



Irthlingborough Methodist Church

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Good Morning everyone. So, we now have an idea for when things might be able to move forward. I must admit that I am looking forward to having some visitors to our garden after 29th March. Much as I love my family it will be nice to see some other faces!

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:

I am venturing forth with Jeff Lucas again today on the subject of commitment. As you are aware, some of our circuit stewards are reaching the end of their term of office and churches are seeking new representatives. This is proving tricky. Volunteers are slow to come forward and I know from experience of looking for folk to fill roles, a direct approach is often more fruitful – something that is perhaps a little more difficult in the current situation. I must confess that I have not volunteered to step into this role for Wellingborough, so please don't think I am 'getting at' anyone. Just offering the following as something to think about!

The reading is Philippians 2: 14-18.

Jeff writes: Huge discussions have taken place about British workplaces being hit by sickness epidemics whenever major sporting events happen. Apparently, World or European Cup Football or Wimbledon signal a flurry of 'sick notes' as thousands stay at home to 'recover' in front of the television. Employers are frustrated at the lack of commitment or concern that too many demonstrate towards their work.

We can have a similar attitude when it comes to the 'work' of the church and our commitment, in broader terms, to be followers of Jesus each day. We can drift into a take-it-or-leave-it attitude where our support and loyalty can never be counted on. We'll use any excuse not to bother: holiness is a path we take only if we feel so inclined. Even marriage has become disposable. While some marriages do break down irretrievably, we've drifted into a culture where some change their marriage partners like cars, a new model always being more exciting.

Being a Christian takes work and sometimes we act out of faithfulness rather than feelings. Paul uses a familiar metaphor (2 Timothy 4:6) borrowed from the Jewish sacrificial system (Numbers 28: 1-7). His struggle and imprisonment and the price that he and Philippians are paying because they name Jesus as the Lord is likened to a 'drink offering' – poured out before God.

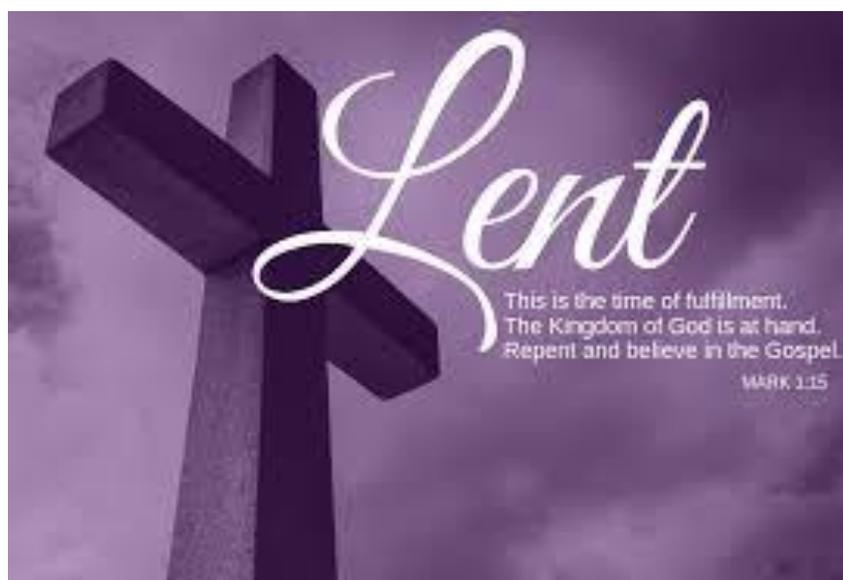
Our good choices are primarily made as acts of worship – whether others around us applaud is secondary. And there are some things in life worth making sacrifices for. Today is another day of a life of worship for us. Let's not fob God off with a sick note.

Church news:

Church Council: Information for church council will be sent out later this morning, including the link for zoom so please hang on to the email to enable access to the meeting which will be held via zoom on Monday 15th March at 7.30pm.

Jigsaw puzzles: Are any of you entertaining yourselves with jigsaws during lock down. I have two that I have finished with that are looking for a new home. A 1,000 piece of a book shop (it did nearly drive me over the edge!) and a 500 piece of Lake Como. Let me know and a doorstep delivery can be arranged. Wendy

Lent Booklets: I hope you are all enjoying the booklet provided by the circuit. I know there has been some confusion as to the days. Lent is 40 days, excluding the Sundays that fall during that period..... If you did one last Sunday you will be a day ahead!



Wendy