



TOGETHER

Christ is risen - he is risen indeed, alleluia!

NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk

Educating COVID-Style

Article by Revd. Peter Hibberts

The global pandemic has been incredibly difficult for folk in lots of different spheres of life. I have experienced first-hand what it's been like to lead church during COVID times, trying to maintain some form of unity and togetherness at a time when those things are nearly impossible as just one example! I also know what it's been like to be a parent during lockdown learning (though I'm lucky to be a qualified primary school teacher and to be married to a qualified primary school teacher!) I have no idea what it must have been like for many of you folks or indeed to be a serving teacher in one of our schools during this time.

My wife, Katie (also Southwell Methodist Church's families worker) has continued to provide collective worship for all of the schools that we were connected with prior to COVID (which has had to take the form of YouTube recordings) and we have also tried to keep in touch with the staff in the schools. In my conversations with headteachers at this time it has been clear that, unsurprisingly, this ranks with one of the greatest challenges schools have ever faced. Schools were forced to close with no notice and yet expected to, practically overnight, provide meaningful educational experiences (through a wide range of home situations) whilst simultaneously remaining open to key worker children in a COVID safe manner. Schools have been incredibly inventive in this and showed an amazing resilience in the face of great adversity. In a recent conversation with a school leader, I had a window into the relentless risk-assessing and changing of procedures that has had to be done during this time with regular updates and changes caused by ever-evolving advice and restrictions (just as one example). I don't envy those working in schools at all right now, instead I am in awe of them and incredibly grateful.



Twelve months is a long time to maintain this level of resilience and we need to keep all of our schools and school staff (teaching and non-teaching) in our prayers at this time - especially as the pressure is mounting for children to embark on some form of catch-up. At the recent Circuit meeting we decided that on top of our prayers and offers of support we wanted to physically express our support and gratitude to our two Anglican Methodist Schools. Pictured are two gifts delivered to Lowe's Wong Anglican Methodist Junior School in Southwell and All-Saints Anglican Methodist Primary School in Elston. They were delivered on behalf of you with our thoughts, prayers and gratitude. Please continue to pray for our schools and their pupils at the most challenging of times. (My thanks to Helen Murray of Southwell Methodist Church for arranging the amazing fruit baskets and Millie from

'Mil's Kitchen' for the wonderful cakes - all were very gratefully received.



1. Online Service

Join us from 10:30am on Sunday for our online Circuit Service which this week led by Rachel Dalby and comes from Balderton Methodist Church.

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!

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



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

3. Radio Services

BBC Radio 4 (Also [online](#).)
08:10am - 9th May 2021

How to Pray

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, reflects on prayer in a service from Bishopthorpe.

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 all this baffles you and you'd like to find new ways to engage with church in these times, please contact your minister.

HOLY SPIRIT - THE EXPERIENCE

Our Sunday Sermon | Reflections from John 16:7-16 | Rachel Dalby

I am very much a creature of habit, I like an order to things, I like to know where I stand, I suppose you might say I like to be in control. I think a lot of us are like this, perhaps its that we always change the bed on a Monday, or go shopping on a particular day. Even our working lives may be full of routine, tasks we need to complete on particular days.

Of course, we have all had to adapt to life during a pandemic over the past year. All the things we felt were normal have been turned upside down. We have never known anything like it before, but on the whole we have come through it and we look forward to being able to get back to some sort of normality in the coming weeks.

In our Bible Reading, we hear Jesus preparing his Disciples for the big changes to come in their lives. The Disciples were bewildered and grief-stricken at the thought that they were going to lose Jesus. He had been such a big part of their lives, they had shared so much with him, witnessed his many acts of healing, heard his wonderful stories and learnt so much. Jesus tells them that in the end this will be for the best, because when he goes away, the Holy Spirit, the Helper will come. When he was with them in human form, he couldn't be everywhere, it was a case of greetings and farewells. When he was with them, he could not reach the minds and hearts and consciences of people everywhere, he was confined by the limitations of place and time.

There are no limitations with the Spirit. Everywhere a person goes the Spirit is with him. The coming of the Spirit would be the fulfilment of the promise in Matthew's gospel: "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." The Spirit would bring to all an uninterrupted fellowship for ever; and would bring to ordinary people, a power and effectiveness no matter where they are. Here we have an almost perfect summary of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus goes on to tell his Disciples what the Holy Spirit will do.

