

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

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ONLINE



December 2020-January 2021

From our Minister.

On Christmas Day, the most read text in Churches is: “There is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2: 8-14). It is proper that Christians celebrate Christmas – the amazing gift of Jesus Christ - God in human form. The Creator of the universe who was born as a baby, grew up, suffered and willingly died for the sins of humankind on the Cross.

Even though Christmas this year will be celebrated with a difference due to the government restrictions caused by the pandemic, by faith let us take up the wonderful Christmas gift God has given to us – our Lord Jesus – and receive Him in our hearts. More importantly, let us love one another as God in Jesus Christ loves us. During our celebrations, let us be aware of the real significance of this gift from God. A Saviour who was born to seek and save that which was lost, who offers forgiveness of sin and assurance of heaven to all.

In appreciation to God for this precious gift, here are a few suggestions: let us choose to become road builders for Christ especially in our New Year Resolutions. Let us use God's Word to encourage one another in faith, especially those who may find Christmas difficult due to the loss of their loved ones or broken relationships. As Christians and channels of God's love, let us pray for help for those facing this Christmas without employment or enough money (especially in these uncertain times brought upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic), and do

not know how they are going to make ends meet – that God's presence may be with them even in their pain and suffering.

God cares for us and we trust God to safely see us through the end of this year and bring us into the New Year (2021), alive to see each other's faces. It is wonderful to be alive, and deep feelings of appreciation often well up within us, but we must always centre our devotion on the One who not only provides the air we breathe but also gives us eternal life through faith in Christ.

Just as the magi responded with joy when the “God-given star” came to a halt, signifying where the Christ-child laid in a manger, may we be led by the “Light of the World” and joyfully trust that God will certainly bring an end to this pandemic. As Christians, we need to keep focussed on the cross – which is the centre of our faith, and pray for an increase in faith to enable us resist all the temptations that we may be faced with in future.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin.
Where meek souls shall receive him still
The dear Christ enters in.

Phillips Brooks (1835 – 93) (H&P 113 v3)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With love and every blessing!

Vida

God for All

The extra Church Council meeting reported in the November GND set out the framework of the 5 year God for All programme encouraging us to pray without ceasing, to become more evangelistic as a church and as individual people and to embrace the whole community including those living on the margins.

If that was the framework, the outline picture, then the Circuit Service on 15th November began to fill that outline with colour as we learned of how some of our Circuit Churches have begun to embrace change. In the case of Flackwell Heath in particular, those changes began a long time before we heard of the God for All initiative. That church has a Community Mission worker and her work began some 4 or 5 years ago when, as a Circuit Steward, I helped appoint her an a slightly different role which has changed with a growing focus on Christ in the community.

Marlow Methodist Church have started a major redevelopment of their premises to make it a centre for the whole community and Downley have an annual 'Holiday at Home' reaching out in particular to those who live alone and are lonely.

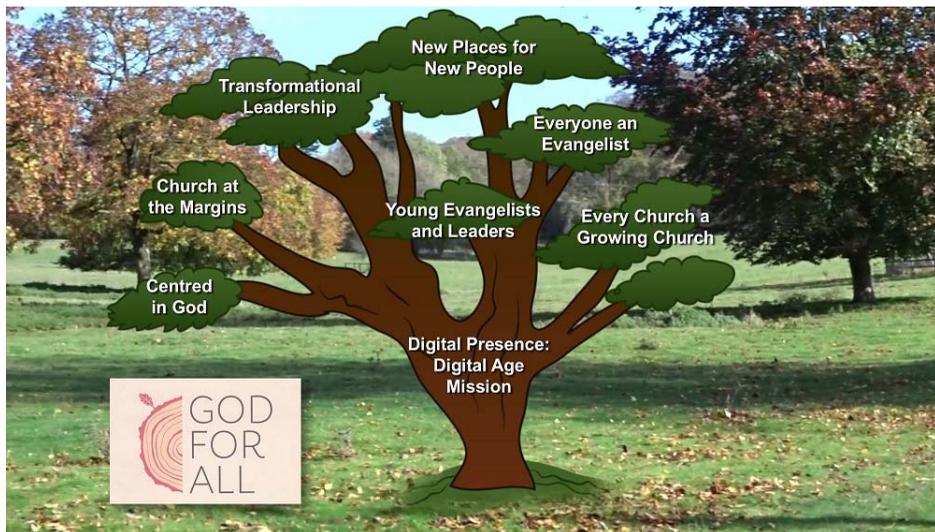
Now, in some ways, all these things began before we had heard of 'God for All' but are being grown into the God for All objectives.

There is no suggestion that TG should copy what others have done unless we want to. The Circuit recognises that different churches have different people, with different age profiles and different gifts. We do need to get started and this is an open invitation for you to speak with any members of the Leadership Team (Vida, Geraldine, Christine and myself) with your suggestions. Everything will be considered.

Meanwhile, the service from 15th November is ESSENTIAL viewing. Even if you don't do Facebook, sign up just to get access to this and other services. You can use Facebook as little as you wish and just search for the Marlow Methodist Church page.

