

GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH

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Breaking the Rules – Meditations and Prayers by Eddie Askew - 1 John 4: 7-11

I'm a collector. I love and respect old things. Antiques, old paintings, antiquarian books. From time to time, I get lists of old books for sale, sent to me by antiquarian booksellers. The format is always the same. Each book is listed by author, then comes the title, the date of the particular edition, and then anything else that's relevant. The size, the style of binding and so on. ...

Lord, the promise of your love makes me uncomfortable. Somehow, I'd rather earn it, than take it as a gift. Pretend that, through my own hard work, I've done something to deserve it.

To think that you should love me as I am, with all faults, no strings attached, doesn't seem quite right. I'd rather pile up Brownie points, work my way towards the goal, and feel I've been successful, won the prize.

But when I look inside myself, dig down a bit, I find it's pride that's talking. A pride that doesn't want to take your gift of love, or any other gift, for free. Rather stand on my own two feet, self-made.

And then I realise that even when I feel like this, inclined to turn my back, go my own way, your love's still there.

Over me and under me. Before me and behind me. Around me and within me.

Your love encompassing.

The generosity is overwhelming. I find it hard to understand – I'm still wriggling, Lord – hard to understand why you should offer it at all. Until I realised it isn't just an act of love that takes me as I am. Love is your nature. You are love, and love can do no other. Love can only love.

And when I look afresh at who I am, how I live, I feel the secret's not to try to understand the mystery of love but simply to relax in it. Relax in you, and let the tide of love flow in with joy.

The joy of knowing that, with all my faults, you treasure me.

Two prayers for the New Year by – Rob Russell

I REDIDICATE MY LIFE TO YOU

In the stillness of this place, Lord, I come, and I worship you.
I lay aside my daily activities, and in prayer I dedicate my life to you.
When you came to live among us, you came to be my guide.
To teach me, to lead me, to show me how I should be with other people.
You explained in clear and simple words and actions

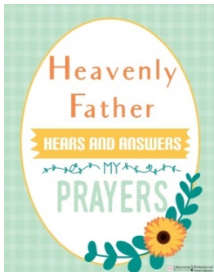
How I should behave, how I should forgive, and how I should love.
As I journey into a New Year,
Let the love you have placed in my heart burn for you
And radiate from me into the world.
Help me to carry some of the burdens of this world through my prayers,
So that I can bring comfort and hope into the dark places
That so badly need the Christ light I celebrate,
Which comes into this world each Christmastime. **Amen.**
Lord, thank you for being with me this year.

Heavenly Father, as I reach the end of the year, I give thanks for your presence in all my experiences over the past twelve months. I give thanks for all I have accomplished with your help and guidance.

As I prepare myself for the time to come, I recommit my life to you. I rededicate myself to your glorious name, and ask that you continue to be my light of hope and inspiration. I know, Lord, that there will be hard days and there will be difficult times, but I also know that with you by my side there will be days of joy and laughter.

Whether the day be full of sunshine and light or tinged with darkness and difficulty, I ask that you help me and let me know you are with me. Help me to feel your calm, soothing presence.

Help me to feel and show your love in this year to come. Give me strength, give me courage, give me wisdom, give me grace, give me tolerance. And help me to have a compassionate and understanding heart, so that I can reflect you in all the ways you have asked me to serve. **Amen**



Please remember in your prayers – Edna and David Barlow. David has been in hospital but he is home with the support of Marie Curie nurses. Please remember them at this difficult time.

Peter Caswell is grateful for your prayers as Delia had to retrieve him from Halton Hospital without the expected surgery because of a mix-up by Warrington General. Hold your prayers! Peter had an another appointment at Halton on Thursday, 7 January.

ALSO – Let's remember anyone we know of that is suffering at this time of year whether from illness, mourning or mental health problems. They are all in our prayers.

RE-OPENING NEWS

Warrington is now in Tier 4 - The Leadership Team will meet next on **7th January 2021** when we will discuss opening once again, if possible.

FUTURE SERVICES

Date	Time	Service	Led by	Where?
Sunday, 10th January	10.30am	Dial in Service	Circuit Members	Phone service only Dial 020 3478 5289 Access code: 145 404 825# ID: just press # Church Building Closed

NB - It is important that we keep this news sheet going. Please feel free to send your articles, poems, favourite hymns to Christine Taylor on the email below.

SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP We are sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone. Most weeks we have over 180 callers from across the Leigh & Hindley and Liverpool North Circuits.

If you would like to listen in, at 10.30am on Sunday:

Dial **020 3478 5289** on your telephone,

When it asks for the access code, enter **145 404 825#**.

(this number will be the same each week)

When it asks for your ID, press #

PODCASTS

Regular podcasts from Rev Viv can be found on: <https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366> . I send these out daily to those who receive notice sheets by email each week. If you know of anyone who would like to receive them, please let me have their email address and I will include them in the distribution.

[Christine Taylor]

IF YOU ARE not a member of church and need to talk please ring Rev Katharine Bland or Delia Caswell on the phone numbers at the top of the first page of this news sheet.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THE NEWS SHEET PLEASE CONTACT ME ON EMAIL BY WEDNESDAY OF EACH WEEK: christine.arran4872@aol.com or phone me on my Mobile – 07801252625.