Wrenbury & Nantwich Mission Area **Methodist** Churches 

**Newsletter 24 6 September 2020**

Well it’s hard to believe we’ve started a new connexional year, and we’re still in “lock down” relying on phone calls and the newsletter to keep us connected. On Sunday we welcome Rev Robin Fox to the circuit, but the service will be by zoom, so different to the usual packed churches that gather to welcome their new minister. Robin has had a particularly difficult start to his time in Cheshire South. As I write this, he has not even been able to move into the manse. Please pray for him and be patient, as normally ministers will have had time to unpack and settle at least a few days before the new year.

I can’t believe I have been in Nantwich now for a year, and for half of that time the churches have been closed. I do feel very much at home amongst you, the manse has become a “home”, particularly over recent weeks with a number of people staying in it. I’m not leaving, but my role will change as Robin takes over pastoral charge of Nantwich. Robin and I will work together closely, but he will be your “first port of call” as minister. Wrenbury Mission Area - you are still stuck with me !

Over recent months the Board of North St. in Crewe have had to make some difficult decisions during the pandemic. For the long-term sustainability of the project we have had to make the Project Manager’s role redundant. I need to devote more of my time preparing the project to reopen and develop the missional opportunities there.

New years bring new opportunities and challenges, and we look forward to what this year will bring. Children will be returning to school after a long period of having their education disrupted. There will be a mixture of fear, excitement and even relief amongst parents and children. I remember the feeling of opening a new exercise book and the excitement of writing on a crisp, clean new page. Some of our churches are preparing to re-open and, like the children, there will be a feeling of fear and excitement of returning to fellowship. Even when our buildings are re-opened, it may not be safe for everyone to return. We shared in newsletter 20, 9th August, a chart from the British Medical Association for everyone to calculate their own risk of returning to worship. Anyone who scores 6 or over is encouraged/advised to continue to participate in church life from home. (Anyone over 80 scores 6 straight away, 70 -79 scores 4 before any other health factor or gender is considered). You must all decide for yourselves if and when **you** feel it is time for **you** to return to the gathered church, with no pressure or guilt !! Aston are now open every Sunday at 11 am, Lightwood Green gather outdoors weekly and Nantwich are working towards being open from October. If and when you return, it will not be the same as what we left behind: you will be required to wear face masks, maintain social distancing and won’t be able to sing.

Remember the life cycle of the butterfly. It starts life as a caterpillar, munching its way through plants, only seeing what is immediately in front of it, consuming what is there until the time comes to go into “lock down” building its own chrysalis. The caterpillar then goes through a breakdown process, becoming a gooey mess until one day it is ready to break out of the chrysalis, fighting its way through the fibres until it emerges into a beautiful butterfly. There’s a story of a class that studied the life cycle of the butterfly; one young boy was completely hooked on watching the caterpillar spin its chrysalis, and hang itself upside down before breaking down. One morning as he rushed into the classroom to see what had happened overnight he saw the butterfly trying to break free from the chrysalis, its wings apparently caught in the fibres. Desperate to help, the boy grabbed some scissors and cut the fibres from around the wings, the butterfly was free, but moments later dropped to the floor dead. The boy was disraught. He hadn’t realised that in order for the butterflies’ wings to have the strength to fly, they had to break through the fibres themselves. Without the struggle there could be no flight. Before the flight the butterfly has to lie in the sun and open its wings allowing them to dry before it can rise into the sky and discover a whole new world and opportunities that are now available.

As a church we have been locked into our chrysalis, it may have felt everything has broken down and now we have the struggles of complying with new regulations and the financial challenges that lie ahead. The struggles we will go through will strengthen us to emerge from lock down to be something new and beautiful, reaching possibilies we would never have thought or dreamed of. I’m sure the butterfly, once it had experienced the sunshine on its wings, felt the breeze and seen the world from a different viewpoint, wouldn’t want to go back to the boring existence it had as a caterpillar.

I pray that as individuals and as local churches we will have the courage to go through the struggles to break free of the fibres that restrain us and rise to the new opportunities that God offers us.

**God Bless, with love and prayers *Deacon Jill* x**

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“A few days ago for my daily Quiet Time, I decided to reflect on the book of Revelation, reading it without the use of a commentary (which would be my norm) and see what the Lord had to say to me. When I came to chapter 2, verse 7 I was impacted by the words of Jesus to the church at Ephesus: ‘***Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches***.’ I thought, ‘Wow, that is a word to me’. Then I thought, ‘Yes, and it’s a word for the church today’.

