



# Dore Methodist Church



July/Aug  
2020

Magazine of The Church on the High Street

Dear Friends,

Well here we are in the summer months and what a rather strange path we have all travelled along to get here this year. Often when we arrive at summer we are ready for a change of rhythm and it's a time of relaxation. However this year, change to our pace of life came in a rather unexpected way back in March. Now instead of summer being a time of pause, we are thinking about planning for the future.



Over the coming weeks and months, as business and activities start to open up again we are all coming to terms with changes in life style. Education, work, the way we shop, gather in crowds, play and watch sport, go on holiday, and of course worship are all affected.

As I thought about this I was drawn back to the story of Noah and to reflect on his emerging out of "lockdown," and I tried to imagine what it may have been like for him.

## Noah after Lockdown

*Well I never saw this one coming; we'd barely wished each other a Happy New Year, and just two months later our lives were turned upside down!*

*At first I really questioned if I had heard God right, but the message came clear: "Build an Ark, there's going to be a big flood!" So me and the boys, we got on with the job.*



*There was the initial scramble to get all the animals and family onto the ark, along with food and other necessary items, and then lockdown began.*

*It was quite hard at first, believe me! No familiar routine, everyday living with uncertainty, trying to work things out as we went along.*

*But as much as I could, I managed to get some time outside on the ark's deck each day, even in the rain; it was my special place where I could stay in touch with God.* *Contd on next page*

Looking back, we did quite well really, and we even made some memorable family times, like the evenings we spent reminiscing together during our quiz nights. What started as a "one off", turned into a regular thing. Naamah, my wife, sons Shem, Ham, Japheth and their wives and myself would get together around the fire with a drink and have such a laugh. We found so many innovative ways to test our knowledge and it kept our brains alert too. We always had a "do you remember" round, but over time our conversations started to look towards the future too. We tried to imagine what life would be like after all this, the 'new normal'; we called it, although some days it just seemed as if we could only live for the moment.

When the rain first started I have to say I didn't realise we would be on the ark for so long. It poured constantly for 40 days and 40 nights, but that wasn't the end. The flood water was so high it took another 11 months before it was anywhere near dry enough for us to leave. None of us had ever been so pleased to see a scrap of green! But although we were so excited we knew it was important not to be impatient and still wait a bit longer. We could only get off when it was safe.

**Now, the doors are open, and we are waiting to disembark into a new normal, a different normal ... and God ... has sent a beautiful rainbow as a sign of hope!**

When Noah and the family came out of the ark I wonder what they started to focus on? Did they centre on what was missing? Or did they focus on what they had learnt and experienced so they could discern Gods will for the different normal?

With all the changes that have been made to the way we have lived over the last few months I think they are questions for us too. So I encourage you to reflect on these thoughts and to send your response to me so we may discern together how God is shaping our fellowship here at Dore:

**What have you learned during this period of not worshipping in our building?**

**What have you experienced which has helped focus your thoughts?**

**What are you discerning God is saying to Dore Methodist Church as we go forward?**

And as you do this, don't forget the rainbow. An image of hope which has become prominent everywhere we have gone recently. A sign of Gods gracious covenant which is grounded in Christ and believes in the future.

Blessings  
Gail



## The Grace Food Bank

Collections for the food bank are currently happening fortnightly and it looks like it will continue in this way for some time. Thank you to all who have contributed. Look out for collection dates in our weekly update.

Peter Smith will collect from you. Please ring him on 0114 473 1998 (or email [peter.ann.smith@gmail.com](mailto:peter.ann.smith@gmail.com)) and then leave a bag outside your front door for collection.

## Rosemary Memory Café

The Café has been up and running since May, using "Zoom" - video conferencing software which can be accessed from a computer, tablet or smart-phone. During this period of lockdown this is a good way of keeping in touch with both people with dementia and, just as important, their carers. Volunteers also join in.

Josee, who now runs the group for Sheffield AgeUK, has come up with interesting topics, quizzes, various forms of exercise, yoga, singing etc. In a recent session we looked at childhood uniformed organisations, i.e. scouts, guides etc. Several members showed us photographs of their time in these groups, and Josee showed a video clip of Scout and Guide camps in the 1950's and 60's. At this time "short" shorts were very much the order of the day! After a break for a cuppa (which obviously each person has to provide for themselves in their own home!), we then took part in some virtual chair aerobics.

Everyone takes something away from the session that helps them through the week and we find out a little more of people's life-stories. For example we found out that one person went to a big International Scouts Jamboree in Marathon, Greece, when he was a young lad.

It is good that in lockdown we are still able to support this outreach activity, albeit in a different format.

