



'BEING CHURCH'

TADCASTER METHODIST CIRCUIT
Sunday 10th January 2021

When it comes to sharing faith, are you 'Bashful' or 'Sneezy'?

Dear Friends,

During the course of this pandemic, we have learned all kinds of new words and phrases – from 'flatten the sombrero' to 'herd immunity' and 'anosmia' to 'antibodies.'

Viral load and aerosol transmission are two more which, in combination, explain one of the main ways in which the virus can be passed on. *You may wish to gloss over the next bit as it's pretty gross...* Still with me?

OK, so imagine that someone who has the virus is standing three feet in front of you and sneezes in the direction of your face (*I did warn you!*) If they have a mask, or sneeze into a hankie, some droplets might get past, but you'd have to be pretty unlucky to catch the virus, especially if the sneezer only had a light viral load themselves. Now imagine no mask or hankie, you take the full force – you might be pretty lucky to *avoid* the virus, especially if the sneezer is heavily loaded with it!

So, why have I risked grossing you out in this way?

Because there's a similarity with how we share our faith. No, seriously, stick with me on this.

The two factors which most affect our ability to share our faith are:

How strong our faith is (our 'viral load').

If we're not sure what it is we believe then we're going to have a hard time convincing anyone else! Maybe we could use the next few weeks when there's really not a lot else to do, to read, think and pray to strengthen our understanding. Are there questions that have always nagged away at you? Use this time to address them – *ignoring them won't make them go away!*



How close we are prepared to get to people, so we can share (transmissibility).



Faith isn't passed on by shouting at people from a distance, or expecting them to come to us, but by walking alongside, sharing the ups and downs of life. In this time of physical distance, keeping in touch with each other by other means is more important than ever. Maybe when we call someone to check on their physical health, we could gently ask about where they are spiritually too.

Set yourself a target – *'I always meant to try and speak to 'X' – now's my chance.*

None of this happens by accident, it happens because we commit to making it happen and trust to God to stand alongside us. And God knows, there are people we know who need the hope and the peace that he offers, right now. Maybe you have ideas which might help others in our little family of Churches, or questions where finding answers might help you? Do please speak to any of Ann, Steve, Eileen, or me, and maybe together we can make something positive out of this time. Stay safe and God bless

Donald



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YEAR OF PRAYER Wetherby, and Tadcaster Churches are hosting weekly Prayer Meetings

Wetherby: Every Wednesday, 7pm – 7.20pm

All are invited to join us. **Please contact Revd Ann for the Zoom log on details for the week.**

Tadcaster: Every Tuesday, 9.30am – 10am (join from 9.15am)

All are invited to join us. **Please contact Eileen Clarkson for the Zoom log on details.**

Worshipping Together - Online:

This week we have a **Circuit Reflection**, on the theme of **Covenant**, brought to us by Rev Ann

This will be available from **7am Sunday morning**,

on [Boston Spa MC](#), and [Tadcaster Circuit](#) websites, as well as all of our Facebook pages.

There is also a **'Zoom' Covenant service**, led by Revs Ann and Steve, at **10am Sunday morning**.

You are welcome to join us, using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83112126175?pwd=VnZSY3hBR3FNS0wzVlV4VFF0TWs4UT09>

Meeting ID: 831 1212 6175 Passcode: 913842

If you don't have a computer you can also join by telephone using one of these numbers:

0131 460 1196, 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0203 901 7895



Worshipping Together – Offline

Service sheet attached.

Please join us, to feel part of something larger – physically apart, but spiritually together!



On BBC:



Radio 4 Sunday at 8:10 am, Sunday Worship **'Our Common Home'**

Martin Palmer explores how faith can partner with conservation movements in protecting what Pope Francis calls "Our Common Home".

BBC1, Songs of Praise **'Stirling'**

Claire McCollum is in Stirling, exploring the city's connection to the King James Bible, and JB Gill* meets a Scottish singer who found Jesus whilst battling addiction.



** All being well JB Gill will be coming to Boston Spa Methodist Church, in April, to share his faith, and maybe talk a bit about JLS!*



If you don't have access to a computer, you can still listen to Rev Ann's Reflection (available from Sunday)

And finally...

If you would like to explore the themes from **Mark 1: 4-11** (Jesus' Baptism) you can find both **Adult, and Children's worksheets** on the BSMC Home Page:

www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk .

If you would like to explore deeper, there is also a **Bible Study** available from the same place.