It took me a while to move on from that verse but, reading on in chapter 2, I was amazed to find the same challenge repeated in the message to the church at Smyrna in verse 11… ‘***Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches***’. The Lord was re-enforcing it to me! I looked ahead to the messages to the other five churches – there it was, repeated five more times !

This is such an important challenge to the church today, particularly to the leaders and decision makers, as we look for the way forward for the church in the present crisis. I urge all who are concerned about the Gospel being lived and preached in these difficult days to discipline themselves in setting aside time for prayer and LISTENING TO GOD. That we might ‘know what the Spirit is saying’. *Brenda Bowers (NMC)*

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**Alsager Book Emporium** …

… is open again from Friday 4th Sept., initially on Fridays only, and by appointment only. To book a slot between 10am and 2pm, please contact Malcolm Lorimer via phone: 01270 625278 or email: maxcricket@btinternet.com.

We will be strictly limiting numbers to begin with, but will review that once our volunteers feel comfortable to do so.

A one-way system is in operation – please follow the signs and floor markings. The entrance will now be via the other front door, and the exit will be through the main front door (what used to be the entrance).

Payment by card is preferred. A new contactless system is in operation. Please be patient as our volunteers become familiar with it.

Please remember:

- Wear a mask at all times in the Emporium

- Keep 2m apart

- Use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the Emporium

- Do not come to the Emporium if you are exhibiting any Covid symptoms

Everyone remains committed to giving you the same warm welcome – but please be kind if one of the volunteers politely reminds you of social distancing procedures.

P.S. The toilet facilities will be open, but sadly we will not be serving refreshments for the time being.

See you soon!

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“One of the principal rules of religion is to lose no occasion of serving God. And, since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbour; which he receives as if done to himself in person standing visibly before us.” (*John Wesley*)

Wrenbury & Nantwich Mission Area **Methodist** Churches 

**Sunday 6 Sept 2020**

This short act of worship has been prepared for us to use as we are not able to gather for worship. We can remain connected in fellowship by following this simple act of worship around the time you would normally be gathered for worship in your chapel/church.

**Opening Prayer**

Living God, we thank you for the gift of being able to speak directly to you through prayer. In the midst of this pandemic, when life feels more and more like an uphill battle, we pray for perseverance and that we may not grow weary of doing good. When the world tells us we are not good enough, you make us more than enough. When we don’t feel strong enough, you provide the strength we need. Though we may stumble, you have promised not to let us fall. With Jesus as our ultimate example, we ask for endurance and refreshment so that we may continue to press on and do your work.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Written by Sydney McMichael*

*Administrator Ministries: Vocations and Worship*

**Hymn: 615 Let Love Be Real**  (Londonderry Air)

Let love be real, in giving and receiving,

without the need to manage and to own;

a haven free from posing and pretending,

where every weakness may be safely known.

Give me your hand, along the desert pathway,

give me your love wherever we may go:

 *As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands, just open hands and space to grow*.

Let love be real, not grasping or confining,

that strange embrace that holds yet sets us free;

that helps us face the risk of truly living,

and makes us brave to be what we might be.

Give me your strength when all my words are weakness,

 Give me your love in spite of all you know:

*As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands, just open hands and space to grow*.

Let love be real, with no manipulation,

no secret wish to harness or control;

let us accept each other's incompleteness,

and share the joy of learning to be whole.

Give me your hope through dreams and

 disappointments,

give me your trust when all my failings show:

*As God loves us, so let us love each other, with no demands, just open hands and space to grow.*

**Let us pray together:**

Loving and generous God, on this the first Sunday of a new Connexional year we are aware that so many people are still unable to gather in a church or chapel to worship you. We know you hear our prayers from wherever we are, but for many our desire is to gather together for mutual support and to praise your name.

Hear the prayers of our hearts as we long for a better world.

Hear the prayers of our minds as we try to find new ways to worship you.

Hear the prayer of our souls as we long to draw closer to you.

On this day, we thank you once again for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. How he modelled a way for us to live, and how he showed us that there is nothing in earth or heaven that can separate us from your love.

