

UPMINSTER METHODIST CHURCH



Church Notices
12th April 2020
www.upminstermethodistchurch.org

EASTER SUNDAY

Unfortunately, our Church is temporarily closed due to the Coronavirus and Government advice. We are sending out the weekly Notices mainly via email – if you have received this copy by post, and have an email account, please advise us your email address to upminsternewsletter@gmail.com to receive your weekly e-copy

This week you will receive 3 emails all pertaining to the Notices. Apologies to the members who receive paper only copy, you will only receive this Notice

- 1) Notices and service from Revd. Jason Vinyard
- 2) Zoom link to Revd. Joseph Riberio's 11.00am Sunday service
- 3) Zoom link to Revd. Jason Vinyard's 7.00pm Sunday service

'Spreading the Word, not the virus.'

Easter Day Sunday 12th April 2020

Following Methodist Connexional and Government Guidance, Churches remain temporarily 'closed'. But, our mission; our prayers; our worship; our love, thoughts and feelings; our care and compassion are not.

When we gather in the 'Sanctuary', we are the 'Church'. The Methodist Church is in 'Connexion'. *Thus, wherever you are – you are the 'Church', and this is 'The Body of Christ'. You are in 'Connexion'.* We, therefore, can connect with each other, and with God, in mind, body and spirit.

Please do continue to explore the ways in how we can connect: 'Upminster Methodist Church Facebook Page' continues to post updates, prayers and links, and now has short video reflections that I've posted during Maundy Thursday through to Easter Day. I've also begun to upload videos - with reflections, prayers and such - **ON YouTube. Try search 'Revd J C Vinyard'. And, many more resources are available through 'The Methodist Church UK Website' – you can access these through a landing page on the 'Upminster Methodist Church website'.**

Wherever you are; whatever time of the day it is: we join together in Spirit – held in Love and Unity. Physically, emotionally, soulfully, we inhabit 'many dwelling-places'. Many of us 'feel' and 'experience', Church to 'be', and as, 'Sacred Space' – I am inviting 'you' to find 'sacred space', wherever you are today.

You may wish to light a candle. Play some music.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Go on – sing your favourite Easter Hymn!

Then: There is one body and one Spirit, just as there is one hope held out in God's call to you.

Take a moment's silence...

Read 'On the road to Emmaus' Luke 24: 13-47

Reflection and Contemplation: [not exhaustive, *by any means*, but just a few to get you going...]

What do I feel in my body – and heart - as I read this?

How do I recognise God?

Am I feeling 'downcast'? Can I recognise God with me in this?

To what do I need to open my mind and heart?

Is there someone I can call, speak to, and tell about 'all this'?

When you are ready: We are all in this story – between Genesis and Revelation – and today we are 'on the road to Emmaus' And Christ walks beside you; travels with you listens and speaks. In all we are experiencing: in the questions; the frustrations; the grief; the not-knowing, the changes, the Christ story revealed - in Jesus of Nazereth, and in all the scriptures - is incarnate in our own daily life experience and opens our hearts and minds to a broader vision – a bigger horizon. This resurrection is a reality. You cannot walk away from 'it' – because you are a human being – you have to walk with 'it' [whatever that 'it' of profound change is for you at any moment and in any situation]. We need to work with 'it', in the hear and now – in our bodies, minds, hearts. As we grapple with 'it', 'work with it' 'walk with it' - this is where profound changes will happen, and minds and hearts will understand. What will this resurrection feel like, look like, and how will 'it' be lived today? And, how will that be embodied in your life-changing 'its'? And Christ is with you. Resurrection in all things – transformation and being transformed into our true selves - at any moment of any day. Take courage.

When you are ready: Speak to God – just as you are; whatever it is that you are feeling; whatever it is that you need to say – say it and feel it. Take a few minutes to 'dwell', to be a 'dwelling –place' in this 'Sacred space'.

You may want to sing a hymn in response; a hymn you associate with Easter Day.

When you are ready: **Let us offer our prayer with all God's people through Jesus Christ our Lord who ever lives to pray for us,**

And, pray as you are led – you can adapt my suggestions above, expanding these to situations around the world, your local community, and people that come to mind – or from your own reading of 'On the road to Emmaus' - draw from your personal insights, thoughts and reflections: pray them.

The Lord's Prayer

In God, we offer our prayers. In the peace that surpasses all human understanding. In God, our Mother and Father; revealed to us in the life, death, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ; and in The Holy Spirit that dwells in all creation; all people; all time. In Jesus' name. Amen.

...and...the Sun warms the soil; growth busts; hedgehogs' are feasting; the limping fox returns; bumblebees are collecting; birds pause to dust - bathe in the earth, and there are spiders, and millipedes – and the Slugs! I see life and death and new life. The pattern in all things throughout creation.

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,
thinking that he never would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872–1958) (*alt.*) Reproduced from *Singing the Faith* Electronic Words Edition, number **306** Words: © From *The Oxford Book of Carols*, 1928, Oxford University Press. Reproduced by permission.

