



TOGETHER

only physically apart

NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk

Rewilding and unexpected harvests

Dr Nigel Pimlott lives in North Muskham and works for the connexional team of the Methodist Church as a Learning Network Officer and Evangelism and Growth team member.

I love gardening, particularly growing fruit and vegetables, especially tomatoes. This year, I grew a variety new to me - a North American one producing giant purple tomatoes with the most delicious and succulent, sweet fruit. My top specimen weighed in at 324g – nearly three-quarters of a pound in old money.

When doing A-levels I had a job in the local park tending to the flower borders, keeping things neat and tidy. The park-keeper was a perfectionist. Nothing was ever allowed out of place. I also like method and order in the garden, but I've noticed this year a veg have self-seeded and produced nice fruit – I reaped a harvest where I had not sown.

I also like the idea of wilder areas in the garden and love to see such spaces across local villages and towns. It's good to sow wild-flower seed; attracting birds and insects. There's a small area in our garden where we've done this. We sowed wild flower seed alongside a mix of other plants in the space left by a diseased tree. It has been beautiful to see all the colours, with new things appearing as the season has unfolded. I suspect my old park-keeper boss would call it an unruly mess.

Equally, I like the idea of some areas being left to grow completely wild. By doing this, we experience things we have not seen before, rediscovering amazing things in God's creation that we never imagined.

I've recently come across the idea of rewilding the church – an idea looking to give God full permission to come and set us free from the controls, mindsets and potentially dulling effects that our current approaches might realise. I've noticed we're strong on order and methods, but might we allow God to re-wild us?

In his book, 'Rewilding the Church', Steve Aisthorpe uses the metaphor of rewilding to inspire us to rediscover the adventure of following Jesus, challenging domesticated or risk-averse expressions of church. I've been working with an ecumenical group of church leaders from across the country to explore what this might mean for us. The conversation has been very inspiring.

Of course, rewilding means giving God full access to our existing ways of being and creating a renewed sense of awe and wonder across how we live and do church. Giving up control and handing it over to God can be scary if you like being in control of things. Steve invites us to explore letting go, encouraging us to allow the Spirit to lead us beyond our capacity as we follow Jesus in wild and adventurous ways.

My invitation is to explore what this might look like for us. Some of us might look to have order and methodical approaches that may potentially bring in a harvest from what we sow. That's great. Others of us may set aside certain aspects of our lives – and church life – sowing some wilder seeds, to produce beauty and attract new things. This might look a little messy to some, but exciting and life-bringing to others; certainly not messy to God. I also think that's great.

Still others of us might want to re-wild, let things grow out of our control. We may wish to re-wild our understanding of God, re-wild ourselves and how we live, and re-wild the contexts we serve, worship and work with God missionally in, across the circuit. I happen to think that would also be great. If we can free ourselves from everything that entangles us, we will yield a totally new and bountiful harvest full of joy, and unexpected delicious and succulent, sweet fruit. Enjoy.



1. Online Service

Join us from 10:30am on Sunday for our Circuit Service which this week is hosted by Revd Nathan Falla

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

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

Please join us afterwards

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

www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185
Password: Tog3ther

Phone: 0131 460 1196
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185
Password: 48647472



3. Radio Services

BBC Radio 4 (Also [online](#).)
08:10am - 18th October 2020

The One Who Heals

A eucharist live from Croydon Minster celebrating St Luke, patron saint of physicians.

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.)

If any of this baffles you – call your minister



No-one is an island

worshipping together though maybe physically apart
Our Sunday Sermon | John 4:16-26 | Revd Nathan Falla

Worship is a gift from God. It enables us to respond to God's love with adoration and praise and opens our lives to the transforming power of God. Through worship we can know God's Spirit is with us and we can be lost in wonder, love and praise. Worship can be individual and corporate; it can involve many and it can involve one. It involves prayer, reflecting on Scripture and responding to the Spirit. Worship can express our deepest joy and sorrow, it can be a source of comfort, strength and challenge. Worship is not an activity reserved for an hour on a Sunday, but a life lived open to engaging and responding to God every day.

This week we continue to explore worship as part of a life of discipleship and particularly consider *we will worship with others regularly*.

