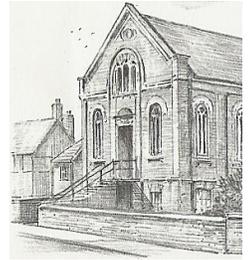


STOTFOLD METHODISTS

the church on the crossroads



MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

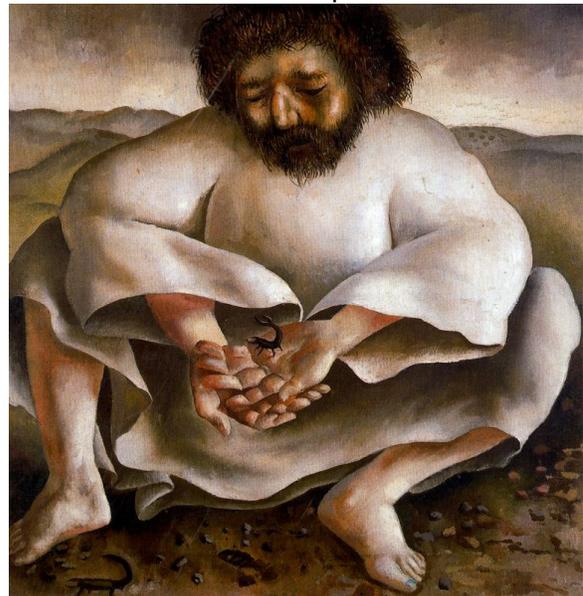
**O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Isaiah 64:3-8**

Taking a risk for the sake of Love

The Methodist Church in Great Britain is called to "respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission". This includes overcoming some pressing challenges, such as the unfilled but essential post of Circuit Treasurer, without which we cannot continue as a circuit of churches. Please pray that God will call the person to take this role very soon.

This year we'll commemorate 75 years since the end of World War II in Europe. At the start

of that war, in 1939, Stanley Spencer decided to paint a series depicting Christ in the wilderness, based upon the gospel stories of Jesus fasting for 40 days and nights in the desert. This painting, *The Scorpion*, shows Jesus seated, barefoot, gazing at the scorpion in his palm. Another lurks near his foot. He risks fatal stings. The painting shows, I think, that Jesus loves the creatures that God the Father had made, despite the pain the creatures may inflict. When Spencer painted this, the fear of war was everywhere. Jesus showed the opposite of fear because of his love for all.



Jesus takes a risk for the sake of love. How can we, as Christ's followers, take such a stance, such risks, to love as God has first loved us?

For church, this is the season of lent, up through Good Friday to Easter Sunday. On that

Friday, Christ's hands and feet were mortally stung, not by scorpions, but by violent men who nailed him to a cross of wood until he breathed his last. And he knew that the risks he took meant this would happen, but did it anyway, for love. In our journey with Christ through Lent, we might encounter fear, or suffering, or both. But in all things, Christ's promise is to be with us always (Matthew 28.20) so we've his help to take risks for the things God loves. Please pray for us as a circuit of churches, for our church, and for ourselves as followers of Christ, to live up to our calling, to take a risk for the sake of love. May I encourage you to take part in the circuit Good Friday Walk, from Christchurch Hitchin to Pirton Methodist Church and back. It takes place in the afternoon, 8 miles or so, and if you can't make it please consider sponsoring someone else. We're raising money for

Bridgebuilders (taking the Gospel to schools in Stevenage) and the Bridge2Aid (taking dental services to Africa, including a dentist from one of our churches).
Graham.

Sunday Services

Time	Date	Preacher
10.00am	1 March	Rev Graham Claydon-Knights Holy Communion
10.00am	8 March	Chris Jones
10.00am	15 March	Allison Ffinch
10.00am	22 March	Rev Graham Claydon-Knights Holy Communion
10.00am	29 March	Frank Needham

What's On

Time and Date	Event
10.00 to 11.30am Saturday 7.3.20	Coffee Morning
2.00pm Each Monday	Monday Club
2.00pm Third Thursday of the month	Carers Group

Minister Church Secretary & Hall Hire Senior Steward	Rev Graham Claydon-Knights 07340 857386 Julie Longhurst 01462-731167 Maggie Turner 01462-731030
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www.stotfoldmethodists.org.uk