

Withington Methodist News

May 2020



SUNDAY WORSHIP

In line with current Government Guidance and the Methodist Connexion, we are sadly having to suspend all church services, meetings and groups for the immediate future. During such uncertain times, we need to remember that wherever we are, we are still the people of God and we can continue to worship in less traditional ways than congregating within a church setting. We encourage the members of our congregations to keep in touch with each other and our staff during this challenging period.

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

Those whose operations have been postponed.

All who struggle with peace of mind, their loved ones and carers.

All on the front line in hospitals and care homes, shop staff, refuse collectors, social care workers and teachers.

Those who are living alone with no one to share their thoughts or concerns with.

Cliff's dad.

Christians in Pakistan affected by the coronavirus lockdown.

Those affected by the lockdown in Ghana and Kenya.

All the families with children and young people with special needs who are struggling to understand the current situation.

Those who are living in fear: fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of others' reactions to them.

Those who suffer domestic violence during the lockdown.

The family of Revd. David Redrobe former Minister of Withington, who passed away last week.

DEAR FRIENDS,

'The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.'

Matthew 13:45-46

Dear Friends,

In first-century Palestine pearls were worth three times more than pure gold. The only way to harvest them was for a pearl diver to tie a big rock around his waist, take several deep breaths, dive out of his boat and quickly gather as many oysters as he could before untying himself from the rock and swimming back to the surface. Most of the time oyster divers would come up empty-handed.

The Merchant is unrelenting in his love of pearls. He travels from one coastal village to another looking to buy 'pearls of great value' and today seems to be his lucky day - finally, success! He is holding the newly purchased pearl safely in his hand, he looks down at it with inexpressible fondness and smiles: 'From now on you belong to me, you belong with me'.

But the pearl comes with a steep price tag. The local religious leaders believe that pearls are 'detestable in the eyes of God' - owning them makes you unclean, a lost soul, an outcast. And the law of the land makes it clear - the Roman Emperor has decreed - owning pearls is punishable by death. Only members of the royal family are allowed to buy, own and wear pearls. And yet the Merchant doesn't hesitate, he is prepared to pay the price. Uneven as it is, unpolished as it is, nothing reflects his radiance better than this little pearl gleaming in the palm of his hand.

Lord, I was that pearl, I am that pearl. It was for me you paid that price. You gave all you had for me. I know you won't give up on me in times of trouble, you will hold me safely in the palm of your hand, so I can reflect your light.

Wishing you a month filled with God's gentle grace,

Rev. Krystyna

A REFLECTION FROM CAROLINE WICKENS

Nearly forty years ago, I visited Greece for the first time. One of my vivid memories is sitting outside the youth hostel at Mycenae at sunset, watching a shepherd and his sheep making their way home for the night, the sheep-bells tinkling as they pattered along the road.

The shepherd went ahead of the sheep, which surprised me – I was used to English shepherds with their dogs, moving the sheep from behind. I realised I was watching what could have been a Biblical moment, as the shepherd led the sheep back to the sheepfold just like King David when he was a shepherd boy.

Our lectionary this week invites us to read Psalm 23, that best-known of all psalms.

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

*² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,*

³ he refreshes my soul.

*He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.*

*⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]*

*I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.*

*⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.*

*You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.*

*⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.*

‘The Lord is my shepherd’, the psalmist tells us – and if these are indeed King David’s words, he would have known all about shepherding. The Lord is the one who goes before us and leads us to the places where we can find everything we need, the food and water to sustain us, the safe paths where we can walk without fear of falling. God cares for us, food for our bodies, food for our souls, safekeeping for our feet and our hearts.

And when life is hard and we are walking through the valley of the shadow, God is still there ahead of us, with a stout stick for chasing away dangers and threats. It is remarkable how often the Bible tells us ‘Do not be afraid’, and reassures us that God is with us in danger –the anxiety we share at the moment was part of life for folk then too, and they needed the reassurance that God is with them, just as we need to hear that same promise of a faithful, brave companion.

The picture changes at the end of the psalm. After the journey, the traveller becomes an honoured guest, welcomed to a feast, head anointed with oil, cup overflowing. How could we ever have expected to be the guest of honour at God’s table? God’s breath-taking generosity opens the way for us to live life in ways we had never dreamed of. The psalm speaks of companionship and support for the present, and hope for the future, and in all this we can depend on the truth of God’s promises to us.