Forgive us, Lord, in the times when we doubt you. Give us strength when we feel weak. Hold us close, until the day finally comes when we might all gather as one to praise your name. **Amen.**

**Today’s Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 15-20**

‘If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

**Time to Reflect**

 At the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic we thought these worship sheets would be needed for a few weeks, but now we enter the 5th month.

 We thank all those people who volunteered to

draft one of these acts of worship. An offering made, each week, by leaders of worship both lay and ordained, from across the connexion in good faith and often written under pressure.

 To begin people were grateful for the acts of worship. Then, quite quickly, a few people began to write in to offer advice or to blatantly say what was wrong! Can the worship of God be wrong? Of course, liturgically we can all do things that might not suit everyone, but if your heart and my heart are in the right place, surely God will accept what we offer. The general response was they are offered in good faith, by a brother or sister in Christ – adapt them as you will.

 In the trauma of dealing with the pandemic we have moved from the phase when we declared, “we are all in this together” to a more destructive phase. A time of disillusionment, where nothing anyone does seems to be quite good enough for anyone else.

 Jesus (our God on earth) knew people all too well. The emotional roller coasters we travel in life. Which is why, I suggest, he recommended that if you have a problem with someone you should go to him or her directly, before dragging in the wider community (which today would include the online communities many of us belong to).

 We all make mistakes. (For the mistakes we’ve made on these sheets I apologise). We will all need at some point to point out a mistake to another person, or to apologise for something we have done wrong. Let us do this graciously with love and care for another. As we move into this new Connexional year, let us all commit to reviewing not what might we do to please humankind but what we might do to the glory of God.

 I pray may all our mistakes be made in good faith, and may our reprimands be smothered in the love of God. Amen

**Take a time to sit quietly**

**A time of prayer**

Loving God we hold before you today:

Those who began their period as a Probationary Minister today. Those ministers who have moved home this summer. Those preachers who have not led worship for many months. For churches who are struggling to know when to re-open.

We pray for those we love:

For those who mourn…

For those who have been ill…

For frontline workers.

For those struggling to find work.

For those who have started or who are about to start school.

We pray for your world:

For those parts of the world devastated by COVID19.

For refugees and those living in fear.

We pray for ourselves – in a moment of quiet hold before God what is on your heart today.

Binding all our prayers together we say:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: StF 476 One more Step**

One more step along the world I go,

One more step along the world I go;

From the old things to the new

Keep me travelling along with you

 *And it's from the old I travel to the new;
 Keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,

More and more about the world I learn;

All the new things that I see

You'll be looking at along with me.

 A*nd it’s* …

As I travel through the bad and good,

Keep me travelling the way I should;

Where I see no way to go

You'll be telling me the way, I know.

 *And it’s* …

Give me courage when the world is rough,

Keep me loving though the world is tough;

Leap and sing in all I do,

Keep me travelling along with you.

 *And it’s …*

You are older than the world can be,

You are younger than the life in me;

Ever old and ever new,

Keep me travelling along with you.

 *And it’s* …

**A prayer of blessing**

May the Grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, for evermore, **Amen**

*Original Materials by Revd Paul Wood*

*Hymns reproduced under CCLi 155789*

***St. Andrew’s Chapel, Aston***

is open again for morning worship

every **Sunday** at **11 am**.

A short service led by Jenny and David Smith

Face masks must be worn

Social distancing must be maintained

No singing

**Welcome to Rev. Robin Fox**

**Circuit Welcome Service (Zoom)**

**Sun 6th Sept at 6.30pm,**

also a

**Local Welcome Service**

**Tuesday 15th September 10.30am**

in **St Mary’s Church Nantwich**

(Social distancing & face masks will be required)

Below is the link for the Zoom meeting. You can also dial in on one of the following phone numbers, and when requested, quote the passcode 265828 using your phone keypad. (If you need the meeting ID, it is: 858 8981 4541). Please dial in some time after 6.10pm.

