



Ruislip Manor Methodist Church

Sunday 15th November

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

In September new laws prohibiting social gatherings of more than six people came into effect and I assume they are still effective bearing in mind the much tighter restrictions that now go alongside them. I recently came across Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford's, version of the "Rule of 6". The main points he made are:

Six months is the new horizon

We need a new horizon for our hope and for our lives. I want to suggest that all of us set that horizon now on Easter, not Christmas. The spring will bring better news after a difficult winter. We now know the journey through COVID-19 will be a marathon, not a sprint.

Within that six-month horizon, we will need to lean back into the great themes of the church year. You will have different ways to interpret this locally. In October we will give thanks for harvest, celebrate the beauty of creation and remember our responsibilities to care for the earth. In November we will dwell deeply on the themes of remembrance, grief, human mortality and the hope of resurrection.

In December we will celebrate God's kingdom of justice and peace and the coming of Jesus. We will try to mark his coming at Christmas in different ways but with creativity and joy. In January, we will dwell on Christ the light shining in the darkness and never overwhelmed.

In February we will celebrate the gift of our baptism and seek to be renewed in our everyday faith. In March we look forward to Holy Week, to remembering our salvation, and looking forward to Easter.

Six days to work and a Sabbath to rest

This will continue to be a demanding season. It will be vital to watch over ourselves and to rest. Make sure you plan your Sabbath and keep it. Rediscover the gift of one day each week for re-creation, not just chores. Plan it well.

Days off and holidays are vital for us all, many are working so hard with extraordinary dedication and skill. Please ensure you encourage one another. Spread the load wherever you can and help one another.

Six people to journey with

The Christian faith began with a small group of disciples. This is a time for us all to rediscover Church as a small group of six people who support one another; pray together (online or in one place); care for each other, serve together and explore everyday faith together.

Many seasons of renewal in the church have begun with the renewal of small communities: think of the stories in Acts; or the early Franciscans; the classes and bands of early Methodism; or the underground churches behind the Iron Curtain.

Six ways to be salt and light

This will be a demanding winter for the communities we serve in so many ways. It's a good time to ask one another, who are the people and organisations you are supporting in the wider community? What plans will be needed to strengthen foodbanks and night shelters? How will you serve those who may be isolated over Christmas? How can you encourage and support schools and teachers and health workers? Who is on the margins, who has slipped away and who is in danger of being forgotten? This is a season to remember that our communities need us to be salt and light and to bring courage to others.

Six percent to your church

This is a challenging time for church finances. Income from lettings and fairs and cash collections has dropped. We need a miracle of giving to sustain the church through this period.

Six people to pray for

All around us, people are searching for faith and meaning in these times. As Christians we must not be silent witnesses to the wonders of our faith when there is so much strength and healing in the Christian Way. Are there six people you can pray for, invite into community and encourage to discover more of Christian faith during this season?

And finally...

This has been such a hard and challenging season but also, strangely, such a season of creativity and renewal and growth, by the grace of God. We need to go on encouraging one another through the months ahead. No-one can do everything. We are fallible and will fall and stumble often.

This is God's Church and God's mission. Thankfully the final responsibility does not rest with us. But daily we offer what we can – like the child bringing five loaves and two fish to Jesus – and we discover that God takes this and uses it to make an immense difference to the lives of those around us.

Six may indeed turn out to be a rich number, but of course the sign of completeness in the scriptures is seven. As, by the grace of God, we do all we can to make the most of these days, let us remember that our ultimate hope and assurance is in the God who will one day bring all things to completion, in the Christ who is the beginning and the end.

Together we are called to be a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world: contemplative, compassionate and courageous. It is such a privilege and joy to serve with you in this season. May God bless you richly in the months ahead.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8.37-39)

Yours in Christ,

Steven Croft

Prayer for the nation

You will recall that, as a church family, we use resources produced by Thy Kingdom Come during the ten days of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost. At that time we especially focus on praying for five people known to us who do not yet know Jesus.

As England has moved into its second period of lockdown, Thy Kingdom Come is promoting a month of prayer, asking Christians to stop and pray at 6pm every day, working through a seven-day cycle in which each day focuses on a particular area of life:

Sunday - Family, friends and loved ones

Monday - Schools and colleges, children and young people

Tuesday - Elderly, isolated and vulnerable

Wednesday - Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing

Thursday - The NHS and other key workers

Friday - National and Local government

Saturday - All who are grieving, and all suffering with physical and mental ill-health

Further information is available on TKC's website at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/stories/prayerforthenation>

6pm Sunday Evening Service. Roger Dunlop

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85982560403?pwd=S3lNQ3FNMnRhYTMrTGRRyT3pKbmNkZz09> Meeting ID: 859 8256 0403. Passcode: 937005. Landline: 0203 051 2874

