

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 151
ONLINE



November 2020



From our Minister.

At 11am on the 11th of November - 'Remembrance Day', those who had died in times of war are honoured. Thousands of people from all over the world stand in silence as a tribute to the fallen soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. The desire to remember those who gave up their lives is noble, as it brought peace and an end to the World War II.

Those who are remembered laid down their lives for us to be free. We may argue that some who had to go to war had no choice, they were made to go to war. I will also argue strongly that they had so much love for their country hence their decision to sacrifice their lives out of love.

Part of the human condition is that we suffer from selective memory. Whatever re-members us as individuals or as denominations, we are called to remember together. For all of us there are elements of guilty past and false memory bound up with our identities. We need to remember together that a more helpful future might grow.

For the Christians in Ephesus, the point of remembering the past was in order to be re-membered as one humanity in the Body of Christ himself.

Whenever the Holy communion is celebrated, we are obeying Christ's command that we remember His death (Luke 22:19) and to do it 'till He comes' (1 Cor. 11:26). When He sacrificed His life for us, He provided the forgiveness of sins that set us free and secured for us an eternal home in heaven. The Holy Communion offers a chance for us to meet Christ amongst us, healing memories, pronouncing peace, and remembering us as his people in the world. Therefore, let us make every opportunity at Communion a true "Remembrance Day" by honouring Jesus till He comes.

Prayer: O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

With love and every blessing
Vida

Words of Encouragement:

I would like to encourage those who are fearful about returning to church.....

On Sunday, 6th September when our church reopened, I had a feeling of apprehension. It was like doing something for the first time. Now, after seven weeks, it feels like the new 'normal'. I enjoyed the first service; it was very uplifting and I felt safe. Since then we have had good sermons, listened to some beautiful music and have choral readings. Geraldine led our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and the altar was decorated with home grown produce. Monetary gifts were collected for the Whitechapel Mission instead of provisions. During that service we listened to the amazing voice of Katherine Jenkins singing 'Make me a Chanel of your Peace'. We have also received Holy Communion in a slightly different but safe way.

I do of course miss singing Hymns but more than this I miss **you**. It is good that we can come together safely and worship our Lord God. I pray this will continue and that we will not return to a lockdown again.

Rosemary Newman

WHITECHAPEL MISSION:

Our Harvest Thanksgiving collection for the Whitechapel Mission amounted to £335.00.

This is a wonderful gift for the work of the Mission, during a time of unprecedented need.

Thanks to all who gave so generously.

Geraldine Nelson

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham looks forward to Advent.

Psalm 122 and Advent

'I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord. Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.' (Psalm 122:1,2). These words from Psalm 122 inspired Hubert Parry's great Coronation Anthem *'I was Glad.'* As a Song of Ascent (Psalms 120-134), it was used by pilgrims going to the great festivals in Jerusalem. For the Jews this represented *'coming home'* to worship at the Temple, the place of God's presence.

Our Worship of God:

As God's people today, we are also called to worship in praise and thanksgiving: *'That is where the tribes go up – to praise the name of the Lord'* (4). Of course, currently our coming together in church to sing our praise to God is greatly restricted. We are a *scattered* rather than a *gathered* community. However, as individuals, we can still offer God the worship of our lives using the resource of psalms like this one.

Our prayer to God:

The psalm encourages the pilgrims to pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure.'* (6). The peace referred to here is more than simply an absence of conflict. Peace speak of wholeness of life in every aspect. This must be our prayer as we continue to struggle with the effects of the pandemic and as we seek the prosperity of the wider community: *'I will seek your prosperity'* (9).

This month sees the beginning of Advent, the season when we affirm the hope of Jesus' return. As we pray for peace, we know that it is fulfilled in the coming of God's kingdom in Jesus. Despite living with so much uncertainty, we have the assurance of God's future purposes for our lives, churches and the world.