Dial by your location

 0203 901 7895 United Kingdom

 0131 460 1196 United Kingdom

 0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Join Zoom Meeting - access from the waiting room will be granted after 6.10pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85889814541?pwd=N2pxVlRmblVUWVdFSWxCTDVnUXFzdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8981 4541

Passcode: 265828

**Nantwich Food Bank**

 in conjunction with

**Nantwich Food Festival**

 **‘Drop-Off & Go’ Collection**

Saturday 5th September 11am – 1 pm

Nantwich Football Club

**Needed**: Long-life fruit juice, tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, meals in a tin, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, coffee, biscuits and chocolates, shower gel, soap, washing up liquid, washing powder, shampoo, toothpaste.

The Food Bank are **unable to accept**: Dairy, meat or fish, fruit or vegetables, half used/open packets, items that require refrigeration, anything past its best before / use by date, anything alcoholic, bleach. They can accept fresh eggs as long as they are date stamped / egg standard marked.

Social distancing requirements will be observed.

*I deliberately include some events which are over by Sunday, because most people receive their newsletters in time for the reminder to be helpful.*

*(Pat)*

**Broomhall & Sound Zoom Bedtime stories with Kathryn**



**7pm Monday 14th & 28th September**

Bring your Teddy a cup of hot chocolate and snuggle up for a story and prayers.

A perfect end to the day!

Join Zoom Meeting **\***

**Coffee & Cuddles**

9.30 Thursday 3rd and 24th September

Songs, story, craft and prayer

Aimed at pre-school children but all are welcome! **\***

**Lego Church**

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4pm Friday 14 Sept & 2 Oct

Songs, story & Lego challenge

Aimed at primary school children but all welcome**\***

**Macmillan Cancer support**



**“Drive Through” cake sale at**

Broomhall & Sound Chapel

**Saturday 26 Sept 10 am – noon \***

(donations of homemade cakes welcome;

drop off at chapel 9.30-10 am)

**All proceeds to Macmillan Cancer**

***\**** ***For more information and to receive the links to the above activities please contact***

***kathryn-davies@hotmail.co.uk***

**Nantwich J.M.A.**

Last week Victoria thanked all who had so generously contributed to her total for the year. We in turn admire and thank her for her effort.

A certificate will be presented when possible.

From Rev. Rob Hilton, Superintendent Minister.

Dear Friends,

 Greetings! I hope you are all keeping safe, and well. After many months in lockdown, our household has now managed a two week holiday! Camping in a field in west Wales meant it was fairly easy to keep socially distanced: we were in our (new to us) caravan, so we had all our own facilities, and the beaches, though utterly beautiful, are so far west in Wales, that few people get there, and social distancing wasn’t a problem either. The fact that there was a significant breeze/gale blowing most of the time was also good for following government guidance outside!

 Actually, most of the time we were able to forget, and enjoyed a restful and restorative holiday. I am acutely aware that this will not have been possible for some of you, and that there may well have been some disappointments, frustrations, and compromises.

 We found camping in a field and sitting/walking on a beach easy. Going out for a meal, shopping, or even going to the fish and chip shop had us reaching for masks, hand gel, antiviral wipes, and sometimes rubber gloves. It was frightening at times and caused some anxiety. I also know some of you are working and fully engaging in society and wish you had the luxury of choice.

 All of which, for me, is about reflecting on balance. The balance between following rules and guidance, and knowing enough science to know what is essential and what is sometimes either not enough caution, or maybe too much. In Asda the other day, the packet of antiviral wet wipes in my pocket was leaking it’s cleaning fluid out through my trouser pocket causing a wet patch to appear, which was highly embarrassing, yet I had to refrain from asking two parents why their teenage child wasn’t wearing a mask! Balance.

 As a Christian that balance is informed by my faith, the commitment of a Christian disciple to live in a loving, compassionate and yet truthful and just way. The same is true in my job. On the one hand I receive a few letters and messages from people desperately asking me to re-open churches while we still have churches to reopen, when is the Circuit plan coming out, and even though we’re all in our 70s and 80s, we just want to get together for a sing and a coffee and catch up. It’s this social benefit of church life that I am so painfully and acutely aware is most missed by many of us. Churches are able to provide so much that contributes towards people’s personal mental health and wellbeing, as well as social inclusion, that to be so limited, to the point of impossible, is harming some people’s health.

 On the other hand, as you’ll know from what I’ve written before, the responsibilities of trusteeship, safety and Covid restrictions and guidelines must be followed. Unlike pubs, shops, restaurants, chip shops and car garages (where I’ve also been a bit recently) we have no professionals, only volunteers. Weighing up risks is a responsible thing.