THIS WEEK WE GIVE THANKS FOR:

Cleaner air, the sharp drop in pollution and carbon emissions worldwide.

The huge outpouring of solidarity and neighbourliness we are witnessing.

All the NHS volunteer responders and food bank volunteers serving our communities.

_____ (what are you especially grateful for this week?)

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Worship and Communication in Quarantine

The Manchester Methodist Circuit

The circuit staff are providing resources for Sunday worship week by week, so that we can all worship together even if we are not in church.

<https://manchestermethodists.org.uk/category/worship-week-by-week/>

Caroline Wickens is also leading a weekly online worship over Zoom with the support of other circuit leaders. The service is at 6:30 on Sunday evenings and the joining details are included in the weekly newsletters and shared on the Withington Methodist Church Facebook page. They are also emailed out, if you would like to be added to this email list, please contact Caroline Wickens at caroline.wickens@gmail.com

This week's joining details are as follows-

Join Zoom Meeting-

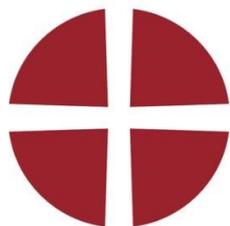
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2691813344?pwd=MkhERFoxSFNzRlJDMVJSUTVZc2k0UT09>

Meeting ID: 269 181 3344

Password: 1901

Or join by mobile using the below number and codes-

+441314601196 2691813344# 1# 1901#



Manchester Methodists



Seeking, serving, sharing Christ

Social Media Links-

If you are a Facebook user, please join our Withington Methodist Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WithingtonMethodistChurch/?fref=nf>

and the Manchester Methodist Circuit Group at <https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterMethodists/>

If you are a Twitter user the Manchester Methodist Circuit also has a Twitter page at https://twitter.com/man_methodists

Newsletter-

We will be continuing to distribute a weekly newsletter to keep everyone updated and connected. As always, it would be lovely to get share any family news or updates so please get in touch if you would like to include a message to share with our church family.

If you would like to add to our prayer list, please email or text Krystyna at krykwar@gmail.com 0777 6121 679.

Misc. Resources-

The Silver Line Helpline – 0800 470 80 90

The Silver Line is the only confidential, free helpline for older people across the UK open every day and night of the year. Our specially trained helpline team can

- offer information, friendship and advice
- link callers to local groups and services.
- offer regular friendship calls.
- protect and support older people who are suffering abuse and neglect.

If you or someone you know would like to share in a few minutes of reflective worship, please encourage them to call this number:

0161 850 2983. After dialling you will hear a recording of one of the circuit ministers leading a short act of worship.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10-16 May

Due to coronavirus the normal Christian Aid events cannot take place. No house to house collection, not even just a delivery of Christian Aid envelopes, no bucket collections outside supermarkets and no Big Brekkies or anything else where people meet together.

However Christian Aid is in need of money more than ever. Apart from the regular support they provide to a lot of developing countries, they will be required to deal with the possibly catastrophic impact of the coronavirus.

So this year, Christian Aid Week is moving online! You can donate easily online through the following link- <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/>

On the above website there is also an option to share the word of Christian Aid by creating your own e-Envelope. They have developed a tool so you can upload a photo or personalised video, use their message template, and choose from one of their stories to tell friends why you are supporting Christian Aid. You can then share this via email, or on Twitter or Facebook to share the word and encourage others to donate.



Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. Now is the time to reach out to our neighbours near and far. Poor communities are hit hardest by coronavirus. It's affecting families living in overcrowded refugee camps, and many vulnerable people who have no water to clean their hands.

With your support, we can limit the impact of the virus, with life-saving soap and water. Send an e-Envelope today and save lives.

NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

16 APRIL 2020

An open letter from Sam Monaghan the Chief Executive of MHA to Methodists

The President and Vice-President are praying for the work of MHA and for the safety of the staff and clients.

Dear Methodist Friends

Help us get vital personal protective equipment (PPE) for our care workers, residents and their relatives

I am writing to ask for your support for Methodist Homes (MHA) staff, residents and their families, during what is an unparalleled time of challenge in our care homes.

