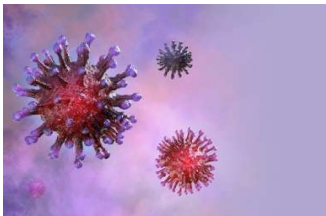




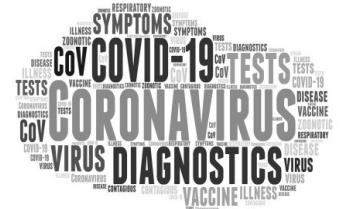
Update - Summer 2020

I don't know about you, but I seem to have spent a lot of time since March using a whole new vocabulary. I have just slid into using terms like pandemic, social distancing, self-isolation, quarantine, and lockdown as if they were an everyday part of my language. However, the feelings and meanings that lie behind these words and phrases can be sinister and frightening. We use them to justify looking after ourselves and trying to ensure that we are "alright."

For those that are the guests of Church on the Bus the words have extra meaning including a fear of the consequences to them of being unwell, being separated from their support and an anxiety about meeting and sharing with others.



What should our response be? I think we should be going back to the safety of words and attitudes that have been the backbone of our work over the years. I include the effective use of Love, care, empathy, support, and acceptance. I am sure that you can think of many other words to illustrate our work with the homeless and vulnerable. Just spend a moment to reflect how the two sets of words and phrases make you feel and then decide which ones are for you and help to spread the Good News of Christ.



The Way Forward

At this time, it is still not clear how and when we will resume working in Chesterfield and Matlock. Plans have been made for some form of outdoor contact. Risk assessments have been made and ideas floated with councils and partnership agencies. There are still obstacles to overcome but it looks as if we will be restricted to the provision of "lunchbox parcels" and where required, some crisis intervention. It will be a while before we are back in our usual venues. Please keep praying for guidance on the way and the pace of progress and for the safety of our guests in the current situation.



Share a prayer

It would seem that, at present, the contact we can have with our guests will be limited, but we need to continue to emphasise that time spent with God will bring support, healing of spirit and mind as well as purpose and stability into what is often a chaotic life. In order to be active in this element of our provision we will provide our Guests, each week, with a short prayer for them to use and for their reflection. The first to be used will be:



*Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion, be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen may we*

*be thankful for your love & faithfulness, be willing to follow in your ways,
be open to receive your love.*

Help us in this we pray.

If you have a short prayer or would like to write one for us to use, then please send it to: johnpsmall10@gmail.com

Widening our Vision.



With a change in government policy to “Everyone In” and some extra funding there has been an increase in the number of our guests being offered accommodation. It’s one thing to be offered somewhere to live, it’s another to make it into a home. At present Church on the Bus is looking at ways to assist individuals to furnish and equip their new home. We have been given the use of 2 lockup garages and we are looking to purchase a van for collection and delivery. Please pray for continued guidance in the planning of this development as we seek to enable and support guests into independent living.

Finance

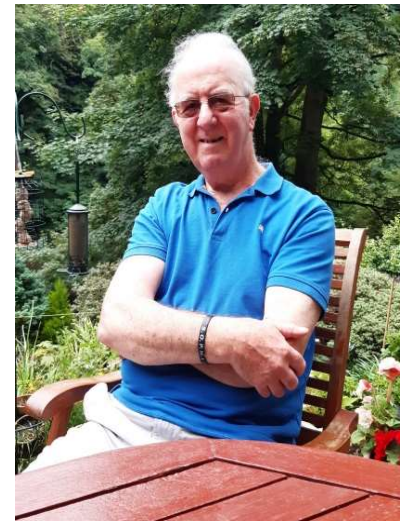
We will always remain grateful for your interest and support. This has enabled the sharing and caring to continue over the years. So, **Thank You** for all that you have given in time and money. A new development is the use of our “Loose Change Appeal Boxes.” This is an easy and “painless way” to “squirrel away” your small change. You will be surprised how, over a period, this mounts up and can make a significant difference to the provision for our guests. If you would like a box, then please contact Ian Macleod at: churchonthebus@gmail.com who has one for you to use.



Meet the Trustees

John Phillips

Having retired from working in Educational Welfare some seven years ago, John Phillips was looking for opportunities to volunteer in a community-based project. He knew another who volunteered for Church on the Bus and had met Captain Alan, as a result he felt led to become part of the Volunteer work force for our charity. After a year he was recruited to serve on the committee and then a year later became a Trustee. At that time Church on the Bus was going through a transitional period with the Church Army ending their support. Things continued to change and by 2016 John found himself Chair of our charity. He describes it as being “terrifying” to be in charge of a charity with only a couple of Trustees and everything in the process of change. John’s desire was to ensure that the work was efficient and effective. He introduced a structure for operational and strategic procedures, an auditable financial process and recruited more Trustees to bring their commitment and knowledge to management process. By 2017 Church on the Bus was entirely volunteer led.



Since then John has been central to maintaining a good quality of care and support for our Guests. He has overseen the introduction of further changes to increase the volunteer base, to liaise with partnership charities and provide a quality and consistent physical and spiritual care for our Guests so that they may experience the Love of God in their lives. More recently he has responded to the need for us to move away from using the Bus and into premises in Chesterfield and Matlock.

Due to a number of factors, John has chosen to stand down from the role of Chair but will continue as a Trustee and “Hands on” in the delivery of services in Matlock. John is a man of faith. Worshipping at a local church and being part of the church family. He uses his talents to lead the worship and is active in a home group. He also is a member of a local choir. For much of his working life John was a secondary school teacher of modern languages. So, I am sure you would like to join in saying Gracias, Merci, Grazie, Danke, Spasiba or just a plain Derbyshire Thank You to John for all that he has done and will continue to do for Church on the Bus.