



Irthlingborough Methodist Church

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Good Morning everyone. What a beautiful sunrise we had this morning. From our kitchen window the sun comes up over the Whitworths factory – just when I was popping the kettle on this morning. Fabulous colours and a joyful way to start the day.

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.

I am remote accessing the church phone on a regular basis so if you need anything, please leave a message, including your name and phone number and I can arrange for one of our pastoral leads to call you back.

Please consider if you have anything you can submit for the newsletter.....!

Worship and Prayer:

Today is a special day in the Sturgess household. Some of you will know that our daughter Ruth has been undertaking a master's degree in special educational needs and inclusion – whilst working full time..... It has been hugely stressful for her and it feels that, although we live in the same house, we have hardly seen her. She has either been in school, running online lessons or beavering away on her dissertation. Today is the day that dissertation will be handed in – all 16, 449 words of it, plus the referencing, appendices etc. Nearly 48,000 words in total! It makes my brain ache just thinking about it. Once that button is pressed to submit it to the university that is it all done. The end of a phase of her life. Needless to say, we are planning to celebrate, albeit in a limited way. Neil is on his way to Tesco as I type to buy food for a special meal tonight and it will be good to see her relax for the first time for weeks.

And so I have been thinking about celebrating. We are finding ways to celebrate the big things, even in lockdown. Those special birthdays, wedding anniversaries etc have been marked in some way. But do we stop to celebrate the little things? Some days just getting out of bed seems to be an achievement! Maybe we should take the time to stop and mark the small things as well as the large. What a positive experience each day could be – filled with rejoicing, happiness, and gratitude. In this house, it may well be that each day is filled with song, which would be nice for me if not for the rest of the family and our neighbours! I have been reminded of hymn 335 from Singing the Faith:

Rejoice, the Lord is King!

Your Lord and King adore;

Mortals, give thanks and sing,

And triumph evermore:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;

Rejoice! Again I say rejoice!

I encourage you to find something today to rejoice over and give thanks to the God who makes all things possible. And congratulations on achieving whatever it is you are celebrating.....

Family news:

Funeral service:

The funeral service for the late Lilian Neville, our oldest member at 100years, will take place on MONDAY, 8th FEBRUARY in the Albert Munn Chapel at Kettering Crematorium at 2.30p.m.

Nearer the time we will be provided with a Zoom link for the Albert Munn Chapel so that we can be present 'virtually' in the service.

When the link is received it will be sent round by your Pastoral contact.

This is a great way for us to share in this service if we can.

Love and blessings,
Ruth

Chapel:

Please be reassured that we are continuing to look after the church building whilst it is not in use, with weekly visits to check that all is well. Maintenance work is continuing where we are able too and we will be ready for action whenever restrictions allow.

Wendy