



Prestwood Methodist Church

A worshipping and friendly community following Jesus

Minister: Rev 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 17 May 2020: 6th Sunday of Easter

A steward from each church in the circuit met (virtually) with Revs Adam Wells and Nigel Wright on Thursday this week. It is early days, but we are talking, thinking and praying about how we will eventually get back to a new normal. This is likely to be phased, with churches such as Prestwood able to open earlier, because we can space the chairs out to enable social distancing. However, it seems that while 2 metres is fine for talking, if we want to sing, we are advised to be 5 metres apart!

Even when the churches re-open, we will continue to support people at home who are unable to come to church.

If you would like any worship resources sent by post please get in touch to request this (details above).

Bridget



Virtual Church

There is an extra reason to tune into the Amersham Methodist Circuit YouTube channel this week. The District Chair, Rev Helen Cameron, will be preaching this Sunday (17 May).

We have also had some fresh faces appearing on the daily reflection on this channel. It was nice to hear Jo Prior's voice again, after her long absence from preaching in Prestwood. She will be leading the reflection every Thursday. Another local preacher, Kate Hoskyn, has also joined the presenting team. Nigel continues on Wednesdays and Fridays, with Rev Adam Wells covering the other days. See tinyurl.com/vz9y45g

See **Worship during the pandemic** from the Methodist Church homepage at www.methodist.org.uk for more suggestions.

TV and radio

Radio 4:

Sunday Worship at 8.10am 'Gifts of the Holy Spirit'

BBC 1:

Sunday Worship at 10.45am from St David's Cathedral
Songs of Praise at 1.15pm, on modern hymnwriters



Christian Aid Week,
10 -16 May 2020

As we reach the end of Christian Aid week, a reminder of the details if you would like to donate to support their work.

Online at: www.christianaid.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7523 2269

Dial-a-prayer

Not to be out done by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Methodist church has now launched its own free phone lines for prayers and news.

Listen to a prayer:

0808 281 2514

Listen to news:

0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon



Readings for 17 May 2020:

Acts 17: 22-31

Psalm 66: 8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

In addition, you might look at the reading recommended by Nigel, Philippians 4:4-9. This provides useful advice on overcoming anxiety, which Nigel expands on.

Nigel finishes with this prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all who have lost loved ones over the past few weeks and for all those who are ill, that they may be aware of your love and your presence with them.

We pray for all who have been involved in treating and caring for those who are ill, and for all who have provided us with essential services during this time of lockdown.

We pray for our prime minister and for our politicians for wisdom about how best to enable us all to move forward and what measures are the most appropriate to take.

AMEN

6th Sunday of Easter

You are not alone

The reading this week from John's Gospel, and the reflection on it in the Methodist Church Worship at Home resource, reminds us of Jesus' promise to his disciples. He assured them that when he went away, they would not be alone. His promise extends to all of us. Whether you are isolating on your own or with others, or having to go out to work, we are reminded that the Spirit of God is with us.

Hymn for 6th Sunday of Easter

Staying with the theme of the Holy Spirit:

There's a spirit in the air (StF 398)

*There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world!'*

*Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!*

*When believers break the bread,
when a hungry child is fed,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.*

*Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!*

In Nigel's thoughts this week he notes that some Christians have been putting pictures of praying hands in their windows, in the same way as others have put up the rainbow symbol to support the NHS. Nigel reports "It shows that they are committed to praying for their neighbours, their community and their country at this time and has prompted a lot of questions and prayer requests."



*When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.*

*May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today.*

*There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.*

Brian Wren (b. 1936)

Reproduced from Singing the Faith

Listen to this hymn at youtu.be/Uv3QzQt4zsc

Prayers of intercession by John Barnett in Methodist Church Worship at Home

Ask God, our heavenly Father, to make the presence of the Holy Spirit real to you now. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray.

Remember before God your local church and all its people. Give thanks that its mission continues even if it cannot meet for worship at present. Pray that the Holy Spirit may direct its work and strengthen all its members in the tasks to which they are called. Pray for the wider church that by word and action it may proclaim to the world God's love in Jesus Christ.

Remember before God our world and its leaders. Pray for peace, for a just and sustainable use of its resources and for greater recognition of our responsibility to care for all creation. Give thanks for those who work to combat disease; for scientists, doctors, nurses and all who care for the sick, the aged and the vulnerable. Ask God to bless and strengthen them.

Remember before God people you know who particularly need your prayers at this time: family members, friends, neighbours, fellow church members, people you would normally meet regularly but from whom you are now separated. Think of those who are ill, or anxious, or grieving. Pray that the presence and power of the Holy Spirit may surround and sustain them.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can be part of the answer to your prayers. Christian Aid Week has just ended, and the work of Christian Aid among the poor of the world is as important as ever at this time. Perhaps you could send a donation, bearing in mind that much of their usual fundraising may not be possible this year. Maybe someone you have prayed for would love to receive a phone call from you. As God blesses you, so may you be a blessing to others in Jesus' name.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...