

The Bigger Picture

Doing Church Differently

Week 30

Remembrance Sunday 2020

8th November 2020

Word for the week

Words of wisdom from our Pastor, Mike....

Sometimes I get things wrong. We all do. I wasn't sure at first about resuming church services in the MRBC building until I received a clear word from God which indicated that it would do some of us good. Even then, I thought it would feel flat with a congregation of about 25 people, most of whom, would not be permitted to sing worship songs to God.



However, I have to say that I have treasured the 3 Sunday services that took place in the building. There was a lovely atmosphere, a real sense of togetherness and a vibrant sense of worship. I felt liberated in being able to preach again from the church platform to a live congregation as well as to all those at home via zoom. Many of the people in church testified that it had done them good just as God had promised.

Well, because of the second national lockdown, we are sadly back to online church for all. We don't know how long it will last but, I hope, that once the government gives churches the green light, we will be ready to get back in the building once more. When that happens, you will have a choice to stay on zoom or to book in to the live services.

Unless, there are compelling reasons why it would be wiser for you to continue with online church, I would ask you to think about booking into the building, perhaps for a Christmas Service. Now wouldn't that be something to look forward to?

The church isn't the building but there is something very wholesome and edifying about worshipping 'shoulder to shoulder' with our brothers and sisters in Christ even 2 metres apart!

What should we pray?

Lord we pray for....

Sunday - all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror. We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

Monday - Marinella today and especially her brother, Roberto, who has cancer. We pray for the whole family as they try to semi-isolate to protect Roberto from possible covid-19 infection.

Tuesday - Emma Faye who has contracted Covid-19 and we pray for the rest of the family who are all self-isolating.

Wednesday - all we know who are now unemployed or still furloughed from their employment. We pray for those we know who are struggling financially and/or in other ways.

Thursday - Glo and Keith today. Lord, make them aware of your continual presence. Thank you for Glo's efforts in raising funds for the MRBC Family Fund through her daily walks round the garden.

Friday - Les and Mary today. Thank you that they have been able to join us on Sundays via zoom.

Saturday - Helen, Linda and Rachel who are our main worship leaders at this time. Thank you for the technical expertise of Mark Phillips.



Meriden Memorial

During my first ever visit to nearby Meriden, I was surprised to discover a war memorial to cyclists. Interestingly, since 1921, hundreds of cyclists from all over the UK have come together annually to this village to pay tribute to other cyclists who gave their lives during the First World War and then later to also include those who died during the Second World War.

Cycling was immensely popular before the First World War and Meriden, reputedly at the centre of England, was a well-known meeting place for the 'wheelmen.' It would have been the 100th Meriden Cyclists' Memorial Service on Sunday 17

May 2020, but because of the pandemic, this was replaced by a virtual service.

Sadly, the 2020 MRBC Remembrance Sunday Service will also take place virtually via zoom. Because of the second national lockdown, we will be observing the 2 minutes silence as well as celebrating communion in our homes. There will also be a moving video relating to the Second World War which will be especially poignant for citizens of Coventry.

So, if you're reading this before 10.30am on 8th November, do join us on zoom, if you can, to give thanks to God for the fallen heroes of past military conflicts.

Mike

SHARON'S SNIPPETS

Here I am to Worship

Feeling low? Don't know what to pray? Then worship in song or in spoken praise. Jesus taught his disciples, when you pray, start by acknowledging God's holiness; 'Father God in Heaven, Holy is your name'. Worshiping God lifts your spirit - make a difference to your day
Try repeating holy names for God.

'Lord God Almighty, King of kings, Lord of lords. Most majestic one true God. The great I Am. Redeemer, Saviour, Creator of all. Most glorious, most gracious, merciful God of wisdom. I praise your holy name.'

Worship with a Psalm.

Psalm 8

¹O Lord, our Lord, your **MAJESTIC** name fills the earth! **Your glory** is higher than the heavens.

²You have taught children and infants to tell of your **STRENGTH**, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you.

³When I look at the night sky and *see the work of your fingers*— the moon and the stars you set in place—⁴what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them?

⁵Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with **glory** and **honour**. ⁶You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority — ⁷the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, ⁸the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.

⁹**O Lord**, our Lord, your **MAJESTIC** name fills the earth!



Hard Hitting Headlines...

Mike takes us in the book of James (Part 5)

REAL FAITH IS NOT ABOUT PLATITUDES

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2: 15-17

FAITH WITHOUT GOOD WORKS IS USELESS

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

James 2: 26

REAL FAITH LEADS TO ACTION

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1: 27