The Holy Spirit will convict men of sin. When the Jews crucified Jesus, they did not believe that they were sinning; they believed that they were serving God. But when the story of that crucifixion was later preached, their conscience was pricked. They suddenly had the terrible conviction that the crucifixion was the greatest crime in history and that their sin had caused it. The story is told of a Missionary in an Indian village who was telling the story of Christ by means of lantern slides projected onto the white-washed wall of a village house. When the picture of the Cross was shown, an Indian stepped forward, as if he could not help it: "Come down!" he cried. "I should be hanging there - not you." Why should the sight of a man crucified as a criminal in Palestine two thousand years ago tear the hearts of people open throughout the centuries and still today. It is the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will convince men of righteousness and this becomes clear when we see it is Jesus Christ's righteousness of which people will become convinced. Jesus was crucified as a criminal. He was tried; he was found guilty; he was regarded by the Jews as an evil heretic, and by the Romans as a dangerous character. He was given the punishment that the worst criminals had to suffer, branded as a felon and an enemy of God. What changed that viewpoint, what made people see in this crucified figure, the Son of God, just as the centurion saw at the cross and Paul on the Damascus Road. It is utterly

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amazing that people should put their trust for all eternity in a crucified Jewish criminal. It is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is he who convinces people of the sheer righteousness of Christ, backed by the fact that Jesus rose again and went to his Father.

Thirdly, the Holy Spirit convinces men of Judgement. On the Cross evil stands condemned and defeated. The Holy Spirit makes us all feel certain that judgement lies ahead. It is he who gives us the inner and unshakable conviction that we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

The Holy Spirit convinces us and makes us sure that in this crucified figure, we can find our Saviour and our Lord. To Jesus, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, whose great work is to bring God's truth to all people. The bringing of God's truth to everyone is a true revelation and no passage in the New Testament shows us what we might call the principle of revelation better than this one.

Many things that Jesus knew he could not at that moment tell his disciples, because they were not yet able to receive them. It is only possible to tell a person as much as they can understand. If I want to teach my granddaughter how to knit, I would start with the basics of knitting a simple blanket square, I wouldn't sit her down with a complicated cable knit sweater pattern and expect her to produce a finished jumper. If you wanted to introduce someone to baking, you wouldn't expect them to start with a 4 tier wedding cake, you might begin with some small sponge cakes. This is what God's revelation to his people is like. He teaches us what we are fit and able to learn.

There are people who only believe that they can find the true and living God within the passages of the Bible, but in reality this would mean that since about AD 120, when the latest book in the New Testament was written, God has ceased to speak. But we know as Christians that God's Spirit is always active, always revealing new insights to his followers through ordinary people. Of course the greatest revelation came in the form of Jesus. Jesus is not just a figure in a book, he is a living person and God's revelation goes on. God is still leading us into a greater realisation of what Jesus means. He is not a God who spoke up to AD 120 and is now silent. He is still revealing his truth to everyone who is willing to listen.

All through the ages the Holy Spirit has revealed through ordinary people the wonderful truth of God, whether it be through the words of the Hymns we sing or reading powerful words of poetry. It could be through the work of scientists who discover a new form of treatment, something we have witnessed over the past year, as ordinary men and women have used their skills to change and save the lives of those struck down with Covid-19, those who have put time and effort into producing the vaccines that many of us have been lucky enough to receive.

All truth is God's truth, which is revealed to all of us by the Holy Spirit. God's truth is a gift given to all who seek it, it is not something we can create, it is there waiting to be discovered. That revelation comes to us from a living person, a person who was willing to journey to a cross of shame, accused of crimes he did not commit, from our Lord Jesus and continues to be revealed each and every day in the ordinary things of life, through the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Space



Call to Worship

Come, Holy Spirit

Come as the robin in the morning, awakening
our hearts with your song.

Come as the dove at evening, bringing blessing
and peace.

Come as the blackbird at noonday, gladdening
your world with joy.

Come to us

As we come to Worship that we may sing to the
Creator,

seek healing for the wounds of creation and find
peace through active prayer.

Amen

Blessing

Live within the peace of God, that the love of
Christ may nourish you and the strength of the
Spirit be your power and grace.

We join together in the words of the Grace

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

The love of God

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Be with us now and forever

Amen

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

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

colin1244@gmail.com.

It is for those of any church or none!

Study groups

A four week series of services and small groups intended for anyone who wants to engage with the Bible. Spend an hour a week that positively impacts their lives, themselves and society.

