



# TOGETHER

*only physically apart*

[NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk](http://NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk)

## A Time for Everything

**Reflecting on life in Lockdown | Hazel King of Charles Street Methodist Church**

In our fellowship at Charles Street we have a number of house groups that met together in homes during the week for regular fellowship before lockdown. With the wonders of technology, most of the groups have been able to continue to “meet” via Zoom. We have met every fortnight for a chat and have had a prepared bible study to do at home on the alternate weeks.

As a church, some of our more technical members have been producing “Charles Street in Brief”, a short, thought provoking YouTube clip, which airs every Saturday. Before lockdown, our house group, now renamed “Seven at Home”, had thought about volunteering to take a local arrangement service at Charles Street at some point, so it was suggested that we might do a Charles Street in Brief instead. So that is what we have done; quite daunting for the technophobes among us! In fact, there was enough to fill two sessions.

We have all reflected on our time in lockdown and I talked about the blessing of Time. This has led me to reflect on the Bible passage from Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 verses 1-8. It begins “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.”

This is certainly the case at the present time, when we have been for the most part confined to our homes, when it can feel that society is breaking down. There has been much time for dying and mourning and we have lost three dearly loved members of our fellowship while we have been apart. We have had to refrain from embracing and for me, as for a lot of us, it has meant no cuddles and kisses with all my grandchildren and no opportunity to have cooking and craft making days with them. I have seen them at a distance, outside, but I long for the time when we can hug and play together. There has been much weeping and feelings of wanting to give up and my heart goes out to those who have found lockdown especially difficult.

But we believe in a God that is in control and who supplies all our needs if we only trust in Him. He has the answers. In time, in God’s time, there will be a time for healing, building and rebuilding, laughing, dancing and embracing. I’m particularly looking forward to the dancing and the embracing as Roger and I usually go sequence dancing through the winter and I’m longing to embrace my family who have helped us out so much for the last year. That is such a precious thing and a year is such a long time in a child’s life. My son and his three children have moved to Newark recently and I’ll be able to see much more of them than we have in the past as they previously lived in Newbury.

So we must try and keep our eyes fixed on God and His unchanging love and look to the future with confidence that all will be well.

Take a few minutes to read this passage and like the rainbow, may it remind us all that God’s promises never fail; they are new every morning. (Lamentations chapter 3 verse 23).

For those of you who haven’t seen Charles Street in Brief, do take a look and I pray that they may be a blessing to you.



## 1. Online Service

**Join us from 10:30am on Sunday for our Circuit Service which this week is hosted by North Muskham Methodist Church and led by Revd Peter Hibberts.**

Find it on the 'Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>) why not invite a friend to watch it with you and share the link with them on your social media or by email!

## 2. Circuit 'Zoom' Coffee Time

Join folk from across the circuit from 11:30am each Sunday morning - you provide the coffee - we'll provide the fellowship! pop in for 5 minutes or

### Please join us afterwards

Come with a drink and a biscuit to share in conversation after the service.

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185  
Password: Tog3ther  
Phone: 0131 460 1196  
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185  
Password: 48647472



half an hour - we'd love to see you!

If you'd like help to 'Zoom', please get in touch!

## 3. Radio Services

**BBC Radio 4** (Also [online](#).)  
08:10am - 21st March 2021

### Palm Sunday

A Palm Sunday celebration with a sermon from this year's winner of the national 'Theology Slam' competition. Service led by Methodist minister Revd Dr Calvin Samuel.

## 4. Radio Nottingham

Listen every Sunday, at 8am, to a live church service on BBC Radio Nottingham. (Online or on 95.1-103.8 MHz FM for free.)

