

Buxton Methodist Church⁺

'The Church ^{beyond} ~~to~~ the Market Place'

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www.buxtonmethodistchurch.org.uk

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Weekly Notice Sheet⁺



Special Edition

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Keeping in Touch

Our church building is currently closed for all events and services owing to the potential risk of spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus. This leaflet, which we aim to produce weekly while we cannot meet together, is to help us keep in touch with each other and provide some resources for prayer, reflection and individual worship. It can also, we hope, provide some light relief. If you have a prayer, quiz or story you'd like to share, please email or post it to Ali in the church office (admin@buxtonmethodist.co.uk) and we'll try to include it at some point.

**If need to talk to someone, call the church office and leave a message
and we'll get back to you - 01298 27065**

How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?' (Psalm 134)

The current situation certainly seems like a 'strange land', we are not physically in a foreign land like the exiles of long ago, but the demand of social isolation along with the suspension of events and worship is certainly strange and unknown for us.

The fear of the exiles was that God had deserted them as they could no longer visit the temple in Jerusalem which had been the tradition for generations before. However, they discovered that God had not left them, rather they discovered the presence of God in a new way, in a way they had never known before.

We can take assurance that wherever we find ourselves and however cut off we feel, God is with us and knows our situation. As we look to the future, I wonder if this 'strange land' will mean we discover the presence of God in new ways, in ways beyond our traditions and Sunday Services. Perhaps we will find the presence of God in moments of quiet reflection, in reading the Bible and hymn books and in conversations on the phone or through social media.

May you know the assurance of God's presence in these unexpected times,
God bless you all, Andrew.

We continue to be church whether or not we meet together in one place and so, although we cannot meet together, you may wish to find a few minutes to use the following to reflect and worship.

Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good,
See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.
In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days,
Amen

Some verses from the gospel reading set for this Sunday:

“Jesus heard that they had thrown him [the blind man] out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man? “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him “ John 9:35-38

For thought; The blind man looking at Jesus' face said, “Lord, I believe.” He could now not only see others and the world around him, but he could see Jesus clearly.

Contemplate on when you have 'seen' Jesus more clearly and your faith has grown and developed. Give thanks to God for those moments.

A time of prayer

All seeing, all knowing God I call on you today. May your Spirit give your world a sense of calm and peace in these difficult times.

For those people who are worried about leaving their home and those who cannot.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others.

We pray for carers, doctors, nurses and scientists.

We continue to pray for those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend and act of worship today.

I especially want to pray for

Holy God, Present with us now, guide me in all I do and say – that it might reflect your love for the world.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer which unites Christians around the world, those who sit alone and those in great congregations.

Our Father

Perhaps take time to think of a favourite hymn verse and enjoy thinking about the words.

(material taken from Methodist Church worship from home worship sheet)

Buxton Methodist Isolation Support Team

01298 23556

Dear Friend,

The Coronavirus situation seems to be changing by the day but Government advice is, for us all, particularly older and vulnerable people, to avoid social gatherings. Some of us will potentially have to self-isolate for weeks, perhaps months. We recognise that this is a very difficult and anxious time for many in our congregation.

With this in mind, a group of familiar faces from our Inbetweeners group have offered to provide support for people in church who find themselves isolated and unable to leave home. We'll be happy to help with jobs such as:

- Collecting prescriptions
- Doing or picking up shopping
- Running urgent errands or posting letters
- Being a friendly voice at the end of the phone
- Providing prayer support

If you would like some support please contact Andrew/Jenny on 01298 23556 and they'll arrange for someone in the team to help.

We'll take care to follow hygiene guidelines and do what we can to prevent inadvertently spreading the COVID-19 virus but we want to make sure no one is left to fend for themselves at this difficult and confusing time.

If you use email and aren't already on the church mailing list, can we recommend that you let Andrew know so he can make sure you receive church information and newsletters (such as the one attached with this note). If you don't use email, don't worry. One of the jobs our volunteers have committed to do is to distribute regular newsletters.

We hope and pray that it isn't long before we're all able to meet again in our lovely building and enjoy worshipping God together but, in the meantime, we'll do what we can to keep being Buxton Methodist Church *beyond* the Market place and looking out for each other.

