



NewsNotes.. *Connecting... Faith & Life*

Vol: 43 - No 22
Sunday 28th February 2021
Second Sunday in Lent

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity at Bowes

Sometimes it seems to me that time is standing still, and I am floundering in quicksand. At other times the days appear to whizz by at breakneck speed, with something happening or changing almost every hour! Some changes and events that would have been significant to us a year ago have diminished in importance, while others are in the ascendant and yet another set retain the same place in our lives. Obviously, most of it is just perception.

Lent and Easter (and other Christian events) are the constants that serve to remind us of our relationships with our God and with each other. It is even more imperative that we hold on to our faith in these trying times.

The ascendant category includes keeping our eyes and ears alert for announcements of advances in the fight against Covid-19, changes in lockdown restrictions, which shops and businesses are currently open, and when pupils & students can return to their classrooms and lecture halls. Also, we begin to see more clearly the value of family and friends.

Things in the group that may now have a reduced impact on our lives may differ more from person to person; for some, there is not much point in dressing up when there is nowhere to go, or no point in using lipstick then covering it up with a mask. For others, there are more immediate concerns than what is happening in the global financial markets.

The point I am making is that maybe Covid-19 is giving us a chance to re-classify the essential things in our lives. Jesus said:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is this, you shall love your neighbour as yourself".

Starting from these 2 great commandments, we can all work together for health and joy and happiness.

The exciting development is that we may soon be able to see each other in person, if we all exercise caution and follow the step-by-step key points outlined by the Prime Minister.

We thank God for that!

Charles

Contact:

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LECTIONARY REFLECTION

By Gladys Chingoka

Lectionary Reading:Romans 4 v 13-25, Mark 8v 31-38, Genesis 17 V 15-16

O' Lord Change the story of my life.

Genesis 17 V 15-16,

Then God said to Abraham, "Regarding Sarai, your wife- her name will no longer be Sarai. From now on her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and give you a son from her! Yes, I will bless her richly, and she will become the mother of many nations. Kings of nations will be among her descendants."

So, Abraham received the message with faith and the promises of God were fulfilled. Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping - believing that he would become the father of many nations.

On reflection, Sarah was blessed with Isaac: her son at an old age. The story of Sarah and Abraham seems like an ancient story, but for those who believe in God, it is the foundation of our faith, the acceptance of things we have not received, acknowledgement of promises that we do not know will surely happen. Accepting to wait without a time frame.

Like Jesus we are called to see the issues of our lives from God's perspective not from a human point of view. As believers we are destined for victory despite temptations and terrible challenges, as we learn from Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.

As my theme this week "O Lord change the story of my life", I am not sure how many times Abraham and Sarah went for prayers, asking God to bless them with a child. In their times, being a couple, they would have needed to fulfil their relationship with a child, parenthood, otherwise they would be considered a disgrace to the community. We hear that Sarah's patience began to run out; she arranged and asked Hagar the Egyptian servant to have a child with her husband.

I am not sure what it is you are waiting for God to change in your life, nor what it is you are believing God will intervene in your life. My assurance is surely God will change the story of your life.

The action of faith causes us to recognise that we should not stop worshipping God, despite our weaknesses, our failures or the adversaries we encounter in life. Trusting in God means we should not ignore praying because, at the perfect time the stories of our lives are changed. God does not ignore those who continue to knock, he does not belittle your request, he does not turn his back on those who are in his presence.

Friends, during these trying times, let us hold on to our faith in God like Abraham and Sarah. Do not worry about what you have taken into your hands, like Sarah. God keeps his promise that he will live with us. God continues to invite us to his throne of mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to heal the broken hearted, to bring peace where there is no peace.

The story of your life will be changed, as you take a position of worship and trust in the power of the cross. Nothing is impossible with God; nothing is too hard for our Lord Jesus Christ. The story of your life will surely be transformed in this season as you continue to remind God of your patience: as you send your prayers about how obedient you have been in your waiting upon the Lord .

Bless you all

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PASTORAL



If you would like news items, prayer requests and or celebrations to be included in the Newsnotes
Please send an email to revsam@mail.com before 6.00pm every Wednesday.

Pastoral Sec. Tony Addo – Anthony.addo54@gmail.com

O God our heavenly Father, as our United Kingdom continues with our restricted lockdown, we continue to seek your strength and courage for the days ahead.

God, this week we lift up the people of TaB, the families, friends and those who have asked us to pray for them. Help them to find ways to know that you love us all and consider each one of us important and a part of your creation. Pour into our lives your Holy Spirit to take away our worries, sickness and fear.

We pray for: those who are unwell, for those who are “staying safe” in their homes alone, for those working in care homes as well as the residents. We also pray for parents who struggle; juggling the pressures of work and home schooling, or those whose work puts them in the front line of risk.

We offer new prayers for:

The family of Ebenezer Gladstone ‘Roy’ Mdudu, who have announced that Roy passed on 14th February in Woolwich. while he lived in Bounds Green. He was husband to Marion, father to Lindiwe, grandfather to Nikkie and Nialah, and attended TAB. He was on the right side of history in the South African freedom struggle. His Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

A successful surgery on Nick, friend of Francis Branch-Thomas. He had surgery last week to remove a blood clot in his leg.

Love & comfort to Catherine Smith (nee Dean) who underwent invasive tests last week.

