



TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 19th April 2020

I hope you all had a good Easter. I have eaten too much chocolate! Thank you so much to our contributors this week. We have an interesting mix of articles for all to enjoy.

Daniela

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

Many years ago, when I was a pastoral visitor (in those days we were 'class leaders') a well-respected senior member always used to make me say what he claimed was the traditional opening gambit of class leaders, "How is your soul, brother/sister." So now as your minister, dare I ask that question of you after what seems like a long time of isolation from one another, and after a very different way of observing Easter? Please be assured that your mental and spiritual well-being continues to be as important as your physical health. Are you getting enough spiritual nourishment, as well as physical food? Try to create a routine of prayer and Bible reading. It doesn't have to be long and prayers don't have to be fancy in language or structure, just be honest with God and yourself about your experiences at the moment: your joys as well as your concerns.

I am particularly concerned about those who, like me, live alone. Human beings were created for relationship and, and even if, like me, you don't mind your own company, we feel it strongly when we cannot be with others at all. It seems like a long time since Easter Sunday, and it certainly seems like long time since I was with others in the Trinity building. However there still remains a real sense of community within the church family and I hope that you feel it as much as I do,

despite not being able to physically gather together at the moment. Shirley and Allison have been doing good work phoning people, and pastoral visitors may also have been communicating with you. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have internet access (and some of the knowhow necessary!) have learnt how to communicate in several ways I never dreamed of. I was very grateful for the help I received from more knowledgeable church members in talking me through setting things up, and it wasn't as difficult as I thought it might be, so I would encourage you, if you do have internet and computer access to have a go. Believe me, if I can with a bit of help, anyone can! Please be assured of my love and prayers Jackie

Regular Services via Zoom

Thanks to Rev Jackie Case, Hugh Bowerman and Sue Waddington we are now able to offer regular worship via Zoom.

Hugh will lead Foundry Worship this Sunday, 19th April, at 5pm.

Jackie will lead Morning Worship on Sunday 26th April at 10.30am.

They will then alternate in this pattern - every other week.

Sue will lead Junior Church every Sunday morning.

Hugh writes,

"It was lovely to see nearly 70 of our members or children at one or more of the 4 services held on Zoom over the Easter weekend. We were able to join together and mark the great occasions of the Christian calendar. I know this has been a great encouragement for many.

Many of you will know I love my numbers and statistics! So here are a few. In round numbers 40 email addresses joined in Easter services, out of a total of about 120 on our database - that leaves 80 who didn't. We can think of multiple good reasons why people are not joining, and we don't want to pester. However, we have two concerns. That (i) some are not receiving our emails advising on services etc - it might be going straight to spam or junk mail or 'Other' so please do check there or ii) others are daunted by the prospect of joining Zoom or think their equipment is not suitable.

We're working on (i), and some of you may receive a call which will be with the purpose of trying to ensure that all who want to receive our mailings are getting them. With respect to (ii), you can join on any internet connected device (smart phone, tablet, laptop, older PC). If your equipment doesn't have a camera, you can still see and hear the rest of us – some members already join in this way. If in doubt, a number of us are more than willing to talk you through the process – you may be surprised how easy it is.”
Hugh Bowerman

Message from the leadership team

I am very grateful to Kevin Page for sending me the inspiration for this week's message when he emailed a reading from Spring Harvest. At such an anxious time for everyone, as I watch the news on coronavirus, it is comforting to hear these words.

Philippians 4:6-9 New Intl Version (NIV)

⁶ “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you”.

(You can hear the talks from Spring Harvest at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw_t1J2734g)

To give you an example of answered prayer I wanted to share with you news about my daughter-in-law, Fran, who saw a need – the lack of scrubs for hospital staff in the new Nightingale hospital in Harrogate- and set to work through prayer. She knew she could sew so researched a pattern for scrubs and sourced the blue polycotton needed and set to work. Then word got around and

she was asked to co-ordinate for 'The love of scrubs – the NHS needs you' Facebook appeal, this then led to 'supplies for key workers in and around Harrogate' getting in touch providing 50 people able to sew and money for material and patterns. Fran moved on to co-ordinating rather than sewing herself and wrote a Facebook page. She spent £700 to buy supplies, trusting that the money would be raised and found immediately a further £200 came into the fundraising (tinyurl.com/harrogatescrubs). Tonight, the funds are up to £3600 after only 2 days and Fran is sending out material and patterns to a network of sewers so that scrubs can be delivered to the hospital within a week.