Adapted from...
CLIFF RESOURCES
www.cliffresources.org

Week beginning 2nd May 2021
SESSION 1: THE PROMISE JOEL 2:28-29
Week beginning 9th May 2021
SESSION 2: EXPERIENCE JOHN 16:7-16
Week beginning 16th May 2021
SESSION 3: THE CHALLENGE ACTS 2:14-21
Week beginning 23rd May 2021
SESSION 4: PENTECOST ACTS 2:1-15

Sundays (watch back at any time) 10:30am on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/NewWorkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>

Monday Evenings (Zoom) from 7:45pm onwards
(Zoom details available on request)

Rev Peter Hibberts
peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk

#NewWorkSouthwellMethodist
[newworksouthwellmethodist.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/newworksouthwellmethodist)

During the next three weeks we will be running parallel study groups midweek. These will be led by Rev Peter Hibberts on Monday evenings, 7:45pm onwards via Zoom continuing next Monday (10th May) It's not too late to get involved - do please get in touch if you'd like to know more.

peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk

Songs...

Come, now is the time to worship (StF 24) [LINK](#)
Spirit of God, unseen as the wind (StF 394) [LINK](#)
Come down, O Love divine (StF 372) [LINK](#)
O breath of life, come sweeping through (StF 391) [LINK](#)

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

Bubble Church Resources



As things become safer, many of our Bubbles will be reopening. 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. If you could meet with the physical person of Jesus, what would you ask him?
2. Have you ever experienced 'meeting' the person of the Holy Spirit? If not, would you like to experience the Holy Spirit at work in you?
3. What difference does knowing that God's Holy Spirit lives in you make to you as you live out your faith?
4. How has God (through the Holy Spirit) convicted you of something that you needed to change in your life? Have you ever felt God (through the Holy Spirit) leading you in a particular direction?
5. Pray that you have either a first encounter or a fresh out-pouring of the Holy Spirit in your life. Pray for one other in your church, family for community, to encounter the Holy Spirit.

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

Thy Kingdom Come



Ascension and Pentecost are on the horizon and so is the annual 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative. TKC is a call to prayer that this year will happen from 13th (**this Thursday**) - 23rd May. There are many opportunities to get involved in TKC as a church and as an individual. One central way is to follow the [Prayer Journal](#) which you can access online at thykingdomcome.global. If you would like a paper copy they are also available. There is also a wonderful 'Novena' which prays daily through the Psalms and encourages us to pray for 11 people specially during TKC. Get in touch for more details and watch this space for more TKC activities.

5-5-21

Families:
families4SMC@gmail.com

by Katie Hibberts

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Today we are going to explore the Trinity, focussing on our experience of the Holy Spirit.

Start by looking at an egg. What parts are there to an egg (shell, white, yolk)? Crack the egg open to show the different parts. What about a mars bar? Chocolate, caramel, nougat. Maybe cut up a mars bars if you have one so you can all have a piece and spot the 3 parts of it. "Would it still be a mars bar if I took out all the caramel?". No, it wouldn't be the same if any part was taken out.

What other things can your family think of with just 3 different parts? Draw pictures of the objects - we'd love to see them!

God has 3 parts too: God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. What do you know about God? He created the earth. Jesus? He came to earth as a man. The Holy Spirit was there too when God created the earth and when Jesus was on earth and is still with us now.

Have a quick discussion about where the Holy Spirit is? At school, at the supermarket, on the football pitch, in homes, EVERYWHERE!

Creative Response Activity

Write on card the following memory verse with wax crayons.

"When the spirit of truth comes he will guide you into all the truth"
John 16:12.

Make sure you press hard and also do more than a single stroke for each line, otherwise it won't be as effective.

Then get some black paint that has been watered down a little and paint over the top. The paint should not stick to the wax crayon and should leave the memory verse revealed.

Maybe you could share some testimonies of when you've noticed the Holy Spirit at work in your lives. How has God's Holy Spirit revealed himself to you?

Don't underestimate the power of God's spirit to reveal himself to children as well as adults... ask your child when they've been aware of God's Spirit being with them this week.

TOGETHER contributions needed!

As Nathan goes on his sabbatical in the next few months, we need your input into TOGETHER more than ever. Could you write a front page article (around 500 words) for one of our editions? Perhaps you could contribute a prayer, an encouraging or even a challenging piece. **Perhaps you can share an experience of God the Holy Spirit that you've had in your life!**

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) or telephone (01636812166).

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