

Issue 18

19 July 2020

Together as One

Newsletter of the Methodist Churches in Hungerford, Lambourn,
Newbury and Thatcham during Coronavirus Pandemic

Verse for the week

Then a cloud appeared and covered them. A voice came from the cloud. It said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to him!" Mark 9:7 Nlrv

The rainbow that nearly wasn't - celebrating diversity

I invite you to use your imagination to create a different voice for each of the colours in this story, author unknown:

God rubbed his hands in glee. The terrible flood was over. The animals were coming out of the ark - trotting, wobbling, slithering, flying or trundling down onto the mountain top! There was Noah and his family building the altar to say thank you for their rescue! God had a lovely surprise ready for them. Something that would finish off their adventure with a beautiful ending that would be remembered for thousands of years to come.

'Oh, colours!' called God. 'It's your big moment!'

The gorgeous colours appeared around God's throne. But God could see something wasn't right. Orange was scowling. Red was grumpy. Blue was kicking the floor. Green was in a strop. Yellow had turned his back on everyone else and Purple seemed about to burst into tears.

'What in heaven is going on?' demanded God. The first colour to speak was Red. 'You said you want to put a bow in the sky,' she said. 'Well I think it should be red. Just red. Nothing but red. Don't mess about with this bunch of losers. Make it red.' 'Why?' asked God. 'Red is the boss of the colours. People really notice red. Red is hot and bright - the colour for fire and blood and traffic signs. If you want this bow to be noticed, you need it to be red.' 'I see,' murmured God.

'No! No! No! No!' squeaked Yellow. 'Your bow should be a beautiful yellow colour, Lord! Make it as yellow as the sunshine! As yellow as bananas! Make it bright and cheerful and shiny as me! Make it just yellow!' 'You're beautiful,' agreed God. 'But you're not as important as me!' Purple said pompously. 'Look! It's obvious your bow should be purple. Purple is the colour of emperors and kings. Purple is the sign of the most important. If you want power, pick pure purple.'

'I do like purple,' He said. 'But you don't want a purple bow!' shouted Green. 'Wheee! Look at me! Imagine a green bow in the sky! Now that would be really wow! Green is so zingy! So fizzy! So fresh! Like a bottle of green limeade sprayed across the sky. Don't mix me up with these other dull colours - make your bow green!' 'Oh please,' called Orange. 'It's so obvious that Orange is the colour you want. Orange like the sunrise. Orange is fruity and juicy and ripe! Make your bow orange, Lord!' 'You are so, like, unhip, man,' said Blue. 'It is so like, obvious that God's bow should be blue. Blue as the sea and sky, blue like rhythm 'n' blues. Blue like Sonic the Hedgehog blue. Blue is like the coolest colour in your box, Lord. I just know you're going to make your bow blue, blue, blue.'

Instantly all the colours started shouting at each other.

'Blue is boring!' 'Red is rubbish!' 'Purple's pathetic!' 'Yellow is so last year!' 'Green is gross!' 'Orange sucks!' 'Make your bow red! Blue! Yellow! Orange! Green! Purple!'

God raised one hand and spoke in a voice that no-one could disobey. 'Be quiet.' When the colours had settled down, trembling, God smiled at them.



'You are all just what I want you to be. Each of you does a different job. Without you, I couldn't do this most important job of all. I need to give my people a sign of my promise. I need them to know it is a perfect promise that will never be broken. I need them to know that it is for all people of all ages from all countries for all times. And so, my dear, dear colours, I need you all. Please, just for a moment, look at each other through my eyes.

The colours looked at each other and, now they looked through God's eyes, saw how beautiful each of the others was. With a big smile, they stood together. Down below, Noah and all the animals looked up in amazement. For there, between heaven and earth shone a radiant multi-coloured rainbow. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple - all the colours, all different, all together.

During the past few months we've seen how scientists, national and local government, key workers, community groups, charities and individuals have worked together, using their various skills, knowledge and expertise to deal with Covid-19. It's important to remember we *all* have a part to play in our world. We're all different, all together. Let's work together, appreciating each other's talents and use what we have for the glory of God.

With my love and God's blessing,
Karen

Methodist Prayer Handbook

As mentioned last week, the Circuit is generously making this available free of charge. Let Rev Peter or me know by phone or email **by 25 July** if you'd like a copy.



Wired for Sound—Update (from Issue 16)



Thatcham's project has taken off! Nine member households are listening to Worship at Home recorded by the person who prepares it each week. Two comments received: "It was a great help to me, made all the difference." "Hearing the voice rather than just reading the words was wonderful." Listeners have also been

provided with a USB stick containing favourite hymns which they can swap each week and the next stage of the project is to record some church members reading familiar bible passages and poems etc. If you're in Thatcham and would like one of the listening devices call Karen on 07444 851606, if you're in the other churches call Rev Peter on 01635 40014 and we'll see what we can do.

Corn Exchange, Newbury

Lots of good stuff going on with the Corn Exchange online <https://cornexchangenew.com/> E.g. Singing for Wellbeing, Memory Café, Rhyme and Shine. If you don't have the internet, perhaps you're in a "social bubble" with someone who does and they can help you access the activities. Go on, ask for help—you might be surprised how much fun you have together!

Rainbow photo on page 1

The positive power of Facebook: I asked if anyone had a local rainbow scene I could use. A lady called Anne Thompson got in touch. It turns out she is the daughter of Eric, a member at Thatcham! It's a small world! Many thanks Anne for permission to use your photo of the Market Place, Newbury.

And finally

Why isn't there any gold in a rainbow? Because it's all in a pot at the end of the rainbow!