

Together as One

Newsletter of the Methodist Churches in Hungerford, Lambourn,
Newbury and Thatcham during Coronavirus Pandemic

Verses for the week

... so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4: 12b+13)

What we leave behind

In the British political system not many Prime Ministers can plan for the moment when they leave office. More often they suddenly find themselves removed by an electoral defeat, a fact starkly illustrated by the removal van at the rear entrance of 10 Downing Street. This leaves little time for consideration of what they want to leave behind by way of political legacy. Two-term

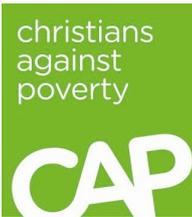
Presidents in the United States, something which has been more common recently, although not most recently of course, are the ones who in the last months of office, it is said, consider their legacy. In fact in both the UK and the US that legacy is in the decisions good, bad and indifferent, momentous and trivial, which they have made – decisions made in haste and those made with due consideration. It is in the legacy of the policy changes, the laws enacted and crises overcome. For the rest of us on a totally different plane the legacy we will eventually leave behind is largely, and all importantly, in the lives of the people we have known – some intimately and for long periods and some but fleetingly. But it is all important. It is unhealthy to be self-consciously and deliberately considering our actions and our words for their impact on others. But we need to remember that what we do and say, how we live, the attitudes we adopt, the views we hold are not neutral. They do affect others. We are not without influence. So all the more reason to live as well as we can, to say and do what is good and pure and right and true. After all, someone is probably watching.



Just occasionally I hear news of one of the children or young people who have been part of churches I have been involved with over the years. Recently I saw one young person reading the Bible during an online service we joined. He is now an intern at that church. One other I know has become a vicar in the Church of England and another was a children's and families worker. I do not claim any merit but perhaps there was something I said or did they now remember. I like to hope so.

Jesus didn't live his life so that he could leave us with an example to be copied and followed, although sometimes we have taught children as if that was the case. He simply lived his life. But because of who he is, God with us living a human life, inevitably we may learn much from reflecting on his life. He shows us what a human life lived in perfect love looks like in practical and every day terms. That is a huge challenge but because he now lives by the Holy Spirit in all who seek to follow him, who put their trust and hope in him, we are not left with an impossible task but a walk of faith towards growing Christlikeness – what Wesley termed Christian perfection. With love and prayers, Peter.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Update from Lisa, Centre Manager



First of all I want to send a big thank you for all your support during this difficult time. We are still offering our over the phone service and working with referrers to reach those who need our help. We have a number of new clients, but are not fully booked so please pray for those in need to call up and book in. We are also finding it difficult to connect with some of the clients who are on their debt free journey with us. As you may be aware, we are offering over the phone appointments instead of face to face appointments which makes it harder to connect and provide more practical support like sorting through paperwork. We would appreciate your prayers for clients fully to engage with the process. We can help them, but only if they connect with us.

I also thought it important to let you know about the campaign in which CAP are involved to increase the limit for eligibility for a Debt Relief Order (DRO) which is a form of insolvency for those who have smaller amounts of debt. The changes proposed by CAP will make a huge difference to clients that have to go through insolvency. For more information [Click Here](#) including links to the report as well as a link to write to your MP if you would like to.

Again, many thanks for all your support and prayers. We are so very grateful to you all.

Childlike wisdom

The following quiz consists of 4 questions to tell if you are qualified to be a 'professional.' According to Andersen Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the professionals they tested got all the questions wrong. But many pre-schoolers got several correct answers!

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?
Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.
2. How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?
Wrong Answer: Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant and close the door.
Correct Answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your actions.
3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend except one. Which animal does not attend?
Correct Answer: The elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. This tests your memory. OK, even if you didn't answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to make amends.
4. There is a river you must cross. But it is inhabited by crocodiles. How do you manage it?
Correct Answer: You swim across. All the crocodiles are attending the Animal Conference. This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.



And finally

I used to have a job at a calendar factory. I got the sack because I took a couple of days off.