

# Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:  
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 140



November 2019



Shared memories; are precious because they tell us who we are. Memory is never a simple recalling of the past; it shapes us in the present. As we recall shared and important memories, so we are remembered – put back together by God as a people.

Forgetfulness is a fundamental test for humankind, because it is the first barrier to the remembrance and worship of God which is our primary purpose as His creation. All of us have the capacity for this remembrance, because we carry the echo within us of the great day before time when all creation bore witness to God's sovereignty. Even though we are tested by God through our tendency to forget, in His Mercy He constantly calls us and helps us to remember through the signs that surround us.

The 11<sup>th</sup> of November, 'Remembrance Day', is not just a time to fast and mourn. It is not just a time to remember those who died. Still less is it a time to say that war is good or honourable. Rather it is a time when we recall those who died to bring peace to the world; - to remember just why it is they did what they did; a time to - in fact remember the horrors of war and vow to ourselves - never again; a

time to take up the torch once more and to dedicate ourselves anew to living in peace; a time to commit ourselves once again to the struggle against evil - the struggle against the very things that lead to war in the first place.

Can we say that we bear witness to God in our life and witness? That is the question the Church must ask itself on any Remembrance Sunday. How much do we sacrifice for the work of bringing peace and hope to the 21<sup>st</sup> century world that we live in? What kind of faith do we have?

As we give thanks on 'Remembrance Day', let us also remember that by giving up their lives in battle, the sacrifice of all those who died is joined to the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

I leave you with no better words than the words of Jesus, 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.'  
John 15:13.

With love and blessings

Vida

## **You are loved by God**

One of the most beautiful passages in Scripture is found in Isaiah 43: '... you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned...For I am the Lord, your God,.. you are precious and honoured in my sight, and ...I love you...(Isa 43: 1- 4)

Write down that last phrase on a card: 'You are precious and honoured in my sight...I love you.' It is tremendous – and astonishing. YOU are loved by GOD. Who else do you need to impress? What other ladder do you need to climb? What are you going to add to your CV to top that? When you are tempted to despair, when you are afraid, anxious, alone, remember: God loves you. He said so Himself.

# Diary and Notice Board - November, 2019

## MONDAY BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

The meetings in November will be on the 4th at 3 Green Street @ 2.30 pm and the 18th at 131 Cedar Avenue @ 2.30 pm. Rev'd Angela will be leading our studies. Please come and join us for Bible study and fellowship (always interesting discussions followed by tea and cakes).

## COFFEE MORNINGSATURDAY, 9th NOVEMBER at 10.00 am

Please note there is a change of plan - we will not be at the library as the lady who organises our craft morning is unavailable that day. We will reorganise another date next year. Instead we will be playing board games, so please do come along for a fun time! If you have a favourite game please bring this along.

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY:

All being well (!) we will meet on the 13th and 27th November when we will conclude our study of Nehemiah. Thank you to Ashley for leading and making our studies really interesting. What shall we study next?

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Thursday, 21st November at 7.30 pm

## ACTION FOR CHILDREN LUNCH

Total raised so far for Action for Children is £205. This is a brilliant amount, many thanks for all who helped make it a success. I will send the money in in 2 weeks just in case we get any later donations (as often happens).

If you shop at Tesco, Loudwater, please note that one of the charities due to benefit from their blue token scheme is Action for Children. This will continue until the end of December.

## A Christian response to Brexit

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There is an important role for us as Christian people at this time in making practical expressions of love and hope to our communities and to individuals. Here are 8 steps we can take today. Don't be limited to 8 and don't under-estimate what we can achieve together.

- Give extra support to your local food banks
- Watch out for the lonely, the anxious and the vulnerable
- Reach out to EU nationals in your work place and your community
- Watch over and support other faith groups and minority ethnic communities who are experiencing increased abuse
- Encourage truthful and honest debate
- Pray in public worship and private prayer
- Work with other churches and faith communities and charities
- Invite your community to come together

Helen Cameron  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2019

The **Methodist** Church  
Northampton District 

## Living and Dying Well Afternoons

You are warmly invited to join us at The Avenue on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from 2.45pm(refreshments) 3-4.30pm for Living and Dying Well afternoons. These afternoons will be monthly and will begin with refreshments and then move into a short time of worship and then it will be over to our speaker to lead the rest of the meeting. Their will be time for Q&A's.

