

LINK PLUS++++

March 2021

Make way, make way, for Christ the King in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him into your lives.

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see.
And those who mourn with heavy hearts, who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him, their thrones must fall!

*Make way, make way, for the King of kings;
make way, make way, and let his Kingdom in.*

Graham Kendrick Stf 264

Dear Friends

We have a roadmap!!

The government have provided a roadmap to see us out of the current lockdown, and we are filled with hope for getting back to church, back to friends and family, back to life. This roadmap is reliant on all things going to plan over the next few months. Changes planned for significant dates will depend on obedience and keeping the rules.

The Methodist Church will be updating the advice and guidance for churches as the government regulations change, helping us with our own roadmap out of the current situation. It will rely on our continued attention to our collective responsibility for each other.

We have a roadmap for God's plan for the world. During this time of Lent we will follow Jesus on the journey of the Son of Man, to Jerusalem. We will see once more the unveiling of God's roadmap of salvation for the world. This will be marked by significant dates too, and will rely on the obedience of Jesus, even the obedience that see him lifted high on a cross.

We have a roadmap for our lives as God's people on this earth. John The Baptist prepared the way, and spoke of making straight paths, for the teachings of Jesus. Jesus' life and example fill us with hope for ourselves, our friends and family, those we don't know, and the world. Even in the darkest times we have the promise that God will be with us.

The roadmap depends on us, to fulfil Jesus' teachings in the here and now, and an obedience to God's Spirit that it might direct our way.

Steve

Brean

<http://www.breanmethodistchurch.org.uk>

Lovely sunny day, as I write this. Makes us look forward to the time when we can open up and share worship and fellowship together again, how we would like to do.

Normally at this time of the year, our chat over coffee and after worship would be looking forward to longer and warmer days. To the return of the regulars, and have we heard from any of them over the winter. And then Rosemary's sheep would have entered the conversation; when does lambing start, how many ewes are due to give birth, chances of twins and triplets; all that sort of thing.

Well, to bring you up to date for this year, lambing starts (or started) on or about March 1st and Rose looks forward to sunshine and a dry

month in order to get it completed in good time. Rose also tells me she has quietly popped into the chapel to give the organ a reminder of its value to us. I guess, if we had known, several of us would have quietly snuck in so that we could listen to the comforting sounds of the instrument.

As yet, we are still uncertain about when we will re-open for worship, but the vibes (hearing that other closed churches are thinking the same thing) are, I guess around Easter, any time from Palm Sunday onwards. We will keep our fingers crossed (are we allowed to do that?). By then Lent will be coming to an end and all our Lenten promises will have been fulfilled (won't they!!)

Our Church Council, due in February, has been postponed to April 18th. March has come upon us very quickly of course. I don't know the arrangements for (Women's) World Day of Prayer (in fact no one was certain when it was mentioned on our recent Link Zoom Coffee morning) but I guess there will be some mention of it elsewhere in Link+, and that it will be on Zoom.

Judy and I have both read Richard Osman's novel The Thursday Murder Club. A detective story with a twist and elements of humour. We both enjoyed and recommend it, though I found that there were too many twists and turns at the end for me, elderly gentleman that I am, to keep up with.

With so many of us now having had at least one vaccination for Covid, with the Government starting to ease our restrictions a little, and with us about to enter the Spring Season, we are beginning to feel more positive about the future.

So we hope that March continues that progress, our best wishes for the month to you all.

Harvey Allen

Burnham

Well March is here. My family always celebrate March 1st. Saint David's Day, as my Father was born in Treorchy and attended the Methodist church there. St. David was an interesting man who was born about the year 500. He is known as a teacher, preacher and founder of monastic settlements and churches. He spread the word across many parts of the U.K. and France. It is believed he visited Glastonbury Abbey where he commissioned an abbey extension after having a vision of Jesus while there. He recommended that Christians refrain from drinking beer and eating meat.

As I look out the windows, I notice the daffodils in our garden are open, so I will be picking some to celebrate the day and by putting some on my parents grave.

Jim and I both had our Covid jabs. While I have been talking to friends and church members, on the phone or by zoom, over the last few weeks it seems to be the main topic of conversation. We are very lucky to have such a brilliant health service and front line workers that are working extra hours just to keep us safe. We have several members of our family who are front line workers, working and interacting with the public every day. They just accept that its part of their job. They are in our prayers everyday.

