

Our 5th issue. If you would like a message included, let me know by email, text, or phone. Stay safe and keep well. Love, Heather x
morg.heather@btinternet.com 07914 079440 01795 663876

BIRTHDAYS: Joyce 17th June, Margaret 27th June,
Heather N 3rd July, Derek 14th July, Daphne 24th July

When can we meet again?

UPDATE: There was a Leader's Meeting on Monday when the possibility of reopening was discussed. To abide by the government's social distancing rules and considering the age and health of our congregation, deep cleaning and other factors it was decided that we cannot set a date to return at the moment.

Churches aren't yet allowed to hold services in their buildings. There are several options for services if you have computer access, or on the television and radio.

The leaders will meet again in July to review the situation and will keep you all informed.

Now is the time to empty your lantern or make your donation to Action for Children



Now, more than ever, they need your support.

Please give your lanterns contents or donation to Sharon (or Heather M if that is easier)

ONLY IF IT IS SAFE FOR YOU TO DO SO

Cheques should be made payable to The Church in Hope Street and all donations will be passed on to Action for Children.

Alternatively, you can send your donation direct to Action for Children.

Thank you

The Church in Hope Street LEP

CHURCH NOTICES

ISSUE 5 2020



*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside
Great is thy faithfulness*



Mission Statement

Our mission is to help all people understand and respond to the depth of God's love for them

MESSAGES

From Kelly & Dani: Would like to say that they are still part of the Hope Street Church Family and they miss everyone dearly. Take care and God bless you xx

From Marie: Thank you all for the lovely cards and messages sent to me for my birthday. With love from Marie

Hilary: Says thank you for all her lovely cards. Missing you all and thinking of you. Love, Hilary

Heather & Fred: Would like to say a big “Thank you” for the lovely cards, messages and gifts they received on the Silver Wedding Anniversary.

From Sheila:

All Things Pass.....
All things pass,
A sunrise does not last all morning,
All things pass,
A cloudburst doesn't last all day,
Nor a sunset all night.
All things pass.
What always changes?
Earth....sky....thunder....
Mountain....water....
Wind....fire....lake....
These change,
And if these do not last
Do man's visions last?
Do man's illusions?
Take things as they come.
All things pass.



*These lines are a translation of a Chinese poem written in the 6th century.
In these extraordinary times, this poem gives us food for thought.*

Also from Lynne

This poem spoke to me this morning, of the situation we find ourselves in.

Darkest shadows feeding fears,
Panicked mind and scalding tears,
Nothing like this down the years,
Peace my heart, O Lord.

Lord of peace and calmness still me,
May your Holy Spirit fill me,
Lord, this pain would try to kill me,
Save me, help me Lord!

Speak your loving, gentle healing
To my mind beyond all feeling,
Stop my thoughts, confused and reeling,
Anchor me, O Lord.

Give me God-thoughts, wisdom needed,
Show me Scriptures never heeded,
Help me then apply this balm,
Chase away this deep alarm,
Help me lean on your strong arm,
Steady me O Lord!

God sufficient, strong to save me,
Strength and hope and wisdom gave me!
Thank you, Jesus, that you found me,
Angel voices all around me
Lift my Spirit, Lord, astound me –Holy Heavenly Lord!

*It is taken from a book called Barefoot in my Heart by Jill Briscoe.
Sadly I don't think it is in print anymore. It is a book I turn to when the road
ahead seems rough.*

And just to fill up the space, here are some
anagrams to test those brain cells
Some of you may recognise them!

DO IT YOURSELF

ANDREW SCANS SIL

RAP SAD PEN

PUSH SET BRAIN

EDS LARD

MEN ANTS DANCED

RED PILLOW

WRAP PALE STAPLE

SICK BR

PUT AIM ON LINES

PASSING TOL

WAS

HER MAMS

CRISS DREW REV

PICCLE SLAB

BARRKIN DOG SIT

HE SING

SCAB TREK

LINGERS IN DOOR

FLY EATEN SINK

VILE LIP REST

ROT LEW

I CUT LETTER

GOOD LUCK!!

Answers in Issue 6

Dear Church family

I trust you are all keeping well, and coping with the situation we find ourselves in. In my readings and conversations throughout this pandemic one word keeps appearing – that is the word HOPE. At the beginning of lockdown I placed this word in the window in the Shrubsole room overlooking the car park praying that it would bring Hope to all who looked up and saw it. Hope in our language can be rather abstract but, Hope in Hebrew provides a strong image. The image of a cord or rope, that cannot only be seen with our eyes, but is something to grasp on to with our hands - something that is real enough to cling to. However for us who are used to the hurly burly life there is a downside - Hope is always rooted in waiting.

