

Dear All,

I trust that you are keeping well and finding new ways to occupy your time and energies.

Thank you to all those who continue to work or who are now volunteering to help others in this time of crisis.

Thank you to those who are spending their time in supporting each other and phoning or arranging delivery of provisions to those in need.

As we approach the second week without a formal church gathering, so we recognise more and more the need to be church beyond the walls of our buildings. For some, the internet has already helped, and there are Methodist resources online that can be linked into, that are a good quality and are a wide range of styles to try and help us. I watched three last week as they continue to be available past the actual time of streaming. This is the link to the Methodist online resources <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

There are also short messages from both Mark Coles and Linda Bishop on Facebook, either on the Padgate page or the Warrington Methodist churches page. Have a look and engage where you can.

From this week on Wednesdays 2 - 4pm I intend to open up a Zoom virtual chat room for those who would like to connect - bring your own coffee & cake and settle down to see and 'chat' with other members of the churches and community. Come and go as you please during the time.

On Thursdays 2 - 3.30pm I intend to do the same for Deeper, looking once more at the scriptures that are set for the previous Sunday. It's not practical to try to continue the Lent course as not everyone has the ability to see the video, but allows us time together to strengthen our faith.

For those who have never heard of Zoom, it is an internet based chat space, used by businesses (and the Diaconal Order) for conferences etc. I'm just looking at how we might use it to help our computer-savvy contacts stay within the loop. There is an app that can be downloaded for free to a computer or phone / tablet. I hope to see as many of you for coffee as possible!

If you'd like to join either or both Zoom meetings, please contact me for the login details / links (tel: 07880 881964 or by email: helen.coleman@methodist.org.uk)

And on a spiritual note. My mother passed the following on to me:

St Francis de Sales wrote these words in 16th century.

They are still relevant today:

Do not look forward in fear

to the changes in life;

Rather look to them with full hope

that as they arise, God,

whose very own you are,

will lead you safely through all things;

And when you cannot stand it,
God will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear
what may happen tomorrow;
The same everlasting Father
who cares for you today
Will take care of you every day.
He will either shield you from suffering
or will give you unfailing strength
to bear it.

Be at peace
and put aside
all anxious thoughts
and imaginings.

Stay well.

Shalom

Deacon Helen