

Issue 31

Together as One

22nd November 20

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

Verses for the week

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. Psalm 116: 1-2

Frustrations!

I'm sitting at my desk, fighting (yes, it feels like that!) a particular website as I try to change my password. Why won't it let me? I'm sure I've done everything I should've done and here I am a couple of hours after first starting what I envisaged to be a simple task, still unable to finish. Why do I feel annoyed, frustrated, angry? Because it's not doing what I need it to do, so that I can get on with the next part of the job. Do you ever feel like that?

"Karen, you need to breathe and get life back into perspective" I said to myself. I'm now sitting quietly, calming down, taking a few deep breaths and praying; praying about my "little" computer issue, remembering this really is minor in comparison to what's happening in our world at the moment.

One of my favourite Bible verses comes to mind. "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). So often in my daily life I need to return to that verse: sit/stand/lie still and focus on God. Praise Him for all that He means to me, how His love and care has shaped my life, thank Him and listen to Him. I encourage you to do it too.

With love & blessings, Karen

P.S. Password not yet updated!

"Together at Home" Older People's Activity Bags

Recently, across the four churches, we launched our Older People's Activity Bags called "Together at Home" to keep people connected to their pastoral/church community. Members of Evergreen Fellowship, Tuesday Fellowship, the non-digital congregation at Thatcham and some Lambourn members will have received their first bag by now.



We know many of you are missing your groups and/or being able to meet in person to worship together. We also know that many of you don't have access to the internet to access activities online. We're aware that some people are feeling increasingly lonely and isolated especially with the nights drawing in as we head towards winter. Our aim is to provide an activity bag once a month for the next six months. Each bag will contain: devotional material, a simple craft activity, an edible treat, quizzes/wordsearches etc, a current copy of the Newbury Weekly News etc. We hope the content will stimulate conversation with friends/family/carers.

We've received a £1000 grant from Greenham Trust to start it off along with a discount from the Newbury Weekly News. Winchcombe Place Care Home is kindly printing some of our materials. The feedback received so far has been incredibly positive. November's Together at Home bags will be delivered around 20-23 November.

P.T.O

We have a fundraising appeal on The Good Exchange to raise £2000 to fund the project. If you or anyone you know would like to contribute please [Click Here](#) or cheques (payable to Thatcham Methodist Church) can be given to Karen Frost. Contact 07444 851606.

Seasons of My Soul Part 2 by Marilyn Britt

I wrote in October about the above MHA resource which Karen and I shared during August and September. If I thought the first 4 weeks were challenging, then the next 4 were even more so. The themes for the last four weeks were:-

Roles and relationships – to explore our purpose and priorities now. Quotation from St Augustine – *God has work to do with us that will not be done without us.*

Forgiveness and reconciliation – To explore, offer and receive wholeness and healing. Desmond Tutu said

Forgiveness says you are being given another chance to make a new beginning.

Death and dying – to explore moving towards the end of this life grace-fully. A quotation from Gabriel Garcia Marquez in 'Love in a time of Cholera'.

Be calm. God awaits you at the door.

Celebration of life – to celebrate life in all its fullness. A quotation from EE Cummings

The most wasted of all days is one without laughter.

A most joyful session looking back at what we have appreciated, what we have learned, who we love and how we are blessed. After reflecting on a poem – 'A Hymn to Imperfection' by Joy Cowley – which celebrates our weakness, recognising we are human beings with the opportunity to grow and become a person in God's image. We also made a gratitude tree (see picture).



Our Tuesdays were not boring. We were sorry that it was just the two of us but we felt able to speak about every aspect of the themes. We filled (more than) the 90 minutes set aside and we left out so much. I would love to do it again but it is a resource which possibly forces us to face difficult times as well as good times.

There were occasional distractions. I live next door to a school and the contractors came and cut the grass twice! Pears and apples began to drop from the trees so we changed the position of the seats. The children went back to school so we also heard the children's voices at playtime! And on a windy day the parasol blew over. It was almost a relief to sit with coats on (socially distanced) indoors with doors open and rain coming in.

And what of the resource? With sufficient people, it allows for groups of people to follow the different activities but it is about feelings and emotions and recognising where God has been in our lives, that He still is and will be with us until the end of our time. God bless.

Methodist Women in Britain Southampton District Celebration

To join this celebration service live on Monday 23rd November at 10.30am [Click Here](#) or watch at any time afterwards on YouTube. The theme of the service is 'Water of Life'.

And finally

So I met the bloke who invented crosswords today. I can't remember his name, it's P something T something R...