

West Worthing Evangelical Church, Rugby Road, Worthing.

The Corona Chronicle.

Doing Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on.

Sunday 22nd March 2020
www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk



West Worthing
Evangelical Church



From the Co Team

CORONAVIRUS – CHURCH CLOSURE

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and at the urging of the Government, this Church will be closed until further notice. We have taken this decision with deep regret but believing that it is a responsible and necessary step to help protect our community in the present situation.

We intend to reopen as soon as possible so please continue to check the website regularly for any information concerning this. Thank you for your understanding and we trust that you and yours will remain healthy.

An event like this reminds us all of our human frailty and the uncertainty of life. We are thankful that God is still in charge of our world and offers to us all, through Jesus Christ, a relationship with him that not only sustains us in this life but brings us safely through into the next.

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Prayer through the week.

The Lords Day. 'I was in the Spirit on the Lords Day.' **Rev.1 v10**
Pray that the Lord will draw us together as a body of believers that we might be aware of the Lords presence as we pray together

Monday 'Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask and think according to the power that works in us.' **Ephesians 3v20**
This should be a time of opportunity for us to grow in the Lord. We might think this is a time of digression and lowliness but God can use this time to draw us closer to Him.

Tuesday 'O Lord revive Your work in the midst of the years. In the midst of the years make it known. In wrath remember mercy.' **Habakkuk 3v2**
That the Church might come together praying that God would revive us . Forgive us our sins, our timidity and compromise to the gospel.

Wednesday 'Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labour of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.' **Habakkuk 3 17-18**
This is hard to do but in verse goes on to say the Lord will give us strength. No matter what the circumstances ask the Lord to strengthen you.

Thursday 'Let my prayer come before You Incline Your ear to my cry.' **Psalms 88v2**
Pray for the sick in our fellowship that they might know the Lord's presence and we might all have a teachable spirit.

Friday 'Prepare your hearts for the Lord. **1 Samuel 7v3** The Greek word for Friday is 'Paraskevi' and is derived from a word meaning "to prepare" or day of preparation.
Prepare your hearts to receive His word and let the word be digested into our hearts that the Lord may guide us and everyone at Rugby Road.

Saturday 'And my God shall supply ALL your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus' **Philippians 4v19**.
Claim this promise that Paul made.
Pray for our Nation's finances, the Church's finances and our own personal needs..

Special items for prayer:

That as a fellowship, and individually, we may be empowered to continue to run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Those in the congregation or are known to us who are bereaved; also those who are unwell, in pain, lonely etc.. Any in hospital, nursing or rest homes.

For all those of us involved in pastoral and outreach visitation in the local Nursing and Rest Homes.

That we may be given grace in all our contacts with those around the Church, that they may be attracted to come in and learn more of Christ.

Those affected in so many ways by the Coronavirus.

Those working to handle the effects of the Coronavirus across the world.

Especially for Alan Weller
Margaret Hart

For those seeking to recover from the flooding and gales across the country.

Our country as we are in the Transition Period after leaving the European Union; and are beginning to negotiate new Trade Deals with them and others.

Our nation, the Royal Family, our Government, Members of the Houses of Parliament, the Civil Service and Local Government etc. as they seek to cope with multiple complex and rapidly developing situations.

The situation in the Middle East, particularly Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Israel.

Psalm 91 New King James Version (NKJV)

Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God

- 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."
- 3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day,
- 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.
- 7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.
- 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place.
- 10 No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;
- 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- 14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.
- 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him.
- 16 With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."



1 A safe stronghold our God is still,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He'll keep us clear from all the ill
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The ancient prince of hell
Hath risen with purpose fell;
Strong mail of craft and power
He weareth in this hour;
On earth is not his fellow.

2 With force of arms we nothing can,
Full soon were we down-riden;
But for us fights the proper Man
Whom God himself hath bidden.
Ask ye who is this same?
Christ Jesus is His name,
The Lord Sabaoth's Son;
He, and no other one,
shall conquer in the battle.

3 And were this world all devils o'er,
And watching to devour us,
We lay it not to heart so sore;
They cannot overpower us.
And let the prince of ill
Look grim as e'er he will,
He harms us not a whit;
For why? his doom is writ;
A word shall quickly slay him.

4 God's word, for all their craft and force,
One moment will not linger,
But, spite of hell, shall have its course;
'tis written by his finger.
And though they take our life,
Goods, honour, children, wife,
Yet is their profit small;
These things shall vanish all:
The city of God remaineth.

Martin Luther

Psalm 91.

The Psalmist is saying that everyone who trusts in God will be safe with the Most High who is the Almighty.

He abides under the shadow of the Almighty. In the Middle East shadows were most important because they brought protection from the Hot Sun.

We also read in the Psalm that God is as a fortress. It is said that ALL fortresses have a weak spot and it is for the Army to find it. With God there are no weak spots. God's fortress is completely safe

'A safe strong hold our God is still' Martin Luther.

We have a promise to believers. A fowler is a trapper of birds in nets, sadly this still happens in the Middle East. But God will keep us from snares and as we are told He will protect us as a bird protects her young from perilous pestilence.

In the context of today's outbreak it does not mean we shall avoid the virus, although we should still pray that the Lord would protect us, but rather than being trapped by the Bird catcher we are to abide in the Lord and He draws alongside us bringing us comfort and protecting us from fear and worry. The Lord is loyal to His people and promises to protect us.

In the latter part of the Psalm it speaks of more dangers that may befall us. But we are told not to be afraid we can trust God to be our help because the Lord is on our side. It might seem very grim as ten of thousands suffer we are again reminded that physically we might suffer but our souls and spirits are with the Lord and even Angels who are God's servants, whom we normally cannot see, are always there to help us.. Like wild animals and snakes that might attack you so the Devil like a roaring lion will try to bring fear to your souls but these fears can be cast out knowing that the Lord loves us and He will rescue us. He has rescued us from the penalty of sin and death on the cross through His atoneing death and He promises to keep us all our life until we reach the heavenly shores. When we call upon the Lord He will answer. The Lord will be with us in time of trouble. He is the one who gave us life and will save us for eternal life.

Another analogy comes from Psalm 23.

The Lord is our shepherd who restores our souls and even if we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we shall fear NO evil because the Lord is with us and His rod and staff they comfort us..

David Page