



# Irthlingborough Methodist Church

Church contact number: 01933 653564

Email: [admin@irthlingboroughmethodistchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@irthlingboroughmethodistchurch.co.uk)

[www.irthlingboroughmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.irthlingboroughmethodistchurch.co.uk)



Good Morning everyone. What lovely weather we are having. Neil and I are venturing out for an outdoor lunch today. I will be taking a jumper and scarf but hopefully it will be glorious to sit somewhere else in the sunshine.

## **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.

The church phone will be checked on Tuesday and Friday mornings when I am here. Please do leave a message if you need help with anything or need information from me.

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

## **Worship and Prayer:**

Is it just me that is finding life is getting busier again? Suddenly there seems to be many more demands on my time and I admit that it feels a little overwhelming and there are tasks that I should have done that have been left undone. So today I am sharing more words of wisdom from Jeff Lucas and this reflection is titled 'Order from chaos' and is based on Luke 8:40-48. He writes:

'Just as the waves were chaotic, so in this episode in the life of Jesus, it seems pressure and chaos were surging around Him on every side. Crowds are noisy and sometimes frightening – when a crowd stampedes, its centre can be a terrifying place. And that's where Jesus found Himself. Jairus, the synagogue ruler, has raised the alarm for his daughter – and Jesus is eager to help him out. But then, in the press around Jesus, a woman who has suffered from a 12-year-long menstrual loss, grabs Jesus' cloak, prompting Him to enquire – who touched me?

It's Peter, of course, who volunteers the obvious answer – why ask which person touched you, when you're almost being trampled by a herd of need? But none the less, in the midst of the chaos, Jesus brings a fabulous miracle to the long-suffering woman. The clamour, noise and incessant demands didn't throw Him off His purpose. The supernatural can break out in the middle of what seems a mess.

Perhaps your life is currently loaded, crammed full of pressure. The schedule is overwhelming, and your unfinished tasks tower over you. Maybe there's no end in sight for a while, and you've decided that the possibility of God intervening in your life is a best an appointment that's a long way off. While peace and quiet is vital, and solitude can help us meet ourselves and God again, let's not fall into the trap of believing that God is far from the madding crowd. He's the Lord of the waves – and He's the Lord of the crowds too.'

## Church news:

**Sunday Services:** The preacher this Sunday is Jonathan Thompson. Just a gentle reminder that, if possible, I need you to let me know by 10am on Friday morning whether you intend to come to church on the Sunday. This is to give me time to get the seating plan done and printed before I leave the office at 10.30am. You can let me know either by email or phone message to the church phone number. The answer phone is left on so you can leave a message on a day when I am not here if before 10 is too early for you! Thank you.

**Wellingborough Fundraiser:** Just to let you know that the money from the psalm fundraiser has now all been banked, and the money is on its way to Ataxia UK. The final total is £624.50. Thank you so much to everyone who support this. It has been suggested that next Lent we do a zoom reading of Mark's Gospel to raise funds for another charity. Watch this space!

And finally, something submitted to us by Barbara. Thank you!

## What's the Password?

Do you remember that, towards the end of Prince Philip's funeral, Garter Principal King of Arms, arrayed in his elaborate costume, read a very long list of all the Prince's titles and awards? I was very impressed by this and reminded of a video I saw on YouTube of the funeral in 2011 of the Habsburg emperor Otto von Habsburg. Otto, who died at the age of 98, was, unlike Prince Philip, buried with full military honours. There was no raging virus in Austria in 2011!

A very impressive traditional ceremony took place during Otto's funeral when the coffin and procession of mourners arrived at the Capuchin monastery in Vienna. It is here that Habsburg emperors have been laid to rest for hundreds of years. The procession found the monastery doors firmly locked and so a chosen herald knocked with his staff. A monk, inside the monastery, then asked who wanted to enter. The Herald responded with the name and all the titles of the deceased- **"Otto of Austria; once Crown Prince of Austria-Hungary; Royal Prince of Hungary and Bohemia, etc, etc.** The monk then called out, "We don't know him" and the monastery doors remain firmly shut. Again, the Herald knocked on the doors and responded to the monk's request for identification with **a long list of Otto's academic and political accomplishments.** Even this did not satisfy the monk and the same reply was heard, "We do not know him". Only on the third attempt, when the Herald replied to the monk's question by identifying the dead man with the simple words, **"a sinful, mortal human being"**, were the great doors flung open and Otto's body admitted to the monastery's crypt.

*It was clear from that Austrian funeral ceremony, which is still available on YouTube, that only sinners were welcome in the monastery's crypt. Similarly, titles, achievements, and good deeds can't get us through the gates of heaven, for only sinners are welcome there too!*

Barbara