We continue to pray for those who continue to need God’s grace and healing:

Elizabeth Arnold, Joyce Beaumont, Barbara Biggs, Iris Branch, Christina Cabrera, Dorothy Campbell, Yvonne Jordine, Rhona Knight, Yvonne Obeng, Hope Siwela, Victoria Sibanda, Elizabeth Takaedza, Charles & Elizabeth Dadey, Barbara McNally (Lewent), Christine (Linda Dawson’s sister), Cathy Riley

We pray for the families of those who have died recently: including the family of Lynnett Beckford-Heaven and the family of Bob Barker

Dear God hear our prayers. Amen



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday to our friends who may be celebrating a birthday this week

**Akosua Osei 4th March
Araba Hagen 6th March**

May God grant you overflowing joy, abundant opportunities, and a shower of blessings.

Happy Birthday!

To all who have Anniversaries this week.

May your marriage continue to be blessed with love, joy and companionship all the days of your life.

Remembering our friends and loved ones



As we are not in the church building and enjoying the flowers, we felt it is still important to remember our dearly departed. Where we would usually have flowers in church in their memory, instead, we will still remember them. Let me know if there is any dearly departed loved one that you would want remembered.

Tony New, whose birthday was 28th February

Donations that would have gone to the flower fund, will instead be used for the church garden project. Please send payment to the Tab bank account detailed on the next page, with a reference "Garden"

Opening of our church building again



Sunday 7th March: We shall be having a half hour Communion Service in the sanctuary. This will be broadcast on Zoom, if you prefer you may join it from your home instead. The elements will be distributed in the week beforehand for those wanting that option.

Sunday 14th March: This is the date of "Mothering Sunday".

The church will be open for those who wish to join us watching the TaB produced circuit service on YouTube. Those in the sanctuary will follow this up with a prayer of thanksgiving. Alternatively, you can stay at home and watch. We would appreciate any texts or WhatsApp messages after the service finishes.

Sunday 21st March: This is Passion Sunday. We will be holding a shortened service in the Sanctuary, which will also be broadcast on Zoom.

Sunday 28th March: Palm Sunday. We are holding a full one-hour service, which will also be broadcast on Zoom.

Note: Zoom codes will be provided nearer the time. If you are unable to join in on Zoom due to lack of internet access, we can provide a landline or mobile phone number for you to still share in the service. The only difference is that you will not be able to see the service, but you will still be able to hear what is going on and, where appropriate, join in. Details of the April services will be communicated next month.

Circuit Lent study

We continue our Circuit Lent worship and study on Sunday evening at 6pm. The room will be open from 5.45pm to allow people to see one another and chat together.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87240918026?pwd=ckpydXFCC2JhZ1paTm1CYXJtVm9jdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 4091 8026 Passcode: 299877

One tap mobile:

+442039017895,,87240918026#,,,*299877# United Kingdom

+441314601196,,87240918026#,,,*299877# United Kingdom

Blessings Rev Stephen

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Church News and Centre Plus

During this Lockdown 3, Trinity at Bowes buildings remain closed this week for worship in person, however worship will still be taking place through the New River Methodist Circuit - Online Church

Available on Facebook OR search You Tube for New River Methodist Circuit. Alternatively, you can use the link on our website's Home page of <http://trinityatbowes.co.uk>

<u>Streaming Schedule for New River Methodist Circuit Online Church</u>			
Day/(s)	Time	Online Event	
Monday - Saturday	8.00 am	Thought for the Day	<i>Pre-recorded</i>
Monday - Saturday	9.00 am	Morning Prayers	<i>Live</i>
Saturday	10.30 am	Virtual Coffee Morning	<i>Live</i>
Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday Circuit Service	<i>Pre-recorded</i>

TaB church: Worship on Wednesday

Every Wednesday at 5pm-

As our building is closed, but our worship is growing week by week

Worship & Interactive Bible study.



Join via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9928297354?pwd=TjdiSG40ZG5YbUVLaXBFL0RjRGZ5dz09>

Meeting ID: 992 829 7354 - Passcode: 518822



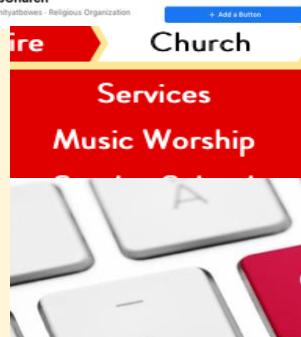
TaB Church Face Book

"Like" our Facebook Page and receive regular inspirational updates



TaB Sunday School Resources

Updated every Saturday and ready for use from the Sunday following



TaB Bank Account Details

Should you wish to make your offertory or a donation here are our details:

Account Name: [Trinity at Bowes Methodist Church](#)
Account no: [92883701](#) **Sort Code:** [09-01-55](#)

Please ensure you use your name as the payment reference



CENSUS 2021

The UK is holding its 10-year census on 21st March 2021. There'll be plenty of help to take part for people who need it. Find out more at www.census.gov.uk



Circuit Mothering Sunday Service

Tab have been asked to produce the Circuit Service for the Mothering Sunday Service. We are asking for a 30 second video of your children giving a Mother's Day message. We are also asking our mothers to shoot a 30 second segment on "How you have coped during Lockdown"

Please send any clips to petergodfrey@blueyonder.co.uk before the end of Tuesday 2nd March.

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