

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 142



January 2020

God has safely seen us through last year and brought us into this New Year – and for that we thank Him. We are grateful to be alive to see each other's face. Yes, it is wonderful to be alive, and deep feelings of appreciation often well up within us, but we must always centre our devotion on the One who not only provides the air we breathe but also gives us eternal life through faith in Christ. God cares for us and we trust Him to see us through this new year. As Christians, we need to keep focussed on the cross – which is the centre of our faith and pray for an increase in faith to enable us resist all the temptations that we may be faced with.

Little Jeff was trying his best to save money to buy his mother a present. It was a terrible struggle because he gave in so easily to the temptation to buy goodies from the ice-cream man whenever the brightly coloured van came through the neighbourhood. One night after his mother had tucked him in bed, she overheard him pray, "Please God, help me run away when the ice-cream man comes tomorrow". Even at his young age he had learned that one of the best ways to overcome temptation is to avoid what appeals to our weaknesses.

All believers are tempted to sin, yet we need not give in. The Lord provides the way to be victorious over evil enticements (1 Cor. 10.13), but we must do our part. Sometimes that involves avoiding

situations that would contribute to our spiritual defeat.

Our Calling therefore, as beloved children of God, is to offer others the chance to taste afresh and experience God's unconditional love. May God guide us through this New Year and may His promise of Christmas (Immanuel) be with us and for us now and forever. Amen.

Let us meditate with the words of Charles Wesley's hymn:

And are we yet alive,
And see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give
For his redeeming grace!

Let us take up the cross,
Till we the crown obtain;
And gladly reckon all things loss,
So we may Jesus gain. (H&P 707 - 1st & last verses)

Every Blessing

Vida

TESTIMONY FAITH HOMES — CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

The Christmas Card Box raised 45 and the Service on Christmas Day raised £67. A further £60 is being added as the approved donation from from Church funds. It is possible more gifts will come in but at the time of preparing GND the total stands at £172.

Though our feelings for God come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him.

CS Lewis.

Diary and Notice Board - January 2020

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: Meeting in **January** on the 22nd and 29th and in **February** on the 12th and 26th. All at 3.45pm in the Church Lounge. Please always check with church notices or Rosemary beforehand as these may be subject to change.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP is not meeting in January. We start again on 3rd February meeting at Rev'd Angela's home and on the 17th (venue TBA) all at 2.30 pm. All are welcome.

FEBRUARY COFFEE MORNING - SATURDAY 8th at 10.00 am. We are hoping to have a talk on local history by Liz Tebutt. If this is not possible we will have another enjoyable morning playing board games.

The December coffee morning was a great success with a real Christmas flavour. We enjoyed games, carols, mince pies as well as the 'bring & buy' stall which raised an amazing £64.73 for Action for Children. Thank you to all who came along and contributed on the morning and also after the service on Sunday.

GOD IN LOVE UNITES US - By The time you read this the Northampton Methodist Consultation will have taken place at The Avenue. 'The God in love unites us' report deals with how the Methodist Church responds to major changes in relationships now recognised in law. We are all aware of a change in the law permitting marriage between couples of the same gender but there have been other changes which may affect how Christians respond to different forms of relationships. These consultations are taking place throughout the Methodist Connexion and similar consultations are taking place in other Christian denominations. The 2020 Methodist Conference will determine whether these matters require changes to Methodist Church practice.

At the time of writing copies of a short study guide to the discussion were still available at the church. Peter and Geraldine plan to be at the Consultation.

Caring for God's World

The National Trust was founded in January 1895, 125 years ago, to *'promote the permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation of lands and tenements (including buildings) of beauty or historic interest and as regards lands for their natural aspect features, animal and plant life.'* This concern for our world raises an important question at the start of this New Year: *Why should we care for our planet?*

The first reason is that God told us to care for His creation, as good stewards, not abusing it for selfish ends: *'Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'* (Genesis 1.28).

Secondly, the material world matters to God, for He made it *'very good'* (Genesis 1:31) and sustains it all the time: *'in Him all things hold together'* (Colossians 1:17). To neglect or spoil the environment is damaging what is precious to God.

Thirdly, at the end of time the cosmos will be re-created as the *'new heavens and new earth'* (Revelation 21:1). This will establish the fullness of life that God intended for His whole creation; when He will dwell with His people and all creation will worship Him.

There are lots of simple ways in which we set about caring for our world this year eg. walking to church, switching the TV off stand-by, insulating our homes, driving a smaller car or cutting down on eating meat. The hope of a renewed creation doesn't mean abandoning such simple actions today. *'If I knew Jesus would return tomorrow, I would plant a tree today.'* (Martin Luther).

