



Crane Moor Methodist Church,

Green Moor Methodist Church,

Christ Church Stocksbridge,

For Sunday 11th April, 2021

Dear *Friends*,

Hello again one and all.

Firstly, can I say a huge thank you for all the positive comments that we have received following the Palm Sunday Service. The young people really enjoyed themselves and had great fun filming all their pieces. It took quite a bit of putting together, but I enjoy “fiddling around” so I think it was worth it. I am sorry that some of the music was missing in some parts. Facebook decided to edit the music out, even though we had used it before and we have all the right licences. These things come to try us.

As I start to write this letter, we have just finished the Maundy Thursday Church Family Fellowship organized by Junior Church. We all tucked into our soup and Imogen, Stella and Max quizzed us on Easter Trivia and were excellent Easter Bingo callers. We had a variety of winners so, Heather Haigh, Imogen Goddard, David Beatson, Amy Beatson, Jan Fly and Ian and Gwen can look forward to their “prizes” after the Easter Weekend. Ian closed off the meeting by explaining the meaning of Maundy Thursday and we all shared in bread and wine, as Jesus did with his disciples on that Thursday nearly 2000 years ago.

Talking of Easter weekend, I hope some of you managed to see and meet up with friends and family as the lockdown eases, but if you didn't at least we were together for our Good Friday and Easter Sunday Services. Thank you, Ian and Gwen. Also, a special thank you again to Maureen Horton for her sewing skills with the new covers for the Communion Table and lectern and the lovely flowers for Easter Sunday. We have moved the flowers out of church and into the upstairs lobby so that they can be seen if you happen to venture into the church grounds. The Easter Egg Hunt around the church grounds went well and all who took part will get a small prize and the winner overall will be announced this Sunday in Joys and Concerns.

For those of you who are not able to get the weekly service, I was delighted to be able to announce, that the Concert for UNICEF has raised an amazing £1213.00. You have all been so generous to support this very worthy cause. The Junior Church Sponsored Walk is also doing very well raising money for The Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity. As there are still a few to walk over this next week, we won't be announcing the final total for a week or two.

It has been heartening to hear that so many of you have now had your second vaccinations or at least have an appointment booked for it. I think we all need to be grateful to Public Health England and the NHS for doing such sterling work. I've said it before but I'll say it again, the light is there at the end of the tunnel, though we will have to continue to be cautious and be sensible, as life approaches some form of normality.

Don't forget to complete a postcard about the future availability of the streamed services and send it back to Ian, if you haven't done so already. Each and every week we (the teams doing the weekly services) seem to learn a little more, about the technology and how to use it, to enhance and support our outreach to you all in our acts of worship. The kind donation we received from The Sheldon Fund to greatly help our investment in hardware is certainly paying off, and will go a long way to futureproofing our continued ability to reach those who cannot or may not return to worship in church in person.

As we have talked about on several occasions, even when things are getting back to near normal and we are worshipping together in our churches, the availability of preachers to lead worship is going to be a major challenge. Ian touched on this subject in his letter a couple of weeks ago. To this end at Christ Church, we are going to hold a zoom meeting in the next week or so to talk about leading worship in church. Currently we are blessed having Ian to lead at least two service per month and then we have the worship group. The worship group currently has two "teams". John Cornell leads one and is usually supported by Jenny and Mike Clarke with input from a variety of other people and Christine and I run the other team. If you feel there is anything you could contribute to help the Worship Group, we would be really grateful. I am hoping we could establish two further teams, so if you feel you could join us, please get in touch. We subscribe to Roots, which is an ecumenical publication in hard copy and on line, which is great for giving lots of ideas each week for services and indeed they also produce pretty well a weekly outline for a service following the lectionary. Please give it some thought and pray for our ongoing mission to spread the word of Jesus.

I'll close now to deliver this to the postal team.

God bless.

Love and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon.

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