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 15th will be led by Peter Davies. Log into Zoom using the following details www.zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 827 0254 0378

Passcode: 947280

Community Bible Study – 2 of my churches in the past have had CBS groups that were appreciated. You can now try CBS online. See <https://cbsuk.org/>

International Bible Reading Association

During this time of social distancing, separation and restrictions, loneliness can be experienced by many. We can feel more connected and bring God into our everyday lives by using daily Bible Reading notes. 'Fresh from The Word 2021' which contains a weekly theme, a daily reading, a daily prayer and daily action. The cost is £9.99. If you wish to order a copy (or copies) please email me:- junebriggs03@gmail.com Thank you June Briggs

Charity Christmas cards catalogues time of year has come around again and I have received details of those from Karibuni Children .Karibuni Children Hand-made banana leaf / fabric or batik Christmas cards. 6 cards (mix of 3 designs) £4 including postage. Available to order online- <https://www.karibuni.org.uk/shop/?add-to-cart=6624>

Or at

Karibuni Children
Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church
Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville Aylesbury
Bucks
HP22 5UJ, UK

Telephone 01296 614887

Latest news from Kenya, with video of thanks -

<https://www.karibuni.org.uk/covid-19-update-in-kenya/>

Peter Wells (who will probably be the person who answers if you order by telephone) sent the following report on the current situation-

"The situation in Kenya is still very serious; whilst the official death toll seems relatively low the main problem for us is still that the schools have been closed since April and most will remain so until next January. It is at the schools where the children get their main meal and so our concern at the moment is ensuring that they are being fed. But of course, as well as the feeding we must address the problem of the children's education as they will all have lost a year of schooling, and that is so very important as it is their education which provides the greatest opportunity for them to break out of the poverty trap that they find themselves in. As you can see it is a very difficult situation. We of course will continue to do what we can for the children and will try to ensure that they at least, and their families, are well looked after until such time as the situation returns to some sort of normality. It is good to know that they have the thoughts and good wishes of so many people."



Greetings to Church Friends

The Stewards are very sorry but the Christmas card exchange rack will not be available this year. Even if church could open, we could not take the risk of people gathering to chat and picking up envelopes addressed to others. We would like you to consider sending one greeting to all your church friends rather than a lot of individual cards. Some people usually do this by pinning a single card on the notice board, for all to see.

This Christmas we will try a new way for people to exchange their greetings. We will produce a special edition of the news sheet just for Christmas greetings. This will be sent as a printed booklet to everyone on the church roll, so that nobody will be forgotten. Your greeting can be in the form of an actual

Christmas card, a message, picture, prayer, poem, quotation, artwork, or news you want to share. Groups can also send a Christmas greeting if they wish. Please mark it "Christmas Greetings to Church Friends" and either post it through the church letterbox (in the hall door), or email it to Janet newsletter@rmmc.org.uk

Please be assured that if you need to send an individual card and you have not got the address to send it to, the stewards will do our best to get them there. If necessary church funds will be used for the postage.

Please speak to Janet F, Eileen, Andrew, or Jess if you would like more information, or can help with putting the booklet together or delivering it.

All the greetings sent in by Sunday 6th December will be included in the booklet. Grateful thanks to anyone able to send theirs any earlier.

Best wishes from the Stewards Team

For anyone feeling the need of confidential and anonymous support at this time (in addition to our own pastoral support) with a Christian perspective there is Premier Lifeline

Open 9am to midnight every day on **0300 111 0101**

"Premier Lifeline: the National Christian Helpline is a confidential telephone helpline offering a listening ear, emotional and spiritual support from a Christian perspective, prayer and signposting.

Premier Lifeline is open 9am to midnight every day of the year. Our telephone number is **0300 111 0101** (Landline Rate - included in call packages where landline calls are included). If you would like someone to talk to and pray for you, give us a call."

"Premier Lifeline aims to be a listening ear at the end of your telephone line, providing a confidential anonymous place for you to talk about whatever you wish without fear of judgement or rejection.

Premier Lifeline is a space for you to express your concerns, discuss your uncertainties and work through your problems.

Premier Lifeline is staffed by Christian volunteers who are able to offer emotional and spiritual support.

Premier Lifeline offers a response to the challenges of life from a Christian perspective and a willingness to take issues to God in prayer.

Premier Lifeline is a place to explore faith, forgiveness and reconciliation. Whether a person is seeking God for the first time, looking to return to faith, or struggling with doubt, our team are there to come alongside on the phone to support you in your journey of faith."

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 13th November:

This week we pray for Kenton Methodist Church

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

We also pray for the people who live in Cornwall Road and Cottingham Chase

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



Items for the News sheet for Friday 20th November to **Janet Miles** , by email

newsletter@rmmc.org.uk by **Wednesday 18th November**, please