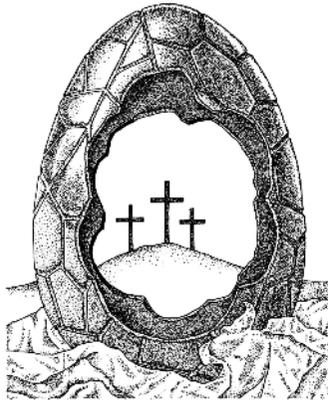


**LANGLEY
METHODIST**

NEWS

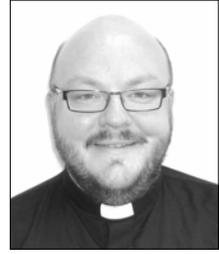
April 2020



Ministers: All the congregation
Contact: Rev Dr Graham M Edwards
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 April 2020
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Dear Friends,

I have a plant in the hall of the manse. I don't know what it is, but I've had it for about ten years and I am very fond of it.

I always think it is a miracle that I still have it, since my history with plants is not spectacular – I forget to water them and leave them in the dark, but this one plant refuses to give up. Sometimes leaves drop off (occasionally a whole branch) but it won't give up, and time after time new life springs out from the trunk. That new life doesn't always come as I expect it, it comes in different ways, in different places, and in different shapes – but new life comes! That plant has been on my mind in the last few days.

I write this the day after we had to make the decision to suspend all worship services in the Macclesfield circuit (there is some more information about this later), and today has been all about trying to make sense of that!

What will we do? How will we keep caring for one another? How will we be the church when we don't meet to worship?

I began to understand how my plant feels with leaves falling away, with branches dropping off, and feeling the water in my roots drying up! Then I saw a new shoot on that plant, round the back where I have never noticed or expected, life was breaking through! This, brothers and sisters, is where we are. The next few weeks and months will be strange, confusing, and difficult but in it all we trust that God is at work! And through God's grace we will see new life, it may come in the strangest of places, but it will come. As Fred Pratt Green's hymn put it:

*The Church of Christ, in every age
 beset by change but Spirit-led,
 must claim and test its heritage
 and keep on rising from the dead.*

Keep on rising from the dead - that is what God calls us to now.

Of course, that's the message at the heart of Easter. After Good Friday, it came as a shock, it was met with disbelief, and the world was never the same.

After Good Friday no one was ready for it, but Jesus, raised from the dead, stood around his friends and said "peace be with you".

Jesus is risen and the gift of the resurrection is offered to us all. Death, hate and fear can be defeated as we keep on rising from the dead! That's a message we need to hear at this time.

As we face this time of confusion - keep on rising from the dead.

As we ask and are asked difficult questions - keep on rising from the dead.

As we seek a new way of being the church - keep on rising from the dead.

In everything we do and are - keep on rising from the dead

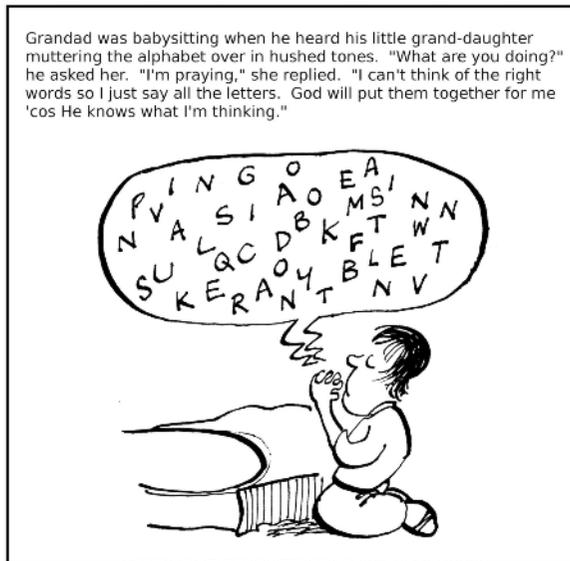
Keep on rising from the dead, hold on to faith, hope, and love, because God, the risen, victorious one - is with us!

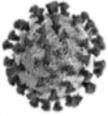
In his sermon *On the Resurrection of the Dead*, John Wesley said:

Though ... we cannot exactly tell the manner how it shall be done ... this ought not in the least to weaken our belief of this important article of our faith. It is enough, that He, to whom all things are possible, hath passed his word that he will raise us again.

With every blessing,

Graham





CoronaVirus Covid-19.

The following letter was sent to the Circuit by Rev Dr Graham Edwards.

“It is with great sadness that, following guidance from the Methodist Connexional Team, all worship services in the churches of the Macclesfield Methodist Circuit will be suspended for the time being. This is in line with advice from the UK Government.

Please note the web page showing the current advice from The Methodist Church, and monitor this for updates:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus-guidance/>

Resources for worship at home are provided here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

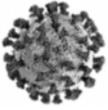
The Family Friendly Churches Trust is also offering resource that may be used at home : <http://www.ffctideas.org.uk/Corona.php>

At the moment, it is our intention that Macclesfield Methodist Church and Poynton Methodist church be open on Sunday between 10am and 12pm for private prayer. This is not for public worship or social gathering, but an opportunity to spend a few moments alone in prayer“.