Don't be afraid to get in contact,

Veronica, Lydia, Alan, Anne-Marie, Sarah, Kate, Roddie, Angela, Matthew, Jane, Carol, Ann, Mandy, Wendy, Anna, Catherine, Chris, Jacob, Emily, Nic, Sue, Sarah-Jane, Rhys, Lilly, Jenny & Andrew

CHURCH NOTICES

Light a Candle of Hope – Sunday 22nd March

Churches Together in England have issued a call to prayer in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds. At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

There are already stories being told of wonderful acts of kindness across neighbourhoods. Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

Light a candle of hope at 7pm this Sunday: A national call to prayer



In the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic,
Presidents of CTE are calling all churches
to a National Day of Prayer & Action
on Sunday 22nd March



cte.org.uk/calltoprayer

CHURCH NOTICES

North Staffs Christian Aid Sponsored Walk - Saturday 28th March

The annual sponsored walk around Tittesworth Reservoir, which the Inbetweeners usually take part in, has been cancelled to prevent further spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. However, subject to good health, you are encouraged to do your own walk privately, obviously taking sensible social distancing precautions. They appeal to sponsors to make their promised donations in any event bearing in mind Christian Aid's urgent needs.

Payments can be made by sending cheques, accompanied by sponsorship forms, either to the Organiser, John Bamford, 21 Fountain Court, Biddulph, Stoke-on-Trent ST8 6UP or the Treasurer, Glyn Bailey, 185 Basford Park Road, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 0PN. In either case, cheques should be made out to Christian Aid.

Alternatively, electronic payments can be made to the Newcastle Christian Aid No 2 Account (sort code: 30-95-91, account no. 00068417), with the sponsorship form being sent to Glyn Bailey. Please remember to send in the sponsorship form as this allows Christian Aid to reclaim Gift Aid - this reclaim amounted to over £3,000 last year. Any queries, please contact Glyn by email - mwillmot@talktalk.net - or John Bamford by phone - 01782 516137).

The date of next year's Christian Aid Walk is Saturday 20th March 2021. We trust normality will have returned by then and they look forward to seeing you there.

LOCAL NOTICES

Community Support

Two Facebook groups have been set up to coordinate community support. Please visit them to either offer help or request it.

- Buxton street by street COVID-19 support
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/560370601245794/>)
- Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group Buxton
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/767722633753206/>)

Connex Community Support (volunteer centre on the market place) is also coordinating an emergency response volunteer team. Please contact them to offer help or request it (for yourself or on another's behalf) - 01298 23970 or email admin@connex.org.uk.

LOCAL NOTICES

Community Support *continued*

An information updates page about businesses and town groups has been set up on the Vision Buxton website news blog - www.visionbuxton.co.uk. Use it to see what services are available. If you have anything to add, email Ali (who works in our office) at administrator@visionbuxton.co.uk.

Information from Derbyshire Neighbourhood Alert

Unfortunately, new scams and fraud activities related to the pandemic are increasing. Please be aware of the following:

- Online shopping scams, particularly for medical supplies, protective masks and hand sanitiser
- Phishing emails with malicious attachments or weblinks which can lead stealing personal data including financial information. These may request donations or subscriptions to newsletters or offer healthcare, investment schemes and tax refunds. They are particularly pretending to be from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP), the World Health Organisation (WHO), or HMRC.

Please don't panic but follow this general advice:

- don't click on links or attachments in emails from people you don't know
- check link website addresses – hover over the link and it will appear in the bottom left of your screen
- don't respond to unsolicited phone calls or messages that ask for personal information or financial details
- only shop online from companies you know and trust
- install the latest software and app updates to protect your electronic devices
- use a credit card for your payments (for insurance purposes)

Please also consider the following before accepting help in the community:

- if you do not know them, ask for ID and take a photo
- ask them to make payments upfront and to pay them back later

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report to Action Fraud – 0300 123 2040. www.actionfraud.police.uk/

Still want to make a donation to the church? Give via text, any amount up to £20 (full pounds only). e.g. to donate £5 to Buxton Methodist Church, text "BMC 5" to 70085. See our website for T&Cs.

THE METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

This week's Methodist Podcast discusses what the coronavirus pandemic will mean for the Methodist Church, we talk to a Mission Enabler for Older People and we consider the impact of the crisis on foodbanks. We also talk about the spiritual needs of ourselves and others, and we share a prayer from the President of the Methodist Conference. Listen at www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/podcasts/.

Further guidance, support and worship resources are available at www.methodist.org.uk/coronavirus/.

JUST FOR FUN

Anagrams of hymn first lines:

lwil uory hcnor dlho

vole nedivi lal voles clenxileg

keam em a nlachen fo uory ceape

esenekms dan jetsmay

tramlimo binsvilei dog loyn swie

read rold dan thrafe fo dinnkam