



BRIDPORT UNITED – UPLODERS METHODIST CHURCHES

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It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with Joseph from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment. (Luke 23:54-56)

Dear Friends,

We returned from Australia which is jokingly referred to as 'down under' but I found Dorset to be even more upside down, thanks to Covid-19 and we have spent three weeks since then, trying to react appropriately and to be a church innovatively. I had expected to launch straight into the usual slow grind of Lent, exhausting series of Holy Week services and then delight in the glories of Easter. Not this year!

We ministers sometimes rather ungraciously complain about those folk who come to services on the Twin peaks of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, missing the quietude of Maundy Thursday and the desperate depths of Good Friday. It's one reason why I have a particular passion for the Stations of the Cross which to me enable us to identify with the enormous cost paid on the cross. I remember one of my Bridport members looking at the wonderful Bridport Stations of the Cross display there in the United Church last year and reduced to tears, saying she didn't think she'd realised ever before quite what he went through.

It never occurred to me that I would be approaching holy week, fully prepared to have no services at all. No peaks, no depths, no gathering, no singing, no celebrations. And yet here we are.

But if the last weeks have taught us anything, we have surely learnt that, even if we are apart we are together and, what is more that we are never alone (even though at times we certainly feel it is!) On the last two Sundays I have enjoyed three different services sent on different electronic media and as I write this, I am aware that a portion of my brain is composing a sermon for the Circuit offering on Palm Sunday. The church has not always been as it is now. In some places and at sometimes it has gathered in homes, sometimes in fear of persecution and, do you know what, the church has adapted and survived.

On that first Bad Friday evening, as Joseph and the women laid a very definitely dead Jesus in that tomb, they knew, very definitely, that it was all over. Their dreams, hopes and expectations lay there as dead as their disappointing Messiah. As a former Archbishop of Canterbury once said, two days later, they didn't know it was Easter!

So to a degree we mostly feel a bit like that at the moment. Flat, confused, disappointed, frustrated, fearful and so on. We don't know how this will work out or indeed how it will be for us who come out at the other end of this long, apparently interminable period of isolation, guarding and social distancing.

But what we do know, thanks to those first, mind-blowingly, world-changingly few days, that this is not the end. There was Resurrection and there will be resurrection again. We will get through this and we will adapt and change and come out of the other side. For we are the People of Hope and at the very core of our story - His Story - is a faith built on that hope!

So please in the next few weeks read and re-read the stories of arrest, crucifixion, death and rising. Immerse yourself in them. Believe in them and, believe that, as Jesus once said, "The truth will set you free."

Easter blessings to you, one and all,

Welcome to the condensed Church magazine – I hope you are all managing with the isolation restrictions.

It's heart warming to see Bridport folk being enormously supportive in looking out for others. I've put together some information you may find useful if you need extra support. Please avoid putting yourself at risk and ask one of your Church friends or use one of the helplines. There are many people willing to help with shopping and collecting medical supplies. This situation may take some months to come to an end and we all need to stay well and keep safe.

Bridport Community Support: 01308 808900

They have volunteers who will help with Shopping, Prescriptions, and a friendly chat.

Dorset Council helpline. 7 days a week 8.00 am until 8.00 pm 01305 221022

As above

Local businesses offering delivery: changing daily so please phone to check			
		A J Supplies	
		For cleaning provisions	01308 423728
Balsons Butchers	01308 422638	Bridgets Market	01308 427096
Community Soup Kitchen	01308 422448	Framptons Butcher	01308 422995
Fruits of the Earth	01308 425827	Groves Nurseries	01308 422654
Kernow Pantry	01308 422833	Leakers Bakery	01308 423296
Lime Tree Deli	07799 267653	Punch and Judy Bakery	07841 523664
This is not a complete list – just some from the Bridport News and other sites			

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CHURCH NEWS

A message from our Treasurer - "In the current period when we cannot gather, I am most grateful for so many members and worshipers who have arranged for their weekly offerings to be given by Standing Order. There are continuing expenses and it is reassuring to have that continuing income."