Worshipping with others regularly poses particular challenges at this time when it is just not possible for everyone to participate in collective worship in the same physical space at the same time. There are some that lament this fact and may feel disconnected or in exile because they cannot go to church, whilst some have found new ways to worship; online, in a Bubble Church or have felt able to attend a socially distanced Sunday Service. Some have been thankful for the written material to provide food for thought and resources for their worship at home. I have certainly found that it is not the same experience to lead either online worship (live or pre-recorded), lead worship with the congregation wearing face coverings or to write a sermon for others to read, but I firmly believe that the Holy Spirit is at work as we worship in our homes engaging with the material in various ways, and we are all united by God's love and Spirit, together in Christ though physically apart; no-one is an island, we are all connected.

In John chapter 4 Jesus has the most remarkable dialogue with the Samaritan woman at the well and our reading picks up the dialogue half-way through. The first half has focused on water and the second focusses on worship. Jesus and the woman come from different backgrounds; Jesus was Jewish, and Jews had the whole Old Testament as their Scriptures, believed that worship should place at the Temple in Jerusalem and were awaiting the Messiah. The woman was a Samaritan and Samaritans believed that worship should take place on Mount Gerizim, only had the Pentateuch (first 5 books) and were awaiting a second Moses. What Jesus says is that place is not important, what is important is

“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth” v24 from NRSV.

Within this dialogue Jesus makes it clear that some worship is acceptable and some is not. It may be helpful for us to explore worshipping with others regularly under three headings; community, commitment and re-creation.

Community - Worship that is acceptable should connect us to God and enable us to connect to the world. Worship is a conversation between us as individuals, us as a community, God and the world. Worship should never be in a vacuum, it should not be a way to escape the world but should always look to connect and re-connect us, the world and God. In the mystery of worship we join in the worship of heaven that never ceases to declare that God is holy, and in the mystery of worship we join in the local and global worshipping communities as we are united by the love of Christ and bound together by the Holy Spirit.

Commitment - Worship is whole life and life-long; it should be holistic and impact heart, mind and soul. It is not about our preferences, not about location but what gives worth to God and what enables us to engage with God, and respond to God, the God who is holy and who calls us to be holy! It is about a commitment and a lifestyle; a daily choice to live lives open to God that our whole lives may be worship to God.

Creating and recreating - Worship is about creating that sacred space to share, pray and respond as individuals and as communities. Where we may know encouragement and support from fellow pilgrims on the journey; to be open about what we are discovering about God in worship and how God is challenging, inspiring, blessing and convicting us. Worship is all about transformation, becoming more the people that God calls us to be both as individuals and as communities of faith.

Worshipping with others especially at this time - At a time when it is difficult to worship with others, we can explore ways of including and involving people. Worshipping with others regularly can mean phoning someone up to see how they are finding worship at this time; offering to pray with them or for them. It can mean sharing with someone what you find helpful in your devotional life. It can mean having a Zoom meeting or telephone conference to share what God is saying, and to pray together. It can mean joining a Bubble Group physically or online for that fellowship and worship. It can mean offering that word of encouragement, support or prayer by phone, email, or letter.

Worship as an integral part of a life of discipleship is about maintaining that relationship with God and with others that enables you to grow and flourish and become the person that God is calling you to be. May we all be open to the Spirit that our whole lives may overflow with worship, that we may be the community of prayer and worship dispersed and gathered, and be committed that our lives may continually be changed and transformed. Amen.

Prayer Space

A Gathering prayer

Loving and gracious God, wherever I worship you today, may I know your presence with me. Your arms surrounding me bringing me assurance and comfort. Your Spirit stirring and inspiring me, challenging and guiding me. Remind me as I worship that I am part of something bigger. Enfold me in your love and fill me with your peace. Amen.

A prayer of praise and to say sorry

Gracious and loving God, as I worship you I thank you for your love and faithfulness; that you are with me at all times, and in all places.

I thank you for Jesus that through him I can know your love, a love that will never let me go.

Forgive me for those times that I have not worshipped you with my whole life; when I have not shown your love to those around me, when I have not spent the time with you that I should. Renew me by your Spirit as I begin again, may your love and forgiveness transform my life, this day and always. Amen.

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to join the prayer chain and receive prayer requests or have a prayer request (with permission of the recipient) please get in touch with Colin...

