**GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

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**Bible readings for Sunday, 21 February 2021–Sunday before Lent – Genesis 9: 8-17, Psalm 25: 1-10, 1 Peter 3: 18- 22 and Mark 1: 9-15.**

**Here is an extract from Genesis 9: – God’s Covenant with Noah –Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them. ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.’**

 **Reverend Katharine Bland**

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**FROM MAUREEN HILTON – LOCAL PREACHER**

Doesn’t’ time pass quickly? Even though we are still in yet another lockdown, confined in our houses, I find that my days seem to be flying over. I’m sure it was only yesterday, wasn’t it, that I was celebrating Christmas, a different sort of one, a very quiet one without the usual family celebrations and visits, but still Christmas, the time of our Saviour’s birth?

And now, suddenly we have reached Lent! What happened to the days in between? Lent, the time when we remember how Jesus endured his forty days and nights of testing in the wilderness. Here Jesus encountered Satan who tempted him with many things. We all know this horror story, but Jesus never gave in, he triumphed over all the temptations and torments, ready to start anew when he left the wilderness.

As Jesus spent his 40 days and nights in his wilderness, so we, are entering our 40 days in the wilderness; this time, Lent, is a time for us perhaps of fasting and repentance leading to our new beginnings. But instead of fasting we may focus more on giving something up; chocolate/cakes/biscuits or we may decide instead to take something new on? Hoping that at the end of our wilderness days we may start again, refreshed and eager to continue our life’s journey.

During this time of Lent we can see that not only is it a Spiritual journey from darkness to light it is also an actual time of darkness giving way to light as our sunlight hours lengthen; soon we will be in Spring where days are lighter, warmer, where we see all the new beginnings, bulbs, leaves on the tree’s, baby birds hatching, all new beginnings! A time of hope that out of darkness comes the light.

With this hope and with the knowledge that right from the outset, in the darkness, God promised to be with us. Remember, we are loved by God, for ever and ever, even during our darkest days, so surely with God’s love, support and compassion, have we not the wherewithal to survive our wilderness? We may feel captives in our dark wilderness, but God is with us, by our sides; he promised that he would always be with us. Forever!

“Lord, help us in this time of Lent to walk with Jesus on his Calvary journey so that our commitment is clear and our love complete”

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

 ! "#$ 

%

%&'(

)\*

(   +

,-" "./,,,

0%

""1,,2 "34

"0%

5                  #  67841

$   %

9,,,! 67841

%

,

%





 ! "#$ 

%

%&'(

)\*

(   +

,-" "./,,,

0%

""1,,2 "34

"0%

5                  #  67841

$   %

9,,,! 67841

%

,

%





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**LENT COURSE – PLEASE JOIN US – TO WATCH AND DISCUSS ‘THE GREATEST SHOWMAN’**

You are warmly invited to attend one of our Zoom sessions commencing on Saturday 20th February 2021 @ 10.00am https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712878366?pwd=eG5ZcE1BYVlqbktSVzg4YXVDQjZIdz09 AT **CULCHETH**  Meeting ID : 827 1287 8366 Password : 759634

**OR GLAZEBURY** Tuesday 23rd February 2021 @7.30pm https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87410748216?pwd=N29wcVJWc00wT21ZQmNPajdpQjRLdz09 Meeting ID: 874 1074 8216 Password: 493271

**Please pray** - Father God fill us with your Holy Spirit to help to discern your will as we journey through Lent together

**PLEASE EMAIL DAVID CLIFTON ON -** [**dclifton2k2@hotmail.com**](mailto:dclifton2k2@hotmail.com) **- if you want the daily emails throughout Lent. Also any feedback would be appreciated**

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**FOR ALL PASTORAL VISITORS THERE WILL BE A PASTORAL MEETING ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2021 AT 10.00AM. JOINING DETAILS WILL BE SENT OUT NEARER THE TIME.**

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**YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION TO -**

**GLAZEBURY WEEKLY SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING- It’s just like a TUESDAY morning at church – join in and a have a chat. We would love to see you.**

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A time to get together to see each other and have a chat for an hour.