I was intrigued by a suggestion in a book I was reading – the concept of being ‘prisoners of Hope’. I wondered what does it mean to be a prisoner of Hope? A prison, holds you in on all sides and contains you, so being a prisoner of Hope then must mean you are surrounded and protected. Are we then prisoners of Hope? Psalm 139:5 says ‘you hem me in, behind and before and lay your hand on me’ The Message version reads ‘I look behind me and you’re there then up ahead and you’re there also, too – your reassuring presence, coming and going’. I believe we are surrounded and protected by our unshakeable trust in God – his promises and his infinite love for each and every one of us. As long as we have God we have Hope - a bright hope for tomorrow as the hymnist put it.

As it is written in Hebrews 6:18b;19 *we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.* A gift from our Lord for our taking.

But for now we have to wait. Now is not the time.

In my reading today: ‘So then, have your minds ready for action. Keep alert and set your hope completely on the blessing which will be given to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.’ 1Peter 1:13 and ‘It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set’ Acts 1:7a

So it is in our situation too. We have to stay Alert and ready for action for when the time comes. We do not know when that time will be, but we are blessed prisoners of Hope, because we can cling on to our Heavenly Father who is in this with us. The Lord will lead us out when the time is right.

In the mean time, hang on tight to Him, whose love for you is greater than you can imagine. Stay in touch with each other, pray that the right time will come soon, and until we meet again May God Bless You.

With Love 
Lynne

lynne.hopetree@outlook.com and mobile is 0751996318

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM SHARON

As you know, I (Sharon) have been our interim treasurer since Heather became unwell in September of last year, and am due to finish at the end of August. At present, all offertory/donations for the Church and its running costs, are in cheque form. My husband then deposits them at HSBC in Sittingbourne once a month as I, like many of us, am vulnerable, due to health issues and unable to circulate within the community. We do not know who will be able to take over from me, so it seems sensible to look at an alternative method of offertory/donation.

We are currently looking into our congregation setting up standing orders to ensure this vital revenue keeps us afloat during these trying times. If anyone has any questions, other ideas or suggestions about the way forward in this important matter, please could you write a note to me or contact me on:

01795 874297/ 07718289666

I will e-mail Chris Chare and remind him that I go at the end of August and ask him to give me a call. My friend is the treasurer for her church in Canterbury and the congregation use standing orders for their 'giving'. They no longer use envelopes at all.

BUT, it is up for discussion and we can explore options as they become available.

Bye for now. God bless and keep safe.

Sharon X

Also from Sharon: Until a decision is made, if you would like to send your offering or make a donation, please make cheques payable to:

The Church in Hope Street

If you have envelopes, please include them. Thank you

Or for BACS payments: **Account name: The Church in Hope Street**

Sort code: 40-41-41

Account number: 71387421

This is what is printed in the order of service for Sundays URC services if it helps

'Giving is part of our faith - as much as prayer, reading the Bible, singing hymns or the various other things we do to show our Christianity. In these days of lockdown we can't get along to church to give in the collection - some of us have changed to standing orders, some have sent a cheque or made a direct bank transfer to church and other charities we support. Some of us are storing our envelopes until they can be safely collected. However, we're doing it, we're still giving.' Lynne

A note from Heather M

I would just like to say that it has been a privilege to be treasurer for The Church in Hope Street for the last 12 years.

Thank you all for the trust you put in me to carry out this task and also for the help and support you have given me. It was all much appreciated. However, since my illness, I have had plenty of time to think about what I should do now. I still want to be an active and useful member of our Church, but I know my limitations and do not feel that I am now able to give the treasurer's job the focus and attention it requires. It is a very demanding job and takes up a lot of time. It is relentless.

I do not know if any of you would be willing to give the job a try, but if you do, I would be willing to offer any advice or help that I could.

Even if you do not feel able to do the job yourself, please give some thought to what we can do to cover the work that is essential to the smooth running of not just the Church but the whole building. It would be helpful if everyone could pass on their thoughts about this to Lynne or Sharon as soon as possible. Maybe then a suitable solution can be found quickly. 1st September 2020 isn't that far away and a new system needs to be in place by that date.

A very big "Thank you" to Sharon who took the job on at very short notice. It was a huge weight off my mind.

I feel sure that something will happen to resolve our situation because, as Kathy often says "God hasn't finished with us yet"

God bless you all and hopefully better times are just around the corner.

Love to you all,

Heather x

