

Summer 2019
Washingborough Methodist Church
Prayer Letter

Dear Friends,

I was pleased to be asked this month, to draw your attention to the plight of persecuted Christians. The Methodist Recorder carried a front page article recently citing a report commissioned by the Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. Yes, him. The report was led by the Bishop of Truro, the Rt. Rev. Philip Mountstephen and found that Christianity in the Middle East faced being “wiped out” from some parts, including Iraq where the numbers of Christians had fallen from 1.5 million before 2003 to less than 120,000 at present. The shock attacks in Sri Lanka came as a huge wake up call.

A member of our World Relationships team asked that those of us living and worshipping in relative freedom never forget those suffering unimaginable difficulties by including them in our prayers and where possible supporting charities working with the persecuted church. There are 200 Christians in prison in Pakistan on blasphemy charges and I am sure it would not be difficult to turn up more dreadful statistics.

Please pray for

Our country and the Government as we negotiate our way through these difficult times.

Our world as concern grows about climate change, global warming, deforestation and pollution.

Refugees and migrants searching for a better life and facing hardship and hostility, and for the unaccompanied children who are so vulnerable.

For people here in our own country dealing with the uncertainty of Brexit and particularly the steelworkers.

For those trying to put their lives together after the recent flooding here in Lincolnshire. Please give thanks also for the emergency services and the wonderful work they do and for the volunteers who turned out to help.

For the Nomad Trust who seem to be experiencing some difficulties with staffing and issues around the new developments.

Please pray for our Church

For Melanie and the work she is doing within our group of churches and for the Ministers and Lay people serving our Circuit and District.

For all those serving our church keeping it clean, safe and tidy, helping with worship and service to the community such as the coffee mornings. Bless our volunteers.

For members who are experiencing difficult or sad times. For those who are grieving for beloved members of their family recently, including Carol who has been coming in on Thursday morning until her mother's recent illness.

For Mike who is in hospital and for Audrey who has just lost a sister. May they know your comfort and that our thoughts are with them.

For our young people looking forward to the summer holidays and who may be heading for new schools in September.

A prayer for our time

Prayer is the foundation of our Christian faith. It is the point at which we meet our God. Sometimes the enormity of that thought robs us of words. Some people can pour out their soul to God easily and unselfconsciously. Some find walking helps communication, especially when surrounded by the beauties of this world. I find a pen and paper helps me to focus my thoughts.

It isn't so important how you pray so long as you do pray. Think of a youngster saying to you, "I don't know how to tell you this" and you reply "just say it how it is."

That's all God wants. Just say it how it is.

There are opportunities for prayer here at WMC outside of Sunday morning worship. On the first Saturday in the month from 10.15 we meet in the chapel to pray for our community. "We" is any of us, and some are silent and some are verbal.

On the third Thursday each month prayers are said for the members of the church and Gwyneth will give you details.

"This then is how you should pray.....Matt 6 v 9
Thy kingdom come....."

Blessings. Rosemary