

MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH MESSENGER May 2020



'I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He
delivered me from all my fears.'

Psalm 34 verse 4



THE CHURCH
IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE VILLAGE!



COPING IN THE STORM

'Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.' (Mark 4 verse 39).

What started out for the disciples as a routine trip across the Sea of Galilee, ended up with a storm threatening to overwhelm their boat! Jesus was asleep in the

boat, so little wonder they feared for their lives: 'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?' (verse 38).

Who would have thought two months ago that the world would be overwhelmed by the Coronavirus pandemic and our lives turned upside down! Self-isolating and self-distancing are now part of our daily vocabulary, as we live in an uncertain world. What does this story say to us in our circumstances?

Firstly, we read that Jesus calmed the storm: 'He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!'" (verse 39). He is the Lord of the storm and holds our circumstances in His hands. We are called to trust, not fear, being assured that He is with us to protect us. 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' (verse 40). Nothing is outside of His control.

Secondly, despite the calm, the disciples were still terrified: 'They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!'" (verse 41). Like us, the disciples were asking why Jesus, who loved them, had allowed the storm to happen! Our circumstances provide us with an opportunity to understand more deeply who Jesus is. We can't control Him and we don't always understand His bigger plans for us and His world. We are called to overcome fear and insecurity, by living lives of peace, faith and hope. How contagious can we be for Jesus in a stormy world?

Paul Hardingham



PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

The doors of our church might be closed but all the people who are part of our church, churches and community families are still out there. They will have various needs and problems and need our prayers.

Below is possible guidance for our prayers based on our normal activities and links.

Sunday: Worship and Messy Church - Our members and visitors. Allocated preachers this month - 3rd May: Maureen Spinks, Messy Church. 10th May: Terry Wright, Holy Communion. 17th May: Ralph Brandhorst. 24th May: Maureen Spinks, and 31st May: David Ball.

Monday: Our ministers - Duncan on sabbatical, Terry and Maureen.

Tuesday: Good Companions and All Sorts Craft Group

Wednesday: Community Lunch

Thursday: Churches Together in Mottingham - St Andrews, St Albans, St Edwards and Our Lady Help of Christians

Friday: Our shop owners, library, Councilors and neighbours.

Saturday: The Youth Club

LET US PRAY TOGETHER AS A CHURCH FAMILY:

God of love and light,
In this time of fear, give us your
peace.

In this time of isolation, give us
your presence.

In this time of sickness, give us
your healing.

In this time of uncertainty, give
us your wisdom.

In this time of darkness, shine
your light upon us all.

(From Tear Fund)

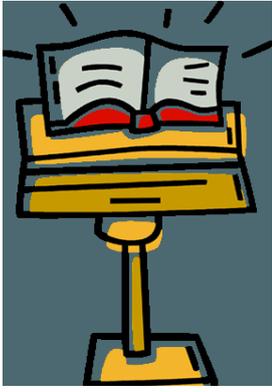
Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and
distress.

Sustain and support the anxious
and fearful, and lift up all who
are brought low;

That we may rejoice in your
comfort -

knowing that nothing can
separate us from your love.

(From the CofE website)



FROM 'LIVE' IN THE PULPIT TO VIRTUAL AND STREAMING

ORPINGTON & CHISLEHURST AND BROMLEY METHODIST CIRCUITS

Sunday Worship
3rd May 2020

Not being able to go to church is causing an awful lot of people to 'go' to church.

It started in late March, when the Archbishop kicked off with the first ever national virtual service, recorded in the crypt chapel of Lambeth Palace. It was seen or heard by an estimated five million people. That figure included one million streaming on Facebook, and about two million tuned in to the 39 BBC local radio station broadcasts and BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship combined. The Facebook post had a further reach of two million and nearly 30 per cent of those watching online were under the age of 34.

That compares with average of 871,000 people attending services and acts of worship each week in 2018, the latest figures that are available.

And the Archbishop was not alone - for on the same morning hundreds of churches and cathedrals that also had their first try at live streaming services including our Circuit. Some attracted several thousand viewers on the stream and playback. As a spokesperson for the Church of England said: "The Archbishops said that church would have to be reimagined. Across the country, local congregations did just that." The outreach of these services was not limited to the United Kingdom, but our UK services were picked up around the world.

The second virtual national worship service (29th March) was led by the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu and recorded on an iPad in the drawing room of Bishopthorpe Palace. After opening with a traditional Ugandan call to prayer, which he delivered on drums, the Archbishop turned to Ezekiel, encouraging everyone to trust God in our current situation.

In a reference to the passage in Ezekiel - which recounts the prophet's vision of a valley of dry bones, the Archbishop told the virtual congregation: "At this present time of COVID-19 we are, as it were, set in death in exile.

"I believe the Sovereign Lord who knows it all, by the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead to life eternal, the life creating power of God, will bring us out of exile - out of the valley of bones. Sovereign Lord we look to you to deliver us."

