



Staple Hill

Local ... Lively ... Loving

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Christ
is
Risen!

Sunday 12th April 2020

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Easter Sunday

Last Sunday we celebrated Palm Sunday and we remembered Jesus entering Jerusalem to shouts of 'Hosanna'. Within a few days, those hosannas changed to cries of 'Crucify Him' and when all seemed lost, we awake today, Easter Sunday, to join with many others in proclaiming 'Christ is risen, he is risen indeed'. A rollercoaster of a week in the Bible account, but also maybe in our world too. The account of that last week in Jesus' life hopefully teaches us that even tragic events can't destroy God's plan for the world. His plan of salvation, abundant life, hope and redemption is everlasting. In this time of uncertainty, when we don't know what the future holds, we can be sure of the fact that God is still in control, we can still trust him and his love remains the same.

Loving God, in Jesus Christ who died and rose again for our salvation, cast out the darkness of our anxiety, fear and mourning, enfold us in your love and give us joy and hope this Easter. Amen.

Major Nicola Hylton-Jones

WEEKLY PROGRAMME:

All activities in our buildings are currently suspended in line with government advice in the fight against the corona virus.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP:

It's good to still share in worship online during this time, please comment when you watch as it's a good way of communicating with each other. This week, in addition to our own meeting which will be on facebook from 11am, the Territorial Leaders Commissioners Anthony and Gillian Cotterill are leading an Easter Sunday online meeting so that people across the UK can join together and celebrate '*Christ is Risen*'. You can watch the meeting via the Salvation Army's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/salvationarmyvideo> and it will be available from 9am Easter Sunday.

HOLY WEEK VIRTUAL EASTER EGG HUNT:

It's been good to share together (even if we're far apart) in reading the events of Holy week from Mark's gospel this week. We hope you have found it useful. Thank you to those who have shared their photos on facebook - if you have taken photos, but not shared them yet, then don't keep them to yourselves - send them to us we'd love to see them.

CLAP FOR OUR CARERS:

You may be joining in with the nation on Thursday evenings to 'clap for our carers' at 8pm. Many have called for this to be a thank you to all key workers and as such it would be good for us to remember staff in Salvation Army care homes and Lifehouses. We're so grateful for all essential workers who continue to care, support and serve others during this time. As we clap for them, let's also remember to pray for them - for care workers caring for frail and vulnerable people, for protection over staff as they carry out essential tasks, for all those who serve at The Salvation Army frontline.

FOODBANK UPDATE:

We continue to be open 4 times a week: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 11am-12pm. Many people have been very generous in donating food and money, including Morrisons. We are not too busy with requests, but are more prepared now if the need increases.

LETTER TO OUR CHURCH (from our Youth):

To those who need hope,

For everyone who is struggling either physically or physiologically at the moment, we must remember that God's love is always with us especially at times like this.

We must remember to stay strong and focussed on Him, since He makes all things possible. He promises us ever lasting life if we remain loyal to Him.

I pray that each of us remains positive and optimistic by spending more time with family, speaking to loved ones at a distance and remembering that this is only temporary.

Isaiah 41:10 says *"So do not fear for I am with you, do not be dismayed for I am your god. I will strengthen and hold you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand."*

Aimée Bessex

DIVISIONAL AND TERRITORIAL EVENTS:

We heard late on Friday evening that our Divisional children and youth camps have been cancelled, as has the Territorial music school. DHQ (Divisional Headquarters) will be in contact next week with families who have already booked places. In addition, the Territorial congress which was to be held in Newport at the end of the year has been cancelled. I am sorry for any disappointment this will cause.

SALVATION ARMY PUBLICATIONS:

The Salvation Army weekly publications have been put online, so although we have been delivering papers to people's homes, you can read the whole thing online for free. The links are:

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/warcry

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/salvationist

FELLOWSHIP BULLETIN:

We would like to say thank you for all that you are doing to keep in contact with each other. We have heard about lots of positive conversations and about lots of caring concern, which is very heartening. Please keep up the good work.

As part of our worship, if you are able to view the recorded meeting, you will see me find 50 Easter Eggs in the SASH (Salvation Army Staple Hill) annual Easter Egg Hunt - I was as happy bunny! However, we will be keeping all the Easter Eggs for our children and young people to have when we can meet again. Would you pray for all the young people and children who come to our church? Tash, Laura and Margaret are working hard to keep in contact with them all:

Thomas, Joseph, Isabella, Gracey, Joe, Jakub, Moses Junior, Jeovany, Maria, Aimée, Ellen, Naomi, Orla, Kathleen, Adam, Josh, Harry, Jess, Emily, Bethany, Freya, Oliver, Nneka, Dennis, Vicky, Sophia, Amber, Bertie, Carys, Senan, James, Charlie, Harry, Poppy, Alice, Vimbai, Charlotte, Georgina, Harriet, Karen, Natalie, Jacob, Emily, Noah, Riley, Noah, Charlie, Oscar, Robyn, Grace, Henry, Arthur and the one that I will have forgotten!

PRAYER NETWORK: staplehillprayers@gmail.com

At the moment we are getting a number of prayer requests around Coronavirus. We are asked to pray for people fighting the virus, families who have lost loved ones. Not all of the people prayed for are known to us, but have requested prayers.

Whilst thinking of those suffering, we also remember all the people who come under the umbrella of the NHS who are still working and risking their own health daily, especially those in our own Corps Fellowship.

A WORLD-WIDE AUDIENCE (CANADA):

Majors Colin & Nicola

Just to thank you for all the Sunday morning services you have conducted through the wonderful invention of the iPad. Each service has been so well received and encouraging as we all walk through the trying weeks of this pandemic.

This morning's service was no exception, as all of the sections taking part, plus the songs chosen, we're so uplifting and thought-provoking.....the closing Songster piece was so moving, and I would like to thank the Songster leader and the Songsters for choosing this beautiful piece of music especially for today's service on Good Friday.

Thank you, Nicola and Colin, for all the numerous hours you have put in, providing such welcoming Sunday morning services and daily readings at this Easter time.

You have no idea how many lives you have touched through such trying times in pointing people to our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you and God Bless,

Jean Mounsey....where the snow is still falling!