



Ruislip Manor Methodist Church

Sunday 21st March 2021

www.rmmc.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/tempRMMC/

We are delighted to be reopening our church building for worship on Palm Sunday, Sunday 28th March.

There is a comprehensive summary of how things will be different to normal so that we can stay safe and within the government guidelines.

There are details below of how to book to let us know you are coming so we can prepare more effectively. On the first Sunday back there will only be 20 places available but we hope to increase that number over the following weeks.

If you are able to book a place then do wrap up warm - the windows will be open for ventilation but the heating will be turned off once the congregation starts to enter on the advice of the heating engineer to avoid airborne infections.

Regardless of what happens on Sunday mornings our evening service will continue for the time being on Zoom.

Peace to you,

Roger

6pm Sunday 21st March Evening Service: Philip Woods

The default access code:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81332285563?pwd=ZVB5YTk2bWVlQUx0RmFsbkxYlg2dz09> Meeting ID: 813 3228 5563. Passcode: 018864 Landline: 0203 051 2874

7.30pm Monday 22nd March Lent Course

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81531797341?pwd=bnU3ZEpGUGFoSEVSK0d1N3JpOEIwUT09> Meeting ID: 815 3179 7341 Passcode: 823327 Landline: 0203 051 2874

Which is also the probable code for the remainder of the meetings.

Circuit Zoom Service

Join us at **10.45am** each Sunday morning to share in worship with others from around the Circuit. If you are unable to attend your Church service and would like to continue online worship- this is for you!

The Circuit Zoom Service this **Sunday, 21st March** will be led by **Revd Julie King**

Log into Zoom using the following details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88601433540?pwd=VjZYUzBEVEFsOHdxS2VRRENUMzIsUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 0143 3540

Passcode: 611964

Following Oprah's interview with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, much of this week's news has revolved around discussions of rejection, rivalry, and rocky royal relationships.

Tolstoy's famous observation that 'every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way' springs to mind. In this case, the interview gave particular focus to painful comments about race and the torment of facing mental health struggles without support, especially in a foreign cultural climate.

The experience of Harry and Meghan, played out under the glare of the global media's spotlight, is utterly unique in some ways. Yet, it's familiar in others: 'I feel really let down by my father,' commented Harry. 'I

didn't want to be alive anymore,' admitted Meghan. Feelings of intense loneliness and loss described by the couple reflect painful realities many experience: broken relationships, miscarriage, bereavement, parental rejection, prejudice, isolation, and even suicidal thoughts.

Mother Teresa once said, 'The greatest disease in the West today ... is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love.'

We're now approaching a full year since the first pandemic lockdown – a year which, for many, has been the hardest ever experienced. While it's tempting to consume salacious speculation and cast judgement from afar, perhaps we should look closer to home. How might Oprah's interview lead us to reflect constructively on our own families and friendships, and our (much less public) frontlines? Where is there unresolved hurt? How might I listen more generously, speak more kindly, and forgive more quickly?

Families can be messy. Royal ones are no exception. Yet, the intimacy of a parent–child relationship is an astounding metaphor for the perfect, unconditional love of God for his people: 'See what great love the Father has *lavished* on us, that we should be called children of God!' (1 John 3:1).

As adopted children of divine royalty, each of us is called to mirror God's love in the setting he's placed us. We aren't called to give a public statement on our relationships from Oprah's sofa, but we invest in and cultivate them in the everyday: around the dinner table, in the Zoom work meeting, by the school gate, at the checkout.

A distinctive response to public scandal is not to look down on others but to re-examine ourselves instead, asking where we can give more grace this coming week.

Katherine Ladd. LICC blog on 12th March.

Maundy Thursday Passion Narrative

Please book now to read!

