



Ruislip Manor Methodist Church

Sunday 29th November

www.rmmc.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/tempRMMC/

In the book of Esther a stern decree is issued in the court of the King of Persia. The decree was designed to protect the king from any sight that would upset him. He must not be reminded of how the other half lives. He was to live in his luxurious palace unaware that outside were men dropping to pieces with leprosy, that there were beggars covered with sores, that children were dying for lack of food, that there were women mourning their dead. The incident reminded me of Queen Mary Antoinette supposedly saying in blissful ignorance, *'If they can't find bread, let them eat cakes.'*

Esther has to risk her own life to break through that barrier and reveal to the King what is going on in the outside world; in particular that all the Jews in his domain were under sentence of death unless he was to act & get rid of his wicked Prime Minister.

This Sunday we begin our preparations for Christmas: to welcome the King of Kings. But we are aware that it's so easy for us to finish up with our own version of the decree of the King of Persia in which nothing of the real world must enter the gate of Christmas. Think of any of the illustrations of the Nativity, from the Old Masters in the National Gallery down to those on Christmas cards. Usually we get Mary dressed in clothes that wouldn't go amiss on Paris catwalk, & Joseph, the poor lad, with an old man's beard, immaculate in a flowing robe, spotless in spite of the mess of the stable.

'Jesus was filled with pity & stretched out his hand & touched him'. That's what the baby became, someone who out of compassion would touch the putrefying flesh of a leper. In that we get a picture of what God was doing in Bethlehem. Filled with pity, stretching out and touching a world in need.

I realise that the Chancellor has his work cut out to help deal with the financial consequences of the coronavirus, but I agree with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who describes the move to cut overseas aid as "shameful and wrong". Oxfam chief executive Danny Sriskandarajah said: "Cutting the UK's lifeline to the world's poorest communities in the midst of a global pandemic will lead to tens of thousands of otherwise preventable deaths." Coronavirus will take a much more dreadful toll amidst the poorest countries than will be the case here, but it is too easy to ignore *how the other half lives*.

It was into this world that Christ was born. *'God so loved the real world that he gave his only begotten Son.'* God was not like a Persian monarch screened from the reality of the world outside his palace gates. He was prepared to begin life crying in a manger, and to end his life crying out on a cross. This Advent let us celebrate that love in our own living and giving and maybe even in an email to our MP!

Hope to you in Christ, Roger

Prayer for the nation

You will recall that, as a church family, we use resources produced by Thy Kingdom Come during the ten days of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost. At that time we especially focus on praying for five people known to us who do not yet know Jesus.

As England has moved into its second period of lockdown, Thy Kingdom Come is promoting a month of prayer, asking Christians to stop and pray at 6pm every day, working through a seven-day cycle in which each day focuses on a particular area of life:

Sunday - Family, friends and loved ones

Monday - Schools and colleges, children and young people

Tuesday - Elderly, isolated and vulnerable

Wednesday - Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing

Thursday - The NHS and other key workers

Friday - National and Local government

Saturday - All who are grieving, and all suffering with physical and mental ill-health

Further information is available on TKC's website at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/prayerforthenation>

6pm Sunday Evening Service taken by Catherine Wells

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81332285563?pwd=ZVB5YTk2bWVlQUx0RmFsbkxkYlg2dz09> Meeting ID: 813 3228 5563. Passcode: 018864 Landline: 0203 051 2874

CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICE- Join us at **10.45am** each Sunday morning to share in worship with others from around the Circuit. If you are unable to attend your Church service and would like to continue online worship- this is for you!

The Circuit Zoom service this Sunday 29th will be led by Mr Philip Woods. Log into Zoom using the following details

Meeting ID: 827 0254 0378

Passcode: 947280

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82702540378?pwd=WXo2WGvNvXR1SGdlZTNqVGFZRU8yZz09>

To receive full details of each week's service please e-mail hahzoomservices@gmail.com

CIRCUIT ZOOM JUNIOR CHURCH- Junior church will now start at **10am** and finish at 10.35am so that members can join the Circuit Zoom Service. The host might show as 'Little Acorn Services' so don't let that confuse you! Young members can join Junior Church: Meeting ID: 852 8828 1958 and passcode is: 487813 or use the link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85288281958?pwd=dkl1Vi80TIVEQ0JnYVFEShOUVlJUT09>

Prayer Course – next session: 'Contemplation'. 7.30pm Monday 14th December. All welcome!

