

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



BRISTOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

August 2020

Our last Newsletter was written in January this year, just 3 months before the pandemic caused by Covid-19 changed life for us here in the UK, and across the world, so drastically. In the latest issue of Together in Prayer the editor, Siobhan Canham, writes “We hope by the time you are reading this that the crisis caused by the pandemic will be over”. Sadly, this has not proved to be the case.

The **2021 service**, to be held on **Friday, March 5th**, has been written by the women of Vanuatu – an island country situated in the South Pacific Ocean. On 6th April, just as we here in the UK were beginning to come to terms with Lockdown, Vanuatu was hit by Cyclone Harold, the second category-5 storm to hit the nation in 5 years. Already in a state of emergency due to Covid-19 the task of dealing with the aftermath of the cyclone is huge; they so need our prayers.

The theme chosen by the women of Vanuatu for the 2021 service is “Build on a Strong Foundation”. Let our prayer be that, in spite of all they are coping with which is more than we can imagine, they are able to hold fast to the words in 2 Timothy 2:19 – “Nevertheless, *God’s* solid foundation stands firm”.

The Bristol Committee was so looking forward to welcoming many of you to the Preparation Day planned for October 6th at Nailsea Methodist Church. However, given the on-going need for social distancing, and the restrictions on the numbers of people allowed to meet, we have reluctantly made the decision to cancel the Preparation Day.

As the Service itself is very straightforward we are sure that with the details in the Order of Service; all the information available in Together in Prayer (*see below*); together with information on the WDP website (*also*

see *link below*) your local Committee will be able to conduct an excellent Service.

We urge you to purchase a copy of Together in Prayer. Apart from information about Vanuatu it is a really interesting read and great value at £3.00. It, and many other resources, can be ordered via the WDP website www.wwdp.org.uk. Also, do remember to post details of the service *you* plan to hold on the website.

Moving on!.... in hope and faith....we are so pleased to say that although we are not able to meet this year we have provisionally booked **Nailsea Methodist Church** for the Preparation Day next year **on Tuesday, 5th October**, for the 2022 Service - which has been prepared by the women of **England, Wales, and Northern Island** - Us!

One of the great things about WDP committees across the world is their inter-denominational fellowship. Your Bristol District Committee is widely represented denominationally **but we are currently without a representative from the Salvation Army. Could you, or someone you know, help us remedy this?**

We so regret having to cancel our Preparation Day, and especially the fellowship we share with you when we meet together. No doubt you are all, in many ways, having to cope with not being able to meet for worship; some finding new ways to do so via Zoom, weekly worship material via email, or receiving your service notes through your letter box!

Many thanks for being part of our Bristol District WDP family. As we won't be able to meet on October 6th to prepare for the 2021 service we are suggesting that you might reserve this date in your diary to pray especially for Vanuatu.....it would be good to know that we are all doing that!

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Bristol District WDP Committee

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