

# PRUDHOE METHODIST CHURCH

[www.prudhoemc.org](http://www.prudhoemc.org)

## NOTICES FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING SUNDAY 22 MARCH 2020

**None of us could have predicted the current situation in which all of our lives, physically, mentally and even spiritually could be so affected by a virus, which has required unprecedented decisions to be taken. Notices this week take on a very different format, which we hope will be helpful.**

We trust that everyone eventually received the message from Rev Jenny Porterpryde a few days ago, or have seen it on Facebook, in which she explains that, on the advice of the Methodist Church (following that of the Government and Public Health England), **ALL** activities at church are now cancelled until further notice.

Jenny goes on to remind us “that we have another, vital, Christian calling, and that is to love and care for one another - and that means spiritual food parcels as well as physical ones.” On the back of this sheet (or lower down if you are reading this on a screen), you will see how Prudhoe Methodist Church is trying to develop a better communication network.

**Meanwhile** ..... Whilst we may refer to our building as “the church”, it is we, the people, that are the church and prayer and worship are things we can do, even on our own. The following are suggested resources to help us at this time and more are being developed all the time:-

- “Family Friendly Churches” has a list of suggestions to use at home:- Go to - [www.ffctideas.org.uk/Corona.php](http://www.ffctideas.org.uk/Corona.php)
- The website of The Methodist Church, [www.methodist.org.uk/coronavirus](http://www.methodist.org.uk/coronavirus) contains lots of information and advice relating to the current crisis.
- Also on the Methodist site, click on “worship at home sheets” for (currently) a service for Mothering Sunday, 22 March. Further down, click on “Worshipping at Home” and/or “Prayers” for more resources. You can also scan down a little further to find details and a link to services streamed on “youtube”, of daily services of prayer from Wesley's Chapel, London.
- On “Premier Christian Radio”, you can listen live to their broadcast or to sections broadcast earlier by going to their website:- [www.premierchristianradio.com](http://www.premierchristianradio.com)
- If you have been involved with any of the Lent Study groups, which have sadly had to be curtailed.
- BBC features a service at 11.45am and of course the popular Songs of Praise.

We have also been invited by **Churches Together in England**, to make this coming **Sunday, 22 March**, a **National Day of Prayer and Action** with a suggestion that at **7.00pm**, we “light a candle in a window in our home, as as a visible symbol of life, in Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.”

## Support Network

We wish to ensure that no-one feels abandoned or left without support.

Rev Jenny is planning to provide materials to support our spiritual needs through this difficult time, and we will let you know how to access this as and when it becomes available.

For ongoing practical and social support, we already have a pastoral system in place, and we would like to reinforce that system so as to share the load.

We encourage all **pastoral leaders** to maintain frequent, meaningful contact by telephone or email with those for whom they have responsibility. Please note that if you are in what has been identified as a vulnerable group you are not expected to compromise your own safety in any way.

## **Other Matters**

Of course, we encourage you all to keep regularly in touch by telephone with your normal social contacts.

**“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not let them be afraid”**

John 14.27

**PRAYER FOOTNOTE** *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 and fear of the reaction of others. May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace. We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty, for those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend church and for those needing to make decisions in order to care for others. Lord, 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* Adapted slightly from the Methodist Church website

**It is quite possible that these notices will be less frequent in the coming weeks, or even months, but I will endeavour to pass on any relevant information or advice, though perhaps at less regular times and so:-**

If you have information that needs to be circulated you can contact Peter Chapman  
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