24-3-21

# Being found by Jesus

Our Sunday Sermon | Reflections from Luke 24:13-35 | Revd. Peter Hibberts

We've not all had the chance to journey far in recent times, cars have sat idle in driveways, though the lucky ones amongst us have been able to walk. Amidst this, this week we focus on two roads.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday where we remember (and in less restricted times act out) the journey on the road to Jerusalem, lined with coats and palm branches. In the '*No ordinary Man*' reflections by Nick Fawcett this Palm Sunday journey is reflected on as one that began with hope and ended in disappointment. From the eyes of Judas Iscariot, Palm Sunday represented the culmination of a political movement that he hoped would overthrow the Roman occupation of the day ("They believed that at long last the waiting was over, the Messiah finally come to set them free."); it ends in the disappointment of a crown not of gold, but of thorns for Jesus.

Contrast this with the mirror image journey of the two companions on their walk to Emmaus. Luke's gospel tells us that the two were talking about the 'things that had happened' (v14) and when questioned they 'stood still, looking sad'. They had been filled with hope in their encounter with Jesus for the last three years but this hope had been dashed by his death and they began their journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus disappointed.

Where are you on your journey? Hannah Steele, in this week's chapter of our lent book suggests that our journeys to faith vary dramatically. Sometimes they can be as dramatic as Paul's experience on the road to Damascus and sometimes they can be more like a process - like the road to Emmaus. The varying level of drama in our journey isn't the measure of its power though. When I'm able to watch my beloved Port Vale FC at the ground and on the occasions that actually manage to score I turn into an absolute loon! I stand with my feet on the seat, above the crowd (well maybe crowd is over-egging it) and I swing my scarf around my head in jubilation. The chap next to me simply claps politely. Don't make the mistake of thinking I care more about the goal than he, we are both there come rain or shine and both devoted to our team. The same with our journey with Christ - the important thing is that at some point on our journey we meet with the living Lord Jesus.

In Judas Iscariot's journey, I wonder if his problem was that he was so busy with his own agenda that he missed real Christ's in front of him and Jesus' mission completely - he cast Christ in a role he never came to fulfil. In contrast again, the two on the road to Emmaus had completely let go of their agenda, they thought all was lost and no doubt were leaving Jerusalem to go back to their lives. The beauty of this is that in their brokenness and despair Jesus finds them.

Jesus found me as a young boy with great desires for life, I wanted to study law, be rich (I think driving a Jaguar was in my plan) and often boasted that when I'd made it I would buy my parents a house and set them up in a wealthy lifestyle. On my journey Jesus has taken me, instead, into teaching and now ministry (neither has provided the wealth or the Jaguar - and sorry mum and dad - no house either!) I have no idea where my plan would have led me but I am certainly not disappointed by where God's plan has led me! It's entirely possible that my own self-propelled plan may well have ended in disappointment as Judas' did. Instead my journey brings me the greatest joy. In my journey I get to see folk grow in their faith and encounter Jesus and God's Holy Spirit in new and exciting ways. It's not always a pleasure to be a minister and the last twelve months have been especially

difficult and at times wounding. But it is a privilege and during this time there have also been some incredibly humbling times where I have seen God walking alongside folk, like the road to Emmaus, and finding them.

If you do not feel like you have been found by Jesus yet then let me assure you that Jesus is seeking you. In fact he is walking alongside you but like the two on the Emmaus Road, you may not have noticed him. Perhaps you are looking for a king, riding in glory on the road to Jerusalem, like those who looked for glory on Palm Sunday. Make no mistake, Jesus is that King, but he's also the stranger on the road who begins by asking you 'What were you discussing with each other while you walked along?' (v17) Jesus begins by hearing you, listening to you, he cares for you and wants to hear your story. Perhaps you need to find a friend, go for the still permitted one-to-one walk and talk about your journey with them (I believe you're even allowed, now, to sit on a bench together!) Know as you do so that Jesus is alongside you and my prayer is that, at the right time, like in Luke's gospel, he will reveal himself to you.

Perhaps you are being called to walk alongside a friend and share your story - 'all these things', 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth...' (v19) As we continue our journey of story, during lent, reflecting on God's Story and Our Story, we are encouraged to share our journey and listen to the journeys of others.

