

April - May 2020

# ENCOUNTER



<http://www.redhillmethodist.org.uk/>

[https://www.facebook.com/redhillmethodistchurch/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/redhillmethodistchurch/?ref=br_rs)



### REDHILL MESSY CHURCH FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEERS!

We are all having to get used to not seeing friends and family during this time. I'm sure that, like me, you miss being able to have fun and fellowship together at Messy Church!

Along with social media and phone calls, we can be together in spirit as we remember all the happy afternoons we have enjoyed at Messy Church and as we pray for each other. Jesus is always with us. He is our best friend and always wants to hear from us. Let's talk to Jesus, sing songs of praise to him (especially ones with actions!) and thank him for helping us day by day, until we meet again.

*Messy Church Co-ordinator*

In the meantime, you can find online resources to help you Get Messy at home for Easter!

On our church website:

<http://www.redhillmethodist.org.uk/>



Find us on Facebook  
@redhillmethodistchurch

On the Messy Church website:

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>



# FROM THE MINISTER

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

Dear All,

The peace of God be with you especially at this time. I hope you are keeping well in this season of self-isolation and social distancing under the shadow cast by the coronavirus threat.

From conversations with some of you it would appear that by and large people are coping well and being resourceful. We may be isolated from one another but for many this period has provided the incentive to 'look over each another in love' with phone calls, texts and other clever technology to keep in touch though I hope there will also be a revival of the good 'old school' tradition of putting pen to paper and communicating by means of letter-writing! Generally, people are feeling well-cared for. Well done everyone.

On this note particular 'Well done' also to all who are keeping our website, Facebook and email communications refreshed and with timely information. You know who you are, Thank you. Social media has never been more prolific yielding amongst much dross some nuggets of gold such as this thoughtful reflection below:

*'when this is over may we never again take for granted  
a handshake with a stranger  
full shelves at the store  
conversations with neighbours  
a crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
the taste of Communion  
a routine check-up  
the school rush each morning  
coffee with a friend  
the stadium roaring*

*Each deep breath. A boring Tuesday. Life itself.  
When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people  
we wanted to be, we were called to be  
and may we stay that way – better for each other because of the worst.'*

**Laura Kelly Fanucci**

When this time is over may we indeed never again take such blessings for granted but remain even more intentional in how we hold and make space for one another.

In the midst of all this Easter approaches. These solemn times we're living has in some way helped to make this season of Lent even more meaningful. Anxiety about the virus and ravages not only in our country but throughout the worlds picks up the 'heavy' feeling of Lent with its heavy sense of foreboding as Jesus resolutely makes his way to the Cross. But Easter however is confirmation that light emerges from the darkest tomb and that our Saviour triumphs even over death!

*"See, what a morning gloriously bright,  
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light,  
as the angels announce Christ is risen!  
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,  
borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
fulfilled in Christ, the Man,  
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!"*

And because he is risen from the dead we know that this time of darkness too shall pass. Hallelujah!

Yet it is most likely that Easter morning we will still be in lockdown. An Easter morning with churches shut will feel empty and strange indeed. So how may we make this Easter day in particular meaningful, celebratory and triumphant?

May I suggest that in keeping with our usual Easter tradition of transforming our Lenten cross from an instrument of pain to a resounding affirmation of Christ risen we make for ourselves at home individual crosses and decorate these with flowers, brightly coloured tissue, coloured glass or whatever other imaginative ways you wish with whatever you have to hand, to hang in our windows or doors as a symbol of our resurrection faith.


We could take pictures of our floral crosses and in time to come perhaps make it into a display on the website or in church?

And so as we journey through these times may we do so together albeit at the prescribed distance; continuing to keep one another in our prayers and watching over each other in love.

Especially let us pray for those known to us who have died, giving thanks for the way they have touched and shaped our lives. We also pray for families attending funerals under the current restrictions.

With very best wishes, love and prayer

*Felicity*



### Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

## FROM THE EDITOR

As I write we have just entered week 2 of the 'lock-down'. As we strive to create some semblance of normality in continuing to worship in various formats across the circuit, for many key and frontline workers life is anything but normal. All known personally to us are in our prayers.

