

Mickleover Methodist Church June 2020

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Summer is here, the garden is looking lovely, and the sparrows are busy feeding their young in our garden. The seeds in the bird feeder are going down at an amazing rate, how can such small creatures eat so much?! There are many hungry mouths to feed, even though the chicks are nearly as big as their parents they still clamour and cry to be fed. The coronavirus pandemic has left many parents with hungry mouths to feed, some perhaps needing the support of a food bank for the first time. Are you able to help feed the hungry?

Summer is here, the garden is looking lovely, but the ground is dry, bone dry. Weeks with little rain have left the plants thirsty, in need of water, life-giving water. Water that now comes in watering cans from the water butt or from the hose connected to the outside tap. The coronavirus pandemic has affected people in many ways; for some it has become a time of searching the internet for on-line church services and information on how to pray. These people are thirsty, in desperate need of water for their souls. Are you willing to be a vessel that carries the life-giving water of Jesus to the thirsty?

After Jesus offered the Samaritan women at the well his life-giving water Jesus said to his followers 'I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.' (John 4:35). On the day of Pentecost, the annual Jewish celebration of the wheat harvest, all the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and became the vessels which took the life-giving water of Jesus to all who were there in Jerusalem. The fields were ripe, and the harvest was great that day as many people responded and received the Holy Spirit. Jesus says to us '*Look around you and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.*'

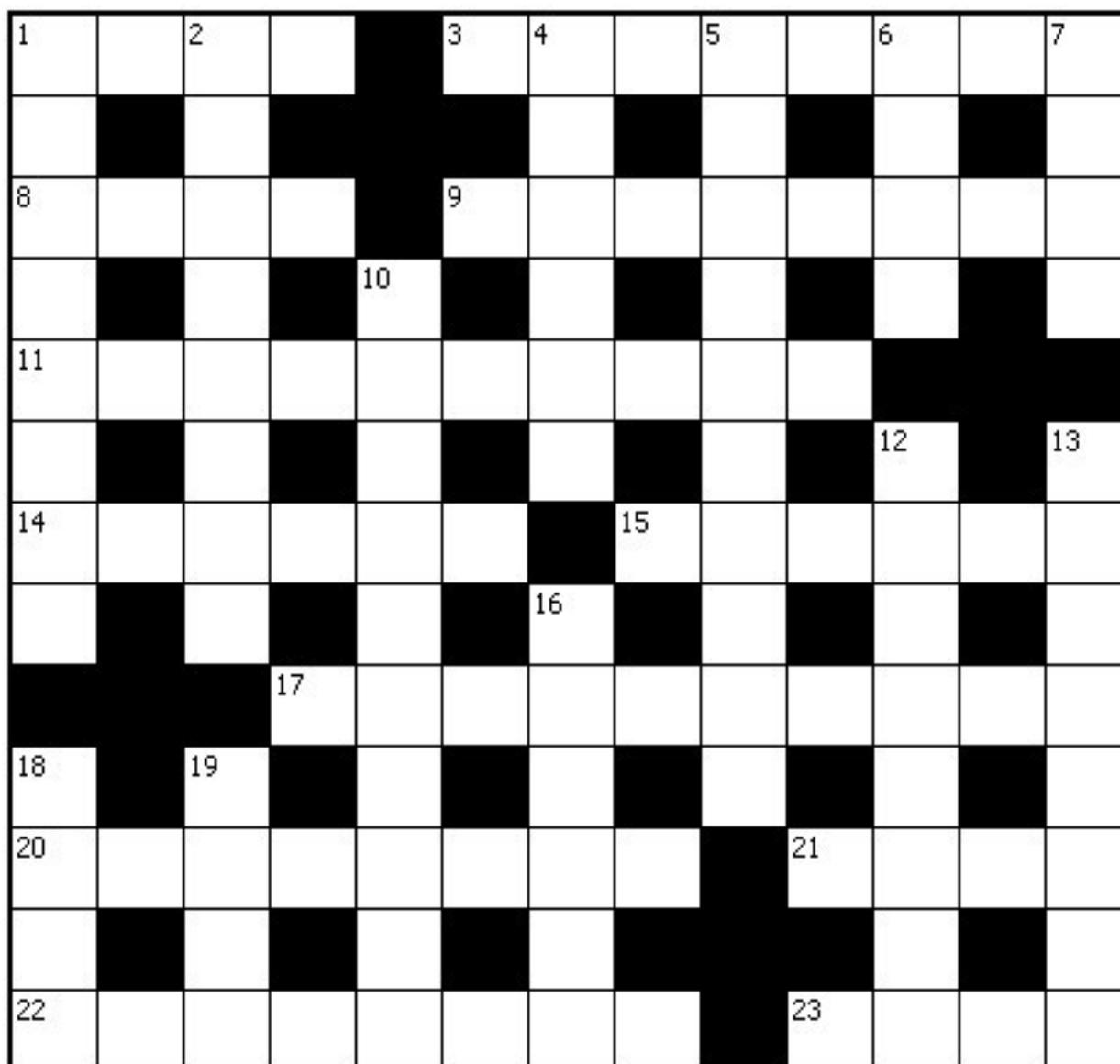
One way we can show our love and care for our community is through sharing prayers on a 'Reflection Window' at church; prayers of your heart, hopes for the future, and remembering loved ones. Rev Gill

