

THE RECORD

SPRING 2021



CHURCH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

The **Methodist** Church South Fylde Circuit
Making Disciples: Transforming Lives and Communities

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This edition is being emailed to as many people as possible and is also available to download on the church website. A limited number of hard copies are available to pass on to those who do not have on-line access.



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SEE, WHAT A MORNING!

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the graveclothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce Christ is risen!

See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, 'Where is he laid?'
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!

The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till he appears,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty;
honour and blessing, glory and praise
to the King crowned with power and authority!

And we are raised with him,
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
and we shall reign with him,
for he lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

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A word from Stephen....



Dear Friends

I wonder what you are thinking?

I love the way in which people are all different, individual, unique. We grow up alongside people sharing experiences, education and recreation and even parents, yet we develop different skills, attitudes and personalities. It is our differences that together make community and culture, enrich lives and creates dialogue, the potential for change, creativity, co-operation or conflict.

As we grow and mature, we find our place where we feel comfortable and those with whom we are at ease, of like mind, people we can trust and know they will be there when we need them. Those who can help us when things go wrong, from tradesmen to doctors as well as friends and family. We build up our network of trust.

I love the way in which so much of this just happens. It is not on the school curriculum or something our parents had formal conversations about it just happens. I find it fascinating how at certain times things happen that cause us to reflect and readjust our thinking. Sometimes it is a response to an event, illness or something someone said.

The four seasons shape our lives I believe in body, mind and spirit. The patterns of our lives are built around them. As the days lengthen and new life abounds, the Lenten discipline calls us to reflect on who we are and how we will use what God has given us, time and skills, resources and experience. The book of Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 tells us there is a time for this and that, but we have to decide what and when and where. So, as we navigate our path out of lockdown, travel well and wisely.

Stephen

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday worship is resuming again at Church Road on Sunday 14 March and will take place every Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m, subject to any further local or national guidance.

As before, if you wish to attend, it will be necessary to register in advance by email or phone; this helps with seating arrangements and in reducing queueing time.



Various measures will be in place in accordance with Government and Methodist Church guidelines to help keep everyone safe. When arriving at church you will be welcomed by the stewards in the usual way and your temperature will be taken. You will be asked to confirm your name and the number in your household/bubble attending and sitting together.

It will be necessary to wear a mask during the service. Although hymns will be included in the order of service, we are asked not to sing but just to follow the words on the screen.

Whilst some of this feels strange to start with, previous experience suggests that people quickly become accustomed to the 'new normal' and feel reassured by the measures in place. For those who are not able to attend church in person, services will continue to be streamed on Facebook and YouTube from 10.30 a.m. each Sunday.

Anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) should not attend due to the risk that they pose to others; they should self-isolate at home immediately with other members of their household.

To attend services at Church Road, please email churchroadworship@gmail.com or ring 07788 166144 before 9.00 p.m. on the preceding Friday.

WORSHIP SERVICES

14th March MOTHERING SUNDAY
10.30 a.m. Judith Smith

21st March PASSION SUNDAY
10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

28th March PALM SUNDAY
10.30 a.m. Revd Stuart Wild

Wednesday 31st March¹
7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion

Friday 2nd April GOOD FRIDAY
11.00 a.m. United Ecumenical Service at The Drive

4th April EASTER SUNDAY
10.30 a.m. Revd Stephen Heath
*A joint service at Church Road with The Drive,
including the celebration of Holy Communion*

Details may change according to circumstances and will be confirmed in Stephen's weekly email. Details of services after Easter will be notified similarly.

¹ **Please note** this is not an editorial error, our Maundy Thursday Communion will be on Wednesday this year in order to allow at least 72 hours between services in accordance with Methodist Church guidance at the present time.

