

Dear Church Family

I am trying to do some clearing out at home. The study was my target. Oh dear! loads of book languish on these shelves. I hate throwing books away. As I scanned the shelves I came across a study book by Paula Gooder, a lady I had the privilege to hear some years back. This book was entitled 'A Way through the Wilderness'. I thought a revisit might be worthwhile, as the wilderness felt a little close. As I flipped through the pages Paula caught my eyes when she spoke of receiving fresh strength. Citing Isaiah 40 27-31 she spoke of eagles. Of how awkward and ungainly they are when walking but Oh so graceful in flight, it is hard to imagine how this transformation happens.

Our way through this Pandemic could be described as a wilderness. One that we did not know either route, or duration. The grind of daily life seemingly endless and often restrictive wearing us down leaving us exhausted. Isaiah tells us that even the young who are strong and more energetic than us get tired and worn down. But the good news is that God does not. Our God who seeks to comfort us and give us new strength has what we need to go on. Isaiah speaks of those who are lost, alone and exhausted – people who have gone on so long they have run out of strength. And he reminds us that God is indefatigable. And will never give up on us.

Many of us would be content I think simply to keep going. Forget soaring like eagles, that sounds far too strenuous. Just getting through each day is enough. Yet God is constantly seeking us to give us his strength – a strength far greater than our minds can ever imagine. We need to watch for him, to listen for him so when we recognise his presence with us we can be open to receive the strength not only to go on, but to know the path he wants us to take. Not lumbering along but soaring like the graceful eagle. Soaring filled with His Grace, His Strength, His Wisdom and spurred on by His unconditional Love. And yes Paula's book has escaped and is back on my shelf. The task of study clearance put off for another day.

Blessings,

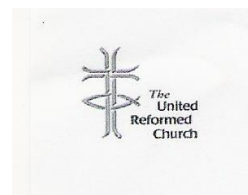


Those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40: 31

Lynne

The Church in Hope Street LEP



CHURCH NOTICES

FEBRUARY 2022



*As each one has received a special gift,
employ it in serving one another
as good stewards
of the manifold grace of God.*

**1
Peter
4:10**

Mission Statement

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

Morning Service 10:30am	Sunday 6th February Traditional	Margaret Bowerman
Morning Service 10:30am	Sunday 13th February <i>Covenant Service</i>	Rev Robert Zachar
Morning Service 10:30am	Sunday 20th February On Screen	Lynne Le Masonry
Morning Service 10:30am	Sunday 27th February Visitor	John Ellis

MESSAGES

A really big "Thank you"

to everyone who made donations totalling £138.02
instead of sending Christmas cards in 2021.

It has not yet been decided where to send this money.

If you have a suggestion for a suitable charity, please write it
down and pass your suggestion to Sharon or Heather M by

Sunday 6th February Thank you

Wenda, Brian and Stephen would like to thank
everyone for the lovely cards and messages sent to
them on their December birthdays

BIRTHDAYS

6th February Janet
7th February Linda
27th February Kathy

Notices for March should be available from Sunday 27th February
Please let me know if you would like something included. Heather

Dates for your Diary

Taketime is a series of relaxing guided meditations
based on the stories of Jesus and the tradition of St Ignatius

Taketime Together  is now meeting on Fridays, 11:15pm in Church

Living with Dementia

Meetings are on 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

Also, the group will now meet on any 5th Thursdays in the month.

Please contact Janet for more information.

Sewcially Crafternoon Tea

Sewcially Crafternoon Tea is having a short break.

Meetings will resume on Friday 8th April at 1:30pm.

We look forward to seeing you then.

CHURCH MEETING

Thank you to those of you who supported this very
important meeting. Sadly, there were a large number of
apologies. Please make a note of the next meeting:

MONDAY 25th APRIL 2022 AT 2:00pm IN THE CHURCH

Also, there are a number of job vacancies still to be filled.

All are necessary for the smooth running of our Church.
Leaders, property committee, representatives to meetings.
If you aren't sure it is something you could do, why not ask
to come along to a meeting as an observer?

Find out, first hand, what happens.

It's probably a lot easier than you think.

Contributions welcome for FOOD BANK & COMMUNITY BUS

Thank you for donating food items - packets, tins etc. and toiletries
for the food bank and the Community Bus.