



Pastoral Letter #4 | 11th May 2020

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word.

Acts 8:4

Dear

As I read Acts 8 last week, seeing how Philip, Peter, John, Simon, The Ethiopian and many other's lives are changed, challenged and transformed by the power of God's Spirit spreading out across cultures and communities - I'm filled with hope for the potential we have.

Joyce Stroud shared with me over the weekend that in the message, translation this verse reads **'Forced to leave home base, the Christians all became missionaries.'** We've been forced from our church building base, and are now scattered across our communities. But in our own places and ways, we have chance to be missionaries, proclaim the hope and love of God!



Enclosed, please find worship resources which take us to the 31st May. I encourage you to continue to use them alongside things previously sent out in whatever way works best for you. I've given some suggestions, but please do adapt them if you feel it would work better for you.

I've also included a printed version of a post I put on my blog online, which I hope you will also find useful as I reflect a little on what it means not to be able to share communion as community together.

Christian Aid – From Anita Heyward

Normally at this time we would be receiving Christian Aid envelopes through our doors or from the church and possibly attending special fundraising activities. The charity receives much of its money for the year from this special week but this year is different. The need is much the same or worse but money will only be available to Christian Aid if we all make an effort to give.

To give you can call 0845 700 0300 or donate online at caid.org.uk/dam or post a cheque to Freepost Plus RTHB-AKAE-UUSX, Christian Aid, The Data Solution Centre, Manton Wood Enterprise Park, WORKSOP, S80 2RT

→ → → **NEW – Group Telephone Worship – READ ON!** ← ← ←

I know how difficult it is for many of us being unable to meet together, and while this will not fully make up for it, I hope that for some of us it will be a positive step towards being able to gather together – albeit at a distance!

I've been looking for a way to hold gatherings which include the many who are not on the internet – and I think we have found a viable and simple option. After a trial run this morning, 16 people

from across our 3 churches connected to a telephone conference call successfully. So on a trial basis we will hold a short service (based on the worship at home sheets sent out in this pack) at 10am on Sunday mornings. To allow time for all to connect, the call will be open from around 9:45am. I will lead initially, but my intention is that others will also lead week by week.

How to connect to the telephone service

1. Call **0333 011 0616** from a mobile or landline.
2. Enter PIN: **9805080** and press **#** (it will ask for £, but press **#**!)
3. You will be invited to speak your name, then press **#** again.
4. You will be connected to the call.

NB: The call will cost the same as a local rate number would on our phone contracts. The service is provided through an American company so don't be startled by an American accent, it's part of the automated system.

Controls when in a call.

- Get the attention of the host by pressing *** 2**
- Mute/Unmute by pressing *** 6**

The host will also be able to control mute/unmute of all those connected to the call. At 10am, I will mute all of us, give a brief introduction to how the service will work, and then lead the service through.

This will be a very different way of gathering, so I ask us to seek to be disciplined in the call. We will learn as we go, but initially my pointers are:

1. **State you name** at the start of anything you say so that all know who is speaking.
2. **Be patient** when waiting to speak, and while others are talking, avoid as much as possible responding until they have finished (e.g. avoid the 'hmmm', 'yes', 'I thought that', that we would usually have in a face to face conversation.
3. **Think** about what you will say before you say it.
4. **Remember this is not a one to one conversation.** Everyone can hear everything you say – if a one to one conversation is needed, please call someone at another time.

My hope is that if this works successfully, we may be able to arrange smaller gatherings at other times of the week – e.g. coffee morning or prayer group.

In a similar way, you can now call Freephone **0808 281 2514** for a Methodist weekly prayer, and **0808 281 2478** to hear the weekly Methodist Podcast (*content updated on Thursday evenings*). Thy Kingdom Come have also set up similar: call **0800 804 8044**, where I'm told you can hear hymns, prayers and occasionally sermons.



I hope to join with some of you on Sunday, but in the meantime, I pray you know the love of God with you now and always.

In peace & hope,

Rev Dan