***Denby Dale and Clayton West Circuit - St Andrews Church***

**Newssheet 3 – Palm Sunday and Holy Week**

**Local Notices**

While we are physically away from church it would be good to continue to pray for the local businesses as we would on a Sunday:

 Café 121, Auckland Opticians, Simon Blyth Estate Agent

**Tips for TeleCons**

Thank you to everyone who has offered to keep in touch with others by phone. Telephone Conversations come naturally to some and less so to others. To do this well, reflect on the following:

1. Calling people can be draining. Call just a few people to keep yourself fresh.
2. Pastoral care is about offering loving support. You are there to listen and encourage, not solve!
3. Make sure it is a good time to speak at the start of your call. If it’s not convenient, you can ring back.
4. Set a limit to your call of no more than 20 minutes. It protects you and the person you are calling.
5. When you are listening, offer the odd affirming word or noise, it will help the person speaking.
6. Offer prayer only if that feels comfortable. You could offer to pray together from the weekly sheet.
7. Most conversations are easy. If they are difficult, you could ask permission to refer them to a minister.
8. Consider texting instead of phoning. This might be all the encouragement someone needs.

**Family & Children’s Work**

With no groups of children meeting in our churches, we have decided to furlough Emma and Andrew’s jobs from April 1st. This means that the Government will pay 80% of their salary. The circuit will pick up the other 20% and ensure that National Insurance and Pension contributions are paid in full. The Circuit Leadership Team believe this is the best way of protecting the roles and looking after Emma and Andrew well. If you are needing info regarding children’s resources please contact sue in the office on 07884 143355 or sue.cutting1209@gmail.com

**Thought for the Day**

Those who ‘go down to the sea in ships’ know that storms can brew-up from nowhere! In the foyer of St Christopher’s Hospice in London, hangs a painting by Marian Bohusz-Szsysko, husband of Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the Hospice movement in the United Kingdom; its title – ‘The Storm on the Lake’. I had, some years ago, the privilege of meeting Dame Cicely at St Christopher’s. She spoke most movingly of the painting, the story in the bible which is its inspiration, and the message it offers to all who face storms in life. In the painting, we see the figure of Jesus, standing in the prow of the boat, the storm still raging (rather different from the Gospel story – little sign of stillness here!). Yet I sense that those in the boat, tossed around in the storm, feel calm, reassured, and unafraid because the one in whom they now put their trust is there, in the boat, with them. What is *our* response as the ‘Corona storm’ is raging?

Maybe the words of Anna Laetitia Waring can be our prayer for today;

In heavenly love abiding, no change my heart shall fear;

And safe is such confiding, for nothing changes here:

The storm may roar without me, my heart may low be laid;

But God is round about me, and can I be dismayed?

Contribution by Rev Paul Bettison

**Worship and Prayer for Palm Sunday 5th April 2020**

**Prayer**

*Hosanna!* to you, this morning, Lord

On this special Palm Sunday, help me to know your presence with me as I pray. May I feel the company of others who pray with me this morning wherever they are. Let us together lift our hearts to you in praise and thanksgiving for all the blessings that surround us each day. Make me alive to the promptings of your Spirit as I read your Word and reflect on it in my heart. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**The Word Online Video:** Using the links on Facebook/website, links at bottom of page, Revd Phil Summers reads John’s passion story. This is interspersed with sermon thoughts by Revd Philip Bee: a) **John 18: 12-27;** b) **John 18: 28-40;** c) **John 19: 1-16;** d) **John 19: 17-30**. (You could also choose to use these readings during Holy Week, or on Good Friday.)

**A Word for Palm Sunday***:* If you cannot access online resources, read **John 12: 12-19** and reflect:

The raising of Lazarus (in last week’s reading) has also drawn a large crowd of people who now pursue Jesus for further signs. So, when he makes his way into Jerusalem, he is bound to be noticed by the authorities – both Roman and Jewish. The Pharisees in John’s gospel have been after Jesus almost from the start. They are especially anxious, observing that it seems as though the whole world is now following Jesus. Triumphant leaders of the past will have processed into Jerusalem on proud, white chargers as a sign of their success. It will have been an unmissable irony that Jesus chose to mock such entries by choosing to skitter in on the back of a donkey. And the crowd will have loved it, joining in the fun by waving palm branches and yelling *Hosanna!*, “Save us!” The authorities would be forced to act in the wake of such a challenge. Palm Sunday sets the scene for the inevitabilities leading to Good Friday.

**Prayers for Others**

Use your sheet for Ribbon Prayers in Holy Week and Easter. You will have received these in the post , please contact Sue if they don’t arrive with you.

Find the section for Palm Sunday (Green Ribbon) and pray for others. Try to commit yourself to use the ribbon prayers daily during Holy Week.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Other Access Points**

Video Sermons Access will be via our website <http://ddandcwmethodist.org.uk/resources/>

 available Sunday from 9am link Sermon 050420

 Circuit Facebook @DDCWmethodist Upload 9am Sundays

 Local facebook @StAndrewsMethodistURC 9am Sundays

Other Meth. Resources <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

TV/Radio Songs of Praise each Sunday (See TV guide for time)

 Service of worship Sundays BBC1 (See TV guide for times)

 Methodist Central Hall Service on Sundays at 11am website [www.bit.ly2WkC129](http://www.bit.ly2WkC129)

Thought for the Day Radio 2 and 4 (see guides for times)