We are now in Lent, a time of reflection and thought. Usually we would be looking forwards to celebrating Jesus rising from the dead by joining in a service at church. Church these days is very different. We take part in services or coffee mornings on zoom. The new contemporary services at 5.00 on Sundays have been lovely. We get to sing all types of hymns as well as take part in discussions. It has been lovely to discuss bible readings or questions with people from the different Link Churches.

Sandra and Gerald Brown. I have kept in contact with them after their move to Wiltshire. I had a long phone call from Sandra on February 13th to say how much better Gerald was. She could only marvel at the progress he has made. He has less visits from the nurse and was able to

walk with a walking aid into their garden, with the nurse supervising. They thanked us all for praying for them.

Marian Foster

[LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL.](#)

I would like to thank all those people who filled shoeboxes or donated items for this appeal. My daughter Rachel and I delivered 14 Elderly Persons and 16 Family boxes to the drop off point in Bristol on Nov. 5th. The number of boxes were less this year because of Covid restrictions. These joined over 20,700 boxes at their headquarters in Brighton, then delivered to Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine. If you can fill a shoebox or make items to go in a box either look at the Link to Hope website or ask me about it. The items that go in the box tell you a lot about the people they go to, items such as candles, a hot water bottle, socks, hats, scarves and gloves, reading glasses and cutlery. Thank you. Marian Foster. 01278785360

East Brent

I have been reminded that it is my turn to write the months news from East Brent. But what news? We haven't met as a group which is beginning to be strange and worrying. I don't know about anybody else but the time of Lockdown seems to be going on forever.

I do much the same each day – read the paper, get the meals, do some 'necessary, housework, read a book, watch TV, do a little bit of jigsaw. I am reminded of John Keble's hymn – StF137:

The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask;
Room to deny ourselves a road
To bring us daily nearer God.

Talking of books, I have just read a book called 'Being Reverend – A Diary by Matt Woodcock'. This is the diary of a newly ordained vicar sent to a parish in Hull. He has a rundown church, a few in the congregation, so how does he begin? He wonders how he came to be a vicar in the first place. He questions his faith as he tries to work out

the amount of time he spends at church and at home with his wife and his two small twin girls.

I imagine we all go through life like this and will continue to do so until Lockdown is over. Through prayer and thinking about problems this vicar gets to some sort of calm which he can live with.

To all our friends in the Link, take care, stay indoors, and do what we are told to do, and hope everybody will stay safe. For as we keep hearing "Tomorrow will be a good day"

Evelyn Tucker

PLUS +++ POEMS, PRAYERS and OTHER MESSAGES

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Marian Foster.

WORLD WELLBEING WEEK

Did you know World WellBeing Week, is a yearly campaign run by WellBeing World, to raise awareness of physical & mental health issues.

Now in it's third year, World WellBeing Week returns in June 2021, but a C of E Primary School in North Bristol decided this week was to be their week.

So in true Messy Church style, children in school & at home were asked to make a "gratitude jar".

Materials needed:

1 jar (COVID free)
1 Glue Stick
brightly coloured tissue paper
stickers/jewels etc
small pieces of card
1 pen/pencil

Method:

Tear tissue paper into small pieces
Stick tissue paper to outside of jar
Decorate with stickers/jewels etc
Write on each card 1 word to illustrate what God has provided for you.
Pop cards in jar

Amelia aged 7 wrote, on her pieces of card, food, weather, water, i pad & music. Her sister Lilly, aged 5 was thankful to God for food, friends & games. However, Rory a friend of Lillys, also aged 5, used 1 piece of card & 1 simple word, "seals". Yes that was it, only 1 simple word "seals". When mum asked why "seals" Rory explained seals were his favourite animal & why not!

Yes, life has got a bit wobbly & slightly messy. Yes, technology is challenging, but Yes what a friend we have in Jesus!

Sandra Nelson.

HOW MANY OF THESE CAN YOU RELATE TO?

- 1 The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner. Is it worth buying a 2021 one?
- 2 2019: stay away from negative people. 2020/21: stay away from positive people.
- 3 The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
- 4 This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her dog. It was obvious she thought her dog understood her. I went into my house & told my cat.....we had a good laugh.
- 5 Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
- 6 Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
- 7 I never thought the comment “I wouldn’t touch him with a 6-foot pole” would become a national policy, but here we are!
- 8 I need to practice social-distancing – from the refrigerator.
- 9 I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip out to the bins!
- 10 Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go into a bank with a mask on and ask for money.



