

Church Without Walls

Issue 19 August 9th 2020



**Click here to join us
on Sunday morning at 10.30**



Church Mice.

*This Week
please pray for
the people
living in
Kilruddery Road*

As some of us are starting to gather in the church building again, many are still watching the service on YouTube.



Do you have a photo of yourself or your family watching an online service? Why not share it with the church family? Send it to the office & we'll include it here and in our facebook posts.

Email your photos to:
administrator@ststephenspreston.org.uk

Back to church—3 people's thoughts

I wasn't sure how it would be going back to church for the first time, but it was great! As we entered we put on our masks and Pat directed us to specific numbered seats with plenty of space between us and others. Both doors were open letting in lots of fresh air. Dave's sermon about 'Gratitude' was challenging as we thought about how only one of the ten people with leprosy, whom Jesus healed, remembered to thank him. (How easy it is to live as grumbling rather than thankful people.) Even though we couldn't sing together it was good to pray together as God's people. Afterwards it was good to catch up outside, at a distance. Thanks so much to those who had worked so hard to make the church building feel a safe place to be. I shall have no hesitation going to church next Sunday. We have already booked our seats via the church website.

Lesley Edmondson

Last Sunday evening I attended the first evening service in church since the lifting of lockdown. It was a very different kind of service, we were shown to our seats after sanitizing our hands and putting on our face mask. There was no singing, but we did listen to beautiful hymn (one of my favourite). It was a short service with some reflections, Dave did a splendid job.

It was lovely to meet up with church family face to face after five months. For me it was a bit surreal, but I guess I will get use to the process. I feel it does not matter where we worship as the Lord is with us. However I prefer to meet my church family face to face. I give the Lord thanks for enabling me to attend church in the building and I am looking forward to be able to sing in church when restrictions are lifted.

Rhona James

There was a whoop of delight as Pat greeted people on Sunday evening as church opened for a service. The theme of "Gratitude" was particularly relevant. Some things were familiar: I remembered mostly how to operate the computer and sound desk, the Bible reading and prayers were led by people seen on Zoom but rarely in person and Dave led and preached. We joined in with the said liturgy, worshipping through spoken word and listening to a hymn. But it was strange to be wearing masks and how we missed the singing which is such an important feature of worship at St Stephen's. It was a significant evening to be present and I hope more will be encouraged to come and experience God and His people together.

Heather Pratt

Remember you can book into a service during the preceding week on the website [here](#). If you can't remember your login name please [email the office](#)

 **St Stephen's**
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES

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Book Review

Where is God in a Messed-up World

Roger Carswell

This book asks (and answers) questions that people are asking about God, life and suffering.

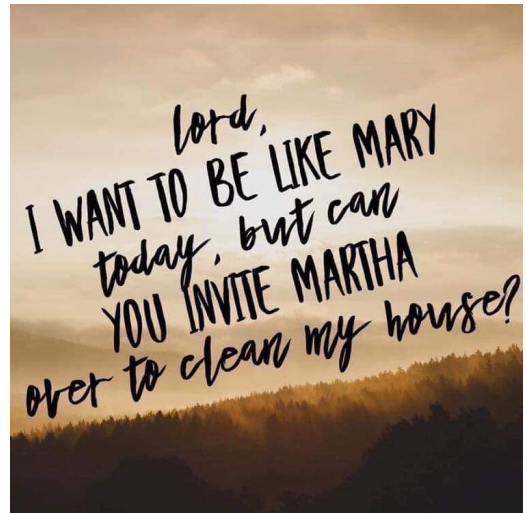
If God exists and really is a God of love, then why doesn't he stop the suffering and problems in our world?

People ask this question, often in the wake of major tragedies. Glib answers don't help.

While investigating the answers, Roger Carswell is realistic enough to admit that there are things God reveals to us, and things he doesn't reveal. He argues that the starting point is to find out who God is, and to figure out if he can be trusted – even if we don't have all the answers.

The author's own experience of suffering with depression, and the real-life stories that are included, make this a compassionate and encouraging look at one of the toughest questions about the Christian faith. Without dodging or dismissing the issues, *Where is God in a Messed-up World?* shows that our questioning need not be a barrier to entrusting ourselves to God.

"God has not only been faithful to me, he has been overwhelmingly kind, incredibly merciful, consistently good and unbelievably patient," says Roger.



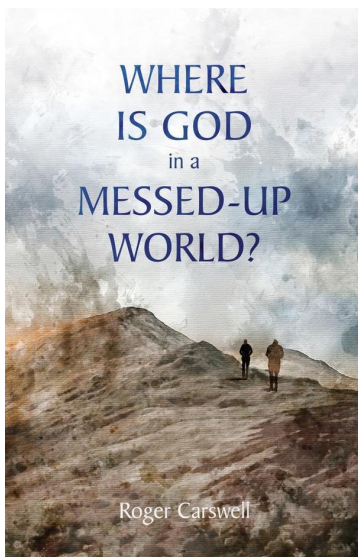
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

There is a FREE telephone line set up by the Church of England where you can hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

Pass this number on to anyone you know who might appreciate this

0800 804 8044



'A realistic and compassionate view of how we can respond to suffering.' - Gordon Corera, BBC correspondent

'I warmly recommend this book to anyone, but especially to those who feel "weary and burdened".' - Pablo Martinez, psychiatrist and writer

You can buy this book from [10 of Those](#) for £6.99 (discounts available for multiple copies)

Preston Churches in Prayer

On Tuesday mornings at 7.30 join Christians from around Preston for prayer on zoom email Andy Pratt: andrewpratt1@btinternet.com for an invitation