### **I hope you have all found the new pages on the website:**

A page of ideas for new ways of worshiping, meditation and prayer:

<http://www.redhillmethodist.org.uk/worship/worship-resources/>

A page that will be updated each week with a service sheet unique to Redhill Methodist Church:

<http://www.redhillmethodist.org.uk/worship/worship-resources/a-service-to-share/>

And a page especially for the young people, with a weekly letter and other ideas:

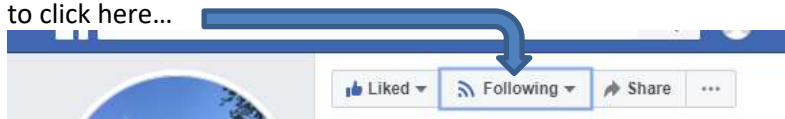
<http://www.redhillmethodist.org.uk/young-people/junior-church/thought-for-the-week/>

Many of you are also looking at the websites for the other churches in the circuit – each of them have new treasures for us to explore as we continue our walk with God.

### **I hope you have also found our Facebook page:**

[https://www.facebook.com/redhillmethodistchurch/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/redhillmethodistchurch/?ref=br_rs)

Remember that if you want to receive notifications of new posts you need to click here...



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year Christian Aid Week is from 11 – 17 May. Clearly the restrictions placed upon us as we face up to dealing with the coronavirus mean that none of our normal fund-raising activities can take place. Last year we raised about £1000 with our Big Brekkie event, the in-church collection, and a very limited door-to-door collection. Sadly, none of these efforts can take place this year however if you would like to contribute to the work of Christian Aid, I will be organising a church collection when things return normal.

In the meantime, please remember in your prayers the needs of those that Christian Aid supports.

Thank You,

AW

## RENEWED HOPE TRUST

Many of you have continued to support the work of Renewed Hope Trust which was our chosen charity for fund-raising in 2018-2019. The following excerpts are taken from their website and Facebook page.

Having closed the Drop-in due to Covid-19, Renewed Hope want to continue to support our community at this difficult time. With this in mind we are setting ourselves up as a foodbank working with St Matthew's Foodbank and Reigate & Banstead Council. We will be delivering food to people in need.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could help us with our Wish List. If you can donate any of the items please call on 01737 886997 or email [info@rhates.org](mailto:info@rhates.org) to organise delivery or collection.

Further details can be found on their website: <https://rhates.org/>

# New things I am doing...

## hints and tips from Encounter readers

*E writes:*

I am searching out new podcasts to listen to while I am in the garden. I found a series where folk singers are interviewed while out walking in their native area. It combines my love of folk music and walking. The link is <https://falkonfoot.podbean.com/> if anyone else is interested.

*AL has found this:*

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses> has lots of free courses, long and short. I am doing a six- week course, Religion and Conflict, which is very interesting, if challenging! Just finished week 2, 4 hours a week.

*H & R are:*

Taste -testing all the herbal tea bags in the Christmas selection they were given to choose the best, no milk required, hot drinks! So far, *peppermint* and *black tea chai* are coming top in the 'no added sugar/ honey' stakes. *Super berries* and *green tea tropical* just need a 'tiny' bit of something sweet. *Mango & strawberry* will wreck a sugar-free diet completely as, oddly, these need a whole dollop of honey...

*E writes:*

I have spent many hours in the garden this past week. Before the *lock down* there were so many things in my weekly schedule I had to find time and just manage to get around to the *essentials* in the garden. So now I can potter...and sit...and potter ...and sit. Mr Robin seems to enjoy my company and I certainly enjoy his singing. Two large crows are building a nest in a tree about 200 yards away way up in the highest branches of a very tall tree. I even saw a butterfly in dark yellow pass over my neighbour's fence. Boris and the police can severely restrict life as we know it. But, for us in the northern hemisphere, spring and summer are not included in any lock down. A very old song said 'You are nearer Gods heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth?? ... my question marks...blessings during these trying times.



*J says:*

I have been updating my Rainbow parents Facebook page with Guiding news and things for our little Rainbows to keep them busy, like the colourful Rainbows in their windows.

I have been reading bedtime stories to our grandchildren on a portal tv, which they seem to enjoy. Our garden fence is looking lovely after its coat of paint – shame we ran out of paint two panels before the end of the garden !

We were able to watch the Sunday church service from Trinity in East Grinstead; Ralph broadcast from his home, our daughter Tanya did the reading from her home and her husband James did the mixing and live streamed it on Facebook! The wonders of modern technology!

I have been reading crime novels by a newly discovered author, Ellie Griffiths. It's wonderful to read without feeling guilty that I have so many other things to do. We have all been so lucky to be blessed with some sunshine whilst we are unable to visit our family and friends. Best wishes to everyone – stay safe and well.

