



This photo was taken in our church on the day of Alan's induction.



### ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please send in news and details of special celebrations to Christine Wright [candgxwright@msn.com](mailto:candgxwright@msn.com) 01296 624084 Next month's deadline will be Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August.

## Revd Alan Kirkcaldy

19<sup>th</sup> February 1944 – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Many of us were saddened to hear of the death of our former minister, Alan Kirkcaldy.

He first came to Wendover Free Church as a visiting preacher. When our previous Minister left in February '04, we were delighted that Alan was asked to become our Interim Moderator. Part of his role was to help us find our next Minister – and he did, because it was him! It became clear to him and us that he was the right person and we all had a real sense that this was God's will too. He was inducted as our Minister in December 2004.

Over the next four years Alan, and Suzanne, threw themselves wholeheartedly into the life of Wendover Free Church and the local Community, Suzanne becoming president of the Wednesday Fellowship

Alan retired from full-time Ministry at Easter in 2009. . At his final Church Council meeting Alan shared a moving reflection of his time with us, saying that it had been a marvellous experience for him and that he had a tremendous feeling of love for everyone in the church. We assured him that the feeling was mutual and that his ministry had been greatly valued.

We remember Suzanne and Alan's family and friends in our prayers at this time of sadness and loss.

## Newsletter no. 179

# Wendover Free Church August 2020



## CHURCH MEETING ON 'ZOOM'

Six months ago, we could not have imagined such thing. Now it seems almost normal to discuss future plans for the church over the internet! We missed those who could not be with us, but it was good to be in touch and able to share our thoughts.

We discussed the aims set for the church in 2010, picking out 'develop gifts of the congregation' as one to retain and carry forward. We all have gifts to use in God's kingdom, not to give us extra work, but to give us joy in using the special abilities and experience that each one has.

It's generally agreed that we must carry on worshipping together. The present arrangements for home worship sheets will continue, but it may be possible with careful adherence to safety codes for some of us to meet informally on a Sunday afternoon, experimenting with ways of worship that are safe. In the meantime, much that

the church has done in the past is still valued. Some activities continue in a different form, including Messy Church and Sacred Space online and a greater emphasis on prayer. When we return to face-to-face things we do within the community, we should find ways of encouraging the whole church to 'own' what is done and to pray for our outreach events.

We certainly wish for Wendover Free Church to have a stronger presence in the community. Maybe one of us could stand for the Parish Council! There is some interest in continuing the Neighbourhood Warden scheme - something Churches Together could help develop.

There are many positives. We recognise that our numbers are greater than those who meet on a Sunday morning. And we have God's Spirit to guide us as we reach out into the future! **Christine Wright**

## WALK AND PRAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope and pray this message finds you well. Using our Home Worship Sheets we are currently working through a series on prayer, exploring the big open questions e.g., who, why, how.

And, with this theme of prayer we're offering a number of different ways of praying for us to try out. In previous years, during the month of August we have had prayer walks. These walks have been opportunities to go out in groups of two or three to walk

through parts of Wendover and pray for the people who live there and the activities that take place.

This year gathering is a challenge, so we would like to propose something slightly different. We invite you all to "walk and pray" once a week during August.

We would love to know how you get on with this. Please send us your experiences.

With every blessing,

**Remco**

You could choose a set day each week, or work out each week what day would be best. It could be part of your usual route you walk, or a special occasion to "walk & pray".

You can do this by going out or staying at home. You could look out of the window into the street, walk to the end of the path or drive or street, have a little walk around the block, or a walk through the town.

You can choose your own category like care homes or businesses, shops or places where children normally meet or just the people who live there.

When you walk, in real life or in your thoughts, pray for the people who live and work there to know God's love. Pray for the activities that take place, giving thanks for the good and asking for wisdom and grace where things could improve.



When you "walk and pray", it would also be good to "listen" to what God is saying about the areas your walking through or thinking about. What do you notice? What is God saying to you?

## NEWS FROM EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

Many charities and mission agencies are working hard to alleviate the effects of COVID 19, including Emmanuel International, the cause we support each year on Shrove Tuesday.

Emmanuel International is reaching out in its project countries to assist people with helping to protect themselves through providing information and/or equipment, and also helping those who are in need as a result of the actions taken to contain the virus.

In Brazil, for example, EI is helping partner churches provide food packages to poor people who cannot earn any money because of social isolation. The 7<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Church is distributing food packages to 100 waste and paper pickers.

Fourteen women, who attend the Sewing Classes at the Águas Formosas PROPAC Day Care Center, started to sew 5,000 masks, according to the models provided by the Health Department, to be distributed at no cost to the local hospital staff, health centres and the people in

general. PROPAC will provide food packages to them in return for their labour.

EI Brazil sent funds to help Terena indigenous people set up health check points at village entrances in two areas. Hand sanitizer, cleaning materials, and food packages were provided.

Stories from other countries can be found at <https://www.eiuk.org.uk/covid-relief/> along with an appeal for funds to help EI meet the massively increased need caused by the virus.

