

The **Methodist** Church
June and July 2020 Magazine

BRIDGEMARY



LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

GOSPORT



Elinor Combes

Our friend Elinor who passed away last week will be sadly missed by us all. Her daughter, Gail, tells me that she did not realise just how many things Elinor was involved with. When I say 'involved' I mean in very practical, active ways as she was at Church. Secretary for many organisations, supporter of events going on, brilliant flower arranger, and above all a great friend who went above and beyond to care for others. I don't quite know how we are going to fill the roles she carried out. In retrospect there seems to be more than any one person could do—and yet she did them all with grace. For all those who felt a special relationship with Elinor I know that when this time of disruption is over we will gladly join in a celebration of her life. When that will be we do not yet know but I am sure that you will keep her family, Bob and her children Richard and Gail and their families, in your prayers.

Pat

Please keep in your prayers the families of those who have died:
Pat Barrett, Mary Lea, Peter Whiffing, Elinor Combes and Jean Ruskin.

Mask Extensions

Jo Gregory wants to say Thank You to all those who have been knitting these. Rev John Mills who is Chaplain at the hospital has taken them in and they are appreciated.

Dear friends,

Elinor was quite certain that we should not invite friends to her funeral in case there was even the slightest risk of spreading the virus.

Gail, Richard and I will be with her for a short service this Thursday 4th June.

When we return to normality, we hope to invite you to an event to celebrate her life and friendship.

We please ask that you not to send flowers but if you would like to mark her passing, you might send a small donation to the Harbour Cancer Trust who were very supportive to us both during her illness.

Please follow this link

<https://elinorcombes.muchloved.com>

We have been so touched by the support from many friend who have made contact over the past few weeks and most recently by the number of messages sharing their memories – many with the same theme that she was a special and caring friend.

Kind regards
Bob, Gail and Richard

Dear All

While we are expecting we may be able to go back to Church in some simple format, we have had very strict instructions of what needs doing before we even think of opening our doors. They might be open for quiet prayer and we may have to limit numbers

attending or have two short services back to back to keep safe distances. We will let you know when we have more information.

This crisis has made us all realise that we who lead have in the past not paid enough attention to those who for what ever reason do not regularly attend Church services. Though they are pastorally supported and may have communion taken to them that maybe the only spiritual input they receive. I know some Churches have used service sheets that have the readings and other information on have taken these out to those who cannot attend. These monthly reflections have been well received as have the weekly ones, but the weekly ones only reach about half of our members. Because of this for the time being the magazine is the easiest way to reach each precious person.

Thank you to Jean for doing this one and to Jenny for the Easter one.

God bless

Celia

WORSHIP IN LOCAL CHURCHES

As indicated on the Plan for June-July-August and in the accompanying letter we now have four broad categories of service in the Circuit. A brief description of each seems in order as there have been a few questions.

HOLY COMMUNION

For this there will be an ordained Presbyterian on the Plan. That person can be a visitor invited by the Local Congregation but they must be either a Methodist Presbyterian or authorised by their own denomination in a way recognised by the Methodist Church to preside at services of Holy Communion.

PREACHING SERVICE

For this service there will be a Preacher who is accredited or on trial/note. There will not be communion but there will be a sermon. This may take one of several forms, may come in more than one part ... but will be recognisable as preaching the word.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENT (LA)

At their best LAs are opportunities for providing a different perspective in creative ways. We don't want to lose that opportunity. However, we have also been used to LAs as administrative ways to fill gaps in the Plan. The local congregation makes arrangements for worship. That has usually been a group of people from the congregation, Stewards, Worship Leaders and others planning a service. Sometimes LA has been interpreted as the time when a Local congregation makes the Arrangements for who will preach that day. ie arranges a visiting preacher. Effectively that becomes a preaching service. Sometimes it might also have been an 'extra' appointment for a preacher from the local congregation and also becomes a Preaching Service.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP (GW)

This term developed as an alternative to LA in order to put the emphasis on worship rather than the arrangements. It is, therefore, similar to an LA but at present is being used to take pressure off local congregations, Stewards, Worship Leaders etc. GWs are planned for a time when a nearby church or another congregation in the same church community or cluster has a Communion service (usually). The idea is that worship could be put together by the local congregation as with the best of LAs, creatively providing a different perspective. The difference is that material will be offered by the minister/preacher taking a service in another church.

