

Issue 3

5th April 2020

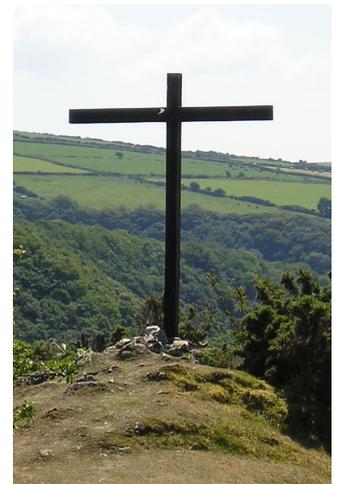
Together as One

Newsletter of the Methodist Churches in Hungerford, Lambourn,
Newbury and Thatcham during Coronavirus Pandemic

Not alone

Just as Lent began with Jesus alone in the wilderness, confronting evil and temptation, so it ends in this Holy Week with Jesus alone. He is alone in Gethsemane, his friends overcome by sleep when he had exhorted them to stay awake and to watch and pray with him. He is alone at his trial with no one to plead his innocence. He is alone on the cross feeling that even his Heavenly Father has abandoned and forsaken him. Jesus knows loneliness and isolation as he knows and shares every human emotion from euphoric elation to desolation and everything in between - from Palm Sunday to Golgotha in less than a week. We too may well be feeling isolated at the moment. Certainly this Holy Week is unlike any other we have known. In that isolation we are together. We are making the sacrifice of social isolation for the good of others and our sacrifice is much less than that of those on the NHS frontline.

In our isolation Jesus is with us. Holy Week's agonies highlight God's involvement in this world and in our lives at all times and in all circumstances. I pray you will know God's presence with you this week, whatever it may bring. With love and prayers. Peter



Spring Harvest Home

I know a few of you were looking forward to attending Spring Harvest in Minehead again this year and were so disappointed that the event has become another Coronavirus casualty. The good news is that this year from April 13th to 17th Spring Harvest will be available to everyone who can access the internet. Here is the link you need [Click Here](#) You can subscribe now so that you will be ready to join in just after Easter. The heart of Spring Harvest will be delivered direct to your living room!

Passion Monologues

Filmed in isolation in the actors' own homes, these Passion Monologues are provided by a small Christian theatre and arts company, LAMPS, founded and led by a former Youth Worker who worked with me at one of the Methodist Churches where I served. The monologues cover the key events of Holy Week from the points of view of Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and a young centurion called Marcus and are extracts from LAMPS' full production of The Passion. They can be accessed via the following link [Click Here](#) The introduction to the series and the first two speeches are available now; the others will be uploaded one a day from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day.

Message from Laura in Newbury

If you planted a sunflower seed given out at a recent service in Newbury Laura would love to see how yours is growing. Take a picture and send it to me and I will pass it on. We will post the pictures on the Facebook page.

Things to do during self-isolation

I know some of you are working really hard but if you are stuck for things to do? Here are a few ideas. Let us know what you are doing or post a picture on the church Facebook page where there is one.

- Read that book, novel or re-read something you haven't read for a long time. Let us know what you have been reading and can recommend.
- Read some poetry aloud. Can you recall something you memorised at school? Refresh your memory. Read something new.
- Write a poem of your own. It doesn't have to rhyme and you don't have to share it with anyone unless you want to.
- Write a letter to your grandchildren or other relative telling them what you have learned in life and what really matters to you.
- Sort out that box of photographs - write on the back who is in the photograph and where and when it was taken.
- Take up that craft again or for the first time. Draw or paint.
- Visit 12 of the world's best museums without stepping outside. Follow this link and scroll down [Click Here](#)
- The Corn Exchange Newbury is running digital classes and workshops. [Click Here](#)

Meditating on Scripture

If you're finding it difficult to read the Bible at the moment, how about focussing on one or two key verses each day? Turn the words over in your mind and ask God to speak to you through them. Perhaps write them out, pin them up, learn them, look at them in different versions of the Bible, or share them with others to encourage them. Here are a few verses to get you started: Psalm 46 v10, Proverbs 3 v 5-6, Isaiah 40 v 31, Isaiah 41 v 10, Matthew 11 v 28-30, John 14 v 27 and Philipians 4 v 19.

Wonderful testimony from a Belfast pastor

Click here to watch this video testimony of a pastor from Belfast who has recently come out of hospital after having Covid-19. If you click no other links click this one. [Click Here](#)

Answered prayer

Having rugby fans in our Home Group we naturally prayed about this need - the answer is captured in this headline. 'Miracle' - Worcester Rugby forward Michael Fatialofa: walks unaided less than 11 weeks after a serious neck injury. His wife Tatiana wrote, "You're witnessing a miracle that even medical professionals can't explain." You can see the full report here. [Click Here](#)

And finally

The registrar was recording a birth and asked the couple in her office what name they had chosen for their baby. "Orson", they said. "Is that because of the great actor and director Orson Welles", she asked. "Yes," they replied, "we have been fans for many years." The registrar gave them a quizzical look and replied, "But Mr and Mrs Cart don't you think you might be storing up trouble for your son?"