

Sharing our Burdens and Joys

This space is a chance for us to pray for one another. If you have any prayer concerns please let Judith and Colin know so that we can include them in the Bulletin. In order to keep confidentiality we will use first names only, or even anonymise the request completely—God knows all things, God knows who we are praying for.



Willowcroft Care Home and all our residential homes as they continue to offer care in difficult circumstances.

The care workers in the NHS on the frontline and facing the worry of contacting Covid19 everyday.

Remember those who have been bereaved and who cannot go to the funeral to say goodbye

Give thanks for those who have volunteered and are helping the vulnerable and housebound.

Pray for those who are ill with Covid19 and for all those who are ill at this time.

Give thanks for all those who have made a full recovery from the virus

Pray for our political leaders that they would be granted wisdom and strength to do what is best for the nation.

Remember those who have been separated by the closing of borders

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Share what you are doing

In her letter on page 1, Judith shared with us some of the things people are doing to keep themselves busy during 'Lockdown'. Have you embarked upon a new hobby, completed a long awaited piece of DIY or read a good book. Let us know so we can share your stories on these pages.



Closing Thoughts

I recently took a funeral service and the family asked that we had Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 as the reading. It was an apt reading for the funeral, but I was amazed at just how much it resonated with the situation we find ourselves in at present. (I could glibly comment about the authors observation that there is *a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing!*)

There is a pattern to the poem which perhaps we don't always see and it is this: normally, the heartache comes first and is followed by joy, so a time to weep is followed by a time to laugh; a time to kill is followed by a time to heal; and a time for war is followed by a time for peace. (We need to over look a time to love and a time to hate!)

Within this pattern there is a message for today. There is a time for Coronavirus and all that we feel in response to it, but there will be a time without Coronavirus, just as there was a time before it.

There is one more phrase that speaks within this passage. The author writes, *I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it... (v14)*. We know that God holds us in his hands and will do so forever.

Eternal God, Lord of the past, present and future, I ask that you would help me to see beyond the tears and sadness of today to the hope and promise of tomorrow. Continue to hold me in the palm of your hand, for there I know your love, your strength and your protection. Amen.



Borrowwash, Draycott and Spondon

Bulletin 2

30th March 2020

Dear Friends

As we get towards the end of the first week of self-isolating, working from home and social distancing, I thought you might be interested in how other members of our churches are passing their time.

Several people are journaling; this is not only for future use but a good way to cope with stress.

Other people are making use of their time by making cards ready to send at Easter.

One person has redone his kitchen much to his wife's delight as it had been a project for a long time!

Lots of books are being read; please share your reading list.

In his down time Colin is leaning more about computers and I am trying to learn some yoga but it's pretty hopeless!

We are keeping in touch by various means but it's difficult to have our usual life and routines taken away.

To keep a sense of the wider community there are service sheets available from the Methodist Church web site. There is one for each week so we can feel connected by using the same words that others in Methodism are using.

The District office stops at 9.15 each morning to pray for the Nottingham and Derby District.

I am aware that many of you pray as often as you can for the churches in our section as well as for each other.

Please continue to get in touch with Colin and myself; we talk to each other regularly but always have time for anyone who just wants to tell us anything that is on their mind.

God Bless

Judith Neal

Share Your Celebration

(or let us know about someone else's)

Birthdays, wedding anniversaries, new arrivals. Let Judith or Colin know a significant date and we can include it in the Bulletin, so that all your friends can celebrate with you.



Colin and Judith' Contact Details

Colin's contact details:

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Mobile: 07842 042168

Email: minister@kawenata.co.uk

Judith's contact details:

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Email: Judith.neal.layworker@outlook.com

We are going nowhere. We will be here for you

Social Distance like a Wesley

Avoid all the people you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
as long as ever you can

Sharing Worship

On Sunday, I was privileged to worship in Stoke on Trent before making a quick dash to North Wales for a service in Bangor Cathedral—all without leaving my living room!

The service in Stoke was provided on the internet by the good people of Swanbank Methodist Church. The one in Bangor was courtesy of the BBC's Sunday Worship programme. I am sure that others will have watched or listened to worship from a variety of sources.

