



Christ Church Stocksbridge

Crane Moor Methodist Church

Green Moor Methodist Church

Tuesday 14th April 2020

Hello!

It's a new look for the weekly letter this week. As you know I serve at Green Moor and Crane Moor as well as at Christ Church. And while I have been in touch with them, and continued to work with them there, and included them in the Sunday online service, I have been feeling that it would be good if this weekly letter could go to them also. And now that the system is up and running I am delighted to do so. And of course they continue to be most welcome to join us in the online services.

Lots of churches are finding new ways of keeping in contact these days. At Crane Moor and Green Moor they have their own very supportive phone circles. In fact at Crane Moor on Sunday mornings, Jeff Hough sets up a sequence of shared phone calls from his house to two other houses at the same time. By the time the sequence is complete everyone has shared in a joint act of worship on the phone. Brilliant! They have a prayer and a reading and a thought together, a bit of music, and from last week they have a short prayer from me for Jeff to share.

I hope we'll be able to include news and stories from Crane Moor and Green Moor also in future. I'm sending the letter out a day earlier to make sure people get it in time for SundayC

Worship : Christ Church Together at Home

On Sunday 19th April we will have our online worship. It will be a bit simpler this week, but will still have prayer, Bible Readings, a Word, and some songs. And of course the Activity Sheet. We love the activity sheet. It's not just for children! If you send Ian the pictures he'll load them onto the Christ Church website. You should see the ones from last week.

If you want to join in the worship from home, there are several ways to do it. The easiest way is to go on your computer at home and go to www.christchurchonline.org. On the right of the page you will see all the recent posts. If you click on the post called "**Christ Church Together at Home Sunday 19th April**", it will take you to the weekly online service for this week. You will also be able to find a copy of this letter, the activity sheet, and the worship sheet, in case you or someone else needs to download them. You can also watch on Facebook at Christ Church Stocksbridge if you have Facebook on your phone or computer.

I hope we will begin our Sunday Worship by singing together "All glory laud and honour", accompanied by our new(ish) member Roger Jarvis, recorded on his home organ. That will be another sense of localness to our worship. Thank you Roger.

Other News

On Tuesday 21st it is the funeral of Harry Mangham of Green Moor, and it will soon be the funeral of Garwin Throssell of Christ Church. Both men deeply loved and respected in their communities. It is a sad loss for both families, and in due course we will be able to celebrate their lives in church respective communities. In the meantime our love and prayers go out to Brenda Mangham and Nora Throssell and their families.

Last week Look Local ran on their website newspaper the article I sent to them about our online worship. If you didn't know the paper is still running, just online. Worth a look.

Helen Slater's "Everest Appeal"

Pam Jowett received a lovely card from Helen recently, and I'm delighted to share the message from Helen. "To Christ Church Stocksbridge. To all the very generous people who have donated to COMMUNITY ACTION NEPAL, MANY, MANY THANKS. It has been really encouraging to have received your support, both before and after my Everest Adventure. Helen Slater (on behalf of Doug Scott and all at CAN)". We're glad Helen, thank you to you for the lovely card you painted too. I'm sharing this via the letter, so that everyone gets to hear about it.

I'm taking a few days off

It's the week after Easter this Sunday, commonly called "Low Sunday". Why? Various explanations. Perhaps it is in contrast to the week before when it is the High celebration of Easter. Perhaps it is a corruption of the word 'Laudes' which is the first word of the old Latin Sarum rite. Another name is Quasimodo Sunday, so called because these are the first words of the introit for the day in Latin; 'Quasi modo..' meaning 'Just as the newborn....' Who knew? Many ministers, especially Methodist ones, know it as the 'Sunday after Easter that they have off duty'. And after today's service, Sunday 19th April, I'm going to take a few days 'off duty' with the encouragement of the church officers. Simon Utting has kindly agreed to deliver the online service next Sunday, 26th April. Gwen and I will have got the mailing packs ready to go off. I will not be on What's App for a few days. We're not going any-where of course. I am always available in emergency. I will have Harry Mangham's funeral on Tuesday. You will never be far from my thoughts. In fact 'letting go' is the hardest thing. So thank you for your best wishes and I'll be back with you soon.

Letter from Christ Church about the weekly offering

Included in the mailing this week is a letter addressed to the people at Christ Church. We are trying to sensitively request that the members and friends there find a way of getting their weekly offerings to us during the lock-down to help our ongoing expenditure. After I told you about this letter in the notices last week, we have already had two very generous offers of extra help. Thank you so much. (It is not included in the mail-pack for Green Moor and Crane Moor.)

Best wishes

Lastly then, I want to send to each of you Gwen and my love. We are touched by all the care and concern that the churches are expressing; for those of us who have loved ones deeply involved in handling this crisis; for those who are stuck at home; for those who are sick and worried. Bless you all and I look forward to the day when we can meet in worship in person again soon.

Your sincerely

Rev Ian Lucreft

