at 7pm in the Lounge led by Roger French on the subject ‘God is Eternal’. In this study Roger considers the question of God’s relationship to time and uncovers truths that can provide security and peace for all Christians.

**NEW LIFE GROUP** - Our next get together will be on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm in the foyer of the church. Why not join us for a cup of tea, a chat and even a piece of cake? Janice.

## A MESSAGE FROM SIMON ABOUT OUR APPROACH TO CORONAVIRUS

It is with sadness that I need to write this notice, but we have reached a point where it is necessary to make some considerations about how we operate as a Church.

The coronavirus, as we all know, is now spreading and it is only wise to take some precautions. To put it simply, there are, in effect, three 'fs'.

The first thing we need to remember is that we are a people of 1. faith and 2. not of fear. God is with us all of the time and is able for us at any time. This does not mean that we will not catch the virus, but it does mean we have hope in the present, as well as eternally. May this be a witness to those unbelievers we know, who might be panicking about this.

But our third 'f' is that we should not be frivolous. We need to be very hygienic at this time, especially when we meet together on Sundays. If you have any hand sanitising gel then please use it, and if you can find anywhere that sells it, then please buy it. It would be better to not shake hands, and if you feel unwell for any reason, please stay at home on Sundays or whenever you might meet in a group.

I recently sent out an email about the different views expressed in The Church about this virus, and I still do not have a definitive position on it. However, what I will say, is that the Lord Jesus Christ is in charge of all of this and we need to keep praying for his power, protection and grace in this situation; not forgetting the world and our own country.

God bless you all. I hope these simple words will be of use. Simon

**CALLING ALL LADIES** – The Ladies Easter Craft evening, will be held at the church on Thursday 26th March, 7.30pm, £3.50. Please book a place with Nicky 07943 537785. You are welcome to invite a friend or neighbour to come with you.

**SIMON IS HAVING A BREAK** – Simon will be having a break next week although his travel plans have been changed due to the spread of coronavirus.

**URGENT PRAYER REQUESTS** - If you have, or know of, an urgent need for prayer then please contact Derek as first responder. He will then activate the prayer chain as appropriate.

**PRAYER UPDATE** - The little girl Aleesia, all being well, is due to have her operation on 17th March at 7.30am. The family are very emotional and thankful that finally there seems to be an end in sight. Please continue to pray for the whole family.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR** – Hazel Goldsmith, Joy Smith, Pam Brown, Stella Filby, Maureen Jones, Joan Brett, John Richardson, Aleesia (Peta's granddaughter, friend of Ingrida), Joy Puffett, Marion Bryant, Pat and Mick Parker, Val Collett, Pam Ryan, Tony Brock, George Woods, Sid Evans, and for any others in our fellowship who are unwell at this time.

... and finally

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## ELECTION OF ELDERS/DEACONS – THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT

Our annual general meeting will take place on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. As laid down in our constitution, two of the team are required to formally stand down but can then be re-nominated for a further three years. **This year Brenda and Derek will be standing down.** If you would like to re-nominate them, please pick up a nomination form from the back of the church. **As yet they have not been asked to stand again.**

At the AGM, you can also nominate others whom you think are suitable to join the diaconate. Please pray about this and make sure the person you want to nominate is willing to stand. For guidance and advice please speak to Simon. Nomination forms are available at the back of the church.

**ROMANIAN MISSION** – As of last Wednesday, Rod reports that 44 people have given their lives to Jesus since the start of this mission. Praise the Lord.

**HAZEL GOLDSMITH** – Brian asks us to “Pray for Hazel to know the Lord’s presence in her sunny, modern room (at St. Wilfrid’s Hospice) and for me as I continue to be exhausted. Thank you all for upholding us.”

**PASTORAL CARE AT ABC** – Simon and Derek are currently working on ways in which we might be able to improve the quality of our pastoral care. If you currently “care” for someone in the fellowship, and you haven’t already told us, please let me know as soon as possible. We want to ensure that everyone is cared for by someone. This is part of our mission statement: To love God, to love each other and to love the lost.

**ADVANCED NOTICE - HOME GROUP LEADERS** - The time has come! We are due another homegroups get together, to see how we are and how we are doing. The date I have picked, which I really do hope you can make, is **THURSDAY 16TH APRIL at 7.00 p.m.** at the Church.

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## Contact and Church office information

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Deacons	Brenda (265984), Barbara (821789), John (837181)