

Mickleover Methodist Church – May 2020

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Prayer is essential. Henri Nouwen says ‘In prayer, you encounter God not only in the small voice and the soft breeze, but also in the midst of the turmoil of the world, in the distress and joy of your neighbor, and in the loneliness of your own heart.’ Our world is in turmoil, our lives have been disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, many of our neighbours may be feeling distress, you may be feeling loneliness. Now is the time for prayer. Prayer changes everything. Pray for a deeper encounter with God. Pray that during this time many people may turn to God and encounter the living Lord Jesus. Pray that God’s kingdom may come. Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Pray for God’s will to be done. Pray that God will show us how we, the Methodist people in this place, should move forward as a discipleship movement shaped for mission. ² *‘This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it – the Lord is his name: ³ “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”* Jeremiah 33:2-3.

Keep well, keep safe, keep praying.

And may the power of the risen Lord be with you, Rev Gill

*Here are some suggestions of **prayer activities from Mickleover Churches Together** that might help you connect with God as you enjoy your daily walk. As you prepare to leave your home, pray that you will be open to encountering God in different ways and ask him to accompany you on your journey each day. Look out for some of the things below and choose which ones you want to focus on today.*

Neighbouring homes – pray for God’s blessing upon your neighbours and those living in your street.

Flowers/ blossom trees – thank God for all the good things in your life as you pause to enjoy their beauty.

Crossroads/road junction – reflect upon any choices or decisions you are facing at the moment and ask God to guide you and show you the path you should take.

Bins – take a moment to think about anything you have said or done recently which you regret. Imagine throwing those things into the bin. As you confess them, let go of them and receive God's free gift of forgiveness and reassurance.

Shops/businesses – pray for all those working to feed and support the nation, especially key workers. Think about those facing economic hardship and pray for God's provision for them.

Sun – as you feel the warmth of the sun shining enjoy the warmth of God's love for you and rest in his embrace as a child in a loving parent's arms.

Postbox/telegraph poles – remember all those you will contact today through email, social media, on the telephone etc... and pray that those conversations will be mutual blessings

Bird song – as you listen to the birdsong, pray that God will open your ears to enable you to hear what he wants to say to you today.

Drains – reflect upon those things you find tiring and draining that seem to sap your energy. Ask for God's help to faithfully attend to those things you need to and the wisdom to know what you can discard and let go of at this time.

Street names/road signs – think about how you are acting as a sign of God's love and pray for opportunities to point others to Jesus and ways to model and demonstrate his love.

Wind – as you feel, see and hear the wind blowing, pray that God will send his Holy Spirit upon you and fill you to overflowing with his life, love, energy and gifts.

People – as you see and pass others, greet them and offer words of comfort and encouragement. When you have walked on, pray for God's blessing upon them and that they might come to know God's love for them.

Your doorstep – as you return home, thank God for being with you and pray for his blessing upon your home and family, committing yourself to be a channel of his mercy and grace for the remainder of the day.

