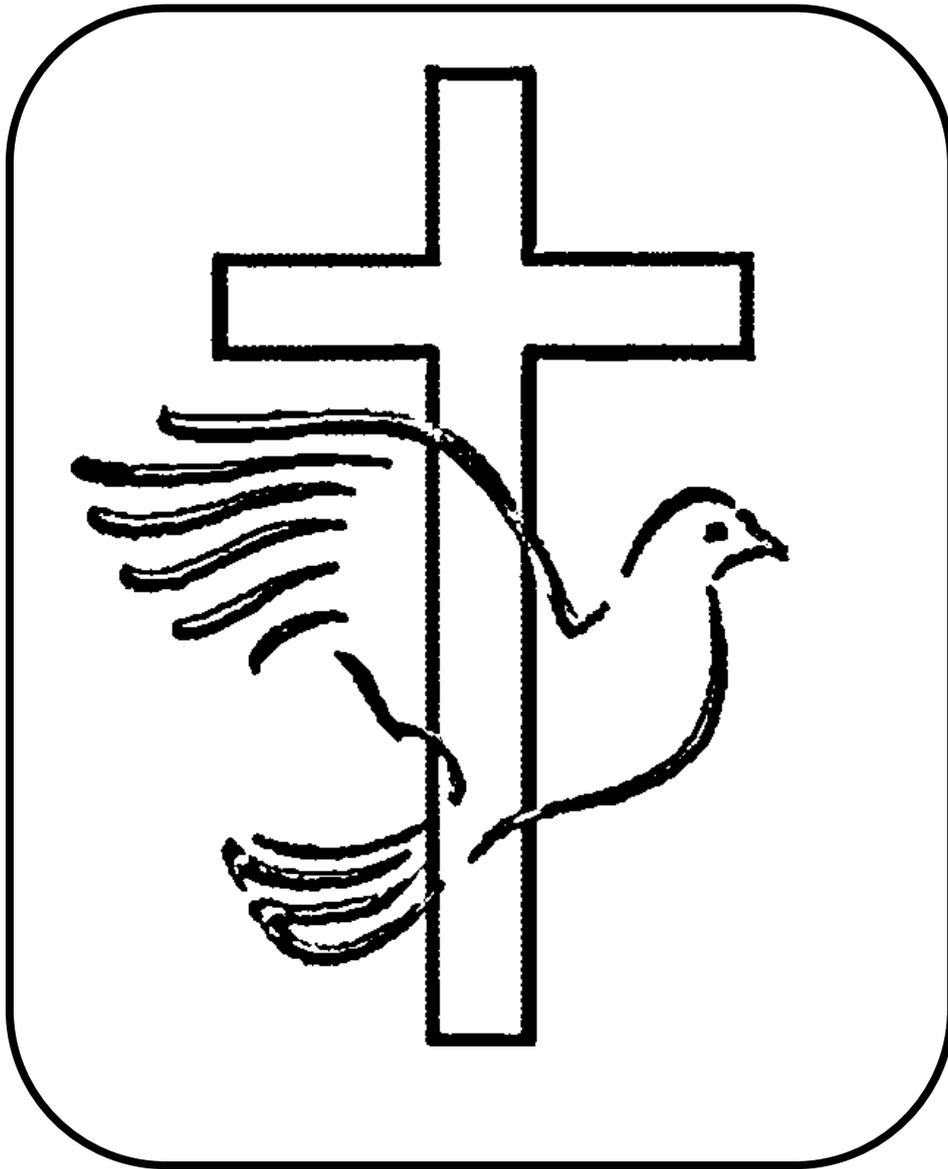




In - Touch

September/October 2019



THE METHODIST CHURCH WITNEY



Greetings!

So, after all these months of waiting, September is nearly upon us. At times it's felt a bit like a blind date. I filled in a profile, as did the circuit. I'm sure that we both tried to find the right words, the ones that make you sound fun, but not too quirky. I'm sure we both wrote truthfully, but also carefully not to expose any of those vulnerabilities or weaknesses you know you haven't quite ironed out yet. And then early January came and guess what? The Methodist church discerned that we are a match!

In truth it does feel a little bit like a blind date, just without Cilla or 'our Graham'. And you're now reading the first words of the new Rev, wondering if he'll cut the mustard.

I don't want to start out by offering any 'pearls of wisdom' or a 'thought of the day'. I'm not sure that that would really say much to you at this time. Instead I want to share with you a hope. You see five years or so ago when I started to explore my call to ordained ministry, I was quite happy to do that, but if I am honest, I prayed that it would not be in the Methodist church. I couldn't see that we were the best match. I wanted out. But five years later I am still here, and give praise to God that I am. The last five years have taught me that this church is a family that is loving, generous and caring. We really are grace-full. More so, I know we often hear the negative stories of decline, that our church is dying. Well today I want to call out that falsehood, that deception, for we are a people of hope. I believe with all my heart that the story is about to change. We are about to grow.

In this story we will all play our own part, so I want you to know that in my heart I feel that God is sending me to exactly the right place. It feels a good match and I know that it was one that was made prayerfully and with a strong sense of discernment from those involved. During my brief visits it has been good to meet a number of you already and I felt joy and excitement as I recognised the presence of the Holy Spirit. I say again, it feels a good match.

The welcome and love that Adrienne and I have already felt from the circuit has been extraordinary and I sincerely want to thank you for your kindness. It has been touching. To all of you who have been working behind the scenes to make this move happen, you have blessed us. I would also like to offer my own thanks to Melanie too. It is clear that she is highly regarded and won't be the easiest act to follow, but that's a good thing! My prayer is that I will be the right person for this right time, and that together we can build on the legacy of those that have served before us and maybe, just maybe, experience some growth of our own (and I don't just mean numerically).

Rev

Jason Cooke

High Tea at High Street

4pm in the Coffee Bar at High Street Methodist Church, Witney

Sunday 15 September Sunday 20 October

All welcome but booking is essential. There is no charge!

Supported by Witney Rotary Club and Witney Lions



Book at brenda_edwards234@hotmail.com

Personal News and Prayer Concerns

Newland

It has been something of a summertime lull at Newland over May and June with people away and other reasons, with lower attendance at both Saturday coffee mornings and Brian and Leah holding the fort at the 12.30pm prayer meeting in May and June. However, the Thursday evenings have continued, with the help of David and Celia, catering several times while David and Shirley have been away, and Brian, John and Mary taking turns to lead the meeting, introducing the speaker etc.

On a recent Thursday evening we said our farewell to Rev Melanie Reed and her husband Paul, and although a previous fish and chip supper was not overly good, from a local Chinese takeaway, this time we got them from a Madley Park chippy and although they were OAP portions (all in individual boxes) it was plenty enough, and still almost too much for Melanie. Overall it was a memorable evening. However, on a more sombre note, we need to uphold Melanie and Paul in prayer as the place they are going (Leyburn in the Yorkshire Dales) was the victim of extreme weather that struck various places in the north recently.

