

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 149
ONLINE



September 2020

Praise God We are back!

From our minister

Charles Wesley wrote: “And are we yet alive, and see each other’s face? Glory and praise to Jesus give for His redeeming grace.” (H&P 707 v1). These words penned by Charles Wesley speak to our present circumstance of the Covid-19 pandemic. Words are not enough to praise God for His continued protection and an end of this pandemic.

I am sure most of us enjoyed the summer weather as much as we could despite the restrictions placed in certain localities of the UK. On-line worship seems to be the norm these days. Thankfully, churches are re-opening for worship in a different way – with certain restrictions, for example no singing allowed, wearing of masks, social distancing, no refreshments after services etc.

Here in the High Wycombe Methodist District, it is hoped that the “God for All initiative” that has been adopted by the Circuit Leadership Team and is yet to be presented to the Circuit meeting, will be a chance for us all to prayerfully discern the way forward re evangelism - for the

Circuit. Indeed 2020/21 has been designated a Year of Prayer for God for All across the Methodist Church. (Information taken from the Statement to the Circuit on behalf of the God for All Working Group and the Circuit Leadership Team)

There will certainly be challenges along the way, but we are encouraged to deal with them and move forward. If we wish to move forward, we need to let go of the old ideas and concepts of ourselves or others, work together and completely accept the new as we are all in this together. The effort to work together is not without complications but we need to persevere together, united behind a common vision – that we can accomplish much more for the Kingdom of God as nine churches working together in a Circuit.

There is a saying that 'the only time or place that we can live is in the "now", since now is always new and can never be old. Let us therefore see each situation that arises in this Circuit as an opportunity to gain a better understanding of God. It is hoped that our existing relationships will be deepened by offering opportunities for people to worship and serve together through God's Grace.

Wishing you all a Happy New Methodist Year!

With love and every blessing.

Vida

RETURNING TO CHURCH

At long last we are returning to worship in the church on Sunday 6th September. It was the decision of the Church Council that we return that day provided the planned preacher is available. Lesly Hatton has confirmed she will be leading our worship that day.

It may be that some of you have reservations about returning and so, set out on page 3 are the points the Church Council considered before taking the decision to restart services.

September is a kind of target for Circuit Churches to start to meet for worship and the arrangements on page 3 are broadly as they are in other churches.

The Church Council considered:

19 responses to our questionnaire. 13 people are confident or reasonably confident about returning for worship.

The required Risk Assessment has been carried out and the maximum attendance will be 18 increasing to 20 if 2x2 same household people are present and seating will be in designated seats only except when adjustments are made to accommodate two or more people from the same household. If more than this number come we will attempt to accommodate them in the entrance hall provided social distancing rules are followed. All those attending to wear masks with the exception of the preacher when in the pulpit. Lectern for readings will be moved to new position away from pulpit and 2m from any designated chairs. Those attending will be recorded No hymn books or Bibles in Church but people can bring their own. No organ but recorded music is allowed. No singing except by single soloist. Details of proposed Holy Communion to be finalised. Services to last no more than 40 minutes.

The door from the car park will not be used. All entry and exit will be through the open front door. The steward will ensure that worshippers keep to the social distancing discs on the floor. The identities of those attending have to be recorded and kept for 21 days. If you wear a coat, keep it with you. The coat hooks will not be in use.

The vestry will not be used and the lounge will substitute as both the vestry and a room for anyone taken ill at church—if needed.

The ladies toilet will not be used. Ladies are to use the disabled loo and gents (other than any gent requiring the disabled loo) will use the usual facilities.

Access to the kitchen is to be reviewed but please bring your own drinking water with you. Preachers will be asked to do the same.

Rooms 1 and 2 are not being used for church purposes but will be used by The Village Pre-School from the beginning of term.

Some services may have to be cancelled due to uncertainty on preacher/ leader availability.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our small Bible Study group has been meeting for the past 18 months plus, firstly in the Church lounge, with numbers from 5 to 8, and then during lockdown, online, via Zoom, for a more in-depth studies. Initial interests were to know and understand more of the O.T.

