

**St Paul's Methodist Church, Crawley**

*Extraordinary Times*

*a magazine to help us through COVID-19*

**Issue 6**

**April 26th 2020**

**No message from Rev Ralph this week so let's  
give thanks for blessings received**

**For the first few weeks I couldn't hear Ralph properly when I  
connected to the Sunday service. Then last Sunday I spotted a  
key on my computer keyboard with a little loudspeaker symbol  
and wondered what it did. Pressed it and hey presto,  
Ralph was loud and clear!  
Thank you, God, *Bobbie***

*Every day, except Sunday, is so like yesterday.*

*BUT - instead of watching a butterfly for a second, I follow  
its complete flight!*

*Instead of having a snatched conversation, often interrupted by  
someone else, I can fully engage with a friend on the phone.  
They have time to talk to me and no one interrupts. Brilliant!  
Thank God for the phone and for people who care enough  
to ring!*

*Then there's Facebook and Skype, emails and texts. Thank God  
for all these means of communication.*

*Love and prayers, Ann*

*After being unwell and on St Paul's prayer list since  
before Christmas, I am now on the mend and feeling  
very much better. I think now might be the right time  
to be taken off the prayer list - I am sure that prayer  
has brought me through this difficult time.*

*God bless, Jill*

**Lord, in the worst of times, you are right here with us. Help us see  
the light of your blessings shine through the darkness. Amen**

## What's On This Week

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

**10am *Taketime Live*** join in a meditation in real time, or later by pasting <https://mixlr.com/taketime/> into your Web browser

**10:45am live worship** with Rev Ralph

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>

**2pm Live half-hour worship** with Rev Ralph

Links to the services will be on St Paul's Facebook page and website and also sent by email so that everyone who has internet can participate.

**Wesley's Chapel** offers morning prayers live every day at 10am and a service at 12:45pm on Wednesdays at <https://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/>

## Prayers at 6 & 8

**During this week** please pray for people who are afraid, whether of contracting the virus, of losing a loved one, of being alone for a long time, of being in a threatening environment or for any other cause. Ask God to give us all strength to combat our fears. Continue praying for all essential workers in the NHS, Ambulance, Fire and Police services, refuse collectors and workers in food shops and pharmacies. Pray for the safety of us all and for an end to this situation.

## Please pray for

Ron, mourning the loss of his sister Janet; and for Bamini, Sowmya and Kayaniya whose husband and father Anandan died from COVID-19.

Continue praying for Emma who cannot get back home from visiting family in another country and for Judy, Uvonne, Linda, Daniel, Jean and Geoff, Maureen and others with needs known to ourselves.

**Send** your prayer requests to [enquiries@crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk)

*Methodist Church Guidelines state that permission must be received from a person before their name is put on the Church prayer list. Please ensure that you have such permission.*

## Dear Friends

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well in these difficult times. I am looking forward to the time when we will be able to go out and meet again at the church for worship and fellowship.

In the meantime, please stay safe by not allowing people into your homes and please don't give out your financial details to anyone (unless you know who you are giving them to and why). If you have any safeguarding concerns or queries, please contact Ralph or me, either by email or phone, or email

[enquiries@crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk)

and we will get back to you with an answer as soon as possible.

Take care, stay safe and God bless, *Carol*

## Barry's Isolation Diary week 3

How do you feel about jigsaws? Are you someone who can't pass by the massive jigsaw spread out on a table in the hotel lounge without trying to just place one piece and then finding you've been standing there for half an hour and now have an ache in your back from leaning over the puzzle?

I have been thinking about this a lot, when I have sat down to work out what I have achieved each day during this period. Since my isolation started, I have set up a large trestle table at one end of the conservatory on which I have now completed three jigsaws and am now well into my fourth one. I also eat most of my meals at this table with a place mat sitting on top of the part finished jigsaw, as this ensures good separation from Sheila sitting at the other end of the room.

At a quick guess I have probably spent anything up to three hours a day on completing them. Now, in normal times, I would regard such time as a complete loss, as there are usually much more useful things I should be doing, but at the moment I am not sure. I console myself with the thought that to solve a jigsaws require skills such as shape, colour and context matching and so it is providing me with mental stimulation which we are all encouraged to maintain, not only as we get older but particularly during these current times.

As anyone who has done many jigsaws will know, when it comes to the last part, usually the sky, we are all reduced to trying each piece in turn until that wonderful moment when the piece which looks completely wrong just drops perfectly into place. Perhaps there's a sermon there somewhere for when we can meet again.

