

Church Without Walls

Issue 13 June 28th 2020



Community Connectors "Unity Streets" - 26th July

Here is some news from Community Connectors about a new initiative to celebrate community in our parish. Community Connectors is a group made up of reps from the different faith and non-faith groups in the parish. As a church we are keen to find ways to be engaged in our parish and work with others to reduce loneliness and social isolation. If you live in the parish you may want to get involved in this new idea.

Celebrate community with neighbours while still social distancing!

We have learnt a lot recently about the importance of community and supporting one another through a difficult time. We would like to celebrate this together.

We want people in the area to think of creative and novel ways of celebrating what's great about our community. We're doing this on Sunday 26th July and calling it 'Unity Streets'.

Inspired by the Jo Cox Foundation, although we can't get together, we can still connect together, whilst also adhering to government guidelines and physical distancing rules. Here's some suggestions from them about how to do this:

- Pick a song, share lyrics and set a time to sing it together from your doorstep
- Chalk a pavement obstacle course outside your house
- Run a dance/exercise class outside for your neighbours to join in
- Share a recipe per household and create a recipe book
- Everyone comes outside at a pre-set time to wave and say hello
- Have an open mic event outside or online
- Come outside at 3pm with a drink and talk at a distance

Mehroo Rigby has taken on the role of coordinating 'Unity Streets' and would love to hear your ideas and support you to make something happen in your street. You can contact Mehroo by email mehroorigby@yahoo.co.uk or Mobile 07971 677042.

[Here is a link to the Jo Cox Foundation website](#)

Email Dave for a zoom invitation to Compline at 8pm on Monday – Thursday
vicardave@ststephenspreston.org.uk



Click here to join us on Sunday morning at 10.30

Thanks to Liz for sending this photo of Gordon watching the service. Don't forget to send in your pics

Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast - This Tuesday (30th)

There's no doubt that as a nation we're facing tremendously challenging times – perhaps the most critical in our history since the Second World War. As Christians, praying with and for our nation and political leaders is vital.

'First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.'
1 Timothy 2.1-2 (ESV)

This year, because of the coronavirus pandemic, the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday 30 June will be held online. For the first time ever, everyone is welcome to attend. You can join MPs and Peers as well as Ambassadors and church leaders as they pray and speak on the theme of 'Hope and peace in a time of fear and suffering'.

This is free, but you need to [register via Eventbrite](#) in order to receive access.

[Read more here](#)



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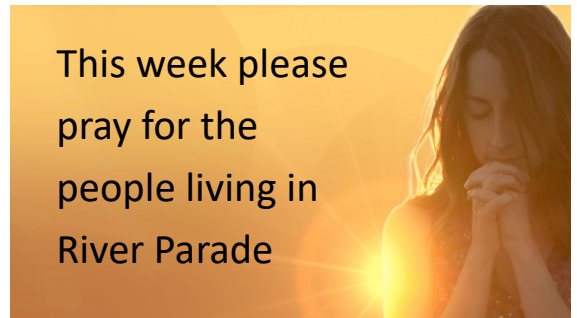
Keswick Convention usually runs for 3 weeks each summer. This year, like many other events, it has had to move online for just one week (27th-31st July). Read this message below from the Ministry Director, James Robson, sent to us by Mike Edmondson:

"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." (Psalm 130:5-6)

These are strange days. Everybody has been impacted by Covid-19, but no two people's experiences are exactly the same. One friend, whose wife was recently diagnosed with dementia, said that lockdown had been a "real blessing". Others have appreciated the novelty of a slower pace and different routines, a chance to hear birds singing. But for many there is grief, fear, anxiety, uncertainty, trauma and stress. Is there any hope to be found? The brutal fate of George Floyd is one grim reminder – among many – that a vaccine for Covid-19 is not the ultimate answer.

The Psalmist recognises that the only true source of hope is in God and his word. This isn't a hope that airbrushes out the difficulties. After all, the Psalm begins with raw honesty: "Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD". It's a hope rooted in God - his faithfulness, his action in history - and in his Word.

That's why, this year, in the new online Virtually Keswick Convention, the theme is Hope. Our Bible Readings in the morning with Christopher Ash will speak of Hope in Jesus from the Psalms. Every day there will be a seminar that explores hope from a different angle. One will look at hope amidst grief and trauma, another at hope and crying out honestly to God. In the evenings, a celebration will highlight a different aspect of the hope found in Jesus Christ. There's a great programme for children and youth, too. For more details, go to: <https://vkc.keswickministries.org/>



This week please pray for the people living in River Parade

A message from the Council about local bus services:

As the lockdown measures are eased, bus service levels are gradually being restored, but with social distancing measures in place, with the continued financial support of Central Government and maintenance of existing local authority funding from the county council.

The Government has issued safer travel guidance for passengers which is available to read [here](#).

Whilst we work towards updating bus stop information, it is still recommended to check bus operator's websites for the latest position with their bus services:

Preston Bus: <http://www.prestonbus.co.uk/>
Stagecoach: <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/>



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Please take a moment to log into the website and check we have the right details for you. Click on "Your Profile" at the bottom of the right hand column.

