

## Thoughts from a Garden Seat

At the beginning of lockdown, Derek Turton, Local Preacher from Spondon, embarked on a project. For the first five weeks he produced a daily pause for thought, which he distributed round the people of Spondon and to his friends and contacts further afield.

People who read these articles, would often contact Derek with their own reminiscences and stories and relate how Derek's memories had sparked their own.

More than one person suggested that he ought to consider getting them published so that they could be read by a larger audience. As a result Derek spoke to Peter Dawson and together they have produced a book of more than thirty of these daily pause for thoughts into a book called *Thoughts from a Garden Seat*.

The book is currently at the publishers and is expected to appear during the autumn priced at £5 including postage. If you would like a copy of this book, please do contact Derek and reserve your copy, his details are on the poster opposite,

In the meantime, Derek is still sitting on his garden seat thinking and offering his thoughts on a weekly basis. Again, if you want to be included on his email list for these do get in contact with him



Sue Griffiths would like to thank all her friends who helped to make her birthday a special day and especially she would like to thank the church community at Borrowwash for the beautiful arrangement of flowers they sent.

## Closing Thoughts

As I was seeking inspiration for this closing thought I had the patio door open and I could hear several birds singing. We have become more aware of the sounds around us in nature at this time of lockdown. I have also become more aware of the sounds that are missing. I live quite near to our local primary school and the summer months are usually filled with the sounds of children playing in the school yard in the sunshine, but their voices are fewer this summer.

I wonder how many of you were slightly unnerved by the suddenness of the silence that descended in March. Up until then I could work out what time it was if I woke in the early hours of the morning by the amount of traffic passing by but I can no longer judge the time of day from the amount of traffic passing by.

One of the things we're not very good at is listening. We think that we do listen but in reality we don't. According to William Barclay in his book *The Gospel of John* "There are different kinds of listening. There is the listening of criticism; there is the listening of resentment. There is the listening of superiority; there is the listening of indifference. There is the listening of the person who only listens because for the moment they cannot get the chance to speak. The only listening that is worthwhile is the listening which listens and learns. There is no other way to listen to God."

In Isaiah chapter 55 verse 3 we are told. "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live."

I wonder if we have used this time of comparative quietness to listen to God or if we have just filled up the silence with our own noise. As we seek to find our way forward we should take time to listen and hear what God wants us to do.

**Lord, help us to be still that we might sense your presence  
Help us to be quiet that we might hear your voice  
Help us to listen that we might live**

JN



# Borrowwash, Draycott and Spondon

Bulletin 9 (Revised)

19th July 2020

## Dear Friends

Welcome to this edition of the *Bulletin*, I hope that you find it interesting. I would like to thank those who have contributed to it this time. If you ever have anything that you want to share with the rest of us, please speak to me and we can make sure it is included.

As you can see this is the ninth edition and I would like to thank all those who have told me how much they appreciate it. It is always difficult to gauge what people want, but I hope that in the words of Mr Rank, we are able "to please most of the people most of the time." and I hope that is what we have done.

Preparing the *Bulletin* is a time intensive piece of work; it takes most of a day to write it, check it, publish and distribute about forty paper copies. Because of this, I will only be issuing the *Bulletin* once a month in future and will continue to do so until December. At that time we will review the future of this publication and see if it is still needed and wanted.

You will see in our pages, how some people have spent lockdown, how people are still meeting for Bible Study, fellowship and prayer—and in some cases doing so more often than they used to! How another has used their creative talents to produce prayer material for others.

It seems to me from your stories, as well as my own observations, that more of us have been engaging with worship, study and prayer during this time than has often been the case in more normal times. I suspect that some of this is due to the ease of access of what is available—pause for thoughts dropping into electronic inboxes and evening reflections via video link that we can attend without having to get the car out.

It is my hope in the months and years ahead that we continue to engage, that we continue to be creative in how we do things and that we use what we have learnt to interact with the communities in which we live.

Colin

## Preparing to Re-open

As was reported in the last *Bulletin* that worship could restart in our chapels from the beginning of July. However, it was not possible to have everything in place for such a quick start. After discussion with the stewards and looking at both government and Connexional guidance we have decided (along with the majority of Methodist churches across the country) not to open our churches for worship until September.

While we recognise that this will be a disappointment, we believe that this will give us time to get things properly ready, to understand the issues we will face and have worked out how to have addressed them.

We have set up a working party comprised of people from the three churches to complete risk assessments and write a policy and protocols regarding the resumption of worship. We will be presenting these documents and recommendations to the three church councils towards the end of August.

We have also begun looking at ways in which we can live stream worship, using Zoom, for those who are not able to join us when we reopen. The streamed service will be Spondon's service each week as they have the personnel and equipment to do this.

As part of the preparations for reopening and to get a feel as to who is ready to meet in chapel, Colin will be circulating a letter and questionnaire to all our members and associates. Please do take the time to complete this and return it to him as the data will assist us in making necessary arrangements.