Judy Allen has found the following poem and offers it for your enjoyment

The Road Not Taken BY ROBERT FROST

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

World Day of Prayer, Friday March 5th 2021.

The World Day of Prayer was started in America in 1887 as the Women's World day of Prayer. Gradually it spread to Canada, and the first service to take place in Great Britain was in 1930.

In recent years the title has changed to the World day of Prayer to promote a more inclusive attitude, but the service is still prepared by women from different countries in turn. (It's going to be England and Northern Ireland's turn next year!)

This year the service comes from Vanuatu, a group of 80 islands in the South Pacific, over 1,000 miles east of Australia. As always it reflects something of the joys and problems that are faced there.

While it has not been possible for the committees that cover Burnham; and the Huntspills and Mark area to meet and plan services as they usually do, let alone to have churches open in which to gather; thanks to Revd. Angie Hoare there will be a service on Zoom on Friday 5th March at 10.30 am. I have the details of how to log on from Angie, so if anyone would like to join in this service, we are more than welcome. If you email me – thepipets@btinternet.com - I can pass on the details.

Also I have a number of copies of the order of service that I would be happy to let people have if they would like to contact me with their details.

When we have the services in Church there is normally refreshments afterwards. Sometimes included is a traditional offering.

With this in mind, I'm enclosing a recipe from the Together in Prayer magazine that always enlarges on the theme for the year. So, here is the recipe for:-

Vanuatu Coconut cake

Ingredients:

8oz (225gm) Self raising flour
3 oz(75gm) butter or margarine
3oz(75gm) sugar
2oz(50gm) dessicated coconut
1egg
4 tablespoons milk

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180C/ gas mark 4
2. Rub fat into flour until it resembles breadcrumbs
3. Add sugar and desiccated coconut

4. Beat egg into milk
5. Mix to a soft dropping consistency
6. Put in a greased and lined tin – Either a 7in cake tin or a 2lb loaf tin
7. Bake for 50 min – 1 hour
8. Leave the cake in the tin to cool for 15 min, then turn out onto a cake rack to finish cooling.
9. ENJOY!

Joyce Pipet

A COVID paraphrase of the 'Love Chapter. (based on 1 Corinthians 13)

This is beautifully written, insightful, comforting, reassuring, challenging and so much more.

'Then,' begins Jesus, 'let me remind you of the most excellent way... If you spend every hour on zoom calls, but do not have love, you might as well have the gabbing lips of one stuck on mute or a face frozen on the screen. If you have the gift of a bubble and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge of home-schooling, if you have the faith that can move Tesco delivery slots, but do not have love, you are nothing.

Even if you give all your tins of sweetcorn to the foodbank, give your body over to Joe Wicks' workouts boasting the best abs, but do not have love, you gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. Love is the grandchildren waving through the window, faces and hands smudging the glass. Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love does not shame the struggling neighbour, it is not conceited about self-sufficiency, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of how many times another forgets their mask. Love does not delight in false news but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there is isolation, this will cease; where there is panic, that will be stilled; where there is ignorance, it will pass away.

Before this pandemic, you could be arrogant and defensive. You spoke proudly of being independent of desiring your own company. But now, when this is over, it is time to put all that silliness behind you. For now, you can see only a reflection of what could be, of a family, community, together; then you shall see face to face. Now you can only dream, then you will know and feel love fully. But always remember this present pain and promise never to allow anyone to be excluded again.

In these Covid times, these three remain:
faith in the vaccination,
hope seen in the bravery of the snowdrops,
and my love shown through others.
And the greatest of these is love.'

Shared by Kathy and Joyce

Book Review

I am reading a book recently written by Bishop Tom Wright, until recently Bishop of Durham and now Research Professor of New Testament at the University of St. Andrews. The book is called "Broken Signposts - How Christianity makes sense of the world". I am using it as my Lent Book for 2021. In Broken Signposts Bishop Tom takes seven themes from St John's Gospel, these are Justice, Love, Spirituality, Beauty, Freedom, Truth, Power. It is a fascinating read and is really making me think. The book is published by SPCK but you can get it cheaper on Amazon. I commend it to you.

Stanley Pipet

**Finally, please note....
the deadline for the April Link Plus is
28th March.**