*JL writes:*

Since the lockdown and limited exercise opportunities, Richard and I have been exploring Redhill Common with more care. There are paths that have changed direction and character in the years that we've lived in Redhill. Some have disappeared completely; others have become much more muddy in wet weather; new ones have appeared. Interesting shelters have been built, perhaps inspired by survival programmes. The recent winds have brought down branches and even whole trees, and the ivy has burgeoned. In places it hangs down like tropical lianas, but probably not strong enough to swing on. While once we'd stop to watch the planes landing and taking off from Gatwick, we now listen for the birds and try to identify them from their calls, impossible in the old, noisy world. The lockdown has greatly increased our appreciation of this green space of grass and woodland.

*Then there are countless numbers of you...*

...tidying; singing along with Gareth Malone; following Pilates classes on the internet and becoming 'Admirals' on various on- line games.

# FLOWER QUIZ

A lot of you are getting out and about in your gardens. Taking a tip from all of you I got outside with my camera... what are the names of these flowers? *(Answers on the last page)*



## UPDATE ON YMCA FUNDRAISING

Members of our Church congregation who have been very generous over the years in their support for YMCA East Surrey's work with vulnerable people may be wondering what is happening about this year's fundraising challenges. We were planning to take part in the first fundraising challenge of 2020, the Y2Y marathon trek from Guildford to Redhill on March 29th. This would have been Janet's thirteenth Y2Y, but, because of the current need for social distancing, it has been postponed until later in the year.

Other challenges, including the Welsh Seven Summits which Janet was planning to attempt in June, may also have to be postponed, although the hope is that it will go ahead as planned, despite the disrupted training programme.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the 2020 Challenge Fund or who has offered to sponsor us. We'll keep you posted when the situation changes. However, there may be less of a challenge to completing the Y2Y later in the year, depending on the vagaries of the English weather. Although March 29th dawned bright and sunny, by the afternoon there had been hail, sleet and even snow in Redhill!

*JL & RS*

## REFLECTION FOR PALM SUNDAY FOLLOW, FOLLOW, FOLLOW

Emmanuel burst into the room, his face lit up with excitement. "You should have seen it, Grandad! He was riding on a donkey. There were crowds of people, and they were spreading branches on the road in front of him. I had to keep running ahead to be able to see him clearly as he passed." Jacob



nodded thoughtfully, “‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey’. I don’t expect you’ve learnt that scripture yet at the synagogue, Emmanuel – the prophet Zechariah, telling the people about the Messiah, the one whom God will send to rescue them ... and us.”

“Do you think this Jesus has been sent by God, Grandad? Some of the crowd shouted out ‘Hosanna!’ like they do at the festivals, and then ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’” Jacob frowned. “I’ve heard talk of this Jesus of Nazareth and some of the things he’s done. Maybe he is the one – but it’s not for the likes of me to know about that kind of thing. I leave that to Caiaphas, the high priest and the Sanhedrin. They know what’s best.”

Reuben, Emmanuel’s father had been silently working, listening to the conversation. Now he threw down his tools, “It’s all very well you quoting a prophet from hundreds of years ago, Dad. What we really want is a strong leader, someone who will rid us of these Romans who are occupying our land.” Jacob replied scornfully, “What! Like that Barabbas with his half-baked uprising, whom the Romans captured and will no doubt crucify!”

No-one spoke for a while. Then Hannah, Emmanuel’s mother broke the silence, her voice soft and hesitant: “I wasn’t going to say anything, Reuben, because I know you’re all for our people rising up against the Romans. But last week when I was visiting my sister in Bethany, she couldn’t stop talking about this Jesus of Nazareth. She was there when he raised Lazarus from the dead - he’d already been in the tomb for four days! It was a miracle and there have been others too - the blind being able to see. She describes Jesus as a man of such love and compassion ... a man of the people, a teacher sent from God.”

Hannah spoke now with greater confidence. “I don’t know what is going to happen now that Jesus has entered Jerusalem in such a way, in fulfilment of prophecy. I don’t know what the future holds for him or for us. But I do know that I believe in him now and whatever happens I will choose to follow him.” “Yes!” cried Emmanuel excitedly, “I choose to follow him as well. I think he’s cool!” With that, everyone laughed, and even Reuben picked up his tools again with a smile on his face!

