

REACH

AT GILLINGHAM PIER

SUMMER 2020

**"But in your hearts honour Christ the Lord
as holy, always being prepared to make a
defence to anyone who asks you for a reason
for the hope that is in you; yet do it with
gentleness and respect".**

1 Peter 3:15 ESV



REACHING OUT THROUGH THE VIRUS

BY TERRY WHITTAKER

I am aware it's been a long while since we have been in touch and so, wanted to update you on what's happening with Reach during this period. It would be trite to comment that these are strange times and I am not going to use the 'unprecedented' word for fear that you'll stop reading right now!

Reach at Gillingham Pier continues, and we thank God for that. Not surprisingly, our face to face people contact has reduced to zero although we are now on the verge of exploring how to take small, but safe, steps - whilst it will be great to see our Reach family we are all too aware that many of them fall into the shielding or at significant risk category and we'd be no friends at all if we didn't give that due regard. Obviously, like other churches, our physical services have had to stop. Not having a church building provides us with many benefits, it's a statement that leaves many clergy looking green-eyed, but, in these circumstances, our destiny in using buildings is in the hands of others and, at the moment, there is no

sign of these becoming available in the near future. My police chaplaincy falls into a similar category with all 'non-essentials' being, quite rightly, blocked. Their role is hard enough without having to worry about me drifting about their offices!

On a positive note, like many others, we have had to find new ways of communicating. We owe a big thank you to our family at St Margaret's, Rainham who have provided us with software and support to enable our digital efforts to get 'out there'. It has not been without its issues - indifferent internet, the need to upgrade our home PC to be able to cope with the processing load and the odd software glitch - but in general it has worked well. We have tried to continue with our usual service pattern on Sunday afternoons but have also been hosting a quiz on Wednesday evenings, with a follow-up 'results show' the next day. There's an irony in this - the quiz is popular and has enabled us to make new contacts, some in those very blocks that we

have spent time trying to access. We also have some new but regular visitors to our Sunday services. How wonderful is that? I have been privileged to be part of the team at St Margaret's delivering morning and evening prayer as well as a 'Word of the Day'. The latter has been a good opportunity to look in depth at subjects that feel worthy of some thought and I have addressed time, community, change, death and hospitality. If you want to catch up with these then they should hopefully be available on our website soon.

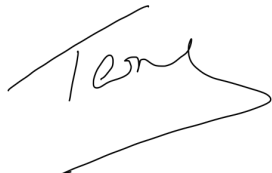
So, where do we go from here? All we can say with certainty is that we are fed up with COVID-19 and are grateful for all who care for us as key workers, friends, family and even strangers just displaying welcome kindness. Through it all Jesus remains a constant, behind us, next to us and in front of us and our hope remains sure in Him.

Once we have news of being able to 'emerge from our shell' we will be back to you but please do engage

with us in any of the myriad of digital ways that are available... in some respects, thank goodness for technology!

A final word of thanks to my family. It's been an intense time for everyone and without the support of Jo and the technical brilliance of Conor, Reach online would not be where it is, so thank you.

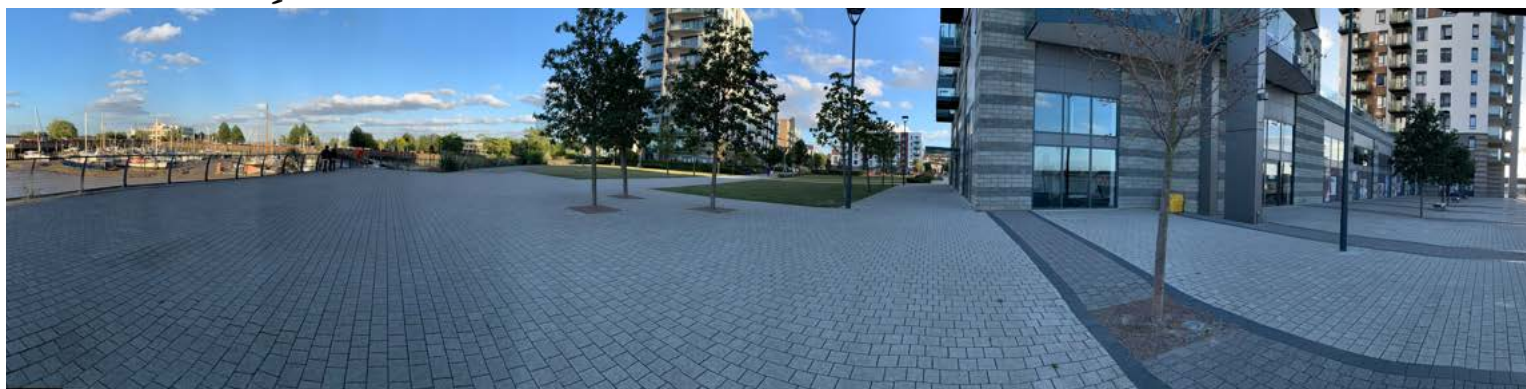
Take care, stay safe and God bless you and yours.