Our church has a proud tradition of social justice and concern, out of which MHA itself was born 76 years ago. So I am asking you to stand alongside us at this vital time to ensure that those most vulnerable and those working on the frontline to care for them, have access to the correct and necessary PPE and testing.

You can support us by signing our petition to ask the Government to ensure adequate and consistent supplies of PPE and timely and ample testing for residents and staff. (www.mha.org.uk/ppe-petition)

You can donate to help us purchase the vital PPE we need – face masks, gloves, goggles, aprons and gowns, vital to limit spread and protect staff, residents and their relatives (bit.ly/2wLej68)

You can volunteer in our homes and Live at Home Schemes, crucial to countering the increased loneliness and isolation of so many vulnerable elderly people during the lockdown (www.mha.org.uk/careers/current-vacancies/mha-needs-you/)

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, our committed workforce has been working tirelessly to support the residents we care for. We, and our suppliers, have been working around the clock to source and move PPE to where it is needed, to ensure the safety of our residents and colleagues, but it is proving increasingly difficult to do so.

Nurses, carers, cleaners, maintenance workers, chefs, volunteers and many more are going into our services, half of which have coronavirus outbreaks. They do so to care for and protect some of the most vulnerable in society.

That's why we need your help. We have been petitioning Government since the outset of the pandemic to address these shortfalls and to recognise the vulnerability of those in care homes alongside those in the NHS. Only now is it starting to be recognised that we are the second front line, and we need to be properly equipped with all the tools to safely do that job.

Additionally, we need PPE so families are able to say farewell to their loved ones as they approach the end of their lives, as they are not currently allowed in our homes for the protection of residents, staff and themselves. We are therefore asking the Government to provide our homes with adequate and reliable PPE not just for our residents and colleagues, but also to offer to families.

We are now hearing that the Government are going to make more provision for PPE and testing in care homes, but these plans are light on detail and timescales. So we will continue to need to source PPE from commercial organisations, costing sometimes five times the price of Government supplies, because those supplies have proved inconsistent and inadequate. And we will continue to need to transport PPE across the country between our homes, to meet need when homes experience a Covid 19 outbreak. And we will continue to cast a light on how vulnerable those in our homes are, residents and staff, to this pandemic. We have already lost over 200 residents where they have been confirmed or suspected as having Covid 19; and we have lost two of our colleagues.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Sam Monaghan, Chief Executive, MHA

16 APRIL 2020

President and Vice-President call for a global ceasefire

A statement from the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson and Prof Clive Marsh, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference:

“The Covid19 pandemic brings home to us our common humanity. While in the UK we have struggled with being locked down, we are thankful that we have an excellent health service with tremendous staff. Our thoughts also go out to those living in war zones where health systems are unreliable and intensive treatments are often unavailable. Those whose lives have been disrupted by war now have to protect themselves from this new deadly threat. That is why we are supporting the UN Secretary General’s call for a global ceasefire.

"A global ceasefire will enable medics and nurses to access conflict areas and concentrate on the battle against Coronavirus. We urge that all parties to conflict give immediate priority to life and health and respond to the Secretary General’s call for a ceasefire. We ask our own government to work urgently, including within the UN Security Council, to make this call a reality.”

Ends

Background

The UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, issued a call to parties to conflict everywhere to suspend military action and instead concentrate on protecting populations from the spread of COVID-19. Some militias and governments have responded positively. Ceasefires have been implemented in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, Libya, Myanmar, Philippines, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen.

However many conflicts are regional and are sustained by the involvement of external military forces. The call for a global ceasefire seeks to persuade

all governments that they must cease military activities and instead help mobilise humanitarian assistance to support vulnerable populations.

The UN Security Council has not so far endorsed this call. Its support would greatly strengthen the efforts of peace envoys and diplomats to bring about a suspension of military action.



Other statements from ecumenical partners can be found at

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/global-ceasefire-statements/>

Find out more about the issues involved at

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/global-ceasefire-coronavirus/>

6 APRIL 2020

Methodist Church grants £65,000 to help overseas Churches meet coronavirus challenge

The Methodist Church of Britain has released almost £65,000 in grant aid to support partner Churches and overseas projects that have been affected by the coronavirus crisis. The money has been made available from the World Mission Fund, donated by the Methodist people to support mutual partnership with Churches overseas. The emergency, 'solidarity' grants are given in response to an urgent crisis and to provide immediate aid for humanitarian or missional purposes overseas.