FLOWER DEDICATIONS



DECEMBER

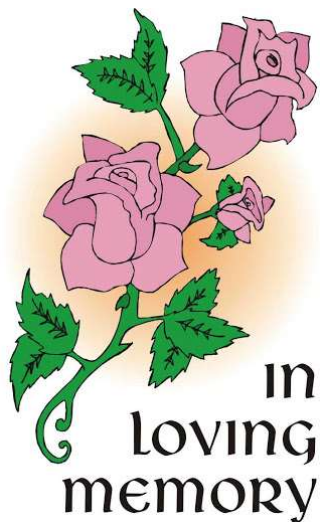
- 6th Loving birthday memories of Marion Holland
Loving Birthday memories of a dear husband Arthur, and of my son, David Milnes, from Myrtle
- 20th Treasured memories of Claire Berwick
In loving memory of John & Clarice Hughes from Margaret Wrigley

JANUARY

- 10th Birthday memories of Mrs Gladys Ball
Treasured memories of John from Barbara, Caroline & Samantha
In memory of Stanley, Fred and Annie Richmond
- 17th Loving memories of Derek Rigby
- 24th Loving memories of Len Wild from Joan, Steven and family

FEBRUARY

- 7th Loving birthday memories of my dear sister, Audrey, and my father;
ever in my thoughts, Sylvia
- 14th Anne & John Mayes in memory of Anne's parents



BETTY KIRKPATRICK

DONALD LUSBY

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

FLOWERS

We are grateful to those who have continued to contribute to the flower fund each week in memory of family members or someone special to them. Whilst we have been unable to have flowers in church or distribute them to the sick and housebound as a consequence of the coronavirus situation, it is still important for us to recall these special memories and to remember these people in our prayers.

As an ongoing memorial, we have planted out the flowerbed at the front of church with primulas and spring bulbs in memory of those for whom the dedications of flowers have been requested. In these difficult times we hope that the flowerbed will also bring joy to those who pass by.

Any contributions to church flowers should be sent to the Flower Secretary, Elaine Watts, with cheques payable to Church Road Methodist Church Flower Fund



OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WESLEY'S AND THE WELL CAFE



Prior to the first lockdown last year, Wesley's Café was regularly providing good quality food at low cost to local families in a safe and friendly place. The Well Church in Ansdell was also offering similar services through their Well Café operating from the Pensioner's Hall. To start with, neither of these services was able to operate during the COVID crisis and both teams were very concerned about how their regular customers were managing. We were both looking for ways in which we could help them.

Co-operation started in a practical way over the summer when we experimented with a minibus-based programme, which we called the "Pop-up Well Cafe and Wesley's Larder". We found that our teams operated together very naturally, as our aims were so compatible. We decided that we would be able to do more for our area by working together, which is what we have continued to do ever since. We have received support from the Borough Council in terms of finance, guidance and direction. Having seen what we were aiming to do, the Council recognised that it would be helpful to offer similar services in other locations too. As a result, we have now widened the areas where we provide our services, including at Freckleton and Kirkham; all these services are "free at the point of need", to borrow a term from the NHS.

In providing our services, we seek ...

- To ensure that everybody we get to know about who is struggling with basic nourishment can be supported to have that need met
- To be absolutely focused on being welcoming and friendly, providing great quality and service
- To recognise that good food, friendship and a warm welcome are all strong contributors to morale and wellbeing and this can be as important as the nourishment itself
- To engage our volunteer teams in learning, personal development and continuous improvement so they can value their own participation and contribution as something very worthwhile
- To be fully aware that financial poverty is not the only poverty we need to address - we also concern ourselves with lack of access, lack of community and lack of positive identity and see these as equally important
- To constructively engage and co-operate with people and organisations who share our concern for and seek to support those who are in disadvantaged positions in our community

Our current services include:



Wesley's larder, open six mornings per week offering free collection of a good range of supermarket style produce.

Wednesday teatime free hot takeaway and food collection including range of supermarket-style produce from the Community Centre at Lower Lane Freckleton.

Thursday lunchtime hot meal delivery – three course meals delivered to the door across the Borough of Fylde. This follows our Christmas Day meal delivery experiment, when we delivered around fifty festive meals to the doors of folk who had no other way to get them.

We also assist and give support to larder services at Freckleton Methodist Church on Wednesday afternoons, at Kirkham Methodist Church on Thursday afternoons and the Lower Lane Community Centre in Freckleton on Saturday mornings. These services are mainly operated by local teams on site.

A Case Study

Recently, a social care professional contacted a senior member of the Wesley's team to ask if they could help a vulnerable adult with severe anxiety problems that prevented him leaving the house. He was concerned that his 12-year-old son was not receiving enough nutritional food. Wesley's team responded straightaway by leaving two bags of groceries at his front door; the following week, the family was added to the hot food delivery service.