A Psalm of lament and praise in a time of coronavirus

How shall we praise you, Lord, our God?
When we are locked down,
how shall we praise you?
When the doors to your house are barred,
and your people cannot assemble?
When those desperately in need of money and work
cannot even wait in the market-place?
When we have to circle round people in the street,
and to queue for shops maintaining safe distance?
When we can only communicate
by hearing on the phone,
or seeing on the screen;
or digitally messaging,
or even just waving through a window?
When we cannot meet our parents and children,
grandparents and grandchildren,
or other family members and friends?
When we cannot touch them in their flesh and blood,
to know they are really alive?
How shall we praise you?
How, like Thomas, shall we not see yet believe
that your son is raised among us?
How shall we praise you?
How can I praise you, Lord?
Are you plaguing us with this virus
to punish us because we have all done wrong,
or thought wrongly,
or felt wrongly, or just been wrong?

If so, why do only some die,
and those, apparently, the ones who are the least worst or most
caring amongst us?
Or are you trying to teach us a lesson?
If so, why is it so hard to learn?
And how are we to find the answer
when we do not even know the question?
Or are you still the same loving God,
coming to us in our sufferings
and opening up the way to new life in Jesus?
Lord, I will try to praise you.
Through gritted teeth, I will try to praise you.
I will try to remember that you have created all things,
and this virus is part of your creation.
I will try not to hate it
but seek to mitigate its harm.
I will try to keep myself and others safe.
I will work to pray for them
and seek to help in whatever way I can.
Lord, when I cannot pray or worship
help me be aware of all your people
and your saints and angels
hovering around me, lifting me up.
When I feel alone,
let me feel you near me,
even if only for a moment that enables me to go on.
Let me hear you say
“Peace be with you”.
Lord, I will praise you.
Let all the peoples praise you

CROSSWORD JUNE 2020



Across

1 See 23 Across

3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)

8 Invalid (4)

9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)

11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)

14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)

15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)

17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)

20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)

21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)

22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)

23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)

2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)

4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)

5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)

6 St Columba's burial place (4)

7 Swirling current of water (4)

10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)

12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)

13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)

16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)

18 David Livingstone was one (4)

19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

Derby Food Bank Thank you so much for the huge amount of giving each week. Over a hundred bags of food have now been taken- what a difference that makes to so many families! The centre is now looking at apples, carrots and potatoes as well. They need to have a 2 week "sell-by" date to give time for picking up, distribution and usage. Toiletries are also needed as well as the basic foods.

Contact Church Office for arranging pick up of items.

A Time To Read - some points to ponder during lockdown.

Since retiring almost ten years ago, I have taken to reading quite a lot. I must admit that most of the reading has been the easy-reading variety, detective novels etc. During the lockdown I have still been reading this genre but have decided that for each “trashy” novel I read, I will intersperse with something more “enlightening”. I have therefore taken to reading some of the books which I have acquired over the years but never read. These include books from my Dad`s bookshelves and also my stepmother who had a degree in classics and taught theology/ RE in various schools. Some of these books have been on church history, the life/person of Jesus and also general theology books.

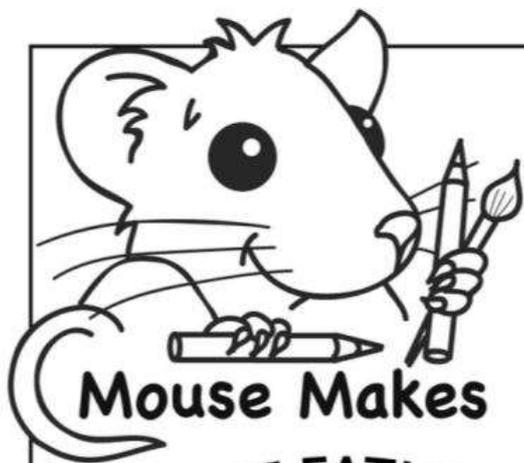
I must admit that I have struggled with some of the content, especially those which come across as someone`s PhD thesis where the reader needs a dictionary alongside to try to decipher most of the words. Others have been by authors with whom I know I will disagree with, but it has helped me by reading them to ponder on what I do actually believe. A couple of books have been written by writers who have some extremely weird and unorthodox ideas causing me to question their sanity! Many books have been written in an oversimplified way and I have felt quite patronised upon completion. Finally, there have been books where the author has explained complex theology in a manner which is comprehensible and stimulates in the reader the process of thinking more deeply about the subject.

