

# Together as One

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

## Verses for the week

I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy. I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. Psalm 142: 1+2

## Asking for help

Last week my eye lighted on Psalm 142 by what may seem like chance, but I think otherwise. I was looking for something else at the time. Ever since I have been dwelling on its words. Please read it. I am convinced it is a word for these dark and desperate days. It is a heartfelt personal cry from the confines of a cave, a prison - a place of fear and isolation. Sound familiar? From out of the depths of this physical and emotional darkness comes a cry not of anger, self-pity or despair but a cry for help, for mercy.

Last week Kathy mentioned a book by Charlie Mackesy recently serialised on the radio, in it appears this illustration. The author says the straightforward, heartfelt conversations between the characters in 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' were drawn from 'conversations he'd had with his friends about what life really means, what's important; it was a way for him to think aloud on paper with words and drawings.' This particular illustration stemmed from 'a conversation he had with his friend Bear Grylls about what courage really looked like and the bravest thing we'd ever done'. While Bear Grylls, adventurer and chief scout, may be 'an emblem of courage', Mackesy is quoted as saying, 'the bravest thing I'd ever done was when I was struggling and had the courage to ask for help. So I drew it.'

I am sure it is not just a man thing, this not asking for help, although I reckon we are afflicted with it to a greater extent. If you haven't already, now is the time to ask for help and if you have been then keep on keeping on. Ask for help for our nation, our communities and ourselves. Yes it is good to look to the NHS, to scientists, to vaccine rollout for help but we know where our help truly lies and that is in the maker of heaven and earth. It is OK to pour our your troubles and complaints to Him. He is big enough. He won't think any the less of you, in fact quite the opposite. As the psalm goes on to say, 'I cry to you, Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."' Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me. Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name.'

With love and prayers, Peter.



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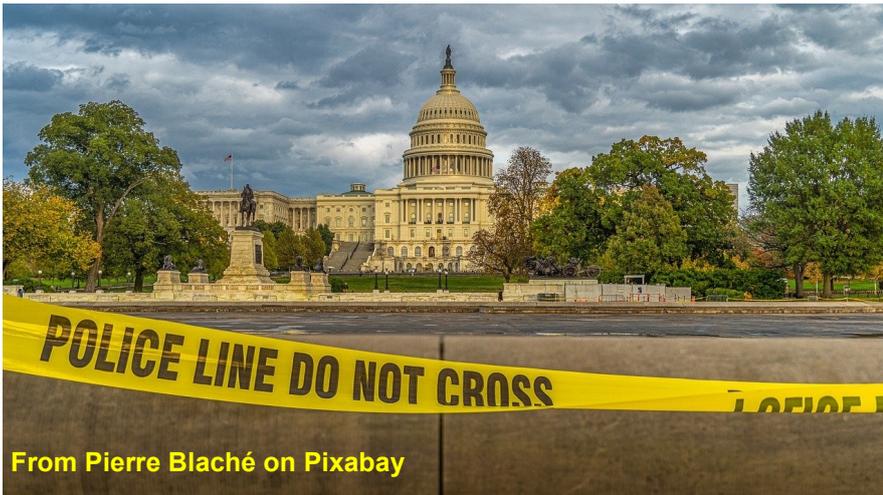
## Life after the Pandemic

I have recommended the Radio 4 series of Podcasts under the title of Rethink before. In the first week of the new year the series has continued with five programmes about fairness discussing wealth, health, generations, regions and education as these areas highlight the inequalities made worse by the pandemic. Definitely recommended listening.

To set alongside that you might like to see this video [Click Here](#) which explores what prosperity might truly be. Based on the criteria highlighted in the video, The Legatum Institute publish an annual Prosperity Index, ranking 160+ countries on various factors such as security, ability to vote, access to healthcare, education, jobs, etc. and can be accessed here [Click Here](#) together with many other interesting and informative articles.

There needs to be a place for God's people to engage in these discussions both inside and outside of the Church. That thinking and discussion needs to start now, I suggest. The Bible, as our guide, has plenty to say about what truly makes for human flourishing and wellbeing; about fairness, injustice and discrimination and about honouring God, each other and the planet which we have been given in trust.

## America



It is easy to look across the pond at what has taken place there during the divisive years of the Trump Presidency culminating in the events in and around the Capitol Building with horror and shock, but are there lessons of a wider nature. We may feel such things cannot happen here and thankfully things are different in our politics and particularly in terms

of partisan church allegiances but this I found this article [Click Here](#) raised some important questions that you might want to pray about.

## Methodist Daily Prayer Options



Pray the daily prayer from the Methodist Prayer Handbook [Click Here](#)

Join online Morning Prayer from Wesley's Chapel 10:00 am - 10:15 am [Click Here](#)

Pray for others on the Prayer Wall [Click Here](#)  
and Post your own intercessory prayer [Click Here](#)

Take part in the daily Bible study [Click Here](#)

## And finally

Whatever you do always give 100%. Unless you are donating blood.