The family is now receiving regular deliveries and the father comes to the door without the need for an advanced phone call. His reaction:

"Honestly that has made my day. I have to get better from this dark place that I seem stuck in. I have one good day then probably have a bad couple of months. Thank you so much for your help."

Every step in the right direction is a good one! We hope the relief of concern about his son's nourishment is a significant release of anxiety.



Support

None of this would be possible without the dedicated service of our volunteers led by Paul Caddy. Most, but not all, of our volunteer teams are members of the two founding churches or other local congregations.

We're also grateful for the grants and donations we've received to help us provide these services; the Covid Recovery Fund have given us two grants totalling £6,128.68, Food Share granted us £2,000 and personal donations have totalled £2,850. Working with Tesco and Food Share we are also saving food waste going to landfill.

We've also appreciated the support of the charity I-Hope, set up by local resident Tracey Hope, who has promoted our work on Facebook and encouraged donations of food, and even clothing and bedding, to be redistributed to local people in need.

Please continue to pray for the work of Wesley's and the Well Café, for all the volunteers and for all those who receive and benefit from our services.

There is a quote from William Toms, an early Methodist leader in Cornwall:

"Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible a person ever reads."

We are motivated by the instructions of Jesus to live in love with and support for our community. Please pray for this work of Wesley's and the Well Café and for the local people and families who will receive help and support from our teams of dedicated volunteers.

³³ But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

NEW CIRCUIT APPOINTMENT FROM SEPTEMBER



It might be difficult to believe, but later this year our minister Stephen will be retiring from active ministry. To follow him, the Circuit has appointed Revd Louise Makin, who will assume her duties in our circuit from 1 September. She is currently serving in the West Pennine Moors Circuit, where she has been stationed for the last five years, with responsibility for the Methodist churches in Darwen, Feniscowles and Haslingden.

Originally from Yorkshire, Louise graduated with a BSc in Botany from Durham University and initially taught science at a school in Wigan. After moving back to Yorkshire, she continued to teach whilst training as a local preacher and later as a student minister, also completing a BA degree in Theology, Ministry and Mission from Durham University.

A lifelong Methodist, Louise has always been very active within the church, helping out with youth activities and singing in choirs. Her leisure interests include singing, baking, gardening and sci-fi films. She is married to Ian, a keen rock climber and Bolton Wanderer's supporter, and they have two grown up sons, Stuart and Tom.



Traidcraft Spring Catalogue

Enjoy Traidcraft's carefully curated range of fair trade food and drink, ethical homeware, fashion and crafts – all wrapped up in the new Spring Catalogue.

Copies are available on request from Elaine Watts (tel: 01253 722302)



World Day of Prayer 2021

from Judith Smith

Yes, I know it is past 4 March and the World Day of Prayer would have been planned to be held at The Drive Methodist Church on that day, but unfortunately along with many things due to COVID-19, we were not able to share with others this important date in our calendars.

This year's service was written by the Christian women of Vanuatu. Vanuatu is part of a cluster of islands in the south western Pacific Ocean about 1000 miles east of Australia. The population being mainly made up of Melanesian and Polynesian.

This year they had chosen as their theme 'Build on a Strong Foundation' based on the bible passage from Matthew 7 v 24-27. The opening verse of the service says this:

'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain (Psalm 127 v 1)

Whilst we can imagine their beautiful coral reefs and beaches, forests, and birds, they are also susceptible to tropical storms, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions. On their coat of arms for anyone to read they have, 'In God we stand'. Which in Bislama is 'Long God Yumi Stanap', (Long God you-me stand-up)

Let me share a story of one young person of Vanuatu:-

"My name is Jacklynda. I come from a rural village. From young age I dreamt of working in tourism. I travelled to Port Vila to get a job in hospitality, but I don't have the training to get my dream job. I have no family here, no money for proper accommodation food or to return back to my own village. She says I know this is not God's plan for me, but I don't know what to do. I pray that the rural areas of Vanuatu might be valued, and that young people find the opportunities they search for in their own communities. I trust God will provide for young people to grow and contribute to the wellbeing of Vanuatu."