Traditional Carol Service with Premier Christian Radio & NCHW on Sunday, 6th December 6pm

"Welcome to the live stream of our Traditional Carol Service with Premier Christian Radio on Sunday, 6th

December 2020. 6pm A very different, but traditional carol service."

London District MWiB Presidential Appeal

The theme this year is "Living Water in Parched Lands".

We are asked to raise funds to support 'Robes' a charity offering shelter and food for homeless people in Southwark and Lambeth and building bore holes in Northern Ghana. Please see the attachment entitled 'Count our Blessings' . Please pass donations to Graham Lee by 24th January, making sure you inform him that they are for the MWiB appeal. Thank you. Please see attachmet.

Information about our New Minister

As you will all know Revd Roger Dunlop will be leaving the Circuit next July.

We are very pleased to announce that Revd Donghwan Kim will be joining the Circuit next September and will be the minister for Ruislip Manor and Ruislip and responsible for the Lighthouse Centre at South Ruislip. Dong is Korean and is at present studying in Korea, he has previously worked as a Circuit Minister in Kingston upon Thames and in Islington and Camden. We look forward to welcoming him and his family next September.

International Bible Reading Association

During this time of social distancing, separation and restrictions, loneliness can be experienced by many. We can feel more connected and bring God into our everyday lives by using daily Bible Reading notes. 'Fresh from The Word 2021' which contains a weekly theme, a daily reading, a daily prayer and daily action. The cost is £9.99. If you wish to order a copy (or copies) please email me:- junebriggs03@gmail.com Thank you June Briggs

Community Bible Study – 2 of my churches in the past have had CBS groups that were appreciated. You can now try CBS online. See <https://cbsuk.org/>

Charity Christmas cards catalogues time of year has come around again and I have received details of those from Karibuni Children .Karibuni Children Hand-made banana leaf/ fabric or batik Christmas cards. 6 cards (mix of 3 designs) £4 including postage. Available to order online- <https://www.karibuni.org.uk/shop/?add-to-cart=6624>

Or at
Karibuni Children
Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church
Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville Aylesbury
Bucks
HP22 5UJ, UK
Telephone 01296 614887
Latest news from Kenya, with video of thanks -
<https://www.karibuni.org.uk/covid-19-update-in-kenya/>





Greetings to Church Friends

The Stewards are very sorry but the Christmas card exchange rack will not be available this year. Even if church could open, we could not take the risk of people gathering to chat and picking up envelopes addressed to others. We would like you to consider sending one greeting to all your church friends rather than a lot of individual cards. Some people usually do this by pinning a single card on the notice board, for all to see.

This Christmas we will try a new way for people to exchange their greetings. We will produce a special edition of the news sheet just for Christmas greetings. This will be sent as a printed booklet to everyone on the church roll, so that nobody will be forgotten. Your greeting can be in the form of an actual Christmas card, a message, picture, prayer, poem, quotation, artwork, or news you want to share. Groups can also send a Christmas greeting if they wish. Please mark it "Christmas Greetings to Church Friends" and either post it through the church letterbox (in the hall door), or email it to Janet newsletter@rmmc.org.uk

Please be assured that if you need to send an individual card and you have not got the address to send it to, the stewards will do our best to get them there. If necessary church funds will be used for the postage.

Please speak to Janet F, Eileen, Andrew, or Jess if you would like more information, or can help with putting the booklet together or delivering it.

All the greetings sent in by Sunday 6th December will be included in the booklet. Grateful thanks to anyone able to send theirs any earlier.

Best wishes from the Stewards Team

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for :-

anyone suffering from mental issues and from loneliness because of isolation.

all those who have contracted Coronavirus and thank God for all who have survived.

Prayers and Blessings to all at Ruislip Manor and beyond - stay safe.

Friday 27th November:

This week we pray for North Hillingdon Methodist Church

We bring Harlington Hospice and Michael Sobell House to God in prayer.

We also pray for the people who live in Dulverton Road and Filey Way

We wish many happy returns to all who celebrate a birthday in November



There will be no New sheet for the week 27th December, if you have any items you would like included please let me have them by the deadline for the week before. The next News sheet will be for the week starting 3rd January 2021.

Items for the News sheet for Friday 4th December to **Janet Miles**, by email

newsletter@rmmc.org.uk by **Wednesday 2nd December**, please