LIVE QUIZ NIGHT AND RESULTS SHOW!

Every Wednesday and Thursday | 6 PM
LIVE on Facebook and our Website

REACH
AT DOLLINGHAM PIER



OUR PRAYERS:

- For an end to this current period.
- That the positives we take from all that has and is happening will change our society and country for good.
- For all those who have suffered directly, or through association, in various ways that are beyond contemplation, may know peace.
- For our leaders - national, local, employers and church leaders - in whose hands rests so much responsibility, may they be blessed with wisdom.
- That what defines us in each and every moment is love, not in any sentimental way, but in deep, deep care for each other.

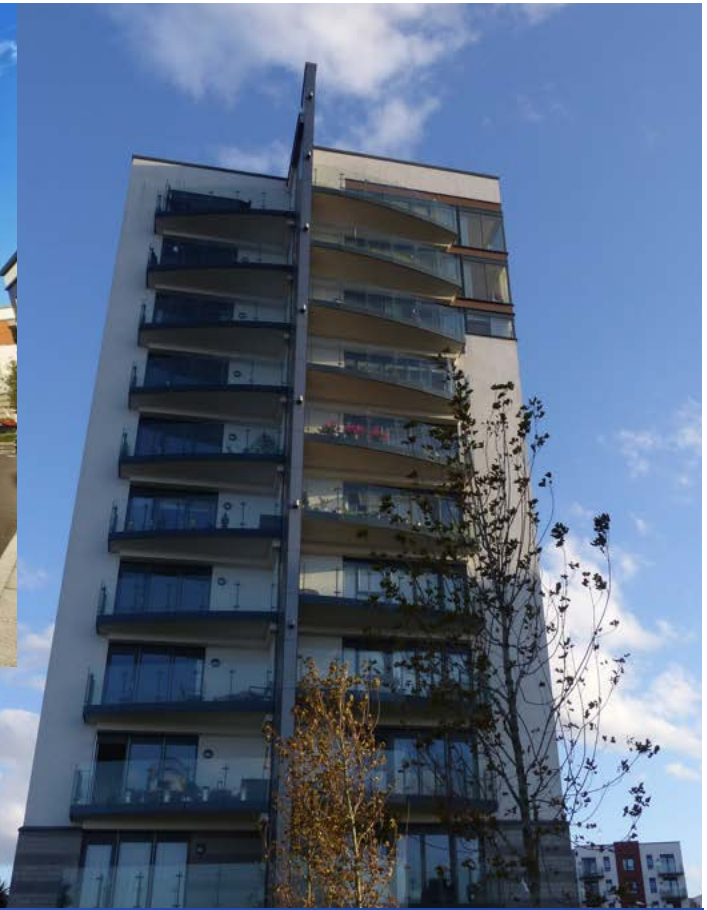
CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

1st & 3rd Sunday: Church Online 14.30

Every Wednesday: Live Quiz 18.00

Every Thursday: The Results Show! 18.00





THE REACH TEAM:

| Tim & Tricia Barrow | Sheena Davidson | Stuart & Caz Read, Finn & Lily | Deano Standing |
Charley Whittaker | Terry & Jo Whittaker, Conor |

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