



Ruislip Manor Methodist Church

Sunday 6th December 2020

www.rmmc.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/tempRMMC/

Jonathan R Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, writes a regular letter to all ministers which I thought I would reproduce for you this week in a slightly amended version:

‘Along, I guess, with many others I was transfixed by the political drama that unfolded in the United States of America in the first week of November. Several of the commentators (filling pages of the daily press whilst nothing in particular seemed to be happening) noted the deep polarization of American society. There seemed to be two groups of voters who not only were not listening to each other but who seemed to depend on different sets of facts. It is not difficult to see the role that traditional media and, perhaps to a greater extent, online social media have played in creating and perpetuating that state of affairs. The more one depends for information and insight on an echo chamber of like-minded people, the less one understands those who do not see things that way.

The authors of the Faith and Order Committee’s 2006 report to the Conference, *Living with Contradictory Convictions in the Church*, reflected on the importance of narrative in a community that seeks to remain as one whilst recognising that there are important matters on which we differ. However, the report notes, we all choose which stories we will hear and ‘by listening selectively and being open only to the stories which affirm our personal or traditional interpretation, we devalue the experience of others and restrict the Kingdom of God.’ Received by the Conference in the same month that Twitter was launched, the sentence seems prescient.

The context in which I have been re-reading the ‘contradictory convictions’ report [<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-reports/conference-reports-2006/>] is, of course, the ongoing debate around ‘God in love unites us’ as the Synods vote on the resolutions which the Conference deferred in 2019. We need the openness to listen to and to share with each other that *Contradictory Convictions* commended and which has been apparent in all the working parties that have wrestled with these issues over the last thirty years and in many consultations and colloquia around the Connexion. Many thanks are due to Methodist Evangelicals Together, Dignity and Worth, and others, for the honest and gracious way in which conversations have been conducted.

The posting of so much more worship than before online gives us a chance to visit other parts of the Connexion, to witness how different Methodists pray, and hear others preach. The diversity of our Church has been brought to the screens of our laptops and that can enrich us.

The idea that difference is enriching was a theme frequently explored by Rabbi (Lord) Jonathan Sacks who died recently. Perhaps his best-known book is his *cri du Coeur* written in the wake of the attack on the Twin Towers, *The Dignity of Difference*. My copy is a second edition which contains a preface in which Sacks reflects on criticism from fellow Jews that he had received when the book was first published. He argues that he had been clear that he wrote as an orthodox Jew so any interpretation of his words as incompatible with Judaism must be a misinterpretation. If I understand him correctly, Sacks was arguing that when confronted with a different opinion we are sometimes tempted to think that those who think that way cannot be part of our community (or we of theirs). A better response is to ask why this person who belongs with us and with whom we share so much sees things so differently and what we can learn from them.

Sacks’ focus in *The Dignity of Difference* was the world and not one religious group; he argued that the role of religion is to bind communities together and thereby to challenge the forces that tear societies apart. Part of the United Methodist Church’s response in the USA to the current political situation is a video on how to talk about political issues with those with different opinions, offering healing to society family by family through the practices of the Christian faith. As we hold each other in prayer we do so knowing

that in a broken world how to live together when we disagree is not a problem to be solved but a sign of the Gospel to be offered to a broken and troubled world.'

Prayer

Loving God, it's not easy facing this pandemic and all of its wide-reaching consequences. Nor is it easy being the ones making decisions which affect so many in vital ways. We pray for those in power, for your wisdom and discernment to guide the conversations and choices ahead. Grant us peace and grace in trying times, and draw us closer to you. Amen.

Jon Pope is in hospital at the moment and would welcome phone calls. Email me if you would like his number. Roger

Christmas Charity

Sadly **Christmas Charity** due to the pandemic we have had to delay our appeal for Whitechapel twice so far. So this year we will focus on Whitechapel as our Christmas Charity. There will be an opportunity to give to Action for Children in the first half of 2021. Roger Davis will provide more details next week.

Can you help approximately 600 refugees and asylum seekers who are in temporary accommodation in two Hillingdon hotels? They are especially in need of men's and teenage boys' clothing and waterproof shoes, and clothes for newborn and young babies. For further details contact: sarah@reap.org.uk

'Carols with Compassion' _____ will be on Compassion's Facebook page live on 6th December at 8:00 pm. A link to the video will be available for you from the 7th December 202

6pm Sunday Evening Service. Roger Dunlop

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81332285563?pwd=ZVB5YTk2bWVlQUx0RmFsbkxYlg2dz09> Meeting ID: 813 3228 5563. Passcode: 018864 Landline: 0203 051 2874

CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICE- This Sunday at **10.45am** please join us to share in worship with others from around the Circuit.

The Circuit Zoom service this Sunday 6th will be led by Mr Peter Davies. Please note that the login details have changed. Log into Zoom using the following details

Meeting ID: 886 0143 3540

Passcode: 611964

To receive full details of each week's service please e-mail hahzoomservices@gmail.com

CIRCUIT ZOOM JUNIOR CHURCH- Junior church will now start at **10am** and finish at 10.35am so that members can join the Circuit Zoom Service. The host might show as 'Little Acorn Services' so don't let that confuse you! Young members can join Junior Church: Meeting ID: 852 8828 1958 and passcode is: 487813

Prayer Course – next session: 'Contemplation'. 7.30pm Monday 14th December. All welcome!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89618167447?pwd=ZDduZ2lrQUhhQlZYWElpK2FObHc5Zz09> Meeting ID: 896 1816 7447. Passcode: 277185. Landline: 0203 051 2874

Traditional Carol Service with Premier Christian Radio & NCHW on Sunday, 6th December 6pm

“Welcome to the live stream of our Traditional Carol Service with Premier Christian Radio on Sunday, 6th December 2020. 6pm A very different, but traditional carol service.”