First Baptist church awarded Church of Sanctuary status

Six Ways Baptist Church in Erdington, Birmingham has become the first Baptist church to be awarded Church of Sanctuary status. The accreditation recognises the church's commitment to being a safe and welcoming place for all, especially those seeking sanctuary. This includes people who have had to flee their homeland in fear of their lives.

The idea of a Church of Sanctuary has evolved from the City of Sanctuary movement, which aims to build cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety. Sanctuary awards recognise and celebrate mainstream organisations' commitment to City of Sanctuary values and vision of welcome and inclusivity. Six Ways is the second church to receive the Church of Sanctuary award.

The award was presented to Solani Muleya, one of the church's "Sanctuary Advocates", herself a refugee from Zimbabwe, by Barbara Forbes from the City of Sanctuary Network.

Barbara said, 'The Birmingham City of Sanctuary committee was impressed by the support already given by the church to asylum-seekers and refugees, and their commitment to extend and continue this work.'

'It was also important for us that the decision to become a recognised "Church of Sanctuary" was taken by the whole congregation, thus confirming that this is firmly embedded in the life of the church.'

Over the past decade the church has sought to welcome and include sanctuary seekers and refugees in its activities. Many members of its worshipping community are refugees or asylum seekers. It offers various social clubs and activities to those who have sought safety from other countries in Erdington and the surrounding areas.

Editor's note: In 2020 I hope to include more welcome news from other denominations in Good News Desk.

New Year's Honours

We are all familiar with the Queen's New Year honours list, which celebrates peoples' significant contributions in life. But what would God's New Year honours list look like? Who are the people He chooses to honour?

Psalm 1 gives us an answer to these questions. The person who is blessed by God is compared to a tree: 'he is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers'. They are strong and well-nourished, able to cope with drought and storms, while being fruitful.

Will this be true of us during 2020? By contrast, we can be more like bonsai trees, whose growth has been stunted. They are starved of nutrients to ensure that they are perfectly formed, but miniature in size.

So often the church today resembles a bonsai nursery rather than a forest of mighty trees! Like the bonsai, we are starved of nutrition. Instead, consider the alternative: 'his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night'.

Here is the challenge for us during this coming year: to push our roots deeply down into His Word, meditating on it day and night. As we read and reflect on God's Word, we are constantly reminding ourselves of God's promises, character and acts.

There will be times when our Bible reading doesn't seem to delight us, when it feels like a real slog! At such times turn back to Psalm 1 and remind yourself what the goal is: to grow into maturity, deeply rooted, drought resistant and fruitful. We will never get there unless our roots are deep in God's Word.

Rev Dr Herbert McGonigle.

Peter Howarth

Most of you will know that Peter Howarth died on Boxing Day whilst he and Marion were spending Christmas with their daughter Alison and family. At the time of writing details of the funeral are unknown.

The Joys of January!

As seen by a Church of England contributor!

Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Both clergyman and lay,
They're seldom disappointed
To get past Christmas Day!
The hectic Christmas season
Of service constantly –
There can't be better reason
To welcome January!

The Curate and the Vicar
A busy schedule keep,
As they rush, ever quicker
They don't get that much sleep.
The overworked Churchwarden
And their sidespersons team,
Who don't get time for boredom
But only seldom scream!

So, when the season's over;
The crib has been put by,
The drapes to green changed over
They breathe a heartfelt sigh!
They laugh and smile with pleasure
And sing a merry rhyme,
But short-lived is their leisure –
For soon comes Easter time!

By Nigel Beeton

Results of Methodist Youth President election announced



Following the elections at 3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, it has been announced that the next Youth President will be Phoebe Parkin, aged 17, from the Telford circuit in the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District. Phoebe will become the new Youth President at a service to be held in September 2020.

Phoebe campaigned on the theme of 'God's World - Our Home' and promises to highlight environmental issues during her year in office.

The Methodist Youth President is a salaried position working full-time for one year to serve the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain. The role involves travelling across the UK and overseas meeting and representing the young Methodist people to ensure that their voices are heard and to help them be involved in every aspect of Church life.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

'Unusual kindness' is the unusual name for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th to 25th January). The materials for the week have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta).

'Unusual kindness' is found in the book of Acts. The phrase refers to the warm welcome that the people of Malta gave to Paul and his companions when they were shipwrecked on the island. In return, Paul shared the gospel with them, and thus founded the church in Malta. Something that the Christians in Malta thank God for!