*“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24) EN*

# PRAYER DIARY

## April

- 5th Lord, help me find the faith that leads to righteousness
- 6th For each of us to continue with careful Bible study
- 7th Give thanks for your own recoveries from past illnesses
- 8th Consider the sheer enormous surprise of the Resurrection
- 9th For travellers stranded overseas and so far, unable to get home
- 10th Remember the non-violence of Jesus when he was seized --
- 11th -- and may I learn from His perfect example
- 12th For all who have volunteered to rejoin the NHS
- 13th Pray that any who find self-isolation hard may learn to deepen their resources
- 14th For better support for the self-employed
- 15th Lord, help me build up my treasure in heaven
- 16th For all who work to re-establish the richness of our nature and wildlife--
- 17th --and for wider acceptance of the need for this
- 18th For obedient persistence in those who are self-isolated
- 19th Remember Jesus' gracious response to Thomas' need for faith
- 20th For any who are too far away from their loved ones to visit them
- 21st Give thanks for any card or message of support you have received
- 22nd Lord, help me learn how to balance out between scepticism and charity--
- 23rd --and then may I always learn how to look for truth, and then stand by it
- 24th And, may I learn not to be swayed by inflammatory messages--
- 25th --but learn to relax into stillness and silence
- 26th Lord, may your Resurrection remain always a light in my heart
- 27th Lord, may all in our Church plan imaginatively for our future
- 28th Pray for young people not yet able to see a future for themselves
- 29th Lord, help me never to retaliate
- 30th Give thanks for offers made by friendly neighbours

## May

- 1st Go out and rediscover the indications of spring
- 2nd Pray for just and timely plans for restoring financial balance
- 3rd Recognise that Jesus' call to you is real
- 4th Lord, may I widen my field of interest; what have I not thought about?
- 5th Lord, help me get up and go, and exercise as much as I need--
- 6th --and keep me persistent in that
- 7th Pray for the families of any baby born just now, that time will enable greater closeness
- 8th Pray for those especially isolated by deafness, or no internet connection
- 9th Also for any whose income is reduced or absent at this time
- 10th Remember how Jesus prayed that all his followers might be one, and pray

that controversies in churches be reconciled

- 11th Pray for wisdom in all who decide how to keep our country running
- 12th Pray also for more effective approaches to peace in the Middle East
- 13th And for very large nations which have huge uncoun ted populations of the extremely poor, living crowded and utterly disadvantaged--
- 14th Give thanks that you do not now experience starvation
- 15th And pray for all working to get such children nourished in body and mind
- 16th Pray for any whose response to our situation is no more than anger and fear
- 17th May I find the Father through Jesus
- 18th Pray for better funding to aid agencies
- 19th For young people unable to show their ability through exams--
- 20th --and for all who have to work out satisfactory alternative gradings
- 21st Lord, may I always maintain a proper distance from others
- 22nd Pray for those whose work puts them at regular risk of infection
- 23rd Give thanks that, as Jesus knows each of us so well, we are never isolated
- 24th Lord, help me to obey the commands of Jesus
- 25th For ministers who cannot provide the pastoral care they wish to give
- 26th Pray for people who social centre has always been a pub
- 27th Lord, may I too be eager to serve
- 28th And pray for a blessing on all who help neighbours at this time
- 29th For people in the services who now help in unaccustomed ways
- 30th May I find refreshment in the words of hymns I do not sing just now--
- 31st --and learn to hum their tunes

## **June**

- 1st Give thanks for the mood created by summer and its sweetness
- 2nd Pray for the creation of the next Encounter
- 3rd --and for the readiness to contribute.
- 4th May we each remember and demonstrate the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
- 5th Lord, may I remember that you are always with me
- 6th Pray for the creation of the next Encounter
- 7th God, you are greater than I can understand; give me the faith and trust to cope with this

# ACTION FOR CHILDREN

The following is an extract from the Action for Children website:

## What we do

Our vision is that every child and young person in the UK has a safe and happy childhood, and the foundations they need to thrive.

We do this by working closely with children and their families, from before they're born until their twenties.

## Best start in life

We know how important the early years are - and we're here to help. From parenting advice to education and early intervention, we focus on improving children's life chances.

## Good mental health

Everyone has ups and downs in life. Our mental and emotional well-being experts work with families and schools to make sure that children and parents feel able to cope with challenges when they arise.

## A safe and loving home

We make sure children feel part of a family that cares for them. We find homes for those without, protect children who have been abused or neglected, and help ensure young carers don't miss out on a childhood.

We've been doing this for 150 years. In that time we've seen a lot of hardship. We've also seen what a huge difference the right support can make. Last year we helped more than 387,000 children and their families.

## AFC REIGATE, REDHILL & DORKING GROUP

We have been told that our group is the only one of its kind in this part of the country. Members of our three local Methodist churches work together, and have a wide range of fund-raising activities.

