



Mothers' Day

Two weeks ago, we met for the last time in our church building. So much has changed in those few days! It was International Women's Day, and I preached on Abraham(!) However, I looked forward to this Sunday, 22nd March, Mothers' Day, and I promised to preach about one of the great characters in the Bible who is a mother.

Even though we are not meeting together, I want to keep that promise as I share a message on YouTube. We will read from the book of Ruth, but it will not be Ruth whom I will consider, but her mother-in-law Naomi. She was the mother of two boys. She and her husband emigrated because of a great famine. This must have been a time of enormous stress and uncertainty. Her sons found wives in this foreign land, but tragically, Naomi's husband and both sons died, leaving her bereft as you can imagine.

Yet, she did not give up on her faith. She struggled at first and spoke of her bitterness, but then her faith in God was renewed and she was able to trust God to provide for her as she set out for her homeland. Her daughter-in-law, Ruth, was free to remain in her own country, but such was the influence that Naomi had on her, she embraced Naomi's faith and travelled to her country. Naomi's faith found a new expression in Ruth, who married one of Naomi's relatives. Ruth became the great-grandmother of David, the king of Israel. The faith that was alive in Naomi which sustained her through times of great difficulty, was passed on to Ruth, who in turn saw it pass through the generations to David who trusted God and gave us some of the great psalms in the Bible and was an ancestor of Jesus.

Today, we celebrate mothers everywhere and the central part they play in

the formation of their children. Today will be difficult for many families because of the isolation of many mums and grand-mums. Many Mums experience great sadness, because of loss or difficult relations with their children. Yet, Naomi stands as an inspirational figure giving hope through her perseverance, love and faith. God bless you all!

Covid-19

This letter will set out for you some of the steps that we have taken, or hope to take soon, to ensure that we remain active and effective and connected as a church during these disrupted days.

We are following HSE and MCI guidelines which require us to suspend meetings. We have closed our building to all activities except the Food Bank, which provides an important service to the community, and essential maintenance.

Social Media

To keep you up to date with all that is happening in the church, we are putting a lot of effort into various platforms - the icons at the very end provide the direct links:

- Our [website](#) will carry important information and links to other resources
- Follow what's happening on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- View services and other videos at [DMC YouTube](#)
- [On-line prayer resources](#)
- Use of email and text messaging to keep you informed each week.

Some smaller groups within the church are using other on-line platforms to keep in touch, such as [Zoom](#) and [WhatsApp](#). I realise that some of you do not have access to social media and I'm sorry that these resources won't be much help. We will keep in touch with you by phone and post.

Our mission is to continue in worship, witness, fellowship and care for each other using all the means available to us. We will pray and read the Bible in our homes, we will reach out to neighbours, family and friends in acts of kindness. We will continue to speak hope into each other's lives. We will keep trusting in God's steadfast love.

Worship

Last week (15th March), about 25 of us gathered in Marlay Park for a walk, as the service was suspended. We prayed and sang together in the open air (pictures on Facebook). From this week, 22nd, we will not be able to do that, so we will produce a short devotional time from the Manse which can be viewed on Facebook, our website and on our YouTube channel from about 10.00am.

Alternatively, you may like to watch Sunday Worship on RTE 1 at 11.10am, or BBC 1 at 11.45am or Songs of Praise on BBC 2 at 1.15pm. You can also listen back to services recorded at DMC from our website, [Sunday Services/Podcasts](#).

We have launched a prayer resource which has helpful guides for praying through this crisis. We are asking members of the church to [sign up](#) to pray on the hour every hour for as long as you feel able, from 9am to 9pm.

If you would like prayer for any reason, please contact Arun or myself, or any church member, or leave a prayer request on the [contact form](#) on the website. We have a team of people who will take time to pray for each request.

Witness

Our actions and words are our greatest witness to the love of God. Our on-line presence is visible far beyond our small community, and we hope to be

able to encourage viewers as they see our posts. We are also making use of the church noticeboards to post messages of hope by the roadside.

