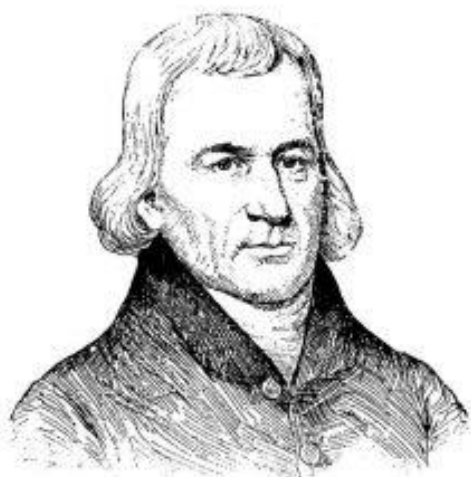


# TOGETHER

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

## *Remembering Asbury*

**Revd Nathan Falla**



The history of Methodism is full of interesting characters from the founders John and Charles Wesley to the likes of Sangster and Soper. Some are well known, and others are more obscure, only known to those who really study Methodist history. Francis Asbury is an important character in Methodism, but not really known in British Methodism from whence he came. He was born in Sandwell (near Birmingham), and had a humble upbringing, with a difficult childhood and received little education. An apprentice nail-maker who overcame adversity to train to become one of Mr Wesley's trusted preachers to go at short notice where he was needed most in the country.

In August 1771, 26 years old, Asbury stood up at the Bristol Conference and responded to John Wesley's call for men to go to America as missionaries. Asbury set sail in September from Pill (near Bristol) and thought he would be gone for just a few months, but spent the rest of his life in America, preaching almost until the day he died at the age of 70. He is credited as the preacher, pioneer and organizing genius of American Methodism who brought Methodism to thousands of Americans. He was ordained as its first bishop.

This autumn, the Methodist Church in Britain and the United Methodist Church in America are celebrating his response to John Wesley's call, and using the anniversary as an opportunity to reflect upon God's call on our lives.

Barbara Easton, the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference writes:

*"Why am I such a fan of Asbury? I think it's because, by rights, he was someone that on-one should ever have heard of. Most things in life were stacked against him – he was an apprentice nail-maker with little education. Yet he was fired up by the faith that he found and this gave him an energy which nothing could stop. He didn't have a lot of learning, but he studied (and kept studying) to get the education he needed. At a time when most people didn't travel far, he went round and round the preaching circuit of the growing, challenging towns encouraging people to find a transformative faith like his. He was said to be an extraordinary preacher'. He didn't always have great health or confidence, but he didn't let that define him or what he could do for the church. He put up his hand and said, 'Here am I. Send me'."*

What might God be calling you to do? May we be courageous and say, "here I am Lord, use me for your honour and glory."

If you would like to find out more about Francis Asbury, the [Methodist website](#) has some helpful resources.



# The Family of God

Online Circuit Service Sermon | 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 | Revd Peter Bates

At the inauguration of Justin Welby as Archbishop of Canterbury Cathedral in 2013, Justin Welby had to approach the West Door of the Cathedral, strike it three times with his staff to request entry. He was asked: "Who are you and why do you request entry?" He responded, "I am Justin, a servant of Jesus Christ, and I come as one seeking the grace of God, to travel with you in his service together." When we come into church we are welcomed warmly. It might be the first time we have been in a church and so it could be quite an ordeal. We don't know anyone and we don't know where to sit and what books to use. Even, when we have been to church all our life, we can still feel daunted walking into a church we have never been in before.

Why is it so difficult to walk into church? Is it the imposing buildings, the fear of the unknown, a feeling of not being in control? There are probably many reasons. But the fact is that once we have entered a church and received a warm, friendly welcome, we have the feeling that we want to come back again. There is something about church which invokes within us a desire to belong. We encounter people who want to talk to us and get to know us, not just at a superficial level but at a deeper caring level. To belong to a church makes us feel like we belong to a family, or at least a community. We feel as though we are part of something much bigger than just a group of people meeting together, we feel loved and valued. We are still an individual or an individual family unit but we are part of the bigger family of God.

When people combine their gifts and talents together it can make a far greater impact than if we are acting on our own. If each person is using their gifts to the best of their abilities and we are all pulling together in the right direction, amazing things can happen. But the problem with families is that they are made up of individuals, and if each individual wants to go their own way it causes conflict, and when we all feel strongly about something it causes even more problems. That is why we need God's love to be central in our own families but also in our church family. If God is directing our individual lives there may still be conflict in the family but if we are allowing God's love to mould us into the person that he wants us to be. Then we will be willing to listen to the other members of our family. We may not be able to resolve all issues but if we can come to a point where we agree to disagree, and we respect the other person's point of view, then hopefully we can move on.