This is just one person's story and there are others. The offerings taken at services go to support the World Day of Prayer movement, to support Christian charities who act in response to global emergencies but this year they too will be feeling the pinch as service after service has had to be cancelled.

We can pray for them. Please do pray for the women and families of Vanuatu that God's blessing will be upon them and that they may they be united in love, joy and peace.

For more information, please visit the World Day of Prayer website

www.wwdp.org.uk/2021-theme-and-country-vanuatu/

BETTER TOGETHER



'Carry each other's burdens, and in this you will fulfill the law of Christ.'

(Galatians 6:2)

Sales of jigsaws soared in 2020. Restrictions and isolation have resulted in many of us spending hours staring at the detail on small pieces, trying to work out how they fit together.

The world around us often resembles a jumble of puzzle pieces. It can be hard to make sense of it all. But we can take heart in the fact that God's plan is for us to not do life alone.

We're built for authentic relationships with God, ourselves, each other and creation. When life gets difficult it can be easier to put up barriers and withdraw, rather than admit how we're really doing, in order to feel like less of a burden for others.

When everything feels like it's falling apart, we can keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the one in whom all things hold together. And through him, we can find the strength we need to reach out and do life together.

Lord, when I'm feeling anxious help me to reach out. And when others are in need, let them know they can reach out to me. Amen.

Nadine Parkinson

Nadine helps lead Tearfund's work with churches across the UK.

*The road is long
With many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where?
Who knows where?
But I'm strong
Strong enough to carry him
He ain't heavy, he's my brother*



Christian Aid Week Appeal 10 - 16 May 2021

Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we can **STOP** this climate crisis.

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Rose's story

Rose fights hunger every day. This is her climate crisis. This is her story.

Rose is caught in a cycle of climate chaos. From severe drought to flooding, extreme weather robs her of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water. When she was a child, Rose remembers how often the rains would fall, giving fruit to the baobab trees and providing plenty of nutritious food to eat.

'When I was a young girl, there was plenty of food,' Rose says. Now, the rains are totally unreliable. The climate crisis has galvanised extreme weather and Rose's community are feeling the brunt of it.

For months at a time, Rose and her family lives with drought.

"Because of climate change, I worry a lot about food. I pray to God that the rainfall will become normal like it used to be."

Rose Katanu Jonathan.

Together we can STOP this climate crisis.

Every donation can change lives.

Please see www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week for more information and to donate

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IN LYTHAM ST ANNES

There will not be any House to House collection this year, but there will be a Street Collection in Lytham and St Annes town centres on **Saturday 15 May**.

Please contact Elaine Watts if you would be willing to help collect for an hour.

elaine.watts@talktalk.net

REFLECTIONS IN LOCKDOWN DURING LENT

from Chris Jones

“I can’t go out because of the virus” sounds a little soft and boring, so in future I am going to say, “I’ve sworn an oath of solitude until the pestilence is purged from these lands.” Sounds more heroic!

The reason we’re finding these times so hard is because they have taken away much of what we’re created to need, such as relationships and gathering for corporate worship. It has increased our experience of the sorts of things we are most uncomfortable with, such as the ever present fear of dire sickness or death. But we can persevere with patience and hope. This prayer has refocussed my mind and encouraged me many times over the years :-

*Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace
Taking, as He did, this sinful world As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him Forever and ever in the next. Amen.*
(prayer attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr, 1892-1971)

At the moment it is not possible to predict, but following the anticipated end of the pandemic we shall see whether the experience has accelerated the decline in church attendance or in fact increased it. Some reports suggest that over the last twelve months a good number of people who would not otherwise have attended worship in church have been tuning in to the many services available on line, which is an encouraging trend. It is possible that streamed services will still be considered part of our ministry in the years to come.

Whatever may be the case, it is reported that C S Lewis has sold more books than ever which may be something to do with everything else that’s going on in the world. Possibly people can relate to Lewis in the times of Covid-19, just as they did during the Blitz. Listening to his famous BBC radio talks, the broadcasts were so popular that pub landlords would say ‘quiet everybody, Mr Lewis is on.’ He talked in a way that they all understood, explaining his faith in the context of hardship and the war.

