

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

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ONLINE



June 2020

Rev'd. Vida writes ...

The God-centred attitude and approach to life is illustrated by a scene in a film entitled, "The Edge," (a survival film by Lee Tamahori, Anthony Hopkins and Alec Baldwin). In it, a track coach is explaining the strategy of a particular cross-country race to his runners. "Everything until you reach the top of this mountain is philosophy," he says. "You plan where to ease up. You plan where to sprint. You plan where to put your feet and hands as you climb the mountain. Going down the mountain is religion. It is a mad dash which you can't control. You can't plan what happens. You hope your feet land in the right places. You hope there are objects to hang on to along the way. You can't control it, but you are committed with your very first step."

Faith is what enables us to stay committed to God in every step of our Christian journey - it is a consuming trust in God's justice, love, and mercy. The Trinitarian God has given humankind the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the purpose of that gift is to make the love of Christ alive in us.

People all around the world are trying to make sense of the

deaths, Lockdown and Isolation caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Families who have lost loved ones to Covid-19, are struggling to come to terms with their loss due to changes in funeral services, and it is our prayer that Jesus Christ comforts them all.

It appears that the great commandment of Jesus - 'Love God and love your neighbour as yourself' is being observed in our communities now than ever before, thanks to God. It is hoped that this neighbourly love and kindness continue even after the pandemic is over.

Keeping alive the flame of the Holy Spirit in our hearts is what inspires us to live righteous lives, love God our Creator, and love our neighbours as ourselves. We pray for the Holy Spirit to ignite the whole Church of God for mission and empower Christians "to go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28: 19).

With love and every blessing

Vida

Prayer Meetings

Online Wednesday evening Prayer Meetings have now started using Zoom. The meetings start at 7.30pm and will last approximately half an hour. Free Zoom meetings are terminated after 40 minutes.

'Admittance' to Zoom meetings is by invitation only, so if you would like an invitation please let Rosemary know.

Our thanks to Sue Horley for setting up the initial meetings. Peter Stevens is 'under training' to ensure that TGMC has at least two people who can set up Zoom meetings.

Resumption of Sunday Services

At the time of writing it is uncertain when services will resume. Services may resume in July and in expectation the Plan has been published but no printed copies are available. The Plan can be viewed at <https://www.highwycombemethodist.org.uk/plan/>

Please expect strict social distancing rules to be applied. The Methodist Church of GB will be issuing guidance in due course which may include instructions about when after service coffee can resume.

Pre-School cannot return until the Methodist Church permits the church to be re-opened.

Geraldine writes ...

Dear all at TGMC,

I am aware that many of you who do not give your offerings via a standing order at the bank, may wish to do so before we get back to meeting again. This has the advantage of keeping the offering to an affordable amount. Some of you will have changed circumstances due to lockdown.

If any one would prefer to do this I, please put your cash or cheque (payable to Tylers Green Methodist Church) into your offertory envelope for the first week of June. I will enter the amount into the church offertory book in the vestry for that week. I will pay it in at the Bank when I am able to. Please keep your own record in a diary of the amount given, especially if it is cash. This will ensure that it is all 'above board' as I will not have a second steward to check the amount.

Many thanks

Your Treasurer,

Geraldine

Written by the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Hertfordshire, and a former communications director with the CofE.

Blessed are the truth-tellers (during the pandemic)

ITV News journalist and presenter Julie Etchingam, a practising Christian, has defended the role played by journalists during the Coronavirus pandemic.

She told the Christians in Media website, "Reporters are coming in for a lot of flack for the questions they are asking government. But what else are we for? We all get that this is a crisis like no other; that few in government have ever had to navigate such a challenge.

"But, if we're still attempting to function as a democracy in the face of this, then scrutiny is clearly crucial. Many in our frontline services and the wider public are demanding answers. We are there on their behalf. We don't always get it right. This isn't a moment to trip people up, but urgently to get to the truth."

As a Christian who has worked in communications for around 50 years, I strongly support Julie Etchingam's view. Now is the time for truth and accuracy to be at the centre of all our communications.

So, yes we need to be praying for and supporting the front-line health service staff, the public health experts, the scientists researching vaccines to combat the virus, and the key workers keeping our societies running.

But we also need to be praying for and supporting the men and women working in and with the media to publish, upload, broadcast and distribute the most accurate information, without spin or distortion.

So here is a prayer for the media in these challenging days.
Loving God,

*We pray for everyone working in and with media in these challenging times.
Encourage all who seek to explain and interpret the fast-changing*

world around us.

Embolden the truth-tellers, truth-seekers and fact-checkers.

Promote coverage that builds our shared humanity and where every-one has a voice.

Bring clarity where there is confusion

Bring knowledge where there is speculation

Bring wisdom and insight when the way ahead seems unclear.

And bring us all to a knowledge of truth that sets us free, and helps keep us safe.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

St Sofa's

We worship at St Sofa's now

Since Covid came to stay

We don't dress up or do our

hair

But still we come to pray!

Our Vicar is a clever chap

A Zoom with his IT

And so we sit down ev'ry week

And meet up virtually!

Our Parish Church stands empty

With praise she does not ring;

But still her people gather round

To pray, and praise, and sing!

The virus is a nasty thing

Yet it has helped us see

The church is NOT a building

But folk like you and me!

By Nigel and Carol Beeton

Family News

You may have seen in our Community Update that Helen Setter, who worshipped with us for many years, has died. Our thoughts are with her family.

You may also have seen that Vi Hughes is now in the care of Bury House, where Joan Kirk is also a resident.

Thought for the month

'...Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.' 1 Peter 5:7



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

And finally ...

Every morning, a little girl would go in the bathroom to watch her mother as she was putting on her makeup to go to work. But during coronavirus, the mother stopped bothering with makeup, much to her daughter's confusion. "Mummy," she cried early on in the lockdown: "Come back! You forgot to kiss the toilet paper goodbye!"

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. Vida Foday— 📞 562788

Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson and Chris Oxby

Senior Church Steward: 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

Property matters: For the moment speak to Peter or Geraldine

Online Good-News Desk

Items and information for the July Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by 15th June, by email to psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞 815256

Note: Some items in Good-News Desk are included by subscription to Parish Pump—the resource site for Church Newsletters.

A Biblical plague of locusts

A new wave of crop-eating locusts has been devastating East Africa, just as communities are also dealing with an increase of coronavirus cases.

At the start of 2020, Ethiopia and Somalia faced the biggest invasion of the insects in 25 years – and the worst in Kenya and Uganda for 70 years. The locusts also reached parts of South Sudan, where millions of people are already suffering from severe food shortages amid conflict and political instability.

The latest plague could be 20 times larger. The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), is calling it ‘an unprecedented threat’ to food supplies and jobs.

Yet tackling the locusts will be even harder now that coronavirus has forced governments to close their borders. With severely reduced air travel and cargo shipping, pesticides from Europe and Asia can’t get into the countries – and to the farmers – that need them. Tearfund is asking governments to recognise activities responding to the locust swarms as essential services, so that they can continue despite the restrictions on travel.

‘The locust plague, together with the coronavirus pandemic, could mean all the work Tearfund supports communities with is on the brink of collapsing,’ says Ephraim Tsegay, Tearfund’s Country Director for Ethiopia.

‘If the second wave of locusts is not prevented before it inflicts further damage, more people will be forced to leave their homes to find food, land for their animals to graze, and an income elsewhere. It will also make people more vulnerable to coronavirus.’