We know from our personal experience of living in a family that there will be times with our church family when not everyone agrees. When decisions have to be made and people on both sides of the argument feel passionate about the outcome, then we need to walk in God's love. We have to be willing to accept the decision and see how we can work with it and with each other. Even Jesus' disciples had a problem resolving issues between them. Think about how James and John made a request to Jesus asking him to appoint them as leaders of their group, and how angry the other disciples were about this request.

## 1. Online Service

Join us from 10:30am on Sunday for our online Circuit Service which this week is led by Revd 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

If you're feeling isolated, are not ready to be face to face yet, or can't, but are happy to meet on Zoom, there is 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](mailto:mellwatson42@gmail.com).

There is also still a weekly Zoom fellowship called 'The Gathering' which is part of Southwell Methodist Church and run by Philip and Francine Holmes. You'd be most welcome, contact Philip to connect: [philipholmes8100@gmail.com](mailto:philipholmes8100@gmail.com).

## 3. Radio Services

**BBC Radio 4** (Also [online](#).)  
08:10am – 19<sup>th</sup> September

### Hope in Despair

The Right Rev Dr David Bruce, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland reflects on how hope may be found in situations of despair looking at Psalm 23 and Revelation 21:1-7. The service is led by the Revd Joanne Smith.

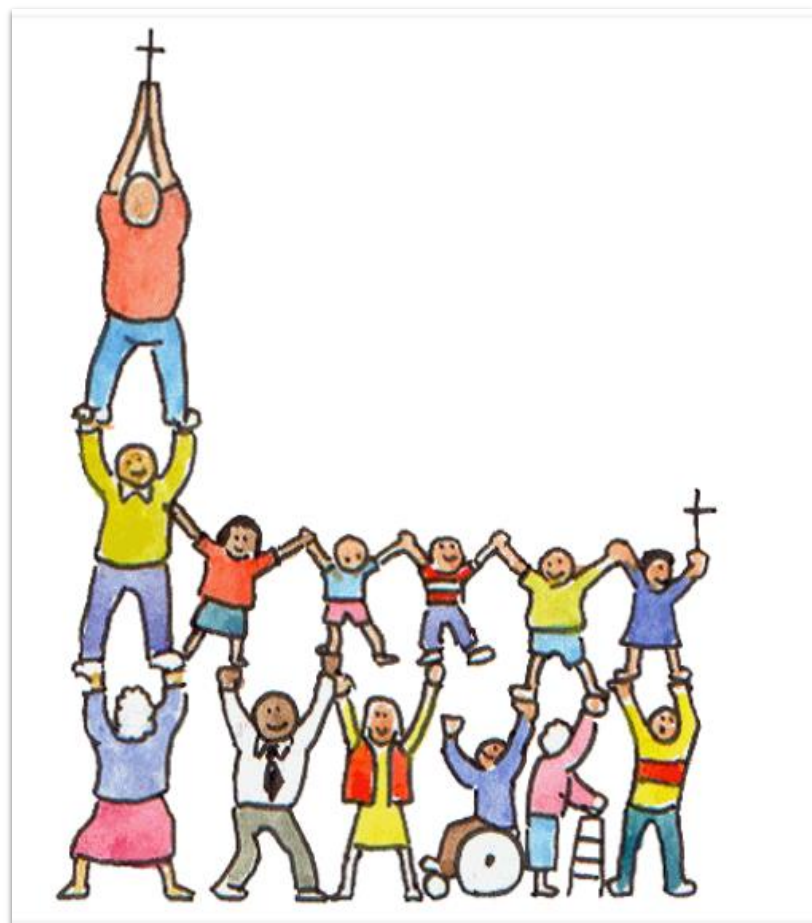
## 4. Radio Nottingham

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.)

Of course, we will have preferences in the way the church is run, what activities the church should provide, and in the hymns that are chosen for worship, and the style of worship. But in all these things we need to ask ourselves how best can the church serve God and the community. There may be things in our church that we are really pleased about and there may be things we disagree with. But we must ask ourselves, is this the best way of serving and glorifying God in our community? In the end it is about God and not our personal preferences.

When I was ten years old, I joined the Boys Brigade. Our company had a band, and I was asked to play the bugle. I didn't particularly like the bugle, I wanted to have a drum, but I was told that we had enough drummers. Speaking to some of my friends in the brigade, they too wanted to play the drums. I think we would have had about ten drummers and three boys playing their bugles. It wouldn't have worked. We had to be content in trying to get a tuneful sound out of our instruments. It is the same in any organisation, if everybody does what they want the organisation collapses or is so lopsided that it is not effective.

We need to follow Jesus' example and be content with where we are. God has placed us in a certain place and given us gifts and abilities which will be used to his glory. We need to be willing to play our part, even if it is not the part we wanted. Maybe later on we will have the opportunity to use our gifts and talents to the best of our ability, but we also have to acknowledge that there may be other people who God wants to use at this particular time. Let us be humble in our service to God and others, it may be frustrating at times but our reward is that we have the fulfilment of serving God and not ourselves.



