

GOSPEL STANDARD BETHESDA FUND

Registered Charity 209376

Bethesda COVID-19 Update Saturday, 23 May 2020

Augustus Toplady penned the words:

“Awake, sweet gratitude, and sing
The ascended Saviour’s love;
Sing how he lives to carry on
His people’s cause above”. (Gadsby’s 117 v1)

It is with “sweet gratitude” that we return thanks unto the Lord for His goodness and enduring mercy towards Bethesda.

As we look back over the past weeks, we would record how the Lord has watched over the Bethesda Homes and kept the residents and staff safe and preventing COVID-19 entering into the Brighton and Studley Homes.

Thankfully, at the Harpenden Home, the residents who have either had COVID-19 or suffered from the symptoms of the virus are recovered although, in some cases, feeling the bodily frailty of old age. The test result awaited for one of the residents has thankfully returned negative. The four residents who have been unaffected by the virus are still free from any symptoms.

The staffing situation at all three Home is currently manageable and we are thankful that there is a pool of ‘bank’ staff that can be drawn on when needed.

The government has heightened the emphasis on testing for COVID-19. As the testing programme is rolled out, then the Homes will be using this as part of the Bethesda’s Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) procedures.

Although there has been some lifting of the ‘lockdown’ for individuals, there has been no indication of easing the need to restrict access to Care Homes other than to those persons who are deemed essential.

As mentioned last week, for the time being, Bethesda continues to suspend all visits from relatives and friends, unless there are emergency circumstances. The guidance that is currently in place will continue.

(See: [https://www.gospelstandard.org.uk/GospelStandard/media/Bethesda/2020-05-22_Guidelines-and-response-to-the-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.gospelstandard.org.uk/GospelStandard/media/Bethesda/2020-05-22_Guidelines-and-response-to-the-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf))

I am sure we are all looking forward, if the Lord will, to the day when the Homes might once more be open to the residents’ families and friends together with those who assist in the Homes in so many ways.

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 the residents and those who have been able to listen in.

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>

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As you are aware, we have been sending out weekly updates on Bethesda during this phase of the COVID-19 outbreak. The intention is still to remain in touch, however this will now be on a less frequent basis unless circumstances in the Homes change.

We would also acknowledge the Lord's goodness and mercy in answering many prayers, over the past weeks, enabling the Homes to continue operating in these trying times. Your continued prayers for the residents, staff, Managers and trustees and messages of support are very much appreciated and valued.

We would encourage you to continue to pray for Bethesda that the Lord would hear those cries for help in time of need and grant wisdom in those decisions that have to be made both now and in that way before us.

On behalf of the Bethesda trustees

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Ridout". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator.

M Ridout
Chairman GSBF