

# TOGETHER

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

## The Young Evangelist

**Being on the district 'Young Evangelist's Programme' by Olivia Hibberts of Southwell**

**H**ello, my name is Olivia Hibberts, and I'm a member at Southwell Methodist Church (as well as Rev Peter Hibberts' Daughter!) I am 11 years old and part of an amazing Christian youth program called "young evangelists", organised by Chris Briggs where I get to learn all about sharing my faith along with others from the district who are also on the youth program with me.

Young evangelists is a 2 year learning course where I learn more about GOD and how to share him with other people. This great program has given me the chance to develop as a Christian and find out how to help spread the love of god through evangelism. Every month we meet up in a different place to: talk about our experiences; eat together; and learn more about the incredible love of GOD. However, under the current circumstances we have been doing this over zoom.

Chris Briggs and others involved in this have not only taught me how to share my experience but have given me the chance to do it in person by giving me the chance to share my testimony in church. The great leaders in this have even let me anoint others with oil, so I have the opportunity to help others on their journey to Christianity. Although these aren't possible to do whilst COVID is preventing us from meeting, I am still enjoying sharing my faith through school, text or simply by going on a walk with a friend.

In the bible (1 Peter 3:15) it says: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who ask you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect". I feel that the young evangelists program has definitely helped me to do this for Christ.

Every 2 months we explore a chapter of a great book called Holy Habits by Andrew Roberts where we learn more about sharing faith and the different holy habits of god. Each chapter in this book has a different holy habit of 12. After reading this book at home: we then share our thoughts about this chapter at the monthly catch up.

John Malnutt and Chris Briggs have enabled me to be braver and become an evangelist for GOD, whilst enjoying a monthly catch up with my friends and other Christians.

I love Young evangelists and it has really helped me grow as a Christian, but most of all I can help other people to know the incredible love of GOD that I know.





# Mark's Gospel - Bible Month Part 2

## Mission and Boundaries

Online Circuit Service Sermon | Romans 8:37-39 | Rev Peter Hibberts

### 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!

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](http://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 - 13th June 2021

#### Woven

The Rev Michaela Youngson leads a service on Storytelling - God's Story, Our Story, Every Story, woven together because God is interested in the smallest detail of our lives.

### 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.*

Last week we began our study in Mark with questions about 'Mission and Identity' - who is this Jesus? (You can find Peter Bates' message from last week on the circuit website and as part of last week's service on our YouTube channel.)

I know what you're thinking though, how can we be in the second of a series in Mark's gospel when I've chosen to focus on a passage in Romans? Hopefully that will become clear. I want to invite you to read Mark 4:1-8:21 in it's entirety though it's far too big to include in a service! For now, I intend to bring themes out from across these chapters but Romans 8:37-39 pretty much sums it up! In the second of our four week series on Mark's gospel we consider the Mission of Jesus and Boundaries.

I'll be honest with you, there are few things I hate more than boundaries. The idea that someone only receives or participates in something or has a right to something if they live within a boundary is one I struggle with. On the other hand I love the organisation, 'Medicines Sans Frontiers' (sometimes known in Britain as 'Doctors without Borders'). The reality is that our borders are human constructions that diseases (not least COVID-19) don't respect and they shouldn't limit our ability to help. In chapters 4-8 of Mark's gospel we see a God who also knows no boundaries and are challenged to a borderless faith and an inclusive church!

First we encounter the parable of the sower (4:1-9). I know what you may be thinking, in this parable there are clear boundaries - there is a path, rocky ground, thorny ground and good soil. As if that's not bad enough, Jesus goes on to say that for those 'outside,' the parables are there that they might listen but not understand! Does Jesus want some to be in and some to be out? Of course not. Whilst leading inevitably causes some to follow and some to not, the aim of the leader is surely to be followed! Look again at the sower (the one who sows the word). Does he choose the landing place of the seed? Not at all - the seed is scattered indiscriminately! Indeed, wherever the crop grows it will be harvested. This is a parable of no boundaries, no discrimination and challenge for us that although we know not everyone will respond in the way we'd like, we too must share God's love indiscriminately and let God be in control of the harvest.

The borderless God we serve doesn't stop there either. As Mark continues we have many miracles of identity. (Miracles that tell us something about the character and identity of our borderless God, seen in Jesus.)

We have the calming of the storm (4:35-41) showing us that the laws of nature are not boundaries to God. We have the healing of the haemophiliac (5:24-34), which in a time of blood being a source of uncleanliness and social taboo shows that social norms and prejudices are not boundaries to God's love and healing. Then we have the feeding of the 5,000 (6:30-44) and 4,000 (8:1-10) which demonstrates that our meagre resource will not thwart the work of God - he will multiply! When Jesus walks on water (6:45-52) he proves that seemingly insurmountable obstacles will not keep us from God's presence. Jesus casts out the demon from the Syrophenician woman's daughter (7:24-30) showing that nationality or race are no boundary to God's power. And of course we have the Girl restored to life (5:21-23...35-43) showing that even death is not a barrier to God's love and power.