Church of South India

A solidarity grant of £10,000 is to be given to the Church of South India to assist their response to the crisis. In south India, where severe poverty makes the situation especially dangerous, many are struggling, particularly those with disabilities, casual labourers, the aged, women and children. Packed slums, with a lack of sanitation, means that the virus could quickly take hold in communities. Church of South India schools are being used to house the homeless and the Church hospitals are working with the district government authorities to prepare for a pandemic. Church community kitchens are distributing food and essentials and youth groups are preparing hand sanitizers and masks, and spreading awareness among public on safety and sanitization.

Maua Methodist Hospital, Kenya

A grant of £10,000 from the World Mission Fund has been sent to Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya to purchase personal protective equipment to be used in the hospital and by a newly formed rapid response team to treat coronavirus patients in the community. Methodist Mission Partner Dr Claire Smithson is with the Methodist Church in Kenya, and says that, "All non-elective surgeries and non-essential services in the hospital have been closed down and many staff have been sent home. However, medical staff are very vulnerable to infection spread due to lack of essential resources."

Methodist Church (Upper Myanmar) Conference

The Methodist Church of Upper Myanmar is to receive a solidarity grant of £10,000. In Myanmar the virus has meant many people are out of work and the price of basic food such as rice has increased significantly. The money will be used to help around 200 families who are being supported by the Church.



Pacific Theological College, Fiji

A grant of £5,200 has been given to the Pacific Theological College in Fiji for corona virus protection measures and to enable learning to continue online. The college is based in Suva, the capital city of Fiji, where many people are 'in lockdown'. Pacific Theological College a regional, ecumenical theological college offering academic programmes and serving the churches of the Pacific Islands.

Latin America and the Caribbean, CIEMAL

The Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean has been granted £9,225. CIEMAL is an organisation that works on behalf of regional Methodist church partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to encourage unity, solidarity, regional working and

collaboration. The Council's work is threatened as Methodist Churches across the region, whose giving supports CIEMAL, are unable to meet due to coronavirus.

Methodist Christian Community of Venezuela

Venezuela is one of the least prepared nations in the world to deal with coronavirus. A grant of £10,000 has been made available to buy food, hygiene products, medicine and facemasks for the 30 families the church supports who are vulnerable and in desperate need.

Italy - The Methodist Retreat Centre 'Ecumene'

Many people have died from the coronavirus in Italy, where the Methodist Church has been hit especially hard. The on-going crisis has meant that the Methodist Retreat Centre 'Ecumene', just outside Rome, is threatened with closure. A grant of £10,000 has been made to help the centre survive.

Andy Dye, Programme Team Leader in Global Relationships, commented, "Grants from the World Mission Fund are a response from the Methodist Church in Britain to a partner who is facing particularly difficult circumstances or an emergency situation. Although the grants may seem quite small in the global scale of things, they are a rapid response that express solidarity in partnership and can often open the door for our partners to receive other funding from around the world. For us and our partners these grants are an important part of our shared work in God's mission."

"As the crisis develops and the infection spreads to some of the world's poorest communities, we are going to be working with our sister organisation All We Can, the international development and emergency relief organisation of the Methodist Church, to provide further response to the unfolding situation."

6 APRIL 2020

British and Irish Church leaders united in response to coronavirus pandemic

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, together with Church leaders from denominations across Britain and Ireland, has today issued the following statement:

God's world is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis. In the nations that make up Britain and Ireland the Covid-19 virus continues to affect people at an alarming rate, health services along with many of our institutions and organisations, both local and national, are under extreme pressure and people are getting used to living in a very different way, many in extreme isolation. As with all such crises, there is a danger that the most vulnerable in society will be most badly affected.

Christians the world over are entering an important time in the church year as we look to the events of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. At the centre of our common faith are both the depths of despair and the heights of joy. In the Bible and in the songs and liturgies of the Church, we see Jesus entering fully into human suffering. In His rising again, that suffering is redeemed and transformed into hope and joy. After Jesus' death his disciples were afraid and all seemed lost and hopeless, but the risen Christ met them in their despair and restored hope through his victory over death. We pray that the world today might know this hope in place of despair.

