



The **Methodist Church**
Market Harborough Circuit

Superintendent Minister: Revd. Andrew T. Murphy, BSc. BA.

Address: 30 Farndale View, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 9FA

Telephone: 01858 462889

Email: geordie_smurf@hotmail.com *Website:* www.harboroughmethodistcircuit.org.uk

Pastoral Letter: 15th May 2020

Dear friends and members of our churches,

I hope and pray you are keeping safe and well. I hope you are also keeping in touch with the church through our pastoral visitors and your other friends. If you feel isolated or worried, or you would like to talk any time, please do give me a ring. I always hope I can be there for you in times of need.

I am grateful for the love and support I regularly receive from colleagues and friends, and those who have shown kindness and consideration in various ways. Every little word of encouragement and support helps at times like this. And your prayers are most certainly appreciated. In our family, we are trying to balance church ministry with looking after the children and Emily's work as a doctor in intensive care. It is tiring and frustrating at times, but we are very grateful for the many blessings we have - including the love of our family and friends, a lovely home and garden, and a very supportive circuit of churches (that's all of you!).

Two of our members sadly died recently: Alan Mason of Market Harborough, and Urfa Simons of Kibworth. Several others are receiving care in hospitals or care homes. Many others are isolated at home. I ask your prayers for them all. These days can seem long and tiresome. Mental health can be as big a problem as our physical health at times. There appears to be a little light on the horizon in terms of 'things getting back to normal'. But in the midst of daily struggles, that light can seem far off. I encourage you to spend a moment or two finding the light of Christ within – with you right now in your home. God does not make us wait to be with him. While formal worship in churches might be a long way off, spiritual communion with God is possible now, in our prayers, in our moments of thankfulness, in the blessing of every meal and every new morning. We do not need a special liturgy for these things, nor do we need to be connected 'online'.

However, those of you who are not able to access the internet might be feeling left out at times (although it is sometimes as much a burden than a blessing!). I have enclosed a selection of some of the pieces from our Website, in case they are helpful to you. Also, if you have a DVD player and would like DVD recordings of our weekly video 'sermons', please do let me know.

We have no plans *as yet* to resume worship in churches, and when we are given the go-ahead (possibly as early as July) there will still be certain restrictions which will make it far from 'normal'.

Finally, there are now some **special telephone lines** from the Church of England and Methodist Church, for you to ring up free of charge at any time – for some inspirational material to listen to. I encourage you to ring these numbers and give them a try! Please see overleaf.

With my prayers, love, and best wishes,



Dial-a-Prayer

FREE phone lines for prayers and news from **the Methodist Church**

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon



And from **the Church of England:**



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers