

Church Without Walls

Issue 1 April 5th 2020

Learning to be church in a new way

Welcome to our first edition of 'Church Without Walls'. The fact that our church building is closed doesn't mean we stop being church. We have a new opportunity to discover what it means to be church in a new way as we support and encourage each other. We remain committed to following all the guidelines from the government to reduce the spread of the virus and reduce the pressure on the NHS, but this doesn't mean we isolate ourselves from God. Let's use all the opportunities that technology gives us to connect with each other and Him. We hope that this weekly update will be a way to:

- ◆ share ideas and resources that you have found helpful
- ◆ recount stories of how God is at work in your life
- ◆ tell of your experience of social distancing/self-isolation
- ◆ let us know of any particular prayer requests you have (if they are for someone else, make sure you have their permission before sharing).

Let's use this update to encourage each other and keep in touch with what's happening in our church family. Please send your items to Alison (administrator@ststephenspreston.org.uk) by 10am on Thursday to meet the Friday deadline. It would be great to hear from the children as well.

'And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds.'

Hebrews 10 v 24



If you have children, have a look at this:

<https://www.gominno.com/lp/church-at-home>

It's a kids' weekly church service by minno tv; produced by the creator of 'Veggie Tales' & 'What's in The Bible'.

Services are viewable for free, and this comes highly recommended by Natalie Cox, who says: "Parents may want to even consider temporarily subscribing for their kids whilst in isolation/no school as an alternative to all the secular tv available"

There's a free 7-day trial available for this. There is also a selection of 20-second Bible verses to say whilst washing your hands [here](#) Why not print some and put them by the sink?

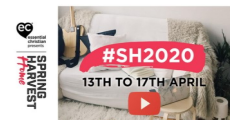


An idea from Julia Bell:

Spring Harvest Online

We're not able to gather together in person at the moment, but that doesn't mean there'll be NO Spring Harvest this year. It's not cancelled completely, but it will look a little different.

Click [here](#) to watch this video and see how **you** can join in at home.



Blackburn Diocese are encouraging every Christian home in the County to make a cross in the best way they can and place it in their window, leaving it there throughout Holy Week.

It can be of paper, card, wood – be as imaginative as you like! See [the Diocesan website](#) for more information & suggestions.

You can visit the Diocesan [Board of Education Pinterest page](#) to get some inspiration when making your crosses.

Use the idea as a creative opportunity to witness to others about your faith. And creating a cross for your window will be a sign to our community that, in the cross of Christ, all the world's ills are healed. Why not take a photo of the cross (or crosses) in your window so we can share them with each other.



Click [here](#) for some useful resources for Holy Week from our Diocese