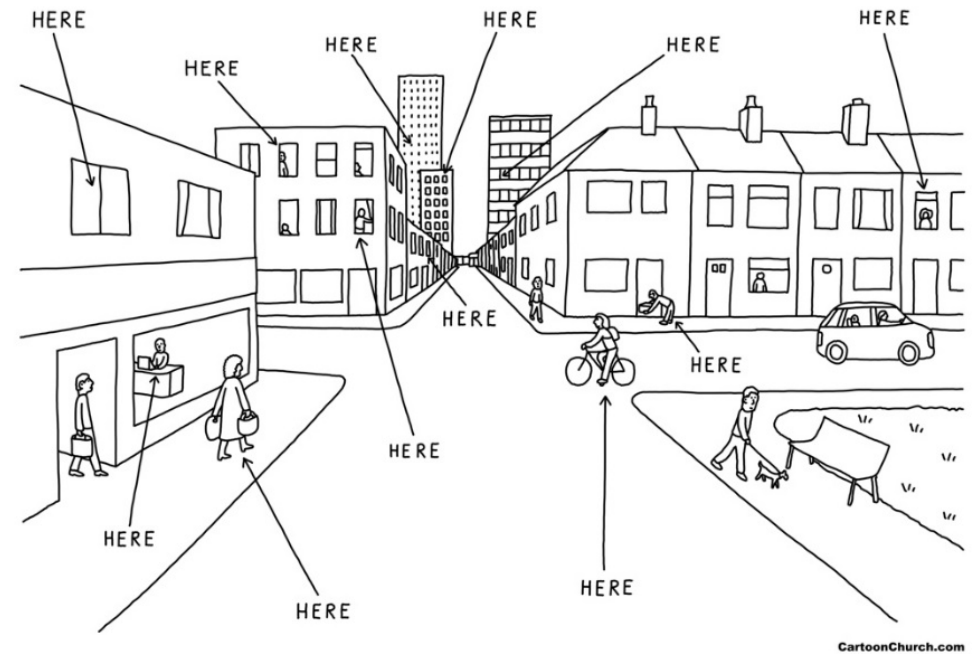


Bury Unitarian Church

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



Junior Church Newsletter, Easter 2020

Cartoonist Dave Walker has allowed this cartoon to be used free of charge for church purposes. Thanks to him.

Dear Junior Church members,

Welcome to this special edition of the Church Calendar: it's an issue just for you, the younger members of our congregation, and I'm sending it out because we can't be together at the moment, and everyone at church, including me, is missing seeing you all on Sundays.

These last few weeks have been strange and I'm sure at times they've been scary. None of us, not even the adults, have ever been in this situation before, so it's worrying for all of us, and it's okay if you get frightened sometimes. But there are a lot of very clever scientists working hard to solve the problems we're having, and I know that you all have lovely adults in your lives: I hope you know that if you're anxious you can talk to them.

But I hope you're managing to have some fun, as well!

It's very odd being at home most of the time, but I know a lot of people are finding fun ways to pass the time, and if you're going out for walks I hope you're seeing rainbows and bears in people's windows.

I really hope when all this is over and church is open again, that you'll have some good stories to share.

Love

Kate.

I'm supposed to be School today...

I'm supposed to be at school today
But mum says I can't go
'It's our turn on the bikes' I said
But she hugged me and said 'No'

I get to play at home today
And sit and watch TV
Dad's been on his phone all day
But it doesn't bother me

Mum made us ring Gran today
And I said that I had grown
I told them both my favourite joke
And Gran laughed loud down the
phone

No-one's playing on my street today
And I'm getting bored of TV
I got a bit upset and sad
Then mum sat me on her knee

She said
'It all feels a little strange today
Not just for you, but for me

I played out in the yard today
And found some bugs with
My neighbour saw me through
And waved at me through

Guess what? I went back to
And all my friends came back
My classroom looked exactly
And my teacher said 'I miss

Gran came round for tea today
And said something to me
'You must remember this
'Cause they'll teach this in

Lucy Short



Some really good news!

Even in times which are strange and sometimes scary, good things happen, and we recently heard some very exciting news. One of you has just become a big sister, and two of you have a new cousin, because two of the grown ups have had a baby boy. So that means there's a new member of your Junior Church.

The baby was born in the early morning on April 1st.

We might have to wait a while to meet him, but when we do I'm sure his family will be able to tell us how it felt when they knew he'd be born.

Here's a picture of the baby, and I'm sure we'll see many more pictures!



Easter

Easter is when we hear the story of Jesus rising from the dead after he has been crucified. When we hear that story we think about all the things which come back to life in spring: if you're going out on walks, or if you've got a garden, you've probably noticed that all sorts of flowers have been growing for a few weeks now, and that the trees are turning from bare branches to buds, and if you look closely enough you can see leaves starting to unfold: you can even see trees getting covered in blossom, and every blossom shows where a fruit might grow later in the year.

Easter is all about rebirth and renewal, and there are new things growing all around us.

Even though we can't celebrate Easter together at the time we normally do (which is a different date every year, so it's not like Christmas), I hope you can do something at home: maybe you're getting an Easter egg, or having a special meal.

And when all this is over and we can go back to church again, we're going to have an Easter service, because when that happens, it will be a rebirth and a renewal, whatever time of year it is.

Happy Easter!

One of the things I love at church is when you all light your own chalice candles at the front of the church, and I know a lot of you like doing that too. So I've sent you each a tealight and a tealight holder to use at home.

You can decorate them with pens or stickers or anything you like, and then when we get back together in church, we can all light our chalices together.

Every Sunday morning, at the time we would have been starting the church service, I light your wooden chalice, at my kitchen table, and then Ade and I hold a service, and a lot of the adults join in from their own homes. And when we're doing that, I say everybody's name, slowly and aloud, including yours, and I hold you in my prayers for a moment.

If you want to you could light your chalices at 11.15 on a Sunday as well, and take a few minutes to remember each other, and think how nice it will be when you see each other.

Maybe, if you feel comfortable doing it, you could say each other's names, and bring a picture of each other into your minds, and send out a prayer or a wish that everyone is well, and safe, and happy, and that we will soon all be together again, safe and well.

If you've liked receiving your own version of the Calendar, I'll try and do another one, in a few weeks. We don't know yet how long we'll all be staying indoors doing our bit to help keep the virus from spreading further, but whether we're still at home or back at church, it would be nice to have this as a way to keep in touch.

Perhaps your parents would let you write something yourselves that could go in the next one: maybe a message to your Junior Church friends, or a story about something you've done or learned while you've been at home. We wouldn't send the Calendar to anyone who isn't in Junior Church (we might keep a copy at church as well, for the church grown ups to see), and we'd only use your first names.

If someone in your family has email, they can always email it to me: you can tell them my email address, which is revkatemckenna@gmail.com, or it could go in the post: my address is 33 Ashworth Street, Bury, BL8 1NU.

But it's also fine if you'd just like to have something to read instead of something to write.

In the meantime, I send you my love, and I know that everyone else at church sends you theirs too.