

Cosby Methodist Church



Minister: Rev. Fran Rhys Tel: 0116 257 1069

Sunday 29th March 2020

While we are living through unfamiliar times, I am changing the format of our notices so that they become a way to keep in touch and encourage each other.

If you have anything you want to share, a thought, a prayer – anything - then please email Alison on adeacon@suttonelms.org.uk for inclusion next week.

This will be an electronic publication – and I am well aware that quite a few of our members are not internet or email connected. I am still thinking how to overcome this as I don't live in Cosby.

MESSAGE FROM REV FRAN RHYS

Dear Members and Adherents of Cosby, Methodist Church,

It thought it would be a good idea to send you a pastoral letter during these strange and worrying times we are living through. I hope you are keeping as well as possible.

To begin with, here are some words from The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, the General Secretary of the Methodist Church: "We are asking people to change their way of 'going to church' to help to protect themselves and others. We have put in place measures that will enable Methodists still to be part of the worshipping community, whilst for everyone's sake staying away from church buildings. There is a range of resources available for people to use at home which we hope will help them to continue their cycle of prayer and worship. The Methodist Church is more than its buildings and if in these unprecedented times we can continue our life as Methodists without using our buildings we will help to reduce the chances of transmission of the virus."

Our Gospel reading for this Sunday comes from John, chapter 11, verses 1-45. In contrast to Jesus' twelve disciples who are asked to become itinerant and abandon their homes and former livelihoods, the members of this household (Lazarus, Mary and Martha) continue to be disciples from their home. Unless we're a 'key worker' or can work from home, in these strange times, many of us are being called to be a disciple from our homes.

Jesus says that Lazarus' raising from the dead is to bring revelation about God. In the restrictions and difficulties, the suffering and pain of the current partial-lockdown of society, brought about by combatting the Corona virus, revelation is received. We're reminded, abruptly, of the need for more care and thoughtfulness towards each other. Despite some horror stories of alarmed panic-buying, there are many other stories of enhanced neighbourliness. This week nearly half a million people have answered the Government's call to support through the NHS those in vulnerable circumstances with shopping, and phone calls. Methodist theologian, Prof Frances Young writes: "Tragedy, then, is normally viewed in entirely negative terms, but what I want to suggest is that, contrary to expectation, it's through tragedy that we discover what is most deeply life-giving, and that the clue is provided by the cross."¹

So keep hopeful in these overwhelming times and in it all, may you receive glimpses of divine revelation.

In Christ, Rev'd Fran

¹ F. Young, *Arthur's Call, A Journey of Faith in the face of Severe Learning Disability*, (London: SPCK, 2014), p.98

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Here are just a few possibilities of worship resources:

Songs of Praise BBC1, Sunday 1.15pm

Morning Worship (from a variety of churches) BBC Radio 4, Sunday 8.10am (FM 92.70)

For those who use the internet, here are just a few of many options:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/> Provides Sunday "Worship at Home" sheets

Wesley's Chapel London will live-stream from the chapel (the Minister lives on the premises)

Sunday 11am www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

Rev'd Jennifer Smith lived in Leicester for a good many years, and Fran trained alongside her at Queens, Birmingham, and recommends her preaching.

<https://bishopstreetmethodistchurchsundaystuff.wordpress.com/>

This site provides material from preachers at Bishop Street Methodist Church who share their Sunday reflections and prayers and even the odd video.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1540042632786558/> ("Bishop Street Community")

A new Facebook group administered through Bishop Street Methodist Church.

The Family Friendly Churches Trust <https://familyfriendlychurches.org.uk/> will help parents and carers of school-aged children to worship with them.

CARING and PRAYING

If anyone becomes self-isolating and needs phone calls or shopping etc, please contact Claire on 01455 272605 so that she can co-ordinate a response.

Please pray for our church family

If you would like to request prayers, please just give basic information (eg first names), and be sure that permission has been sought for prayer to be requested. The information will only be shared by four people in the church's prayer circle. info@cosby-methodist.org.uk

If you hear or know of anyone ill, going into hospital or in need of a pastoral call, please contact our pastoral leader on 01455 272605, so that she can inform their pastoral visitor or our minister.

Today the District asks us to pray for the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit.

Gracious God, we give thanks for your faithfulness through each generation. We offer our lives for your service. Equip us with all we need to be your presence in the world today; give us a vision for

the future and the courage to live up to that vision. Amen

GIVING

I am sure like me, you are concerned about the cash flow for various people and organisations, so was please to find a way to donate money to the local foodbank so that they can continue the work they do.

But we all have to think about this for our church communities – bookings have finished, and we are not meeting.

A message from Pauline:

Please continue to use your envelopes each week and these will be collected when services resume.

Standing Order forms can be emailed if you wish to set this up instead.

Many thanks,

Pauline Bott p.bott58@gmail.com



Jesus said, “Do **not**
let your hearts be
troubled, and do **not**
let them be **afraid**”

John 14:27 (NRSV)

The **Methodist** Church 
www.methodist.org.uk