Tylers Green Methodist Church
Minutes of Special Church Council Meeting Monday 19th October 2020

Attendees by Zoom:

Rev Vida Foday, Martin Hellewell, Geraldine Nelson, Rosemary Newman, Peter Stevens, Duncan Booth, Ashley Gray, Nigel Sweet, Sue Horley (minutes)

Apologies: Angela Davis, Chris Oxby

Welcome & Opening Prayers

Rev Vida welcomed everyone to the Zoom call and opened the meeting with a prayer.

1 God for All presentation

Peter introduced the God for All initiative in the Methodist Church – how to remain relevant and make a difference while numbers are declining and churches are closing.

Duncan presented a series of slides summarising the initiative and the working group proposals for the High Wycombe Circuit.

Change as a result of impact of Covid on worship and church life

Strategic change to define a new Mission Plan for Circuits and churches

- Context, while accepting that church numbers are declining and seeking to make being a Christian relevant to today

- Goals and priorities

- Actions

Mission planning materials are available to help individual churches in the process.

2 Actions

Consider ways to promote God for All ideas in the wider church congregation at Tylers Green, e.g. by using material from the Marlow live service on Sun 15th November to be led by Nigel.

Context – consider possible actions (accepting present Covid restrictions) to support the local community.

3 Digital

- Peter will apply for Circuit funding for broadband at Tylers Green to support worship during Covid and

afterwards
Rosemary & Ashley will apply for a Pro-Zoom account for Tylers Green for church meetings

4 Next Meeting

Vida thanked all for attending, especially Nigel for hosting and Duncan for presenting.

Date of Next Church Council Meeting: Tues 24th November 2020 at 7.30pm (Zoom)

Egypt tops list as 3.7 million Scriptures given to children last year

Bible Society teams worldwide provided almost 3.7 million Scripture items for children last year. More than 1.1 million children's Scriptures were distributed in Egypt alone. This is the largest number for one nation, in a place where ministry with young people is a top priority.

Through festivals, competitions and quizzes, the Bible Society of Egypt engages with hundreds of thousands of children each year.

Thought for themonth

**God isn't looking for perfect people. He is looking to perfect people. –
*John Hileman***

Family tree

At a drinks party at a wealthy golf club, the conversation turned to the subject of ancestry. "Of course, we trace our family back to coming over with William the Conqueror," observed one lady with satisfaction. She turned to a second woman, who was new to the club, and asked, "What about you dear? Can you go back very far?"

"Not very far," came the reply. "You see, all the early family records were lost in the Flood."

October Services

Nov01: Carolyn Luscombe (Steward: Chris Oxby)

Nov 08 Rev.V. Foday H.C. (Steward: Toyin Akinwale)

Nov 15 Rev A. Bolton (T) (Steward: Peter Stevens)

Nov 22 R.Goldstraw (Steward: Gerri Nelson)

Nov 29 P.Stevens (Steward Toyin Akjinwale)

Due to Coronavirus , service details may change.

The Promise of Advent

Stir up our hearts, we beseech you,
to prepare ourselves to receive your Son.
When He comes and knocks, may He find us not sleeping in sin,
But awake to righteousness,
Ceaselessly rejoicing in His love.
May our hearts and minds be so purified,
That we may be ready to receive His promise of eternal life.

from The Gelasian Sacramentary, c. 500 (the oldest official prayer book of the Western Church)

And finally ...

The fire prevention officer was conducting a health and safety course at the local church. The officer said to the minister: "Now imagine this: it is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Some are in the choir stalls, some are in the kitchen, and some are in the nave. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The minister thought carefully for a moment then said: "Really big ones,"

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

Nothing Is Impossible

Nothing is impossible
With the Lord in our lives,
He causes doors to open
So we can walk inside

To brand new opportunities
We never knew before,
To a new exciting level
In our walk with the Lord

With faith in our hearts
And our hand in His hand,
We can cross any canyon
And through seas on dry land

For He will make a way
As in faith our walk begins
What seems to us impossible,
Is possible with Him

When feeling like it's all too much,
Remember in the past
How God had made a way for you
When you came to Him and asked

And He again will answer you
And show you so much more
As you keep on trusting Him
And walking with the Lord.

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