

Worship ... Service ...Witness ... in the name of Jesus


Beckminster Welcomes You

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NOTICES – 12 April 2020

LEAGUE OF LIGHT. It's that time of the year again when holders of League of Light Boxes for Action for Children are asked to hand them to June Sperring, the local Action for Children Secretary, so that they can be emptied, the money counted and sent on to the Charity. Please let me have your box at the first opportunity so that I can forward the money to the Charity. If you are wondering what this is about it probably means that you haven't yet got a box. I have a good supply of boxes for new subscribers and I'll be very happy to let you have your own brand new shiny box.

FAIRTRID TEA AND COFFEE. Could any organisation requiring Fairtrade tea or coffee please contact Barbara Bennett who has kindly agreed to look after this for Beckminster as I shall be moving away from Wolverhampton in the not too distant future. Rita Powell

LENT BAGS. These have not been forgotten in these difficult times. Charities will be in need as never before. Do keep filling them as you are able or put aside monies you have saved by not going out. We plan a thank you when the church meets again. Keep safe and thank you for your support.

SAM HAGERMAN'S ORDINATION. Some may have heard the news that the Methodist Conference will not be happening in the form we expected this year – for very understandable reasons. Taking this decision obviously raises a long list of other questions. One of which is what happens about ordination services. The answer is that no decisions have yet been taken. We will let you know as soon as there is more news to share. In the meantime, I encourage us all to pray for Sam and her family in these anxious and unsettling times. Whatever the timing may be, Sam will be ordained (subject to Conference of course!) and we will continue to value her rich ministry among us.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION. As I am working from home can you please send any emails to me on info@beckminsterchurch.co.uk and telephone me on 01902 761322. Sue

MOLLIE HUGGINS. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Mollie who passed away on Wednesday, 8 April 2020 at Waterside House.

GOOD SHEPHERD MINISTRY. We ask our members to remember that the GSM is continuing its work during this difficult period. Those members who donate goods via Beckminster on a weekly basis are invited to make an on-line donation if possible so that this invaluable work is funded during this time. If you wish to continue to make tins etc. available, please contact John Ashwood.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN EMERGENCY APPEAL. The current crisis is pushing many families over the edge, people who were already struggling are now finding life even more difficult. Even before the Corona Virus struck the country 4 million children in the UK lived lives locked in poverty. The families from which these children come are even more vulnerable and face greater difficulties now.

The situation in the UK is rapidly changing and the government is offering some support but with any challenge of this size it will take time for that help to reach the families who depend on it.

Action for Children has workers "on the ground" who are able to respond with offers of help and financial support very quickly and so the Charity is making this **emergency appeal** now in order that that their front line workers will have the means to do their job.

TO DONATE TO THE EMERGENCY APPEAL, PLEASE DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Visit actionforchildren.org.uk/emergency

Text "EMERGENCY" or 70175 to Donate £10

Call Supporter Services on 0300 123 2112

Thank you for your continuing support of Action for Children.
June (Sperring)

We are still here...

An update from us



We wanted to start by saying we hope you, our amazing supporters and your families are staying safe during these difficult times; we are thinking of you all.

Thank you for continuing to support women and children at The Haven.

Haven COVID Emergency Relief Appeal

We rely heavily on funds raised from Haven events, and your events! None of these are possible during lockdown, putting our services at risk. We need your help now more than ever. Watch our campaign video to see how you can support women and children during this pandemic.

If you want to help in any way or see what other things are going on at the Haven go onto their website which is give@havenrefuge.org.uk

INFORMATION FROM SHIRLEY IN THE CIRCUIT OFFICE. Here is a pattern to knit, crochet or create a 'fish' - this could be used as a prayer aid and is a Connexional idea the Rev'd Peggy Heim suggested people may like to take part in and to bring back together when we meet in fellowship once again.

The telephone number for Darlington Street is now being diverted and in most cases will be picked up.

I would like to send you Easter blessings and good wishes as we take part in different forms of worship this year.

The Circuit Office will now be closed until 1.00pm on Wednesday, 15 April.

Keep well and stay safe.

The Challenge: Create a fish prayer object. Or, create a shoal! Use your talents and whatever creative resources you have available in your home to make your fish! You could make a fish by: - Knitting (pattern included with this challenge!) - Crocheting (pattern included with this challenge!) - Cutting, sewing, sticking, scrap materials - Painting it on a stone - Paper Mache - Lego - Iron-on beads - Clay - Or any other creative means you can think of!

Why a fish prayer object? The fish has long been a symbol of Christian identity, hope and salvation. At time like these, perhaps it is good to hold on to our Christian identity, hope and salvation! Literally! With the fish we create, we can hold them in our hands and we can hold what they represent symbolically in our hearts and minds.

Why do this? The fish could be an object for prayer during this time. They could also be gifts for others; whether they can be gifted now if there are others in your household, or later, when the time is 'right' (according to governmental health and safety instructions and advice). If you plan to gift your fish, consider what story your fish might tell its new owner!

Your fish could be a tool for evangelism. Consider the fishy stories in the Bible, like The Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:1–11) and the Feeding of the Five Thousand (Matthew 14: 13-21).

Your church, circuit or district might, at a later date (when the time is 'right'), request to gather in all the fish created, to be presented as a whole, to a wider audience. To reflect our prayers and hopes, while we were all being 'alone together' at this time; united in our identity, hope and salvation. The fish may then be requested to be offered as gifts for the local community – to be used in a similar way as, for example, knitted angels at Christmas time.

You could document your fish making, and or the prayers that you've said in this time. You could record these in a notebook, in photographs, or if you're online, you could share them with your online communities via your social media platforms. If you share them online, it'd be great if you could include the hashtag #fishingforhope2020 so your content can be easily searched for and found.

How to Knit a Fish

First find some brightly coloured yarn and a pair of knitting needles. 3mm needles are ideal, but it will work with any needles.

Starting at the tail end, cast on twelve stitches. If you want a wider tail cast on more stitches in multiples of two.

1.) Knit in stocking stitch (1 row plain, 1 row purl). Decrease one stitch as each end of the plain rows only, until you have 6 stitches left.

2.) Knit three rows in stocking stitch without decreasing.

3.) If you want to change colours, now might be a good time.

4.) Increase one stitch at each end of every plain row until you have 24 stitches on the needle.

5.) Now decrease one stitch at each end of every plain row until 2 stitches remain. Knit these two stitches together and bind off.

You need two pieces to make a fish. Sew them together (inside out) but leave the tail end open. Now turn them right side out and stuff – how much stuffing you use depends on how fat you want your fish to be! Sew up the tail.

Feel free to add patterns or fins if you want!

How to Crochet a Fish

This pattern was created using a size 4 hook and double knit wool.

Change in wool and /or hook size will just make a different size fish!

The whole thing is crocheted in uk treble stitch

Ø Make a chain of 15 stitches

Ø Row 1 1 treble in third chain from hook then 1 treble in each chain to end, turn...

Ø Always begin each row by crocheting 2 chain instead of crocheting into the first hole whether increasing or decreasing as this counts as the first treble

Ø Now Decrease one treble at each end of next 3 rows by missing a stitch (ie. Make 2 chain and then crochet a treble into 3rd stitch and don't crochet into the 2 chain from the preceding row)

Ø Increase one stitch at each end of next 6 rows by crocheting 2 stitches in one hole at either end

Ø Work 2 rows without increasing number of stitches.

Ø Decrease one stitch at each end of next 7 rows. Tie off

Ø Make a second fish, join the two together leaving one side partly open