



TOGETHER



NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk

The straight and narrow roadmap...

I hope many of you will have heard, through various sources, about the roadmap towards restriction free church, but if not, there is probably more information on the way to you through your local church. Prior to leaving for Sabbatical Nathan was able to complete an interim plan for circuit worship between now and August and this can be found on the circuit website (www.newarkandsouthwellmethodist.org.uk) but I've also added the first half of it to this newsletter for those of you who are not connected to the internet. This provides some opportunities for face-to-face worship across our circuit with the hope that these will be built upon as restrictions are lifted and be more comprehensive from September where guidance and resources allow. We are committed to continuing the online (YouTube) services and this Newsletter until such a time as they are not required.

I know people will approach face-to-face worship with mixed emotions. The best phrase that I have heard to describe how I think we should proceed is with 'cautious optimism.' With the vaccine roll-out we have every reason to feel safer and we are starting to see restrictions easing and there is even a prospect of restriction free worship on the horizon. That said, with new variants we always need to be ready to move in either direction as guidance is constantly revised and we aim first and foremost to stay safe. At present most of our chapels have some form of face-to-face opportunity listed below but there may be other opportunities arising that are not listed here and everything is subject to change. Numbers will be limited in every place of worship, whilst social distancing restrictions remain, though for many churches this will not be a problem there may be some where it is necessary to book in. If you don't know who to contact locally, for your church, then do feel free to contact myself (peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk 01636812166) or Peter Bates (peter.bates857@yahoo.com 01636 706264) contact Rev Hibberts for Barmbygate/Hawtonville and Rev Bates for Charles Street and we'll direct you to folk who can help! Please pray for all of these re-openings as we seek to re-gather face-to-face after such a long time.

May - June 2021		2nd May 5th of Easter	9th May 6th of Easter Christian Aid	16th May Sunday in Ascensiontide	23rd May Pentecost & Aldersgate Sunday	30th May Trinity Sunday	6th June	13th June MHA Sunday	20th June Father's Day	27th June Conference Sunday
Balderton	10:30 am	LA	Dalby	Hardy	Bates HC	Castle	Bates	LA	Bates HC	West
Barnbygate	11:00 am	LA			Gibson HC		Beech		Gibson	
Charles Street	10:30 am	Mathews	LA ChAid	West	Cozens	C Membery HC	LA	LA	Mathews	C Membery HC
	6:00 pm							Bates HC		
Collingham	10:45 am	LA	Bates	Beech	Morley HC	Bates	Cozens	Hall HC	Hart	Bates
Elston	10:45 am		Ward T		Hibberts HC			C Membery		Hibberts HC / CA
Hawtonville	11:00 am	Joint Service at Barnbygate			Joint Service at Barnbygate		Joint Service at Barnbygate		Joint Service at Barnbygate	
Long Bennington	10:30 am	Bates HC		Gascoyne		Hart HC		Bates		Ward T
North End	6:00 pm	LA	Bates	Mathews	Bates	Ward	Bates	Morley	Bates	Mathews
North Muskham	10:30 am					Hibberts HC		Hardy		Gascoyne
Southwell	10:00 am		Hibberts PicC					Hibberts PicC / HC		
	4:00 pm							Hibberts Bubble HC		Hucknall Bubble
Sutton-on-Trent	10:30 am			Hibberts HC		Hucknall T		Winnington		Cozens



1. Online Service

Join us from 10:30am on Sunday for our online Circuit Service which this week led by Rev Peter Bates.

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 Service

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

The Breath of Life

Bishop of Bangor, the Right Reverend Andy John and Archdeacon of Bangor, the Venerable Mary Stallard, lead a service for Pentecost from St Tudno's Church on the Great Orme peninsula.

THE GOD OF UNITY AND DIVERSITY

Our Sunday Sermon | Rev Peter Bates

The Holy Spirit came down powerfully upon the disciples as they met together. They had never experienced anything like this before and they were overwhelmed. It was as if they were compelled to go out into the streets and tell people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit was speaking through them in a unique way. Perhaps to some people it was a babel and they looked as though they were drunk, and yet to others, they heard the disciples clearly speaking to them in their own native tongue. God was doing a wonderful work in the lives of these God-fearing people who had travelled to Jerusalem to worship him. Now they could experience Yahweh in a way they had never encountered him before. These men and women would soon be disciples themselves, and they too would enthusiastically tell people about Jesus. The Spirit was moving and no language barrier was going to stop the work of the kingdom.

