

Rainbows please

In many places, children and adults have been putting rainbow pictures in their windows to cheer people up as they pass by. For kids it's fun spotting them on their daily walks. Our own Autumn and Fuschia have put a rainbow on Nanny Linda's balcony. In the story of Noah, when the flood went down God put a rainbow in the sky as a promise of His faithfulness. Why not display your own rainbow as your sign of hope. You can be as creative as you like. As well as being done with paints or crayons, they could be made from bands of coloured tissue paper, scraps of cloth or wool or even knitted. Send a picture of your rainbow to enquiries@crawlymethodistchurch.org.uk so we can all share them.



Pictures used with permission

On hold – safeguarding training

If you were signed up for the Safeguarding Refresher course in May, you won't be surprised to hear that it has been cancelled. *Carol*



Extraordinary Times will be published weekly 'for the duration'. Please send any news, prayer suggestions and requests and contributions of positive, up-beat bits and pieces by 10am on Thursdays to enquiries@crawlymethodistchurch.org.uk

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St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley

Extraordinary Times a magazine to help us through COVID-19

Issue 2

March 29th 2020

From the minister...

I'm writing this on Tuesday, the first day of the lockdown. Ironically, it's a beautiful sunny Spring day outside, and since currently we are allowed out to exercise (though this may change), I've observed quite a number of people; individuals, couples and families, out enjoying the sunshine on bicycles, walks and such like. Taking care, of course, to maintain safe distance from each other.

It occurs to me that for many people who are unable to go into work, and are either working from home or simply stood down currently, this is a time when they find the opportunity for an oasis of peace and space in their otherwise busy high pressure lives.

My prayer is that busy families can find some quality time for each other, and if you are not in the vulnerable or elderly categories then this could be a real opportunity to go outside and enjoy nature. Just make sure you don't find yourselves in close proximity to others. Have some proper "Me time"!

Of course, if you are elderly or vulnerable then you have no such freedom, and I feel for you. Try and do what you can to maybe start a new hobby or interest that you can pursue from home. How about embracing technology a bit more than you have previously been able to, either by opening a Facebook account or other social media group.

In 2020 you can stay in communication with so many people without leaving your living room. You also have the opportunity, should you wish to do so, to join me on the Trinity church Facebook page each Sunday at 10.45am for a live streamed service. Hundreds of people did so last week, and this Sunday we are also hoping to feature a pre-recorded children's message. Stay safe, stand firm and look out for one another.

Ralph

Lord Jesus, we praise you for your Creation and for the signs of Spring all around us. In these exceptional times may we treasure the simple things of life that you have provided for us, and face with resolution and confidence the challenge of the Coronavirus. We pray for our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering, and for those who mourn the passing of loved ones.

*"Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side."
Amen*



**clocks go FORWARD one hour
tonight (Saturday)**

Yes, we are worshipping together!

Over 850 people either joined in live for our first streamed service last Sunday morning, or watched the video afterwards on Facebook. Here's a reminder of what to do:

To watch live at 10:45am:

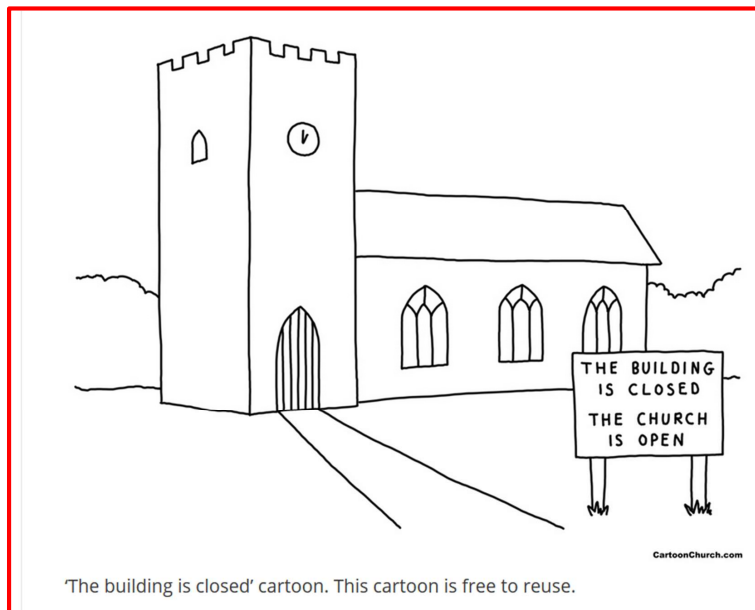
- You will need to go to <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityMethodistEG/>
- If you have a Facebook account you will be straight in
- If you don't have a Facebook account, select 'Not now' to the request to register and you will go to the Trinity page
- The live stream should appear straight away

To watch later:

- As above, but when you are on the Trinity page select **Videos** on the left of the main page and choose the video you want
- **OR** We are also now posting the service videos on the Trinity YouTube page to be available following the service: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAYxoqWmbeGjTnYBLpEo65Q/>

NEW! A song a day and midweek worship

A daily song from Ralph is now on St Paul's Facebook page
Midweek service with Ralph from Wednesday April 1st, starting at 2pm. A recording of the service will be left on the page for people to catch up later if they are unable to join us. It will also be available on the Trinity YouTube page, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAYxoqWmbeGjTnYBLpEo65Q/>



Take time Live on Sunday mornings at 10am



In this uncertain time, *Take time* meditations, familiar to us in our circuit, can help us encounter Jesus, who has a way of responding in welcome and love in a way that is often therapeutic and transformational

Each Sunday at 10.00 am *Take time* will broadcast a live meditation, that you can listen to in the comfort and safety of your own home. It's simple to do; just before 10am paste <https://mixlr.com/taketime/> into your web browser then, when it's live, click the PLAY button. If you're busy then, you can listen from the same page later by clicking on *Showreel Item*.

Caring for each other

Since this time last week, isolation has been more strictly imposed on all of us, and the very vulnerable are faced with 12 weeks without leaving their homes at all. What wonderful inventions the telephone, email and social media are! Now is the time to put them to the best possible use, particularly the phone for people without email and internet.

We are a very loving community at St Paul's and several people have told us who they will regularly keep in touch with. It's apparent that phone calls, email and social media chats are becoming longer and more frequent, even between those with families around them. The need for contact with others is strong and we can all play a part.

Thank you for all you are doing to cheer others and care for them. If you need more contact yourself, or you are particularly concerned about someone please let us know by email to enquiries@crawlmethodistchurch.org.uk

Prayers at 6 & 8

Have you taken up Lindelee's suggestion and set an alarm at 6am, 8pm or both to remind yourself to join in prayer with others in our church community? During this week please pray for those of our fellowship who are serving in the NHS at this time and for all key workers. Pray continuously for a swift end to this pandemic.

Carry on praying

For Judy, Uvonne, Linda, Jill, Janet, Daniel, Jean and Geoff, Maureen and others with needs known to ourselves.

Please send your prayer suggestions, prayer requests and ideas for ways to pray, to enquiries@crawlmethodistchurch.org.uk Don't forget: *Methodist Church Guidelines state that permission must be received from a person before their name is put on the Church prayer list. Please ensure that you have such permission.*