



22nd March 2020

Number – 1060

Riverside Weekly

We are sorry that we are in times when we are unable to worship together.

Below are resources for you to worship at home, either on your computer or using the printed service sheet included with Riverside Weekly

Online Resources to watch

Mothering Sunday Service from Sheringham Methodist Church led by Ann Bossingham at <http://www.ffctideas.org.uk/Corona.php>

Live-streamed services

Wesley's Chapel in London will continue to live-stream worship, adapted for no physical congregation. Service times Wednesday 12:45, Thursday 12:45, Sunday 9:45 and 11:00.

All these services will be available at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

Swan Bank Methodist Church in Burslem will also live-stream worship Service Time Sunday 10:30 The service will be available at www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank and www.facebook.com/swanbank/

Online resources to read or download

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/16391/22-march-worship-if-you-are-unable-to-attend-church.docx> (*Printed copy attached to printed RW*)

For adults — www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome22mar (*Printed copy attached to printed RW*)

For Children — www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome22mar

This Week's Letter from Rev Phil

Dear all, what a strange and in some ways shocking week it has been. The guidance we've been receiving about what we can and can't do in view of the Corona-virus outbreak has been getting more serious every day, and for many of us normal life has suddenly stopped. We are all having to take care not to get too close to each other, and the meals and days out we had planned for Mothers Day have all had to be re-thought. The worlds of work, leisure, education, finance and healthcare have all changed in the course of two or three days, and in church we've been told by Connexion not to hold church meetings of any kind, including Sunday worship. That is something I can't remember ever happening before, and it means that for many of us one of the major bedrocks of our life has been taken from us.

But God continues to be God, and our need to pray and worship and to support one another is more real than ever. Can I recommend to you the worship resources now being collected together on the Methodist website www.methodist.org.uk including the short order of service for use each Sunday at home. Lisa and I will be sharing with you in that each Sunday, and also we will be stopping at 12noon every day to say the Lord's Prayer together and to spend a few quiet moments remembering our families and our friends. Please join us in doing that too if you are able.

We will be back together in church again when the crisis has passed, but meanwhile we can stay in touch with each other via telephone calls and emails. Some members have offered to help with shopping and deliveries where that is needed, so please let us know if you need help and we will put you in touch.

Some words from Psalm 46 came to mind this week:

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea...”

It is hard not to be afraid, but God remains the same faithful and loving God he has always been and in him we have an ever-present friend, someone to whom we can turn again and again for strength and shelter:

God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.

For those people who are worried about attending worship.

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

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that

Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen

To Pray For This Week

Every day

Phil, Lisa and Richard as they seek to care for the congregations of the churches in the circuit

The government that they will have wisdom as they seek to lead the country through this crisis

Sunday

All Mum's on this Mothering Sunday, especially thinking of the family of little Miriam who was to have been baptised today

Monday

On what would have been 'Open the Book' day, we pray for our schools, and all finding their way through changed circumstances

Tuesday

Let us remember each one who normally comes to our Hall for refreshment and friendship

Wednesday

We join with those in our Circuit to commit each other and our Ministers to God today

Thursday

We specially think of the teenagers who love to come to DropIn, asking for their protection. Also we pray for Trish as she returns from Romania

Friday

We pray for all the churches in our town that together we can represent our Lord Jesus

Saturday

We ask God to be with the Messy Church families today