

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 22 November 2020

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Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

I hope that you are keeping well and looking out for each other. At times such as these, we need to take great care – valuing one another as ‘beloved children of God’.

It can be hard when we can’t actually meet – so we need to make full use of all the other opportunities we have for meaningful contact: a phone call, an email or a text, a card of greeting, a WhatsApp chat, a Zoom gathering or even a socially-distanced walk with the one other person you’re allowed to meet outside! All of these means of communication keep us connected and supporting each other as we

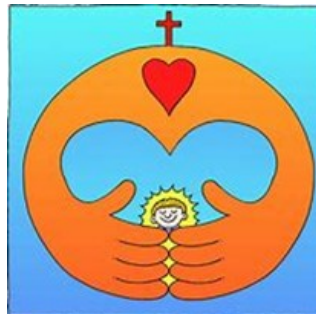
journey through another lockdown....but we are getting there!

I hope that the ‘Lockdown Prayers’ are helping some of us feel connected through our daily prayers, as well as our shared times of fellowship, group prayer and Sunday worship – however you are able to share in that.

I’ve been thinking about these things quite a lot recently – connection vs. separation; belonging vs. isolation; inclusion vs. exclusion; welcome vs. rejection.

As a church, a community of believers, we want to be offering all those positive things that add to our sense of well-being and rootedness – to each other and to those around us in our community – the people that we hope to reach out to with the love, grace and hope we have found in God, through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit.

As we see ourselves as one body – we yearn for that body to be together and whole; especially holding in our prayers those who are struggling right now – for a whole host of reasons, perhaps particularly those in hospital right now (David Reeve – following his operation and David Lander – after being taken ill at the weekend).



I have this image in my mind of God’s arms of love, reaching out, encompassing us all – our fellowship at Trinity, the community around us, our Circuit friends, our loved ones – and holding us close, imparting peace through God’s divine presence and touch.

I pray we can be that caring, loving, praying people, drawing our inspiration and encouragement from the Spirit of God – to continue to be there for each other in the coming days.

‘...We must grow up in every way into him who

is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in LOVE.'
(Ephesians 4:15b-16)

Yours in the love of Christ,
Sam.

Message from the leadership team

Have you been following Fresh from the Word this week? Wow!!

What a story the daily titles tell:

- Made perfect by our Maker
- I cannot stop speaking the Word
- When worshippers do not want the truth
- God raised intercessors
- God is in charge of our leadership
- Did God really say...?
- God has a good plan

The passages are all from Jeremiah and are parts of Jeremiah's story that we know quite well and the writer this week, Bola Iduoze, uses some illustrations from when she was growing up in Nigeria.

So, one could think that the writings are all about a different era and a very different place, but they really are totally relevant to our current situation.

We can be remoulded by The Potter; we need to learn to speak about Jesus; we don't always like the message we discern; God will and is sending helpers; the Leadership Team is constantly acknowledging the leadership of God although sometimes we wish He spoke more clearly; His message is audacious and causes to think 'wait a minute, is that right?' but He has a plan and it is a good one, we just have to join in.

Jeremiah was constantly talking to and listening to God, we must all learn to do more of that and whilst we might find God's message a bit daunting, He will always give us the strength

we need.

Go on, read or reread the Fresh from the Word passages and think about how they might be challenging you.

John Nelson

What can I bring?

This last few weeks at Junior church we have been looking at Bible treasures. It's been an interesting journey for all of us.

As we move into Advent, and we are in a second phase of lockdown, I started to wonder where and how we would journey into the Advent season, with Junior church.

After all, Bible treasures was all about who we can be, and who we are and why the bible can direct you, no matter what our situation may bring.

A song I have used on occasions in Junior church kept coming back into my head, "What can I bring."

We hope and Pray with technology we can bring you the Nativity story, in a completely different way. Our church families are acting out and reading parts of the Nativity story, recording them at home. I have no idea what we will be able to bring you, but I do know God is behind our plans.

