

SUMMER 2018

Washingborough Methodist Church

Prayer Letter

Dear Friends

Is this how you remember the summers, when you were growing up? Endless days of sunshine, the smell of freshly cut hay or the magical smell of the sea, picnics in the park and a cornet costing tuppence? It wasn't like that all of the time, was it? It's just that we remember the good times. Remembering the good times can help us through some very dark and dismal times. I have just read a book written by two men who have come through some very difficult times. One has spent 50 years of his life in exile, The Dalai Lama, and one through South Africa's apartheid system, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The Book of Joy is about finding lasting happiness in a changing world. It was recommended to us by one of our Local Preachers and there is much in it to reflect upon. Amongst the obstacles to lasting happiness they list anxiety, anger and despair. The pillars of joy include humility, humour, forgiveness and gratitude.

I find hope and a deal of comfort in the fact that two great spiritual leaders agree on so much and get on so well.

Please pray for:

Anyone whom you haven't seen in church recently, for a young adult who has lost touch with church, for those who would love to come if only they were able.

- For families who are grieving over a lost love one. May they know God's love and care at this difficult time
- For Marilyn undergoing immunotherapy, that it will be effective and that they may be free from pain
- For Ann who is recovering after a fall. We pray for a satisfactory outcome as physiotherapy and care are put in place
- For Phoebe aged 9, seriously ill and undergoing chemotherapy for sepsis and liver failure. For her family and especially her widowed mother with other children to care for
- For Bill who has been back in hospital
- For Christa who is preparing to go into hospital
- For people with long-term conditions, who, in spite of serious health issues continue to contribute to church life in so many ways
- For Melanie and our church leaders, thinking of those who are moving, retiring and joining this circuit

Prayer Request

Following an article in the Methodist Recorder I have been asked that we pray for Syrian refugees. All We Can, our own Methodist Charity is working with women and children who have been resettled in Jordan. They long to go home, but of course the longer the war goes on the harder that will be. All We Can are running programmes to help them cope with fears and strong emotions, to establish good relations between Syrian and Jordanian families and to help grandparents learning to cope with young children again. "We are learning to cooperate, be confident and to socialise." The funding for this scheme continues until 2022 but the hope is that it will be extended so that All We Can is able to build on this work.

My Daily Prayer book suggested on Thursday that I look through the newspaper to see where prayer was needed. As the Echo had just landed on my doormat I did just that. One particular story caught my eye but there were ten articles on road traffic accidents including serious injury and one fatality. Then sixteen court cases reported involving driving offences.

Please pray that road users will take extra care at this busy time of year.

Holy Habits

As a circuit we have been following Holy Habits (by Andrew Roberts) for a year. There is an appeal in all the churches following the same theme. If you are struggling there are different ways you can broaden your knowledge. Here are the themes: Biblical Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of bread, Prayer, Giving, Service, Eating Together, Gladness and Generosity, Worship, Making more Disciples.

Each of these is worthy of our time, thought and reflections and incorporating into our Christian routine.