*Jackie Bailey*

## Action for Children

As you know our plans for our annual coffee morning to raise funds for Action for Children were changed due to Covid-19 and the lockdown. We now realise that we will have to cancel the event this year as to have such a social activity would be difficult if not impossible during the pandemic. We intend to have a better and bigger event next year!

The annual Action for Children Sunday (July 5th) is also on hold in church buildings this year as we adapt to new ways of doing things. Nonetheless we hope you give some thought and prayer for the vital work of Action for Children. Before the Covid-19 hit there were over four million children in the UK locked in poverty. Now, vulnerable families in our communities have reached breaking point. Families like Helen's:

*Helen, 50 is a full time carer for her seven year old Sam who's autistic. The family had been getting by on Helen's husband's earnings as a taxi driver. But the crisis has hit their income hard.*

*"We're literally living hand to mouth. When my husband said he'd only a couple of driving jobs in a day, I didn't know what to do. What if we get ill and are stuck in lockdown? What if we can't put food on the table? On top of that routine is essential with Sam's autism I've been worried about things like what we're going to tell him now we can't afford chicken nuggets for tea.*

*I'm struggling mentally and trying not to panic—to hold the family together ..."*

There are families like Helen's all over the UK. They need our help right now. Action for Children are doing a brilliant job during these difficult times and need our support.

**Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with love and compassion for those you have sent us to stir up our hearts and strengthen our arms to act with justice and righteousness in Jesus' name. Amen**

*Bridget Ball and Ann Oakes*

## MALTA CALLING



St Andrew's Scots Church, Malta, is a Church of Scotland/Methodist congregation in Valletta. It has an alternating pattern of ministry. The Methodist Minister returned to this country last July so it was the Church of Scotland's turn to provide a Minister, who eventually arrived in March this year. In the interim period the Church was looking for Ministers who could

serve for a month or two and we offered to serve. We followed a Church of Scotland couple, who had been there for two months. I covered the four Sundays in February and the first Sunday in March when I welcomed the new Minister who will be there for at least 5 years. Apart from Sunday worship, I was on duty for 2 days a week - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday! The Church was very much an international congregation and attracts holiday visitors from all over the world. We were made most welcome.

We travelled by bus with a flat fare of 1.50 euros for travel anywhere on the island. Tickets lasted for 2 hours so you could change buses as often as you wished in that time. It worked exceedingly well and the buses were always crowded.

School uniforms were interesting. All the children wore jogging tops and trousers identified by a coloured strip down the outside of the leg. We presumed they changed to shorts in the summer.

Did you know that the Maltese never keep cats as pets? All cats are feral but all across the island in gardens and on the hillsides there were Cat Sanctuaries, wooden kennels with clean bedding and bowls outside for food and water. They are well fed and not afraid of humans. Only the Europeans kept cats as pets and these were domestic cats with the run of their yard or balcony.

Church membership was about the same as Dore. Malta's situation made it necessary for them to have their own Minister. Members came from across the island so many only met on Sundays. The Church outreach work which interested Daphne the most was the Food Bank. Every day from 7.30am until noon different groups of people filled the shelves and packed boxes for the 4 centres around the island. Daphne joined a group on Tuesday mornings for 2 hours. It was a most efficient system. Cards informed you what items to put into the various size boxes: singles, couples, small family, large family (over 5), homeless and roofless, the sofa surfers with no means to cook. In addition to immigrants an increasing number of Maltese rely on the food bank as rents have rocketed sky high in the last year. The boxes were distributed later in the week and we lent a hand on Thursdays. Folk arrived from 5.30pm until 7.00pm. As in England, all had been referred by Social Services or Doctors. On our last Thursday, we distributed 30 parcels to feed 104 individuals.

There is a Bible study on Wednesday evening which gave us the opportunity to get to know a few members of the Church at a deeper level.

The Thursday morning Fellowship Group had sessions on 'Women of the Bible'. The 4 meetings we attended focussed on Mary and Martha, although Lazarus featured strongly in the last session! The leader had been trained at Cliff College and he had some helpful insights. He has an interesting theory that Lazarus may have been the 'beloved disciple' mentioned in John's Gospel.

English classes are held to help immigrants and one of the Elders organises Malta Microfinance to assist people who may be in financial difficulty.

*David and Daphne Willie*

## **Statement on racism from the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference**

The brutal killing of *George Floyd*, who died at the hands of police officers in Minneapolis, has prompted a wave of anger and revulsion around the world. As Christian people, we are appalled that someone could die in such a fashion and appalled also at the continued injustice which many Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people experience in many parts of the world, including the United Kingdom, and in many institutions, including, shamefully, the Methodist Church in Britain.