Ruth Taylor

Geoff Eaton writes about he and Wendy's Different Easter Sunday Morning:

Since Wendy and I are neither Skypers nor Zoomers, we were anticipating an uneventful Easter Sunday; fortunately, two of our near neighbours (Teresa and Tom who attend Christ Church) had other ideas. They thought it would be good to sing a few hymns outside in Lydele Close on Easter Sunday morning, primarily for the benefit of one elderly lady, Mary, who rarely gets out and about. There are only thirteen households in the close, and as 11.30 approached nearly everyone emerged into the sunshine, all automatically conforming on social distancing! The words to three hymns had been emailed to all, so with Mary seated outside her front door, Tom on guitar and Teresa on violin, Teresa called us to worship and we began with “Crown Him with many crowns”. This was followed by an appropriate reading from John's Gospel Chapter 20 and a vigorous rendering of “Amazing Grace”, before Teresa led us in a prayer for the world followed by the “Lord's Prayer”. We finished with “Thine be the Glory” and a blessing from Teresa. I doubt if we were out for much more than half an hour, but Mary loved it and everyone clearly found the episode a thoroughly uplifting experience. Hopefully by next Easter life will have returned to normal, but whatever the future throws at us, Easter Sunday morning 2020 will always be remembered.

Geoff Eaton

From Easter Sunday this year, to Easters Past with Ann Dawson:

Easter started on Good Friday with searching for primroses in a nearby wood which we would pick and put in jars to decorate a church Easter garden with wooden crosses and a tomb in a moss and stone background. Of course, nowadays picking primroses in the wild would be frowned on but they grow in great profusion near where we lived in Basingstoke Hampshire near Eastleigh. The tale of hiding an Easter egg basket reminded me of my parents and the fun we got up to hiding a clutch of little chocolate eggs in a basket to be found on Easter Day lunchtime. The basket would be decorated and hidden by Mum and Dad and then searched for by the family. Mum and Dad would call out to each child. There were four of us. Mum and Dad would guide us towards the eggs, generally, one each by saying you are getting hot or cold depending on how close you were to finding the Easter eggs. Getting hotter meant you were close and stay where you were to search more closely and getting colder meant you needed to move and check you were getting hot until the call came loudly of the danger of being too hot which meant you were in danger of being right on top of those eggs sometimes without seeing them. On a rainy Sunday of course, the eggs could be anywhere in our house and on sunny days generally in the garden. Sometimes it seemed to take ages to find those eggs but then the joy of eating all that chocolate in your tiny egg was bliss as a small child.

Ann Dawson

A Word in Season 4 The Road to Emmaus

On Easter Sunday evening around dusk, after another dry day, Dan and I were watering in the front garden when she looked up and mentioned that she could see only one star and it was very dim. When we went to the back garden we could only see two or three very faint stars. When we had finished watering, we sat on the patio chairs sharing memories of past Easters and how things had changed over the years; like how we hadn't seen any bats outside the house for

a while.

The past two nights after watering we have looked for the stars and on both Monday and Tuesday nights we could see Venus, the 'Evening Star,' shining brightly. We talked of a chorus I had learned when I was five and had used as a 'Goodnight song' for both Dan and Bern, and Isobel and Clara. I heard the BSF toddler group singing it before 'lockdown' began,

A little star peeps over the hill, the children clasp their hands in prayer, for the love of God is everywhere.

These moments of reflection called to mind that I hadn't preached at an evening service for several years. I used to love motor cycling or cycling to appointments in the evenings on starry nights. I miss the intimacy of the usually smaller congregations. Then I thought of services for Easter Sunday evening. The theme was often the 'Road to Emmaus' (Luke 24:13-35). Two travellers in Self Isolation, distressed, frightened, confused, bemused, talking together trying to get their head around the reality of recent events; to me that sounds so much like today.

To start an evening service, I would often use, *Father in high heaven dwelling, may our evening song be telling of your mercy large and free.*

George Rawson, 938 MHB 640 H&P.

On Easter Sunday evenings this hymn by James Ashcroft Noble was very relevant to the Emmaus Road story, *Lord Jesus in the days of old two walked with you in waning light, and loves blind instinct made them bold to crave your presence through the night. As night descends we too would pray: O leave us not at close of day.*

James Ashcroft Noble, 941 MHB, 645 H&P.

In 2018 at my first ArtServe Festival I took the opportunity to join a Song Writing Workshop. That is something I had never done. I love poetry but find it extremely difficult to write. Working in a group of three, Rob Harris (music), Jenny Reed and I put this together:

On the Road to Emmaus

Lost and confused, distraught and bemused; how did it happen and why? To Emmaus they walked, together they talked; it went so surprisingly wrong! It started so well, how could they foretell? Jesus, denied, crucified and died! The road to the light unrevealed.

*A stranger appeared and talked to their fears; don't you understand? God had it all planned,
The prophets and scripture foretold
God's love through the stories of old,
Messiah would come to bring people home, God loved them so,
The Son to the cross had to go.
The road to the light part revealed.*

*They asked him to stay, please don't go away! Breaking bread clarified.
The Christ had died but was now risen indeed, from sin all are freed!
No longer confused, distraught or bemused, they ran back to share the good news!
That's how it happened and why!
The road to the light now revealed!*

Today we are confused, worried, bemused; the pandemic happened so quickly and has changed our lives. As part of Social Distancing we talk to each other by phone and video, and that is so important but as the travellers on the Emmaus Road discovered, talking to Jesus and sharing their thoughts helped them to understand and recognise that Jesus was always with them, and us. Be assured, we have the Holy Spirit, the Comforter to be with us through this crisis.
Graham Warr

Last week Elaine Slatter told us about her lock-down week in poetic form. This week David Lander send a reply!