The Newland monthly Sunday afternoon service in July was called off as we joined all of the other circuit churches at what turned out to be a huge gathering at High Street that morning. It has to be said that the communion and church stewards, and others, did a great job, at what turned out to be a really good send-off for Rev Melanie Reed and husband Paul, from the circuit. By the time you read this we will hopefully have had something like as big a gathering on the evening of Thursday 29 August to welcome the new minister to High Street and Newland, Rev Jason Cooke and his wife Adrienne.

One of our Thursday evening speakers, Dennis spoke about climate change, which in due course turned out to be very poignant. Back in May a new town council was elected in Witney, with one positive outcome being that the leader of the town council hosted a climate change meeting, with different speakers and 150 attending. This surely is something of a seismic change for Witney. Then around the same time. Oxford City Council declared a climate emergency to also look into these matters.

For we who are in the church it has caused me to wonder if all of us who are seeking to lead God fearing lives in Christ do need to ask in prayer every day for help to live life responsibly, sensibly and considerately. Robin

Edmunds

Davenport Road

Whilst preparing this article, many in the church congregation are busy getting ready for our 24/7 prayer weekend, commencing on Friday 30 August running through to the Celebration service led by Rev Rose on Sunday 1 September. We pray that all may learn, receive and share in the blessings God provides as we work through our 'School of Prayer'. We know we are joined by many in

other churches in the town and Circuit this weekend, as we bring to God our praise, our needs and our worship.

This autumn we are going to study 'The Bible Course' – a great resource from the Bible Society. Open to all, so why not join us on Wednesday lunch times, starting at 12 noon for a light lunch followed by the course, helping you explore the world's bestseller, finishing around 2pm. Course starts Wednesday 25 September and runs every Wednesday finishing 13 November. You don't have to attend all sessions, but judging by the resource material, I think you may want to. For more information and to register an interest please email davrd763@btinternet.com or prayer@davroadchurch.co.uk.

Our Harvest celebrations will commence on Saturday 5 October with our Harvest Supper at 5pm, to be followed by a performance from the Witney Town Band – always a brilliant draw. Tickets available shortly (£5) – come to supper and/or the Band concert (6.30pm). Our Harvest Festival services on the Sunday will be led by Rev Charles Harris (am) and Rev Jason Cooke (eve).

We pray too at this time for some of our congregation who have had and are undergoing ongoing health issues remembering Chris and Graham, Sarah, Sylvia and Pat, Eileen, Robin, and June and Ken. We particularly think of their families and friends who share the burden of care and concern and pray that they will know the presence of our God and Saviour through these troubling times.

Judith Bucknall

Towards the end of their degree medical students have the opportunity to spend time experiencing healthcare in another country. I chose to spend four weeks working with World Medical Fund (WMF) in Nkhotakota, a market town around three hours outside the capital of Malawi. WMF is a UK based charity running pop-up health clinics in rural villages, as well as ongoing treatment for children receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS.

As students we had the opportunity to help take histories (albeit with our very limited Chichewa), examine patients and run what limited tests were available. While many conditions we encountered are common in the UK, such as asthma and chest infections, there were many others that are rarely seen: malnutrition, malaria, skin infections and even tuberculosis. Diagnosis was difficult as we lacked many tests that would be readily available in any GP or hospital. Even once a child had been diagnosed, the treatments available were again limited. Despite these challenges, the charity's clinics are invaluable to the communities, since they are both free and accessible – most patients do not have the means to travel to the nearest hospital.

Once a month the charity run a 'Teens club' open to all children receiving HIV/AIDS treatment at the clinic. The day I helped at the club we ran games, craft activities and had a chance to distribute the donations I had brought to the children, many of which were kindly donated by the congregation of Davenport Road Methodist church and parents at Girls' Brigade 1st Witney Company.

It was a real privilege for me to share a small part of the lives of the children at the clinics and the vital work WMF is doing in rural communities. I would like to thank everyone who so generously gave games, craft supplies and clothing for me to take.

Carenza Glithero

High Street

Over 300 from Witney and Circuit churches packed into High Street on Sunday 28 July for Rev Melanie Reed's Farewell Service. We shall miss Melanie and wish her and Paul well in her next appointment as superintendent in the North Yorkshire Dales Circuit based in Leyburn. We thank her for the five years of much appreciated ministry here in Witney and pray that she will settle in quickly and will be happy and fulfilled in her new circuit.

On Sunday evening 18 August when there was a Local Arrangement on the Plan Roy Cobb, with Rev Hilary Ewing and others, arranged a service singing much loved old hymns popular many years ago! Much lusty singing from over 70 who attended. Some of us (not brought up in the Methodist Church) sang along but had to admit we had never before sung a few of them! It was good to welcome people from some of the circuit churches who joined us over tea and cake afterwards. There was a retiring collection following and a total was raised £88, which will be sent to All We Can.

We welcome the arrival of Rev Jason Cooke and his wife Adrienne and pray for them as they settle in and get to know us. We pray for Jason as he develops his ministry here and continues with his studies and we look forward to this next stage in the life of High Street Methodist Church. We also look forward to the arrival of Anna Pile in her work in the circuit with children and families and spending 50% of her time at High Street. We have recently been very pleased to welcome new members, Carol Port and Sandy Lewsey, and also Pauline Williams who transferred from Chipping Norton on moving to live in Witney.

Congratulations to Dave and Shirley who celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 5 September and Gertie and Peter who celebrate completing their 60 years on 13 September. More congratulations - to Derrick who celebrated his 90th birthday in July and to Naomi, Bronwen and Michaela who did so well in their A level exams. Naomi is off to York University to study music, Bronwen to Oxford Brookes to do an Art Foundation course and Michaela to Swansea University to study law. We also congratulate our young people who now have their GCSE results and pray for them as they move on to study for their A levels or start other courses. We pray that in their busy lives they will find time to pray and attend worship whenever they can.

We were most impressed by the very able way Naomi led worship on Sunday 18 August on the final service in her Worship Leader training. Well done, Naomi. The following Sunday worship was led very competently, engagingly and memorably by Fraser who recently qualified as a Local Preacher whilst studying for a PhD at Durham University. These two young people have come through Junior Church and continue to worship with us when they can. We are proud of them and wish them well as they continue their faith journey.

We were sad to learn of the death of Mary's husband, Ken, who died on 14 August aged 93. Ken ran a TV and radio shop in Witney for many years and was a well-known businessman in the town. We remember Mary and her family in our prayers in her grief and bereavement.

