Newsletter



Dear

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the Burnt Ash Methodist Church newsletter. My thanks to all those who have contributed. As a church family, we are anxious that we can all stay connected during this difficult period. I know many of you have been keeping in touch with each other via text, WhatsApp, email, zoom, Microsoft teams – and perhaps, also by telephone and letter! Just a reminder, if you do feel anxious, and in need of a friendly voice at the end of the phone: or you need any physical assistance in terms of getting shopping/medicines etc, please contact:

Rev. Rohama Asif: 020 8857 5615 Mary Sparkes: 07950 263 252 Graham Sparkes: 07876 787 261 Stephen Burgess: 07804 930 550 David Maxwell: 020 8857 4428 Claire Pennycard: 0208 851 9358 Linda Ryan: 0208 857 5160

If you would like to contribute to future editions of this newsletter, please send items of interest to me rynlnd@aol.com Keep well; you are in our thoughts and prayers Linda Ryan

Newsletter

Minister's Letter



Dear Friends,

Greetings, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who is our Saviour, keeper, protector and shepherd.

We are waiting and watching to see what is happening next. There is no doubt that the coronavirus has exposed where we have put our hope and what we have taken for granted. This is a time to rethink, review and evaluate what we should do to prepare for life beyond corona. As much as we wish things would just go back to normal, they won't. At least not exactly as they were.

By now we are hopefully looking at the updates and plans for our daily routine and lives to return to normal. But we must accept that after the easing of lockdown, some things won't be the way they were. People are talking about B.C. and A.C. (Before Corona and After Corona).

Crisis forces us to do things we previously thought about doing and put off. Systems, methods, habits and lifestyles have changed now and will not be the same anymore in the future.

We all have noticed the fear and worry in the people of our community. People feared the long-lasting implications for the economy. We are still concerned about a family member catching it. We are concerned about all the things that come along with the isolation. How lonely we feel in this crisis, while we depend on our family and carers for the many things, that they do to help us feel better and happy.

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Nowadays we are too worried about everything, our family, our church services, meeting friends, work, in fact, we worry about our present and our future.

But we need to remember Jesus' promise of his abiding presence with us. We need to let God deal with our worry. You know this already, but I want to remind you: Worry won't help you.

Jesus told us this in Matthew 6:27, "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life."

Of course, the answer to Jesus' question is no. We can't keep ourselves from catching COVID-19 through worry. It won't keep our family from getting sick. It won't help us keep our church open either.

Worrying just makes our problems worse because we can't move a step closer to solving them. Worry and fear can't change our past. They can't change your future. All they can do is mess up our present.

Proverbs 12:25 says, "Worry weighs a person down."

This is a time to prove our faith and confidence in God and his promises. We need to be at our best. Worry won't get us there.

So how can we overcome our fears and worry during this stressful season?

Let Jesus Be our Shepherd.

A shepherd who takes the responsibility to feed, lead, and meet the needs of his sheep.

That's why I start every day by saying, "The Lord is my shepherd.

Reminding you that you also have a good shepherd who cares for you.

So, relax and give God your worries in prayer and count your blessings. In times like these, we must continually remind ourselves of all that God has done in our lives.

But I also think it's important to count your worries. you can hand them over to God in prayer.

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Peter says, "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you" (1 Peter 5:7). We are not designed to carry our worries. It's unnatural. God is big enough and strong enough to handle all our worries.

It's okay to plan for tomorrow. Right now, we're going through one of the most unique experiences in church history. We need to make plans for what we will do in the days, weeks, and months to come.

We can plan for tomorrow without living in tomorrow. Because we can only live in today.

God is constantly testing how much we trust him. God wants us to decide whether he really holds first place in our lives.

This unique period of history is one of the biggest tests we'll ever face when it comes to trusting God. God has promised to care for us. He will meet our needs. Will we trust him? And above all he is the same today, yesterday and tomorrow.

May God help you and give you and your family peace and hope as you understand his love and sense his presence in these uncertain times.

Stay safe and well

Every Blessing

Rohama Asif

Message from the Church Treasurer

I hope that you are keeping well and surviving in these strange and difficult times.

As I am sure you all know, the church currently has very little income but still has significant ongoing costs. I therefore thank all those who have provided some support by so generously making donations in the past two months or by contributing to fund raising activities such as plant sales.

To the extent that you are able, please continue to support the church and other charities that are struggling at this time.

Stay safe. *David*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

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Burnt Ash Church Family Virtual Coffee Morning

At the moment, as it is not possible to meet in person, there is a short meditation we can all use. *Beccie*



When we stop for a drink and a rest – at around 11am on a Wednesday if possible – we can still think of each other and share together.

LOOK: Take a look at your coffee and pray:

"Lord, please pour your Holy Spirit into my life today. Stir up a desire in me to meet with you. You are so kind, so patient and so loving"

HOLD: Clasp the cup in both hands (as long as it isn't too hot!)

"Lord, I need your forgiveness for the things I have done wrong, and the important things I have put off doing. Please take away any bitterness from me, all that doesn't please you. I ask you especially through the Lord Jesus to forgive me for....

"Warm me with Your love and purpose. Thank You for welcoming me as Your child"

TASTE: Drink and pray

"Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to pause, to reflect, to pray and wait on You. Help me know you are with me in everything I do today. Please be with me as I.....

Help me to listen to what You have to say and to act accordingly"

SMELL: Take a long deep breath

"May my life today be the essence of Christ to those who haven't met You yet. Give me the courage to speak up for You and share my experience and faith with them as easily as I would share a cup of coffee with a friend

I especially pray for....'