“Life with God is not immunity from difficulties, but peace in difficulties. I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else. We must stop regarding unpleasant or unexpected things as interruptions of real life. The truth is that interruptions are real life.”

C.S.Lewis

There is breaking news, press conferences, daily updates, explanations, discussion, daily statistics, correspondent's expert opinion, points of view. There are plans, plans and more plans, some are over promises that are underachieved, others are under promises surreptitiously designed to overachieve and impress. Slides that are sometime clear and informative, other times simply impenetrable. A deluge of information.

It is all too easy to be drawn into the need to keep up to date with events and to seek to act as a responsible citizen, but another to struggle to process the endless stream of words and to shut out the noise and seek that still small voice. Elijah, in a period of high emotion, was despondent. God spoke to him. God was not in the wind or the earthquake or the fire, but spoke in the hush after the rage of nature - God is in the gentlest things—in that which is still.

"After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper."
1 Kings 19:12

On the first Sunday of Lent on 1st March last year, I was privileged to act as duty steward at our Church Road service. I have not been to church since. The lockdowns have been a wilderness of sorts, insofar as we have all been in direct contact with so very few others, and also a period of imposed sacrifice of much that has become regarded as 'normal.' It is ironic therefore that as we are now in the period of Lent there are hopes and expectations promised by the vaccines that may relieve such sacrifices. Nevertheless, I trust that God will be with us during this period of preparation for Easter.

*"The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime;
And His song will be with me in the night,
A prayer to the God of my life."*

Psalms 42:8

And on March 1st this year, St. David's Day, I was reminded of the words of the Patron Saint of my native Wales:

'Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed, and do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about.'

Although the decisions which govern our lives at the moment are made by those in authority, we can still do the little things to support, encourage and guide each other that can be so important in times of great anxiety and distress. The Methodist pastoral care system has been invaluable for those in isolation or personal or professional difficulty and I have been told it is envied by those of other denominations in these times. Many thanks to all our pastoral carers.

Until we meet again, every blessing - Chris

TOGETHER, WITH HOPE ON THE WAY

This will be an online conference on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th April 2021. It will be different to our previous conferences, but nevertheless, it is an exciting new venture that will be accessible to a wider audience.



Methodist Women
in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

Our keynote speaker Sister Imelda Poole will be joining us 'virtually' from Albania, to talk about her work educating and training young people to help prevent them becoming trafficked. Imelda is a Sister of the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, Chair of 'Renate', and an international speaker on the subject of human trafficking.

MWiB President Hilary Evans writes:

"I first came across Imelda's work when I was invited to join the Southampton District organising group of MWiB. The Southampton group were moved by accounts of the work in Albania, which is a hub for international trafficking because of its geographical position. A small group visited, which led to setting up a partnership with Sister Imelda's charity.

"At about the same time my own church was following the 'Holy Habits' programme based on Acts 2, by Andrew Roberts. When the topic was 'service' it was decided to run a workshop day to look at various ways that a church might focus on, and support, a key issue. Trafficking and modern slavery was chosen as the theme. I began to do more research, and was astonished and dismayed that at least 40 million people globally, are forced against their will into a range of activities, and over 71% are women. Not a single country is exempt.

"As MWiB President I hope to make more people aware that trafficking is the second greatest illegal activity worldwide, second only to drugs."

Building on the work of previous generations of Methodist women, MWiB continues to support those in need, especially women and children, and to tackle issues of injustice including human trafficking. We hope you will join us for this year's conference. 2021 also marks the tenth anniversary of MWiB. Following on from the Conference itself we hope you will also join us for a time of celebration on Sunday 18th April

Participants are being asked to consider a small donation towards the cost of the conference. For more details, including how to register your interest in participating, please follow the link on the MWiB website, or contact Elaine Watts. elaine.watts@talktalk.net

www.mwib.org.uk/index.php/2021/01/15/swanwick-2021-together-with-hope-on-the-way/

“When’s Easter this year?”

For Christians, Easter is probably the most important celebratory occasion of the year, a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord – an event central to our beliefs. Both believers and non-believers associate it with Spring and the onset of warmer weather, but as we all know, the actual date changes from year to year between late March and late April. And it’s all to do with the moon and other historic complications!



