

TOGETHER

NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk

“So how are you?”

“Fine thanks.”

“So how are you *really* doing?????”

The Well-being Journey, written by Rachel Kenward of Charles Street Methodist Church



As we transition out of lockdown we recognise that more than ever we need to look after our own wellbeing in order not just to survive but to thrive.

Imagine living your best life...reaching into that point where everything falls into place...

Imagine experiencing life to the full, firing on all cylinders...

Imagine discovering complete wellbeing in every area of life...

This is your invitation to join The Wellbeing Journey.

The Wellbeing Journey is a series developed in partnership between Hope Together and Kingsgate Church, Peterborough looking at wellbeing in the context of body, mind and spirit. Further information can be found via the following link: [Wellbeingjourney](#).

Each week we will watch a video focusing on different elements of wellbeing and then have time for a small group discussion in a safe and confidential virtual space. The sessions will be facilitated on line via Zoom by Rachel, Lorraine and Norma - we want to stress that we are not experts in this area but are all passionate about supporting health and wellbeing in our community.

We have shared our experience of the series on the recent Charles Street In Brief which can be found via the you tube link: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ocv4oObSNag>. Please note start date of the next journey is still to be confirmed.

Feedback from recent participants includes:

“Would thoroughly recommend course to others interested in looking after their own wellbeing with genuine support from others”

“Concept of wellbeing broader than just emotions- need a balance of all aspects which are interconnected”

“Realisation that behind our masks we have similar issues, concerns, worries”

“Enables taking steps to a positive attitude with hope”

If you would be interested in joining us on this journey please contact Rachel via rachel.kenward@gmail.com or 07954342020 for further details.



Mark's Gospel - Bible Month ²³⁻⁶⁻²¹ Part 4

THE PASSION

Online Circuit Service Sermon | Mark 11:1-16:8 | 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 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. 'Zoom' Coffee Time is evolving!

More and more folk are attending face-to-face services but we're also committed to those who can't yet, so we changing our ZOOM coffee time to meet this changing situation.

After next week, 27th June, the coffee time will be run by different 'hosts' and at different times. If you would like to see these informal 'Circuit Coffee and Chat' sessions on ZOOM continue, join in or even 'host' one contact Richard Miller. For more details and to join the distribution list please contact Richard by email: richardjmiller17@sky.com.

There is also a weekly coffee time at 3pm on a Monday run by Charles Street but open to all, email Mel Watson for more details: mellwatson42@gmail.com

3. Radio Services

BBC Radio 4 (Also [online](#).)
08:10am - 13th June 2021

Exile and Return

A service from Rugby School which explores the parallels between the experience of those in education during the Coronavirus pandemic and themes of exile and return in the bible.

4. Radio Nottingham

Listen every Sunday, at 8am, to a live

What are you passionate about? What gets you going? What would you sacrifice all for? What would you fight for (or against)? What would you be willing to suffer for? **What's your passion?**

This final part of our four part series from Mark's gospel is often described as '*The Passion*'. It's the final six chapters of Mark and represents most of the gospel, but chronologically it potentially refers to just one week or so of Jesus' earthly ministry. Have you ever wondered why we call this 'The Passion'? As one theologian put it, when referring to Christ's final week before the cross "The word passion means 'to suffer'" from 'pascho' in Acts 1:3 - 'After his *suffering*, he showed himself to these people and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive.' It's interesting because in general usage passion has a different meaning. It can be defined as a '*strong and barely controllable emotion*.'

In one sense, as we continue to explore the identity of Christ, this section tells us what Jesus is passionate about, what he suffered for, and it's us: people, humanity, every one of *us*. You!

In these final six chapters, Mark has us hurtling at breath-taking pace towards the culmination with a week of intense confrontations between Jesus and whatever stands in the way of the Kingdom of God.

There is his confrontation with the empire in his triumphal entry (11:1-11); his confrontation with the temple traders as he turns over their tables (11:15-26); there is his confrontation with the chief priests, scribes, elders, pharisees and those in the court of King Herod (11:27-12:44). All of these structures will pass away. The Kingdom of God, on the other hand, is near, is being established (nothing can stop it) and it will last forever.

Jesus seems to challenge everything! What would Jesus challenge in society today? What would Jesus challenge in the church? What would he challenge in you? What are the establishments that must pass away for the Kingdom of God to be established.

We are at a time of existential question in the church. The great C-19 change point (the opportunity presented by our closure and scattering) asks us to consider where our passion lies and whether it is lined up with the passion of Jesus.

If the conversations I'm having with lots of folk at present, around Church, are anything to go by, we are all feeling pressure, anxieties, fear and it's understandable - the last 18 months were unprecedented! Let us draw then on journey of Jesus - perhaps we must walk in the footsteps of Jesus - walk the Passion of the Christ.

Here we see more confrontations, perhaps metaphorical ones. Focussing first on the garden of Gethsemane (14:32-42), Jesus confronts his fears. How can this journey be trodden - knowing that it goes through death. How can we move forward as church when it seems church is falling apart around us - dying? He takes his fears to God in prayer. Are you praying for the church? How fervently? Where are our drops of blood? Jesus' fears are probably still on his mind as he prays, 'not what I want but what you want' (14:36) Are we willing to submit to the will of God for us? To surrender our fears and trust him? Jesus surrenders and sets his face to The Passion.