 Once again, we have to be kind, gracious, and understanding of those with frustrations while we work through these processes, and ask why?, what’s our mission and vision? At the same time the truths of our responsibilities mean we have to think what is viable in some churches and chapels and what is just. Our faith doesn’t take us out of the world, it embeds us more deeply in it, just as with Jesus who was the Word made flesh. It is God’s involvement with humanity that is our hope through these difficult times.

 One of the things that means is our sense of togetherness and unity. There is always a tension in Methodism between the desires and wishes of a local church, which in its own community, and for its congregation, is rightly, in some ways the centre of the universe. But Methodism is not a congregational church, we are a Connexion, it is our relationships and connectedness that makes us Methodist. At the moment we have slid, because of circumstances, into the congregational approach - each church, or in some cases Mission Area, responsible for worship and care. This has had dire consequences financially, as many have stopped ‘putting in their collection’ because the plate isn’t coming under our nose every week. To move to a position of connectedness, such as the plan gives us for example, is going to take time and careful transition - so I ask for your patience! The Circuit staff are already intending that the plan will look different: it will have on it, not only those churches whose buildings are open, but also those preachers responsible for writing posted and e-mailed worship materials, those who are leading an online or recorded service, and these may vary - not everything is ever going ‘back to normal’.

 The good that has been learnt through lockdown must be nurtured and encouraged. Those who are elderly and at risk must not feel they have to turn out to ‘keep the chapel going’, and those who can and will must not bear too much of a burden.

 We can and will change because God is with us. Through trying to keep a balance, and seeking the way, God will lead us, and in the process, make us new. I love the hymn by John Bell and Graham Maule in Singing the Faith no 393: ***She sits like a bird, brooding on the waters,***

 ***hovering on the chaos of the world’s first day;***

 ***she sighs and she sings, mothering creation,***

 ***waiting to give birth to all the Word will say.***

 God will not take us ‘back to normal’ but do new things in our midst as we move forwards. This September, as we begin a new Methodist year, we welcome a new minister: the Rev Robin Fox moves into the Audlem manse to oversee the Churches in Audlem and Nantwich Mission areas. I ask for your prayerful support of Robin at this time; we will welcome him at a Zoom Service on Sunday 6th September at 6.30pm, but as he will be restricted from the usual round of meeting people and getting to know us, this will be a very strange time for him. Strange, but God is with us.

With every good wish,

Godbless,

Rob **CIRCUIT NEWS**

Change of Contact Details: the phone number for Daniel Keen, Circuit Administrator, is now 07598 580541. His phone is only answered during working hours (usually mornings Monday-Friday) but messages left are responded to at the first available opportunity. His email address remains the same.

Worship Currently Available:

There are many different ways of accessing worship even though our buildings remain closed. An up-to-date

 list is on the circuit website, along with any links needed for the below:

 Alsager – Weekly service available via YouTube and weekly written message.

 Nantwich – Weekly newsletter and service sheet available via email and website.

 Rope Green — Phone conference worship 4 times a week:

 9.45am and 6pm every Sunday (6pm repeat of morning)

 Telephone 0330 336 0036 9.45am PIN 134879 6pm PIN 117868

 Night Prayers every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 8.30pm (15-20 mins)

 Telephone 0330 336 0036 PIN 117868

 Sandbach – 30 minute service available on Soundcloud as well as fortnightly services on a Sunday morning via Zoom.

Further details and the relevant links for all the above are available at: www.cheshiresouth.org.uk

Fundraising

 The Circuit website has been updated to include a Fundraising page, which contains links to All We Can, MHA and Action For Children to enable you to donate to these charities during this time.

 If you wish to give, all you have to do is visit the fundraising page and click on the link next to the charity you wish to donate to; JustGiving take care of the rest. At this time of year we would normally be holding collections for these charities which we are not now able to do so please consider making a donation to help those in need both in this country and further afield. Charities are one of the worst hit sectors in the pandemic as they have received no government help. You can donate anonymously or leave your details.

 Please also keep giving your collection to your church. Each church has its own different system in place so please contact your church representative to find out how. Even putting aside your collection each week so that you can give it when the church reopens will make a big difference. Even though our buildings

are closed the church still has considerable costs.

