

Holyhead Road United Reformed Church

Sunday 1 November 2020



Food bank collections are now resuming: for November, donations of tea, coffee, sugar, shower gel and washing-up liquid would be appreciated. The Foodbank has expressed thanks to us for our continuing support.

Ministers: Revd Debbie Brown 024 7659 6433; brown_debbie@sky.com
Revd Bill Young 024 7671 7223; bill@morvern.com

Lectionary readings this week: Micah 3: 5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12

Communicating and Worshipping:

Please contact the ministers or Elders with any concerns or prayer requests.

A 'Podcast' service uploaded every Saturday by **Revd Bill Young** is available to listen to at revdbill.uk/worship-material. The podcast link also allows for downloading a service transcript.

Revd Debbie Brown will lead phone-in worship every Sunday at 4:00pm. You can join on any telephone by calling the number **0330 606 0403** and listening to the instructions. When you are asked for it, enter the following access code on your phone pad: **442786#**. The service this week will include **Communion**.

A message from Debbie:

Dear Friends

This time of year is about remembering and reflecting. The months of November/December remind us that weathering the storms of life is something many of us have to do at some time, whether they be financial issues or personal grief and tragedy.

Faith as a Christian is not based, I believe, on the theory that life will be easy because we believe in God, but in knowing that God is there in all the darkest places we might find ourselves. I believe in the God who, in his Son, suffered humiliation, rejection, betrayal and death, in order to show us his love.

Many believe God shows his love for us through the love of others, and some speak of a sense that however low they have felt there has been a strong, comforting, presence lifting them back up.

Remember the wonderful passage in John's Gospel which is often read at Carol Services and Christmas Eve Vigils, "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." As we look back at the dark times in our lives, we are encouraged to see how we have survived them.

Jesus brings us a message of hope and healing because there is both death and resurrection in our Christian story. The famous hymn "Will your anchor hold?" has an eternal significance, because God understands when we are anxious, get angry and/or cry out in desperation - and the storm will still. So, as a community of faith, let us hold one another up - and pray that in all the challenges of life we may hear the message of hope.

God bless.

Love, Debbie

URC Prayer Handbook 2021

Sue Adams is taking orders for next year's prayer handbook. If you wish to order one, please provide Sue with £5 in an envelope with your name on it **by Sunday 15th November**.

Revd Peter Kimberley is organising open air (drive-in) Carol Services to be held at Stoneleigh Park (the former NAC showgrounds) on 19th and 20th December, Planning is still in early stages but Peter is appealing for assistance in a number of roles, including Project management, Financial Coordination, Media Management, Ticketing, Music and Covid Security. If you feel you would be able to help with this important ecumenical event please contact Revd Bill Young, who has outline job descriptions, or call Peter directly on 024 7641 9927 (email westorchardoutreach@gmail.com)