Focussing then on the trial (14:43-15:20); this is push back. When we try to move forward, the enemy will push back, accuse us (often wrongly) and build a case of lies. 'You're not up to the job', 'there's no future', 'there's not enough money', 'we're all too old'... and many more lies. Actually, in Jesus' case, the accusations are true - he is who they say he is but they're wrong to think he is lying about it! Many of the accusations the enemy levels at us may seem true on face value, but because of who Jesus is, they need not be answered, Jesus simply needs us to have faith and he will deal with them. Jesus has faith and sets his face to The Passion.

Then there's the crucifixion. Jesus is willing to give everything. It is in total sacrifice that 'it is finished' (John 19:30). Are we willing to go that far? Are we willing to pick up our cross and follow Jesus? Jesus gives all and sets his face to The Passion.

Then, as the gospel closes, we have the final identity of Jesus, known in Latin as Christus Victor - Christ the Victor. Jesus full identity as the saviour was confirmed both by Jesus' response in trial and the manner of his death. (In the darkness and temple curtain ripping that shows he was not just a man, a good man or a good teacher, he is more than a prophet; he is the son of God.) Something ultimately confirmed by his resurrection.

We started this series by asking 'Who is Jesus?' And we end with the life changing answer. Jesus is the saviour of the world, the one sent by God the Father, anointed by God the creator (Messiah literally meaning 'anointed one') sent to bring us back to God. Christus Victor talks of the atoning work of God - literally the 'at-one-ment - Jesus makes us one with God again after being separated by sin and death. You see that's it - The Passion is a passion for you. Mark is all about who Jesus is but also who you are - loved by God, desired by God, called by God, pursued by God - saved, even from death by God.

Our passion then should be about Jesus, it's Jesus that should get us going, Jesus that we should be ready to sacrifice all for, Jesus who we should fight for and stand with.

Our church may feel in the midst of a struggle but Christ has already won. We simply need to shoulder with him and set our

Prayer Space

Prayer of St Richard

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

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. It is for those of any church or none!

PRAYER - Opening your heart to God - study group

The creator of the universe wants to have a dynamic relationship with you. The key is prayer. Authentic, courageous, direct communication with God.

I'll be running a study group on Mondays from July onwards (Starting 5th July, 8pm on Zoom.) there will be six sessions following 'Interactions' small group material on PRAYER. For more information, contact Rev Peter Hibberts Peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk.

Songs...

Make way, make way, for Christ the King (StF 264) [LINK](#)

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

All hail the power of Jesu's name! (StF 342) [LINK](#)

All my days I will sing this song of gladness (StF 343) [LINK](#)

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

Bubble Church Questions



**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 are you passionate about? What gets you going?
What would you sacrifice all for? What would you fight for (or against)?
2. How would you define passion?
3. What do you think Jesus would challenge in the structures of the modern world?
4. What would Jesus challenge in our church?
5. What would Jesus challenge in you?
6. Who do you say Jesus is?
7. How does your encounter with Jesus challenge you?

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

Circuit Vision Team Report

At this week's circuit meeting the Circuit Vision Team presented a report from their discussion which we commend to you for prayer and thought. The report is available to all (from the circuit website: [CLICK HERE](#)). It's just the beginning but sets out what we feel our aims should be, as a circuit, and we'd love to hear what you think. Do have a look and get in touch! Peter.Hibberts@Methodist.Org.Uk

23-6-21

Families activities...

Who am I?

Family games/challenges:
Gather some items that belong to one member of your family into a bag, for example: t-shirt, photos, an envelope with an address, etc. Explain that you have found this bag and need to work out who it belongs to. Show the pieces of evidence one by one. After all the evidence has been shown, see if everyone else can identify who it belongs to.



Repeat for other people, perhaps a celebrity, using items such as a map of Australia, or music on an ipod/stereo. Ask which evidence was most helpful/least helpful in determining the true identity.
The Point: To explore how we can discover someone's identity based on clues and evidence.

The following activity could be done whilst sat round the dinner table! Ask each person to share something good about the person to their left. For example "Simon is really kind". (Encourage them to think about a positive character trait!) Explain that often we can tell a lot about someone by how they are inside not just what they can do. When we look at what Jesus did we should also look at what kind of person He was. What did he say? How did He act?
The Point: To get a bigger picture of how identity is formed, it is inside and out.

Bible study:

Explain that Jesus asked his disciples "Who do you say I am?" We can find out who Jesus was by looking at what He did. To find out what He did, we have to look at the Bible.

Over the course of this week, try to have a look at some of the following bible passages as a family. They each show a different aspect of Jesus' ministry/character.

- Luke 3:21-22 (son of God)
- Luke 6:13-17(a leader)
- Luke 6:27-36 (a teacher)
- Luke 9:12-17 (a miracle worker)
- Luke 18:35-43 (a healer).

Discuss each passage together and identify what each one tells us about Jesus.

Who do you say Jesus is?

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.