



Wesley Hall

Crookes, Sheffield



www.wesleyhall.org.uk Wesley Hall is part of Wesley Ebenezer Methodist Church (charity no. 1150284)

Sunday 22nd March 2020

We hope you find a warm welcome, particularly if you are with us for the first time. All song words are projected onto the wall at the front or can be found in the books provided. Large print hymn books are available at the back of church along with separate printed sheets for songs that are not in the books.

Today's service

In our own homes

Next week

In our own homes

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Today we, along with many churches across the country will not be worshipping in our church buildings, but in our own homes. Below are a number of options (in no particular order) to help us to do this:

❖ **Vine at Home Service**

Along with this newsletter, there should also be a separate attachment called Service 1 (Vine). This is a short service that can be used at home and includes prayers, a reflection and songs (that can be played via the embedded YouTube links).

❖ **Methodist Church in Britain Worship at Home**

Along with this newsletter, there should also be a separate attachment called Service 2 (Methodist). This is a short service that can be used at home and includes prayers, a reflection and a song (that can be played via the embedded YouTube link).

❖ **Sermon Notes from David Harris**

Along with this newsletter, there should also be a separate attachment called Service 3 (Harris). This is a copy of the service notes from our planned preacher for today, Mr David Harris, who says:

I was looking forward to leading worship this coming Sunday, but of course, it was the correct decision to cancel. If you would like to see it, I attach the notes (slightly amended!) of the address/ talk/ sermon I would have given.

The lectionary reading for the 4th Sunday in Lent, John Chapter 9, is the account of the healing of a blind man, and the church leaders' response to it. I find it fascinating! I hope you share my enthusiasm for what it tells us about the Pharisee's response, and how God is still at work, even in difficult times like those we face now. Please feel free to pass on to anyone else at Wesley Hall who might want to see it.

❖ **Wesley's Chapel Livestream**

Wesley's Chapel in London is live-streaming worship, adapted for no physical congregation at 9:45am and 11am today. The YouTube link for the stream is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqh72LIMxA>

We will endeavour to continue to offer a variety of home worship options each week and if you come across a good one, please send it to the newsletter account.

THIS WEEK

❖ Weekly Offertory

As you may be aware, the offertory was already behind budget when the Wesley Hall building was closed meaning that we are not currently able to meet for worship. This closure is likely to have a big impact on our finances, so if you are able to continue (or begin) to give to Wesley Hall, then that would be really helpful. The main thing that our offertory goes towards is the Circuit Assessment that is then used to run the Circuit and pay our Ministers. With our buildings closed, our Ministers are busy supporting our congregations in new and different ways, so are still working and still need paying!

If you are able to continue to give, here are a few options below:

- Post a cheque with your offering to Wesley Hall, either using the postal system or by dropping it into the post box next the main entrance, if you are out for a walk and passing. This can be done weekly, fortnightly, or as often as you like.
- Make a bank transfer to Wesley Hall. You do not have to set up a standing order, but could make a one off transfer each week, each fortnight or as often as you like. You can then return to using your envelopes when Wesley Hall is again open for worship.
- Continue to put money in your weekly offering envelope as normal, and then save them to put in the offering when Wesley Hall is again open for worship.

Thank you very much to everyone who gives to Wesley Hall; we wouldn't be here without you!

❖ Church Council

Our next Church Council which was to be held at Wesley Hall this Thursday 26th March at 7:30pm has been cancelled.

❖ The Lord's Prayer

Godliness is next to cleanliness, two of nation's two most senior clerics have suggested, and are urging the public to say the Lord's Prayer when they wash their hands as part of the national call to prayer to beat coronavirus.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York suggest that, at least for the next seven days, reciting the prayer should be part of people's hygiene routine, pointing out that it takes longer than the 20 seconds recommended to wash hands thoroughly.

❖ Candle Prayer Poster

Sally is encouraging us all to light a candle for hope and place it in our windows every day at 7pm, as we pray for our community. Along with this newsletter, there should also be a separate attachment called Candle Prayer Poster. If you are able to and would like to, please print this off and put it up in your window.

❖ Community Support Work

If you or your volunteers are concerned about your members, the council is now operating an essential Community Support Work service. This means that they are currently dealing with emergency situations for people over 70 or within a vulnerable group. Emergency situations include no food, gas, electric and other basic human needs. You and your members can contact the duty line on 0114 205 7120 or email cswreferrals@sheffield.gcsx.gov.uk.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES...

All of our planned Holy Week services and events have been cancelled.

PRAYER POINTS

- ❖ For our church, community, country and the world as we deal with and respond to the Coronavirus outbreak.

If you have any prayer points to include in the newsletter, please pass them on to the editor (see contact details at bottom of page).

AND FINALLY...

❖ Leprosy Mission

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Leprosy Mission appeal, £96.84 was sent to further their work. God bless, Sue Mills.

❖ Safeguarding Training

The training sessions to be held at Wesley Hall at 7:00pm on *Tuesday 21st April* and *Wednesday 29th April* have both been cancelled.

A NATIONAL CALL TO PRAYER

Presidents of Churches Together in England have issued a call to prayer in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. This is for all churches and people of prayer to join on Sunday 22nd March, Mothering Sunday. They write....

This Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, we are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Whether you are continuing to worship as congregations or not, we have the great privilege and freedom to be able to call upon God, wherever we are, individually and corporately, for healing in our nation. We would pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19 virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions.

There are already stories being told of wonderful acts of kindness across neighbourhoods. Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

In the meantime, do please attend to all the government health advice that will be issued, and look out for resources from your specific church governing bodies. At least for those of us in the global North, we do seem to be in unusual times, and wisdom and flexibility about worship gatherings are a key part of our Christian discipleship during this period.

We note that this call to prayer and action comes on Mothering Sunday: a time of thankfulness, remembering especially mothers who have served us, often in very costly ways. It is also a very mixed day for many. For some the remembrance is painful, and for others Mothering Sunday is a reminder of disappointment or loss. In many ways, this period under the shadow of the coronavirus will be prompting similarly diverse reactions and so it seems especially appropriate that the call to prayer is made this Sunday. At this time of uncertainty join in with the National Day of Prayer and Action, lighting a candle of hope.

“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you” 1 Peter 5:7

Presidents of Churches Together in England:

- Archbishop Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury

Minister	Rev Sally Coleman	0114 266 4637	Pre-teen & Youth	Sean Briscoe	07401 980 794
Families & Community	Claire Eaton	07412 124 310	Building Manager	Matt Irons	0114 267 9040

- Cardinal Vincent Nichols, The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
- Revd Dr Hugh Osgood, The Free Churches Moderator
- Archbishop Angaelos of London, CTE President for the Orthodox Churches
- Pastor Agu Irukwu, CTE Pentecostal President

The editor is Matt. Please place items for the newsletter in the pigeon hole, send an e-mail to newsletter@wesleyhall.org.uk or call Matt on [REDACTED] by Wednesday evening.