Therefore, I started to think about what we can bring as a church to God, to our communities and our families and friends at these most unusual, frustrating, difficult, and often lonely times.

I see it as an opportunity to look at the simple things Jesus gave us at his birth and in his ministry.

To remove the materialistic things the things that really do not matter. I feel this time is giving us all an opportunity to rethink what the birth of Jesus Christ really brings us which is: Love, Peace, Joy, Hope

So I now challenge you, "What can you bring?"

Sue Waddington

An Every Day Prayer

Thank you Father for this breakfast I am enjoying.

I knew for certain there would be plenty of food for me and also enough in the cupboard for tomorrow as well as money in my pocket to buy new supplies when needed.

Father, may this food give my body this day courage, strength and clarity of mind.

Father, help me to be mindful of those who are hungry this day – hungry for food, hungry for work – hungry for warmth- hungry for space – hungry for love.

Father, I ask you to bring them one of your Angels who is filled with your love, your understanding, your wisdom, your comfort – as you showed us with Jesus.

Brother Spirit thank you for bringing to me bright hope as I plant these dead looking bulbs in the earth. I remove weeds – they have had their day – I note several worms busy working hard in the soil.

Thank you for the hopeful picture in my mind as I imagine the bright colours in the Spring bringing a smile on a cold dull day.

Margaret Boorman, October 2020

A Word in Season – Looking back to move forward

'In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son, Jesus, to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins'.

(1 John 4:10 NRSVA)

As time passes in our lives, we reach significant milestones. This year I have had two. October marked 50 years from when I started at Bishop Otter Teaching Training College, and in June I passed the 50 year mark as a fully accredited local preacher!

Due to Covid, I haven't been able to have my 50 year certificate presented in person, but I am pleased that this coming Sunday, 22nd Nov, it will be presented via Zoom during the morning service at Trinity. Thank you Sam for

facilitating this!

These milestones are intrinsically linked for I know God called me to both.

I have written before of our move to Dorset as a child, and my growing up there, with my early experiences of Methodism leading to my becoming a member in April 1966, culminating in my Call to Preach in 1967.

Our Minister had asked a small group of us to lead film services in the small chapels across the New Forest South Circuit - Mike was our projectionist, Clive the organist, Myra our soloist and I was the Worship Leader. After visiting several chapels the film broke at Wootton, and wasn't repairable. To continue the service, and having seen the film a few times, I continued the story and added a postscript. A few days later the Minister called and told me a member of the congregation, who was a Local Preacher, was impressed and expressed that, 'I had the makings of a Preacher'.

Then God spoke to me clearly but I could only respond saying, I don't have the qualifications. The Minister told me I could do the studies by distance learning and I accepted. God opened doors leading to Cliff College where I studied Theology, Old and New Testaments, Worship and Preaching and took the GCEs I had never been able to take at school.

This all enabled me to become an accredited preacher but also to enter, not Ministerial Training as I had thought God wanted, but Teacher Training. I now see God's hand was working.

For my 'clinic' sermon at Cliff, which was regarded as my Trial Sermon for my suitability as a Local Preacher, I chose to preach on Nehemiah, 2:1-8, the key verses being: 'Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven... And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of God was upon me.'
vv 4 and 8 (NRSVA)

I have preached on Nehemiah since, most notably on All Souls day in 1977, at the men's prison, locked in with about 20 men, all God's

children, lustily singing the stirring hymns 'Be Thou My Vision', 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' and 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven'.

But what of the future? So much has changed and is changing more rapidly, due to Covid. We don't know where we will be with Lockdown 2 at the beginning of December, whether there will be a successful vaccine in the next few weeks or months. How we will sustain our mission as a church within the town. I don't know the answers but sincerely believe God does, and we have the promise from Paul's letter to the Romans:

'I'm absolutely convinced that nothing – nothing {even Covid} living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable – absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us. (Romans 8:38-39 The Message)

With those words in my heart, I look back on the foundations and experiences of God from my past and take my faith in my hands and step forward into the future.

