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14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear friends

This comes with every best wish and my prayers for your wellbeing and that of those whom you love.

I'm delighted that so many church activities have already begun and others are just starting up. It's not an easy process and for each activity I would like, on everyone's behalf, to thank all those who are working so hard to get things up and running. It takes commitment and sacrifice and a servant heart, so we are very, very grateful. Some of the activities I mention below:

- **YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY GROUPS – IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS**

From this Sunday there will be no pre-booking arrangements for your children for any of the Sunday groups. However, we will still need to be mindful of our capacity for each group and so only we can only accept those children arriving in good time.

We understand that this may be disappointing for some families but please bear with us as we re-start our work here with a reduced number of available helpers.

Some weeks, because of our reduced capacity, one or more of the groups may not be able to run at all, or it may be an all-age service in church. This information will be posted on the Weekly Updates section of our website each week so it will be important to check this post towards the end of each week.

Thank to all those who have offered to help in the groups, and to those who are now fulfilling the necessary recruitment journey to help us to do all things well.

- **THURSDAY MORNING COMMUNION**

Starting again this week we will meet for Holy Communion in the chapel at 10.45 am. This is a quiet, reflective service to which anyone is warmly invited.

- **LUNCH CLUB**

This week Lunch Club follows the communion service and each Thursday there's the opportunity for a cuppa and fellowship in the Hub after the service.

### **Other things to highlight**

Opportunities for prayer:

- This coming Saturday (18<sup>th</sup>) at midday - to launch Great Big Green Week there will be a short Interfaith gathering in the walled garden in Reynolds Park when we will unite in

prayer for our world. Do come along and support this if you can.

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 7 pm at All Souls, Springwood. An evening of prayer, worship and fellowship when churches from the South Liverpool Deanery can join together to pray for our congregations, parishes and the Deanery.
- We have a list of people to pray for in church, and will be praying for those who are on it at the 8 am and 10.45 am Communion services each week. If you want to pass on a name to go on the list (having first checked that the person is happy for their name to be included) then please email me, or the office.

Our wonderful gardening team – Lindsay, Viv and Mark – are hanging up their trowels and retiring. We are very grateful for their faithful, hard work at keeping the church gardens looking beautiful week by week, season by season, for so many years. We are looking for at least 3 people who could form a team to care for the church garden? It's a much-appreciated job as it welcomes people and visitors who come to the church and makes it look vibrant all year round. Please let me know if are interested.

Finally, let me share about a film just released that Sue and I saw on our day off yesterday. It's called Respect and is about the life of Aretha Franklin. It's a moving story that one moment made me laugh, and then move me to tears. Despite its title, 'Amazing Grace' is arguably the most crucial song in the film as it signals Aretha's decision to reconnect with church and her family, in spite of all the suffering she has experienced in her life.

As Arethra sang Amazing Grace I felt as though I was in church, having a great time. I was longing to get up and join in!

Krish Kandiah, the Director of Home for Good, a charity that helps vulnerable children, writes that the film reminds him that God continues to save souls and change lives, whatever we have done and whatever has been done to us. God's grace helps us to face the dangers, toils and snares that life throws at us. It keeps us safe and leads us home.

If you can, go and experience a film that feels like church. It's a spiritual celebration and homecoming all in one,

But otherwise ..... keep singing God's praises!

God bless

Kip