From its earliest days, the Christian church celebrated the anniversary of Jesus' resurrection each year. Early Christians moved their day of worship to Sunday, rather than the Jewish Sabbath of Saturday, because Christ had risen from the grave on the first day of the week and Easter was celebrated on the nearest Sunday in line with the Jewish Passover. Even so, churches didn't always choose the same Sunday and the churches in Asia Minor frequently observed the resurrection on the date of the Jewish Passover itself, even when it was not on a Sunday. Initially, there was little attempt to agree a standard date.

However, after Constantine became Roman Emperor in 306^{CE} and Christianity was adopted as the religion of the Empire, he called the first Ecumenical Council of the Christian church in 325^{CE} in the ancient city of Nicaea, now the sleepy lakeside town of Iznik in Turkish Asia Minor. The Council was called to settle a number of issues of Christian belief and to achieve some uniformity throughout the church. The most famous outcome of the Council was the Nicene Creed, still used today in various forms as a confirmation of our faith, but another matter agreed at the Council was a common day for celebrating the resurrection.



Constantine did not want Easter to be celebrated on the Jewish Passover, because he wanted to emphasise the difference between the religions. The Council of Nicaea therefore decided that the feast of the resurrection should be celebrated on a Sunday and never on the day of the Jewish Passover. It

was to be celebrated on the Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox, the dates being determined using the Julian Calendar that had been established by Julius Caesar in 46^{CE}.

However, it was not until the Synod of Whitby in 664^{CE} that a common date was finally established in the British Isles. Previously, the Celtic tradition, based on the island of Iona had celebrated Easter in line with their own special tradition, whilst in other areas, the Roman date was observed. The two traditions came into conflict in Northumbria and at the Synod, Oswiu, King of Northumbria, ruled that the Roman tradition should be observed throughout these islands.

Yet further problems about the date for Easter arose in the 16th century, when the Julian calendar began to be superseded by the Gregorian one and the date began to change according to which calendar was being used to determine the equinox and full moon. It took some considerable time for the new calendar to be adopted everywhere, and it did not happen in the areas of the Orthodox Church, Greece, Turkey and Russia, until the early 20th century. For the purposes of determining the date for Easter, the Orthodox churches still use the Julian calendar to calculate the Spring equinox and the full moon that follows it, which is why they end up with a different date: the gap between the two Easters can be as much as five weeks. This year, we will be celebrating Easter on Sunday 4 April, but the Orthodox church will not celebrate until Sunday 2 May. In 2017, the dates coincided, but the next time that will happen will be in 2034.

But whatever the date, Easter remains a very special Christian festival when we give thanks for the miracle of the resurrection and the gift of eternal life offered to us through Jesus.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb ;

lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom ;

Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,

for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting :

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life ;

life is naught without thee : aid us in our strife ;

Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love ;

bring us safe through Jordan, to thy home above :

***“Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son
Endless is the victory, Thou o’er death has won”***

THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

When Jesus came near the road
That goes down the mount of olives
A crowd of disciples shouting aloud
Praising God's almighty miracles
Blessed is the King
who comes in the name of the Lord
Peace in the heavenly Realms
and glory in the highest
Some of the Pharisees said
Teacher rebuke your disciples
I tell you if they say nothing
The stones will cry out to the heavens
And as He approached Jerusalem
And saw the city ahead
Tears came into His eyes
As He wept over it and said
Eternal peace was within your reach
Now hidden from your eyes
Your enemies will embank you
And dash you to the ground
You and your children within your walls
They won't leave one stone on another
Because you didn't recognise the time
The opportunity God offered you.

Written by Kath Kay

By the grace of God

(Luke 19: 37-44)

AMEN

CORNWALL & METHODISM

Over the years, Cornwall has become a popular holiday destination, with its surfing beaches, coastal walks and picturesque fishing villages. This year, with a predicted increase in 'staycation' holidays, it is expected to be even more popular.

But in addition to its holiday appeal, Cornwall is also well known among Methodists for its people's early embrace of the preaching of John Wesley. Wesley first visited Cornwall in 1743 followed by a further thirty two times before his death in 1791. In



those days, the population of Cornwall was very spread out and many small villages were remote from the parish church. Wesley's preaching in the open air, in barns and cottages, brought him closer to the people. His preaching held a strong appeal of hope and salvation for communities of miners, farmers and fishermen, many of whom faced challenging everyday experiences in a county where poverty was endemic. Several of the local lay preachers, encouraged by Wesley, helped to bring the word closer to the people by preaching in the local Cornish dialect. Here, people felt that they were being treated with respect.