We don't know what it will look like, but our Lord will be with us and the Holy Spirit will guide us. Yes, we will be taking risks, but so did all those saints we thought about last week – St Francis, John and Charles Wesley, William Wilberforce, Elizabeth Fry, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, and all the others who stepped out in faith to go where God called them. Like Nehemiah, God led them to complete their tasks. We have to pick up our tasks, and in whatever way is revealed to us, share the Gospel of God's love, through Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit with open minds and hearts, perhaps hesitantly, then boldly, go into the future.

Remembering those anonymous words from my childhood from a song I have shared previously: *'The love of God is everywhere!'*

and the 'Battle Cry' from Charles Wesley:

"Forth in your name, O Lord, we go, our daily labour to pursue, you, only you, resolved to know in all we think, or speak or do. The task

your wisdom has assigned, O let us cheerfully fulfil, in all our works your presence find, and prove your good and perfect will.

You may we set at our right hand, whose eyes our inmost substance see and labour on at your command and offer all our works to you. Give us to bear your easy yoke and every moment watch and pray, and still to things eternal look, and hasten to your glorious day.

For you delightfully employ whatever your bounteous grace has given, and run our course with even joy, and closely walk with you to heaven". (StF 550, H&P 381)

'May the Lord, bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace'.

Amen

Graham



Collecting stamps for RNIB

The RNIB are collecting used postage stamps. If anybody would like to help, please bring used stamps once lockdown is finished, and I will post them. Collecting envelopes can be found and ordered on Facebook (and perhaps other sites too.)

Thanks

Andy Meal

Valerie's Quiz Corner

Answers to last week's Quiz:

- What was the name of the Duke of Wellington's horse? *Copenhagen*
- Who did Princess Alexandra marry in 1963? *Angus Ogilvy*
- What was Paddy Ashdown's first name? *Jeremy*
- What is the time distance in hours between London and New York? *5 hours*
- What is the world's largest sea? *South China Sea*
- When is St George's Day? *23rd April*
- What type of material is associated with Honiton in Devon? *Lace*
- What colour is found on most flags of

- the world? *Blue*
- What is the name of Wendy's dog in Peter Pan? *Nana*
- In Greek mythology who was the chief of the Gods? *Zeus*
- Which seaside has the longest pier in England? *Southend*
- What is the capital of Poland? *Warsaw*
- Which TV detective lives in St Mary Mead? *Miss Marple*
- How many teeth does an adult human have? *32*
- Which English city used to be called Duroliponte? *Cambridge*

How will you fare with this week's quiz? Good luck!

- Which French town at the foot of the Pyrenees is a major pilgrimage centre?
- What is a rabbit's underground burrow called?
- Who hunts the most, a male or female lion?
- Who created Paddington Bear?
- Which famous long-distance train had it's first run in October 1883?
- What is the hardest known mineral?
- Who wrote *The Catcher in the Rye*?
- What is a baby puffin called?
- Which author wrote most of her books at Hilltop Farm in the Lake District?
- Enchiladas originate from which country?
- What is the capital city of Switzerland?
- With which sport was WG Grace associated?
- What is astraphobia?
- What is the complimentary colour to Red on the colour wheel?
- What is the main ingredient of black pudding?



There have unfortunately been incidents recently of members of the church family being subject to, or victim of, scam/spoof emails.

For example, we know that Ministers are being targeted by scammers; Sam's name has been used on emails which do not come from her and have no resemblance to her real email addresses. Remember, always check the email address from which a suspicious looking message has been sent. If it contains lots of random letters and numbers in a long string it is very unlikely to be genuine. Never click on a link in an email that contains no other information.

There are also two other widespread scams doing the rounds at present. One purports to be an undelivered package from Amazon or Royal Mail for which you are asked to submit your details via an email or a premium rate phone line. This isn't how undelivered mail is communicated to you by the distributing networks. The other is purports to be from the DVLA asking you to reply to an email or phone line giving personal details for a car you supposedly own. Again, genuine organisations would not solicit your personal information from you in this way. If in doubt, delete!

Dan