Our Website has been cleared of all Calendar events for the time being: however posters are being added if they contain helpful information about available assistance in the current situation.

 Please forward information to be put into the next Circuit Newsletter to -

1108info.cheshiresouth@gmail.com or phone 07598 580541 by Wednesday 23rd September – Thank you

*Daniel Keen* Circuit Administrator

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**Poole Quiet Garden**

 We have had a lot of help from the Quakers, and had 3 working parties. It’s looking a lot better. If anyone wants to call in and do some weeding, that would be very helpful. If you have some suitable plants please feel free to plant them. There are tools stored by the toilet. Or just sit and enjoy the weather and sound of the water feature.

 Freshly picked Bramley cooking **apples** are still available from outside my house – 2 Newbold Way (near Nantwich lake). Or I can deliver them. Donations invited for the garden at Poole. *Rev. Malcolm Lorimer.*

**Church Family News**

R.I.P.

The funeral of Ron Day (member at Aston) will take place on Sept. 15th, 1.30 pm at Aston Chapel;

and of Jane Roberts (member at NMC) on Sept. 18th at 11 am., conducted by Rev. Robin Fox.

May all who mourn know God’s peace, love and hope sustaining them in their sadness.

Please pray for Vi Wilson (NMC) in hospital at the time of typing, and for Rev. Stuart Rhodes who is recovering at home after a fall.

**Words from the wise** –

 “The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat hanging unused in your closet belongs to those who need it; the shoes rotting in your closet to the one who has no shoes. The money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.”

*(Basil of Caesarea, 330-379 !)*

“If you don’t want your tax to help the poor, then stop saying that you want a country based on Christian values, because you don’t”.

*(Former US President Jimmy Carter)*

“Church is not an organisation you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved, and a hospital where you find healing.”

*(Nicky Gumbel)*

**In Ethiopia climate change has caused the rains that usually fall for 4 months of the year to only come in one month. Livestock have no water or grass and are dying. The people who rely on their milk and meat are also close to death. Women who used to walk for 5 minutes to a stream now find it dry and walk for *10 hours* every night (among wild animals and other dangers) to bring back only half the quantity of water their families need. They fear for the present generation, and even more for those to come.**

 **In this area as well as in Sudan, South Sudan and Kenya, crops have been stripped bare by the biggest ever plagues of locusts. Thousands of acres of land which should be ripening for harvest contain just dead, blackened stalks. Food supplies stand at a tiny fraction of what they need to sustain them until next growing season.**

 **Similar situations are found in many areas of the world. Can you support any of the organisations – Christian and humanitarian – who are struggling to provide aid: with at least prayer and possibly donations? “*If you do it for the least of these* …”!**

**For a largely farming community, these farm-related jokes might be appropriate. They’re not too corny… but still outstanding in their field!**

1. What’s black and white and eats like a horse?

 ***A Zebra*!**

2. What does a farmer talk about while milking cows?

 ***Udder nonsense*!**

3. As farmers, we hear a lot of jokes about sheep.

 ***We’d tell them to the dog, but he’d herd them all*!**

4. Did you hear about the magic tractor?

 ***It turned into a field!***

5. Did you hear about the wooden tractor?

***It had wooden wheels, a wooden engine, wooden transmission and wooden work*!**

6. What did the mummy cow say to the baby cow?

***It’s pasture bedtime!***

7. Where do horses go when they’re sick?

***To the horsepital!***

8. Why do cows have hooves instead of feet?

***Because they lactose!***

9. Which farm animal keeps the best time?

***A watch dog!***

10. “Knock knock.”

*“Who’s there?”*

      “Cows go.”

      *“Cows go who?”*

 “Silly, cows go moo!”

A farmer guarantees that the best precaution to combat covid-19 is to hold a handful of horse manure:

\* You will not touch your eyes, mouth or face

\* No-one will shake your hand, …

… or come within many metres of you

\* You will wash your hands more often and more vigorously than ever before !

**\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \***

As I watched the dog chasing its tail, I thought dogs are easily amused. Then I realised I was watching the dog chase its tail.

“At the end of the day, the end of the week, the end of my life, I want to be able to say that I contributed more than I criticised.”

*(Brene Brown)*

“I want to be engulfed by God’s presence, power and glory. The only way I can do this is to let go.”

*(From ‘Sitting with God’ by Rich Lewis)*