

Church Without Walls

Issue 21 August 23rd 2020



Click here to join us for worship at 10.30 on Sunday morning

Five days of worship that set a virus time bomb in France

This is the headline of a report written by Reuters back in March, when we were just realising the severity of the global pandemic.

It's referring to an evangelical gathering which took place in February in France, near the borders with Germany & Switzerland.

There were a number of meetings over the 5 days, each attended by between 1,000 & 2,500 people, many of whom had travelled from other countries



As the faithful gathered on a clear Tuesday evening in the church, an old shopping centre converted into a 2,500 seat auditorium, the disease seemed remote. France had only 12 confirmed cases.

But someone present was carrying the Covid-19 virus.

The reporter tells us that this event started the biggest cluster of Covid-19 in France. Those attending the gathering unknowingly took the virus back to Burkino Faso, Corsica, Switzerland, and Guyana in Latin America. (Although no-one reported having symptoms when the gathering ended)

At the time there were no restrictions imposed on large meetings in Europe.

You can read more about this in [this article](#) but we have heard that this incident has caused some difficulties for evangelicals in France who have been blamed for this, although there were many other such non-church gatherings across France at that time. Lets pray for the church in France as they respond to criticism and seek to share the good news of Jesus amidst the restrictions of the pandemic.

Date for your dairy:

Please make a note in your diary and make it a priority to attend the Zoom Church Prayer meeting on Monday 7 September 2020 @ 7.30pm

Please contact the office to receive a link to enable you to log on . If you haven't used Zoom before - we can send information about how to download Zoom – it's easy!

Domestic Violence

Two weeks ago we looked at relationships between men and women and what the Bible has to teach us about we how relate to one another as Christians. Dave mentioned the issue of Domestic Violence and that there is help out there for anyone struggling with abuse in their home and/or close relationships. Following this, someone from the church family contacted Dave to share their experience and how they have found the following resources really helpful:

Refuge Help Line (Freephone 24 hour national Domestic Abuse Helpline)

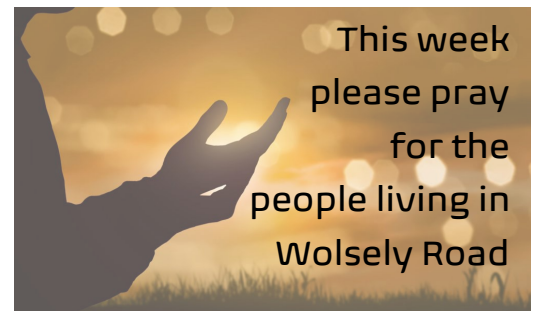
Tel 0809 2000 247

National Centre for Domestic Violence:

<https://www.ncdv.org.uk/>

Tel: 0800 970 2070 or text 60777.

Lancashire Police are also very helpful and are considered as a beacon of good practice. Please ask Dave for further information about the help available if you have a concern.



Remember to give this number to anyone you know who would appreciate being able to hear a message of hope at

0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

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

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Pray For Refugees

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Recently the UK press has drawn attention to migrants crossing the English Channel. There are currently 26 million refugees around the world, half of which are children. These are people who have been through horrors that we can scarcely imagine. They have been forced from their homes by conflict, persecution and extreme poverty. Many will have been separated from loved ones; many will be traumatised and grieving.

If we cannot have compassion upon refugees, we cannot call ourselves Christians. If we do not help refugees, we cannot call ourselves the church.

'He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.' (Deuteronomy 10:18)

Tearfund works around the world to help restore hope and dignity to refugees. Please join us in praying for them.

https://www.tearfund.org/2020/08/a_prayer_for_refugees/

A PRAYER FOR REFUGEES

God of love,
You are the God who takes the side of the oppressed.
You are the God who is close to the brokenhearted.
You are the God who raises high the humble.

We pray for refugees around the world.
May they be welcomed with open arms.
May their needs for food, shelter, clothing and love be met.
May their wounds – emotional and physical – be healed.

We pray that the world will hear their plight.
We pray that the world will have compassion.
We pray that the world will take action on their behalf.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

The Preston Churches in Prayer

Tuesday morning Prayer Meetings
are now on zoom at 7.30am

If you would like to join in
please email Andy Pratt:
andrewpratt1@btinternet.com



IMPORTANT COVID-19 NEWS

Preston Council is now encouraging people to get tested with or without symptoms.

There is a temporary testing station near to the Issa Medical Centre on St Gregory's Rd in Deepdale that people can go to get tested without symptoms although we are still encouraging those with symptoms to use the main test centre up at Preston's College. Call NHS 119 to book.

Please read the leaflet from the Council which came with this newsletter, or you can read it [here](#)

With or without
symptoms, get
tested

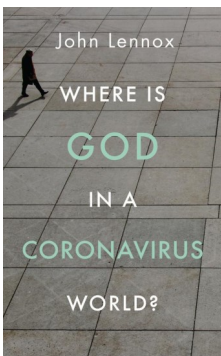


Call NHS 119
to book

Please note Alison's working hours are
between 9am and 12noon Monday - Friday.
If you want to book a seat for Sunday evening's
service after Friday morning please contact Pat

Where is God in a Coronavirus World? By John Lennox

We are living through a unique, era-defining period. Many of our old certainties have gone, whatever our view of the world and whatever our beliefs. The coronavirus pandemic and its effects are perplexing and unsettling for all of us. How do we begin to think it through and cope with it?



In this short yet profound book, Oxford mathematics professor John Lennox examines the coronavirus in light of various belief systems and shows how the Christian worldview not only helps us to make sense of it, but also offers us a sure and certain hope to cling to.

John Lennox is an Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford and Emeritus Fellow in Mathematics and the Philosophy of Science at Green Templeton College. He is also an Associate Fellow of the Said Business School and an Adjunct Lecturer for The Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. He has been part of numerous public debates defending the Christian faith against well known atheists including Richard

Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Peter Singer.

This is available from 10ofthose.com for £2.48

