

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 3rd May 2020

I am putting the final touches to the newsletter and to stretch my neck I occasionally look out of the kitchen door, at the bird feeder. It is like an ornithological motorway out there! Sparrows, blue tits, starlings and pigeons. We have seen a baby grebe, moorhen and coot chicks, heron, cormorant, and even a terrapin (!) down on Goldsworth Park lake. It is good to know that nature is blooming and life is beginning anew as we rightly continue to do our bit, by putting our day to day life on hold for the good of family, friends, neighbours, and those we don't know and will never meet. Stay home, save lives, protect the NHS!
Daniela

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,
On Tuesday I had the privilege of conducting the funeral of Pam McCullum, who passed away before Coronavirus hit the UK, but the strain put on many national services by the onset of the pandemic meant that her funeral has been long delayed. Despite this, the few of us able to attend had a very moving and helpful service on Tuesday afternoon, with the promise of a fuller celebration of Pam's life at Trinity when present restrictions are eventually lifted. The Bible passage chosen was the well-known Psalm 23, much-loved for its two comforting images: God as the shepherd providing for his sheep and protecting them from danger with his 'rod and staff'; God as the extravagantly generous host of his guests at a banquet.

At this time when many are worried about their jobs and finances and about their health, these are images of God that we

should take to heart. The way in which God provides for us is often through other people prompted by the Holy Spirit, knowingly or unknowingly, to reach out to those in need. Pam McCullum was one such person who was prompted by her own experience 35 years ago to set up a group called 'NOELA' (No One is Ever Left Alone.) Such people were needed then and are needed just as much today. Let us follow their example.

Blessings
Jackie

Message from the leadership team

So, we move into week 6 and our strange, new world continues. Some of us are shielding, some are isolating (with or without others) and some of us are trying to get used to a whole new way of working. I appreciate in lots of ways that I am in a privileged position and able to do a job that still involves contact with people, even if it is from 2 meters away and behind a mask. I am no longer able to make a cup of tea for a colleague, but I can tell her I have not only boiled the kettle but wiped it down with a top-notch NHS disinfectant!

Following on from Ruth's message two weeks ago, I can also tell you that I am the proud owner of several pairs of 'home made scrubs', (one set provided by GCSE students from a local school), a lovely flowery mask (that I much prefer to my NHS ones which make me feel like an Adam Ant groupie), a fabulous 'scrub bag' (thank you Jess, you don't know how important these are) and a multitude of rainbow pictures (sent from a Primary School and a delightful package to open). The fact that I have been gifted all these things shows the constant kindness and generosity of others. We are all practicing social distancing now and this means that sadly we are not together this Sunday. There was a lovely cartoon that came out recently with the devil gleefully rejoicing that he had shut down churches; God simply replied that he had opened one in every home! We can't meet, we can't hug and it's not the same, but it will not last forever. I have realised I am a very tactile person, so all these hugs are being saved up for when we do meet. Until then, God bless and stay safe.

Sam Cudby

Kindness

Apart from practical generosity, the many acts of kindness being shown in the present crisis offer reassuring evidence of the 'good' in humanity. Last week I read an article by a doctor in which he recalls the words of his tutor at medical school: "The most powerful drug in the world is kindness. It works for everyone, it's very hard to get the dose wrong, and it's free at the point of delivery."

He goes on to argue that every country must make the health and well-being of people and the planet its paramount political concern. Wouldn't that be the ultimate kindness to humanity!

David Lander



David & Daphne's old apple tree in their garden in full bloom, taken at sunrise on Sunday. David says that having been brought up on a fruit farm this sight always evokes long memories!

A Word in Season 6: Showers of Blessing

There shall be showers of blessing, this is the promise of love.

There will be seasons refreshing, sent from the Father above.

Showers of blessing, showers of blessing we need.

Mercy drops round us are falling, but for the showers we plead.

As I wrote about last week, many of us have been spending more time than usual gardening during 'lockdown' and have recently been longing for some showers of refreshing rain. As I write this the garden is sparkling with raindrops following another shower and, at the moment it appears as if the garden is metaphorically smiling.

This reminds me of a hymn we used to sing when I was at Primary School. Here

are some of the words written by Jan Struther. There are more verses and I have slightly amended the last verse:

"Daisies are our silver, buttercups our gold. This is all the treasure we can have or hold. Raindrops are our diamonds and the morning dew; while for shining sapphires we've the speedwell blue.

These shall be our emeralds leaves so new and green; roses make the reddest rubies ever seen.

Green as leaves in April, clear as drops of dew, our God, who made the speedwell will be true to you".

The importance of the ordinary, simple things that we love is so important to celebrate in these difficult times. I remember when taking my first Boys/Girls Brigade Parade Service at Sheerwater over thirty years ago I told a story about a lonely elderly lady who had no friends but some children on the way to school saw her looking out of the window and waved at her smiling. This made her day and she looked for them every day and they waved and smiled. I told the children that although they were young, they could smile at people and where safe say 'Good morning'. For several years, every time I took a Parade Service some of them would remind me of that service.

Two Sunday evenings ago Dan and I watched, 'Pope Francis: A man of his Word's. It was a fascinating, sincere and often challenging programme. Pope Francis was recorded meeting people in all kinds of environments and was asked some very controversial questions by both children and adults. We were impressed how he answered them clearly, honestly, sincerely and sometimes bluntly – and didn't mince his words. I was particularly impressed how he approached and responded to them all with respect, especially the children.

