

THE LINK

The Magazine of Portsmouth Methodist Church

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“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7.

Welcome to the first of the virus crisis editions of The Link. We hope to produce something each week. As most of you know by now worship services and church activities have been suspended. Many of you will be spending more and more time indoors. The aim is to keep in touch with you all through The Link and pastoral phone calls. In particular we hope to give you pointers and materials for worship at home.

The Link – electronically

If you are reading this on-line great, we already have your email address! If you are reading this because the paper copy has been posted through your door but you have an email address then please let us have your address. We can send future editions electronically and it will cut down on the number of deliveries our hard-

working church volunteer posties have to make. Please send a message to millses89@gmail.com

Keeping in touch

Most of you will have family, friends and neighbours who will be able to get food and medication in for you if it's needed. If you haven't or if that situation changes, please let us know. We hope to have a system in place to help. I'm sure we'll all be phoning, supporting, praying for each other throughout this time.

Worship

We can still worship God on our own at home. The Methodist Church has is producing helpful material to help us through. If you have internet go to

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

There are details of how to connect to the live streaming of worship (without a congregation) from Wesley's Chapel on three different days of the week as well as the 'worship from home sheet' for this Sunday.

For those without internet access this is the outline of the service for Sunday March 22nd. If you can I'd urge you to use it at 10.30 on Sunday knowing that others will be doing so at the same time.

Opening Prayer

As I come before you Jesus, open my eyes that I might truly see you as my shepherd, comforter, and redeemer. I want to be with others worshipping you but this is not possible, yet I know that I am being prayed for as part of the community of faith. Thank you for this time where I remember you are with me. Amen.

Hymn: Amazing Grace (if you can in whatever way)

Let us pray together

Lord, I worship you today. Help me to see your calling in my life.

Open my eyes to what is possible when I see things through the eyes of your Son.

Forgive what is passed, protect me from all that is to come

Today's Reading from the Old Testament 1 Samuel 16:
1-13

Today's Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

(Hope everyone has a Bible – let us know if you don't)

Reflection

“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart”. (1 Sam 16:7b)

At this time our ‘outward appearance’ is less important than ever, not least because we’re not out much! A time then to reflect on our heart and what the Lord sees when he looks upon it. An opportunity to spend heart to heart time with God. A time when we have more time to be with the one who is at the heart of all things.

Blessings- John

A time of prayer

All seeing, all knowing God I call on you today. May your Spirit give your world a sense of calm and peace in these difficult times.

On this Mothering Sunday, we pray for all Mums. The good ones and the not so good. We remember all those who would have liked to have children but for whatever reason could not.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty: For those people who are worried about leaving their home and those who cannot. For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other.

We pray for carers, doctors and nurses. We continue to pray for those who will feel more isolated by not being

able to attend and act of worship today. I especially want to pray for

Holy God,

Present with us now, guide me in all I do and say – that it might reflect your love for the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

A prayer of blessing

Lord, I commit myself to you today. At the end of this day, may I see you more clearly and love you more dearly, and follow you closer. **Amen.**

Churches together in England have asked for candles to be lit on Sunday in a National call to Prayer. Details at [https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/569010/Home/News/Latest news/Light a candle.aspx?redirected=1](https://www.cte.org.uk/Articles/569010/Home/News/Latest%20news/Light%20a%20candle.aspx?redirected=1)