

Dear everyone,

As we are no longer able to meet together at Sunday worship, Cafe connect, and Cafe church, and catch up with each other, I have made up a mailing list of all the people in the congregation for whom I have an e-mail address.

I thought this would be a useful circulation list to pass on some of the news and information we are getting regularly from the Church of Scotland and also to provide an opportunity for those who wish to exchange local news, ask for and offer help to one another, raise points for prayer, so we can keep up with one another during this strange time of isolation.

Firstly: if you DON'T want to be involved please just e-mail me I and will take your name off the list. I don't want to clutter up people's mail unnecessarily.

Secondly: if you know someone in the congregation who doesn't receive this, and would like to - send me their address and I will add them in.

Please also remember that many people do not have access to the internet so please regularly phone people you know for a chat. This is good for both you and them.

I will not fill today's e-mail with lots of other stuff which is coming in from all over - but here is a suggested prayer:

We are asked to pray this together across Argyll at 12.00 noon tomorrow from Argyll Presbytery:

Lord, keep us under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who have contracted the virus and those who have succumbed. We commend their families to you at this time especially when the opportunity to say goodbye has gone. Be with those who feel unwell; comfort and heal them and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for decision makers and health experts who have to make difficult decisions to keep us all safe and healthy. Keep them from becoming overwhelmed and fatigued in their relentless task so that they continue to give best advice and to stay well themselves.

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes wherever you call us.

We ask all this in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

May the Lord bless us and keep us, May the Lord lift his countenance upon us, and be gracious to us.  
May the Lord make His face to shine upon us and give us peace.

David