



'BEING CHURCH'

**Boston Spa and Clifford
Methodist Churches**

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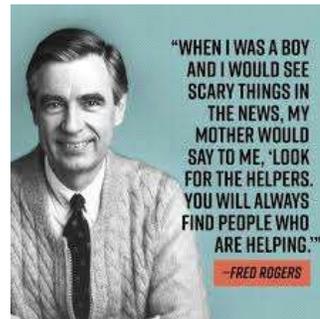
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Look for the helpers

Last year a film came out called 'A beautiful day in the neighbourhood', starring Tom Hanks. It was a biog about a chap called Fred Rogers – no, me neither. Apparently, as well as being a Presbyterian Minister, he was very well known in the States for his work on children's TV. His programme, which ran for 33 years, was critically acclaimed for focusing on children's emotional and physical concerns, such as death, sibling rivalry, school enrolment, and divorce – it was more fun than it sounds!



He had a homely style of presenting which people tried to mock – but then discovered that his kindness, his faith, his tolerance and his empathy really did change peoples' perceptions and their lives. In amongst all our current News stories of disease, death, shortages and selfish behaviour, the past couple of weeks has been a real reminder to us of his mother's saying that, when things were scary - 'Look for the helpers':

- Over 700,000 volunteers offering to help the NHS and 20,000 + ex-staff returning for the crisis
- Countless unseen sacrifices being made by those working in hospitals and care homes
- Neighbours shopping for the elderly and infirm
- Work with foodbanks, the homeless and refugees finding ways to continue
- Folk phoning round to show love and concern

Nobody will pretend that this crisis is a 'good thing' – but it is proof that good can come out of any situation. Pope Francis has said that now is the time to decide to **live better, love more and care for others** – closer to the society we are meant to be. Our challenge will be to try and ensure that the society in which we live, or the part which we can influence, maintains those "good" traits once the crisis is over.

Steve, Sue and Donald

On Facebook*: Check out the new clips available:



Storytime for toddlers (and over 60s):

**"The Wonkey Donkey" and
"The Gruffalo"**



Tea-Time Church at Home:

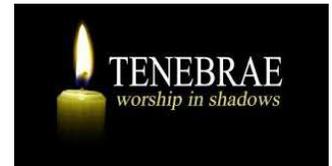
worship for young families on the theme of
"The Good Shepherd"



*3 sites - Boston Spa, Clifford and Tadcaster Circuit

Ways to worship: There are so many ways we can continue to hold God at the centre of our lives – some of these are repeated each week and some are new:

- **Worship at home** – attached is a short service which will be shared by many of us this Palm Sunday 5th April. Donald says: *'I tried this at our usual time of 10:30 last Sunday, on my own and thinking it would be a bit odd. However, I really felt that I was sharing with others, even though I couldn't see you all and I was able to stop for a moment in a hymn or a prayer and re-read words that struck home. Do give it a try'*.
- If you prefer to watch a Service, **Wesley Chapel** will be live streaming services on Sunday at 09:45 and 11:00 – go to www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA . If you don't have access to the internet, then **BBC 1** has a service from Hereford Cathedral at 11:00, and Songs of Praise for Palm Sunday, coming from Glasgow at 1:15pm
- **Tenebrae:** On Maundy Thursday, 9th April at 7:00pm, make your house quiet and tune into the BSMC home page: www.bostonspamethodistchurch.org.uk Tenebrae is a traditional service of reflection on the dark events of Easter week – and so important, if we are to understand the joy of Easter Sunday. Please join us, if you can.



Prayer Cards: At 7:00 pm on Sunday and Wednesday, join others in lighting a candle to leave in the window and using the Prayer Cards, for a quiet moment with God. These include prayers for those groups who would normally be meeting in the Church rooms over the coming week.

'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out' (John 1 v5).

The Rodgers family: On Thursday, Rev. Steve led a short Funeral Service at Stonefall in Harrogate. This was restricted to just Mavis and immediate family but was a fine way to commit Ron to his maker.



Save the date! **Spring Harvest** planned for Harrogate has been cancelled but will now be available, for free, online. The theme is *'Unleashed – the Acts Church today'*. Monday to Friday, with worship, preaching, prayer and songs – take a look at the programme and dip in and out whenever you can.

Cross challenge: This idea has been shamelessly stolen from Heather Shipman at Wetherby, but it's a good one, so as we won't be handing out Palm Crosses this Sunday, your challenge should you wish to accept it, is to make a cross out of something unusual, (use your imaginations!). Then photo it and send it to Donald, who'll make up a collage for next week's Easter issue.

Foodbank: The need is still there, please support, if you can - Boston Spa: contact Jo Vernon 360016. Clifford: Drop off outside Clifford Chapel door, 2-4pm every Wednesday. List of needed items attached.

Pastoral support: As you know, visits are effectively banned. Please stay in touch with each other by phone and let Steve, Sue or Donald know of any specific concerns – **you're not on your own**, we are as much a Church family now, as always!

Don't Stew and Fester: don't forget that if you want to catch up with friends over coffee, via Tele Conference, the next session is on Wednesday 8th April at 11:00. Contact Donald for details.

And finally (channelling Clint Eastwood).....

A short prayer from Rev. Paul Wood:

'O God, I count myself lucky that someone shared the good news of Jesus with me. Help me to help someone else feel lucky too' Amen to that!



Stay safe and remember we love you and, more importantly, Jesus loves you!



Latest list of items currently low in stock

- Pasta
- Rice
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned spaghetti
- Hot chocolate
- Cooking oil
- Vinegar
- Condensed milk
- Sugar – small bags
- All toiletries including; shampoo, deodorant, soaps, shower gels, hand wash, toothpaste, toilet rolls, tissues, etc.
- All sanitary products
- Nappies – all sizes, baby wipes.
- Longlife milk
- Fruit juice
- All cleaning products including; washing up liquid, floor cleaner, bleach, cloths, etc.