Please remember in your prayers; Ron, Cicley and Sharon Brian, Carmen, Ken and Phyll, Heather, Paul, Nancy, Muriel, Jean, Megan, Ruth and Mary all living with their own particular health difficulties. We also remember our housebound friends and others who find it difficult to join us at church: Pino and Sylvia, Elsie; Sharon, Marjorie, all in residential accommodation and also Gill, Joyce and Michael, Yvonne, Dot and Margaret living in their own homes. We pray for them, trust that they are well cared for, and aware of our loving thoughts and the comfort of God's presence with them.

Anne Crawford

**1st Sunday
every month**

4-6pm



**High Street Methodist
Church**

Fun Food Fellowship

Messy Church is an informal, interactive gathering for people of any age or background to come and explore the Christian faith. Come on your own, with a friend or bring your whole family. There are activities to use your creativity and imagination, and space for quiet or conversation. A chance to make new friends and catch up with old ones. You don't need to bring a child but all children must be accompanied by an adult. We end by sharing a meal.
www.witneymeth.org.uk

High Street Women's Fellowship

2nd and 4th Mondays at 2.30pm in the Wesley Room followed by tea, biscuits and a chat.

Monday 9 September: Lisa West from 'Home Start' who meet on the church premises on working with families with young children.

Monday 23 September: Anne Crawford with an illustrated talk on Falkirk to Edinburgh by narrow boat.

Monday 14 October: Rev Brenda Woods will take us on another trip down Memory Lane.

Monday 28 October: Carol Shearman will talk about the charity 'Dogs for Good'.



An invitation to all ladies (and gentlemen!) to an informal, friendly afternoon with hymns, prayers and an interesting informative talk. Come and join us!

Make Time for God! Reading the Bible regularly can truly make a difference to you and your walk of faith. Download free samplers for a variety of Bible reading notes from biblereadingnotes.org.uk/samples-and-promotions-materials, produced by Bible Reading Fellowship in Abingdon. It doesn't take

much time to read the daily notes even five minutes at breakfast, on the bus to work, before going to bed, etc. Why not give it a try!

Anne Crawford



Moon Stories

If you're not aware that 20 July was the fiftieth anniversary of the first moon landing, where have you been?!

Almost everyone knows Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first people to stand on the moon. Almost everyone knows what Armstrong said: 'That's one small step for [a] man, one

giant leap for mankind.' But I wasn't aware that Buzz Aldrin celebrated communion on the Eagle before they stepped out on to the moon's surface.

Aldrin was a Christian and an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas. Before the flight he had wondered about how to mark the landing. He has written that his pastor Dean Woodruff had told him 'God reveals himself in the common elements of everyday life' – like bread and wine. Woodruff gave him a silver chalice to take with him on the flight, and there was just enough gravity for him to be able to pour the wine from a plastic container. Aldrin says 'In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements.' He also read from John 15.5: 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without me.' When Jesus said this he did not mean that we can do nothing at all without him; he meant that we can do nothing *eternal* without him. That's why it was important for Aldrin to take communion. Before he did, he radioed back to NASA: 'I would like to request a few moments of silence. I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whomever he may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in his own individual way.' NASA kept quiet about what he was doing because it feared a lawsuit brought by Madalyn Murray O'Hair. She had taken NASA to court because the crew of Apollo 8, had read out the creation story from Genesis during their orbit. She maintained that this violated the constitutional division between church and state.

Did you know...

300 microfilmed King James Versions of the bible were carried on the Apollo 14 mission at the instigation of the Apollo Prayer League; 100 of these went down to the moon in the lunar module with astronaut Edgar Mitchell.

There's also a paper bible still on the moon; it's on the dashboard of an abandoned lunar rover and was left there by Apollo 15 astronaut David Scott.

Apollo 15 astronaut James Irwin walked on the moon in 1971 and became an evangelical Christian after his return to earth explaining that 'Jesus walking on the earth is more important than man walking on the moon.'

Pope Francis told the public in St Peter's Square on 20 July 2019 that the Apollo 11 lunar landing achieved an 'extraordinary dream.' Then he expressed hope that the memory of that 'great step for humanity' would motivate us to

seek progress on other fronts: 'more dignity for the weak, more justice among people, more future for our common home.' Amen to that. RL Various sources

Conference 2019 Digest

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson was inducted as President and Prof Clive Marsh as Vice-President of the Conference. 'So, What's the Story...?' was the theme chosen by the President for her address, with the Vice-President exploring 'Pleasure, piety and politics' in his address.

22 presbyters and four deacons were received into Full Connexion on Sunday morning along with seven presbyters by transfer, and one by reinstatement. Later that day ordination services took place in four venues across the region. The Theology and Ecclesiology underpinning the Diaconate and the Methodist Diaconal Order: Conference adopted this major report which emphasises that deacons are ministers of the Church, focusing and representing a ministry of witness and service. Conference reaffirmed that the Methodist Diaconal Order is a religious order open only to those who are deacons in Full Connexion with the Conference and that all Methodist deacons are also required to be members of the Methodist Diaconal Order. The report explored the broad ministry of proclamation as it is exercised by deacons and affirmed that preaching is part of the ministry of deacons.

Conference received the Statement of Connexional Finances for 2017/2018 and adopted the Connexional Central Services Budget for three years commencing with 2019/2020. The budget for income in 2019/2020 is £36.2m and the expenditure £41.2m, a net deficit of over £5m. This reflects a deliberate policy of reducing reserves on some funds by releasing additional amounts for grants.

Jasmine Yeboah, Youth President, reflected on her presidential theme, encouraging young people to step outside of their comfort zone to do something courageous for Christ. In her address Jasmine spoke of the priority for the Church to listen to the voices of children and young people. A 3Generate manifesto has been developed (printed elsewhere in this magazine) and local Churches are encouraged to actively to engage with it by including it on Church Council agendas and committing to intentional actions as a response.

The Methodist Council, charged with responsibility to review the life of the Church, reported to Conference and received approval for a change in focus for the work of One Mission from a connexional Forum to connexional support for events in Districts which will enable a broader engagement with One Mission thinking, resources and inspiration more locally and an encouragement to churches to increase their awareness of human trafficking and what they can do to prevent it. Conference received a report relating to practical strategies for implementing a connexional approach to vocations. Conference agreed to create a Global Relationships Committee, to be appointed by the Council who will also set its terms of reference. This will advise and support the Connexional Team in overseeing the implementation, development and monitoring of the strategy of expressing One Mission through our global relationships.

Conference received a report celebrating some of the ways in which the reaffirmation of Our Calling has shaped the life and work of the Methodist

Church during the 2018/2019 connexional year. Workshops explored the implications of

this renewed focus on Our Calling by reimagining structures of decision-making and the developing of an emerging strategy of evangelism and growth.

Action for Children: Conference encouraged all Methodists to write to their local MPs to express their concerns about the ongoing plight of children in the UK. **Following debates**, the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group was commended to the Connexion for study and prayerful discussion. Provisional resolutions were passed on the qualities of good relating, an understanding of cohabitation, celebration of civil partnerships, prayers following the end of a marriage and permission for same-sex marriages to take place in Methodist Churches. These will be voted on by District Synods and a report will be brought to the 2020 Conference based on those responses. A clause has been included in the proposals that no one would have to officiate at a same-sex marriage if they feel prevented by their conscience.

