### The Lord's My Shepherd I'll Not Want

23rd Psalm

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie In pastures green; he leadeth me The quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, And me to walk doth make Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill: For thou art with me, and thy rod And staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished In presence of my foes; My head thou dost with oil anoint And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me; And in God's house for evermore My dwelling-place shall be.

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

# The Church in Hope Street LEP



# **ISSUE 1 2020**







Mission Statement Our mission is to help all people understand and respond to the depth of God's love for them Good morning, this is a sad email to be sending but we felt it was the right time to let you all know that the Palm Sunday and Good Friday United services are both cancelled. I'm sure this won't be a surprise to anyone but still important to let you all know. Last Saturday Father Frank was optimistic that the Good Friday service could go ahead but the situation is changing so rapidly.

Please find attached a poster which Lynne has produced for us. There is an invitation to join with Churches Together throughout the UK to concentrate our prayer this coming Sunday, 22 March and also if safe to do so to display a lighted candle in our windows to remind people that Jesus is the Light of the World May I also remind you all to think of the Food Bank at this difficult time? With the churches closed they won't be receiving donations in the usual way so please consider putting your gifts in the boxes in Tesco or Morrisons.

Please do keep in touch and keep praying. If you know of anyone who doesn't have the help they need we could always send a message out to all the churches.

A verse I'm constantly being reminded of is 1 Peter 5 v7 Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. Those are words I share many times but seem even more relevant at the moment.

Many thanks to you all, please do keep in touch and look forward to happier times ahead.

Maggie (Manktelow CTiS)

#### Your Pastor

Something I was sent:

"Your Pastor has never pastored a church through a pandemic before.

When she opens, people are going to say she should have closed. When she closes, people are going to say she should have opened.

When she does not shake hands people are going to say she needs faith.

When she shakes hands people are going to say she's foolish.

She's going to make some difficult decisions to protect the flock considering everything from your spiritual growth to legal liabilities that you aren't even thinking about.

Every Pastor believes that they pastor the most amazing group of people. Remember this:

No one wants things to go well at church as much as your Pastor. Your Pastor needs your prayers and support right now" *Copied and changed the Gender* 

BIRTHDAYS: Sharon 25th March Vera 1st April

## A MESSAGE FROM LYNNE

#### Dear church family

As I am writing this the sun is shining and the birds are singing. In sharp contrast to those who are self- isolating and living in fear. The Coronavirus has forced us into unprecedented actions, suspending Public Worship should have been unheard of but we have had to do it for the church families safety and wellbeing.

What if we can turn this thing around? What if we can use this enforced isolation into a positive opportunity? Some I know are attempting to become the next Alan Titchmarsh others planning on revamping their house décor.

I wonder Is God trying to tell us to stop the rush and hurry and turn to Him? Seek new ways to personally find Him, listen to Him. Is he like Robert Zacher suggested to me, wanting to speak to us in a new way? I like other church leaders have never used the eraser so much taking out appointments and meetings leaving blank spaces!! Which I and others are trying to creatively fill. My heart aches that we cannot meet to worship together - but that doesn't stop us worshipping, we live in a digital age maybe that could become a blessing as services and devotions can be accessed on the web. I know not all of us are techno-wizards but there is the Radio and TV. Just because you can't come to church don't stop worshipping Him. Sing songs it doesn't matter if you can't remember all the words - Pray -Pray and Pray some more. Use your telephone to keep up to date with friends and neighbours show them your thinking of them. We have a system set up so we can keep in touch and you will be receiving a call or txt from time to time. If you need to get hold of me details are at the foot of this letter. We are in unchartered territory so don't expect us to have all the answers but we are moving forward in Hope and trusting our Lord.

Remember the church is the people not the building .

Stay Safe everybody!!

In Love and Prayer

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A very different Church Notices this time! The hope is that a sheet can be produced and distributed every two weeks to keep in touch. If you would like a message included, let me know by email, text, or phone. Keep well, Heather x

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