What strikes me when I read the Pentecost story is the overwhelming power of the Spirit and the disciples desire to go out and tell people. And then we seem to get bogged down by a list of places. But this just emphasises the distance people had travelled, the variety of cultures they had come from. It is a huge range, and yet the Holy Spirit spoke through the disciples in such a way that everyone heard the message.

The disciples were together in one place but you also get the sense they were together as a group. They had experienced so much in just a short time and they needed each other for support. They were all different, strong characters, loud and quiet ones, with different skills and abilities, but they were together. The Holy Spirit came upon them and used them as individuals and as a group. There was unity there in the common purpose of serving God, and God used that sense of unity to propel the disciples forward as a group. They had perhaps been in disarray when they witnessed Jesus' death on the cross. They were encouraged when they met with their risen Saviour but it was when the Spirit came that they found real unity. A unity which held them together through all the trials that lay ahead of them.

I would suggest that unity is important to us today as Christians if we want the Holy Spirit to move in our lives, our church and our community. If each of us are heading in different directions the church goes nowhere. It is not always easy, and the disciples would certainly have found it difficult, but they put their individual

feelings to one side so that they could serve God as fully as possible.

I would also suggest that mercy is fundamental to the Christian way of life. In the song, 'Take us to the river' (see below) mercy is central to the message:

"Take us to your throne room,
Give us ears to hear the cry of heaven;
For that cry is mercy, Mercy to the fallen sons of man;
For mercy it has triumphed,
Triumphed over judgement by Your blood;"

As I go on in my life, I realise that forgiveness and mercy are essential parts to the way we live our life as a Christian. God showed us mercy and forgiveness and we should reciprocate by expressing it to others. How else, will we be able to work together for the Kingdom.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." How do people know that we are his disciples? By the love and care and respect we show each other. I am not saying that it is always easy. We feel passionate about God and we feel passionate about our own church, there are bound to be clashes of personalities, disagreements as to what to do and the way forward, and we will make mistakes. But if we are not big enough to say we are sorry, if in the end we cannot respect each other then the devil is beginning to win and there is little chance we will move forward.

God's nature is love, and it was his love for humankind that sent Jesus to the cross and it was his love for us all, that compelled him to send his Spirit to move upon us. Having experienced God's love and forgiveness, should we not make room in our hearts for his Holy Spirit, to enable us to experience his joy and peace, which passes understanding. It is not more preachers we need, it is not more miracles or catchy songs, it is genuine love that will win this world for Christ. There were no short cuts when Jesus came to earth. He experienced the full gamut of human emotions, and he continued to love, through betrayal and denial, through physical and emotional pain. We follow Christ because he loves us unconditionally, what kind of love do we show our brothers and sisters in Christ, and our brothers and sisters in our community. It has to be the whole hearted love of God, expressed through us, with all our faults and failures, but with God's love shining through us. Amen

Prayer Space



PRAYERS FOR PENTECOST

Great God of creation, your spirit moved over the chaos at the beginning of time. Your Spirit brought order and beauty out of nothing. Today we pray that your Spirit will work in our lives to bring out the best that we can be, to mould us into the people that you want us to be, and let your Spirit be the catalyst for change in our churches. A change which is generated by you and not by human desire.

We thank you for the way you moved on the disciples at Pentecost, the power of your Spirit, the way you moved men and women to respond to the gospel. We ask that you will work in our communities, preparing people to receive your word. Help us to be instruments to bring the Good News to everyone we meet. Forgive us Lord, when we have not been willing to serve you, when we have not been a good example to others. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

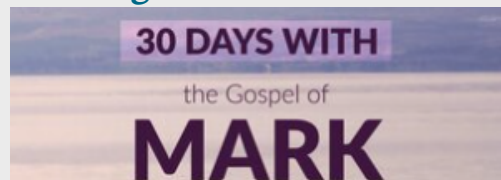
Lord, as we think of Israel today, we ask for peace. We pray for an end to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. We cannot presume to know what the answer is but we do desire in our hearts that there will be peace in the land where you once walked.