Can we invite you to bring with you a thought about what helps you to live well – e.g. – your exercise class; your choir; your diet; aromatherapy; reflexology; yoga; a brisk walk with the dog; U3A; your worshipping community; volunteering; regular trips to the cinema or theatre; – you get the gist!

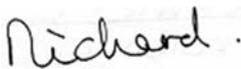
We all want to live well and fall back into the arms of our creator gently. Most people are put off by the Dying Well section but I can assure you from previous experience of leading an afternoon that it was a heart-warming and holy time.

At our first meeting which Roberta and I will lead; we will reflect with you on the months ahead and see how the themes look to you. All suggestions most welcome.

Future Dates: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November; Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December; Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January; Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February; Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March; Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April; Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May; Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June; Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

Suggested themes – Living well in retirement; Living with loss – bereavement; Eating well; Living well with complimentary therapies – Reiki, Aromatherapy, magnetix; Living well with a disability; Living well in old age with Age Concern; Living well with depression and mental illness; Living well with a life limiting illness ( a speaker from the Butterfly Hospice – South Bucks); Living well in relationships perhaps when we are the primary carer for a loved one. The Living and Dying Well group from Ealing will come and share with us their experience of meeting.

*Every blessing*



*Deacon Richard D. Goldstraw*

*Editor: This year marks a major anniversary for Remembrance. By Tim Lenton.*



## **How Armistice Day began, 100 years ago**

It was 100 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1919, that the first Armistice Day (now Remembrance Day) was marked in the UK. King George V had issued a proclamation calling for a two-minute silence at 11:00am to remember the members of the armed forces who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The two-minute silence was in fact adopted from a South African idea that had spread from Cape Town through the Commonwealth in 1919. The first minute was dedicated to those who died in the war, and the second to those left behind – families affected by bereavement and other effects of the conflict.

The Cenotaph was erected temporarily in Whitehall for a peace parade for Armistice Day in 1920. After a tremendous nationwide response, it became a permanent structure, and in the following years war memorials were created in other British towns and cities.

In 1939, the two-minute silence of Armistice Day was moved to the nearest Sunday to 11<sup>th</sup> November, so that it would not conflict with wartime production. This tradition continued after World War II – Remembrance Sunday is still marked with a national service, and by special services in most churches throughout the country and beyond. Americans mark Veterans Day instead.

## Peace

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month  
The guns had ceased and peace had come,  
Another war with so much loss  
As brave men fought and victories won.

We honour those who gave their lives  
And took up arms against the foe,  
Not knowing if they would return  
But faithful to the call to go.

Battles rage throughout the earth,  
It seems that wars will never cease  
Until the day that Christ returns -  
And only then will there be peace.

The Prince of Peace, Emmanuel  
Will come to end this world of strife  
And as He brings His kingdom in  
He'll usher in eternal life.

*By Megan Carter*

**Time for something a little more light-hearted:**

### **Would you Adam & Eve it?**

At Sunday School the children were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Little Josh was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down and looking scared. "Josh, what is the matter?" Josh whispered "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

## Did you know?

You will see from the Diary section that we have a Church Council Meeting this month. There is said to be an unwritten law about such meetings. It says:

Regardless of how many items there are on the church council agenda, a meeting will take the same amount of time (!)

## In a fog? By Tony Horsfall

November is the month that in my mind is forever associated with fog. Growing up in a mining village, where everyone had a coal fire and chimneys spouted dark smoke all day long, we used to get some real 'pea-soupers' in November. Sometimes it was so thick the buses would stop running and we would be sent home early from school. Thankfully with the introduction of smoke-free zones we don't have so many thick fogs now, but I still miss a coal fire. 6

Sometimes in life it can feel as if we are in a bit of a fog. Nothing seems straightforward anymore and we don't know which way to turn. We lose our sense of clarity and our mind seems befuddled. We have decisions to make but we are uncertain and hesitant. It feels like driving in a fog.

