



Prestwood Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Nigel Wright 01494 431819

Stewards:

Sandie Wheatley 01494 712373

Bridget Appleby 01494 890840

Mary Spooner 01494 862431

Website: www.prestwoodmethodists.org.uk

Email: steward@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk

Sunday 12th April 2020: Easter Day

Notices and Open Door

We have come to the difficult decision that it will not be practical to produce a printed copy of Open Door for the next quarter. However, it would be nice to share stories of how people are faring in the current situation. If anyone would like to share a story, or other family news, please let me know. You can email me, or if you'd prefer I'm happy to interview you over the phone!

We will continue to include prayers and readings in the weekly notices, and the accompanying email has further links. And do remember, we are still here for you if you need shopping, a collection from the pharmacy, or just want a chat.

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

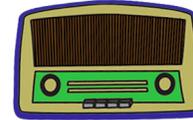


Bridget

Good Friday

I've sent this out a little early, to include information about Good Friday. Just as people come out of their houses at 8pm on Thursdays to cheer for key workers, there has been a movement to encourage us to come out of our homes at 3pm on Good Friday, but to sing and pray as an expression of faith and identification. We are asked to sing "Amazing Grace" and then to pray the Lord's prayer and declare "It is Finished." Join us at 3pm if you can, inside your home if that is more appropriate to your needs, but join us in prayer and praise. *#Itisfinished* on Twitter for more information.

Virtual Church



Rev Adam Wells provides a daily reflection, as well as a longer piece on Sunday, including hymn suggestions on the Amersham Methodist Circuit YouTube channel.

See tinyurl.com/vz9y45q

11.00 am Methodist Central Hall Westminster

www.youtube.com/mchwevents

10.30am Swan Bank Methodist Church in Burslem

www.facebook.com/swanbank

Kings Church in Prestwood and Kingshill Baptist church are running church sessions on Zoom, so please check their websites if you want to know more.

The District website has further suggestions at www.northamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk (select Worship – Resources), including links to other circuits.

TV and radio

Radio 4 Sunday Worship at 8.10am.

BBC 1 Sunday Worship at 10.45am.

By post

Worship resources can be sent by post if anyone needs them – please get in touch (details on the front) to request this.

Green lent – the seventh day, Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

And so finally we come to the last day of creation, and the last day of Lent before Easter. In the Genesis story God chooses the seventh day, the Sabbath, as his day of rest. The Sabbath is the final day of the week in Judaism. However, in Christianity the Sabbath is Sunday, which is seen as both the end of the old week and the start of the new week. This is significant because it reminds us that the resurrection isn't just closing the book on all of the bad things that came before: it is the start of something new.

It is estimated that a third of the world's population adheres to the Christian faith, making a huge and diverse demographic. Therefore, there is a great deal of potential for global change if every Christian church does its part in caring for God's world. There is a huge range of things churches can do, and thanks to the Christian conservation charity A Rocha we have a way of assessing this, with the Eco church initiative. Their website contains a list of changes a church can make, from energy use, to the content of teaching, to involvement in community events. Perhaps we can consider making Prestwood Methodist Church into an Eco church too?

Another key element to making the change our world needs are personal changes. Tearfund uses the structure of Pray, Act, Give. Firstly, prayer connects us to God and reminds us that we are ultimately in his hands and can do nothing without him. Action comes with prayer. In the past weeks I have suggested many changes we can make as individuals, from reducing the use of plastics and electricity, to eating local and sustainable foods and less meat.



The Seventh day (continued)

Finally, giving money, goods and time to charities can make a big difference. Poverty often causes people to pollute and destroy the environment, and so giving to charities that alleviate this, often by providing a sustainable source of income and resources, are vital for helping the environment.

I hope you have enjoyed reading these notices over the Lenten period, and that they have given you a lot to think about. I hope you are all keeping safe during these difficult times and look forward to seeing you in person again.

James Appleby

Readings for Easter Day:

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Jeremiah 31: 1-6

Acts 10: 34-43

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20: 1- 18

Worship at home

Rev Nigel Wright's reflection this week focuses on Luke's version of the resurrection story (Luke 24:1-12). He reminds us that the disciples were fearful and concerned on Good Friday, but that for us the experience is different, because we already believe in the resurrection of Easter Day. Nigel suggests this is a useful message to keep with us in the current difficult times "When life feels more like Good Friday, remember that Sunday is coming." The full reading, reflection and prayers are included with the email used to send these notices.

Hymn for Easter Day

This hymn in in both Nigel's reflections and the Methodist Worship at home sheet, and so integral to Easter, it seemed worth giving in full.

Christ the Lord is Risen today (Singing the Faith 298)

This version from Maddy Prior (of Steeleye Span) & the Carnival Band is cheerful to sing along with (although she does use older versions of some lines)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdL4j8NkmUg

Christ the Lord is risen today; *Alleluia!*
All creation joins to say: *Alleluia!*
Raise your joys and triumphs high: *Alleluia!*
Sing you heavens; let earth, reply: *Alleluia!*

Love's redeeming work is done, *Alleluia!*
Fought the fight, the battle won; *Alleluia!*
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal: *Alleluia!*
Christ has burst the gates of hell: *Alleluia!*

Lives again our glorious King: *Alleluia!*
Where, O death, is now your sting? *Alleluia!*
Once he died our souls to save; *Alleluia!*
Where's your victory, boasting grave? *Alleluia!*

Soar we now where Christ has led, *Alleluia!*
Following our exalted Head; *Alleluia!*
Made like Him, like Him we rise; *Alleluia!*
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. *Alleluia!*

King of Glory! Soul of bliss! *Alleluia!*
Everlasting life is this, *Alleluia!*
You to know, your power to prove, *Alleluia!*
Thus to sing, and thus to love: *Alleluia!*

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Prayers from the Methodist Church worship at home service sheet for 12th April 2020

provided by Charity Hamilton

A time of prayer

Resurrection God I bring before you now my hopes, desires, needs and concerns and I trust that you hear me and help me.

For your church, a people of resurrection; frightened, weary, hopeful – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.

For your world, a people and creation; frightened, weary, determined – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.

For your vulnerable ones, the sick, the grieving, the isolated; frightened, weary, loved – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.

I especially want to pray for

Resurrection God,

These are my prayers, our hopes, concerns, desires and needs and I trust that you hear me and will help me, help me to be your hands, your feet, your voice in all those situations and with all those people who need to know your gift of life.

AMEN

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

A prayer of blessing

May you know life rising from the death,
May you know hope rising from the pain,
May you know light rising from the darkness,
May you know and live love,
May you know and live the life you are gifted.