This Maundy Thursday we won't be able to gather for a communion service but that gives us the opportunity to try something different. Mark is the oldest and shortest Gospel. It has famously been described as a "passion narrative with an extended introduction". It gives a disproportionate amount of space to Jesus' final week rather than his entire ministry or the thirty-something years that Jesus had lived beforehand. Moreover even the earlier parts of the Gospel prepare us for that final week. The reader senses and knows from the start that Jesus is the Christ who is destined to suffer and die.

So this Maundy Thursday evening we will read through about half the Gospel starting about halfway through Jesus' three year ministry. At this point Jesus asks the key question, '*Who do you say I am?*' - you've been with me for 18 months. You've heard me preach, you've seen me work miracles, you've been my constant companions. So, '*Who do you say I am?*'

I have divided the section up into 40 readings. I hope that a lot of people will want to share in the reading. Please let me know by Monday 29th March if you are happy to read one or more of those. I will then let people know which passage(s) they are reading by Wednesday evening (contact me if you don't hear back!). Or feel free simply to come and listen.

We are so used to hearing snippets from the Bible it is good to experience the flow of a Gospel. It takes about 90 minutes to read Mark all the way through so I expect this special service will last up to an hour.

Maundy Thursday Passion Reading 7:30pm 1st April

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88293974583?pwd=M1FIWGo3Tk4vSzh2cDlwNmpuSGN3QT09> Meeting ID: 882 9397 4583. Passcode: 959824. Landline: 0203 051 2874

Reopening the Church

We are very pleased to be reopening our Church for worship on Palm Sunday, Sunday 28th March.

If you are in a 'vulnerable' group, the advice is not to attend public worship and we want everyone to feel safe. Obviously if you have any symptoms or feel unwell please stay at home.

So how will things be different?

Booking

Social distancing is limiting the numbers we are able to accommodate and so we will ask people to book a place in advance by an email to enquiries@rmmc.org.uk or by telephone: 07881 270747 (Eileen Runkel) Please contact Eileen by 6pm on Saturday. Thank you

Welcome and arrival

Windows and doors will be left open during the service to facilitate ventilation so if necessary, please wrap up warm!

We are aiming to keep to the two metres social distancing beginning with queuing if necessary, to enter church.

Face coverings must be worn.

'Track and Trace' means that we will record your name as you enter. This information will be kept for three weeks.

There will be a one-way system with entry through the glass doors in Torrington Road. The exit for those who are able to use the steps will be to Ashburton Road. Appropriate signs will be put up before reopening.

Please use the hand sanitiser when you enter or leave the building.

Cushions can be taken from the usual place but should be left on the chair at the end of the service.

A door steward will direct you to the seat assigned to you when you booked.

Once seated you will not be able to move around the church.

Toilets

The toilets will be open but to accommodate social distancing only one person can use the toilet area at a time. Please follow the one-way system back to the Church via the link corridor (coat corridor)

Worship

No Bibles, Hymn books or Worship Books will be provided though feel free to bring your own. Words will be on the screens. If that will prove difficult for you, please let us know. Books that are handed out must be left in the church and will be quarantined.

Singing is not permitted though we are likely to listen to some hymns and songs.

We are asked not to raise our voices but to speak at normal volume e.g. in any liturgical responses. We will not be having printed notices but are aiming to still have the weekly email which we hope is passed onto those without computers by pastoral visitors or by someone else.

We are aiming that each service will be no longer than 45 minutes.

The 6pm Sunday 'Zoom' service will continue if there is sufficient demand.

Offertory

There will be a collection plate as we walk to our seat. To lower the risks of cross-contamination as well as various other benefits it would be helpful if as many as possible were able to give by Standing Order, Bank Transfer or other electronic means (please contact Graham if you would like more information - treasurer@rmmc.org.uk 0208 868 7852). However, if giving on a Sunday, notes rather than coins would simplify the task for those counting the collection.

Leaving

We will not be able to meet for refreshments after the service.

Door stewards will help you leave beginning with those in the back rows. Please remember social distancing as you leave.

Please do not enter the church during the week but if you need to do so please clean any surfaces that you touch.

