



Irthlingborough Methodist Church

A warm welcome is extended to all

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Special notices:

Good Morning and I hope you are all staying well. We are enjoying some beautiful weather for our gardening and daily exercise.

Staying in touch:

Our FaceBook page continues to reach out to those in our community. There is something going out every day, for which we are very grateful.

The church phone is available to leave a message if you need to have a chat and one of our pastoral leaders will get back to you (don't forget to leave a number!). The phone is set up for remote access to the messages. The number is at the top of this newsletter.

I am continuing to work from home so please do email me if I can be of any assistance or if you have anything you would like to share via the newsletter with other members of our church family.

Worship and Prayer:

On Wednesday, instead of using my prayer sheet at home, I took my daily exercise at 3pm and walked around the town praying for the streets and places that I passed. It was a lovely experience of being close to God in our town. With this newsletter comes a service sheet for use this Sunday. This has been prepared for the Circuit by our very own Barbara Smith. Thank you Barbara. This sheet will form the basis for the zoom service on Sunday morning.

Today I have been reading something written by Jeff Lucas, with whom I am sure many of you are familiar. The reading is Proverbs 1: 1-7. He writes:

'Here's a question that desperately needs an answer: how should we live? Answers on a postcard please and make it quick. Help is urgently needed; a cursory look around us will show that we're not doing too well in the living department. Epidemic binge drinking, turning our cities into noisy danger zones after dark, shows that many are doing their best to escape life. If life is so great, why are so many sprinting away from its realities? The cauldron of ethnic tensions bubbles away and there is a sense that another massive terrorist

strike – or state sanctioned invasion – is just around the corner. As nations joust, we wonder – where will it all end?

Pop into your local bookstore and you'll see shelves stacked with self-help books; no longer do we need to date/negotiate/subdue our demons/pay the bills alone; there's a brace of experts standing by. Daytime television serves up an array of life 'gurus' who can also lend a hand.

How should we live? Proverbs provides us with a two word answer: with God. When we take God out of the picture, there is no picture – just a load of random paint blotches without meaning. And this is not God the paramedic, ever on hand to help us out with our cuts and scrapes, or God the Santa impersonator, but God the Holy One, the Creator who calls for our love, obedience and worship. We were made by God, for God.'

Obviously, this was not written in the current times we are living through, but it has a message that the world needs to hear. None of this makes any sense without God. He is our rock and our cornerstone.

Prayer: Every hour, every moment, I need You, living Christ. Be the centre and the reason for my life today. Amen.

Family News:

In these very difficult times, those of us with access to a garden or outside space are certainly blessed. Like most people, I really love this time of year when everything in the garden and countryside is springing into new life and the positive side of the lockdown has meant that I have had time to spend working on my "new" garden. This clump of bluebells are just some of hundreds which I "inherited". They are just glorious.

"You are nearer to God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth" - so very true.

Kathleen



With thanks to all our contributors. Many blessings