10.30am – 11.30am

on Zoom

Meeting ID – 840 7587 7165

If you’re not online why not connect by phone – 0203 481 5240 (using the same Meeting ID code)

**Everyone has been baking and cooking more during lockdown. How about sending in your favourite new/not so new recipes!!???**

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**CULCHETH SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING – 11.30AM – 12NOON ENJOY A CHAT WITH OUR FRIENDS AT CULCHETH – ON ZOOM**

Note that this is now a repeating meeting – it will be the same link each week.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88560759929?pwd=MFFDRittR0hkN0loWTlaTjlBN1V6UT09>  
Meeting ID: 885 6075 9929 Passcode: 012778

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From: Amy Driver <amyedriver@gmail.com>  
To: culchethmethodist@googlegroups.com <culchethmethodist@googlegroups.com>  
Sent: Thu, 18 Feb 2021 17:22  
Subject: Working from Rest - a lent Prayer journey

If you’d like to join in with the prayer journey on the YouVersion app, here is the link you need...see you there!

<https://bible.com/p/39610429/64f40d589c27be92ac7c415d29ad87cf>

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**From Andrea in the Circuit Office -** Hello again, everyone,

In response to my email re Rev Bishop, please see below an equally interesting thought from Rev Jeff Walker...I had a few positive comments about the email, so thank you for those.

"I am a believer in God working with the "remnant". It is a repeating Biblical and theological theme. God uses the remainder after some cataclysm to build -- not rebuild, not recreate what went before, that was of the past, but build something new.

That is what I feel the churches (of every denomination) but specifically the churches in our Circuit should be considering. They should be preparing for when they can meet together in general church meetings and/or Circuit Meetings to attempt to answer the questions, "What do we need to do for the future?", "How do we future-proof not just our buildings (do we actually need them all or do we need any?), but our worship, our mission, our very being?"

Whilst we are all hoping to survive the pandemic, it is easy to simply hunker down, wait for the storm to pass and t hen stick our noses above ground like animals coming out of hibernation. We need to be doing more than that! We need to be hard on ourselves because repeating what went before will simply mean we will be making the same mistakes.

Our Methodist predecessors made the major mistake of assuming that their traditions would simply continue. Sunday School, men's meetings, ladies' meetings, women's fellowship (I am aware of a class distinction between the latter two!) etc. They did not, and could not, foresee the societal changes brought on by the two world wars and the advance of technology especially social media). We cannot make similar assumptions. We know that society has changed over the time of the pandemic. To some extent we are more aware of one another (even if only to socially distance ourselves), we are more aware of community but we are also more aware of selfishness amongst individuals.

It may be that living on my own, I am more aware of the need for regular social contact. I am fortunate to have a friend who video calls me every evening to put the world to rights but also to jointly attempt puzzles created by Ordnance Survey etc. My daughter is also in regular contact. I wonder how many of our church members are lucky enough to have friends/family to chat to each day.

I don't know the answers to any of the questions I have posed, but I hope that they are already being considered as a matter of urgency. When we are finally able to pop up out of our hibernation, I believe that we cannot afford to be looking back to the way we were. We have a new community around us which, though they may not know it, actually need us, and they need us to be providing something different to what they have been shunning for years. The bigger difficulty, in many way, is how we make them aware of the changes God has wrought in us in order to communicate the Gospel." *[Rev Jeff Walker]*

**PS** - Rev Viv is very much in agreement – we cannot go back.

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**Please also keep remembering in your prayers**

**Reverend Katharine, her husband Paul and son** Christopher as Katharine and Paul recover from Coronavirus.

**Edna and David Barlow**. We still keep Edna and David in your prayers.

**Peter Caswell - Your Prayers Are Requested**       
I have recently received a diagnosis of cancer. Specifically cancer of the prostrate. My principal carer is Delia, formerly known as Nurse Grundy, so I couldn't be in better hands.