I'm conscious that for some of you these precautions will sound 'over the top', whilst for others they will not be enough! However, we need to respect and support one another and keep each other safe.

If you would be able to help as a steward for our return to Church, please contact Janet Fairclough. Thank you

Whitechapel Mission

Owing to the Covid-19 situation we have not been able to collect/deliver Foodstuffs, Toiletries or clothes for Whitechapel during the lockdown. The work of the Whitechapel Mission still carries on 24/7, the needs of the homeless does not cease but increases during this emergency. We are therefore appealing for cash only donations which will assist Whitechapel to remain open for 365 days a year.

Whatever you are able to give will be gratefully received. Nothing is deducted for admin as every penny will go towards the work of caring for the needy.

You may BACs transfer to our Treasurer Graham via:-

Ruislip Manor Methodist Church.

CAF Bank Sort Code 40-52-40

Account No. 00033759

Please make sure that you insert in the Ref box WHITECHAPEL MISSION This is ESSENTIAL for Graham.

If you wish to Donate via the Mission website please ensure that you notify Graham so that it can be recorded for this Appeal. There are always envelopes on the Vestible Table which can be used when the Church re-opens. If you are able and pay Income Tax please GIFT AID your Donation so that 25p in every pound will be added to your Donation.

Many Thanks

Roger Davis RMMC Whitechapel Rep.

Len Aves is moving to Prestwood near Great Missenden next week. Thank you Len for being such an active member at the Church and for all the tasks you have undertaken. We will miss you and will be thinking of you as you settle into your new home. If you would like Len's new address please contact Janet Fairclough.

Spring Harvest

Spring Harvest is taking place online again this year, from 4th to 8th April. Unlike last year, this year's event will be ticketed. Ticket prices start at £55 which gives full access to the event for two devices in the same household, with the ability to catch up on sessions missed until the end of April. More information is available from the Spring Harvest website at:

<https://springharvest.org/springharvesthome21> .

Prayer Requests

Please continue to pray for :-

anyone suffering from mental issues and from loneliness because of isolation.

all those who have contracted Coronavirus and thank God for all who have survived.

Prayers and Blessings to all at Ruislip Manor and beyond - stay safe.

Friday 19th March:

This week we pray for everyone at North Harrow Methodist Church

We bring Elm Park and Tudor Luncheon Clubs to God in prayer.

We also pray for the people who live in Dartmouth Road and Dawlish Drive

We wish many happy returns to all who celebrate a birthday in March



CIRCUIT PRAYER MEETING All are welcome to join our Circuit Prayer Meeting every Thursday morning starting at 9am and finishing by 9.30am. Currently, the Circuit Mission Strategy is focusing on Prayer and we look forward to praying together.

Please find Login details below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84168659990?pwd=NWpOcW1YNIRSeIdHVU1iaVXWGgwQT09>

Meeting ID: 841 6865 9990

Passcode: 296725

Methodist Women in Britain 2021.

The service will be held at Lighthouse Centre, Queen's Walk, South Ruislip,

HA4 0NL on Sunday 16th May 2021 starting at 6pm (Please note the service may be via ZOOM depending on the COVID restrictions at the time).

Every Easter the Methodist Church in Britain invites donations to the World Mission Fund through Easter Offering envelopes. Your giving to the Methodist World Mission Fund helps support mission partners working overseas, nationals in mission appointments and overseas students in ministry training. It allows the Church to make grants to Partner Churches for special projects. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic Easter Offering in 2020 did not take place. Please make your donations to the Church Treasurer by 20th April 2021. This can be done electronically to CAF bank, account number: 00033759, sort code: 40-52-40 quoting Easter Offering as the reference. If you are signed up to gift aid, that will automatically apply. If you cannot give electronically, please post cheques, made payable to Ruislip Manor Methodist Church to Graham. Thank you

Items for the News sheet for Friday 26th March to **Janet Miles** , by email

newsletter@rmmc.org.uk by **Wednesday 24th March**, please