A reply to Elaine

Our thanks to Elaine
For keeping us sane!
Now, I can't compete
With her well-honed feat;
Still, I thought I'd share
What's going on here,
As we're hunkered down
On the south side of town.

I'm going out just once a week
To do the shopping – that's pretty bleak!
At home, as you say, there's plenty of chores
Enough to keep us all indoors.
And high pollen will keep Daphne inside,
But with jigsaw puzzles she's in her stride.
I prefer the garden, to be clear
There's plenty to do at this time of year.
I'm trying to keep it up to scratch
But I'm happiest in the vegetable patch.
And it's there, in nature, I sense the call –
God is here, He's all in all.
David Lander

Poetry must be in the air this week, as Valerie Slyfield has also written a poem for us.

Abroad thoughts from home

With apologies to Robert Browning
O to be outdoors, now that April's there,
And whoever wakes in England, sees some morning unaware,
That the pubs are shut, the restaurants too,
If you need groceries you have to queue.

We know isolation is for the best,
It really puts us to the test.
How shall I use my time today,
I must let nothing come in the way!

I take a walk every day,
Even when the skies are grey.
Each day I go a little bit more,
The local routes are such a bore.

My daughter gave me a Face Book Portal,
It makes me feel a bit more mortal.
To see and chat with the kids gives joy,
Especially Henry, the youngest little boy.

I have a bird feeder out the back,
I buy peanuts and fat balls by the sack.
I really enjoy the bird's little antics
But when a squirrel landed they all went frantic.

Each Thursday Dave rings from W.B.C.,
He wants to know how they can help me.
He's arranging for someone to deliver my pills.
The ones that keep me from all ills.

My son in law is very good,
Every week he brings my food.

He's working from home two kids to look after,
As his wife is laid up with her leg in plaster.

I had compost delivered, I bought it on-line,
The marigolds are coming up fine.
The tomato plants are very slow,
They need plant food to make them grow.

And when after April follows May,
Will we still be indoors all day?
The answer we all want to know,
Is when, out in England we can go?
Valerie Slyfield

Financial Year 2019/20

Due to the closure of the church premises, there are a number of outstanding cash and cheque donations which I am unable to access at the moment which will affect both the 2019/20 Gift Aid claims and General Giving totals. There will, therefore, be a delay in correlating and distributing the Statements of Giving for the foreseeable future. Please be assured that as soon as the situation changes, I will endeavour to process the numbers and send the statements out to you just as quickly as possible. In the meantime, thank you for your patience and for bearing with me. If you have any questions or need any updates on the situation, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Mike Tozer
Gift Aid Secretary

Quiz Corner

- How is steak tartare cooked?
- What is beef fillet cooked in pastry called?
- What is a scotch bonnet?
- What is the main ingredient of baba ghanoush?
- From what is Welsh laver bread made?
- What is the name of the ice cream dessert which is encased in meringue?
- Which daytime cookery show was initially presented by Fern Britton and then Ainsley Harriot?

- Which TV chef became famous for always cooking with a glass of wine in his hand?
- Basil, garlic, grated hard cheese, and pine nuts are the main ingredient in which popular sauce or paste?
- Which food can be oyster, chestnut and shitake?

Valerie

Trinity "Virtual" Coffee Shop will open at 10:30 Wednesday 22nd April

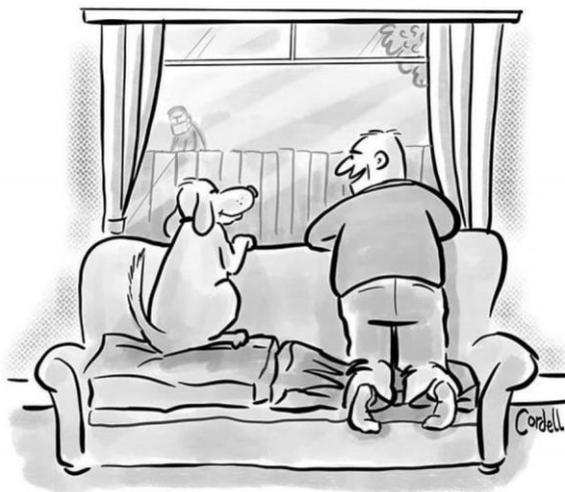
We'd love to see you or hear from you to tell us:-
How you're getting along ?
What have you been up to ?
Is there any art / craft you can share ?
What's happening in your garden ?

Make yourself a cuppa, and join us for a chat at:-
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79912138429>
Stay for as long as you want.



In case you can't read the link above, it is:
<https://us04webzoom.us/j/79912138429>
We will send a reminder nearer the time.

Found on Facebook, posted by a Greyhound Rescue Charity, *Daniela*



"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."