Fellowship

Social interaction is a central part of the Christian life and vital to the human experience. Fellowship is social interaction with Christ at the centre and we cannot live effectively without it. These are challenging times and finding ways to keep in touch will be really important for our on-going mental and spiritual health.

There are many existing groups in the church that meet weekly or monthly. Many have continued to meet via WhatsApp, Skype or Zoom audio and video conferencing. If you would like to be part of a group, please let [me](#) or [Arun](#) know.

Next week, the Tuesday Night Prayer group and Bible Study will be invited to meet via Zoom, as will the Mums in Prayer and Friday morning prayer meetings.

Our youth and children will also be finding these self-isolating times challenging. Andrew Mullen continues to work with the youth through social media. Contact [Andrew](#) if you to join a Houseparty Bible study Sunday 5.30—7.00pm.

Pastoral Care

Keeping connected with each other and taking care of vulnerable members will be especially important in the coming weeks.

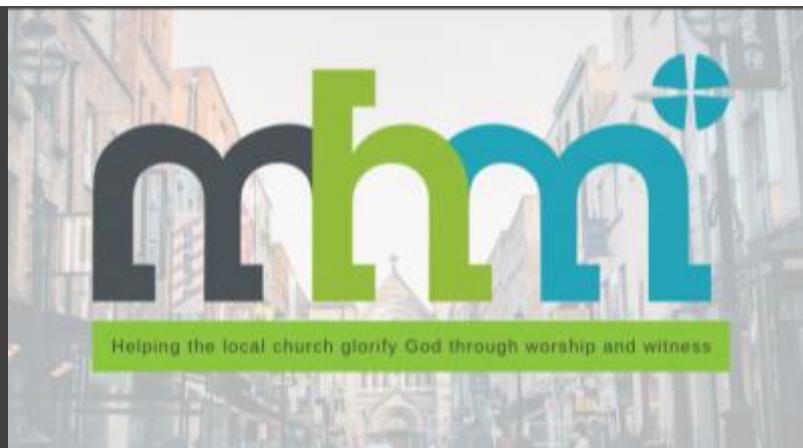
Arun and I will be making phone and/or social media contact with everyone on our community roll over the next few weeks, and we will be producing a

directory in due course for church use based on the consent preferences people have signed up to. This will make it easier for you to keep in touch with other members. If you have any particular needs, or if you know of the needs of others that we may be able to help with, please let us know.

Church Council

The Church Council met face to face for the last time on Monday 16th and will continue to provide good governance for the church using tools the Slack messaging service, and the staff are remaining connected using Microsoft Teams. If there is anything more or different that we could be doing, please let us know on one of the contacts listed below.

Rev. Stephen Taylor



The Home Mission Department in collaboration with Praxis, is hosting a webinar:

“Re-imagining the Church on God’s Mission in this Time”

Tuesday 24th March; 11 am-12 noon

Contributors:

Simon Kilpatrick (Methodist Home Mission/Praxis Ireland)

Rev Dr Heather Morris (Secretary of Conference, Methodist Church in Ireland)

Brian Sanders (The Underground Network/Praxis Ireland)

alongside medical and missional practitioners.

[Register your interest](#)



Donations for the foodbank are very welcome at present. They may be dropped off on Monday evening 5-7pm outside by the Main hall fire exit.

Miriam is creating a list of potential volunteers for this season. [Email](#) if interested.

1 volunteer needed this Monday - click below if you can help 5-7pm.

[I can help the Foodbank this Monday](#)

PRAYER NIGHT FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

We still hope to 'gather in prayer' albeit online & for a shorter time! If you'd like to be part of this, please let Jane know by pressing the button below.

Details still being worked out!

[I want to be part of the Friday prayer night](#)

Contact Information

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Youth Pastor: Andrew Mullen andrew.mullen@irishmethodist.org

Society Stewards: 1st Service—Heather Pomeroy 086 3752091

2nd Service—Stuart Blythman 086 276 9179

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RUOK Are you OK? Call or text for help of any kind. 083 850 8550 We serve each other because we love him.

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