

Thursday
18 March 21

the bridge bulletin



Ryedale Methodists

I read an article in the paper which contained the interesting idea that people are not selfish, but we are self-centred. The writer was talking about attitudes to the lockdown measures and restrictions and how people feel they should be allowed to do certain things. We may not be being selfish when we think that we could get away with bending the rules, but we are guilty of being self-centred because we are thinking of our own point of view rather than the effect our actions could have on others.

It makes sense to be self-centred. We know ourselves better than anyone and it is easy to know how we feel and what is going on in our lives. It takes more effort and imagination to think of others and try to understand what they may be going through or feeling. It is understandable that humans think of themselves first but as Christians, we are called to be more caring than that. We are called to put other people's needs above our own, to love people, even enemies and to show love and care to other people, the exact opposite of being self-centred.

We are called to be Christ-centred. To put Jesus at the centre of our lives, to know him so well that we know how he feels on any subject and what he went through in life. This is one of those things that is easy to say but really hard to do. It needs a lifetime of effort to achieve, to truly know Jesus so well and to be confident that we know his mind. We will fail often, we will need the help of the Spirit but if we genuinely make the effort, we will see our Christ-centred moments and so our love for others increase. May we aim to have Christ at the centre of our lives and seek his mercy and forgiveness whenever we fail.

Karen Pattison Lay Worker



LENT 5 March 21
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalms 51:1-12
or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33



Prayer for March *Revd Richard Teal*

Loving God, what a wonderful month March is!

Nature really wakes up after the sleep of Winter.

Thank you for the purity of snowdrops, the hopefulness of daffodils, the vividness of crocuses.

Which all arouse within us the aliveness of your creation.

So give to us thankful hearts as Spring draws near,

To look forward with creativity, anticipation and expectation.

May the wonder of what we see around us fill us with a hope to be found in you;

So that the whole Earth will be filled with the glory of God,

As the waters cover the sea.

In Christ's name, Amen.

CONTACT:

Revd Peter Sheasby
7 Pinfold Garth
Malton
YO17 7XQ
peter.sheasby@methodist.org.uk
01653 692173

Revd Ken Gowland
gowlo@hotmail.com
01439 770300

Deacon F & Revd T deBoltz
01751 430750

Revd J Pickering
01653 668628

Ann Thomas (Admin)
ryedalemethodists@gmail.com



LIVE FAIR FOR LENT
Join in the Traidcraft show on Zoom. The meeting will simply be about doing something for lent rather than giving up something - and challenging us to think how we spend our money. It will last about an hour on **25 March at 8pm.**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82146587944>

25 March at 20:00 (log on from 19:45)

Meeting ID: 821 4658 7944

One tap mobile

442030512874,,82146587944# United Kingdom

+442034815237,,82146587944# United Kingdom

Happy Anniversary?

This time last year we took the difficult but I now see as inevitable decision to suspend worship in our Methodist buildings. Things began to move very fast, I suspected we would get to Easter and then close, and even on Sunday 15th March I thought we would have Mothering Sunday before that happened. But no, although we were one day ahead of the first national Lockdown, that was it, and we entered the first period of empty premises. I don't think any of us, even then, could foresee the way things would continue, to the point that a year on we are still coping with the virulent virus.

What have we learnt during these last 12 months? Some of us have become IT savvy, and so Zoom has become a portmanteau word for meeting online like Hoover means any sort of vacuum cleaner. Sadly, that has meant that another group of people has been disadvantaged, those without the internet. The Circuit immediately decided to have a weekly newsletter to keep people up to date and also send regular worship material. It took a while to get everyone connected but I hope that has enabled people to feel in fellowship even if it has been at a distance. My real hope (and concern) is that you have maintained and even deepened your faith in God. Not whether you have been able to get to church and to sing, but whether you have felt God close to you, sustaining you through these strange times. I know some people have enjoyed the periods of lockdown, as they have been quiet, without pressure of responsibility, and in some ways even enjoyable. However, we have much to work on as we climb back towards the new normal that everyone hopes for. Have we learnt anything about our own faith? What is God saying to us about the future of the Church? And what does Jesus mean for a world recovering from the trauma of this pandemic?

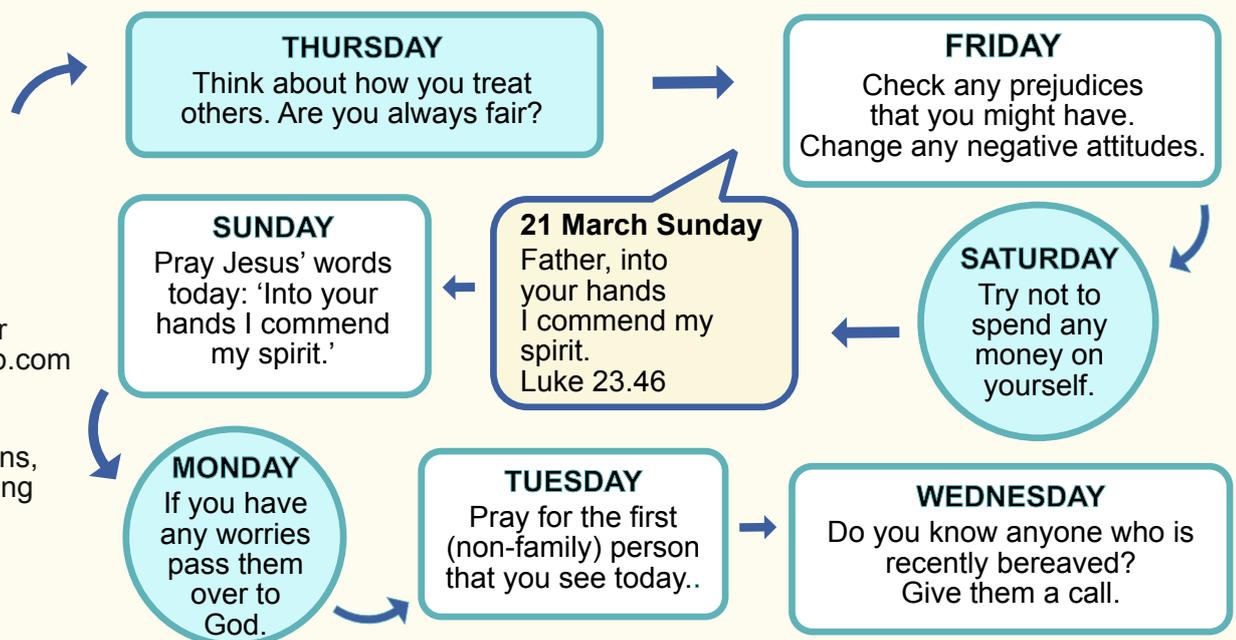
I look forward to welcoming all of you back to our buildings for worship. We can never expect life to stay the same, but with God's help we can make it better, not just for ourselves but for all people. Just as we look forward to being able to hug again, let us also commit ourselves to embrace our community with the love of God.

God bless Rev Peter

A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

18 - 24 March
 adapted from a
 Roots Lent calendar
www.rootsontheweb.com

During ongoing
 COVID-19 restrictions,
 ensure that contacting
 others is done
 in a safe way.



ryedalemethodists@gmail.com

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



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