Conference expressed its concern about the crisis in housing and homelessness and commended the work being taken by churches and communities across the Connexion to support people experiencing homelessness and to provide housing and combat the housing crisis. Conference agreed to encourage Circuits and Districts to consider increasing the social impact of property in local mission and how property might play a part in a holistic housing strategy of reduction, respite, recovery and reconnection. Conference urged the Government to accelerate its targets to eliminate rough sleeping, allow local authorities to build more housing, including more genuinely affordable homes.

The Council reported to the Conference that it had endorsed proposals for the development of Eco Circuits and Eco Districts along with the Eco Church awards. Conference received a memorial which highlighted the need for urgent action on climate change. Recognising the climate emergency, Conference endorsed the need for urgent action. Conference also adopted a notice of motion concerned with reducing the use of plastic.

Conference discussed matters relating to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). Concerns were expressed about procedures relating to incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination and the ways in which EDI issues are dealt with in stationing processes. These will be discussed by the Methodist Council.

Memorials are messages from Circuit Meetings and District Synods to the Conference and enable Conference to hear and to respond to concerns from across the Connexion. Conference considered and replied to 56 Memorials on topics including: safeguarding training, marriage and relationships, Israel/Palestine and a proposal for a year of prayer.

Conference debated and adopted a variety of Notices of Motion (items of business put forward during the Conference) including: the role of the Youth President, reviewing the complaints and discipline processes and support for refugees including support for the Lift the Ban campaign which seeks to make it possible for those seeking asylum to work.

Conference designated the Revd Richard Teal to be President and Carolyn Lawrence to be Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2020/2021.

So, what's the story? Presidential Address 2019

Behind our question are a lot more questions: who is in the story, who have we left out, where is God in the story, what does the Bible have to say?...How the story of God and the stories about God, the stories of life and the stories about life, make sense of who we are as humans, created and loved in a world full of perplexity and delight...We are called to tell stories, to listen to stories and to wrestle with stories, to search for truth not fake news, to challenge the malicious stories we tell about each other and to go on believing that as people of creation, exodus, crucifixion, wilderness wandering and even in exile we can still claim the hope of resurrection and the gracious promise of life in all its fullness.

In 1887, Samuel Pollard, a Cornish Bible Christian gave up his proposed career in the civil service and boarded a vessel heading for China. He was 22 years old...he arrived at the mission station in Zotong. Together with his wife Eama they founded a school and a missionary college in the mountain region of Shimenkhan and raised their family. Samuel grew a pigtail and learned the local languages and...set about developing a script to translate the Bible into the language of the local Miao people. In 1915 he died and was buried in the mountains of Shimenkhan...In 1950, all English missionaries were ordered to leave...The Miao people buried their Bible in the ground, prayed in secret and learned how to hunker down through China's Cultural Revolution.

At many levels this is a familiar story for Methodists...and yet, our colonial history is not something of which we can be unreservedly proud. We exported an English version of faith, British norms and cultural expectations. We took disease, we took judgment, and we made promises that we are reluctant to keep when our colonial heritage came to visit *our* shore. Even in the telling of this story I am giving a white Western perspective: it would be interesting to hear the story told by our Chinese guests or by the descendants of Samuel or more particularly by the Miao people themselves.

In 2017 a group visited China as part of a Churches Together in Britain and Ireland delegation, to forge links with the church that is currently the fastest growing in the world...The small group arrived in Shimenkhan with their translators, guides, umbrellas and luggage on a rainy day in August...After lunch, we made our way towards the Church...This small building was packed with people in traditional costume, bright with embroidery, hair plaited, babies in their arms. These were the Miao people, singing a welcome. The song was 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine ...' the hymn that they had learned from Samuel Pollard ...and everyone cried when the old, old lady with no teeth hugged us tightly and said, 'Thank you for coming back!'

And that, in a way, would be a great end to the story, because we want to hear the news that the Christian Amity Foundation in China has not only published more than 180 million Bibles which are exported all over the world but also that we can lay flowers on the grave of Samuel Pollard and feel that we are not so guilty of colonial violations that exterminated communities. We want to know that somehow there is redemption and salvation in this temporal story, that life

and love is triumphing over death and destruction and we are redeemed by history.

But we cannot continue to tell stories like this from a triumphalist point of view. Britain was never the centre of the known world and it certainly isn't now...we need to listen more deeply and more carefully. We need to strain our ears and our hearts because love demands that we listen differently and are prepared to dig deeper. We spend so much time, staring at the sky, hoping God will notice us through some heavenly binoculars. But, like Hagar, we need to believe in the living water, deep down in the cracked, parched earth under our feet. When we are most vulnerable and lost, God hands us a spade. We are called to dig deep, to shovel, to hunker down, to sift and claw the soiled, scarred earth, until even in the spoil heap of our own bewildering pain we uncover some small surprising thing, some essential, precious, lovely pearl that bears our true name, our glorious fragile strength...

God and the Liverpool District Chair...alone know why I was lobbed into the centre of Liverpool to make bread, but in this unlikely venture I began to see the fractured and broken world that lay below the surface of people's lives. I began to hear stories that did not yet have a polished narrative or a triumphant conclusion. I met troubling and confusing people...and there we sifted through the spoil heaps of bewildering pain. I heard coming out stories of transformation, where the 'conversation on marriage and relationships' turned into people with faces and 'issues' were enlivened. I heard from people who had attempted suicide because the church told them they could not be who God had made them. I heard the unbearable stories of abuse and degradation and loss and brokenness. I heard what it was like to live in a wheelie bin because that was safer than the streets. I heard of abuse in churches, by churches, in families and by families...I heard survivor voices, vulnerable stories, coming out narratives, from people who had never been listened to by anyone much, least of all the church. As we kneaded and shaped and baked and ate bread, the stories cracked open on the flour-covered communion table of our community, messy, incomplete and fragmented, from the silent, the silenced and the unheard. In the untold, untellable truth of our inhumanity and our carelessness with each other, and in all this confusion and mess, we uncovered small surprising things, some essential, precious, lovely pearls that bore our true name, our glorious fragile strength.

And these people taught me in my heart what (I knew in) my head, that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus - even though our inhumanity to each other can certainly get close to doing so. These people are gifted with a deeper knowledge; their bodies, their unhealed wounds, their multiplicity of grief, are the calligraphy of a counter-narrative, the discourse of vulnerability. They live litanies of disappointment and embody unsettling stories of brokenness. Yet, mysteriously from this contradictory space also emerges the holy belly-laugh of liberation.