Langley Methodist Church

- Coffee & Chat is suspended with immediate effect until further notice.
- Little Lambs have decided to suspend meetings for now. Sarah Sinnett will be informing the parents/carers etc. via FaceBook.
- All worship services are suspended until further notice. This includes the additional services planned for Easter including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday
- There will be no Sun Rise service at Tegg’s Nose on Easter morning. There will be no Easter Breakfast at Langley.
- There will be no Lent Lunch on Wednesday 1st April and the Lent Course has been suspended.

Alan Chapman



Open Gardens 2020 cancellation



The Government's advice on avoiding social gatherings has changed rapidly, but now includes 'social distancing' and restrictions on large gatherings. Regretfully, the organisers of the 3 Villages Open Gardens planned for July 11 and 12 have decided that we should cancel the event for this year.

We plan to be back in the summer of 2021, hoping by then to be virus-free and bounding with enthusiasm.

Martin Brown

The Quilt of love



I bartered with the good lady, to repay the way of her numerous dedicated years of pricked fingers.

I offered her money, she looked at me funny; her stare lingered, she said "What price can one put, on the quilt of love, with money?"

Friendship is Godly that lingers, with fabric, thimbles and pins, good glasses and patience in tins".

The quilt is here, so I hope you will come over to Goostrey and visit me. My new telephone number is: 01477 532741.

I hope to hear from you soon and gain news of my lovely companions.

God Bless!

Sarah McNaught



Living in Styal - Building Hope, Changing Lives

Eddy Tarry was our speaker at the March meeting. Eddy is the Community Engagement Officer at Styal Prison. I was particularly interested in meeting Eddy again as I also worked at Styal for 22 years in the Education section while Eddy was there and was keen to hear how it has progressed. He gave us a very interesting insight into the workings of a prison.

Styal is unusual in that it is neither an Open nor Closed Prison. There is a high perimeter fence, but the inmates can walk within the grounds, generally unescorted. In 1999 remand cells were built to house female prisoners from Risley which had closed. This was named Waite Wing after Terry Waite who visited regularly as he lived in Styal village. I often visited this Wing during the course of my work which was quite daunting compared to the houses, as it was very noisy having steel doors, a metal stairwell and very high echoing ceiling, just as you would imagine a prison to be, i.e. Porridge.

There is also an Open Condition Prison built in 2015 outside the fence for women on Temporary Licence who work in the community and return, hopefully, in the evening. This was built next to 'The Clink' Restaurant. Our WI Cookery Group once had an excellent lunch there.

In order to reduce re offending, there are Regime activities and Education supplied by Manchester College which include Functional Skills and Education where they are offered Hairdressing and Beauty, IT (no internet) and Radio courses run by the BBC with an inter prison Radio Station. As there are always Prisoners from other countries, ESOL is offered to foreign nationals who speak little or no English. Basic Literacy and Numeracy are also offered as well as support with Open University Courses. There are two other jobs offered, one is recycling old tv sets and the other is making silk ties, offered Ron Smart from Bollington

Styal Garden workshop entered the RHS Tatton Flower Show for the first time in 2012. Over the following years they gained a Silver Gilt (next to a Gold) 5 Silvers and one Bronze. It costs them £850 to enter. Eddy was putting his speaker's fee toward the overall cost and so far, he has collected over £2000. You can see why Eddy was given the Butler Trust Award. Those Stylish Ladies are very lucky to have an officer like Eddy.

Cheshire Federation of WI Centenary Concert at Chester Cathedral

We arrived in sunny Chester and joined the snaking queue of 1500 WI members waiting to enter the Cathedral. Once inside we found excellent seats near the front. On the seat was the Programme with a small box containing a piece of fruit cake, presented to each member attending.

While waiting for the concert to begin, our Chairman Jean Harding came over the microphone and announced that some members had taken more than one box of cake and if they would kindly replace them on the empty seats nothing more would be said. Oh dear, naughty ladies, but very soon all was put to rights and the errant cakes replaced. As in “The Calendar Girls”, these cakes, we hear, came from Marks and Spencer!

The WI Weaver Valley choir looked resplendent on the stage (altar) in pink, blue and lime green Pashminas draped casually round their necks over their uniforms, which was a wonderfully practical (as it was very chilly in the Cathedral) as well as a striking image

There were five readings from WI members with their own versions of the given topic, ‘What the WI means to Me’. There was a running theme throughout all these interesting readings being a sense of belonging, togetherness, friendship and support which we can all associate with.

The hour was jam packed with entertainment, polished to perfection and we ended with the usual Jerusalem, sounding magnificent as the strong sound bounced round the Cathedral.

Viv Warrington

Smile

I was told we should all pay our tax bill with a smile.
I tried - but they wanted cash.

I asked my nephew what he bought his wife for Valentine’s Day. He said he had bought her a belt and a bag. When I commented that I was sure she would appreciate them, he agreed: “Yes, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now.”

happy birthday

On Thursday 27th February Vera Barber reached her 90th birthday.

The event was celebrated at the Coffee & Chat on the 26th when members of Vera's family joined with the regular Coffee & Chatters to wish Vera "Happy Birthday".

The party was a surprise for Vera who, because of the weather (it was snowing slightly), nearly didn't come to the coffee morning.

A young member of the family was hastily dispatched to collect Vera – no excuses to be accepted.

The family had arranged extra food and a cake which was enjoyed by the friends and well wishers present.



Vera with her cousins

Vera had protested before hand that she did not want any fuss, but the smile on her face tells how much she appreciated the efforts made to mark a special birthday.