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

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We are a Church family, discovering what it means to be the people of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.



As family we love, care and continue to pray for each other and our community.

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God of all hope we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them. May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty. For those people who are worried about attending worship. For those needing to make decisions in order to care for other For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend. Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you.

Amen

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My thoughts on the Corona Virus

by Jeannette

When we were told to stay at home, I thought at last, I will have a chance to catch up with my filing and certain household tasks that had got left behind. The garden too had got neglected with all that rain we had. I was quite cheerful at first, but as things have gone on I felt a bit more despondent. When will it all end, and how will it all end? Then I thought back to the days after my husband had suddenly died, days of sheer gloom. No end to a state of sadness and not knowing how life would be now, when all the necessary paper work had been done. It was on those days I drew strength from the 23rd Psalm. At first I could only get up to the verse 4 which said "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Get out your Bible and have a look. As I said, at first I could only get to verse 4, but as life went on I was able to extend to the other verses too. The promise of a better future.

Our enemy is not a person but a virus. Something we have never had to face before. So we must be patient as we wait to dwell in Gods house again. To see each other's faces and greet each other as we did be before.

I hope we have learned a few lessons about how to live in a better way. To live with the world of nature. To value the community in which we live because God loves each one of us and wants us to live in harmony with each other.

Remember "The Lord is my shepherd" and each one of us can say that.

God bless you.

Jeannette



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Recipe Page

Jeannette's Yorkshire Bun Loaf

5 oz S.R. Flour	2 oz Castor Sugar	
1⁄4 tsp salt	1 tsp marmalade	
¹ / ₂ tsp bicarbonate of soda	1 egg	
*1 oz lard	2 oz sultanas	
*1 oz butter	2 oz currants	
	1/8 pt milk	

1. Sift dry ingredients into bowl.

2. Rub in lard, butter, add the sugar, egg, fruit and marmalade mixed with milk.

- 3. Pour into well greased 1lb loaf tin.
- 4. Bake $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours at Mark 3.
- * Alternatively use 2oz Stork cooking marg and a chunky marmalade for added flavour.

Olive Housman's Oat Crunchies

4oz soft margarine	5oz Self raising flour
4oz sugar	1 oz Porridge oats

Cream margarine and sugar. Add flour and oats. Beat well. Place on a baking sheet in small balls and cook at gas 4 for 15-20 mins

Jessie Mitchell's Rock Cakes

1/2 lb Self raising flour	A little milk
¹ / ₄ lb Butter or margarine	3oz currants
¹ / ₄ lb caster sugar	optional: 2oz coconut

1 egg

Mix together the flour, butter, sugar, egg and milk. Add the currants. Divide into a greased bun tin (makes approx. 18 cakes). Bake in the top of the oven at gas 6 for 15-20 mins

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want

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Jeannette's Rich Biscuits

8 ozs S.R Flour4 ozs Caster Sugar4 ozs Margarine or butter

One small egg (beaten)

The rind and juice of half a lemon

- 1. Mix Flour and Sugar in a bowl.
- 2. Rub in margarine until like breadcrumbs.
- 3. Add grated rind of lemon.

4. Mix to a stiff paste with beaten egg and lemon juice.

5. Roll out thinly and cut into rounds approx 40, with a scone cutter.

6. Place on a greased baking sheet.

7. Bake at 350° F, Mark 4 about 15 minutes.



Jessie Mitchell's Rich Fruit Cake

¹ / ₂ cup caster sugar	1 cup boiled water
Teaspoon bi-carb	2 cups self raising flour
2 cups mixed fruit	1 egg
4oz margarine (Stork)	

- 1. Place the sugar, water, bi-carb, fruit and margarine into a saucepan and simmer on a very low heat for approx. 15mins (until margarine melts)
- 2. Let the mixture cool (can place saucepan into a little cold water)
- 3. Place mixture into a bowl and add the flour and I egg, mix well
- 4. Pour into a 7/8 inch (lined) tin
- 5. Bake at gas 4 for 30 mins, then gas 2 for 2 hour.

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Puzzle page



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I	Е	Е	Ε	0	R	1	L	E	1	R	Е	M	0	Ν	GLORY	SEALS
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Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right																
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BIBLE	WORD	SEARCH!
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BASIC WORDS OF THE BIBLE



CREATED BY MELINDA SKAGGS

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want

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Bible Trivial

Thanks to Mary for sending me this:

Someone showed me this story and remarked that there are twenty books of the bible hidden here. They challenged me to find them. Sure enough, they're all here. Still, this thing's a "lulu" --- kept me looking so hard for the longest time! Some of you will get bogged down with facts. Others are hit by them like they were some kind of revelation or something! You may get in a jam --- especially since the names are not capitalized and often leap the spaces between the words. This makes it a real job to find them, but it'll provide a most fascinating few minutes for you. Yes there are some really easy ones to spot, but don't get the big head 'cause, truthfully, you'll soon figure that it would take most federal judges and preachers numbers of hours to find them all. I will admit that it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and that is not uncommon for there to be loud lamentations when it is pointed out. One lady says that when she is confronted with puzzles like this one, she brews a cup of tea to help her concentrate better. But, then, this gal's a real pro! (verbs, nouns, and all that stuff are her thing.) See how well you can compete. Relax! There are really twenty names of the Bible books in this story. If you fail to find them there's a penalty! You'll have to go fly a kite, sit on a banana, hum the Battle Hymn of the Republic, or hose a dog (a mean one) Get to it!