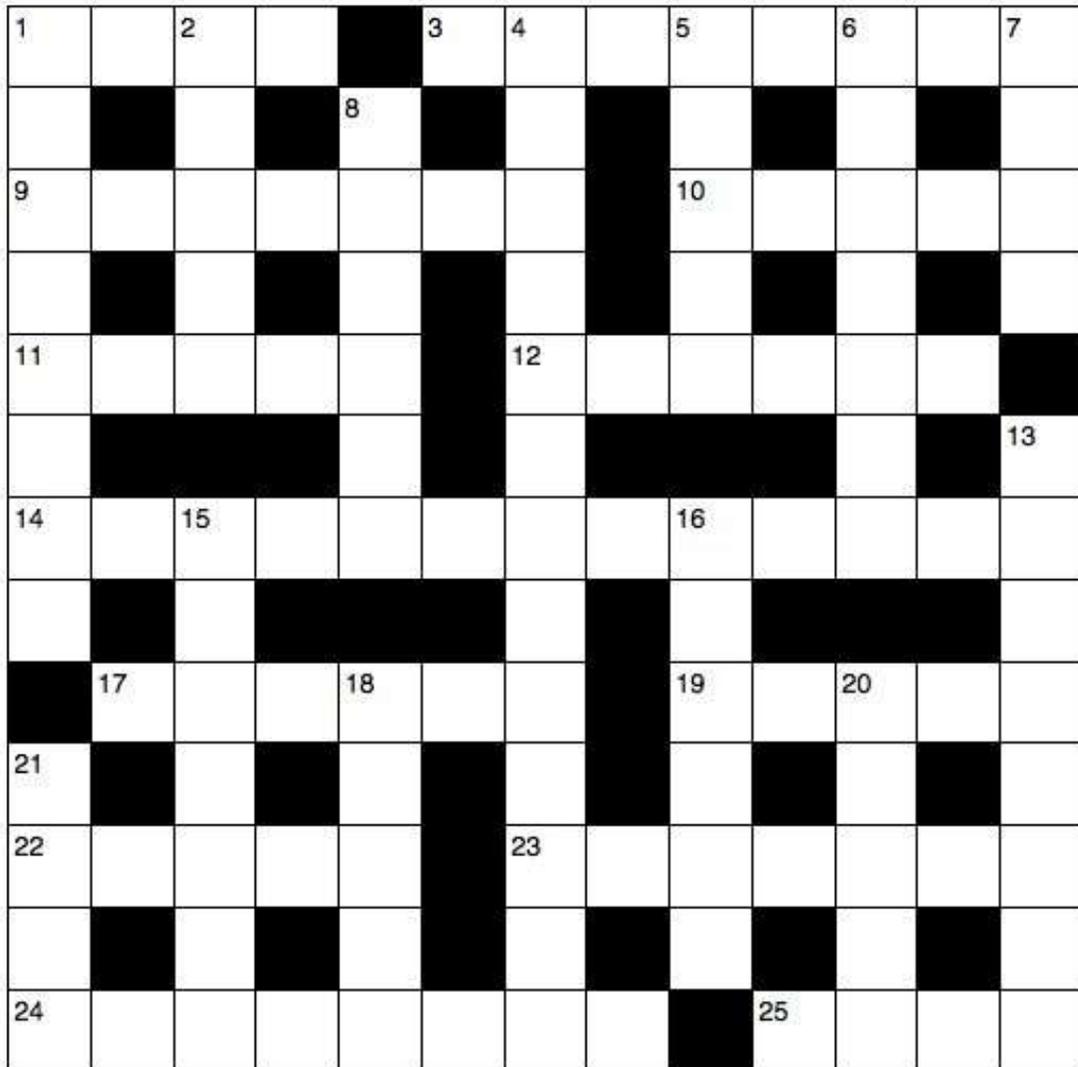
In His shadow *(Based on Psalm 91)*

As we dwell in the shadow of Mighty God
We will know all the blessings that He will bring,
His faithfulness will be our shield
Under the covering of His wings.

Protected by His sheltering love
Our refuge we take in Him each day,
If we call on His Name His answer will come
As angels will guard us in all our ways

What comfort and peace we all can know
That God Himself will hold us fast,
And keep us safe engulfed in His love
Until these days of danger have passed.

By Megan Carte www.parishpump.co.uk1



Across

1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)

3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)

9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)

10 Group of eight (5)

11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)

12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)

14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)

17 'So that after I have preach to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27)(6)

- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 ‘The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir’ (5)
- 4 ‘We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous(Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 ‘I am — of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility’ (Matthew 27:24) (8) .
- 15 ‘Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends’ (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 ‘No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit’ (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

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Thy Kingdom Come – May 21st to May 31st 2020 –
 calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus, to deepen their own relationship with Jesus and to pray for the empowerment of the Spirit so that we may be effective in our witness.