Colin Beckett colin1244@gmail.com.

It is for those in any church or none!

Dial-a-sermon

Can't get onto the YouTube Service? Want to hear the Sunday sermon? Dial up at any time of the day or night at the cost of a local call.

Press option 3 for the Sunday Sermon

(Sermons go live each Sunday.)

Dial a Sermon

01636 552255

Listen to the circuit sermon
each week.

Newark and Southwell
Methodist Circuit
helping you stay connected
whilst we're apart.



Reflective songs...

Songs chosen for inclusion in the YouTube service...

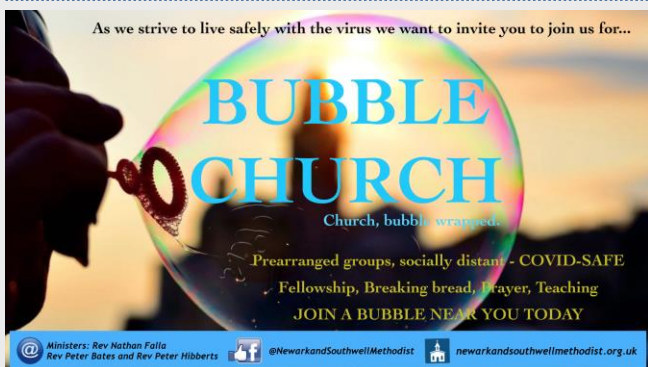
Song 1 *There's a quiet understanding* (StF 36, SOF 546) [LINK](#)

Song 2 *I will offer up my life* (StF 446, SOF 851) [LINK](#)

Song 3 *Brother, sister, let me serve you* (StF 611, SOF 54) [LINK](#)

Click 'LINK's to access YouTube clips of each song.

Bubble Church Resources



Would you like to be part of Covid-Safe face-to-face church? Join a bubble today by getting in touch with your minister.

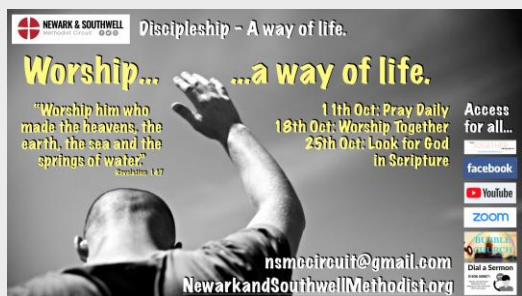
The following questions are designed to get you thinking and, if you're involved in Bubble Church talking about the topic!

1. How has the pandemic impacted how you have been able to worship with others?
2. How "together" have you found your experience of worship?
3. What ways have you found helpful to engage with God and respond?
4. What have you found to be the effect of worshipping together regularly?
5. What can you do to connect with someone that maybe you have not been in contact with for some time?

For more information checkout the Bubble Church guide with risk assessment on the Circuit Website:
<https://www.newarkandsouthwellmethodist.org.uk/newsroom/bubble-church.html>

Next time...

Join us next week for the third and final part of looking at Worship...a way of life as we explore how we look, and listen for God in Scripture and the world. This is part of a bigger exploration of Discipleship – a way of life and in November we will be exploring learning and caring.



Bible trivia quiz for kids and Grownups

Q1 True or False: The Bible is the most popular book ever written. (by copies sold)

A:



Q2 What is the first book in the Bible?

A:

Q3 What is the last book in the Bible?

A:

Q4 What four books tell about Jesus life on Earth?

A:



Q5 Which book did Jesus directly write?

A:

Q6 What is the longest book in the Bible?

A:

Q7: True or False: David wrote the entire book of Psalms

A:



Answers
1/True 2/Genesis 3/Revelation
4/Matthew/Mark/Luke/John
5/None/6/Psalms/7/False



C
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C
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R

Thankyou Lord

Thank you for my family,

For hugs and kisses and special times together.

Thank you for my friends,

For laughter and chatting and sharing.

Thank you for playtimes & Holidays

For toys and games and books.

Thank you for fun,

For giggles and for silly happy times.

Thank you for making all these lovely things

And for helping me to enjoy them all.

Amen.

Let's Pray



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 Bates by email (peter.bates857@yahoo.com) or telephone (01636 706264).

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