

Issue 8

10th May 2020

Together as One

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

Verse for the week

Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares for you. 1 Peter 5 verse 7

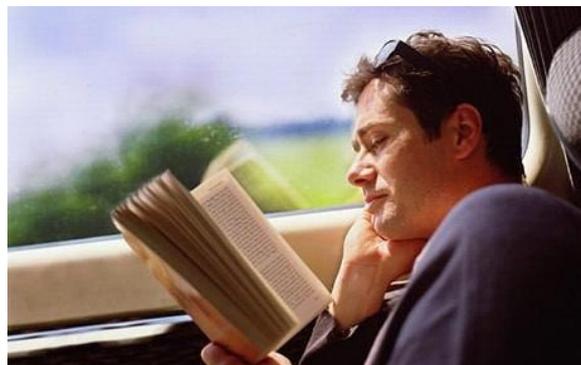
What I have been reading

I thought for a change I would let you know what I have been reading recently. I don't seem to have had more time to read than usual, in spite of fewer meetings, and I haven't felt like tackling anything too academic. This is what has taken my fancy over recent weeks.

What about you?

'Towards Jerusalem: A pilgrim's regress and progress to God's Holy City' by Steve Brady.

This is the book I chose to read during Lent and Holy Week. In it there is one reading for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Monday. It focuses on cities in the Bible and the imagery of cities used in the Bible. It reflects on, for example the time of the rebuilding of Jerusalem as recorded in the book of Nehemiah, the seven city churches in the book of Revelation and culminates in Jesus's final journey to his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. I found this a really rich and rewarding journey and a very helpful part of my daily devotions during Lent.



'Home: The quest to belong' by Jo Swinney. This book is an exploration of home through the author's life-story with its many homes. It is a heartfelt call to find our home in the things that are truly of most value. It is a very easy read, full of homely, personal experiences and challenges, but with a core message of finding home in God.

'Meadowland: The Private Life of an English Field' by John Lewis-Stempel.

Meadowland provides an intimate and beautiful evocation of one English meadow's life from January to December. The meadow forms part of the farm where the author lives and works in Herefordshire. He records the passage of the seasons in diary style snippets. It includes natural history, country lore, geology, local history and so much more. It is full of fascinating gems of information and those glorious 'yes, I've seen that too!' moments. I found it a delightful, easy read and very poignant when I can't get out into the countryside in the way I normally would.

I have now started reading **'The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi'** by Kathie Lee Gifford but it is rather too early to report on this book. With love and prayers, Peter.

Bird Song Opera

Not all these performers are available in the UK but we get a performance every day from about 4.30am onwards, all free. Enjoy! [Click Here](#)

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week begins today and because of the pandemic, support for Christian Aid is more important than ever, yet it is also more difficult to alert people to the need and to remind them about Christian Aid Week. Income has also been hit because fund raising events cannot take place. Donations can be made here [Click Here](#)

The focus of the week this year is a project to build earth dams in Eastern Kenya where 3 million people are facing starvation because of drought. Here is a link [Click Here](#) to a 3 minute video vividly illustrating the difference a dam can make to the lives of village women, like Florence, currently walking many miles daily to collect water.

You can learn about Christian Aid's work during the Covid emergency to help Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh stay safe [Click Here](#) and to support the huge numbers of displaced people in Nigeria who are at risk [Click Here](#)

There are prayers for the work of Christian Aid here [Click Here](#)

A teenage supporter of Christian Aid from Newbury has prepared a short musical presentation which is free to watch, but it is also a thank you for donations. The video is here [Click Here](#) and the associated Just Giving page is here [Click Here](#)

Supporting local businesses

If you are running out of ideas for the next meal, have a birthday or anniversary to mark, or are simply missing a take away or restaurant meal, why not consider supporting one of the local businesses in your area, many of whom now offer home delivery or click and collect services. Other businesses will deliver meat, cheese, baked goods, essential groceries and beverages. Details here [Click Here](#)

News from Hungerford

We heard the sad news that Chris Buck died suddenly this week. Please remember her husband Peter in his loss. Chris played the organ at St Lawrence's Church as well as supporting music within Hungerford. She was a recipient of Hungerford Town Council's Freedom of the Town Awards in 2019 for her services to the community and her fund raising efforts over many years.

Uplifting recording of The Blessing

This shared online recording of The Blessing has been put together by musicians and singers from many churches across the country. We found it very inspiring and an illustration of the Church Together as One. [Click Here](#)

And finally from Paul in Newbury

Question - As the animals of the world made their way into the Ark, two by two, each according to their kind, there was one notable exception. Which animals did not enter in pairs?

Answer It was the worms! They went in in apples!