At the end of the programme he said that if anyone asked him what he thought were the two most important things in life, he said, "a smile and a sense of humour"

How much they are needed today. To illustrate, Dan was having a 'Zoom' meeting on Monday and was sitting as

usual at the kitchen table. I had been working in the lounge and needed to fetch some papers I had left in the kitchen. I dashed in and dashed out again and as I reached the lounge door heard a gale of laughter. One of the 'zoomers' had joked to Dan that he'd just seen a strange man walking away with the TV! The laughter continued when Dan, catching on, said at least the zoomers hadn't had to see the burglar's knobbly knees in his shorts!!

Remember – to smile because Jesus loves you. May God richly bless us all this week.
Graham Warr

Spiritual Refreshment

Alison Joyce in her article (Closing our church has opened a door to those in need of solace, FT 11 April) detects "a real hunger for spiritual refreshment". She adds "there is no substitute for human relationships and community life." But there is. Whilst we are confined, we might well revisit the old bible that most of us have kicking around the house. Perusing the New Testament books describing the events leading up to the crucifixion and its aftermath provides an opportunity to reflect on and adjust one's moral compass in response to these turbulent times. Furthermore, they are a jolly good read!
Gareth Davies

Act of Worship

Some like to Zoom or Youtube, Others to follow the Methodist Church Worship at Home Service Sheets, Barbara Phillips tells us about her experience watching the Act of Worship on the TV. "I have been watching {it} on BBC1 on Sunday mornings and can recommend the programme. It lasts for half an hour, but it is a bit of a mixed feast and you have to be alert to catch it. It has started at 10.15am, 10.45am, and 11am, but be warned, the timing in the Radio Times isn't always reliable. The programmes so far have been recorded in Hereford Cathedral, Bangor Cathedral (North Wales) and St David's."
Barbara Phillips

Kevin Bown has been asked to share these words with us. I think in the

circumstances we could all do with...


A Virtual hug

While no substitute for the real thing
A virtual hug is
Free to give and great to receive
At anytime and anywhere.

So share them often and receive them with joy.
Celebrate each one as a moment of togetherness that not even coronavirus can stop.

Hugs remind us that the most important things in life aren't things.

And that when lockdown ends people won't be thinking about work, money or their phones. They will be out in the streets, or in church or the homes of friends and family hugging like they've never hugged before.

So until then keep safe and well.
Here's 10 virtual hugs to get you started


Kevin Bown

Thoughts from the canal towpath

The only place I can go for my daily walk is the canal towpath, which of course has to be shared with other users. This little rhyme came into my head when I was scared senseless by a cyclist creeping up on me. It is not meant to upset all the courteous cyclists out and about. However, there is a notice on the section of the towpath where I walk which says cyclists must give priority to pedestrians (Ha Ha!):

This is a plea
From me to thee
If you're out riding your bike.
Please ring your bell
Then I can tell
Your behind, and I won't get a fright.

The towpath is narrow
Just room for a sparrow
And me to walk alongside.
Just shout a "hello"
Then I will know
You're behind and I'll move to one side.

The nettles they sting
My legs so please ring

If you want to pass by me with speed.
I'll move to the side
So then you can ride
Past by me, but please give a ring.

We're in lockdown now
We all have to bow
To rules that were made from on high
So let us decide
To enjoy our walk or our ride
Any difference we'll refuse to allow!
Jean Normington

Quiz Corner

Here are the answers to Valerie's
'Man named John' Quiz:

Found fame cast as "Basil"?
John Cleese

Australian classic Guitarist born 1941?
John Williams

American singer and songwriter, real
name Henry, John, Deutschendorf.
Killed when his private plane crashed?
John Denver

Game of Thrones, Jon....? *Snow*

Assassinated American president?
John F Kennedy

Actor, John, 1904 - 2000. Real name
Sir Arthur...? *Sir John Gielgud*

Asks the questions in Mastermind?
John Humphries

Who reigned from 1199-1216?
John King of England

He was married to Hatti Jacques for 18
years? *John Le Mesurier*

Real name Reginald, Kenneth, Dwight 9
months older than me?
Elton John

Cowboy star, real name Marion
Morrison? *John Wayne*

One of a group founded in Liverpool?
John Lennon

Archbishop of York?
John Sentenamu

Sir John - - - - President of Surrey
Cricket Club? *Sir John Major*

Star of the film "Grease"?
John Travolta

Found fame in "Strictly Come Dancing,"
has a military surname? *John Sergeant*

Retired actor aged 82, likes to use
another form of John. Starred in "The
Bucket List"? *Jack Nicholson*

Late minister at Trinity Methodist, with
a clerical surname? *Rev John Bishop*

Prolific Methodist hymn writer?
John Wesley

The author of "Pilgrim's Progress"?
John Bunyan

This week's quiz is on "Flowers"

e.g. Q. Bovine trip? A. Cow Slip

1. Hallo Cynthia,
2. Straight laced flower?
3. The correct change is always given.
4. Savage?
5. Get rich after wedding?
6. Broken mythical animal?
7. Bird with a bit off a cowboy boot?
8. Goddess of the rainbow?
9. Floral emblem of Wales?
10. What you do when you think hard
about something?.
11. Keep the fire going?
12. Cherub holding a brass instrument?
13. So, Elizabeth Anne?
14. Bloom with a sore toe?
15. Sweeps the floor?
16. Boyfriend lies injured after shooting
himself?
17. Floral emblem of England?
18. Valuable stick?
19. Looked in a puddle to see his reflec-
tion?
20. Feline polo?

Snippets

My principle used to be: "Don't put off 'till
tomorrow what you can do today."

Now it has changed to: "Leave some jobs
for tomorrow or else you will have nothing
to do." Do you agree?

Sent to us by Anon.