In the Book of Daniel we read about God's people being taken into exile in Babylon. Daniel could not pray in the Temple in Jerusalem, but he continued to pray in exile – opening his window to face Jerusalem. Though he was on his own he joined with the prayers of the people wherever they were. Now we too are separated from each other physically, but when we pray in our homes we join in with this ancient tradition of our home as a place of prayer. Wherever we are, whenever we pray, when we speak and think of Christ, there he is in the midst of us. We join our prayers with all those who pray in our own churches and communities and around the world.

As church leaders from across the many and varied churches of these Islands we urge all people to join us in prayer this Holy Week and Easter; to pray for those who suffer, those who face untimely death and all those who care for them; to celebrate our common faith at a difficult time; to help and support our neighbours in need; and to observe all the safeguards in place to slow the spread of disease.

Our Prayer

Loving God, in Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for our salvation, cast out the darkness of our anxiety, fear and mourning, enfold us in your love and give us joy and hope this Easter. Amen.

Ends

The statement is supported by churches in membership of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, along with Churches Together in England, Cytun, ACTS and the Irish Council of Churches. More information can be found at <https://ctbi.org.uk/church-leaders-united-in-response-to-covid-19-pandemic/>

2 APRIL 2020

The Methodist Conference will meet in an alternative form this year

The Methodist Council has agreed that the Conference cannot meet as planned in Telford in June and will look at ways for the Conference to meet in an alternative form. The officers of the Conference will bring proposals for the functioning of this alternative meeting to an additional meeting of the Council.

The restriction on groups meeting has meant that some Synods have not been able to meet and give full consideration to God in Love Unites Us, and the Council therefore also agreed that the debate and voting on the provisional resolutions will be deferred until the 2021 Conference. This also means that any other business (eg memorials) relating to those resolutions will not be considered this year.

We understand that for many people the decision about the Conference may cause uncertainty and worry, but please be assured that we will issue further updates as soon as decisions are made. We will communicate directly with those most affected (eg: ordinands, district reps, and volunteers) as soon as we are able to do so and we shall keep the website updated.



LET LUST BE PURIFIED

By Ian W Mutton

Lust says the writer of I John comes in three forms: lust of the world, lust of the eyes and pride of life (2.16). Lust for the world consists in your natural cravings. The things you think you need for self-preservation. In effect this leads you into such things as gluttony, alcoholism and hedonism. In other words, living for pleasure.

The lust of the eyes is illustrated by the fall of Adam and Eve. God informed them all the produce of the Garden of Eden were for them save for the fruit of the Tree of Life, the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2.17). The serpent came to Eve, saying, "You will not die if you eat this fruit" (Gen 3.4). So Eve picks the fruit, offering it to Adam. Their eyes are opened, they now know good and evil. Evil leads to death. Kind David's lust was not the same as Adam's and Eve's. David's had lust in his eyes when he saw Bathsheba at her ablutions. He sent Uriah her husband off to battle where he was killed. Then married Bathsheba (II Samuel 12). Psalm 51 is David's confession, a good prayer should you need for the confession of lust.

The third lust is the pride of life. This is thinking you know better than God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As a result you may choose to dress in vulgar ostentation, seek fame and desire for praise. This can be summed up as vanity. Gibbon writing of Abdulrahman, as Muslem caliph of Spain, tells of this man's vanity. He built a pleasure palace in Zehra of the costliest marbles, sculptures and studied it with gold and pearls. But the palace never brought happiness. On his deathbed as he looked back on his life he reckoned he had only known fourteen days of happiness. Possessions do not bring happiness.

The Lord Jesus taught by His forty days and forty nights in the wilderness that He was prepared to abstain from food. Though tempted by the devil He did not succumb to the temptation. He answered quoting scripture: "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord your God" (Deut 6.16). If only more of the Lord's followers would answer as He did you wouldn't find doctors talking about the problems of overweight. And when Christ came down the Mount of Transfiguration with Peter, James and John to find His disciples unable to heal a boy's problems, He commented, "This only comes with prayer and fasting" (Matt 17.21). As the Lord healed the boy He must have frequently abstained from food. As with other sins the first remedy is to confess the sin of lust whether it be for ambition, food,

drink, riches or sex. For “If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1.9). You may find this hard but remember God is love and wants to forgive you and for you to amend your life.

