



The **Methodist** Church
Burley in Wharfedale

5 May 2020

Hi Everyone,

I just wanted to send a letter to our families with children and teens to let you know that I'm thinking of you and miss seeing you at church or on the school run or in the busyness of "normal" village life! In times like these, we can experience a lot of different feelings:

- the empty spaces of missing our friends and family members we can't see
- confusion when people talk about things that we don't understand
- anger about everything changing so quickly, completely out of our control
- fear that something bad could happen to ourselves or the people we love
- frustration about not being able to go to the places we want to visit
- irritation with family members when it feels like we need a break
- anxiety around not knowing when our lives will become more normal again
- boredom without our usual activities and clubs

Those kinds of emotions can feel a bit like night-time. Dark and shadowy.

But there is good news! We know that underneath it all, a never-ending hope waits to shine again. It is the hope of Jesus' love and of a God who comes close to us in good times and in bad times, never ever leaving us on our own. This is the love that "*never fails, never gives up and never runs out on me.*"

I have included a special cross in this letter. It might look dark and shadowy at first glance, but with a little bit of scratching you will be able to reveal a lovely picture or word that reminds you of God's love. Perhaps you can make it for someone special or take a picture of your artwork and send it back to me.

PS – If you want to watch our weekly worship services or our Shift sessions on the first and third Sunday of the month, you can find them on the links below. You'll find some lovely activity sheets on the website too.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/burleymethodist/>

Shift Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/burleymethodist/>

Website: <https://www.burleymethodist.org/>

Shift website: <http://www.burleyshift.org/>

YouTube Channel: Burley Methodist Online

Please remember that parents / carers are welcome to get in touch with me with any ideas of how we can help you to "be church" at home during this time, or if you feel like a virtual visit, or if you would like to be involved in an upcoming service by doing a reading or a prayer.

I'm looking forward to a time when we can be together in person again!

Grace and Peace,

Wendy Walker

Assistant Pastor