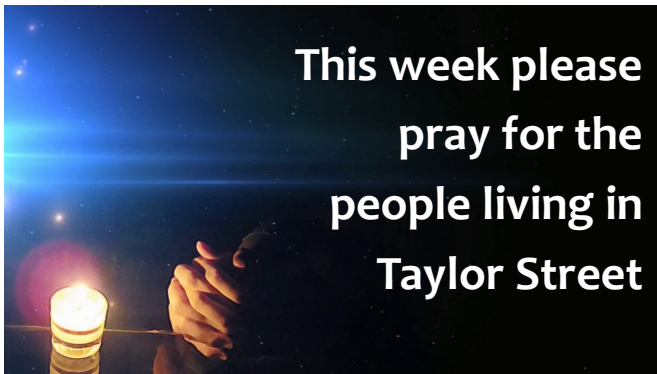


Church Without Walls

Issue 53 April 25th 2021



I was taken aback last week by the number of people queueing to get into Debenhams and Primark. Having been in town the

previous weekend, the change was amazing. Empty streets were now filled with shoppers, closed coffee shops now had tables and chairs outside and people sitting out in the sun drinking cappuccinos. There was a feeling of the end of hibernation.

Although we still all need to maintain our distance, the opportunity to meet up again and socialise with friends and family is one many of us have enjoyed. Yet for those a distance away, this might not yet be possible until overnight stays are allowed next month. For many months we have refrained from meeting others in person and now we remember how much we value meeting others.

For those on the streets who may not have any friends or family to meet up with it is easy to fall in with the wrong crowd. Make bad decisions and lose heart. This week I would ask for your prayers for those who are lonely. They may be homeless, but they might also be 3 doors up the street from you.

The Campaign to End Loneliness found that 80% of older people (3.9million people) say that television is their main company. A survey by Action for Children found that 43% of 17 – 25 year olds who used their service had experienced problems with loneliness, and that of this same group less than half said they felt loved.

So this week, as we renew our friendships in person (at a distance please!) let's remember those for whom the end of lockdown makes little difference, and the challenges they face.



Do you know any children who would enjoy an inspiring biography about Christians who dared to attempt great

things for God? These books might be just what you're looking for.

They can be read to young children aged 4-5, and children aged 6 plus can read them for themselves.

Read about the life of Betsey Stockton who, despite being born enslaved, follows her dream of being a missionary, or Corrie ten Boom who saved hundreds of Jewish people during World War 2.

[You can buy these books here](#)

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(See Genesis 6-8)

09-16-2011

YOU THROW THE CATS OVERBOARD AND I'LL TELL YOU WHERE I FOUND THE BRANCH

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

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tearfund

The climate crisis is causing prolonged droughts in places, and the few water sources communities rely upon are drying up. People are now having to travel even further for water that is often unsafe.

Alzira is 61 and lives in north-east Brazil. From a young age she has made long journeys to wash her family's clothes and collect water. 'It was very difficult,' Alzira shares. 'I had to carry [the water] on my back or on my head. We had to fetch water for everything.'

Clean water doesn't just protect communities from waterborne diseases and coronavirus. Agriculture is how most people in northern Brazil make a living. Access to water to help grow crops and feed livestock means a way out of poverty.

Tearfund partner AÇÃO Evangélica (ACEV) works with local churches in Brazil to help communities build water sources, such as dams and wells.

Communities are involved every step of the way – they own and maintain the water source for the long-term.

Alzira's church, working with AVEC, built a well in the community. 'The project helped me a lot. Now I have water here very close to my house,' says Alzira. 'I really wanted to have a vegetable garden, now I have one in my yard – all fresh and without pesticides – it is a wonder.'

[You can read more of Alzira's story here](#)



Join us on zoom this Sunday at 6pm for our evening service. The link is in the email sent with this newsletter, and is the same link each week

The Preston Churches in Prayer

PRAYER

Tuesday morning Prayer Meetings:
now on zoom at 7.30am

Please email Andy Pratt for an invitation:
andrewpratt1@btinternet.com



It's not too late to join a group for the Wellbeing course. There is a new group starting next week alongside our existing growth groups. Contact the office if you're interested.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Don't forget to put the date for our APCM in your diary. It's on Sunday 23rd May, following our morning service.

This is a very important meeting in the life of the church, when we will have the opportunity to reflect on what has happened in the previous year, and to prepare for the coming year.

During the meeting we will elect Churchwardens and PCC members, who are the people responsible for the running of our church.

The meeting is open to everyone who is on our electoral roll. If you want to check you are included in this, please contact Pat.



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