The 8 aims of 'God for All' are illustrated on the God for All tree on the next page.

Blessings
Peter



Editor: by Canon Paul Hardingham.

The Story is still the same! (from Parish Pump)

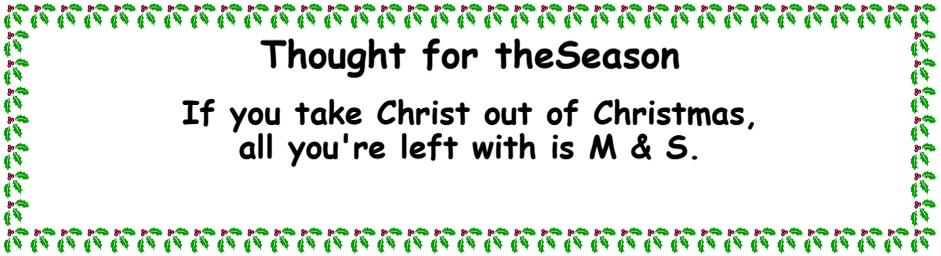
‘Christmas may look different, but the story is still the same!’ That’s the message for Christmas in 2020. Coronavirus will make our celebrations this year look very different from usual. However, the message of the baby born in Bethlehem is still relevant!

In one nativity play, the highlight was to illuminate Jesus, with a light in the manger, when all the other lights were turned off. At the appropriate time, all the lights went out, including the manger one. The silence was broken when one of the shepherds loudly whispered: ‘Hey, you turned off Jesus.’ Of course, nobody can turn off Jesus this Christmas!

The angels announced, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.’ (Luke 2: 10,11). The birth of this baby brings great joy and good news for everyone! As the king of the universe, He has come as our Saviour. In an uncertain world, He offers joy and hope, because He holds this pandemic in His hands. This is a real cause for joy!

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.’ (Luke 2:14). We may feel anything but peace amid the anxieties over our current circumstances. How can a Jewish

infant born to a peasant family in first century Palestine bring peace to our lives today? Jesus established peace with God through His death on the cross. Trusting the Prince of Peace for our lives brings God's peace amid the huge uncertainties we face. As the carol says, 'Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.'



Thought for the Season

If you take Christ out of Christmas,
all you're left with is M & S.

Announcement Thank you, Rosemary, for this sad news

There are No Nativity Plays this year:

Because the 3 Wise Men, all face a Travel Ban.

The Shepherds have been "Furloughed".

The Inn Keeper has shut under the "Tier 3" regulations and has a massive slump in Bookings.

Santa won't be working either.

As that would break the "Rule of 6", with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen. And as for poor, old Rudolph,

With that big, Red Nose of his, he should be self-isolating and taking a COVID/19 Test, as soon as possible.

Prayers on Wednesday evenings:

We continue to meet via Zoom at 7.30 pm every Wednesday. This has become a very special and important time since the first lockdown.

There are so many situations and people in need of our prayers at this time. We continue to pray for all our church family at Tylers Green.

Please do let me know if you would like to join with us - all are very welcome. Alternatively, please let me know if you have any prayer requests. These will be confidential within our meeting. God Bless.

Rosemary

October Services

Preachers & Stewards)

Subject to Coronavirus Regulations

06 Dec	Rev. Vida Foday (HC)	(Toyin)
13 Dec	Peter Stevens Come & Listen Carol Service	(Chris)
20 Dec	Peter Green	(Geraldine)
25 Dec	10.00 am Peter Stevens	(Peter)
27 Dec	No service	
03 Jan	Dcn. Richard Goldstraw	(Toyin)
10 Jan	Rev. Nick Thompson	(Chris)
17 Jan	Rev. Vida Foday (Covenant Service—HC)	(Geraldine)
24 Jan	Dcn. Richard Goldstraw	(Geraldine)
31 Jan	Nigel Sweet	(Chris)

Service details correct at the time GND was put together.



And finally ...

Next Christmas

The grandson had just taken a photograph of his grandmother who'd come to stay for Christmas and for her 89th birthday. 'Grannie, I sure hope I'm around next year to photograph you on your 90th birthday,' he said tactfully.

'Why not?' his grandmother shrugged. 'You look healthy enough.'

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 February Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by 17 January 2021. 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.

Christmas Frustration????

I said to God, upon my knees
 "O Lord, I am so cross!
 "That gift I sent to Aunt Denise
 "Within the post is lost!
"That tree I bought for forty pounds
 "(Well, just a penny less)
 "Its needles lie upon the ground
 "It looks a total mess!"

"I know," said God, "I understand,
 "I sent my Son, you know.
"He came to Earth, just as I'd planned
 "Two thousand years ago
 "Was born within a stable bare –
 "The cattle heard Him cry
"He spoke of love, men didn't care
 "They led Him out to die."

"No gift was given with such love
 "No higher price was paid.
"He left His throne of light above
 "For sin His life to trade.
 "But even after all these years
 "This gift you men eschew,
"So Christmas is a time of tears

"For Me, as well as you."

By Nigel Beeton

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