Strange Times

A man was going from Jerusalem to Jericho. On his journey he met a priest who greeted him warmly and shook his hand, enquiring about his family and how business was going. A little later he met a Levite who embraced him and asked how the preparations for his son`s forthcoming bar mitzva were coming along. Promising that he would be there at the party, they parted company. Further along the road there was a Samaritan who crossed over and passed by on the other side of the road.

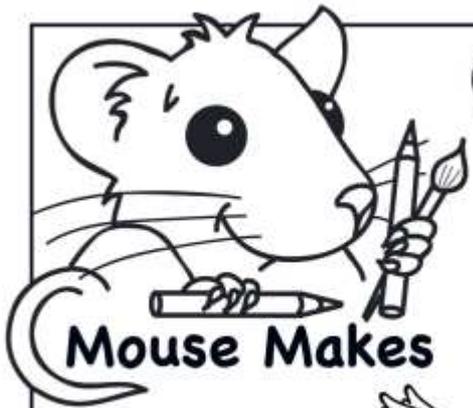
Who was the good neighbour?

We live in strange times and what we have taken for granted for all of our lives has changed in the space of a few short weeks. Many of us cannot leave our homes and others are severely limited as to how, why and when they can go outside. We are cut off from family and friends and although we can see each other via electronics. it is not the same as a cuddle from my grandson!

We may have increased pressures of anxiety and depression, sometimes wondering if we can make ends meet or if the shops will have what we need. However, there will be an end to the situation and we can often see God`s hand at work in the bravery, courage and kindness which we have seen emerging as this pandemic is tackled.

My hope is that as a result of these terrible times, humanity will emerge as more caring and understanding with a greater awareness of our true priorities as individuals and as a nation. Decades ago, Margaret Thatcher stated that there was no such thing as society. I hope that we have proven her wrong and that there has emerged strong sense of society which truly values each of its members.

Phil Royle



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"

How many other words can you find using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?



Read Galatians 5:13-26



U O
N T R V
G R A C E G O D
B T H E L P E A C E
T P A T I E N C E I
J G T R U S T R J
C R L O R D L E E
A K I N D N E S S
L O V E H O N T U
M J E R O D E K S
G O O D N E S S
C A Y M O E L S
O B L E S S I S
N F R U I T G P
D T Y H O L Y H I
A S E L F C O N T R O L P S E R V E V
A U C O N S I D E R A T E O A R T M I E V E R
E B N I N T E G R I T Y O D Y C A R E S N E
B I C O M P A S S I O N E A C Y A N H T
A T O L E R A N C E S I E L O E I T H
Y G E N E R O S I T Y D T R R N S
F A I T H F U L N E S S Y D Y T
G O O D W I L L P

Which symbol goes with which fruit?



- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
- AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
- PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
- GOODWILL • GENEROSTITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
- FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
- SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

Gathered Church by Rev Jo White www.parishpump.co.uk

Doesn't the simple pleasure of going to church and exchanging the peace at Sunday worship seem long ago now?

But we can take comfort when we think back to the Apostles who were commissioned to build God's Church. After the first Pentecost, they gathered together, in their own homes. They didn't build church buildings immediately.

Although, we can't physically 'gather' just now, we have the technology to 'gather' together, both in real time and at a later time.

And it is important to do so. There is something powerful when we pray together rather than alone. Try phoning a friend with the same written prayer and saying it together. How does that feel? Any different from saying it on your own?

Keep calm. Keep knitting – squares 6” or 8”

for blankets 6ft x 4ft sewn up by Barbara Sims to go as gifts of love to 'Orphans Around The World'. Hold on to your squares until after lockdown finishes if you can't get them to Barbara at the moment.

Prayer for Mickleover Thurs 7th May 10.15am – message from Ray Lee. As we are unable to hold a walk together, I am planning a private Zoom meeting, at our usual time. I also have a sheet with prayer walk suggestions that each of us can use individually. If you want to join us, email ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk or call 239645 for joining instructions.

You can now follow us on Facebook at Mickleover Methodist Church

Answers to crossword

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.