We collect both by House to House and by having our own individual boxes, and we hold coffee mornings, cream teas and an open garden.

We hold a quiz and have had a delightful evening garden dinner.

In the past 12 months we have raised over £4000.

# SOMETHING TO TAKE WITH YOU

What music makes my heart sing?

What rhythm and melody sets my heart on fire?  
with love and desire for life?

What music brings me relief,  
Lets my pain flow and grow into new form?

What music opens me up inside,  
leading me on pathways familiar and unfamiliar,  
rhythm bringing security, melody inspiring spontaneity?

What music enables friendship for me  
--with people--with the Spirit,  
creating a community, an orchestra of companionship  
that arises from I know not where?  
Yet I recognise when it is there ... and here.

May music be prayer for me,  
gateway to joy for me,  
doorway for reassurance for me,  
touching place of love for me,  
release of tension and suffering for me,  
harbinger of balance and healing for me.

Lord, help me to use the gift of music  
to allow your life to sing within me,  
to enable me to live my life in harmony with you,  
vibrating to the music of your love.

From *More Than Words*,  
Saint Andrew, Press,  
Edinburgh

*Angels carved above the  
choir stalls in Bath Abbey*





# FOODBANK AT ST. MATTHEW'S, REDHILL

As you can see the Foodbank at St. Matthew's is continuing to serve the community of Redhill and surrounding area. You have all been very generous in your support, those who have emptied the collecting bin have always been kept busy!



**FOODBANK AT**  
**ST MATTHEW'S REDHILL**

HOME

WHAT WE DO

THIRD HELP

HOW CAN I HELP

CONTACT US

## Welcome!

### IMPORTANT NOTICE: meeting the challenges of COVID-19 (updated 24 March 2020)

The Foodbank at St Matthew's is working to meet the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19). Low income families and older people are going to be hit particularly hard. Please spare a thought for others when doing your supermarket shop or stocking up for yourself.

We are currently still open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from midday until 2.00pm **BUT:**

- **Clients** should still come to us via a **referral agency**
- **Donations** should be dropped off in the **porch of the Church Hall** (up the hill behind the Church) during Foodbank opening times. Please:
  - **Maintain a distance of 2 metres (5 feet)** between yourself and anyone else dropping off donations
  - **Consolidate donations** to limit the number of visits
  - **Consider donating money instead of food** (follow the link below to find out how to do this) so we can arrange delivery directly to us from a supermarket

Please check out the **food and other supplies we currently need**, which we will try to update regularly so you can donate what we need most. We also welcome **donations of money** to enable us to buy stock as we need it.

This is the information on their 'HOME' page:

<https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/>

They are looking for financial donations and the advice on the best way to do that is here: <https://www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk/how-can-i-help>

Flower quiz answers:

Left hand column: tulips, rosemary flowers, pulmonaria and forsythia

Right hand column: 'Forget me nots', Fruit (damson) blossom, double daisy, primrose.

# THIS MONTH'S WORDSEARCH:

## MARCH FLOWERING PLANTS

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



Tulip, primrose, forsythia, hellebore, daffodil, camellia, cherry, damson, pulmonaria, hyacinth, dandelion, scabious, celandine, forget-me-not

**Encounter content.** Virtually all items submitted are included in full as presented by their writer. The opinions expressed in any individual item are those of its contributor, and not necessarily those of the Minister, the Editor, or other representatives.

# THE GATTON PASSION PLAY 2020

The following is taken from their home page:

**Following Government advice about the escalation of Covid-19, we have, sadly, and with great disappointment, taken the decision to cancel this summer's production of The Passion. The health and safety of our cast, team, members and audience is our number one priority, and by all of us following Government advice hopefully the worst will be over before the end of the summer.**



To read our thoughts on The Passion 2021 Please go to our [Current Production page](#).

## A PRAYER...

Dear God,  
Who has given us a message through this Mess  
Of Covid19,

You make the world clean.

We are not in crisis but

You have made us Many \*chrysalises.

To rest and break free as butterflies

In a new world!

You have made us see the sky.

You have made us understand why,

The streams and the rivers are beautiful.

Cleaner and mirroring your love and so  
thankful.

Neighbours care,

Though counters in shops are bare.

You make Your Love live again,

Through all this pain....

Once you make the world well again,

And our hearts strength by you regain

Help us not to go back to killing nature,

And destroying our future.

Amen

SR



*\*It seems that the plural of chrysalis could be either chrysalises or chrysalides.*