## Prayer Space

### *Opening Prayer*

Almighty God we come to worship you, whether we are in our own homes or in church we thank you that you are with us. We marvel at the unity of the Trinity; in our world of divisions and individualism we struggle to comprehend how you can be One and work out your will in the world. We thank you that your very nature is love, and that is expressed in so many ways in our world. The beauty of creation, the food which you provide for us, and our family and friends that love us.

Forgive us, Lord, when we have insisted on our own way at the expense of others. When we have been selfish in the way we use our gifts and abilities. When we have gone our own way with no thought of you. Thank you, Lord, for your free and full forgiveness. Amen

### *Prayers for others*

Lord, we bring the needs of our world before you, today. There is so much disharmony and conflict. We desperately need your peace so that there can be an end to war and conflict. We need your love so that everyone can show love and respect to their neighbours. And we need your joy, not just to lift our spirits but remind us that you promised us life in all its fullness.

We pray for the situation in Afghanistan, where people are trapped in an oppressive regime. Help people to be able to leave the country for their own safety. We pray about the earthquakes, the floods and the wildfires. We ask that you will help the countries which have been affected by these natural disasters. And help us all to remember that Climate Change is the main driver in these severe weather conditions. Amen

## Circuit Vision Team Report

Have you read the Circuit Vision Team report yet? We're listening to your thoughts and would love to hear your response to it.

Your Circuit Rep has been asked to gather opinions from your church so if you have thoughts, do get in touch with them. (If you don't know who your reps are, get in touch with your minister to find out.) The report is available to all (from the circuit website: [CLICK HERE](#)).

## Hymns and worship songs

Songs chosen for inclusion in the YouTube service:

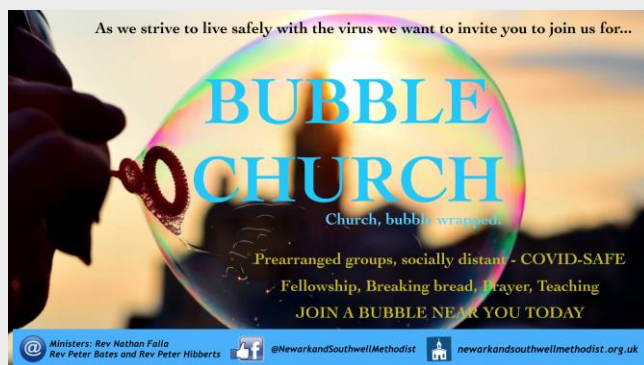
*Hear the call of the Kingdom* – SOF 1819, StF 407

*The Church's one foundation* – SOF 525, StF 690

*O Lord my God* – SOF 425, StF 82

Please click on the song title to access YouTube clip 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.**

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

1. Have you ever found it difficult walking into a Church?
2. Are you able to share a story of welcome from your experience?
3. What do you think are the ingredients for a welcoming Church?
4. What is the gift that you can bring to make your church better?

## TOGETHER IS CHANGING

TOGETHER is ready for a rethink. Should we still send it out weekly? What should we include? Could we have more information specific to local churches? What elements don't we need? Do let us know so that we can get it right...

If you have a view on the future of the newsletter, please do get in touch (email Revd Peter at peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk).

If it is to continue, we need to find a way for it to be sustainable. This may well include having a circuit editorial team who can put the newsletter together. Without this, it may not be possible to continue. If you can volunteer, please do get in touch.

## Face-to-face opportunities for worship this coming Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September across the Circuit...

### Balderton

10.30am Revd Peter Bates

### Barnbygate

10.30am Joint Service at Hawtonville

### Charles Street

10.30am Revd Nathan Falla (Holy Communion)  
6pm Mrs Jennifer Winnington

### Collingham:

10.45am Revd John Hucknal (Harvest)

### Elston (on 26<sup>th</sup> September)

10.45am Revd Peter Hibberts (Harvest)

### Hawtonville

10.30am Ms Bridget Castle  
(Joint service with Barnbygate)

### Long Bennington

3pm Mr Ted Gascoyne (Harvest)

### North End

6pm Dr Tracey West

### North Muskham

2pm Local Arrangement (Bubble Church)

### Southwell

10am Revd Peter Hibberts (Holy Communion)  
4pm Revd Nathan Falla

### Sutton-on-Trent

10.30am Revd Kevin Hart (Holy Communion)

***The full printed preaching plan is available at your local church, please do pick up a copy if you would like one.***

**SAVE THE DATE**

### ***A Celebration of Local Preaching***

A circuit service to include the re-affirmation of Local Preachers and the admission of Tracey West & Val Fowles as Local Preachers.

at Charles Street & online | Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October  
4pm