We pray for countries like India and Brazil and many others that are struggling to contain the coronavirus, we ask that you will help them to gain the resources they need to combat the disease. We pray for the leaders of the nations that they will work together to address the world-wide problem of climate change. We take so much for granted, help us to realise the destruction that is being caused day by day by the resources we use without thinking about the impact on the earth. 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!*

Coming Soon...



June each year in the Methodist Church is Bible month which is the church's opportunity to study one book of the Bible for a whole month and really squeeze all we can out of it!

This year we focus on the gospel of Mark and during those 30 days we will be using readings from the gospel of Mark at our services and running small groups in the midweek. For more information, to join a study group or even to receive the material to lead a study group, contact Rev Peter Hibberts by email or telephone: peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk (01636 812166).

The River of GOD (Down The Mountain)	LINK
Theres a Spirit in the air	LINK
Take us to the river	LINK
Spirit of God unseen by the wind	LINK

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

Bubble Church Questions



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.

1. Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the presence of God or the Holy Spirit? How did it feel? What were you compelled to do?
2. How would you have felt/reacted if you had witnessed that first out-pouring of the Holy Spirit? How would you feel if that happened in your church?
3. How unified do you feel as a church? What could you do to help bring unity in your church? Pray for God's Holy Spirit to unify our church from a period isolation - to gather us together.
4. What 'mercies' do you think we need as we come back together as churches from very different experiences of COVID-19?
5. How is God leading you to show love in your family, workplace, church, community or beyond?

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

Footnote from Psalm 34

To be honest, I've been very emotional lately. I'm coming to terms with how afraid I am. I'm afraid of being in public again. I'm afraid of what I'll find when I get back to church. I'm afraid of who won't be there. I'm afraid of who I will discover I've let down. I'm afraid it won't be what I expected. I'm afraid it *won't* be what it used to be. I'm afraid it *will* be what it used to be. I'm afraid I won't be able to fulfil the role I used to. I'm afraid I'll have to fulfil the role I used to. I'm afraid.

"I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4 Anon.

Families:

by Katie Hibberts
families4SMC@gmail.com

Family Activities - Pentecost Sunday!

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church - a special day to celebrate! Why not buy or make a cake and light the candles on top. Once the candles are blown out, cut up the cake for everyone to eat. Once the cake has been eaten, explain that Pentecost was the birth-day of the church. It was such a key moment. Explain that a fantastic present was given to Christians on that day. It wasn't just for the disciples like Peter and John, but for every Christian. Explain that this gift is the Holy Spirit, who dwells in every Christian. You can read the account in Acts 2.

Write out the following memory verse and talk about what it means. You could decorate it and put it up somewhere in your home as a reminder.

"You will have power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."
Acts 1:8

After they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples told thousands of people the good news about Jesus. Give each member of your household a piece of paper and pen and ask them to draw or write a prayer to ask for ways that they can share the story of Jesus with their friends too. Refer back to the story of the Holy Spirit equipping the disciples.

Some children might find this difficult to grasp, so ask a few questions to help them:

How can we tell our friends about Jesus?

Try to think of ways the children could do this and suggest the following things:-

Ask their friends to come to church.

Talk to their friends about the story they had at church this week.

To be kind and show God's love to those they meet.

Not to hurt or say unkind things to each other, because Jesus wants us to love our friends.

When you have all finished, spread a sheet out on the floor and sit round it so that everyone is holding onto part of the sheet. Share your prayers with each other. It may be a drawing or a few words or even a sentence. Stress that all of us have different ways of praying but God understands us. When all the prayers have been read out throw them onto the sheet. Then as you talk about the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples like a wind, lift the sheet up and feel the breeze. You could finish by standing up, holding the sheet and singing a favourite worship song or listen to some music. Say a final Amen as your prayers are thrown into the air.

Why not make a birthday card for the Church to celebrate Pentecost?

TOGETHER contributions needed!

As Nathan is 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.