The Methodist Church are recommending the following:

Wesley's Chapel, London

live-streaming from the chapel on Sundays at 11.00 am
www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

Swan Bank Methodist Church, Burslem, Stoke on Trent

studio based on Sundays at 10.30 am (This is the advertised time, but started at 10.45 this week)
www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank and www.facebook.com/swanbank/

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

on Sundays at 11.00 am
www.youtube.com/mchwevents

Sthie ('At home')

To join in a very different worship experience, try Sthie ('At home') from the Isle of Man
For details see www.andyfishburne.com/2020/03/15/sthie-at-home-online-worship

The BBC appear to be airing an act of worship on Sunday Morning. This week it came from Bangor Cathedral and was a mixture of individuals in the cathedral mixed with hymns from a previous Songs of Praise programme that had been recorded at the Cathedral. Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, the programme is coming from Hereford Cathedral and is scheduled to be broadcast at 11.00 am on BBC1. BBC Radio 4 still broadcasts its Sunday Worship programme at 8.10 am on a Sunday morning. Songs of Praise is scheduled next Sunday at 1.15 pm and comes from Glasgow.

The Derby Methodist Circuit website has a page dedicated to resources that are available—including printed services, websites and suggestions for worship. This can all be found at www.derbymethodists.org.uk

Other recommendations and ideas for worship are always welcome and we would love to be able to share your 'finds' through these pages. This weeks offering has come from Val Bulman, a member at Borrowwash MC who when visiting her son in America attends The Woodlands United Methodist Church in Texas. Val recommends their website at www.thewoodlandsumc.org/loft for a chance to hear good sermons and teaching.

Colin

Sharing the Bible

I this time of uncertainty we can take comfort from verse from the Bible. In last week's Bulletin we quoted John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you ... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

This prompted Andrew Alexander from Borrowwash to write with his favourite scripture 2 Timothy 1: 7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

As Andrew comments, this passage can be a great help during challenging times or if feeling mentally or physically weary.

If you have felt led to a particular verse, or you have a verse that you find gives you comfort, strength or encouragement, please let us know and tell us how it has helped and we will include it in a later issue of the Bulletin.



Sharing the Rainbow

You may have seen rainbows drawn by children popping up in windows. They are a sign of hope when hope seems to be lacking.



One of our older members at Spondon MC was pleased to receive one through the letterbox.



Ever wanted to go to Spring Harvest, but not had the time or the money?

Here is your chance!

Spring Harvest is coming to your home and its free!

Further details can be found at:

springharvest.org/spring-harvest-home

Sharing your Money

Money is not a subject we are very good at talking about in our churches. Finance gets talked about at the church council and so long as the treasurer is relatively happy about the state of the church coffers then all is well and good.

We all know that the church needs money. What we are perhaps not so good at understanding is what it is used to pay for.

The main call on our income is to pay the circuit assessment. This is the levy that the circuit charges every church and is used to pay for Circuit ministers and staff (Colin and Judith amongst them), as well as making a contribution towards District and Connexional expenses.

Following the assessment, the next call on our finances is to pay our bills—gas, electric, insurance, water, repairs and decorating and the such like.

We then use the little that is left on mission and outreach.

We have two main income streams in our churches. Our regular offering and money made from lettings.

Our churches are in the situation where there is little or no money coming in and money still going out. We all know that this is not a sustainable position, for

while our churches all have some reserves they will soon be depleted.

There are ways in which you can help alleviate this situation today.

- ◇ By set up a **Standing Order** to pay your weekly offering directly into the bank. This would be most helpful as it gives a regular income while the churches are closed and helps us to budget.
- ◇ By sending a regular **cheque** to the treasurer
- ◇ By using your **envelopes** every week and bringing them to church when we reopen.
- ◇ By **increasing your giving**.

Please do consider what and how you give now and into the future. We know that asking you to give more at a time of uncertainty is a big ask, but we also know that you are a generous people, worshipping a generous God.

If you are able to give by Standing Order please contact the Church Treasurer who will give you all the relevant details:

Borrowwash	Colin Dorman	01332 662045
Draycott	John Hill	01332 872902
Spondon	Jonathon Shepherd	07717 288827