

Issue 4

12th April 2020

Together as One

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

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!

We are Easter people and Hallelujah is our song, so whatever is happening around us I can still share with you Easter joy. Why not join in with Sing Resurrection at 10am on Easter Day. Let's sing our faith to the world. For details. [Click Here](#)

May you know the presence, peace and joy of Jesus alive and with you in this special season. With love and prayers, Peter. For a Easter message and prayer from us. [Click Here](#)

'But we had hoped'

These words uttered by two weary and disillusioned travellers on their way home to Emmaus on that first Easter evening may sum up how you are feeling today (Luke chapter 24). Your hopes and expectations suddenly dashed - your hope to have moved house, to be with family or friends, to be away on holiday, to be gathering in worship with your Christian family – all gone. Many others have had their hopes and expectations snatched from them too – hope for a settled job, a successful business or a restful retirement taken away. An increasing number of others have seen their hopes and expectations for someone they love destroyed by Covid-19 and their own lives plunged into unimaginable pain and grief.

So where is true hope to be found for us? There is ultimate, lasting hope to be found only in the one to whom this original expression of loss of hope was addressed – this unknown traveller and companion of the two disciples on their walk homeward – the one who broke bread in their home and was revealed as the risen Jesus. They had hoped in him but had not understood who he was, that his death was necessary, that resurrection would follow and what it would achieve.

Only when they met the risen Jesus, the Hope of Glory, did their hope, faith and trust rest where it can never be lost even in the changing circumstances of life. This pandemic is showing us starkly and shockingly that our only hope for the future is in Jesus our Saviour, a hope made possible through his conquest over death, sickness and evil. When so much around us has been taken away and has been shaken to the core we need to ensure we know 'in Christ alone our hope is found'.



For a message of Easter hope [Click Here](#) and for an Easter poem read for you [Click Here](#)

The Bible on your Smartphone or Tablet

If you have a smart phone or tablet, have you ever thought to download a Bible App so that you always have God's word to hand? An excellent free Bible App to try is YouVersion, where you can download your favourite versions, do a search, listen to the Bible being read to you and much more. God's word can refresh our souls, make us wise, restore joy to our hearts and give us insight for living. (Psalm 19 v 7-8)

Spring Harvest Home

Don't forget to take advantage of the heart of Spring Harvest delivered direct to your home. It all starts tomorrow. Here is the link you need [Click Here](#)

Book Recommendations

I have read a long and fascinating biography of Abraham Lincoln by David Donald and now, seeking for something lighter in both senses of the word, I have moved on to "To War With Whitaker" the wartime diaries of Hermione, Countess of Ranfurly. I recommend both. Mr G, Newbury.

One of our readers from Thatcham is enjoying a 'Spiritual resource package' available from Bible Reading Fellowship. It contains an (adult) colouring book, based on the Psalms, (very calming and relaxing) - plus a book of Bible puzzles (crosswords, codewords, wordsearches etc), a copy of Bible Readings for anxious Times and a copy of the January - April 2020 issue of Bible Reflections for Older People. Details here [Click Here](#)

A good reliable source of secondhand books online I use is Abe Books. This is a marketplace of secondhand bookshops and is a good way to support small independent businesses. Details here [Click Here](#)

For both new and secondhand books an excellent business to support is the Hungerford Bookshop which has an online shop. [Click Here](#)

Healthwatch Information

There is information on the Healthwatch website which is updated regularly about accessing your local pharmacy, GP and dental services during the current crisis. [Click Here](#)

If you or someone you know is faced with the death of a loved one there is helpful information on the same website about how Coronavirus may affect grief and loss. [Click Here](#)

Appreciation

As some food has been harder to find I have found myself more grateful than usual for every meal. I am conscious of how much I am eating, pouring in the dish or spreading on my toast. We have always avoided wasting food in our house but recently even those parts of the vegetables we might have sliced off and thrown away are proving to be quite edible after all. We also have more time to eat without thinking about the next meeting or activity. Eating more slowly allows food to be appreciated. I am sure there is a life-lesson here. Is it one I will learn, I wonder?

And finally

I have just found out I'm colour blind. The diagnosis came completely out of the purple.

And one for the linguists - A Spanish magician was doing one of his tricks. With a wave of his magician's wand he said, "Uno, Dos" and then he disappeared without a trace.