

1) Looking back

We hope you have been able to engage with our services online and through print. The Holy Spirit has been working in incredible ways through this pandemic. As Sally told us in her talk about Pentecost, sales of Bibles have increased, 'How to pray' is a top Google search and people wanting to be involved in Church is at an all-time high.

Here in the Jersey Circuit, we've adapted to a new way of worship, encouraging people in their daily discipleship and devotion, exploring new ways of studying and praying and bringing the gospel to our regulars and irregulars. The Staff meet and pray with each other every week, and Circuit Stewards continue to discern the will of God and lead us through these times as well. We've launched the Year of Testimony and are privileged when people share with us their story. You'd be amazed at some of the numbers we've engaged with so we thought we'd share with you just exactly what's been going on.

Our **Circuit Website** has had over **76,000** page hits over the last three months and the past six months has shown a 40% rise over the previous six months. The **Circuit YouTube Channel** online services have had **4,157** views. **SHMC** had **8,429** views on their YouTube Channel. Their Facebook page, which includes the online services and their children's work, had **9,826** hits. **Ebenezer** has done online work with children too, and **Bethesda** has held live Zoom meetings with their young people. Our online worship services reach beyond our shores and are much appreciated in the UK and internationally. The Holy Spirit is doing something!

2) Looking at the here and now

The Government of Jersey has said that from 12 June places of worship can reopen with the proviso that observance to the social distancing and other official guidelines are kept. While many of us are jumping for joy at this prospect, the managing trustees have a responsibility to ensure that our return to church buildings is safe, responsible and managed. The managing trustees of each Church, now with the guidance from The Methodist Church, ultimately have the authority to determine whether they can open their buildings or not. While being under the laws of Jersey, we are also under the Constitution and Discipline of The Methodist Church. Remember that in re-opening, one size does not fit all!

We have a responsibility to the public and the work of God to make our buildings safe, and we cannot compromise on this. Every life is precious and worth protecting. If and when our church buildings do open, there must be no pressure on anyone to come to the building, especially if they are vulnerable, are in contact with vulnerable people or self-isolating. It is also crucial that the pressure is not put on local preachers to lead worship if they are vulnerable or do not feel comfortable in doing so, in which case the managing trustees will be responsible for their act of worship.

Currently, local managing trustees are studying the guidance to see if and when they can reopen their church buildings. The views of our congregations are a vital part of the discerning process, and we would value your thoughts going forward. We have, therefore, compiled a list of questions which we invite you to reflect on. All replies will be treated

in confidence. However, if in completing the questionnaire, you feel a conversation would be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact your Minister or Rev Danny, as the Circuit Superintendent.

Questions to be answered and posted in the SAE

1. What do you miss most about church life during the Covid-19 lockdown?
2. What has kept you close to God during the lockdown, if anything, and what has God been saying to you?
3. What new spiritual practices, if any, have you developed during this period of lockdown?
4. Assuming that your Church does reopen shortly, and knowing that you are under no obligation to return until you feel safe, are you likely to go back immediately?
Yes - No
5. If you have answered no, you are not obliged to, but it would be helpful if you would briefly share with us why?
6. How much do you expect church life to be different when restrictions are relaxed?
 - a. Significantly
 - b. A little
 - c. A little, but only temporarily
 - d. Not at all, business as usual

7. Do you have any concerns or worries about church-life in the future that you would like to share?
8. There is a lot in the Bible about the experience of exile and return, being forced out of life as they know it and spending a lot of time dreaming of a return. In this period of 'exile', what dreams do you have of the 'new normal' you would like to return to in your local Church?
9. Have you seen any of our online services?
10. If so, what did you like about them?
11. Was there anything you didn't like?
12. Would you like to see the online services continue once we return to worship in our church buildings?
13. Are there any ways in which you could see elements of the online services being incorporated into our physical Sunday morning worship? For example, how would you feel about a recorded sermon by one of our ministers or local preachers being shown as a part of a local arrangement?
14. If the online services do continue, can you see an occasion other than illness or incapacity when you might stay home to worship rather than attending a physical church service?

3) Looking forward

The phrase 'new normal' is being used everywhere. Let's take what we've learned and received through the grace of God and with the Spirit's guiding step into a 'new mission' for the life and work of the Circuit. We do want to hear from you about how we can grow as disciples, increase our mission and further the work of the Kingdom of God. The Spirit is moving, and it is exciting to be part of this marvellous movement of change and discovery. Please pray with us and tell us how you discern God's Spirit to be moving us into a new model of ministry. Please do respond to the questionnaire if you are able, as your views do matter to us.

The Circuit Stewards will also be looking to establish two groups, one 'Worship' and other 'Community'. This is to help them look at the vision and mission of the Circuit going forward for the next 5-10 years. Every Circuit Church will be encouraged to nominate a representative for each group. Please consider joining when invited.

Revd Danny Wheadon	491877
Revd Nico Hilmy-Jones	840793
Revd Tony Morling	739906
Revd Jenny Pathmarajah	743933
Revd Debbie Poole	617794
Deacon Sally Wheadon	491877

YouTube Channels links:

Jersey Circuit:

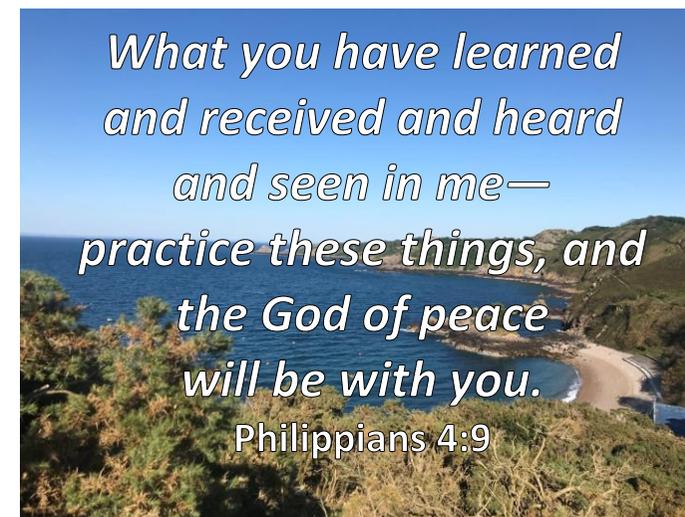
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLapCu7RqUoebklgouaAkDA>

SHMC:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDQaDzq2_WXPj31MhF5SCgA



June 2020



Post Covid-19 Update

Since any of us have congregated together as people called Methodists, the world has changed beyond recognition and so has the worshipping life of the Church. We wanted to take this opportunity to reflect with you on what's happened and how we will move forward. As the author of Philippians encourages us, we need to pause and learn from what we've done, growing into a new form of Church and ministry keeping God, discipleship and mission at the core of what we do.