



SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS!

WELCOME TO ASPULL  
METHODIST CHURCH



## Notices

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Wigan Road, Aspull, Wigan, WN2 1PP

For enquiries contact Rev Richard Towle [01257 410376](tel:01257410376)

As the Church is currently closed, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Services & Daily Devotionals will be recorded and available to view on the Church website. The website can be accessed via the following link:

<https://aspullmethodistchurch.co.uk/>

### Trust in the Lord

with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. *Seek his will in all you do,* and he will show you which path to take.

-Proverbs 3:5-6



**Many thanks to Linda Sherriff, Susan Sharples, Elaine Latham & Susan Robinson for their fundraising efforts over Christmas.**

**The £345 raised will help towards the ongoing running costs of the Church.**

***As the Church has a greatly reduced income at the moment, if anyone has any ideas for fundraising, please speak to Linda Sherriff***



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

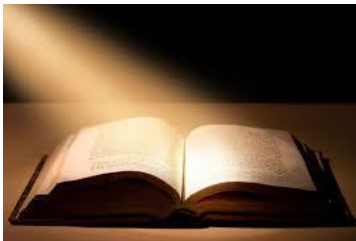
We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

**0800 804 8044**

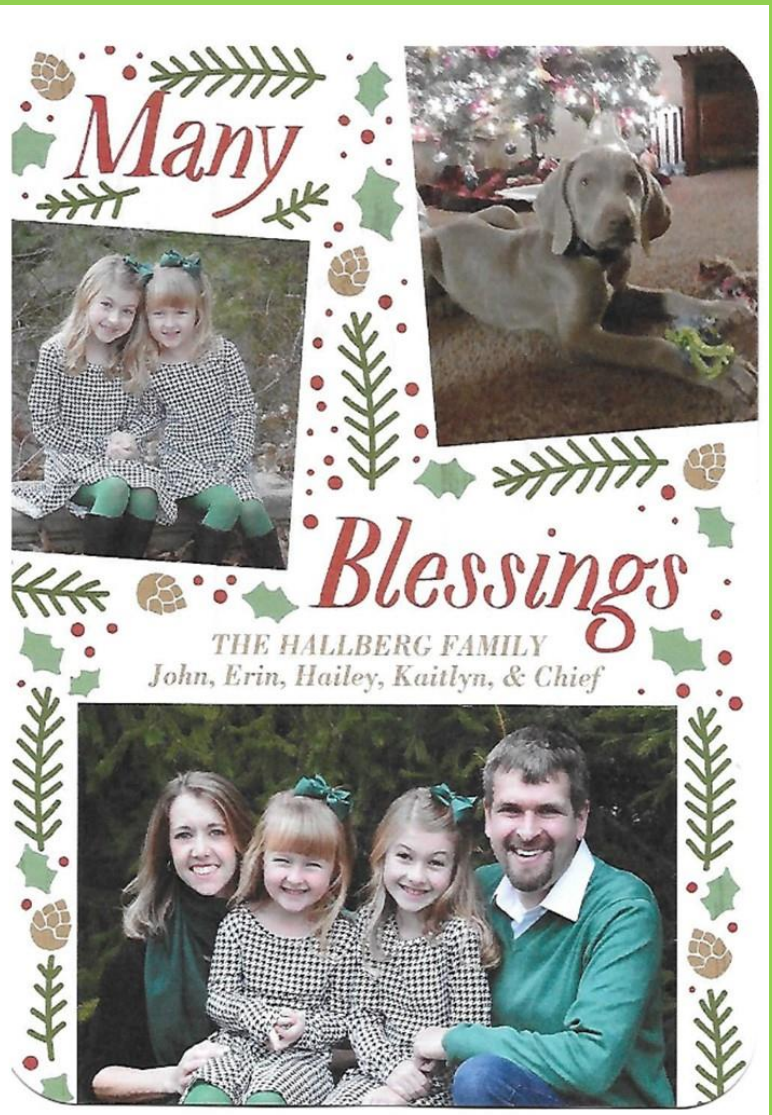
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  Faith in Later Life CONNECTIONS



If you don't currently receive a copy of the Word For Today, and you would like one, please contact Chris Sherriff on 07766 11 0943 or email [linda-sherriff@live.co.uk](mailto:linda-sherriff@live.co.uk) giving your name and address including post code.