Are you getting the picture? The more we see of the person of Jesus, the more the boundaries, borders, limitations melt away!

What's holding you back? Perhaps it's illness, self-confidence, resources, locations or even this dreaded pandemic. Let me tell you, none of these things, though they may hold us back in life, holds back God's love, God's presence or God's blessings.

The passage I focussed on initially says this beautifully:

**"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love." Romans 8:38 (NLT)**

This folks is who Jesus is. Jesus is the indiscriminate sower; the laws of nature breaker; the social taboo smasher, the resource multiplier, the race and nationality defier, and the death destroyer! **He is the boundary breaker!**

The most important thing I can tell you, about who Jesus, is that he is God with skin on, come to walk amongst us; the same God who flung stars into space, who surrendered to cruel nails on the cross in order to overcome every barrier and make a way to God the creator for *all* who want it.

Let's step back, in awe and give all we are to the God who  
3 has given all, wants all and can do all with us.

## Prayer Space

### Prayer of adoration:

Lord, I lift up my heart to you in love and adoration, and praise you for your greatness. You are the great and mighty King and all glory belongs to you. Words cannot describe how awesome you are. There is no other god that can be compared to you and there is none above you. You are the Creator of heaven and earth, and everything belongs to you. My heart bursts with joy when I think of you. Come, move with us as we live and worship you. Come by your Holy Spirit wherever we are and fill us as we worship you.

**Amen**

### The Breakthrough Prayer:

*A prayer for God to break through in the life of our churches*

God of love, God for all, your purposes are more beautiful than we can possibly imagine.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Help us let go of all that holds us back.

Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of humility and faith, of change and growth.

Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show us the way.

**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](mailto:colin1244@gmail.com).*

*It is for those of any church or none!*

## Volunteers Needed

We need help putting sticky-backed printed labels and stamps onto envelopes. We currently send out about 115 TOGETHER leaflets each week. If you could help with this task Nick (Circuit Administrator) would be very grateful. To offer your services he can be contacted on:

07305 057946

[nsmcircuit@outlook.com](mailto:nsmcircuit@outlook.com)



## Songs...

All my days (StF 343) [LINK](#)

This is amazing grace (StF ) [LINK](#)

All hail the power of Jesus' name (StF 342) [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. What boundaries do we create in our world?
2. Have you ever had to cross a difficult boundary or break through a difficult barrier?
3. Of the boundary breaking events that have been mentioned this week, which speaks to you the most? Why?
4. What needless boundaries (barriers) do we place in our church experience that can keep ourselves or others from reaching out to God? Pray that God will help us to break these boundaries.
5. What boundaries keep you from reaching out to God? Pray that God will break these boundaries.
6. Take time to pray for our boundary-full world. Pray for those whose ministry brings them up against barriers. Pray for God to overcome the barriers that keep his love and blessings from us and our church.

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 Week...

Next week's circuit service will be led by Rev Peter Bate and will be the third in our Mark series for Bible Month.

Join us from 10:30am on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>

If you would like to participate in any of the online services, in any way, please get in touch with Rev Peter Hibberts (01636) 812166 ([peter.hibberts@Methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.hibberts@Methodist.org.uk)) or Rev Peter Bates (01636) 706264 ([peter.bates857@yahoo.com](mailto:peter.bates857@yahoo.com)).

9-6-21

## Families activities...

Read the story of the Parable of the Sower from Mark's gospel, or watch an animated version here:



Divide a piece of paper into four quadrants. Can you remember what soils Jesus talked about in his story?

In each quadrant draw or crayon a different soil: path, thin and stony, weedy, good. Try to make the quadrants very different – really thick brown for the good soil, and thinner, sandy yellow in the others. When you've drawn the soils, spread glue over the picture and stick some seeds on. You could also glue some feathers onto the path to represent birds.

Talk about the different soils and what they represent.

Response activity

Using air-drying clay or play dough (or make salt dough if you want some messy fun - there are many recipes online!), roll the dough out and cut it into the shape of a heart. Stick a large seed in the middle (sunflower seeds are perfect) and keep it as a reminder that our hearts are like the soil from the parable of the sower - we want them to be good soil so that the seed can grow.

Alternatively, cut a large heart shape out of a piece of kitchen roll. Place it on a plate and sprinkle the heart with water and add cress seeds. As the cress grows over the next week or so into a heart shape, remember that God wants our hearts to listen to what he says.

## 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](mailto:peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk)) or telephone (01636812166).

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