But of course, this is still not the end of the story, because God continues to tap us on the shoulder and call us to give account of what is going on in the world...It is not sufficient for the church to go about telling good news stories,

nor even good enough that we are contrite and apologetic for the things we did badly

wrong, either to nations or individuals. We are called to give account for what is happening around us in the world. We cannot be present to the struggles of the world around us and (not) offer proper food...something that offers nutrition and flavour, energy and life. We need to give account of what good can come from following Jesus...

We may think that...humanitarian and environmental disaster is a million miles away, but what...humanitarian crises show us is what happens when we other the other, when we divide along lines of faith, gender or ethnicity or for any other reason; when we forget that the human being in front of us is as much loved by God as we are. We can no longer say 'It's another world' - it is the same world.

And othering the other, wherever it occurs - in Myanmar...Bradford, our church or our living room...then we are not true to the faith that has the unique call to love our enemies and pray for those that persecute us. Make no mistake, there is an imperative to our calling to 'live with contradictory convictions' that is not simply about inclusion but about an urgent need for reconciliation and peace, not just for Methodists but for the world. People of faith are not the only people called to respond to this imperative or love: many *can* and do, but we *must*.

(It has been said) 'Christianity is not difficult, but it is costly'...at one level there is nothing simpler than saying yes to faith and standing up and following a path of peace and love...but it will cost a great deal, not just individually but as a church. If we are really going to love our enemies and pray for those that persecute us, then we will need to remain present in difficult places...to stay in communities that can't afford us, but we cannot afford to abandon. We will need to be people of reconciliation and peace in an increasingly angry and divided Britain. We will need to commit ourselves to not only making the church inclusive, but allowing those who we might think 'on the edge' to challenge and transform us. We need to listen in three dimensions to what is told and what lies in the dark spaces between the words...

We are an organisation with a unique mandate for unconditional love...We can - when we stop being so anxious about our buildings, statistics and rotas - be places of peace and restoration. We are people of a multitude of wise, troubling, hilarious, faithful human stories - so let's tell them, and surprise ourselves once again with the way of Jesus. And let's find new confidence in the story of God, not as a mallet to knock in stakes of certainty, but with hearts strangely warmed with the assurance that the world can be changed through unconditional love...The world changes, lives change when we get back to the simple, costly mandate of faith to love our neighbours and our enemies with the open arms of unconditional love...and we who are...marinated in faith or just dipping a tentative toe...big wigs and small fry, gay or straight or trans or undefined, broken, diffident or downright scared, all of us, each of us is called to this simple, costly way, living out our stories within the eternal, challenging, costly, glorious stories of God - because nothing in all creation can separate us from it...

From Rev Dr Barbara Glasson's presidential address to Methodist Conference

The whole text is at www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2019/conference-programme/2019-06-29/1415-pm/the-presidents-address/

Prayers for Harvest

Loving Father, we thank you for creating this beautiful earth and all the varied life forms within it. Forgive us for having recklessly exploited it, changing its weather, depleting its resources, treating animals as 'commodities' and creating divisions between rich and poor, east and west, north and south, haves and have-nots.

Help us to turn away from our self-interest and greed, to protect the climate and the life which depends on it, and to begin to live in such a way that we do not rob others of the means to live, either those now living or those who will come after us.

We ask it in the name of your Son, through whom all things were made.

Lord of the harvest we thank you for all who have worked on land and sea to provide our daily food. We remember our farmers and fishermen and those in other parts of the world who have planted the seed and tended the crops, and the fruit of whose labours we enjoy.

Grant that they may receive justice, a fair return for their labour and hope for the future with a stable climate.

We pray too for those who package and deliver our food, for shopkeepers and restaurateurs, for those concerned with the nation's health and for ourselves, that we may shop wisely and with thought for others.

We ask this in the name of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

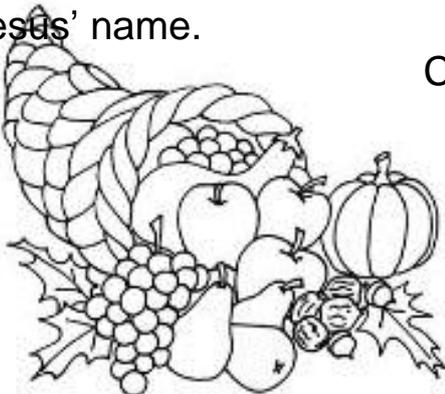
Father, we are mindful that whilst we are well fed and nourished there are many who are short of food, whose harvests have failed for lack of rain as climate changes, or whose livelihood has been destroyed by war, inhumanity and exploitation.

Bless the development agencies who are seeking to redress the balance and bring peace and justice where there is want, discord and destruction.

Bless those who work for climate justice so that all countries, rich and poor, will have an equal entitlement per person to create greenhouse gas emissions.

Give us generous hearts that from our riches we may increasingly give our support to those working among the poor and under-privileged in the world, and keep us ever mindful of our Lord's command to love our neighbours – whether close at hand or in the wider world – as ourselves. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Christian Ecology Link / www.christian-ecology.org.uk



In the fading of the summer sun,
the shortening of days, cooling breeze,
swallows' flight and moonlight rays.
In the browning of leaves once green,
morning mists, autumn chill,
fruit that falls, frost's first kiss,

We see the Creator's hand.

Still getting involved

When one retires and inevitably get somewhat left out of previous activities and involvement, I have found that the internet offers a way to at least feel not quite so helpless and alienated and a way of expressing continuing concern for issues far and wide. The ability to sign protest letters and donate small amounts to causes close to one's heart is just a click away. So it is that thousands of active Christians have signed a letter to the Prime Minister expressing concern that failing to agree a deal on Brexit will 'hit those held back by poverty very hard indeed'. The open letter was signed on behalf of seven Church denominations, including the Methodist Church, and issued on 24 July. The leaders say they have been 'compelled' to write because of the Prime Minister's position that leaving the European Union without a deal is acceptable.

The letter states that 'At a time when increasing numbers of families have difficulties putting enough food on the table, we believe it is irresponsible to consider a course of action that is expected to make that situation worse'. It goes on, 'It is notable that assurances about our ability to cope with a no-deal Brexit, while frequent, are yet to be supported by substantial evidence' and asks the Government to publish evidence of the impact a no-deal Brexit on disadvantaged communities. It invites the Prime Minister to visit one of the many social action projects run by churches to support millions of citizens who live in poverty. It is well known that church-based food banks and other social projects are already dealing with increasing numbers of people hard hit over the last few years.

Specific concerns over food supply, pricing as well as availability of medical supplies and energy are raised in the letter. It warns that, in the event that a deal is not reached, 'In essence, the Government will be relying on the hope that our former EU partners are willing to co-operate even without an agreement – a huge gamble to take with the basic needs of our poorest citizens and communities.'