Temples are not built in a day so God takes time to build you into the ‘building of His Christ’. Justification takes but a moment but sanctification probably takes a lifetime. God forgives you the moment you confess your lust. He then works in you to make you holy. But in His time He makes you ‘like unto His glorious body.’ (Phil 3.21). So redirect your lust, desire, instinct or affection to the things that matter, the spiritual. Never be ashamed of having strong passions but channel them.

Whilst in Wakefield prison a priest noticed a man’s dinner in a waiting cell uneaten – half a loaf of bread and a mug full of meat and potatoes. The prisoner happened to say, “I shan’t eat my food till five minutes before returning to work.” “Do you prefer to eat your dinner cold?” “No, sir, it’s not that.” “Aren’t you hungry?” “Yes, sir – ravenously.” “Then why don’t you eat your dinner?” The man continued, “When I get into company my chums persuade me to drink. The drink goes to my head and I do violent things. I am determined not to come here again. There is only one way to avoid this. I must strengthen my will by self-denial. In prison there is only one way of doing this, I do not touch my food until five minutes before I return to work. In this way I hope to overcome the temptation.”

Some may find an act of self-discipline the way to master their lust. Another practical way is to share. St Cuthbert when travelling with a young companion became hungry. The saint prayed that God would provide food for them. As they watched an eagle swooped down from the sky to grab a large fish from the sea, dropping it on to the beach. Cuthbert bid his companion cut the fish in half, leaving half for the eagle. The travellers cooked their half of the fish before continuing their journey. Sharing what God provides is another way of mastering your lust.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

All We Can and Christian Aid Emergency Appeals

All We Can Emergency Coronavirus Appeal

- information taken from the All We Can website

All We Can, the Methodist Church in Britain and World Development & Relief are responding across the globe, enabling vulnerable communities to access the support they need. We are working to maintain essential health services, deliver soap and hygiene items, and provide vital community healthcare education to Rohingya refugees living in the camps of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh; in Cameroon, internally displaced families are being provided with vital hand sanitiser to help protect themselves from the virus; and in Uganda, families who have no means of accessing markets following the banning of public transport by the Ugandan government are being lent regularly sanitised bicycles.

Anna Roughley, All We Can's Humanitarian Aid and Partnerships Manager said 'For communities living in crowded and cramped conditions, like the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, or those serving on the frontline in hospitals ill-equipped to deal with this crisis, Coronavirus poses a real and very urgent threat. I urge you to do all that you can today to help save lives around the world by donating to this global response.'

All We Can, the Methodist Church in Britain and World Development & Relief have already begun responding by providing essential grants to help churches overseas meet the challenges posed by Coronavirus, as well as providing staff on the frontline of Maua Methodist Hospital in Kenya with essential personal protective equipment. Anything that you give today will help us do more of this vital work.

We know that many people are facing financially difficult situations at this time – and so we are only asking you to donate if you are able to. Any gift, no matter how small, will help equip vulnerable communities to face Coronavirus.

Pray. Give. Save Lives.

How to Donate-

Visit <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/give/current-appeals/emergencycoronavirusappeal/> to donate online.

If you wish to donate over the phone, please call our friendly Supporter Care team on +44 (0) 20 7467 5132. All We Can uses Stripe to securely and safely process payments.

Christian Aid Emergency Coronavirus Appeal

- information taken from the Christian Aid website

Christian Aid is responding to the coronavirus outbreak in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

We're working together with partners and faith leaders to inform people about the risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, equipping health facilities with supplies and providing training to frontline aid workers.

We're providing food packages to some of the most marginalised families and ensuring protection for women affected by domestic violence.

Together with our local partners, we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

- We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.
- We are providing essential soap, water and handwashing training.
- We are ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe.
- We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