As we turn the corner on Sunday and begin our decent into Holy Week, reflect upon your own faith journey and reflect upon what key moments stand out. Who has influenced and helped you? Ask yourself how you feel the story of your journey to faith affects others. How do those of others affect you? What are some of the ways you might be able to help gently nudge people along the pathway to faith?

If you are feeling disappointed with faith, life, church even, don't be afraid to walk the walk of Holy Week from the elation of Palm Sunday, the confusion of Maundy Thursday and the grief of Good Friday. Bring where you find yourself to God and be honest. Dwell where you are, reflect, meditate on it and then look around you, really look. Notice Jesus alongside you in your disappointment and then notice what happens at the end of the Road to Emmaus. It ends with a feast and, as always, Jesus' presence makes the feast. I've seen many adaptations of the moment that they realise that Jesus was with them throughout the journey and the best, in my humble opinion, is that of the miracle maker. In this animation the moment in the last supper where Jesus blesses the bread and institutes communion he raises the bread high above his head and thanks God for it. Then, at the table in Emmaus, the stranger is asked to eat with them he once again raises the bread high above his head and breaks it. At that point their eyes are opened!

For the two on the road to Emmaus, when they find Jesus it's just the beginning of a new journey. They actually make an about turn - 'that same hour' (v33) - back to Jerusalem because they cannot help but tell others their story of how Jesus found them, on their journey!

At the end of this Holy Week, Jesus body will have been lifted up high above us and broken, and then we'll see him revealed, in all his glory - we'll know him as our saviour and though he may seem to vanish, at times, from our sight, we'll know him ever-present by his spirit as we continue our journey.

Where is your journey taking you? Who are you walking alongside? Why not stop for a moment, look around you and notice Jesus walking with you to transform your disappointments into resurrection celebrations! Then tell your story - everyone needs to hear about the one who was dead but now is alive!

## Prayer Space

### Opening prayer

(From 'No ordinary Man' reflections by Nick Fawcett)

Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded of how you entered Jerusalem to shouts of joy and celebration.

But we remember how quickly that welcome evaporated, how soon the mood of the crowd changed.

Lord Jesus Christ, we know all too well that we are not so different - our commitment to you so often short-lived, superficial, self-centred.

Help us to welcome you into our lives with true gladness, and to go on serving you come what may, now and always.

Amen.

### Prayers of intercession

(Written by June Suter of North Muskham Methodist Church)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your promise that you will hear us and answer our prayers.

We ask you to bless the nations of the world and be with all who lead us day to day. We pray for friendship between peoples of all countries and churches, that rivalry and self interest may give way to harmony and mutual trust, and that hatred and brutality may be eclipsed by love and kindness.

As we have reached a year of lockdown in the UK and in this time of crisis and struggle for us all, help us to invite your Holy Spirit to guide our hearts and minds in order that we may hear your people's cries.

Thank you for giving us this beautiful world and help us to understand that we are stewards of all that you provide. Guide us as we try to reverse the damage man has done to your lands and seas, and help us to do all we can to keep your world clean, unspoiled and beautiful for future generations.

On this Palm Sunday we see Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 500 years before, that 'the Messiah would come and proclaim peace for all nations'. Jesus was a quiet pilgrim entering the Holy City surrounded by a small group of followers. May your Holy Spirit guide us as we try to travel with him on our own journey.

We remember before you all those we know who are lonely, bereaved or suffering

In any way. May they feel you by their side.

As we journey through Holy Week help us to hold firmly to the joy, hope and certainty of Easter Sunday.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

## This week's Lent Action:

Did you know that the second most common pathway to faith is through a friend? (The first is a family member.) We sometimes make the mistake of thinking that evangelism happens through famous evangelists on stages with audiences of hundreds or thousands. What our Lenten journey has hopefully taught us, is that our story is powerful and God is calling us all to share God's Story, through our story, with others.

This week, commit to praying regularly for five people in your life who do not, as far as you know, have faith in Christ. Look for opportunities to share your story with them.