Each Sunday since March 22nd our circuit together with Bromley Circuit has held a service on line and has also provided a service on paper. Go to the Orpington and Chislehurst web site and find the videos for each Sunday.



VE DAY - THE END OF WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE

VE Day (Victory in Europe) - was celebrated 75 years ago this month, on 8th May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe. It was marked with a public holiday.

The previous day the formal act of military surrender had been signed by Germany, and celebrations broke out when the news was released. Big crowds gathered in London, impromptu parties were held throughout the country, and people danced and sang in the streets. King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and Churchill made a speech to huge applause. The two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret mingled with the crowds outside.

Many went into churches to give thanks - and to pray for those still involved in the war in the Far East, because the real end of the war, Victory over Japan, would not happen until 15th August. At St Paul's Cathedral there were ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each attended by thousands of people.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/siteassets/home/visit/ve-day-75/ve-day-pack.pdf

Tim Lenton



MESSAGE FROM DIANE HUDSON, CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MOTTINGHAM ORGANISER FOR CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week runs from 10th May to 17th May this year. Due to the coronavirus the activities we have run in the past are not possible. However, Christian Aid is running several 'virtual' activities during Christian Aid week and these can be found on their web site

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/virtual-fundraisers>.

The charity's guidance recommends holding a virtual, fundraising quiz, so St. Andrew's Church, under the banner of Churches together in Mottingham has arranged a fundraising, 'virtual' quiz and warmly invite you to join them on Friday 15 May 2020 at 8:00pm. The Quiz Master, Mick Wood will host the event using Zoom. The meeting link and login details are given below and it is suggested that participants login from 7:45pm.

Join Zoom Quiz Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85284376896?pwd=ZTVPQlhL21qVmP0c3AxV3FiTDhhZz09>

Meeting ID: 852 8437 6896, Password: 817133

We would like as many people as possible to participate. Our aim is to make this a really enjoyable evening and raise a significant sum for Christian Aid at a time when its help is needed more than ever. We ask you to donate generously by making a donation to Christian Aid through the Churches Together in Mottingham JustGiving website <https://www.justgiving.com/team/st-andrews-mottingham>.

Dianne has taken a leaf out of Captain Tom's book and set a target for Mottingham of £1,000!



John Shuttleworth, who died on the 6th March 2019 aged 97 will be cremated on the 20th May. He donated his body to science. We remember him with affection.



THINKING ABOUT THE PSALMS

'Most of Scripture speaks to us; the Psalms speak FOR us.' (St Athanasius).

Psalm 34: A psalm for uncertain times

Amid the current coronavirus pandemic, we all live with fear and uncertainty. How do we deal with fear? *'I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.'* (Ps 34 verse 4). In this psalm, David expresses real fears. He was on the run from Saul, who was trying to murder him! Yet David points to three simple habits that help overcome fear.

Praising God always: *'I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.* (verse 1). It was David's pattern of life to praise God daily, whatever his circumstances. He was acknowledging God's lordship over his life. Praise affirms that my circumstances are in His hands and He is with me in all that I am going through.

Seeking God continually: *'This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; He saved him out of all his troubles.'* (verse 6). David looked to God, who released him from all his fears. It's easy for our fears to overwhelm us and rob us of the assurance that God loves us and wants the best for us. When we seek God, He hears us and responds, as He is not powerless to act.

Finding refuge in God: *'Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.'* (verse 8). David's personal invitation is to taste and see that God is good. Our fears often tell us that the opposite is true for us. Fear tells us that God cannot be trusted and that He will abandon us. We can make God our secure refuge and not be afraid.

This psalm helps us to see fear from a totally different perspective: *'Fear the Lord, you His holy people, for those who fear Him lack nothing.'* (verse 9).

Paul Hardingham



LET'S TRY MESSY CHURCH AT HOME



Messy Church this month would have been

about rainbows because they have become the sign of thanks to everyone who provides care and support for those who have the Covid 19. So I thought we would try a 'Messy Church at home'.

Read the Story: The bible talks about a rainbow - the first rainbow and the story of the building of the ark. The bible says that the time of Noah was so evil that God said He would destroy man from the earth, but He remembered that Noah loved and obeyed Him so He told him to build the ark (a large ship) to save those who trusted Him. Noah, his wife and his three sons and their wives with representatives of the animal kingdom went into the ark and were saved from the flood. What happened next?...

In Genesis 9:9-14 God says 'Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.' Then God said, "I am giving you a sign of my covenant (binding promise) with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth.'

In Genesis 9:15-17 God again says "and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth."

Make two rainbows. Write on one 'God promised all humanity never to flood the whole earth again'.

What do you think the meaning of the coronavirus rainbow is? Write that on your second rainbow.

Get photos of the two rainbows and a photo of you clapping outside your house with your rainbows on a Thursday. Send the photos to ruhens@tiscali.co.uk by May 25 for the June magazine.