We all experience such times, so what can we do? My advice is to wait patiently for the fog to lift, which it will do in time. Don't rush into making any decisions until you are clear, especially important ones. Waiting requires not only patience, but trust. Trust that God is still with you, even if you can't feel His presence, or hear His voice. He will not leave you or abandon you, and is aware of your need.

The wise St Ignatius said that we should never doubt in the darkness what God had told us in the light. When you are in a fog hold on to what God had already given you, to the truth of His word. Eventually the fog will disperse, and a new day will dawn for you, when you *can* clearly see the way ahead.

# A modern ‘parable’

This story was told on Radio 4 during a not too serious Brexit item. The story is probably of Jewish-Russian origin.

A matchmaker approached a peasant saying “I have found a match for your son. Would you agree to him marrying the daughter of the Tsar?”

What are you talking about?” asked the peasant. “My son is poor, uneducated, doesn’t get on with people and is unable to find work. It couldn’t happen!”

“Yes” said the matchmaker, “but would you agree to the match.”

“Well” said the peasant, “I suppose I would”.

“Good” said the matchmaker, “that’s half the job done.”

Remind you of anything?

*I read this: ‘While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was. The man replied, “We have been holding hands when we go out in public for years. I have to. If I let go, she shops.”’*

## Thought for the month

The Scriptures give four names to Christians: saints, for their holiness; believers, for their faith; brethren, for their love; disciples, for their knowledge.

Andrew Fuller

Grandad was babysitting when he heard his little grand-daughter muttering the alphabet over in hushed tones. “What are you doing?” he asked her. “I’m praying,” she replied. “I can’t think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me ‘cos He knows what I’m thinking.”



© OVERSTEN ORSKOV THROUGHOUT THE YEAR by Rita Nakag, published by Puffin

## Undiscovered Gems from Singing the Faith (No. 621)

The first of an occasional series

When memory fades and recognition falters,  
when eyes we love grow dim, and minds, confused.  
speak to our souls of love that never alters;  
speak to our hearts by pain and fear abused.  
O God of life and healing peace, empower us  
with patient courage, by your grace infused.

As frailness grows, and youthful strengths diminish  
in weary arms, which worked their earnest fill,  
your ageing servants labour now to finish  
their earthly tasks, as fits your mystery's will.  
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing  
your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.

Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading.  
The past and future mingle into one.  
All joys remain, with heavenly light pervading.  
No valued deed will ever be undone.  
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and offerings,  
held in your heart, our deathless life is won!

*By Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953)*

### And finally...

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail. Amen"

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**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 — 📞 671836**

**Rosemary Newman — 📞 461492**

**Jenny Crayford — 📞 812546**

**Church Treasurer : Geraldine Nelson - 📞 815631**

**Church Council Secretary: Sue Horley** [Sue.horley1@gmail.com](mailto: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 DECEMBER GOOD NEWS DESK TO PETER BY 14TH NOVEMBER 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preacher/Service Details</b>	<b>Vestry Steward</b>	<b>Org</b>	<b>Welcome Stewards</b> If you are unable to do your turn <u>please arrange cover!</u>
3rd Nov	<b>Peter Green (to be confirmed)</b>	Chris Oxby	No	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
10th	<b>Jeffrey Orange (Remembrance Sunday)</b>	Martin Hellewell	Yes	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
17th	<b>Local Arrangement (Worship Leaders)</b>	Geraldine Nelson	No	Christine Stevens
24th	<b>Rev Vida Foday –Holy Communion</b>	Toyin Akinwale	Yes	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman

**Please pray for**

The nations of the British Isles, and the nations of Europe. Whatever decisions may or may not have been taken by the time you read this, politicians, those involved in finance and business and all of us will be going through some unknown changes.