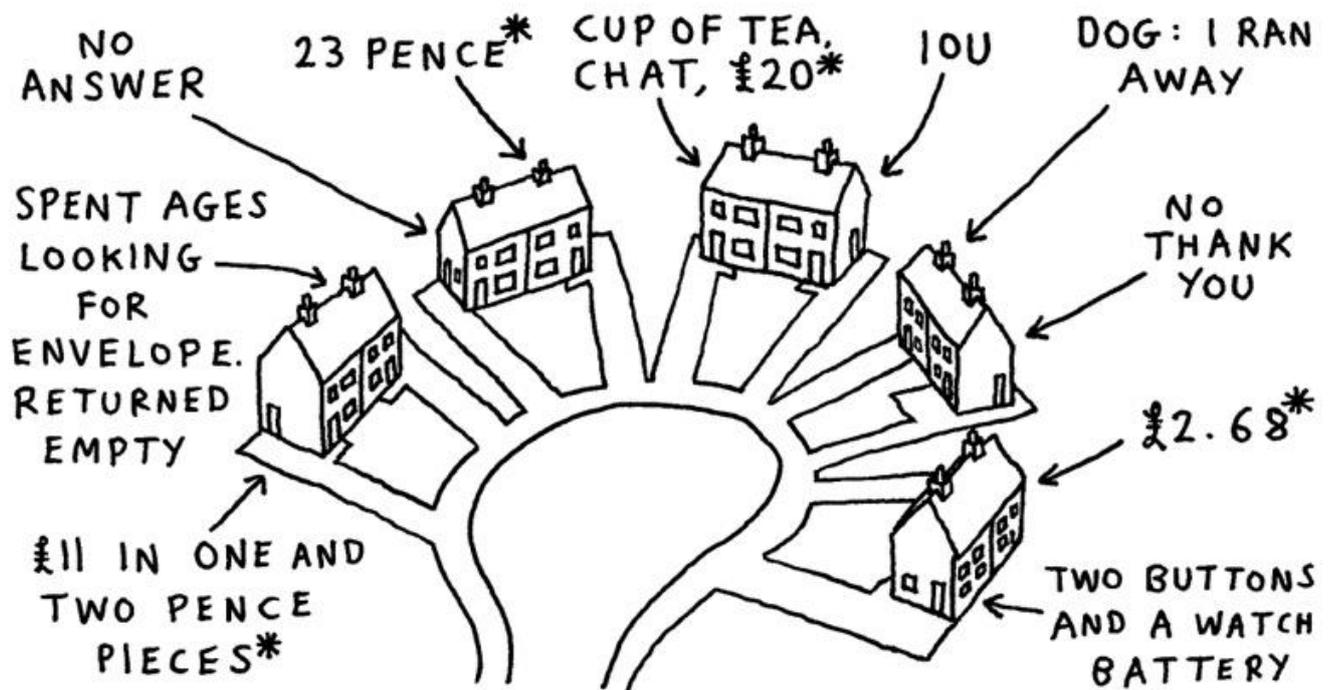
With your help we can do even more.

How to Donate-

Visit <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal> to donate online.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

COLLECTING CHRISTIAN AID ENVELOPES



* ADDED TO EVERYONE ELSE'S: 12.5 MILLION POUNDS FOR CHRISTIAN AID

@davewalker / CartoonChurch.com

**The next magazine will be out on the 31st May.
Weekly newsletters will be out every Sunday on the Withington Methodist Church Facebook Group and via email.**

If you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's magazine, or the weekly newsletters please pass it on to Caroline Fielding - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

If you would like to receive a emailed copy of the magazine or newsletter please email - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

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Sunday Services

Morning Worship* and Junior Church: 10:45 am

Evening Worship*: 6:30 pm

*for Holy Communion see inside cover

Regular Activities

Monday	Monday Monkeys – 10:30am - 11:30am
Tuesday	Tuesday Tots – 10:00am - 12 noon Tuesday morning coffee fellowship see <i>inside cover</i>
Wednesday	Rainbows – 5:30 - 7:30pm Brownies – 6:30 - 8:00pm
Thursday	Needles & Yarns craft group – 2-4pm
Friday	Men's Club – 2:00 - 4:30pm
Saturday	Contact Centre – 2:30 - 4:30pm

About Withington Methodist Church

We are a community of people who meet to worship God every Sunday morning and evening (see inside cover for details). Our services are open to all. At our morning service, we have both a crèche and Junior Church available for children ('All Age Worship' will only have the crèche as older children are welcomed into the main service).

During the week we have various other activities & organisations meeting at our premises. We have two toddler groups a week and are open weekday mornings for anyone to have a coffee and a chat. Our craft group meets on Thursday afternoons for anyone who wants to bring a craft or learn a new one. We have various rooms available for hire for anything from a once off hourly basis to a long term let, please speak to the Church Office for details, or email withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com.