This is similar to arrangements being made at the moment for online worship where material is prepared for more than one place and shared either live or distributed to be used locally by individuals or households.

It is not envisaged that the Plan will get any easier to fill. GWs are a way to ensure that the number of LAs (where congregations make their own arrangements) does not become overwhelming.

Congregations should still be encouraged to devise their own worship for a LA and preachers/ministers should encourage members of congregations, Stewards, Worship Leaders etc to take part in preparation and delivery of worship of all forms.

David Muskett

June 2020

THY KINGDOM COME

This is some explanation of this that has been used in a number of Churches over recent years. I have copied it straight from the emailed leaflet used in 2020.

Celia

Thy Kingdom Come is a worldwide prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost. Since its launch by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016, Christians from 172 countries and 65 denominations have taken part in praying for friends and family to come to faith in Jesus Christ. The Methodist Church in Britain has been a key ecumenical partner in Thy Kingdom Come since 2017.

The days between Ascension and Pentecost have always been full of expectation and anticipation. As the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable the disciples to be witnesses. As they waited for the promise to be fulfilled they devoted themselves constantly to prayer (Acts 1.14). So, the renewed call across the Church is to set these days apart to pray, and each individual to pray for five people to come to know the love of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

LOCKED DOWN LOCKED IN PRAYERS

Lord, let me out, Lord let us out,
but not just now, when it is safe.

Keep us safe, keep everyone safe away from harm,
away from carelessness, we earnestly pray.

For those who work in care and the NHS, provide what they
need to stay safe and when that provision fails save them
from this virus we earnestly pray in Jesus Name, Amen.

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### MOVING ON MOVING OUT

"Fear not", the Angel said to Mary

"Fear not", the Angel said to the shepherds

Do not be afraid as we go about our way, God is on our side,

Filling us with his love, that perfect love,

that drives out fear,

Keep us watchful, keep us safe

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For you are with me the psalm goes

Everywhere I go You are with me

In the pain, in the anguish

You are with me, comforting me.

What I feel may differ from the psalm

Forgotten, forlorn, betrayed, left,

because I do not always feel You

With me, holding me carrying me
Help me to know You holding me,
carrying me through this time,
I pray, Lord Jesus, Amen.

Celia

Anita says, this needs to be read so true and funny. 😂😂😂

I'm normally a social girl I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.
You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.
They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.
We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s -
If you only knew the truth!
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.
Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?
We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside

For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!
It didnt really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.
At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!
So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.
We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide

To fit through the flaming gates!

[Jan Beaumont Poetry](#)

24 May at 20:40 ·

Just a very big thank you to all those lovely people who have been concerned that my first poem 'Let's All Drink to Lockdown' has been posted around the world attributed to the much loved Pam Ayres. This snowballed unfortunately and can't be stopped. However, if you can set the record straight when you see this occurring it would be great. In the meantime I'll just keep on writing and hope you keep enjoying my efforts. Thank you all so much for your lovely comments. Wherever in the world you are, please stay safe. Jan 

JUNE A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Sunday 7th June 2020 Trinity Sunday

Readings 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Hymn 32 Meet and right
4 Father in heaven

The elements of the Trinity have been in use since the beginning of Christianity. Each has a distinct role yet deserves the same honour, respect and praise we would give to one. The fulness of God is the Trinity, though I think we each have our preferred way of communicating with one element of the Trinity. Why, because one element fits us just fine. Jesus said to his disciples that he and the Father are one and that he would send the Comforter. The Comforter, The Holy Spirit is the one, the only one we can see the Father and the Son through.

