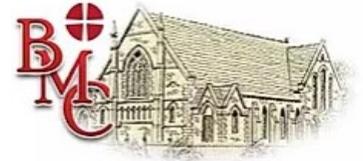




BALLYMENA
METHODIST
CHURCH



WEEKLY BULLETIN - SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

VERSES FOR THE WEEK

Romans 8 v 22– 26

"By the We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ...In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The image that Paul uses of the agonised groaning of the whole creation resonates strongly with us in these days of global pandemic.

When Paul wrote, his society suffered with persecution and feared what the future held for them. For us, in these days, the Covid-19 pandemic is the obvious driver of fear and suffering, but all of the other issues of our society are still there – albeit downplayed in the media. Climate change, Brexit fallout, huge injustice in society both locally and globally, the list could go on. What are we to pray for?

Paul's experience is one of groaning, perhaps in despair or hopelessness. He reminds us that when we don't know what to pray for the Holy Spirit helps us, interceding for us through wordless groans.

When you can't find the words, bring your groaning and despair to God, trusting that he will, in Christ, bring to birth something new, something beyond our imagining.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Heavenly Father, thank You that in Christ I have been made a new creation. Thank You that the day is coming when the curse on the whole of Your groaning creation will be lifted.

Until that time I pray that I may live and work to Your praise and glory.

Thank You for Your indwelling Holy Spirit, who knows my heart better than I know myself.

Take the inner yearnings of my heart and beautify them I pray, so that I may live my life in a way that glorifies You,

in Jesus name I pray,
Amen.



IRISH METHODIST WORLD MISSION PARTNERSHIP

The mission of World Mission is to enable Methodist people in Ireland, and friends, to join with partners around the world to proclaim Christ's love and offer salvation and to promote church growth. We do this by giving and receiving, teaching and learning, praying and being prayed for and serving and being served. To learn more contact World Mission Partnership at Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY. Tel: 02890 767 969. Website: www.methodistworldmission.org and email address: worldmission@irishmethodist.org



IRISH METHODIST
WORLD MISSION
PARTNERSHIP

ONLINE WORSHIP

Following the most recent announcement from the NI Executive of the extension of lockdown until April 1st, the 4 main churches met with the NI Executive.

In-person church services remain suspended through March – this will be reviewed after the next NI Executive Covid-19 review on March 18th.

Funerals can still take place in the church with restrictions in place – the current restriction is 25 persons in attendance.



LENTEN REFLECTIONS

The Ballymena Ministers' Fellowship have been preparing a series of short reflections for Church members in Lent – it is called "Journey to the Cross".

Keep an eye on the Church Website (Homepage) and Facebook page for this week's link.

We pray these will draw us closer to each other and closer to our Lord.



A CALL TO PRAYER

Thank you for your continued commitment to pray with us each day for our organisations and those who would be involved with them, either as leaders or participants.

SUNDAY	MONDAY TO FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Kidz4Christ The GANG	For our Church organisations, previous weekly get-togethers and the friendships we have made through these events	Those who use our Church facilities

Prayer focus:

- ✚ Pray for all working in education as they prepare a phased return to in-person teaching of some pupils;
- ✚ Pray for wisdom for our NI Executive as they make difficult decisions around the easing of lockdown;
- ✚ Pray for wisdom for our church leaders planning for churches to reopen in-person worship.



PASTORAL CARE

We are thankful to all class leaders and others who regularly telephone members of the congregation.

If you become aware of anyone who would appreciate a telephone call from the minister, please let Rev Dave know.

(Note that in-home pastoral visiting is prohibited under current regulations except in the most urgent of circumstances).

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Continuing on Wednesday evening 3rd March at 7.30pm.

We are looking at Mark's gospel – using the materials written by Tom Wright. This week, finishing off Mark 10: 32-52.

We meet on Zoom – if you would like to join please contact Rev Dave or Frances McKinney.



FAVOURITE HYMNS / SONGS

If you have a favourite hymn or praise song you would like to see included in our online worship services, please let Rev Dave know.

If we can find it on YouTube we will certainly include it.

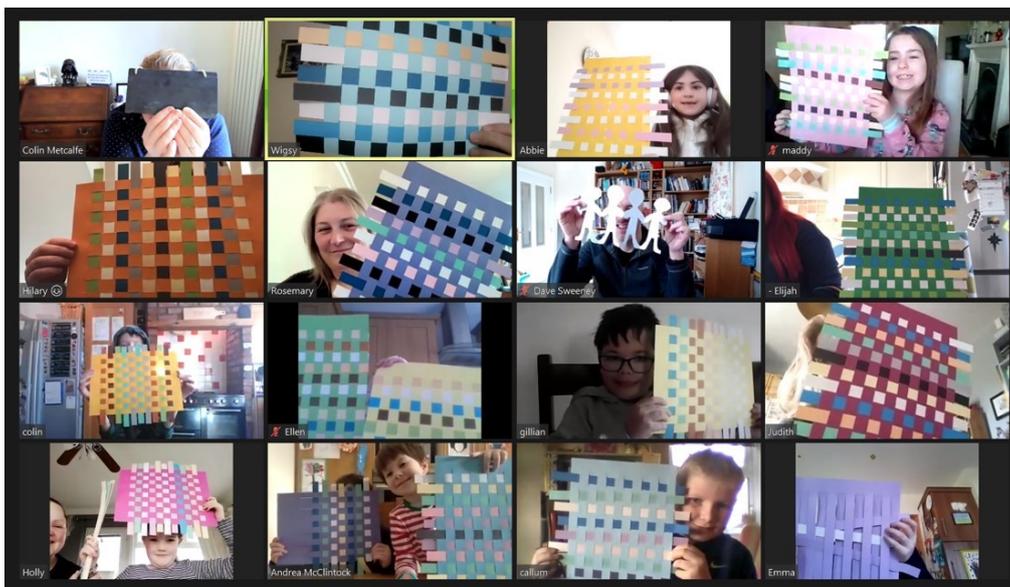


BMZ (BALLYMENA METHODIST ON ZOOM)

BMZ Kids for Primary school age, Sunday mornings at 10.30am

BMZ Teens every other Sunday evening at 6.30pm.

These sessions will continue to run this year. Please continue to pray for the children and teenagers who are engaging with us each week, and also for the leadership team as they seek to share God's love in a unique way via Zoom.



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