



Newsletter

22nd March 2020

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the following events have been cancelled:

The Christian Aid fair
The Foodbank Quiz
Easter Craft Event
General Church Meeting

Daily Bible Readings

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| Monday 16th: | Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20 |
| Tuesday 17th: | Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20 |
| Wednesday 18th: | Annunciation of the Lord |
| Thursday 19th: | Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34 |
| Friday 20th: | Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11 |
| Saturday 21st: | Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53 |

The BBC has announced it is launching a virtual church service on Sundays amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The church service will take place across local radio in England, initially led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

The BBC will also aim to broadcast a weekly Sunday morning church service on BBC One.

L.O.C.K.D.O.W.N is the time to:

L-isten to God's voice and reflect.
O-bey His word and His teachings.
C-all on Jesus name and be calmed.
K-know what is the purpose of all this.
D-well in His presence. Do not panic.
O-ffer a prayer for everyone's safety.
W-ait and be patient. This too shall Passover.
N-urture our personal relationship with Him.

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

A note from Ann Smalley

After hearing about the work of the charity World Vision at a church service in London, I began to donate to a development project in Vaishali, a district in Bihar in India.

The project was setup by World Vision, to help the poorest children and families in Vaishali. The approach is to enable the community, by providing training, tools and livestock, as well as education and help with sanitation and by addressing the root causes of poverty. The project has for instance, installed water treatment units so that households have access to safe drinking water.

My sponsored child in Vaishali is Anita and we have exchanged birthday, Christmas cards and photos since 2011. All the communication is vetted and goes via World Vision staff, for safeguarding of the children.

I can see in the photos I receive, that Anita is thriving. She attends school and is making progress with reading and writing in Hindi and English. Anita's family is Hindu. Anita is also learning about health and hygiene and how to keep safe, as many girls and women in India face abuse and violation of their rights.

At home she fetches water from the hand pump and helps with cleaning the family home. She has learned how to ride a bike too.

The monthly donations go to the community fund to help all the families, although once a year, you can send a set amount specifically for Anita's family; and they may buy livestock and be able to sell milk to get an income.

World Vision send an annual report about Anita and about how the families in Vaishali are being raised; for example, farmers are learning new agricultural techniques, allowing parents to earn an income and provide more food for their families.

As Michael mentioned at the Compassion service, World Vision began in 1950, when Christian evangelist, Bob Pierce, wanted to help children orphaned after the Korean war. Bob was moved to start sending money regularly for the care of one very poor child.

Now many children are being helped to live a better life, as we reflect God's unconditional love through our missional giving to our charities.