To help local working people more, John Wesley also facilitated the establishment of health and educational facilities, thus demonstrating his faith in action. The people of Cornwall embraced Methodism with great enthusiasm, as the religion of the working people, which contrasted with the establishment nature of the Anglican church. Methodism in Cornwall soon began to develop its own identity.

Although John Wesley spent his life travelling extensively on horseback, encouraging societies of Methodists throughout England, Scotland and Wales, he achieved particular success in Cornwall. By 1750 Methodist societies had been established in thirty of the mining communities in West Cornwall as well as four in North-East Cornwall. By 1851 Cornwall attendees at Methodist chapels were in the majority.



*Typical Cornish Methodist Chapel
Camborne*

Today, Methodism continues to flourish in Cornwall and out of the county's seven hundred surviving chapels, over five hundred are Methodist.

Gwennap Pit



One of the interesting historic sites of Methodism in Cornwall is Gwennap Pit. This is a depression in the ground outside the village of Gwennap, near Redruth in the former mining area of West Cornwall. The pit was probably caused by the surface collapsing into an abandoned mine below.

The first use of Gwennap Pit for preaching was on 6 September 1762 when Wesley found he was unable to stand in his usual place near the village because the wind was so strong. He sought refuge in the pit as a sheltered alternative. After that, Wesley preached there for a total of eighteen times. Huge crowds were regularly drawn to open-air meetings there, which became the largest gathering place in Cornwall at the time.

Following Wesley's death, the pit was still used regularly for outdoor services and, as a tribute to John Wesley, local miners cut the twelve circular terraces that are seen today to provide seating. Up to 2,000 people can be seated comfortably around the sides, but there is still space for many more standing. Today, the site is owned by the Methodist Church and the Pit is still used for an annual Pentecost service, as well as services on other summer Sundays.

Busveal Chapel

Beside the Pit itself is a Methodist Chapel built in 1836. In common with most chapels, both the exterior and the interior are very plainly decorated. Inside the chapel is a bust of Wesley and portraits of Wesley, his wife Susanna, and his brother Charles. There is a display of historical photographs and information about Methodism and the life of John Wesley. Beside the chapel is a small visitor centre and tearoom. The whole site forms part of the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site.



If you are ever on holiday in Cornwall, this whole site is well worth a visit to experience part of Methodist history. For details of services when they resume, visit the Falmouth & Gwennap Circuit website www.fandgmc.org.uk

If you're shopping on-line in lockdown - from your weekly shop to home improvements, or even a future holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Church Road Methodist Church. There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Next, B&Q, John Lewis, Expedia, Ebay, Aviva, thetrainline and thousands more – and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

You can support us by joining at
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/churchrdmethodist/



PLEASE REMEMBER

Don't just throw stuff away! We can help others by the simple act of recycling.

OLD SPECTACLES

The charity Vision Aid recycles these and the income generated from them supports their overseas programme



USED POSTAGE STAMPS

These can be sold to raise money for the local branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.



USED OR UNUSED POSTCARDS

These can be sold to raise money for the charity MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). This is a Christian organisation serving developing countries by using its planes to transport essential medical care, food, water, relief teams and Church workers to those in desperate need.



Please contact Elaine Watts to pass on items for charitable recycling

FROM THE NICENE CREED

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

From the Nicene Creed, a statement of belief widely used in Christian liturgy including the Methodist Communion Service. It was originally adopted in the ancient city of Nicaea (present day İznik, Turkey) by the First Council of Nicaea that was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine in 325CE to resolve issues of faith.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

In these challenging times, we cannot entirely foresee when our usual activities can resume at Church Road. We will need to proceed with caution to make sure that we can gradually reopen safely. To keep up to date and to hear about future activities, please look out on our website:

www.churchroadmethodist.org

**Remember you are never alone. We are never more than a phone call or email away.
Please keep in touch and keep safe.**

Peace be with you.



Rev Stephen Heath, Minister, 01772 683884 mob 07711 917955

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