We began studying Nehemiah, courtier to Artaxerxes, King of Babylon; the Lord used him to rebuild the broken-down walls of Jerusalem, and what a picture this is for us today, and a challenge to what is broken down in our lives, that our Lord wants to re-build in His way. We then did a L.A. at TGM based on Nehemiah, and the re-building of the walls of Jerusalem.

Amos, our next focus, was a zealous prophet of doom, due to "injustice", (like today). We need today "to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God", even via Zoom.

A study of Ruth followed, and was a good change. It is a graphic story of deep relationships, and issues, and the Lord working through many real heart-aches. And a picture, in Boaz, of a "type" of our Lord Jesus, and His total provision for us for all of life. If you have followed the 4 services in August from Marlow on Ruth, who do you identify with most strongly?

Recently, via Zoom, we looked at how the Lord began and continued His Fellowship with Man, starting in Genesis, with Adam, and then his lineage to Noah. It continues from his sons', to Abram, and his re-naming to Abraham, and his wife, Sarai, to Sarah.

Looking at Abrams' life experiences in depth was revealing and challenging, from the Lord firstly speaking to Abram directly, and then appearing to him, causing him to fall to his face, and asking him to "Walk before me and be blameless!"

And then be given unbelievable promises; firstly, to have a child (a son) in very old age, with Abraham 100, and his wife Sarah 90! Also, to be the Father of nations, as well as being the one given an everlasting covenant.

All of these "pictures" are a real challenge to us and how deep our personal fellowship with our Lord actually is. May we be spurred on to a deeper faith and trust through such words.

Today, the O.T. covenant has been superceded in our Lord Jesus, and His New Covenant. The previous "O.T. shadows", are now a reali-

ty, through the Holy Spirit. Amazing, nearly 4,000 years on!

Our experience is, He, The Holy Spirit, continues to "Open our Eyes", as He did for Abraham, when about to kill Isaac his son (Gen 22), and also for Hagar, Sarah's slave (Gen 21), when carrying Ishmael (her and Abrams' son) in the desert, with no water. We have also enjoyed a deeper fellowship through mutual learning and personal encouragement, and are agreed we will probably continue using this on-line link-up means, for future studies, post Covid 19.

Our amazing Almighty Heavenly Father provides in numerous wonderful ways, for us, when we are most in need, and we press into Him. May such be your everyday experience, of Him, and all His resources, in all of these "interesting" days.

Ashley

CHURCH FINANCES

I thought you would all be interested to hear how our Church Finances have held up since lockdown:

We are approximately £5,000 down in rental income , and £3,000 down in collections compared with last year. A total of £8,000.

As a result we will have to restrict all spending, especially on inessential maintenance during the coming financial year ie 1st September 2020-31st August 2021.

However, the Maintenance items planned for this year have been carried out such as the new back door and the two long windows of the Sanctuary which are on the front of the building. One of these windows was leaking so it was imperative that the work was carried out to save damage to the new carpet. We are grateful to Buckinghamshire Builders who have permitted us to pay half from this years budget and the second half in September.

G. Nelson

September Services

6th—Lesley Hatton

13th—Peter Stevens

20th Rev Vida Foday—self-service HC!

16th—Harvest Thanksgiving—Geraldine Nelson

Stewards Rota not finalised at time of printing.

Appreciation

Christine may be surprised to know that I have received a number of emails expressing appreciation for her delivery of Good News Desk and Community Updates to those without the technology and within walking distance.

Thank you Sue, for producing the Community Update which, has served its purpose and will no longer be issued. Links to streamed services can always be found on the Marlow Methodist Church and Wesley Methodist Church websites.

Peter Stevens



And finally ...

I told my suitcases that due to the pandemic, there will be no holiday this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.

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 September. 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.

"We Will Meet"

We will meet when the danger is over.
We will meet when the sad days are done.
We will meet sitting closely together
and be glad our tomorrow has come.

We will join to give thanks and sing gladly.
We will join to break bread and share wine,
and the peace that we pass to each other
will be more than a casual sign.

So let's make with each other a promise
that when all we've come through is behind,
we will share what we missed and find meaning
in the things that once troubled our mind.

Until then may we always discover
faith and love to determine our way.
That's our hope and God's will and our calling
for our lives and for ev'ry new day.

Words: Original Norwegian text and English translation by
Hans-Olav Moerk, translation adapted by John L. Bell
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