Lord God your love has brought us to this place, help us to be at peace with you all the time and at peace with all around us. Let your love flow through me each day so that I can show your love.



Sunday 14th June 2020 MHA Sunday Gosport Church Anniversary

Readings Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

Hymn 563 O Jesus, I have promised
556 Just as I am

Church Anniversaries are a time for being thankful for those imperfect people who kept the faith and have passed it on down through generations of imperfect church goers to us who are equally imperfect. We are now the ones who pass the faith forward to those who follow us. There is nothing we can do to make people believe as we see when Jesus sent out the twelve. People have to want to hear and respond to the message of God's love. We can though demonstrate the difference faith

makes to our lives and learn to share that with the people around us. Methodist Homes do that with how they care for older people at home or housed by them.

I thank you Lord Jesus for those who paved the way for me to discover faith and those who have helped to nurture faith in me. Help me to point and nurture others to faith in you; use me Lord.



Sunday 21st June 2020

Readings Romans 6:1b-11 Hymn 8 God with us, Creator, Father
Matthew 10:24-39 441 As water to the thirsty,

Who comes first in our lives? A parent, a partner, a child or someone else? Some-one else you might want to question, but we are not talking about another person, but we are talking about faith things, God and his Christ. In fact they demand to be first, our first and last thought each day, but if like me you fail miserably. I think God understands our humanness and struggles and strive as Paul puts it to be dead to sin and alive to Christ. We all know faith does not come with easy to follow instructions, but we will do our best to keep going.

Lord God, we do not know what is going to happen next, help us to cope with our next set of instructions from our Government. Take away the fear we may have of going out if we are allowed to do so. Help us to live with ourselves a little while longer.



Sunday 28th June 2020

Readings Romans 6:12-23 Hymn 320 Father whose everlasting

Jesus does not say, if you like me, you will keep my commandments, but does say, if you love me. Because of our love for Jesus we will act in love to those who also love him and towards those outside the kingdom. Jesus met the needs of those who asked him and because he and his love dwell in us we act out of that love. In a way we show kindness not out of duty but the God given love that is embedded in our inmost being.

Father God, forgive us when we fail to love those you have given us to love, help us to learn to love them. Forgive us when we push people away rather than drawing them near and bringing them into your kingdom, help us to learn to love them. Help us to love you more, so we can grow in your love.



JULY A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Sunday 5th July 2020

Readings Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Hymn 319 Christ triumphant
248 I heard the voice

Let go and let God was a phrase I heard as a new Christian. Paul here talks about the struggle we have in our everyday lives in how we act and react. On this day we may be allowed back into Church, as yet we do not know. I know this has been hard for us all and many of us have found it hard to stay on an even keel. We are missing family and friends. We quite often use the phrase "with the help of God" we will certainly need his help as we go back to Church as we do not know it, no hymns and a short service to accommodate another one to get all of us in.

Lord Jesus, help us to adjust to the new normal, help us to accept what is imposed on us yet again, help us not to want to bend the rules, help us to be gracious and accept what we ought to be doing.



Sunday 12th July 2020

Readings Romans 8:1-11 Hymn 494 Come, thou fount of
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 250 Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult

I am happy to tell anyone that my children have a double dose of stubbornness as both their parents heaped it on them. I knew I got mine from my Dad, but was very surprised to discover how determined my Mother was. I think as Christians this is something to be reined in, the good soil seed is about a compliant nature one that is willingly cultivated as Paul so ably says in Romans 8. As long as we confess our slip-ups we can and should be guilt free. That is a little bit of what no condemnation means.

Lord God, help us to be honest with ourselves about what we are really like, so we can see ourselves growing in our faith. Help us to be willing to accept change to keep us all safe for now.