The full text is available on the Joint Public Issues website

Robin Gurney

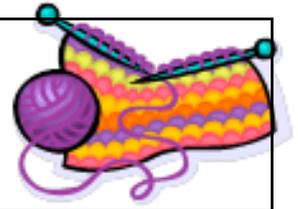
Our past shapes our future

Block by block we build foundations
That turn into skyscrapers
From humble beginnings
Big ideas and visions are turned into life features
We are the makers
We are the creators
Dream big
Surpass your imagination
It all stops when you stop moving
So keep on grinding
Live how you dream
Dream how you want to live
You can, I can
We all can
It all starts with your imagination. Thanks to Derrick King for the info!

This is painted around the interior of the Corn Exchange in Leeds – now a centre for independent shops. It demonstrates that churches don't have a monopoly on the metaphysical and spiritual; many civic buildings have thought provoking installations and you can find profound, inspiring and even

comforting words in the most unlikely places - you only have to keep your eyes open and look! RL

Knit and Natter High Street Church Coffee Bar
Tuesdays 10.30-1 If you can't knit someone will show you how
and if you don't want to knit, just come for a natter!



3GENERATE

CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY

Manifesto 2019

Make 2019 a year to be courageous

The children and young people at 3Generate 2018 have spoken out. Trusting that God is with us, we want to be a part of a Church that knows, shows and shares God's Love. Therefore, together we want to:

- Take action on homelessness in local areas
- Look after the environment by:
 - Recycling
 - Using less plastic
 - Picking up litter
- Seek those who are lonely & struggling and do something to help them
- Create safe spaces inside and outside the Church, where people don't judge, but listen and offer support
- Be creative and varied in how we worship God
- Get to know and learn about people in our local communities so that we:
 - Build relationships
 - Break down barriers
 - Stop prejudice

How will YOU engage with, speak out about and respond to this Manifesto? How will you tell your story?

Visit www.methodist.org.uk/3Generate for resources and ideas

3Generate is an action-packed and inspiring weekend for hearing the voice of children and young people across the Methodist Church, focussing on fun, faith and friends. In 2018, 3Generate welcomed 1,100 children and young people aged 8–23 from all over the country, including Scotland and the Channel Islands. The Manifesto for 2019 above was produced by the children and young people at the event. 3Generate 2019 is at Pontins in Southport, 22-24 November.

More info: www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/3generate/

Michaelmas – 29 September

Michaelmas, more formally the Feast of St Michael the Archangel was once one of the most important days of the Christian year. Michaelmas differs from the other saints' days in that it honours a spirit and not a human being. It is also known as the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, the Feast of the Archangels, or the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, sometimes a fourth angel, Uriel, is included. St Michael was given his own feast day by Pope Gelasius in AD 487, and a basilica near Rome was dedicated to him. Afterwards several apparitions of Michael were reported from around the world. One was in the 8th century at what is now Mont Michel in Normandy and another at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall. Of all the angels, Michael was by far the most important and popular in the Middle Ages and Michaelmas was a Holy Day of Obligation ie attendance at mass was expected.

Because it falls near the equinox, Michaelmas is associated with the beginning of autumn and the edging into winter; its celebration encourages protection during the dark months as it was believed that negative forces were stronger in the dark. It also marked the ending and beginning of the husbandman's year, and was the time to make out and settle the accounts for the year.

Traditionally, a well fattened goose, fed on the stubble from the fields after the harvest, is eaten to protect against financial need in the family for the next year; as to 'Eat a goose on Michaelmas Day, Want not for money all the year'. The day was also known as 'Goose Day' and goose fairs were held around this time.

The Michaelmas daisy, which flowers between late August and early October, provides colour to gardens at a time when the majority of flowers are coming to an end. The daisy is probably associated with Michaelmas because, as St Michael is celebrated as a protector from darkness and evil, the daisy fights against the advancing gloom of the shorter days and longer nights. The act of giving a Michaelmas daisy symbolises a farewell, perhaps in the same way as Michaelmas Day is seen to say farewell to the productive year and to welcome in the new cycle.

Saint Michael the Archangel is referenced in the Old Testament and has been part of Christian teachings since the early church. In Roman Catholicism Saint Michael has four distinct roles. First, he is the commander of the Army of God and as such is the enemy of Satan. Scripture describes him as 'one of the chief princes' and the leader of heaven's forces in their triumph over the powers of hell. He defeated Satan and ejected him, together with his angels, from Paradise and will achieve victory at the hour of the final battle with Satan. Saint Michael is the traditional prototype of the spiritual warrior, a paradigm extended to other warrior saints eg St George. Secondly, he is the Christian angel of death and is present at the hour of death. Traditionally, he is charged to assist the dying and give each soul the chance to redeem itself before accompanying them to their particular judgment, where he serves as an advocate. Michael's third role is weighing souls on Judgment Day and is often depicted holding scales. Finally, he is the Guardian of the Church; his traditional role as prince-

protector of the Jewish people being adopted by the Christian Church.
Various sources. RL

'Saints Alive'

District REIMAGINE Conference

All Saints Church, Appleford Drive, Abingdon OX14 2AQ

Saturday 5 Oct 2019

10am - 3.30pm (doors open 9.30am)

Key Speaker: Trey Hall

Since 2000 Trey has helped establish and lead new churches in the UK and the US. He has served as Mission Advisor for the Birmingham District, as well as coaching scores of practitioners renewing inherited forms of church or launching fresh expressions of church. In June 2018 he was appointed as the Connexional Director of Evangelism and Growth to The Methodist Church in Britain.



Discussions and Workshops including:

- connecting with your community
- chaplaincy on new housing estates
- models for new churches
- evangelism
- Together Missions

...and more to be

To book your place

and for further information visit

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/saintsalive-reimagine-ii-tickets-59889769914>

The **Methodist Church**
Northampton District



enabling supporting challenging



13-19 October 2019

'He sets his people free. He made his agreement everlasting. He is holy and wonderful.' Psalm 111:9

God's will and intention for all his people is freedom – the freedom to be the people he created them to be. Prison chaplains work with

people who often find it hard to believe that God has any interest in them or their lives. They struggle with the concept that they are made in the image of God and do not dare to hope that they may have a future in God which does not involve crime, arrest and imprisonment. In the same way, those whose lives have been marred by crime and its effects, or whose work brings them into daily contact with its destructiveness, often struggle to see a new future in which the promise of freedom in Christ might be fulfilled. This week we give thanks that the freedom which God offers is available to all, even to those whose liberty has been temporarily or permanently taken away by society. As we pray together for all those who come into contact with the criminal justice system in any way, we share in that work of establishing God's covenant of redemption – that each person, precious to God, might discover what freedom can truly mean for them.

Sunday: The Prisons Week prayer

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Monday: Praying with prisoners

Is freedom found outside the walls or inside ourselves?

Holy God of all creation, you see inside each one of us, knowing us better than we know ourselves. You see the hurt and harm, the brokenness and sin. You know the truth about our past and our present, all that traps and imprisons us. Unlock our hearts to let Christ in, so that his love and strength can help overcome all that imprisons us and lead us to the freedom he promised in life, in death and in eternity. Holy God, set us free.

