Pastor’s overview. Christmas to Feb 2021.

Hello church.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

As I look back at the last 4 months, things have been bizarrely different from normal. Bearing in mind we had to be ‘on-line’, Christmas went well. We had the door-step videos which virtually pulled us together. The zoom services and subsequent videos placed on our website and Facebook page had many views and comments. Kay posted Nativity, Tots and Lighthouse weekly, which again have been popular. We now have over 340 items, mainly videos, on our church website.

But we are all missing the face-to-face contact. We had 2 White Heather meetings in January in Chapel. This took a lot of research and planning. Daphne, Jenny & Janet were amazing, with all health & safety requirements fully complied with. The folk, who are not on computers or seeing folk at home, had a blessed time. Their joy at simple companionship was the highlight of the year for me!

This season I have been encouraging each of us in Notices, etc, to ‘*who are you ‘called’ to call?’* This is where we pray, and discern maybe 3 folk, not necessarily church, who we can phone and have a natter with. Maybe 3 different people each week. This helps us keep in touch and share this Covid burden. And I emphasise the divine calling as to **who to** phone, as sometimes people put up a happy exterior, but inside they need a caring pair of ears. Sometimes, all folk need is a really good listening to!

I would even take this further. This week I have personally received 2 handwritten letters. How powerful to open a note or letter from somebody who has taken that time to care for the recipient. Again, these actions made me smile and I encourage each of us to maybe write a note to someone we feel called towards?

We continue to prepare our church for reopening. Our new inventory is assisting with decluttering. The Upper Room is to be redecorated for multi-use. The church secretary now has his office there for church admin. The decoration takes into account our Youth club, Kay’s video recording, our next Alpha courses and of course a Prayer Room.

The church is now hard-wired with fibre Internet, so services will be livestreamed.

We have received Small Business Grant money from the Government for the enforced current Covid closure of our shop, MND2. This has inspired church leadership to explore how we might make our shop more engaging with our community. I have asked Maureen to lead a group of up to 5 members, specifically including our Tom, to explore ‘the way forward.’

As we study Ephesians, we clearly see God’s mandate. God is our Father. We are adopted through personal Faith into His family. Jesus Christ is the Head of this Family, His church. We are His obedient children. We are united as one body. In His love, His Joy, and His peace. Be richly blessed,

Pastor Andy McManus.