



**Crane Moor Methodist Church,**

**Green Moor Methodist Church,**

**Christ Church Stocksbridge,**

For Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

Dear *Friends*

Hello again to you all. I hope spring has sprung in your household and that you are looking forward to the summer with hope.

This week's service focusses on friendship, both with each other and seeing Jesus as our friend. It has been vitally important to have Jesus as our friend, companion and guide through the rigours of the last twelve months. But as we start to emerge from the pandemic it will give us chance to renew our friendship with others that we have sorely missed during the lockdowns.

The activity for this week's service includes some cutting out and making. I hope as many of you as possible will take part in the activity. Next month, our young people from Junior Church at Christ Church will be leading a service on 13<sup>th</sup> June. It would be nice if you have taken part in this Sunday's activity, if you could let us have what you have made to be used as part of that service, which are younger members will be starting to prepare shortly. Please give it a go.

In my letter last month, I mentioned our project to increase the size of the Worship Group to help both in the short term and also, as we look to re-open the church. Thank you to those who have responded so positively to this appeal, we really are very grateful. To this end I am sending out early thanks to Katie Woodcock, who is planning to lead a band of courageous souls to lead our worship on line at the end of this month. We will look forward to that.

A huge thank you from Rachel Proctor and the Junior Church Team for the fantastic support that was given to our younger members and their friends on their sponsored walk. It has really shown them, that we as church families value our young ones. As the Covid-19 measures relax and the rules for out-of-school activities now allow, Junior Church at Christ Church, are busy making plans for the children to meet up for some fun activities ahead of church re-opening. I know Green Moor are making plans too, so best wishes to you and your young people as well.

It is great to hear from Jenny Clarke that the organizations that use our premises are chomping at the bit to get going again. So, as I write this letter, these organizations are drawing up their risk assessments and plans, to be compliant with what will inevitably be, the on-going regulations we will need to follow to minimize any risks from the continued presence of Covid-19. We will still need to be careful and cautious as we move forward.



Please remember that the week starting 10<sup>th</sup> May is Christian Aid Week. Their work is as vital as ever, especially in countries around the world that are not so well placed to fight the ongoing pandemic. To this end Christine and Alan Gilbert are doing a sponsored walk during Christian Aid Week. I hope you will feel moved to sponsor them and a sponsor form is included in this week's mailing, or one can be downloaded and printed from our website at [www.christchurchonline.org](http://www.christchurchonline.org). We are also hoping to stage a Christian Aid Garden Party in the summer pending the governments announcement on 14<sup>th</sup> June if things can move to the next stage of the roadmap on 21<sup>st</sup> June. If you would like to make a donation there is also an envelope included in this mailing. Please make any cheques payable to Christ Church Stocksbridge as ultimately, we send one cheque to them from church, to reduce their administrative costs and bank charges.

Wearing my Church Treasurers hat, it has come to that time of year when I have to complete the returns to Her Majesties Revenue and Customs to claim the Gift-Aid from people's regular offerings. The church benefits hugely from this at no cost to anyone but the taxman, so can I encourage anybody who currently does not use the envelope system or direct electronic giving to think about doing so. No donation is too small and it all adds up to helping the mission in our community and the wider world. So, if you would like to join either scheme, please contact me or your church treasure at Green Moor or Crane Moor. All conversations are strictly confidential.

Just a reminder, that whilst we are doing our on-line services, if you have anything to contribute for Joys and Concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Ian, John or myself so your news can be included. At Christ Church you can also get things to us via Ronnie Hawley in her role as Pastoral Lead.

I will close now, so this can go off to the post and the post team.

Best wishes and God Bless.

*Simon*

Simon

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