**Spend  
a  
Penny**

Borrowwash's Lent giving this year was to support Tearfund's Toilet Twinning initiative. Despite lockdown we still managed to raise £72 and so are flushed with success. If you still have money to hand in please contact Ian Frearson, 01332 666997

New  
ID

**Sunday Worship 10:30 am.**

**Zoom Meeting ID : 827 0960 1674 Passcode: 248724**

**or by Phone: 0131 460 1196 or 0203 481 5240 then Meeting ID followed by # then #**

## Seeking God Together

We are all aware that we can have access to worship at the touch of a button, be that via a computer accessing Zoom or YouTube, or by the TV watching *Songs of Praise*. But over the last few months we have found that we can use technology for other aspects of church life. In our section, we have the opportunity to meet for coffee. Recently, Children of Honduras Trust had an evening spotlighting their work using the Zoom and had supporters join them from across the country.

Here are two stories that show how people are coming together via Zoom to study the Bible and to pray.

### Isaiah online

Three years ago Peter Dawson set up four Bible Study groups at Borrowwash. Initially, all four groups studied the Gospel of Luke, but then went on to choose to study different books. The Wednesday evening group decided that we did not really know the Old Testament well and, having been interested in the prophecies pertaining to Jesus, decided to study Isaiah – starting last September. The Bible Project produced overview of Isaiah in video format, which was really useful in getting started.

Some aspects of Bible Study have changed dramatically for our Wednesday evening group since the start of lockdown: rather than meeting face to face we are utilizing Zoom and instead of meeting fortnightly we are meeting weekly. However, there are other aspects that have remained the same; there are meetings where we get distracted by chatting; we still go off on tangents and we are still able to speak about our worries and concerns as well as share news to celebrate.

Our typical evening now tends to be a mixture of fellowship and of Bible Study (we are definitely moving through Isaiah faster than I had ever imagined we would!). As we have moved through the first section of Isaiah, prior to the exile, we have found ourselves frequently comparing what we are reading to the current situation we find ourselves living in. We have been able to use this to help us keep our focus on and our trust in God, rather than on political personalities.

As a group we have found continuing to meet during these difficult times a blessing. We are all living and working under different circumstances and for some of us Bible Study provides a way to break up the monotony of the week, while for others it helps to provide a routine. However, for all of us it is a way to study God's word and its meaning for us, spend time with friends and enjoy the social interaction that has always been an important part of our evenings together.

Helen Emerson

### Praying together

In Spondon we have always had several prayer meetings and we have sought to continue these through this lockdown period. Here we want to give a flavour of the meetings we are holding, using Zoom.

On Monday evenings, from 7.30pm, Jenn Cox hosts a prayer meeting which focuses on listening for and to God's voice. When it was suggested that this was like the Quakers, Jenn replied that this group was not as quiet! People are joining this group from as far afield as Loughborough

At the other end of the week, on a Friday lunchtime (12.00 noon), we have Friday Blessings. This was a discipline we had before lockdown and have been able to continue through video meetings. During this meeting we pray for God's blessing to be poured out on our village, local businesses and pray for particular street in the village following our street prayer rota.

Finally, on the third Thursday of each month a group which pray a daily Rhythm of Prayer based on the Ffald y Brenin's ("sheepfold of the king") meet to share together in the liturgy. This meeting is at 7.00pm. Both the Friday prayers and the Rhythm of Prayer are both hosted by Aubrey and Cheryl Morris.

While these meetings are Spondon initiatives we would invite and welcome anyone to come and join us from across our three churches and beyond. All three meet in the Coffee Lounge and the Meeting ID can be found at the bottom of this page. Further information can be got from Jenn on 01332 679687 and Cheryl on 07530 125331.



Our prayers this week are with

George Cheshire, Draycott, following the death of Barbara, who was called home to God on 9th July and his subsequent admission to hospital. We pray that God would be his strength and presence. We also give thanks to God for Barbara's witness and service.

Maisie Maris, Borrowwash, now home, but still unwell, following a stay in hospital after having a stroke.

Marg, the sister-in-law of Joyce Olivant, Spondon, who is rehabilitating following a stay in hospital.

Eunice, the mother of Pat Hopgood, Draycott, who is home following, a spell in hospital.

Emma and Anthony, Maureen Dawson's granddaughter on the birth of Elsie Charlotte. We give thanks for Elsie's safe arrival.

Those who are struggling with family loss and those whose loved ones have died an untimely death.

We continue to prayer for the circuit's ministers and staff team especially for Darren and Jo Howie.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

### Speeding Fine

A member of one of our congregations recently went out in her car to visit some of the family for the first time since lockdown. On the way she travelled down a stretch of road where the speed limit changed in quick succession from 50mph to 40 to 30. As she was decelerating to reach 30 she saw a policeman pointing a speed gun at her, looked down and saw she was still above the speed limit.

On reaching her destination, she asked her son how long it took for a speeding ticket to be issued, "Would it be a week or so?" she asked. "Well, where you were caught," he replied, "it's likely to be a year or two. That policeman was a scarecrow!"



**Come on let's celebrate!**

**Sue Griffiths  
who turned 60 on  
13th July**

**Congratulations**

**Come on let's celebrate!**

**Julie Phillips  
who turns 60 on  
2nd August**

**Congratulations**



**Come on let's celebrate!**

**Chris and David  
Scothern  
Celebrating 50  
years of marriage**

**Congratulations**



**New  
ID**

**Coffee Lounge 10:00 am.**

**Tuesday, Borrowwash / Wednesday, Spondon / Thursday, Draycott**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 893 9534 3022 Passcode: 568643**

**Food Bank Collection Points**

**Borrowwash, 2a Nursery Close / Draycott, 10a Derby Road / Spondon, 20 Chapel Street**