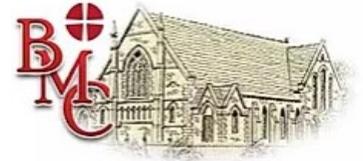




**BALLYMENA**  
METHODIST  
CHURCH



## **WEEKLY BULLETIN - SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021**

Fifth Sunday in Easter

### **VERSES FOR THE WEEK**

*John 15 verses 5 and 6*

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned."

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

These verses are both a promise and a warning to Jesus' disciples given to them shortly before He would leave them. The promise to them that if they remain in Him they would produce much fruit. They weren't to try and go it alone—rather they were to remain connected to Jesus—the true vine. So often, the next verse is read as a threat of judgement. Jesus, I think, means it more as a warning than a threat. The sad consequences of trying to live in one's own strength, of going it alone are simply this: without Jesus, without being attached to the true vine, they would wither and die. How often do we try and live like this ourselves? I know it's a constant battle for me to involve Jesus in every aspect of my life—to stay connected to the one true vine. And yet we must, otherwise we wither, become useless, and die. Let us seek ways this week to stay connected to Jesus and be fruitful for Him.

### **PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

I thank You that You desire to spend time with me, and You have even called me Your friend.

God, Your Word says if I draw near to You, You will draw near to me—and I want to be near to You. So, right now, in the Name of Jesus, I ask that You cause me to desire to draw near to You above everything else.

Help me to see clearly when I can set aside time to spend with You, and help me never to compromise that time.

I thank You and know You will guide me. I praise You and thank You for these things.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



## 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:

- ✝ Give thanks for continued easing of restrictions;
- ✝ Pray for wisdom and common sense as more freedom is granted;
- ✝ Pray for our children and young people all back at school;
- ✝ Pray for India as it struggles to cope with Covid-19;
- ✝ Pray for the persecuted church  
<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>
- ✝ Pray for all struggling with loneliness and isolation at this time;
- ✝ Pray for businesses struggling through lockdown;



## 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.



## **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible study will continue on Wednesday 5 May and will run through until 26 May. We'll continue to meet on Zoom during that period.

This week, study 17 "Prepared for Death" Mark 14 : 1—25.

Please speak to Rev Dave or Frances McKinney for details of how to join.



## **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).

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK: 10 - 16 MAY 2021**

Climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people like Rose (see picture) are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Every envelope. Every gift. Every challenge can change lives.

Watch out for more details regarding Christian Aid Week and ways you can support this annual cause.



## **EASYFUNDRAISING: AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT US!**

Supporting The Living Rooms Project with FREE donations? Sounds too good to be true, however it is! Use the link below when you shop online, and Easyfundraising will contribute £5 once you have raised your first £5.

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thelivingrooms/?invite=20UXW9&referral-campaign=c2s&utm\\_source=refsharebox](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/thelivingrooms/?invite=20UXW9&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_source=refsharebox)



## ONLINE WORSHIP

Our Circuit Executive will be meeting on Tuesday 4 May. One of the decisions to be taken is a date to re-open. We will communicate this decision by email and on our social media channels.

Online worship will continue to be provided on our YouTube channel. Funerals can still take place in the church with restrictions in place – the restriction on total numbers has been removed and is now the safe capacity of the building. For BMC that number is about 50 persons.



## CONTACT DETAILS

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