March/April 2020 Special Newsletter Hull Unitarian Church Chamberlain House, Park Street, Hull, HU2 8TA

A statement from Rev. John Carter:

(Please note that this was written before the restrictions of 23 March were introduced.)

This has been a busy week with governmental advice that constantly changes as the situation demands. The advice that many are following is to self isolate. That is to avoid social engagements and situations. Churches have been asked to cease their services during this time as well.

After much conversation we, the committee and myself, have decided to suspend our services for the foreseeable future. We will be keeping track of advice and how things are progressing. This is a day to day situation.

If you would like to have someone to speak with, don't hesitate to call me.

Please remember to hold each other in your hearts, mind, spirit and in prayer. Call and check in, use social media, and always let us know what is happening in your lives and the lives of those for whom you care.

Rev John 07956 304314

A Prayer

by John Philip Carter

In this time of anxiety, dis-ease, disconnection and yes... death.

We join our heart, mind, soul and body together in reflection, meditation and prayer.

We do not know what our future holds, if we will be affected directly or indirectly by this virus...

But we do know the sense of concern, hope and yes, even the fear that it presents.

So we take time to ponder and to pray...

We take time to reflect upon life, living, and its fragility.

We take this time... to be still.

We are concerned,

We don't know when this will end, whether we will be called to live with it, to fight for our own survival, or that in the end we may be claimed by it, another number, statistic for the butcher's block.

Yet we know our history, we have been here before...

So we accept our fear, our concern, our primal need for survival.

And we know others are facing it as well...

So we pray...

May our fears lead us not to greater fears, nor to greater greed of only myself and my needs, but to greater compassion, empathy and care.

May we look to others and not see rivals for help, but to see others who like ourselves are frightened and concerned.

May we be moved by their humanity, no matter how well or how badly they display it. May we be moved with love and compassion.

May we be willing to ask for help when we need it, and willing to give help when it is requested.

May we be grateful for all those who face greater risks in the fight to help us live.

For those who work each day to research for cures, who tend those in dire need and poor health. For those who patrol our streets to give us a sense of security.

Who place their lives on the line during this time.

May we be grateful when we use the various tools and technologies so we may stay connected during our isolation. May our words be graceful, beautiful and lovely during this time. Bringing a greater sense of life, and of living, even in the midst of death and dis-ease.

May we always remember that we all are members of the human race, sharing this world with many other species and life.

May we remember, and may our humanity be expressed in love and compassion.

Divine Spirit of Life
Breathe upon us and strengthen us in this time
That whatever may come,
We will be lights of compassion and love to all who walk this beautiful blue planet.

So say we all Amen

A message from the office

All church services are currently on hold. We will endeavour to continue providing updates by email, our website and on our Facebook page. Please note that the phone and post may not be regularly checked during this time. If you would like to be added to our email contacts, please write to hullunitarians@gmail.com.

We hope to restore normal service when it is safe and prudent to do so. We hope that all of you stay safe and that we'll see you again when we can.

How to Contact Hull Unitarians

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