Whilst out running today I realised that these books very often are mirrored in services and sermons which I have listened to over time. No doubt, I have also preached sermons which have mirrored some of these books. Some preachers/worship leaders have been incomprehensible, others patronising, whilst occasionally I have been forced to question the sanity of the speaker. I have always appreciated those services which have encouraged me to think about and in a deeper way explore my own faith – this has occurred with preachers with whom I may or may not agree.

As a preacher I must consider how my services will be received and try not to be patronising, too simple or too academic but all the time trying to stimulate thought and the seeking of a deeper understanding. We must always bear in mind that in the congregation there may be someone who is there to explore, and we have a great responsibility to nurture that person and give them something to encourage their return.

I finish with two quotes from the former Bishop of Durham, David Jenkins
“People have to know quite a lot about God before they can stand up to going to church.” and “I would not be a bishop if I were not clear that even the church cannot keep a good God down.”

Love to you all. Phil Royle



"May the *grace* of the Lord **JESUS** Christ and the *love* of **GOD** and the *fellowship* of the **HOLY SPIRIT** be with you all."
2 Corinthians 13:13



Can you find all the names of the Trinity in this 3 in 1 word search?

GOD - THE FATHER

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

GOD - THE SON

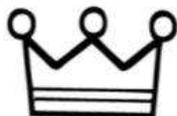
M E S S I A H
S J M O S T T A L
C E M N V W R B A
H S A V I O U R M
R U N O N R T E B
I S U B E D H A W
S H E P H E R D A
T A L I G H T A Y
L O R D O O R



LORD • GOD
JEHOVAH • I AM
YAHWEH • 
HOLY • ONE
SAVIOUR • KING
 ETERNAL
ALMIGHTY
CREATOR • JUDGE
FATHER • ON HIGH



JESUS • CHRIST
SAVIOUR • LORD
EMMANUEL
 SHEPHERD
LAMB
WAY • SON
DOOR • LIGHT 
BREAD • WORD
MESSIAH • VINE



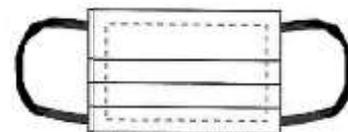
GOD - THE SPIRIT

HOLY • SPIRIT • COMFORTER • TEACHER • GUIDE
HELPER • TRUTH • POWER • WISDOM • BREATH • ETERNAL



Hiding in one of the puzzles is the word 'TRINITY', can you find it?

Face masks



Initially we were told that the wearing of masks had very little effect in the prevention of catching the Covid-19 virus. According to the Internet, the UK and Singapore even urged the public not to wear masks to ensure there was enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers.

South Korea has controlled the spread quite effectively while enforcing masks. And so the advice has gradually changed and we are now advised to wear masks or mouth covering as we continue to leave our houses more often and move into potentially crowded spaces.

Internet research provided many sources in the USA with many 'crafting' ladies offering all sorts of designs and fabrics, including T-shirts and involving pockets for paper towels. The consensus was double thickness, good quality cotton.

I found an English site offering a basic pattern and instructions and based my design on that. I include a short piece of wire across the bridge of the nose that can be bent to fit and helps to stop your glasses from steaming up. They are washable.

Word has spread and so far, I have made 50 and have 6 left but will be making more in the next week in the light of this article being published. I didn't like to impose a charge but asked for donations towards Church funds. Folk have been very generous, and I am pleased to report I have given John £100 so far. If you would like one or two please get in touch. (Church Office [735052](tel:735052))
Sally Levitt

Zoom session with Michael Harvey Wednesday 3rd June 7pm

Michael Harvey is the Chief Executive of National Weekend of Invitation and will be leading this session on helping us think about what it means for us to be invitational. All are welcome to join on the usual zoom link.

Prayer for Mickleover Thurs 7th May 10.15am – message from Ray Lee.

As it seems unlikely we will be able to hold a walk together, I am planning another private Zoom meeting, at our usual time. If you want to join us, email ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk or call 239645 for joining instructions.

Sabbatical Talk Wednesday 10th June at 10.30am - Revd Jenny Dyer will be giving a presentation of her trip to India during her Sabbatical earlier this year. Join on the usual 10am Coffee and chat Zoom session.

You can now follow us on Facebook at Mickleover Methodist Church