

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Registered Charity 209376

Bethesda COVID-19 Update Saturday, 09 May 2020

We would once more acknowledge the Lord's merciful Hand in watching over the three Bethesda Homes during the past week.

We are grateful that currently residents at both the Brighton and Studley Homes continue to be free from COVID-19 symptoms.

At the Harpenden Home we are thankful to report that of the ten residents, currently in the Home, two are continuing to recover from COVID-19 like symptoms - one resident has tested negative for COVID-19 and the test results are awaited for the other. Three who tested positive for the virus have recovered and are back to normal; one who was poorly due to an underlying condition has continued to improve; and the four who have been unaffected by the virus are still free from any symptoms.

In the Lord's purposes, Mrs. M. Crowter passed away peacefully on Sunday, 3 May 2020. Mrs. Crowter had been weakening in the past week. Our thoughts are with the family at this time and also with the staff at the Home who lovingly cared for her. (Details of the funeral will be posted on the website.)

We are thankful that the staffing situation remains stable at Brighton and Studley and has improved at Harpenden.

It would be remiss not to once more thank all the Managers and staff within Bethesda, for their tremendous efforts in continuing to ensure that the care provided, over the past weeks to the residents, has remained foremost. I am sure all that have an interest in Bethesda would join in echoing these thoughts.

We would also not forget the loving contributions made by volunteers who have helped in so many different ways - thank you from us all.

In the Lord's mercies, Bethesda has been brought, so far, safely through the COVID-19 epidemic. We do not know what is before us and, as previously reported, Bethesda will continue to act prudently before the Lord in continuing to be vigilant in the implementation of its infection control procedures throughout all the Homes.

As yet, we are not aware of the impact of the proposals for the lifting of the 'lockdown' restrictions might be - which sadly, are due to be announced on Sunday, 10 May 2020.

Victory in Europe (VE) Day 75th Anniversary

Although the Homes were in 'lockdown' on Friday, 8 May 2020, it was still possible to remember the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in the Homes.

In many ways, it must have seemed a contrast to the residents who were able to look back over the past 75 years and reflect on the changes that have taken place and at the same time, we trust, trace out the Hand that brought them safely to this day.

We have attached to this Update some photographs taken in the three Homes yesterday that may be of interest. We would also thank those who kindly made cakes for the Homes - including a gluten free one. (Acts 9:36)

We cannot but notice the sad contrast that on Sunday, 13 May 1945 there was a day of National Thanksgiving for the Lord's deliverance from the hostilities in Europe and what is due to take place, as mentioned, on the forthcoming Sunday, 10 May 2020.

Help needed

We would thank those who have come forward, over the past weeks, to help Bethesda at this time.

We do not know what is before us, only the Lord knows, however we do pray that if the need arises for further help in the future then individuals may be constrained to “come over and help us”.

Morning and evening readings

We would reiterate our thanks to those, who have helped externally (digitally) and internally, with the morning and evening readings at the Homes, as this is an important part of the ethos of Bethesda. This is very much appreciated by us all.

It has been encouraging to see the number of people listening to the morning readings, in addition to the residents in the Homes. We have heard from some of those who listen and who have found the morning readings helpful at this time.

The trustees are prayerfully considering what can be done, if the Lord will, to continue to provide access to morning readings after the ‘lockdown’.

If you know anyone who might be interested in listening into the morning readings, then do pass the website details to them: <https://www.gospelstandard.org.uk/Bethesda/Morning-Worship-Livestream>

Staying in touch

For the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak, we will endeavour to remain in regular contact with those on this email list. Consequently, please can you forward this email to anyone who may be interested in being kept up to date on Bethesda. If anyone wishes to be added to the email list then please contact Adrian Topping (adriantopping@gsbf.uk)

Bethesda - the Future

Although the trustees have focused on COVID-19 over the past weeks, they have also not lost sight of seeking what is the Lord's will for Bethesda. Work has continued in addressing the current financial operating position of the Homes and enhancing the financial control across all the Homes to ensure the responsible use of the resources entrusted to us.

The numbers of residents currently in the Homes are: Brighton 19, Harpenden 10 and Studley 8. Bethesda is able to take admissions into its Homes for either Full-time or Respite care taking into account the current infection control procedures.

Finally

The trustees have laid the matter of strengthening our number before the Lord, and in the Lord's provision of Richard Woodhams (Pastor, Haywards Heath) has accepted the invitation to become a trustee of the GSBF and join the Bethesda Committee. We wish him well as he takes on this responsibility at this difficult time.

We would encourage you to continue to pray for Bethesda that the Lord:

- would continue to place His protecting Hand over the residents and staff in the Homes and support Adrian (Topping) in all his responsibilities
- will continue to support the families, relatives and friends of the residents at this time of physical separation from their loved ones
- will make a way for the doors of the Homes to open once more to the families and friends of the residents and those who support in so many ways
- would hear those cries for help in time of need and grant wisdom in those decisions that have to be made both now, if the Lord will, and in the way before us.

On behalf of the Bethesda trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ridout". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

M Ridout
Chairman GSBF

**Photographs taken on Victory in Europe (VE) Day 75th Anniversary at the
Bethesda Homes**

Brighton Bethesda Home



Mrs Snell



Mrs Payne

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Mr and Mrs Bradstock



Harpenden Bethesda Home



Residents at the Harpenden Home



Cake made for the residents

Studley Bethesda Home



Residents at the Studley Home



Cakes made for the Home