



# 'BEING CHURCH'

TADCASTER METHODIST CIRCUIT

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Friends

**HUGS**

I wonder what you have missed most during Lockdown and indeed the continuation of this pandemic?

There has been some research to say that even those of us who were perhaps previously not the 'hugging' type, would really like to give someone a hug now. A hug is an act of holding someone tightly in one's arms, typically to express affection.

The first time I saw my grandsons at the start of this lockdown, they stood near their front door and I remained beside my car on the roadside. Arthur came running out and fondly pressed against my legs... Arthur is the children's dog. He didn't know it was lockdown or that showing affection in this way was 'out-of-bounds'. Seeing my boys, and my daughter, at that time, and not being able to hold them brought tears to my eyes.



A young man is getting tired of always been bossed about and being told what to do, as he helps to run the family business. He is tied down to his work and seems to have no free time or opportunity to be with his mates. One day, fed up with the work and being ordered about by his elder brother, he's had enough. He asks his father for his inheritance, which is granted, and waves goodbye setting off to enjoy a new way of life.

So overjoyed, he didn't see the sadness on his father's face, nor the tears in the old man's eyes as they rolled down his rugged face.

I am referring to the parable Jesus told, known as the Prodigal son or the Loving father.

The extravagant lifestyle of the young son doesn't last, and he soon realises what a terrible mistake he's made. Humbly he returns home, wondering if his father will disown him.

The father has been watching for his son's return every day. He runs out to greet him when he sees him walking down the road. He hugged him and held him close, overwhelmed to see his boy again he says, "Welcome home, son".

Friend, that same overwhelming, forgiving, gracious and generous love the father had for his wayward son, is equal to the compassionate love of God for each one of us. God's love is unconditional.

In this troubled world, will you come 'home'? Will you draw near to God? God is patiently waiting, waiting to embrace us and hug us; to hold us close and give us comfort and strength through these difficult days.

May you know, wherever you have been and whatever you have done, that God loves you.

Every blessing, *Eileen.* Local Pastor



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## Worshipping together - Online:



This week we have a Circuit Reflection from Edward Blakey, one of our Local Preachers. This will be available early Sunday morning, on [Boston Spa MC](#), and [Tadcaster Circuit](#) websites, as well as all of our Facebook pages.

## Worshipping together – Offline

Service sheet attached.

Please join us, to feel part of something larger – physically apart, but spiritually together!

## On BBC:

On **Radio 4** Sunday at 8:10 am, Sunday Worship [‘The One Who Heals’](#) A celebration of the eucharist, live from Croydon Minster, on the Feast of St Luke, patron saint of physicians.

The preacher is Bishop Precious Omuku.



At 1:15 pm, on **BBC1**, Songs of Praise, [‘Cheddar Gorge’](#)

Aled Jones visits Cheddar Gorge in Somerset to hear the origins of the hymn Rock of Ages, and Gemma Hunt meets worship leader Martin Smith and new Christian group Bright City.

## Prayer Cards:



Every Sunday and Wednesday, at 7:00 pm, we remember to place a lit candle in the window and use our Prayer Cards, for a quiet moment with God, including prayers for those groups who would normally meet in the Church rooms over the coming week. Please also remember those of our immediate Church family, who we know are coping with loss of a loved one, their own health problems, loneliness or other worries. This week we particularly remember all those young people attending University, thinking especially of those in their first year.

A copy of the prayer card can be found on the Boston Spa Methodist Church website Home page.

## Dial-a-Sermon:

If you don't have access to a computer, you can still listen Edward Blakey's reflection (available from Sunday



## Especially for families:



**‘TeaTime Church at Home’** is for families to share, worshipping and learning together, through songs, stories, dance and general fun.

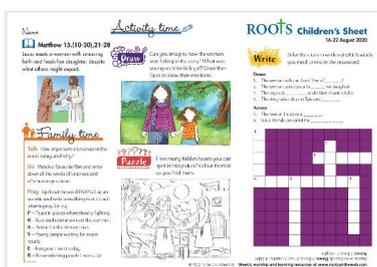
**‘StoryTime’** is for the kids, join in with the Three Bears, the Dinkey Donkey, the Gruffalo and many others.

Perfect for a rainy day, all the old favourite Tea-Time Church and Storytime are on the Boston Spa Methodist YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCinmF5gqNsY8lii108RsZ7w/>



## ROOTS Activity Time:



Every week, on the [Boston Spa Methodist website](#), left hand column of the Home Page, we're giving a link to children's, and adult's, Activity Sheets, based on the week's Bible reading.

Typically, the children's sheets might include drawing, crosswords, puzzles and questions designed to be fun but also to help us think about the stories. Give it a try!