**ACTION**

## Reflective songs...

Songs chosen for inclusion in the YouTube service...

Make way, make way (StF 264) [LINK](#)

From heaven you came (StF 272) [LINK](#)

Ride on Ride on in Majesty (StF 265) [LINK](#)

Click [LINK's](#) to access YouTube clips of each song.

## Holy Week in the Circuit - YouTube



## Service of Tenebrae - YouTube

*Tenebrae is a quiet prelude to Easter Day which helps us identify with the darkness and loss felt by Jesus' followers as they experienced his death. Traditionally held on Maundy Thursday evening, it is just as appropriate on Good Friday morning or afternoon. Some have suggested that this ancient tradition takes us with Jesus as he descends into Sheol to deliver the captives. It also parallels the Exodus when Moses freed the slaves in Egypt.*

Please tune into the 'live' service which will be premiered at 8pm on Maundy Thursday (1st April 2021) and again at 10:30am on Good Friday, (2nd April 2021) on the Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit YouTube Channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>) It will also be available to 'watch back' at any point afterwards.

## Easter Day - YouTube

The Easter Day service will be at 10:30am and will be a circuit service with contributions from folk from many of our eleven churches in collaboration. Do tune in, in the usual way, through our YouTube channel. (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>) It will also be available to 'watch back' at any point afterwards.

**Why not share the links to our Easter services with a friend, colleague or relative and in doing so, share God's Story this Easter.**

24-3-21

**Families:** by Katie Hibberts  
[families4SMC@gmail.com](mailto:families4SMC@gmail.com)

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

The following activities accompany this week's Live Lent course that the circuit are following over Lent. We hope you find them helpful as you journey through Lent as a family.

#### Monday 29 March - Long or Short - Acts 26:1-32

St Paul didn't just tell people about Jesus. He prayed for them to become Christians. Get a bag of snack pretzels. They are meant to look like arms folded in prayer. As you eat the pretzels, pray for people you know who aren't yet Christians.

#### Tuesday 30 March - The Road to Damascus - Acts 26:12-16

Read the story of how St Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). It was very dramatic! Retell it in five sentences or five pictures.

#### Wednesday 31 March - The Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35

Do an internet search for an easy flat bread recipe. Have a go at making it. When the disciples on the Emmaus road saw Jesus breaking the bread, they recognised who he really was. As you make and eat your bread, talk together about ways we recognise and remember Jesus.

#### Maundy Thursday - Proclamation - 1 Corinthians 1:21-25

St Paul wanted everyone to hear the good news of Jesus. Who could you invite to join you at church (it might still be online!) this Easter Sunday? Design a text or video invitation with all the details and press "Send".

#### Good Friday - Witness - Acts 1:7-9

Make a garden to remind you of the story of Good Friday. It will need three crosses and a cave covered by a stone. You could make it out of building blocks, material from your recycling or using twigs, stones and soil from your garden. Do an image search for Easter Garden if you need some ideas.

#### Saturday 3 April - The Pearl of Great Price - Matthew 13:44-46

Get ready to celebrate Easter tomorrow with Resurrection Rolls. Do an internet search to find an easy recipe and gather the ingredients.

#### Easter Day - "I Have Seen the Lord" - John 20:1-29

"Decorate a banner that says "Alleluia - Christ is risen!" Put it in your window so that people can see it. Sing or listen to your favourite Easter song or hymn. Bake Resurrection Rolls (if you have the ingredients) to celebrate. And if you made garden on Friday, remember to move the stone today.

## Can you contribute to TOGETHER?

We're looking to produce this Newsletter as a Circuit and would like to widen the team as far as possible. Perhaps you could contribute a prayer, a short article, an encouraging piece. Maybe you would be willing to be part of the editorial team? Perhaps you'd like us to advertise something in your church.

If you would like to join the team or make a one-off contribution, please get in touch with Revd. Peter Hibberts by email ([peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk)) or telephone (01636812166).

Contributions must be received by Monday of each week for Tuesday editorial and Wednesday distribution.