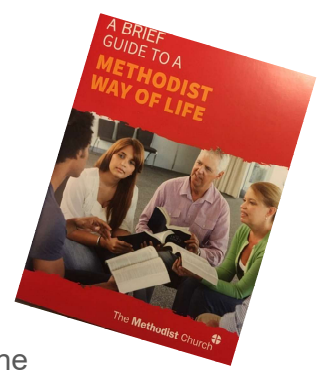


Dear Friends

Thank you to those of you who have taken up the recent Lent crafting challenge in preparation for Easter gifting. Between us, there is a rich tapestry of skills and experience. I look forward to seeing your crafted items as they are collected or delivered to church ready for sharing during Holy Week.



During the season of Lent, we traditionally remember how Jesus spent time in the wilderness and his experiences of being tested as he prepared for ministry (Matthew 4: 1-11). In Mark 1:29-39, we read how Jesus sets out his priorities of healing and proclaiming the Good News. He also takes time out to care for himself and stays true to his mission – so can we.

The calling of the Methodist Church is “to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission”. We continue to live in challenging and uncertain times. In trying new ways of ‘being church’, we remain united in purpose. Thank you.

In these challenging, interrupted times, it is good to remain focussed on our calling. With all the lockdown starts and stops over the last 10 months, 2020 has separated and isolated many of us from family, familiar worship and activities shared in fellowship.

Malachi 3: 6
I, the Lord, do not change

We can be reassured of God’s constancy throughout our times of disconnection and anxiety. We don’t know how or when new steps might be taken. Life ahead is still uncertain, but maybe, instead of rushing back to re-create busy diaries, we could take time to strengthen our faith foundations. With God alongside, we can seek guidance on where He might want us next.

Psalms 32:8,
The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you”.

The Commitments
As far as we are able, with God’s help, we will:
worship
learn and care
serve
evangelise

We might choose to reflect on our lives in the context of the four key areas of commitment offered for a Methodist Way of Life. You are invited to consider one area during each week of Lent. For a brief guide see <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/> . In time, when we can physically meet with everyone that is interested, we can look together at priorities for a new season with reference to these Commitments and practices.

Each week in Lent, there will be an opportunity to reflect together (Zoom or phone conference), or individually on Chapters 18 and 19 of John’s Gospel. You are invited to read through these chapters as a whole before looking at the weekly reflections.

Thank you to the Messy Church team who will be marking the start of Lent with a Celebration on 21st February (contact Sarah: Heworth.methodist@gmail.com for further information). The focus will be on the story of the Good Samaritan.



We are all invited to share ideas for self-care and to be kind and generous with each other.



Holy Trinity Church, Heworth have invited us to join them in a 40-day challenge of making a daily record of one thing for which you are thankful to God. It is suggested that Sundays are a day for reflecting on the blessings of the preceding week and to share your thoughts with someone else.

“May we each be a blessing within and beyond God’s Church, for the transformation of the world”

Go well with God
Alyson

10th February 2021

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