

# Ascension Flash

03 SEPTEMBER 2020

## MESSAGE FROM EXEC

You would have seen and recently completed the "Return to Church Survey" and we thank you for your comments.

After much deliberation and prayer, we believe that we should not yet return to in church worship and detail below some of the reasoning that informed this decision.

Our Virtual Services have been hugely successful and have broadened our outreach, being viewed by far more people than attend our "in person" services. As Paul has repeatedly stressed "Our church is not closed, it never has, we simply worship in a different way".

The following factors have assisted us in coming to this decision:

The results of the survey clearly show that many people are concerned about a return to in person worship and are not yet comfortable coming to church, they would rather wait.

The Diocesan Chapter meeting ended with a view that from the 13<sup>th</sup> September those churches that wished to open may do so provided all protocols were strictly observed.

The number of people available who are involved in ministries such as data programming, data projection, sidepersons, sacristans, Covid compliance officers and the like are not sufficient to enable us to comply without over burdening those available for duty.

The age profile of our congregation and the scientific community's recommendation for those over 60 to stay at home.

The expected/anticipated "second wave" of infection.

The risk in opening "too early".

The fact that books cannot be used, singing is not allowed, we are limited to 50 people in total (on duty people and Sunday School included), and the attendant issues on how to control this.

The health and safety of our ministers.

The screening and taking of temperatures does not take into account asymptomatic carriers of the disease and the attendant risk factor.

We hope that the above shows that this decision has not been taken lightly and that it has been an agonising one for all concerned. We will continue to assess the situation and as soon as we believe it is safe to open, we will do so.

In Christ,

The Parish Executive

## Thank you from Sarah Pennington

Dear all of you most generous of donors to the Nottingham Road crisis. 400 Shacks burnt to the ground. It's hard to imagine being left with nothing but the clothes you are wearing. Gift of the Givers have, with their usual incredible generosity, helped and the Government will....well.... do something?!

I will be delivering end of next week, my bakkie is bulging. But please keep on keeping on, there are always so many desperate people. I'll keep on collecting on Mondays.

PS: I did secretly covet a pair of size 12 takkies but my toes just wouldn't grow longer

**"Love does no harm to a neighbour"  
ST PAUL**

## LOVE HILTON



The churches of Hilton, in association with African Enterprise have arranged a joint event this coming Sunday at 6pm "Love Hilton". It will be a 30min event and you are encouraged to watch from home. Perhaps you can invite a friend or neighbour to join in. Speakers are Gary & Debbie Kirsten, Sazi Ngcobo and Theuns Pauw.

To log in at 5pm, follow this link to Facebook Live  
<https://www.facebook.com/aesouthafrica>  
It will go onto our website etc later in the week.

## "Hear Her Now" Concert

Emma Farquharson has curated a concert featuring the works of female composers. This is a high quality production with fantastic music, and will be streamed on Friday 4 September 8pm, available until September 10 23h55. Tickets cost R80.00 to stream on one device.

### Short Promo Video

[https://youtu.be/jRcS\\_VSGG\\_0](https://youtu.be/jRcS_VSGG_0)

### Facebook link

<https://facebook.com/events/s/hear-her-now-2020-entertainment/813210019485557/>

If you don't have Facebook, here's a direct link to the Quicket page: <http://quicket.co.za/events/108395-2020-entertainment-in-containment-presents-hear-her-now/#/>

**Until such time as it is safe to open the church for in-person worship, we will continue to offer various forms of digital ministry. These include the following:**

- **A service posted on Youtube on Sundays. This is distributed via Whatsapp and our Website.**
  - **A children's message (during the term), also on Youtube.**
  - **Daily sound clips on the website, Facebook and Whatsapp group.**
- The office is open from 9am-1pm on weekdays, tel 033-3433012/033-3431235**



Please contact the office if you want to be added to the group



[www.facebook.com/ascensionhilton](http://www.facebook.com/ascensionhilton)



[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search for Church of the Ascension, Hilton, KZN South Africa)



[www.ascension.org.za](http://www.ascension.org.za)