'Take me prisoner, Lord and truly set me free; Help me lay down my sword, Then victorious I shall be.'

A prisoner's prayer for Prisons Week

Tuesday: Praying with the victims of crime

Where is freedom now?

Loving God, always close to us, be very present in lives shattered by crime, and with those searching for a freedom unjustly taken away. May your Spirit of comfort and healing find ways of breaking through walls of mistrust, fear and injustice, working through all who build us up with love and care, taking one step at a time on the path to freedom. Loving God, set us free.

'Unbind me from the bonds of grief and fear that I may become again the person you created me to be – a person of joy, of love, of trust, and hope.'

Prayer of a victim of crime

Wednesday: Praying with families

Why was our freedom taken away with theirs?

Faithful God, who watches and waits with those who are betrayed and suffer; draw near to family members who are affected by crime and imprisonment. Give us your strength to persevere through pain and disappointment, soothe our anger and heal the wounds of separation and loss. Help us to know your grace to find forgiveness and hope for the journey ahead. Faithful God, set us free.

'To my Son, I miss U and I pray to God you won't come back here again.'

'God, I miss my Daddy. Try to help him. Please bring him home.'

Prayers from prisoners' families for Prisons Week

Thursday: Praying with communities

Are we free where we live?

Everlasting God, who leads his people in every age to places where we are called to be community together, make us mindful of those places in our own communities that are subject to fear, violence and rejection. Equip us by your Holy Spirit to share your love, peace and acceptance with all. May we learn to love each other as ourselves, living as neighbours were intended to and join our prayers together. Everlasting God, set us free.

'We ask that you knit our hearts, our vision and our actions together across our community that we may all be totally free to live life abundantly in your love.'

Prayers for communities affected by domestic violence

Friday: Praying with those working in prison

Are we free to work well?

Gracious God, who calls, equips and knows us, be with all who work in prison. May we not lose heart in a place where the reality of trauma and the risk of violence is a daily occurrence. Keep us from being imprisoned by our roles but instead set us free by your love, able to meet with others and understand their true needs in Christ. Tune us in to the surprising movement of your Spirit. Gracious God, set us free.

'We ask that you bless and protect all who work in our prisons today. Those with uniforms on, suits, overalls, hard hats, and chef's whites. May we serve them well and rely on your strength to bring a sense of your grace and peace wherever we go.'

chaplain's prayer

A prison

Saturday: Praying with those working in the criminal justice system

Are we free to do what is right?

God of majesty and power, who establishes the order of the universe, and upholds justice in your mighty right hand, sustain and inspire all who seek to bring justice in our communities. Where the truth is complex or hidden, help those making decisions that seek to reveal the truth, to do so wisely, with a vision of your righteousness, justice and mercy. Majestic, powerful God, set us free.

'Lord, give all of us the courage we need to do what is right. And to serve you, the Judge of all, with fidelity.' A prayer for courts and judges

Ask yourself whether there is one thing that you, as an individual or as a church can do to help any of the people who you are praying for. From prisons week.org

Piety, Pleasure, Politics...and Climate Change

The Vice-President of Methodist Conference, Professor Clive Marsh is Head of the University of Leicester's Vaughan Centre for Lifelong Learning and an International Research Consultant at the Queen's Foundation. He seeks to help people think creatively about how faith, life and popular culture interweave, and what happens to theology as a result. In his address to Conference in Birmingham, Professor Marsh, set out how life-experience can be contained in the relationship between pleasure, piety and politics. In addition, this framework can be used to commend the Christian faith to others. He said: 'faith does not squeeze the pips out of life. On the contrary, faith allows us to enjoy life to the full. It gives us a measure of, and ways of discerning, what is genuinely life-enhancing.' Piety, Professor Marsh said: 'at its best is about having a balanced, grounded, nourishing approach to daily life'. Piety allows us to 'make prayerful evaluations and hard choices about both the pleasure and politics which make up our life.' Contending that we 'cannot let our lives be a simple amalgam of pleasure and piety', Professor Marsh said: 'With all that's been happening in recent years – in this country and elsewhere – it's understandable, of course, why people have become disillusioned with political life. Brexit hasn't exactly encouraged British citizens to feel confident about the world of politics. Christians must not, though, become detached and distant from political processes.'

See www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-conference/conference-2019/conference-programme/2019-06-29/1700-pm/the-vice-presidents-address/

Methodist Church recognises a climate emergency

Faced with a climate emergency the Methodist Conference has called on the UK to achieve net zero emissions well before 2050. This follows recent initiatives including participation in the #TheTimesNow Climate Coalition lobby of MPs in London last month as well as engagement with investor bodies on reducing humanity's global carbon footprint. Single use plastics were singled out at the week-long Conference with single use water bottles or cups unavailable for use by representatives. Conference encouraged its members and churches to reduce plastic pollution and for church cafés to consider signing up to a refill scheme, offering free refills for water bottles. Earlier this year the Methodist Church launched Eco Circuits and Eco Districts in partnership with A Rocha, a Christian organisation engaging communities in nature conservation. Barbara Glasson, President of Conference, said, 'As a Church we believe in the possibility of transformation. Our church has heard the voice of communities around the world that are already suffering severe consequences of climate change. Our response must be both individual and corporate to do all we can to tread more lightly on the earth.' Steve Hucklesby, Policy Adviser for the Methodist Church said: 'Next year the critical COP26 international climate summit may well be hosted in London. Our nation has the opportunity to provide inspiration for others. The UK must back up targets with

clear policies and urgent investment to bring about a zero-carbon future.’
From a Conference mailing

Marriage and Relationships

A new set of principles outlining the qualities of good relationships has been commended by the Methodist Conference for prayerful discussion and response across the Church over the next year.

The report, 'God in Love Unites Us', makes a number of proposals, including:

- principles or qualities of good relating
- an understanding of cohabitation
- to allow same-sex couples to marry in Methodist churches
- providing resources and liturgies to celebrate civil partnerships
- prayers for when marriages end in divorce

The debate, at the annual Methodist Conference held this year in Birmingham, passed a series of provisional resolutions on the proposals set out in the Report. After District Synods have had the opportunity to consider the proposals, final resolutions will be voted on at the Conference in 2020.

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Conference who presided over the debates, said: 'The debate was full of grace and prayerful thought. There were many personal, often painful, stories shared and representatives listened with great care and attention. My prayer is that this spirit of generosity and love shown today will be reflected as the proposals are discussed across the Church.'

The text below was posted online the day after the vote by Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church.

'The Conference of the Methodist Church in Britain affirmed in principle by a vote of 247-48 that its churches and ordained ministers can celebrate weddings/marriages both of people of the opposite sex and of people of the same sex.