We therefore welcome and endorse the call of the 'Black Lives Matter' movement for radical action in addressing the causes of this injustice. The Methodist Church in Britain believes that racism is a denial of the gospel. However, we have to recognize that we have not eradicated the problem from our Church, despite the excellent work of many over several decades; in the last year we have redoubled our efforts to do so and are actively working on the implementation of our 'Inclusive Methodist Church' strategy which commits to challenging all forms of discrimination and creating a Church where people from every background are welcome and are safe from abuse and discrimination.

Such a Church will celebrate and not be afraid of diversity; it will be disciplined and uncompromising in its refusal to tolerate any form of racism; it will work to encourage the vocation of those from minority groups to serve in positions of senior leadership; and it will be one in which all people can be confident of the welcome that they will receive as they share in worship and ministry with us. We repent of the ways that we have fallen short of that in the past and of our slowness in changing our ways and we continue to look for ways in which we can witness to the all-encompassing love of God and become the transformation that we long to be. 'Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour': we pray, 'Come, Holy Spirit, come!'

**Black Lives Matter** *#BlackLivesMatter* was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer. Black Lives Matter Foundation, Inc is a global organization in the US, UK, and Canada, whose mission is to eradicate white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted on Black communities by the state and vigilantes. By combating and countering acts of violence, creating space for Black imagination and innovation, and centering Black joy.

## **The Methodist Conference will meet online this year**

The Conference Business Committee agreed that the Conference would meet between June 25 - July 2 2020 in order to conduct its essential business. The committee had recognised that the restrictions this year were likely to be in place at the end of June meaning that an online meeting was necessary.

The Conference opened with the Induction of the President and Vice-President. Ordinations will be delayed to a later date. Not everything in the original agendas were able to take place this year. The restriction on groups meeting meant that some Synods have not been able to meet and give full consideration to *God in Love Unites Us*, and the Council agreed that the debate and voting on the provisional resolutions will be deferred until the 2021 Conference. This also means that any other business (e.g. memorials) relating to those resolutions were not be considered this year.

The Methodist Church is particularly mindful of those for whom this was a significant Conference personally (e.g. ordinands and those designated for office) and hope that the Methodist people will keep them and all the representatives in their prayers.



## Summertime

**Where** can you spot these lovely sights in and around our village?

Give yourself an extra point if you can name the fruit in photo C!

(Answers at the bottom of this page)



**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**



**E**



**F**



**G**



**H**



**I**

- A Front garden of Dore Methodist Church B Path off Limb Lane into Ecclesall Woods
- C Front garden of Dore Methodist Church—the fruit is Quince D Dore Primary School Fence
- E Water trough corner Devonshire Terrace Road F Lavender outside Chemist on Townhead Road
- G Top of Whitelaw Road where it meets Hathersage Road
- H End of Newfield Lane where it meets Townhead Road & Whitelaw Lane
- I Outside the Old School

## DORE METHODIST CHURCH

You will find Dore Methodist Church a place of **WELCOME, BELONGING** and **BELIEVING, ACCEPTANCE, SUPPORT, LOVE, FORGIVENESS** and a place of **COMMUNITY** with caring people who will help you discover more of God's love and purpose for your own life.



This magazine can also be found in the pages of our church website alongside up to date information about our church services, weekly updates, events and lots more!

Visit us at [www.doremethodist.org.uk](http://www.doremethodist.org.uk)

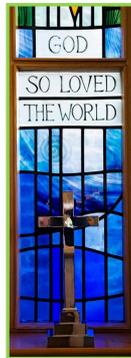
You can also join our Dore Methodist Church Facebook page.



### Minister:

Rev. Gail  
Hunt

Tel: 0114 236 0772



**Due to Coronavirus Covid-19**  
**we are currently closed for our usual**  
**Morning Worship**  
**on Sunday mornings.**  
**Our building is closed for all activities.**

### Church Stewards:

Nigel Thomas

Jackie Bailey

Peter Beardsell

Peter Varley

### Safeguarding

If you have safeguarding concerns please consult Rev. Gail Hunt, minister or Bridget Ball, safeguarding officer.



### Weekly Update

Please pass on any items for our weekly update to John Bailey by Tuesday evenings. Thank you.

We hope you enjoy reading our magazine.

**The next edition will be in September 2020.**

If you would like to include any thing in a future magazine please contact

Bridget Ball or John Bailey

email: [b.c.b@btinternet.com](mailto:b.c.b@btinternet.com) or [john.bailey23a@btinternet.com](mailto:john.bailey23a@btinternet.com)

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