

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 150
ONLINE



October 2020

From our minister

The story is told of an elderly man who retired after many years in the British Army. One day a man who knew about his long and distinguished military career decided to play prank on him. As the old soldier walked down the street with his arms full of packages, the jokester sneaked up behind him and shouted, 'Attention!' Without hesitation, the military man dropped his arms to his side, and every package went tumbling to the pavement. Without a conscious thought, the veteran was doing what comes naturally for a soldier.

Similarly, as Christians, we should respond in a manner that corresponds with our new life, 'doing what comes naturally' that is, praising and thanking God all the time for He is our Creator and the Giver of life. A character of continual thankfulness comes from an unshakable confidence in God's wisdom, power and goodness no matter what our circumstances may be.

"The Methodist Church in Britain is called to be a growing, evangelistic, inclusive Church of Gospel people who speak of, listen for, and live out the goodness of a God for all. As we live out *Our Calling*, The Methodist Church is at the beginning of a dy-

namic new focus on evangelism as a crucial dimension of our mission and ministry in 21st century Britain. The 'God for All' initiative calls us to place God at the centre of all we do, it also encourages us to devote the first of the five-year plan to much prayer." (*information from the 'God for All' leaflet*)

Since the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, God's Spirit lives within His children and that however inadequate we may feel, He will enable us to carry out the mission He gives to us. As John Wesley said, "the best of it all is, God is with us".

I hope and pray that this new Methodist year will be a successful one for us all.

With love and every blessing.

Vida

Returning to Church

At the time of writing we have been back in Church for 3 Sundays with an average attendance of 11.75. This is typical of the numbers seen in other churches with a similar number of regular worshippers.

We are learning all the time and there have been changes week by week. One change in response to comments made, is to encourage people to socialise after the service on the church lawn. This worked well last Sunday (20th), the 'Rule of 6' applies and, if we need to break into two groups, Geraldine has kindly offered her front garden.

Inside there is another change; we are slowly getting to grips with introducing digital technology with the help of Laurence who is able to make the computer do what we want it to do. He has to be away for a while but after his return he will be sharing some of his technical knowledge to make sure that there are 2 or 3 of us who know at least some of what we are doing!

It would be good to see more of you back. On the first Sunday we were all a little nervous but, working within the rules, we have even celebrated Holy Communion together in a totally safe way. I think we are becoming more relaxed with worshipping under the current restrictions. Why not see for yourself. We hope to see you soon.

GOD FOR ALL

The main focus of the September Circuit Meeting was to approve the Circuit Mission Plan 2020 taking into account the nationwide 'God for All' initiative, focussing on God at the heart of the Community. 'God in the Community' recognises that the Church has to wake up to the urgent task of sharing the Gospel in a fast-changing world. 'God for All' has several headings:

Centred in God

Transformational Leadership

A Growing Church

Digital Presence

New Places for New People

And (and I think most importantly) Turning Everyone into an Evangelist.

The work already begun at Tylers Green on 'Our Church's Future Story' is the basis for continuing to develop our thinking in line with the Circuit Mission Plan, a Plan which has been put together by the CLT with Circuit Steward, Duncan Booth leading the work and now approved for the whole Circuit.

The Mission Plan is a very long document and the submission to the Circuit Meeting also included information on God for All and ways that the Circuit can help churches become 'digital' (including financial assistance). Anyone wishing to read the full document please contact me and I will email you a copy. If you don't have email, I can loan you my own copy. However, the eight points detailed in the next two pages set out the goals; these are the goals on which to focus.

Readers of the plan will find that it is structured around working parties with delegated authority to act, and much of that action will be in support of all the churches who will be encouraged to focus on their own priorities and will not be expected to do everything!

Peter Stevens

Senior Church Steward

CIRCUIT MISSION PLAN

Our dream for five years time:

The High Wycombe Methodist Circuit is committed to Growth and Evangelism over the next 5 years. This will be delivered by and for all people across the Circuit in line with the God for All initiative:

Mission Statement: High Wycombe Circuit, Centred in God, ambitious in Growth and Evangelism.

