



WELLSPRING

29th March

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK...

Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8: 6 -11; John 11:1-45

AND NEXT

Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2: 5-11;
Matthew 21: 1-11

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“I HAVE ENGRAVED YOUR NAME ON THE PALM OF MY HAND”

We continue to hold in our prayers and thoughts.... **Gladys, Betty, Ethel, Trevor & Alison, Ann W, Roy and Diane, Revd Carol, Alan, Phil & Bridget, Sheila, Dorothy, Jenny and Bill, Claire ...** and many others who are known to us alone.

Think of vulnerable people at this time - those who are homeless, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the current crisis.

GOOD NEWS FROM PHIL AND BRIDGET

Phil and Bridget have asked for it to be shared with the church that the results of Phil's CT scan are very positive showing a 70% reduction in all tumours following chemotherapy. So his treatment will be paused for a while to allow some recovery. This is the best possible outcome at this stage so they are delighted, and extremely thankful to God.

It is wonderful to share some good news at this time! We praise God for this outcome and continue to hold Phil & Bridget in our prayers.

Please send Items for next week's news-sheet to Lesley by
Weds 1st April

Lesleyprice144@gmail.com

Passion Sunday

The fifth Sunday of Lent is known as Passion Sunday marking the start of our preparations for Holy Week and Easter. We know that Passion means suffering and in this moment we are mindful of all human suffering brought to a focus at the Cross of Jesus Christ.

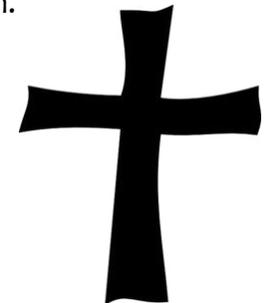
Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank you for loving us so much that you endured the cross for our salvation.

We thank you that amidst the pain and humiliation of Golgotha you forgave your persecutors and prayed for them.

Fill us with such wonder at your suffering love, that we might long to be transformed by it. Woo us with your costly compassion, that we might become compassionate people, open to others in their need.

Living Lord,
we celebrate your resurrection:
for the way of your cross is shown to be the way of our salvation, your love and forgiveness are displayed as the keys of our redemption,
and your sacrificial love is offered as the foundation of our hope.
Lord Jesus, help us to follow.



[from Gathering for Worship]

A NEW NORMAL

In Acts chapter 16 we read how the apostle Paul and his travelling companion Timothy began to share the Gospel in what is now Greece, beginning at Philippi. On the Sabbath they met with a group of faithful people in the open air, alongside a river '*where they supposed was a place of prayer*'. It was likely that this was the only way the local Jewish community could meet, but it did not prevent worship.

As the first churches were established at Philippi and other places, they were meetings of Christian believers hosted by someone who opened their home and led by those called to this role. There were no church buildings, ordained ministry, or even New Testament until much later. Yet this was church.

The impact of the current pandemic has meant that churches have been forced to close their buildings and suspend gathered worship for the first time in about 800 years! Yet we are still Church. Last week it seemed we were closing everything down; this week we are greatly encouraged as new ventures and ways of doing church have begun to emerge. Morning and Evening Prayer have continued to be said online by the local Anglican team ministry and some of us have participated. Elsewhere, some churches have begun to live-stream services; many communities are showing how they might care for vulnerable people at this time. Prayer will continue, and the quality of relationships will define us.

A friend of mine once wrote a short worship song which contains this line: '*This is a holy place, for God has met his people here*' for it is in the coming together of God and people - however, wherever and whenever - that worship happens, and it's not limited to words and music.

This might cause us to re-evaluate the importance of our building and patterns of ministry once normality is resumed... or maybe, having learned from this experience and adjusted our perspective we will discover a new normal!

With love, Kevin

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

The Methodist Women in Britain Days of Fellowship, which were to have taken place at Willersley Castle this week, have been postponed until 7th to 10th September 2020. The Afternoon Tea and the Quiet Days in July are cancelled. It is hoped that the October District Day will still take place at Nuthall Methodist Church.

STAYING CONNECTED

During this last week we have made great strides developing our use of digital media to help the church through this challenging time.

Our website has been re-designed with new navigation buttons on the home page: www.wellspringchurchwirksworth.co.uk

One of these is called **Wellspring Online** and this is where a weekly reflection will be placed. Please do visit.

We are also exploring a video conferencing platform which is being used by many churches: www.zoom.us. The local ministers have already met using this software, and we have plans for shared worship on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It is also intended that our Trustees' Meetings will take place in this way.

Whilst we give thanks to God for all the high-tech resources which are available to keep us connected during this time, please be assured that those who have no means of accessing the internet will not be overlooked. This news sheet will be distributed and friendly phone calls will be made.

SIMEON WOOD – from Paul H

Simeon Wood, who has given two concerts at Wellspring in recent years, is doing a half hour musical show from his home lounge in Yorkshire every Sunday at 8 pm. The first was on 22nd March. I hope many of you will join me in watching him being his inimitable self – humorous and gifted. And remember, as you watch, that he has a very strong Christian faith.

<https://www.facebook.com/simeon.wood.7>