

HEATH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Heath Street Baptist Church

Newsletter 1054

April-May 2020

A Message from the Church

Heath Street will be doing all it can to respond pastorally and practically to the Coronavirus epidemic.

The Baptist Union of Great Britain has published 'Advice for Churches' which can be accessed here: <https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/337630/Coronavirus.aspx>

The advice is that Sunday services should not now take place. We have therefore suspended Sunday services until further notice, and we would value your prayerful support as we seek to develop a context where we can be a meaningful faith community whilst physically isolated from each other.

We ask everyone to remember before God those who are vulnerable and lonely, and those who are facing financial hardship as a result of this evolving situation. If you are aware of anyone in crisis or particular need, please contact our Minister at ewan_king@mac.com.

Letter from the Children's Worker

Hi all!

Well, despite all my usual work places being closed, including the church of course, I have been very busy with children's work and storytelling of one kind and another!

I have been sending out regular videos just to say "hi" to the children of our church, in which a small bear repeatedly breaks the Covid-19 regulations and invades my personal space, with (he thinks) hilarious results. These videos go out via a dedicated children's email list to parents of children who come to Heath Street for worship or sundry activities. (Just ask if you would like to join this list).

I have also been pushing the Psalm Memorisation competition to adults and children alike. Without delay, please send me a video or audio file of you saying (or singing) a psalm from memory! It can be any psalm in any language, and don't worry at all about hesitations and mistakes. It does not need to be faultless. Each psalm that is present and correct (just about) wins us a marble for our jar. When the jar is full we will be going on

a day trip as a church, so let's make sure we've done the job for when the restrictions are lifted!

This Easter we will be having an ONLINE Easter egg hunt, with videos of folks hiding and the viewer having to find them before the time runs out. I hope you get a chance to join in. (It's a BYO chocolate thing this year, I'm afraid).

We also plan to have an Easter egg decoration competition. To take part, just boil a hen's egg and decorate it in the best way you can. You can even make a little garden or house for it! Go nuts. Fabulous prizes to be won.

The other thing I've been working on is the story of David. The children and I have been producing an episodic film of the story, in a somewhat madcap style, and I also have a long-form storytelling podcast called David: The Story of a Shepherd King. Please do go to our website and check these out!

Our prayers at Heath Street are with anyone isolated at this time, and my thoughts also move to be with those who aren't quite isolated enough. I've been thinking particularly about all the children and parents who find themselves in a new home-school relationship (and considering whose side I'm on if it comes down to it).

But seriously, I'd like to ask you to pray for the children in the church, and indeed across nearly every land of the earth, who may be having a hard time due to this new situation: those with sick parents, exacerbated situations of poverty, or who are stuck in abusive or neglectful homes. Please pray that my children's work and the ministry of our entire church may be a place where every child finds fun, safety and a multitude of signs of the living God.

Wilf Merttens

Letter from the Treasurer

What's a treasurer to do in a crisis? Not holding services has meant NO weekly collection plate going round! As the person who gets nearest to Heath Street's money, I am very aware that all we have coming in at the moment for our running costs is from a faithful few (six of us) who had already set up standing orders and another lovely person who remembers us most weeks and pings some money via their mobile phone to our bank account.

So, please, if your income hasn't been slaughtered by the current crisis, do try one of these options:

- Send some money by BACS to our account at CAF Bank Ltd: Heath Street Baptist Church, account number 00014178, sort code 40-52-40 (maybe once a week?)
- Set up a standing order from your bank account (weekly, monthly, quarterly?). If you do electronic banking you can do this yourself, but if not, just ask me for a form you can complete for your bank.
- Contact me by email (gaynor@eandghumphreys.plus.com) if you have any queries about how to support us or where to send a cheque.

If you do contribute, don't forget to include your name in the reference (or your Gift Aid PIN if you have one).

As a church we are entirely dependent on our own resources. At the moment with enforced Covid-19 closure we have lost the hall hire income and we aren't holding Sunday morning collections, but the payroll still needs covering and most other bills haven't stopped rolling in. We also need to be prudent in having enough money set aside for routine repairs and maintenance (for the manse as well as the church). We very much want to keep the church building well-maintained, safe, secure and looking fresh and welcoming – and it all costs money.

For our continued mission and building our community we need our worship and prayer (now each of us at home but before long, we hope, back together again) and we need all the time, talents and money that each of us is willing to offer.

Thanks so much. I hope you are keeping safe and well.

With love and best wishes, Gaynor

Readings and Prayers

April 12-18 Acts 10.34-43

12th Laura Somers
13th Ali Ghasempour
14th Mysie Johnson
15th Joachim King
16th for all in hospital
17th Lydia Baker
18th Nesa Thorne

April 19-25 Acts 2.14a, 22-32

19th Theresa Thom
20th Edward Humphreys
21st Beryl Dowsett
22nd Thaddeus King
23rd Susan Le Quesne
24th Tom Somers
25th Nathalia Bell

April 26-May 2 Acts 2.14a, 36-41

26th Beza Geberegziabher
27th Otilie Johnson
28th Francesco Giannoccaro
29th for all in prison
30th Sarah Harper
May 1 Fiona Ranford
2nd John-Henry Baker

Storytelling

David: The Story of the Shepherd King

Storyteller Wilf Merttens' new storytelling show David: The Story of the Shepherd King retells the legendary centrepiece of the books of Samuel for the 3rd millennium, and finds out it is just as full of shock, longing and ambiguity as it was in the beginning.

www.heathstreet.org/media

Oldtime Nursery

By arrangement. If you would like to arrange a virtual session from the Minister's house to your one, please contact him at ewan_king@me.com.

Psalm Memorisation Challenge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiRSgpgpdTQ&feature=youtu.be>

Please see the church website for updates: heathstreet.org

