



St John's Methodist Church,
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Registered Charity No 1130633

St John's Weekly

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Sunday 12th July 2020

A prayer from Christian Aid for the church

May your love that never fails
strengthen the weak
encourage the fearful
calm the anxious
heal the sick
through your church –
your washed hands
and feet on earth –
distant but still present
virtual but still connected
apart but still helping.
God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.
Amen.

Christian Aid have produced "A reflection on love and healing in this time of coronavirus" - it is well worth reading and is available [here](#).

St John's re-opening

We are hoping to open the church for Sunday morning worship from **Sunday 26th July** (subject to approval of the Church Council). We are currently busy putting measures in place to keep our visitors safe.

St John's News

The last **St John's Weekly** (for now at least) will come out for Sunday 19th July, and a summer edition of **St John's News** will come out the following week, on Sunday 26th July. Please let us have any material for that St John's News by Sunday 19th July, to sjnews@stjohnspb.org.uk or to one of the leadership team.

Out of chaos...

I have just read an article by Edward Dusinger about the composer Ludwig van Beethoven in which he describes him as his **Covid Composer. Why?** Edward Dusinger (a member of the Takacs Quartet) finds Beethoven as someone who shows us how out of chaos comes meaning. This is the 250th anniversary of the year of Beethoven's birth (1770) so there is a lot of Beethoven on the radio this year and some of us have had a chance to appreciate him more.

At the time Beethoven wrote his last symphony, he was profoundly deaf and suffering from many ailments. And yet out of this situation comes his later string quartets, his *Missa Solemnis* and the 9th Symphony. In the final movement of the 9th Symphony, Beethoven uses the words of Schiller's *Ode to Joy*. This song is full of praise and truth. It acknowledges the power of the gospel where:

**All become brothers (sisters)
Under the sway of thy gentle wings.**

It also talks about the common grace of God which:

*All creatures drink of joy
At nature's breast.
Just and unjust
Alike taste of her gift.*

It speaks of being content in our daily walks of life and to be faithful in running the race of faith. It also talks about the need for the world to praise its Maker.

It is at times really hard to praise, but try listening to some uplifting music (it might not be Beethoven for you!). Sometimes music can help us express deep feelings within. I am always moved by the finale of the 9th Symphony, especially when I think of the frail ill man who wrote it. Out of his suffering, he is still able to find meaning in life.

And what about us? Many have found lockdown hard, but in the midst of difficulties, are there still things for which you can give thanks? Maybe you have also become more aware of your neighbours and realised that under God we are all sisters and brothers one of another? Maybe you have become more aware of the beauty of birdsong and the natural world, or the kindness of strangers? Or have made more time for a daily walk? Edward Dusinger says Beethoven helps him find meaning in chaos. What has sustained you in these weeks of lockdown?

Rev Rosemary Fletcher
(Rosemary and Ali are sharing this slot)



The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing... They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Isaiah 35: 1-2

DON'T FORGET...

We will share a virtual coffee on Sunday morning via 'Zoom' on our computers. See details in email.

You can join the on-line version of the Sunday service (including an opportunity to sing along to all the hymns!) if you are on-line or if you have a modern smart television with a built in browser. Go to: www.stjohnspb.org.uk