

Make Lunch Boxes of Hope food parcels

What a wonderful bunch of people you all are and what an amazing God we serve.

We want to give you an update on our Make Lunch Boxes of Hope project especially in regards to Christmas.

As planned we will be delivering our Christmas food and gift parcels on Friday December 18 and because of your generosity and that of others, they will be fantastic parcels.

So much has been received already with a wide range of items, from Christmas puddings to shampoo, savoury snacks to shower gel, books to toothpaste, and more. In addition, those who have been unable to get to the shops, have donated money.

We are aware that with 'lockdown' the church building has been closed so some of you may have things at home waiting to be brought in – it is not too late! If it is any easier for you just give Richard or me a call on 01926 930312 and we will come and collect.

So what are some of the amazing things that have been happening? -

One couple we know from near Leicester wanted to support us and so have paid for nine board games to a total value of £100.

Another anonymous donation of £50 came through the post and then there

is the £5 that has been given which is just as important to us as larger amounts.

A neighbour has donated some Christmas wrapping paper and whilst talking to a cashier at Sainsbury's she was offered Christmas paper, gift tags and gift bags.

Our local Residents' Association is also arranging a collection on our behalf.

Richard and I are also now collecting surplus food from Aldi and Lidl, most of which is just damaged packaging – it all helps.

We took a bag of these 'damaged goods' to our families the other day, and their appreciation said it all.

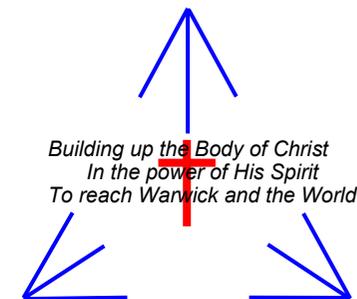
We have so many stories to tell, we are so excited about what we believe God is doing through us at St Paul's Church Warwick. As long as Covid-19 is with us, as long as families are in need, then we shall be there to support them in whatever way we can. Please stand with us, pray with us and donate if you can.

This has been a challenging year for us all, but as we have joined together we have brought hope and a smile to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you all so much!

Audrey, Richard and the team.

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**November 22, 2020
Christ The King**

Rev Jonathan Hearn

Today's 10am Service - Whole Life Worship

If you are a newcomer to our Church, or a visitor to the area, please introduce yourself to one of the welcomers, or to the clergy.

This week - November 22	Next Week - November 29
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10am Whole Life Worship	10am Advent Sunday
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Readings

November 22	November 29
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Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 Matthew 25: 31-46	Isaiah 64: 1-9 Mark 13: 24-37
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Our Bible verse for the year

Never doubt God's mighty power to work in you and accomplish all this. He will achieve infinitely more than your greatest request, our most unbelievable dream, and exceed your wildest imagination! He will outdo them all, for his miraculous power constantly energises you. Ephesians 3: v20.

Praying for the Persecuted Church

Please keep praying for our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia. ‘Scores, and probably hundreds,’ of civilians have been massacred in the growing conflict in Tigray, northern Ethiopia, according to a report from Amnesty International.

Witnesses blamed forces loyal to the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) for the killings, though Tigrayan officials have denied that pro-TPLF troops were involved.

Open Doors UK reports that, last week, Ethiopian forces liberated a town in the northern Tigray region, accusing local TPLF leaders of taking 10,000 prisoners from the town as they fled. Getting information has been hard, with phone lines and the internet down in that area, and Open Doors contacts have not yet been able to independently confirm any of these reports.

In a very worrying development, Tigray forces fired rockets into neighbouring Eritrea last Saturday, November 14. At least three rockets appeared to have been aimed at the airport in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, hours after the Tigray regional government warned it might attack.

The TPLF was a prominent and powerful force in Ethiopian politics until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power in 2018. Since then, its members have lost central government positions and others have been arrested for human rights abuses and corruption. When regional and national elections were indefinitely postponed earlier this year, because of Covid-19, tensions further escalated between TPLF and the federal government.

This follows deadly protests in July in Addis Ababa and several towns across Oromia State, further south. At least 280 people were killed, with Christians belonging to the Oromo ethnic group being particularly targeted. The Orthodox church and some Evangelical churches spoke out against specific targeting, and more than 9,000 Christians have been displaced.

The violence erupted after the murder of a prominent ethnic Oromo musician and activist, Hachalu Hundessa. Gunmen shot Hundessa in Addis Ababa on June 29, in what Prime Minister Abiy called ‘an evil act’. The prime minister said it was part of a plot to destabilise the country and derail democratic reform, but the motive behind the murder has not been proven.

Christians make up the majority of Ethiopia – 65.8 million out of a population of just over 110 million, or about 60 per cent. The country is number 39 on the Open Doors UK World Watch List of most dangerous places in the world in which to be a Christian.

Please remain in fervent prayer for Ethiopia, as unrest continues in various regions and for different reasons. The UN estimates nine million people in and around Tigray are at high risk, and many Ethiopians are fleeing to Sudan – which does not have the infrastructure to support a large influx of refugees.

Lord, we ask that you give Prime Minister Abiy and his government wisdom, diligence and accountability, and that You would restore peace in Tigray and across Ethiopia. We lift up Your children who are mourning loved ones they have lost in conflicts this year, and ask that You protect Your children in Ethiopia.

Source Open Doors UK

Thought for the Week - You are not alone!

This week I have been on two webinar events and a common thread in both was looking at how we are faring in the pandemic and the latest lockdown.

Both, in some ways, asked us to reflect on how we were feeling. The upshot was whatever we are feeling we are not alone.

There are many others around the country feeling similarly. It’s just we don’t hear know about them or hear about them.

In one sense this might not be a great comfort but if we let the truth sink in, perhaps it can be a reassurance we are not alone.

However as followers of Jesus there is another sense that we are not alone. Jesus promised us he would never leave us nor forsake us, and he is with us to the end of the age.

No, that doesn’t mean a “*beam me up Scottie*” moment, removing us from what we are going through, but rather “even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you

are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.” (Ps 23:4 New Revised Standard Version).

Elsewhere in the psalms, David and the other writers call out to God, their rock, their stronghold or fortress, their presence in times of trial, and acknowledge by the end of the psalm that he is there, he is with them, they are not alone.

I am sure that between us we have a range of feelings and emotions. Not everyone will be experiencing the same feeling – but we are not alone in what we are feeling.

And may our Father in heaven send us His Spirit to comfort and protect us, to strengthen and sustain us in what we *are* feeling at this time. And may we know when it comes to that most important of relationships “we are not alone”.

To use the familiar words from the communion service: The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us. Blessings, Jonathan.

When will we be back in church?

When will we be back in church? Unfortunately it doesn’t appear any of the various requests and challenges to the government have had much of an impact on getting them to reconsider allowing churches to be open during lockdown for collective worship.

So hopefully we will be back in two weeks time – for the 2nd Sunday in Advent.

In the mean time we will again be meeting via Zoom for this Sunday when we celebrate Christ the King.

The link is the same as last week but to save you looking it up I’ll also send it out as an email on its own.

It is always good to see those who can make it, but a reminder of those who cannot join us – and although you might not be there with us we do think of you.

Blessings, Jonathan.

