

# Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:  
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 154  
ONLINE



March, 2021

## From our minister

The Lenten season reminds us of Jesus' suffering and His death. Practising self-discipline and having the courage to resist temptation are of great importance especially during Lent, as they help Christians walk the way of costly love with Jesus. The faithfulness of our walk with Jesus depends on our willingness to stay in a relationship with Him.

Martin Luther once said, "You can't keep the birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair." Temptation is inevitable; how we deal with it is a matter of choice. James 1:12 states: "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him." (NIV)

Courage is what is needed when one needs to get God's work done. For instance, courage is what is needed in the following examples: if someone needs to be approached and encouraged to volunteer for a duty in the Church, or to invite either a friend or a neighbour for a cup of coffee/tea to discuss matters of faith or

to join a prayer/fellowship group (all of which is now not possible physically due to the Covid-19 restrictions - unless via Zoom). Sometimes it takes just that first step of courage to serve our Majestic God.

Whenever we lack courage, let us remind ourselves of God's promise in 2 Timothy 1:7 "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline" (NIV). We also need the encouragement from others to help us grow in our relationship with God.

Let us then stand in the promises of God and be courageous for our Lord Jesus Christ this Lent, taking every opportunity to pray more deeply, repent of our sins, forgive one another and help those in need in our communities.

With love and every blessing

Vida

## **Easter Sunday**

How do YOU feel about returning to church for gathered worship on Easter Sunday this year? The Circuit has produced a partial plan indicating that services could be held that day. Covid rules will still apply. I am trying to get a feel for how many people are likely to worship at church that day. Please let me know by phone or email. Easter Sunday is 4th April.

Peter Stevens

## **Wayside Pulpit**

I will be tying the wooden cross to the tree on our church front lawn on Good Friday with a purple drape, then on Easter Saturday afternoon I will decorate with flowers like last year. If anyone would like to bring a posy and attach it to the cross on Easter morning, please do so.

Geraldine

## ***The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts has a football story to tell (abridged)***

Thousands of BBC local radio listeners across England recently tuned in to an unusual sporting-themed church service. It wasn't broadcast from a typical place of worship, a church or a cathedral, but from Wycombe Wanderers FC – a football club in the Championship, the second rung of English soccer.

Four of the team's leading players joined the Buckinghamshire club's chaplain Benedict Musola for the special act of worship broadcast across the country's 38 BBC local radio stations. Professional footballers Adebayo Akinfenwa, Jason McCarthy, Alex Samuel and Cameron Yates spoke of their Christian faith during the 30-minute service broadcast in January.

Chaplain Benedict Musola explained how the team prayed on the pitch before matches and held regular Bible studies at their training ground.

He told listeners: "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve God in this role, which uniquely combines my passion for God and my passion for football." The service featuring Wycombe Wanderers underlined the close links between football and faith.

The Wycombe Wanderers service was one of a series of Christian acts of worship broadcast on BBC local radio stations at 8am on Sundays since the onset of the pandemic last March.

The services have included speakers and musicians from a wide range of denominations and have won praise for easing feelings of loneliness and isolation.

The Sunday services have formed part of the important role played by local media during the series of lockdowns.

Commenting on the church services, Chris Burns, Head of Local Radio for the BBC, said: "We know from personal testament just how important these broadcasts have proved to be. They have played an important role in bringing communities together virtually so no one need feel they are on their own. "We expanded our religious programming on the first weekend of lockdown in March and will continue to broadcast services and reflections until life returns to normal."

(Editor's Note: WWFC's Chaplain, Benedict Musola, attends Holy Trinity, Hazlemere)

*Revd Canon Paul Hardingham offers the following for Lent...*

## **Finding God in Each Moment of the Day**

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!

In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to Him. As the psalmist says, *'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night'* (Ps 63:6).

What does this look like in practice? Here is a step by step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite Him to guide you.
3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.
5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can ex-

pect to see two things beginning to happen:

Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change.

Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary any more!

*Give me a sense of humour, Lord,  
Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humour out of life,  
And pass it on to other folk.*

## **Please pray for ...**

Gladys and Ray Write who, at the time of writing, are both in Stoke Mandeville hospital at the time of writing, and please continue to pray for others in our church community who are in need of prayer, particularly those who have been unwell for a prolonged period. Also, for Nick, our Superintendent Minister as he returns to work after contracting Covid19 and for our minister Vida who has undertaken the work of the Superintendent for the past two months.

## **Thought for the month**

**Small numbers make no difference to God.  
There is nothing small if God is in it.  
D L Moody**

## Church Council 18th February 2021

Anyone in our church family who is not a member of the Church Council and who would like to receive a copy of the minutes please obtain from our Church Council Secretary, Sue Horley on 812088.

### **I'm Sorry, Father**

Lent can sometimes expose double values. Read on:

A Catholic priest working in an inner city was walking down an alley one evening on his way home when a young man came down the alley behind him and poked a knife against his back. "Give me your money," the young man said.

The priest opened his jacket and reached into an inner pocket to remove his wallet, exposing his clerical collar. "Oh, I'm sorry, Father," said the young man, "I didn't see your collar. I don't want YOUR money."

Trembling from the scare, the priest removed a cigar from his shirt pocket and offered it to the young man. "Here," he said. "Have a cigar."

"Oh, no, I can't do that," the young man replied, "I gave them up for Lent."

### *And finally ...*

A housewife was helping her aged mother get up the stairs on their brand-new stair lift when the minister telephoned her. He was horrified to hear her say:

"I'm so sorry, but I'll have to ring you back. I can't talk right now because I've finally got Mother in the electric chair and I'm eager to press the switch and see if it works!"

# 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 - 📞 812088**

**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 April Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by 20 March 2021. Please email [psredkite@googlemail.com](mailto: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 for Families

Dear Father God,

In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.

As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive – and to strengthen others by the love we give.

May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus – who is alive – and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family.  
Thank you for the love and security we have in you.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*