My thoughts, Love and Prayers are with you all. Wherever your 'Sacred Dwelling-place' – and that YOU are and will always remain.

Revd J C Vinyard 12th April 2020 – Easter Day.

FAMILY NEWS

- Gill and David Cook are sad to announce the loss of David's mother Anne, who died this week, at the age of 97. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, children, grandchildren Jack and Mark and great-grandchildren Jessie and Charlie.

Loved ones rest in peace now and rise in joy. The City of God their eternal dwelling.

- It is with sadness to report the passing of Gwen Robinson. Gwen was, until recently, a regular member of our Church had a lively and friendly personality and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday greetings to Jason Fisher, who celebrated his birthday on Thursday 9th April.

- Due to the coronavirus/government regulations we won't be celebrating in the Church as we normally do. Therefore, at 12 noon on Sunday we shall raise a cup (or glass) and sing Happy Birthday.
- During these difficult times, if you know of anyone who will be celebrating a birthday, anniversary or any other occasion, please email details to upminster.newsletter@gmail.com, and we will pass your message on and celebrate virtually!

Also any other news that you might like to share, would be most welcomed.

PHAB VIA ZOOM

We have been informed that PHAB, who meet at the Church on a Tuesday and Thursday are now doing their activities via Zoom

OFFERTORY

It is with much regret that we have had to temporarily suspend all meetings on our premises which most unfortunately includes Sunday worship.

A number of you already give your offertory via standing order and at this time I would ask those of you who don't to consider pursuing this option should you wish to continue your regular giving, please contact Peter Hobbs for further details or set it up yourself from your bank as a monthly standing order quoting your envelope number as the payer reference.

The bank account details are; sort code 20-72-89 account number 73858618 in the name of Upminster Methodist Church Council.

If you wish to send a cheque, please post to: David Kinder, 1 Oak Avenue, Upminster, Essex RM14 2LB. Please be aware that the cheque may take some time before being processed

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Joanna Marie Skillett has offered to take any gifts to the Trussell Trust Foodbank in Rainham.

She is happy for gifts to be taken to her house from Monday 13th. There will be a box in her porch so we can ensure social distancing take place.

The address is 8 Hurst Park Ave Hornchurch RM12 6DJ.
Tinned Fruit, Tea Bags, UHT Milk, Cereals are badly needed.

Should a large amount become available and it is not possible to deliver please contact Keith Nichols on khnichols66@googlemail.com who will arrange transport.
Thank you

FOOD BANK – LETTER FROM PASTOR PETER, RAINHAM FOOD BANK

Dear Haveringites! We heard from Pastor Peter who leads the Rainham FoodBank - they are **so thankful** to you the churches who have responded so beautifully by volunteering to deliver food parcels to the vulnerable and those who have to self isolate.

Thank You!

The demand is so great they are **running out of food!** Contributions are needed - especially at Rainham & Harold Hill -

Especially needed in Rainham are:

tins of meat products i.e. spaghetti bolognese, meat balls, tined chicken curry, tinned ham

Tinned Fish, tuna

tins of fruit peaches is most popular

long life milk

biscuits any sort

squash.. families need loads any flavour

nappies sizes 4 5 6

baby wipes

tins of baby formulas

toiletries

toilet paper

washing up liquid

washing powder

crisps

cereal

Pasta

Next week will need - margarine butter cheese

God is using your prayers & support to transform people's lives, bring hope in the crisis, and glorious light in the darkness.

Gary

Gary Seithel

Across Havering

On the Move BBQ East

UWM

01277 211480

07962 146 101

gbseithel@gmail.com

BRENTWOOD HALF MARATHON

Peter Hobbs completed the Brentwood Half Marathon on 15th March in 2 hours 15 minutes.

He was running to raise funds for Methodist Homes for the Aged and the amount raised was £555, plus £122.50 in Gift Aid.

Thank you to all sponsors for your support and encouragement.

How the Virus Stole Easter

By Kristi Bothur

With a nod to Dr. Seuss

Twas late in '19 when the virus began
Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.

People were sick, hospitals full,
Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.

As winter gave way to the promise of spring,
The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.

People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.
They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.

April approached and churches were closed.
"There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.

"There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.
No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."

Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.
The world was focused on masks and on tests.

"Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed.
"Online and at home, it just won't be the same."

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.
The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.

The world woke Sunday and nothing had changed.
The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.

"Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.
"They're finding out now that no Easter is coming."

"They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do!
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,
And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo."

"That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear."
So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.

And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.
It started down low, then it started to rise.

But the sound wasn't depressed.
Why, this sound was triumphant!
It couldn't be so!
But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.
Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!

Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,
Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
"Just how can it be?"

"It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."

Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
"Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."

And what happened then?
Well....the story's not done.
What will YOU do?
Will you share with that one
Or two or more people needing hope in this night?
Will you share the source of your life in this fight?

The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,
And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.

So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,
As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.

May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that -
Let it start a revival.