London District MWiB Presidential Appeal

The theme this year is "Living Water in Parched Lands".

We are asked to raise funds to support 'Robes' a charity offering shelter and food for homeless people in Southwark and Lambeth and building bore holes in Northern Ghana. Please see the attachment entitled 'Count our Blessings'. Please pass donations to Graham Lee by 24th January, making sure you inform him that they are for the MWiB appeal. Thank you. Please see attachmet.

Information about our New Minister

As you will all know Revd Roger Dunlop will be leaving the Circuit next July.

We are very pleased to announce that Revd Donghwan Kim will be joining the Circuit next September and will be the minister for Ruislip Manor and Ruislip and responsible for the Lighthouse Centre at South Ruislip. Dong is Korean and is at present studying in Korea, he has previously worked as a Circuit Minister in Kingston upon Thames and in Islington and Camden. We look forward to welcoming him and his family next September.

International Bible Reading Association

During this time of social distancing, separation and restrictions, loneliness can be experienced by many. We can feel more connected and bring God into our everyday lives by using daily Bible Reading notes. 'Fresh from The Word 2021' which contains a weekly theme, a daily reading, a daily prayer and daily action. The cost is £9.99. If you wish to order a copy (or copies) please email me:-

junebriggs03@gmail.com Thank you June Briggs



Community Bible Study – 2 of my churches in the past have had CBS groups that were appreciated. You can now try CBS online. See <https://cbsuk.org/>

Greetings to Church Friends

The Stewards are very sorry but the Christmas card exchange rack will not be available this year. Even the if church could open, we could not take the risk of people gathering to chat and picking up envelopes addressed to others. We would like you to consider sending one greeting to all your church friends rather than a lot of individual cards. Some people usually do this by pinning a single card on the notice board, for all to see.

This Christmas we will try a new way for people to exchange their greetings. We will produce a special edition of the news sheet just for Christmas greetings. This will be sent as a printed booklet to everyone on the church roll, so that nobody will be forgotten. Your greeting can be in the form of an actual Christmas card, a message, picture, prayer, poem, quotation, artwork, or news you want to share. Groups can also send a Christmas greeting if they wish. Please mark it “Christmas Greetings to Church Friends” and either post it through the church letterbox (in the hall door), or email it to Janet newsletter@rmmc.org.uk

Please be assured that if you need to send an individual card and you have not got the address to send it to, the stewards will do our best to get them there. If necessary church funds will be used for the postage.

Please speak to Janet F, Eileen, Andrew, or Jess if you would like more information, or can help with putting the booklet together or delivering it.

All the greetings sent in by Sunday 6th December will be included in the booklet. Grateful thanks to anyone able to send theirs any earlier.

Best wishes from the Stewards Team

Prayer Requests

We pray for Jon Pope as he recovers in hospital from a fall. Jon and Valerie thank everyone for their prayers and good wishes.

Please continue to pray for :-

anyone suffering from mental issues and from loneliness because of isolation.

all those who have contracted Coronavirus and thank God for all who have survived.

Prayers and Blessings to all at Ruislip Manor and beyond - stay safe.



Friday 4th December:

This week we pray for Northwood Methodist Church

We bring Hillingdon Council and Hillingdon Hospital to God in prayer.

We also pray for the people who live in Flamborough Road and Hatherleigh Road

We wish many happy returns to all who celebrate a birthday in December

There will be no News sheet for the week 27th December, if you have any items you would like included please let me have them by the deadline for the week before. The next News sheet will be for the week starting 3rd January 2021.

Some Online Carol Services

A recording of the **The Big Church Sing Christmas Special on 29 November** from All we Can; still available to be viewed -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSeBSh2w1GQ>

Sunday, 6th December 6pm Traditional Carol Service with Premier Christian Radio from MCHW (probably can be watched later as clashes with our Zoom)

“Welcome to the live stream of our Traditional Carol Service with Premier Christian Radio on Sunday, 6th December 2020. 6pm A very different, but traditional carol service.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo4OjaEdJHM>

Thursday 17 December at 6.30pm Alzheimer’s Society Virtual Carols at Christmas concert

[https://alzheimers.enthuse.com/ps/event/VirtualCarolsatChristmas2020?](https://alzheimers.enthuse.com/ps/event/VirtualCarolsatChristmas2020?utm_source=enthuse&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=Virtual_Carols_at_Christmas_2020)

[utm_source=enthuse&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=Virtual_Carols_at_Christmas_2020](https://alzheimers.enthuse.com/ps/event/VirtualCarolsatChristmas2020?utm_source=enthuse&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=Virtual_Carols_at_Christmas_2020)

Saturday 19 December 7.30pm Jazz Carols from the Jazz Community Church (Birmingham, UK)

<https://www.facebook.com/jazzcommunitychurch/videos/1136852196654959/>

Items for the News sheet for Friday 11th December to **Janet Miles**, by email

newsletter@rmmc.org.uk by **Wednesday 9th December**, please