



Prestwood Methodist Church

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Sunday 3 May 2020: 4th Sunday of Easter Notices and Open Door

I've a lot of material now for "Open Door Lock Down Online" but it would be good to have a one-line update from anyone I haven't heard from. Can you sum up lock-down in fewer than 10 words? "Walking, talking, Zooming and streaming keeping us happy and healthy" would be a good summary of family life for us in the last month.

As well as prayer and reading suggestions, we've some extra links this month to a phone line for hymns and prayers, and to information about supporting people in bereavement. See also the links in the email.

Let us know if there's anything we can help you with.

If you do not want to receive this each week, please contact me (contact details above).

Bridget



Virtual Church

If you would like any worship resources sent by post, to you or anyone you know, please get in touch (details on the front) to request this.

The Amersham Methodist Circuit YouTube channel now includes our own minister, Rev Nigel Wright, presenting reflections on Wednesday and Friday each week, with Rev Adam Wells covering the other days, and celebrating the Sunday service. See tinyurl.com/vz9y45g

See previous week's notices for further suggestions of online worship, or select **Worship during the pandemic** from the Methodist Church homepage at www.methodist.org.uk

TV and radio

Radio 4: Sunday Worship at 8.10am.

BBC 1: Sunday Worship at 11am.
Songs of Praise at 1.15pm.

Readings for 3 May 2020:

Acts 2: 42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

Nigel's reflection this week uses **Hebrews 11:3-12:2** to remind us of the importance of a life of faith. We had been due to celebrate the 60th anniversary of St John's Methodist Church in Amersham, and Nigel uses this commemoration to celebrate the faith of those who have gone before us, and to look to the future God has in store for us. Download Nigel's thoughts and a prayer for details.

Happy 60th anniversary to our friends at St John's!



I saw a great suggestion this week to remind us remember to pray in the midst of everything going on. Most of us our washing our hands a lot, in compliance with the guidelines on COVID-19. Do you sing

Happy Birthday each time to make sure you wash for long enough? How about saying the Lord's Prayer instead? You might want to check your speed, but I found it took me at least 20 seconds to say it.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

The Daily Hope phone line has been launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. For more details, download the flyer in the email you were sent with these notices.

Equipping churches to support the bereaved

Christians across the country are working together to consider how to support the bereaved during COVID-19, and beyond. For details see the websites:

- www.lossandhope.org
- www.ataloss.org

4th Sunday of Easter

The Gospel reading this week is Jesus telling the parable of the sheepfold. As it talks about sheep, it feels relevant at this time of the year, when the hills around us abound with sheep and their lambs.

The reflection in the Methodist Church Worship at Home resource is also worth a read, as it links this parable to our current situation, acting as our own 'gatekeeper' to protect ourselves and others.

The Acts reading continues the Easter narrative, providing an update on how the followers of Jesus were getting on. "They broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." Something we can all do, whatever our circumstances.



Bridget

Prayers

From Methodist Church worship at home by Pamela Cram

Let us pray for our world in crisis, a crisis that has brought out the best and the worst in humanity.

We give thanks for those who are offering help in so many ways to those in need, and pray for those who in their fear act less generously.

We give thanks for all the key workers who have worked tirelessly in medical and care sectors; Local Authority and community teams; production and distribution; and pray for those now idle, anxious, and depressed due to the closures.

We give thanks for positive voices, encouraging and nurturing others in so many ways, and pray for those whose voices bring fake advice and false testimony.

AMEN

Hymn for 4th Sunday of Easter

As the Psalm reading this week is the 23rd Psalm, linking to the Gospel theme of Jesus as our shepherd, then a version of the Lord is My Shepherd seems the most appropriate option this week.

The Lord's My Shepherd (StF 481)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

The Scottish Psalter (1929)

Singalong on your own, with your family or with the choir at www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4TKvnYafes

If you like the more modern version, you can hear that at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN4tPkX0MG0

Prayers from the Methodist Church Worship at home by Pamela Cram

Intercession

Good Shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought
and guided into the fold:
feed us and we shall be satisfied;
heal us and we shall be made whole;
and lead us, that we may be with you.
For you are alive and reign,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AMEN



Blessing

I come into your sheep-fold this day, to find the rest I need. When the new day comes, I will follow you through green pastures and beside still waters. May your goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life.

AMEN