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Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week (10th-17th May) and the Big Breakfast (30th May) have, for obvious reasons, been postponed. However, the need for funds won't go away; in fact it will probably increase. Whilst there may not be too much we can do to fund raise during this period of confinement and self-isolation, it does not stop us from giving some thought to the subject. We would welcome your thoughts/ideas, new and old, for things we can do once we get back to normality, whatever that might be! Please phone if you have any ideas, or if you would just like to chat!
Myra 01308 898611

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Food Banks

Food banks are needed more than ever in these difficult times. There is still a team of volunteers and coordinators collecting and delivering. To avoid unnecessary shopping and travel, if you would like to donate, cheques would be very welcome. Please make payable to Pathways to Care, clearly marked 'Hopeful Hampers' and send to Sue Herman, BUC East Street, Bridport DT6 3LJ

UPLODERS CHAPEL

Correspondent: **Mrs Carol Hall, Gribb Farm, Loders Cross, Bridport DT6 4PA Tel: 423163
email: carol@gribb.plus.com**

I love that saying which goes something like – “Spring is here, the flowers ris, I wonder where the birdies is.” Well, we certainly know where some of the birds are as our garden is full of them. Nests are being built and there is some courting going on. Also no excuse for not doing a bit of tidying up now that they have made the most of the seeds about! Another lovely thing, adding to the feeling of Spring, is the lambs in the field next to our garden. Sometimes we see them jumping about and at other times we hear them calling to find their mothers.

As usual we have enjoyed some lovely Services. Sadly, however, dear Bryan Scammell who came and played the organ for us on the 3rd Sunday in the month and supported the Chapel’s other activities died towards the end of February. He will be much missed at the Chapel and the community at large. We will always remember his cheerful smile.

As I write this I hope you are all keeping well and staying as positive as possible. How does a horrible virus get the name of Corona which was a delicious fizzy drink I had as a child, with the added bonus of taking the bottle back and getting some pennies! We have had to cancel the various activities at the Chapel but we can all still keep each other in our thoughts and prayers.

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Action for Children Coffee Morning

Please be advised that the fund raising coffee morning scheduled for Easter Saturday, April 11th has, unfortunately, been postponed until later in the year when, hopefully, restrictions caused by the Coronavirus will have been lifted. Please contact me 01297 489449 for further information.

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Please Pray in Faith for the following:

“ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” 1 Peter, 5:7

- ❖ We remember in our prayers all members of our Church who are not well at the moment.
- ❖ We remember in prayer the medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers fighting the coronavirus.
- ❖ We remember in prayer those who are infected with the virus or in quarantine.
- ❖ We remember in prayer those leaders responsible for making decisions.
- ❖ We remember in prayer families adjusting to new ways of life.
- ❖ We remember in prayer business owners and families facing financial stress.
- ❖ We pray for the disease to stop spreading.

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FAMILY NEWS

Farewell to Ron

In the hands of Brenda Stephenson we had a lovely service and Celebrated the Life of Ron Lee, with Brenda on the violin and David on the keyboard, it was a lovely relaxing start to the service in which Ron's family contributed towards. Ron enjoyed writing and reading and felt he would be the person to write his own obituary covering the years from 1934-2020.

Thank you to everybody who supported us as a family, attended the funeral and has shown support by calling or sending condolence cards. We have received over 100 cards, each with very personal messages and memories and it has been very overwhelming for us all.

Please keep us all in your prayers at this difficult time.

Marjory, Janet, Wendy, Andrew, Samantha, James, Daniel, Rebecca, Tom and Jenny



THE WALL OF ANSWERED PRAYER

A National Landmark of Hope - [Watch the Video - www.thewall.org.uk](http://www.thewall.org.uk)

A piece of architectural sculpture to be built on the outskirts of Birmingham about Jesus. Made of a million bricks with each one representing an answered prayer.

Preserve the Christian Heritage of our nation

God has faithfully and powerfully moved throughout the history of the UK, whether by answering the prayers of St Augustine in the 6th Century, to the millions of people who queued up outside churches to pray for the men on the beaches of Dunkirk. We want to celebrate and remember all the prayers God has answered throughout our nation's history.

Ignite a faith for prayer on a national level

Imagine everyone in the country having free access to a database of a million answered prayers. They can type in whatever storm or situation of life that they're going through, and they'll be able to see first-hand the God who has done it before, and is more than faithful enough to do it again. Their faith will be lifted and encouraged.

Reveal Christ to the nation

Around 500,000 journeys will travel past this monument every week, and we estimate that 150-200,000 people will visit this site annually. We hope that as people interrogate the answered prayers and comprehend the colossal nature of what they are witnessing, they will personally encounter the God who answers.