The Conference also made strong provisions for churches and ministers who may prayerfully choose not to hold or officiate at these weddings for reasons of theological location and/or conscience.

I have always believed that what makes us Church is not our complete agreement on every question but our centring in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who was born for all of us, lived and taught for all of us, died and rose again for all of us, and will come again in beauty and justice for all of us and all Creation. The future of the Church is not our utter alignment on all matters of theology and mission. The future of the Church is Jesus Christ.

As Director of Evangelism and Growth, and as an Evangelical Christian myself, it is my deep joy to work and serve with people across the theological spectrum. Liberals, evangelicals, centrists, conservatives, charismatics, womanists, Pentecostals, liberationists, feminists, orthodox, Catholics, Wesleyans, primitives, high church, low church, broad church, deep church - we are in it together. Through the power of the Spirit, let's keep speaking grace and truth, listening for grace and truth in the lives of others who are not us, and living out grace and truth.

Let's hang together, y'all, by God's grace.'



Homeless Sunday - 13 October

A day to pray, reflect and plan practical action on homelessness

Homeless Sunday has been part of the Christian calendar for more than a quarter of a century. It is an opportunity for churches of all denominations and people of all faiths to unite and show solidarity with those experiencing homelessness and to reflect and plan practical action on homelessness.

The focus for 2019 is 'The impact of volunteering on the volunteer', apt as Christians and church communities are at the forefront of the response to the rise in homelessness including the most visible aspect, rough sleeping. There were just 65 night shelters operating across the Housing Justice network in 2013, today there are 125 across England and Wales.

Last year the event was permanently switched to October, close to World Homeless Day. This was in response to feedback from church leaders, congregations and churches involved in hosting Church and Community Night Shelter Projects. As most shelter projects tend to open towards the end of October the alignment allows the opening of the night shelter season to be marked in prayer. Around 500 or more churches across the country usually take part, and it is hoped to grow that number this year.

Housing Justice CEO, Kathy Mohan said; 'Please mark the date in your congregational calendars and consider how you can respond and plan and offer practical support for homelessness. We hope that more churches will join us this year to show solidarity with those who are experiencing life without a place to call home. As the faith community becomes more and more involved in the relief of homelessness, it is also fitting that we reflect about the impact volunteering has on the volunteer and air this subject and consider how those who work tirelessly to help can also be supported within the faith community.'

All forms of homelessness have increased by 4% since 2017. There are around 320,000 families homeless in Britain. Roughly 36 households become homeless every day. The most recent government figures available (Jan - Mar 2018) are the first since the Homelessness Reduction Act changed the way data is collected from local authorities on statutory homelessness. In Wales the picture is mixed, but showing a general upward trend year on year for both homelessness and rough sleeping. In England rough sleeping has seen a 165% increase since 2010.

Housing Justice carried out its own count of people bedding down in night shelters on the same night as the official count last winter. Piloted in London, we counted 509 individuals in Church and Community run night shelters. London had a rough sleeper count of 1283, 13% higher than last year, meaning without faith and community run projects, the rough sleeper count would have been 40% higher.

From

www.housingjustice.org.uk

Updates about Homeless Sunday, and materials to support involvement, including activities for children, ideas for worship and for theological discussion are available at www.housingjustice.org.uk

Newland Methodist Chapel

Meetings and Speakers

September – October 2019

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

Thursdays weekly

Saturdays and Sundays monthly

Tuesday	3 September	2.30pm	Newland Friends
Thursday	5 September	4pm	Garden Party
Thursday	12 September	7.30pm	Rev Jason Cooke
Tuesday	17 September	2.30pm	Newland Friends
Thursday	19 September	7.30pm	Dave and Shirley - Nova Scotia
Saturday	21 September	10am 12.30pm	Coffee Morning Prayers
Sunday	22 September	3pm	Harvest Festival Rev Rose Westwood
Thursday	26 September	7.30pm	Stevie Green - Street Pastors
Tuesday	1 October	2.30pm	Newland Friends
Thursday	3 October	7.30pm	People of the Bible
Thursday	10 October	7.30pm	Mike Limmer
Tuesday	15 October	2.30pm	Newland Friends
Thursday	17 October	7.30pm	Jude Levermore
Saturday	19 October	10am 12.30pm	Coffee Morning Prayers
Thursday	24 October	7.30pm	Steve Holborough
Sunday	27 October	3pm	Sunday Worship Rev Rose Westwood
Thursday	31 October	7.30pm	Keith Townley – Obadiah

SPACE2B

You will be very welcome to join us 9.25 to 10.30am on Wednesdays for a bit of chat followed by a Bible study, topic for discussion and led quiet prayer. Afterwards enjoy a cup of tea/coffee. We meet at the home of Brenda Woods. For more info contact Brenda 01993 700715

Thursdays at High St

Prayer: Thursdays 9.30-10.10am
A quiet time to reflect on the needs of others, our church fellowship and concerns worldwide.

Third Thursday Holy Communion

19 September and 17 October
10.30-11.15am
Holy Communion, with hymns, prayers and a short message.

Dates for your Diary

September

- Sunday 1 8.30am at High Street. Holy Communion
4pm at High Street Messy Church with Rev Richard Donoghue
- Sunday 15 6pm Witney Feast Service. No service at High Street
- Sunday 22 10.30am at High Street. Harvest Festival with Rev Jason
Cooke
3pm at Newland Worship for harvest with Rev Rose Westwood

Wednesday 25 September 12 noon – 2pm at Davenport Road

The first session of eight of the Bible Course.
Every Wednesday until 13 November. All welcome!

- Saturday 28 7.30pm at High Street. Organ recital – see below.

October

- Saturday 5 5pm at Davenport Road. Harvest Supper and Witney Town
Band at 6.30pm. Tickets £5. All welcome!
- Sunday 6 8.30am at High Street. Holy Communion
9.30am Davenport Road Harvest/Parade Service
4pm at High Street Messy Church with Jude Levermore
6pm at Davenport Road. Harvest worship with Rev Jason

Cooke

- Sunday 27 3pm at Newland. Worship with Rev Rose Westwood

November

- Sunday 3 8.30am at High Street. Holy Communion
9.30am at Davenport Road. Family Service
4pm at High Street Messy Church with Rachael Prince
6pm at Davenport Road Service for loved ones with Rev Rose
Westwood

Copy date for Nov/Dec issue Sunday 27 October ruthlapworth@hotmail.com
NB Articles are the opinion of the writer, not necessarily of the editor.

Organ Recital

High Street 7.30pm Saturday 28 September

Our fine organ celebrates its 100th birthday at the beginning of October.

It was opened in 1919 by H G Ley, then the organist of Christ Church, Oxford. To mark the occasion we are privileged to have his successor, Steven Grahl, to give a recital which will include some items from the opening concert.

Entrance is free and no tickets are required
but there will be a retiring collection for the Organ Fund.

It will be an exciting evening of great organ music
- do come!