

# Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:  
Rev. Vida Foday

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ONLINE



July-August 2020



## *From our minister*

[Change is one thing we can be sure of in this life. Our relationships change as we move to new places, experience illness and ultimately face death, and in this time of the pandemic when people are faced with job losses, the credit crunch and all that it brings, change becomes one certainty in our world. Even the cells in our bodies are always in the process of change.](#)

This year has been a time of global change in the world as it has been plagued with the Covid-19 pandemic. The uncertain times that we now live in has brought about all sorts, much sacrifice by front-line workers and volunteers in the NHS, much neighbourly love in our communities, lockdown, social distancing, bubbles, to name a few. As a result of this pandemic, the world now conforms to a new kind of living due to the coronavirus that has claimed many lives and still continue to claim lives around the world. As Christians, we need to pray against the wavering of our faith in these times, and rather put our trust in the unchanging God in whom our hope is founded.

By faith in Jesus Christ we can have a relationship with the unchanging God, who says of Himself in Malachi 3:6, "I am the Lord, I do not change" We can depend on God to be the same forever. Hebrews 13:8 adds this reassuring testimony: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever". He is our

firm foundation, who can give us confidence and security in this **changing** world. The Scripture with its message of salvation can help us to change the way we treat others. It can provide a firm foundation for society with its clear teachings.

The story is told of a photographer who knows that solid mountains can move. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1980, he was at the foot of towering Mount Helens when it erupted. For 10 hours he was nearly buried by the falling debris. As the atmosphere cleared, a helicopter pilot spotted him. He was dramatically rescued and flown to a hospital.

Writing about his horrendous experience, he said, “During those 10 hours I saw a mountain fall apart, I saw a forest disappear, I saw that God is the only one who is immovable. I feel somehow that I'm being allowed to start over – whatever is in His master plan for me.”

Nothing in our world, not even a mountain is absolutely indestructible. God alone is absolutely unchangeable – His compassionate love endures forever – He will certainly see us through this pandemic. Thank God for His daily mercies.

As we bask in the sunshine during this summer, let us find time to thank God for his unchanging love for humankind!

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me!

*STF 141 -Abide with me vs 2 by Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)*

With much love and every blessing

*Vida*

## *Resumption of Sunday Services*

You will all be aware that the Government had given permission for churches to re-open for services etc from 4th July. This does not mean that churches will open from that day. There are rules to come from the Government and rules to come when the Methodist Church of GB has considered the matter.

In addition there are matters to consider such as whether people are happy to return to church following the appropriate Covid19 rules which, as they stand, will ban singing in church. If that seems strange Germany has similar rules and it had been reported in the press that when Covid19 reached the USA one singer who had the virus attended a choir rehearsal and gave the virus to 51 other people. This is quoted simply to illustrate that church services will be very different for the foreseeable future.

We will keep everyone informed of progress either through GND or through Community Update or by phone.

## **LOCKDOWN– FROM CRANLEIGH SCHOOL**

**Reflection**

**Repetition**

**Reconciliation**

## *Prayer Meetings*

Online Wednesday evening Prayer Meetings have now started using Zoom. The half-hour meetings start at 7.30pm 'Admittance' to Zoom meetings is by email invitation, so if you would like an invitation please send Peter an email (see page7)

## *Now here's a positive...*

According to one survey, during the lockdown, a quarter of adults in the UK have watched or listened to a religious service and one in 20 have started praying. While majority of people who contract Covid-19 survive, it reminds us that we are much more frail and weak than we like to think. As the prophet Isaiah says:

*'All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures for ever.'* (Isaiah 40:6-8).

Isaiah's words really resonate at this time. In more normal times we can avoid facing up to our vulnerability, but this pandemic has forced us to recognise our weakness and fragility.

However, this shouldn't lead us to despair or fear; rather it is an opportunity to worship and praise for his constancy and care. In Peter's first letter he quotes this passage from Isaiah and says, *'For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God'* (1 Peter 1:23). Peter contrasts our mortality with the eternal Word of God, which bring us new birth and life through the power of the Spirit. Jesus died for our sins and rose again to make us right with God, so that through faith in him we can know eternal life. We don't need to be afraid of our frailty, for God is a dependable foundation on which to build our lives and face eternity.

*'We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree. And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.'* (Immortal, invisible, Walter C Smith).

## *Midweek reflections on The Fruit of the Spirit*

Starting on July 1st there will be a series of midweek reflections on The Fruit of the Spirit. These will be led by different members of the circuit and will be available every Wednesday during July and August on the Wycombe Methodist Circuit youtube channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC\\_asq0E6M1eQY2i491knfA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCC_asq0E6M1eQY2i491knfA)

Each reflection will last between 5 and 10 minutes and the details are:

July 1st	Love	Lesley Hatton
July 8th	Joy	Peter Stevens
July 15th	Peace	Lynda Hopkins
July 22nd	Patience	Neil Manthorpe
July 29th	Kindness	Richard Goldstraw
August 5th	Goodness	Nick Thompson
August 12th	Faithfulness	Nigel Sweet
August 19th	Gentleness	Vicky Everitt
August 26th	Self control.	Alan Bolton

## *Some Lockdown thoughts from America received by Carole Bowler*

- \* Had I known in MARCH that it was the last time I would be in a restaurant, I would have ordered the dessert !
- \* Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would go to a bank clerk with a mask on and ask for money.
- \* I'm starting to understand why pets try to run out of the house when the door opens.
- \* It's like being 16 again : Petrol is cheap, and I'm grounded.
- \* Until further notice the days of the week are now called Thisday, Thatday, Otherday, Someday, Yesterday, Today and Nextday !

## *Thought for the month*

This is from the Circuit Service on 28th June and it's worth sharing.  
It comes from Mother Theresa.

**"When a poor person dies of hunger** it has not happened because God did not take care of him or her. It happened because neither you nor I wanted to give that **person** what he or she needed."



## *And finally ...*

A married couple were arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here—see, it says HEBREWS!"

# 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 September Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by 17th August. Please email 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.**

## Hymn from a recent BBC 'Songs of Praise'

Almighty Father of all things that be,  
our life, our work, we consecrate to thee,  
whose heavens declare thy glory from above,  
whose earth below is witness to thy love.

For well we know this weary soilèd earth  
is yet thine own by right of its new birth,  
since that great cross appeared on Calvary  
redeemed it from its fault and shame to thee.

Thine still the changeful beauty of the hills,  
the purple valleys flecked with silver rills,  
the ocean glistening 'neath the golden rays;  
they all are thine, and voiceless speak thy praise.

Thou dost the strength to workman's arm impart;  
from thee the skilled musician's mystic art,  
the grace of poet's pen or painter's hand,  
to teach the loveliness of sea and land.

Then grant us, Lord, in all things thee to own,  
to dwell within the shadow of thy throne,  
to speak and work, to think, and live, and move,  
reflecting thine own nature, which is love:

That so, by Christ redeemed from sin and shame,  
and hallowed by thy Spirit's cleansing flame,  
ourselves, our work, and all our powers may be  
a sacrifice acceptable to thee.

Tune: Chilton Foliat