

Thursday
4 February 21

the bridge bulletin



Ryedale Methodists

Greetings Friends

Joy abounds! Snowdrops bloom again on the edge of the Manse lawn. The Winter seems longer this year. Thus the early signs of Spring's arrival, that are always welcome, are an even greater cause for celebration in 2021. There's still a month 'til Spring arrives officially, but at least February is the shortest of months. Better still, a month that sees the beginning of Lent in its middle, preceded by pancakes, of course! Already the days lengthen, praise God!

Both Fiona and I love to see the Winter receding in the rear-view mirror as we leave it behind for the time being. Similarly it will be wonderful to see an end of this pandemic, to be able to embrace family and friends once more. COVID has rested on our lives like the dark days of Winter for too long. While God is close, we would wish that our family, and those who know us and love us, were close too. We trust that, as one season follows another, this pandemic too will pass. "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." *Lamentations 3:22-33* NIV The "newness" of Spring is coming. So... snowdrops. Hey!

We all experience these circumstances in different ways, and carry different loads, so in the meantime, be kind and loving to yourselves and to others. And remember: best of all, God is with us.

Shalom. Tony

Revd Tony de Boltz

Dates for diaries

FEBRUARY Rev Peter will lead a **Lent Study Group on Zoom**.

As in Advent the sessions will be repeated each week, join in when you can. Theme to follow. Mondays 7.30pm, from **22 February** and/or Tuesdays 10.30am from **23 February**.

Christianity Explored course For seekers, explorers or those who want to be refreshed in the Word and rediscover the truths of the gospel and know more of Jesus Christ. No age limit, no experience needed, mature Christians also invited. Starting Wednesday **24 February**, each Wednesday for 5 weeks starting at 10:00am. For Zoom link email Revd Ken.

MARCH Thursday **11 March** 7.30pm **Ryedale Circuit Meeting** (almost certainly on Zoom).

APRIL Tuesday **20 April** 7.30pm **World Church talk by Ann Baldwin**, recently a Mission Partner in Sri Lanka (by Zoom).



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FOR SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

PRESIDENTIAL CALL FOR PRAYERS OF LAMENT AND HOPE

Statement from the Revd Richard Teal, President of the Methodist Conference and Carolyn Lawrence, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference:

“We know that many millions of people across the country have taken refuge in prayer during the pandemic. We join with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in their call to set aside time each evening at 6pm to pray. There is a very great need amongst us to be able to lament the horrific loss of life and to find solace and hope during these dark days. Our prayer is that each of you will know that God is with us, sustaining us through our grief.”

Carolyn Lawrence has recorded a prayer following the announcement of 100,000 deaths in the UK due to Covid-19. See:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/presidency-calls-for-prayers-of-lament-and-hope/>

VIDEO AND AUDIO RESOURCES FOR LOCAL CHURCHES TO RE-USE

See link below for various topics including the president and vice president reflecting on anxiety, and how we can reduce it through prayer and meditating on passages from the Bible

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/video-and-audio-resources-for-local-churches-to-re-use/>



MISSION PARTNER AND PARTNER CHURCH PRAYER UPDATE ON COVID-19

Please keep Mission Partners and Partner Churches in your prayers.

South Africa – Freddie and Dee Takavarasha. Experiencing a second spike and people are in COVID-19 lockdown to limit spread. Freddie has been unable to preach online due to restricted internet provision in Upington circuit in northern part of the country. National vaccination may commence in May 2021.

Zimbabwe – Jonathan and Isabel Hill. Experiencing a second spike and they are in COVID-19 lockdown but there are a few students expected to take examinations still at school. Otherwise, most schools have closed. Online schooling is minimal due to unaffordability to pay for internet and equipment

Zambia – Keith and Ida Waddell. Experiencing a second spike but not in full lockdown. They still travel when essential but operate social distancing using PPE especially at mission hospitals and clinics.

Kenya – Claire Smithson. Experiencing a slight second spike but not in lockdown. National hospital workers are on strike, Maua mission hospital is very busy. Sadly, many patients are unable to pay their hospital bills and the hospital is struggling with no subvention from the government. The COVID-19 pandemic has contracted the economy, reducing the earning power of Kenyans

Nigeria – Hans and Mary Van den Corput. Experiencing a slight second spike but not in lockdown. Both are still working using PPE. The mission hospital is busy as usual as is the work in the 'Babies' Home'

Togo – Michael and Joanna Tettey. Not experiencing the second spike and not in lockdown. Both are still working with PPE and the kids are in school

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/global-relationships/global-relationships-news/all-global-relationships-news/mission-partner-and-partner-church-prayer-update-on-covid-19-january-2021/>



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<https://www.ryedalemethodist.org.uk/events.html>
For further information and service material for Sundays



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