

Methodist News



Farewell to Lincolnshire

This will be my last newsletter to you all as I move to take up a new position as superintendent in the Cumbria district. There is sadness, as I leave behind many people who I would count as friends, and particularly those who have been praying for and with me and my family over the last seven years; thank you. And there is joy, as I start in a new place, with new people to meet and walk alongside. And there is uncertainty; the churches I'm going to serve have not yet opened their doors after the last lockdown.

This year, Thy Kingdom Come takes place from 13th May to 23rd May 2021, nine days between Ascension and Pentecost that the church sets aside to pray (not that we don't pray on other days too!). And the words from the first day in the accompanying prayer journal seem to fit my situation.

The first followers of Jesus weren't called Christians. That came later. They were called followers of 'the way' (see Acts 24.14). This seems like a good place to start, especially at such a dark and difficult time for our world. The Christian faith is a way of life. In fact, Jesus himself says to his friends on the night before he dies, "I am the way".

Jesus shows us what humanity can be like when it is lived God's way. His kindness, generosity, goodness, and forgiveness are from God. This is what God is like. God welcomes everyone.

Life is hard. The way ahead isn't obvious. And faced with difficulty and uncertainty, God doesn't send us a rule book or a map. He sends a companion to walk with us: Jesus, the way. And he is not just the way for us; but for each and every person. Let us pray for those we know and love that they may find the way of Christ.

Prayer: *Loving God, when I'm feeling lost or lonely or afraid or uncertain of the way ahead, be my guide, a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. And today help me to be a good companion to those I meet."*

May you know God's presence with you, in the joy and the sorrow, and the uncertainty, and may we be good companions to those we meet on the road.

Grace and peace,

Revd Helen

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Services

We will be continuing in May with weekly services at the Chapel with the appropriate restrictions and precautions in place.

2nd May:	Revd Margaret Roe; Holy Communion
9th May:	Revd Martin Amery
16th May:	Own Arrangement
23rd May:	'Livestream' Circuit Pentecost Service
30th May:	Revd Alan Swann; Holy Communion

Other Activities

With restrictions easing, we are hoping that we can open soon for some of our other activities. When we have sorted which of these are feasible, we will contact those people who participate in these activities.

Pastoral Visitors

Our pastoral visitors and attendees continue to keep in touch with people associated with our chapel and our activities. If you know of anyone who feels that they would like some contact, please get in touch with our pastoral lady, Barbara, on 860823.

Prayers

It is good to keep in touch as a church and to know that prayers are being said. If you want us to pray for someone or a particular situation, please contact Ruth (861461) or Barbara (860823) and let them know.

A Poem

During Covid lockdown one of our talented attendees, Dale, wrote a poem which we would love to share with you.

The Spirit of the Computer

Your computer, your tablet and your phone
Have no spirit for worship of their own.
No human touch ability,
No eye-to-eye sincerity.
No look of love, and no embrace,
No sympathy or smiling face.
Social distancing and fear
Are not the things that God holds dear.
The opposite is more Christ's way,
Which makes us strong if we obey.
Zoom may let us have our say,
If you can beat the time delay.
Computers have no beating heart,
They cannot take the Spirit's part.
Pixelled faces, jumpy voices,
Timing an entrance, weighing up chances,
I'm just not on that digital page,
I guess that's all to do with age.
We have been blessed with our devices,
They've played their part in an awful crisis.
But pray that soon, for Heaven's sake
God's will will be the way we take.
Church is not made of scattered stones
But built as one in community homes.
So let's all do our very best
To bring an end to the awful test.
Obey the rules and soon we'll be
Gathering again at church for tea.
Hear God's voice, be free at last
And sing His praise without a mask.
We'll hug a friend, or one in need,
Take a hand and be a friend indeed.
Kneel in thanks before our Lord,
Shoulder to shoulder our Jesus adored.
Thank you Lord for bringing us through,
Restored, forgiven, in love renewed.

Dale – 10th April 2021