



Irthlingborough Methodist Church

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Good Morning everyone. Christmas is creeping ever closer... The shops seem really busy and the offers on Christmas veg were on in Tesco yesterday. Not sure how ready I am but feel quite relaxed about just taking it as it comes. Which is very unlike me!

Staying in touch:

Our FaceBook page continues to reach out to those in our community. It is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening and to receive uplifting messages. Thank you to Sophie, Jamie and Ruth for all that they do with this.

Thank you to those who have submitted something for the newsletter. Please do keep things coming. It is lovely to be able to share in this way.

Worship and Prayer:

Looking at the news last night it would seem that we are in a very precarious situation in this country, both in regards to the virus and to the Brexit negotiations.... Continued prayer is very much needed.

I have been pondering on change this week and how we respond to it. Some of you will know that my lovely husband retired last week. What a change that is going to be for him after more than 40 years with the civil service. And what a change for me too as I adjust to having him at home more. Lockdown has been a useful rehearsal for what life is going to be like. We also got the news last night that our daughter who lives in Essex will be entering tier 3 imminently. She was going to join us for Christmas but is now having second thoughts, especially as we will have my mother in law with us, aged nearly 85. Difficult decisions to be made in the next day or two and a possible change of plans. This year for me has been marked by a change of plans! I suppose change is inevitable in our lives. What really matters is how we respond to it. There are some days that I just want to put my head under the duvet and pretend that all is as normal. Other days I am happy to welcome the changes and appreciate a little spontaneity that is the result. I know that really I should just accept the changes with equanimity as I put my trust in God and step forward into what feels like the unknown. Jeremiah 29:11 says: ' For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' So why do we fear change?

What is your attitude to change? Does it make you uneasy and fearful or are you feeling in the mood to accept the challenge it presents and make the most of it? For me, it is a case of watch this space!

Family news:

Sunday 20th December: Worship will be led by Mr Brian Draper. If you would like to attend and have not placed yourself on my 'regulars' list, please let me know by 10am on Friday 18th December. Thank you

Sunday 27th December: There will be no service taking place at our church. There will be a zoom service at 6pm on that day, details will be available nearer the time.

Sunday 3rd January: Worship will be led by Mr David Hudson. Please note that I shall be on leave over the festive period. I know it is early, but I would appreciate it if you could book your seat for this service by 10am on Tuesday 22nd December. This will be my last day at work until Tuesday 5th January. Thank you

Christmas greetings: I hope those of you who attended worship on Sunday received a copy of the Christmas greetings booklet. I will be emailing it out with this newsletter too, for those who have not had a physical copy. We have one later comer!

We wish everyone a happy Christmas and a healthy new year. Looking forward to coming to chapel on a Sunday for worship when we can.

Love and prayers
Susan and Adam

Calendars: Jamie has some of his beautiful calendars for sale, featuring birds of the Nene Valley. If you would like one please let me know by Friday and I will arrange for them to appear on your seats at church on Sunday! I believe cost is £13.99 but awaiting confirmation of that and will let you know if you email me an order through when I have heard from Jamie. Money in an envelope, marked for Jamie, to be left on the table at the back of the church on your way out. Thank you

Ruth R has got her new knee and is recuperating. All went well and we look forward to seeing you soon.

And finally....

Something from Doreen to make us smile!

Smile

The Bishop was the dinner guest. The table beautifully prepared

and the food looked delicious. The hostess said to her daughter, aged six,

'Mary, you say grace please.'

A rather long delay ensued. The mother coaxed the little girl.

'Come on Mary, say what you heard me say this morning at breakfast'

In a loud voice it came out.

'O God, why did I invite the Bishop to dinner tonight'

Anon.

Next Tuesday will be the last newsletter of 2020!

Wendy