Until then keep safe and God bless, *Barry*

PS our fledgling attempt at growing lettuces is showing promise as we have two lines of tiny, tiny leaves showing through the earth!

## Calling all gardeners

Barry's embryonic lettuces remind us that this is the time of splitting and planting. We're going to be working in our gardens but, with garden centres being closed, how about some sharing and swapping? If you can offer cuttings or spare plants email [enquiries@crowleymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@crowleymethodistchurch.org.uk) and I'll spread the word. As an example, Stephanie B is mourning the demise of

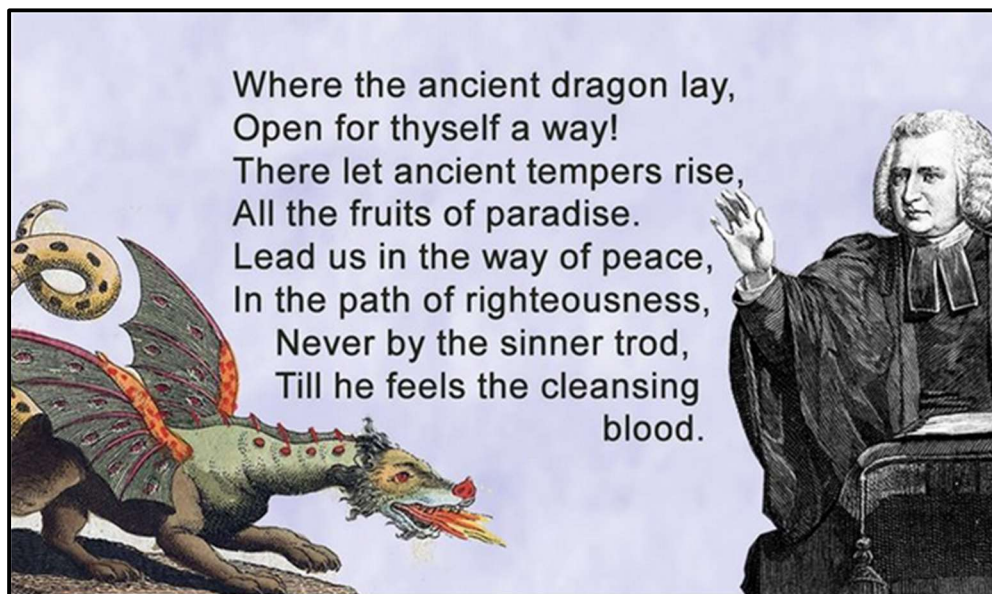


her trusty rosemary bush and wonders if someone might be able to let her have a cutting or two to grow a replacement.

While we might not be able to achieve the splendour of Nymans, here's a reminder that we will be able to go there again one day!

*Joyce*

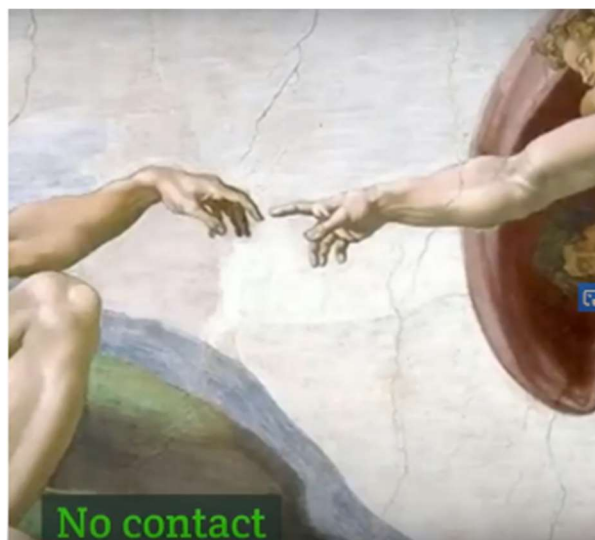
**On St George's Day**, as I was putting this edition of ET together, this seemed appropriate. It's the first verse of one of Charles Wesley's lesser-known hymns, number 289 in *A Collection of Hymns, for the Use of the People Called Methodists*, published in 1874. *Joyce*



### **Quarantine through art**

A little something for the art-lovers amongst us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keXvCkm0FIA>



### **Contacts**

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**St Paul's website** [www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.crawleymethodistchurch.org.uk)

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