More details at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2020/>

Fresh From the Word 2020 – the Bible for a Change by Nathan Eddy, Lion Hudson, £9.99

This book aims to inspire your reading of the Bible in a changing world. Its contributors include biblical scholars, creative writers, church leaders, activists for peace and justice and a range of others including Pete Wheeler, formerly of Tylers Green Methodist Church Youth Fellowship and now part of the Anglican ministry team in Aylesbury.

The book offers 366 sets of notes, prayers and suggestions for action on biblical themes.

Why Elijah did that...

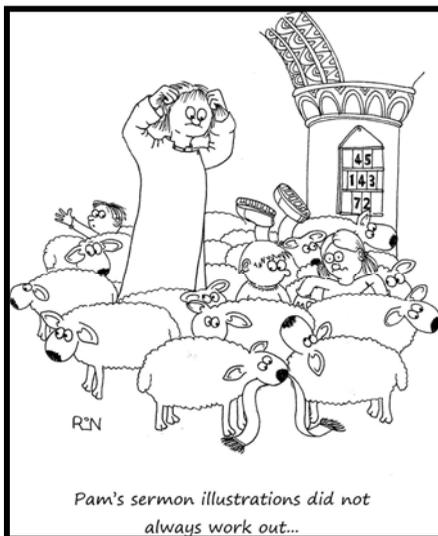
The Sunday school teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal. She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut the steer in pieces and laid it upon the altar. And then, Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times over. "Now," said the teacher, "can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?"

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand, "I know! I know!" she said, "To make the gravy!"

Thought for the month

It is a good rule never to look into the face of man in the morning until you have looked into the face of God.

CH Spurgeon



Undiscovered Gems from Singing the Faith (No. 226)

An occasional series

Birth brings a promise of new life awaking,
dawning of hope through a child's open eyes.
Uncharted future is there for the making,
challenge and change in a baby's first cries.

Every new life changes those who are round it,
making demands of commitment and care,
calling for love to enfold and surround it,
reshaping patterns by claiming a share.

Jesus the newborn crossed time's moving stages
changing their course by the act of his birth,
translating God from the mystery of ages,
rooting our faith by his presence on earth.

Wonder and worship were waiting to greet him,
love and devotion were his to command,
life was transformed for the ones sent to meet him,
touching their God in a child's outstretched hand.

Marjorie Dobson (b. 1940)



And finally...

After the Christmas and New Year festivities, the wife gingerly crept onto her bathroom scales to weigh herself. She pulled a sad face. Her husband asked: "What's the matter? Are you overweight?"

She replied: "Well, not if I was six inches taller."

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. Vida Foday* - 📞 562788 (Vida's day off is Friday)

Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson* and Chris Oxby*

Senior Church Steward/LP : Peter Stevens*— 📞 815256

Church Stewards:

Toyin Akinwale— 📞 817792

Martin Hellewell— 📞 816168

Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Chris Oxby – 📞 814982

Communion Stewards

Angela Davis — 📞 928535

Rosemary Newman — 📞 461492

Jenny Crayford — 📞 812546

Church Treasurer : Geraldine Nelson - 📞 815631

Church Council Secretary: Sue Horley Sue.horley1@gmail.com

Room Bookings: Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Pastoral & First Steps: Rosemary Newman— 📞 461492 and Christine Stevens - 📞 815256

Property : Peter Stevens— 📞 815256

* Church Leadership Team

Church Premises

Please mention anything requiring attention to any of the
Property Stewards: Peter and Christine Stevens,
Martin Hellewell or Rosemary Newman.

ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY GOOD NEWS DESK TO PETER BY 16th JANUARY PLEASE

We are grateful to Parish Pump for providing some of the content of
Good News Desk



SERVICES DIARY - SERVICES AT 10.45 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

Date	Preacher/Service Details	Vestry Steward	Org	Welcome Stewards If you are unable to do your turn <u>please arrange cover!</u>
5th Jan	Rev Angela Singleton	Chris Oxby	Yes	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
12th	Local Arrangement led by the Bible Fellowship	Geraldine Nelson	No	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
19th	Rev Vida Foday—Annual Covenant Service with Holy Communion	Martin Hellewell	Yes	Christine Stevens
26th	Rev Georgina Bondzi-Simpson	Toyin Akinwale	Yes	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman
2nd Feb	Rev Vida Foday	Not yet known		Christine Stevens and Jenny Crayford

Please pray for Marion, Alison, Tim and all members of the extended Howarth family.

For Australia that the devastating fires may cease.

Pray for our Church in Tylers Green, that 2020 will be a year of growth in the life of the church.