1. All Churches across the Circuit to be Centred in God with clear Discipleship pathways in place and mechanisms in use to deepen the knowledge of God across all generations.
2. All Churches across the Circuit to be delivering against the Everyone's an Evangelist, where all members are confident to speak about their faith informally to those they know or meet and that some members are keen to represent their church at public events.
3. That the Circuit will have fostered Transformational Leadership and that at least one member in every church will have stepped up to leadership or change roles within or outside their church.
4. That the Circuit in line with New Places for New People, will have delivered or supported an individual Church to deliver somewhere in the circuit at least 9 new expressions of church within existing churches and at least 2 new Christian communities affiliated to the Methodist church.
5. That the Circuit will have supported all churches to have fostered at least one new relationship with their surrounding community in line with Every Church a Growing Church. Additionally, the Circuit will have built at least two new community relationships at the Circuit level.
6. The Circuit will have fully embraced Church at the Margins and this will be manifested by Circuit or Churches increased involvement in local initiatives which seek to deliver social justice, work alongside those that are experiencing poverty or that allow people at the margins to lead new Christian Communities or initiatives
7. The Circuit will encourage all Churches to increase the involvement and leadership of young people in Church life inside and

outside the Church. The Circuit to actively fund the training of young leaders and involvement in Methodist or other Christian organisations, camps or conferences.

8. The Circuit will encourage and fund, where appropriate, the ongoing development of the Digital presence of the Circuit and Churches, recognising that the channels and technology that will be required will continue to change. This could include subscriptions to Christian apps and materials for all age groups.

I WISH WE COULD SING!

One of the key things about worshipping together that people have missed has been communal singing and the listening to the organ.

If we look at the time taken to sing in each service (to can be up to a third of the whole service) we can see the level of importance churches give to singing together.

So, although we understand the science behind the ‘no singing rule’ (breath is exhaled more forcibly so reaches further) it is still very strange to be in our normal church buildings but not to be able to sing.

Singing hymns and songs helps us to learn about our faith, to pray and to express our praise – but what is it about singing *together* that lifts our hearts in our time of worship?

There are said responses in some services, but they don’t have that same *lift!*

Is it the physical breathing aspects, the sounds we aim to make, or indeed the way our voices join and blend together?

All through the Bible there are passages telling of times of singing: of musicians leading processions towards a place or time of worship.

There are many exhortations in the Psalms to the people to come together, ‘singing with joy and thanksgiving’.

The Bible also talks about a time to put down our instruments and refrain from singing. Let’s hope and pray that our time for restraint will pass quickly and we will soon rejoice together with thanksgiving, joyful and loud singing!

(Abridged from a Parish Pump Article)

October Services

4th: Peter Stevens (Steward: Toyin Akinwale)

11th: Neil Manthorpe (Steward: Peter Stevens)

18th: Rev Vida Foday—HC (Steward: Geraldine Nelson)

25th: Peter Green (Steward: Geraldine Nelson)

1st Nov: Carolyn Luscombe (Steward: Chris Oxby)

Details may change subject to preacher availability



And finally ...

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

“Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.”

“Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?” his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

“Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you’d never believe it!”

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 November Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by 18th October. 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.

PRAYER OF A TEAPOT

I found this poem in the Wesley Church notes just minutes after watching Beauty and the Beast on TV—featuring Mrs Potts the teapot!

Barbara Sparks writes 'I came across this poem - it brought tears to my eyes. It is so appropriate to the times we are living in - many of us feel we are that teapot.'

God, you created me and I am glad;
glad too that I can warm people's hearts
and create home and fellowship.

I am old now and ugly and battered;
made of dull pottery
with a broken, stained spout
and a cracked lid.
But I have some pride in myself.
I've a good handle
round which fingers curl snugly and confidently.
I pour well too.

Much of the day I sit on the dresser
with bigger and smaller teapots
all in better shape than I.
I really come to life only when I'm used;
when someone warms me up
and I feel the tea fall into me
and the boiling water quickly fills me.
Then I warm through, and
as I sit on the table,
smiling and drawing everyone to me,
I feel, God, that you created me to be used.
I feel needed and valued
and at the heart of a community,
of people who are relaxing,
laughing and talking round the kitchen table;
or of people who are in pain and anguish,
suffering from the shock of bad news.

Use me again and again
that I may know that I am alive.
J. de Rooy SJ