But I am also in the care of our wonderful NHS and all the nurses and doctors who dedicate their lives to helping people like me.

When I was a child my mother would not utter the word "cancer" but always mimed it. How times have changed!

Your prayers would be appreciated but also please include those people suffering beyond the reach of professional medical care: they need your prayers more than I do. Delia and I have total confidence in all the NHS staff who will be working hard to bring me to a complete recovery.

See you all soon! With love and thanks, **Peter Caswell**

**Eileen Groves** – who is undergoing radiotherapy treatment at Christie’s. Eileen has a taxi provided to take her to Christie’s. She has had some interesting journeys!!!!

**Joyce Byrne** – who is still feeling under the weather after a couple of spells in hospital.

**ALSO** – Let us 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.

**FOR A FRIEND** of ours who was in hospital over Christmas for 6 weeks and was unfortunately taken into hospital again 3 weeks ago. Prayers for him and his family. His father was also in a different hospital over Christmas. *[Christine T]*

IF THERE IS ANYONE YOU KNOW OF WHO NEEDS OUR PRAYERS PLEASE LET ME KNOW (WITH THEIR APPROVAL) AND I WILL INCLUDE THEM IN THE LIST. THEY NEED NOT BE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH.

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**PRAYER FROM METHODISTS ONLINE –Dear God, I know that I am not perfect, I know sometimes I forget to pray. I know I have questioned my faith. I know sometimes I lose my temper, but thank you for loving me unconditionally and giving me another day to start over again. Amen.**

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**PLEASE SEE BELOW AN EMAIL FROM REV LEN PEREIRA RE: A LENT EVANGELISM COURSE THAT HE IS ORGANISING**

**Subject: The Natural Evangelism Course**

Dear All

This is to let you know that I am planning to run a 6 week course via zoom which will roughly coincide with Lent. It is the "Natural Evangelism" course which has been produced by J John, a well-known UK evangelist.

Now I know that the word "evangelism" is enough to make most of us run for the hills, so please let me explain why I want to offer this course in particular:-

1. You have probably heard it said, and may have said it yourself, that when churches eventually reopen we must not merely return to what we were doing pre-lockdown, because if we do the world will continue to pass us by and the Church will continue to decline. One of the things we can do differently is to restore the role of evangelism to be a key part

of church life because I am sure you will agree that it has all but disappeared.

2. The purpose of the Natural Evangelism course is to help us to be more confident in situations where we have opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The clue is in the word "natural" ie the course focuses on everyday situations in which we engage with family, friends, colleagues, neighbours etc. Whilst evangelism is undoubtedly a specific

calling for some people, the course will encourage us to know that we can all contribute in some way to this important ministry. /……………………………

So, if you would like to take part (and can access zoom) please do the following two things:-

1. Let me know by email.

2. Order for yourself the book called "The Natural Evangelism Course" for £5 from [www.canonjjohn.com](http://www.canonjjohn.com) **NB: make sure you order the course book and not the personal book** – they look very similar.

The Course will run on six consecutive Tuesdays at 7.30pm, starting on 2nd March and finishing on 6th April. Thanks - Len Pereira

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**SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30am**

**We are sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone, or online.**

**Online**, click this link to join via your internet browser. On a tablet or smartphone, download the Webex App, which it will prompt you to do: <https://mydanone.webex.com/mydanone/j.php?MTID=mcfe21c4f7df98fe26d8960c752cefd8b>

**OR**

**Phone**: Dial 020 3478 5289 on your telephone, When it asks for the access code, enter 145 404 825#. When it asks for your ID, press #. The call will be charged at the standard UK phone rate

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**IF YOU ARE not a member of the church and need guidance/help** please contact Delia Caswell on the phone number 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: **christine4872@sky.com** or phone me on my Mobile – 07801252625.

