



WELLSPRING

22nd March

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THIS WEEK ...

1 Samuel 16: 1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9: 1-41

AND NEXT

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

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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 ... and many others who are known to us alone.

Remember those who have been bereaved, particularly the funeral of Winnie Elms on Tuesday 24th ; and think of James as he conducts the funeral service for Kathleen on Thursday 26th .

Give thanks for all mothers and think of those families who are unable to get together this Sunday.

With this news-sheet you will find a leaflet of daily readings and pointers for prayer entitled 'Encouragement and prayer in a time of crisis and fear'. Please use it!

Mothering Sunday

CALL TO PRAYER

From Churches Together in England:

"This Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, we are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. 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." We

encourage you all to join in and to light a candle in the window of your home at 7.00 p.m. on Mothering Sunday as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.



*Please send Items for next week's news-sheet to Lesley by
Weds 25th.*

Lesleyprice144@gmail.com

The last couple of weeks have been almost surreal as we have attempted to absorb the news of the Coronavirus pandemic sweeping through our country, and then to adapt to the constantly changing advice.

So now, following the latest Government recommendations, together with guidance issued by the Methodist Church and Baptist Union, all our worship services and regular activities are suspended. This does not mean that church is suspended for **we** are the church, and we are still church. So we will need to find different ways of expressing what this means for us and the community of Wirksworth from whom we cannot isolate.

Our weekly news sheet will continue and shall be delivered to those without internet access; and we have begun to explore how we might develop *e.church* as a space within our website to share reflections and more.

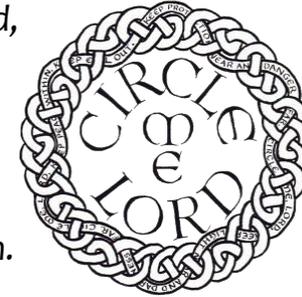
For now, our usual pattern of Sunday worship is suspended, but we are considering how we might offer a quiet space open to church and community, subject to the necessary precautions around hygiene and physical distancing.

The Pastoral Care Group leaders and I will keep in touch mainly by phone calls and if anyone is in need of help then please do let us know. In the event that any of us becomes unwell and showing symptoms, or is self-isolating, then please inform Sue Watts or me.

For our Prayer Walk earlier this week a small group of us went up to the Star Disc to pray over our town. We were reminded that we find ourselves in the season of Lent, a time of withdrawal, and this leads us to the Cross where we see Jesus sharing our suffering, and then there is Resurrection. This is our hope as people of Christ.

Peace be with you - Kevin

*Circle us Lord,
keep fear without,
keep trust within.
Circle us Lord,
keep anxiety without,
keep faith within.*



FAIRTRADE CHURCH

We have received a certificate from the Fairtrade Foundation for our recommitment as a Fairtrade Church. This recognises our use and promotion of Fairtrade, and encourages us to discover an ever-developing range of products and worship resources.

CROSSWAYS

The team members have met and thought and prayed and have acknowledged that our April show, though long in the preparation and rehearsal, will not now take place. But be assured that Crossways will rise from the ashes of the (eventually) burned Coronavirus to 'sing again'!

CANCELLATIONS

Note that as well as on-site activities at Wellspring, the following have been cancelled/postponed:

- BUGB and EMBA events, including the EMBA Association Day and AGM on Saturday 21st and the Baptist Assembly in May.
- All Methodist District and Circuit Events including the 'God in Love Unites Us' meeting on 21st March.
- Town events including the Civic Service on 22nd March; Big Book Day on 5th April; Well Dressing and Carnival in May.