## Received from the Hallberg family at Christmas



If you, or someone you know, would like to receive the weekly Notices by email, please contact Lisa Brabrook on the following email link:

[Notices via email](#)

## A Prayerful Reflection

Take time to sit quietly and ask Jesus to be present with you in a new way this week. And as we prepare to pray, you may find it helpful to reflect on the words from the following hymn below:

### **CMP 51 (Verses 1&2)**

*Be thou my vision, O LORD of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night  
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Be Thou my wisdom, Thou my true Word,  
I ever with thee, Thou with me LORD,  
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son,  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.*

### **A WORD FROM SCRIPTURE - Psalm 139:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise, you perceive my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down, You are familiar with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue You know it completely, O LORD. <sup>5</sup> You hem me in – behind and before, You have laid your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?. <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there, if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

**Psalm 139** is a psalm attributed to David, it's a psalm of wisdom and praise. It describes the attributes of God, the active qualities by which God relates to His people. In this psalm David marvels at God's amazing characteristics. God knows everything about him: where he goes, all David's thoughts and everything about his conduct. The Lord knows what David will say even before David says it. There is no place David can go that God isn't already present. The key word of the psalm is '**know**',.... God knows (verses 1,2,4,6) These features highlight the psalms theme - God's intimate knowledge of His people.

When David said, 'You have searched me and know me', he was stating a truth that is equally relevant for us today. He knows you and he knows me, intimately. We should always remember the incredible privilege we have as His children - and though we may not understand how this knowledge is possible - let us trust every day of our lives, that no matter where we are in life, the Lord is our light and our strength. He watches over us and stands by our side.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, what joy it is to know that You '**know**' everything about me, and even the things that I do wrong, can never separate me from Your unfailing love. Help me to live out this truth in my life, and may I do only those things that are pleasing in Your sight, in Jesus name I pray, **AMEN**

## Prayer of Intercession

### **Let us pray**

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of our world as your love would make it, a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor, a world where the benefits of abundant life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect, a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love, and give us the inspiration and courage to build it, in Jesus' name.

God of life and hope, we pray for our nation and for the guidance of your Holy Spirit, that you will give wisdom and courage to our leaders that together we may work for the common good.

Lord, come to bless us,  
**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the peace that your Holy Spirit brings, in these days of change and uncertainty, bless all who serve in this pandemic who care for us, protect us from anxiety and keep us confident of your love.

Lord, come to bless us,  
**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit, where there is division or discord in communities, we ask you to bring reconciliation and peace.

Lord, come to bless us,  
**and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit, as we move into a new chapter in the life of our nation, we ask you to equip us for all that lies ahead, especially with the roll out of the vaccine.

Lord, come to bless us,  
**and fill us with your Spirit.**

## Pray the LORD'S Prayer

### Peace

*The gift of the Spirit fills us with love, joy and peace.*

*The peace of the LORD be always with you.*

### A prayer of blessing

*The Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, fill you with joy, peace and love, and the blessing of God be with you now and always.*

**AMEN**

## Prayer Newsletter

Did you know that the Methodist Conference has called for 2020/2021 to be a 'Year of Prayer'?



You'll find information [here](#).

We hope to bring you a few prayer themed newsletters during the year, this is the first.

Every person reading this will have a different experience of prayer, and a different understanding of what it means.

Whoever you are and however life feels at the moment, our friendship with God can always be deepened.

As we enter into 2021, where so much of life feels disrupted, there's an opportunity to try something new, explore how we pray, and experience how God wants to keep us company today, tomorrow and every day.

## Conversations about prayer

### Conversations About Prayer

We are hosting five conversations around different aspects of prayer.

There will be a brief conversation starter from the facilitator, then time in small groups to share.

The sessions start at 11:45am and end at 12:40pm allowing time for you to attend the Connexional prayer meeting at 12:45pm should you choose.

If you would like to know more please contact [Edel](#).

19 January - Prayer & Social Justice led by Andrew Lunn

2 March - When Prayer is Difficult led by Edel McClean  
27 April - Praying with Children led by Alison Hulse  
15 June - Helping a Congregation to Pray led by Sheryl Anderson  
13 July - Prayer at Home led by Alison Ransome

Book [with Rob](#) for all, or for the ones that interest you most. Flyer [here](#).



### **RSVP: Listening for God's invitation**

RSVP is a series of Saturday morning sessions to give space and time to consider how we pay attention to God's invitation and how we understand what God's calling might be at this point in our lives. Sign up for just one, or for the whole series.

Each session stands alone, and they fit together, so please do come to some or all. If you sign up for them, all we will offer you a member of the team as an accompanist for you to meet one to one if you would find that helpful.

The sessions are intended to offer you a focus for your discernment.

20 February - Biblical Callings: My Calling  
20 March - Our Calling: Methodist Vocations  
17 April - God's Calling: Our Identity  
15 May - Discerning Calling: Decision Making

Each session 9:45am (arrivals) for 10:00am to 12:30pm

Book [with Rob](#) for all, or for the ones that interest you most. Flyer [here](#).

### **Prayer Cards**

Over the last few months we've been piloting a set of prayer cards with engaging and accessible prayer prompts which can be practised in five minutes or less. They offer a simple way to connect with God, ourselves and our world. For an online sample of the cards [see here](#).

A small number of printed sets of Prayer Cards are still available.

If you would like a set posted to you (in return for completing an evaluation form), please email [Edel](#) with your name, postal address, district and email address.