Sunday 19th July 2020

Readings Romans 8:12-25 Hymn 446 I will offer up my life
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 408 How small a spark

The parable of the wheat and the weeds is Jesus talking about the end of time, when the world, the planets, the sun and everything we see in the sky is no more. All humanity who have

been reconciled to God through his Son Jesus will be with him in heaven for ever more, how exciting is that! This sowing of Darnel may have been a real event and punishable in Roman Law. The two are not distinguishable and the roots grow together, so cannot be pulled out. As Christians we wait patiently and look forward to being in heaven with Christ. In the meantime we live out our lives to the best of our ability, trying to keep faithful to our belief that Jesus truly is the Son of God sent to redeem the world. France RT Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, Matthew (IVP, Eerdmans 1985)

Lord Jesus Christ, as you kept the disciples firm in their faith, keep us firm in our faith, to the end of our life on this earth. Help us to share this faith with others as the disciples did. Give us the words we need to share with others the joy of knowing you, Lord.



Sunday 26th July 2020

Readings Romans 8:26-39 Hymn 255 Thy Kingdom come
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 522 I should like to speak to you

Have you ever seen anything that you would make you sell everything you have to own it? You might say no to this, but in a way we have all given something up to follow the faith we have. This parable is more figurative than literal, but the faith we have is of more value to us than all the riches in the world. It does not preclude us from having wealth, but it does expect us to value our faith above our worth and any positions we made hold in society or public life. Paul, writing to the Romans carefully explains what faith really is and if we have that strong faith then nothing can take that away. We will have an answer and a resolve to hold our faith fast when life and people throw their worst at us. Remember God loves us and always will.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father and giver of The Holy Spirit, nurture in each one of us a strong unyielding faith that can face any challenges we may face in our lives. We trust you to do this and thank you for your presence day by day loving us where we are



What a good idea?????

One of our members has been knitting and sending out angels to members of her family.

This sounds like a wonderful idea to me. However she did say that she had managed to send out one with no wings! Is she sending out Fallen angels? She has now sent the wings for her relative to sew on herself.

Please keep in mind that we will be knitting angels again this Christmas so if you have a bit of spare time now might be the time to start and you don't need to be a Gosport member!!

Stay safe and God Bless

Pat Browning

The answers are all things you can eat or drink. Some of the answers are homophones

1.	Bored kids do it (4)	Wine
2.	It makes you smile (6)	Cheese
3.	A balloon might do it. (3)	Pop
4.	Born and (5)	Bread
5.	Lots of traffic. (3)	Jam
6.	Dover or Liverpool eg. (4)	Port
7.	Chas and Dave sang it. (6)	Rabbit

8.	Start of a golf match. (3)	Tea
9.	A palace in Scotland. (5)	Scone
10.	It makes you cry. (5)	Onion
11.	Could be a regular TV programme. (6)	Cereal
12.	You call the plumber for it. (4)	Leek
13.	One for the teacher. (5)	Apple
14.	It was a kind of tie. (6)	Kipper
15.	A goat is one. (6)	Butter
16.	Twenty two over seven. (3)	Pie
17.	A wise person. (4)	Sage
18.	A prison sentence. (5)	Thyme
19.	A Chinese language. (8)	Mandarin
20.	Clint Eastwood's western. (9)	Spaghetti
21.	Term of endearment. (5)	Honey or Sugar
22.	Marvin Lee Aday. (4/4)	Meat Loaf
23.	Historic Kent town. (8)	Sandwich
24.	Duo. (4)	Pear
25.	A German citizen. (11)	Frankfurter
26.	Another German citizen. (9)	Hamburger
27.	Talk at length. (6)	Waffle
28.	Philosopher 1521-1626. (5)	Bacon
29.	It ruined mother. (3)	Gin
30.	Addicts have it cold. (6)	Turkey
31.	Bottoms up or cheers for example. (5)	Toast
32.	South American country. (6)	Chilli
33.	A court game. (6)	Squash
34.	Genesis and Pink Floyd played it. (4)	Rock
35.	Joseph's lyricist. (4)	Rice
36.	Played Richard Sharpe. (4)	Bean
37.	He was a mule. (6)	Muffin