



TOGETHER

NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk

Counting down to COP26

by Revd Nathan Falla

I cannot believe how quickly October is going which means that soon the clocks will be changing but also COP26 will be upon us before we know it. COP26 (the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties) is taking place from Sunday 31st October to Friday 12th November in Glasgow. Woodlands Methodist Church in Glasgow's west end has been identified as the "hub" location for the Methodist global family. During the time they will be hosting various events, exhibitions and will be a space for hospitality and rest for those visiting Glasgow. Some of the events will be live streamed via the [Climate Justice for All YouTube Channel](#):

Thursday 4 th 7-8pm	Global lecture: Energy
Friday 5 th 7-8pm	Global lecture: Youth Engagement
Saturday 6 th 3-9pm	CJ4A Live*
Sunday 7 th 7am-1pm	CJ4A Live*



* Through the weekend events will take place enabling the voice of the global south to be heard on the important topics of: creation care, climate impacts, youth activism, climate refugees, mitigation and adaptation. For more detailed timings please see [the Methodist Church website](#).

Monday 8 th 7-8pm	Global lecture: Adaptation, loss and damage
Tuesday 9 th 7-8pm	Global lecture: Gender

Ahead of COP26, a youth-led global Methodist campaign, Climate Justice for All (CJ4A), have released an open letter to COP26 President Alok Sharma calling for bold and ambitious action to avert further damage caused to the environment by climate change.

Reflecting the work of the CJ4A movement, the letter says: "Young people have been pioneers in the climate movement, and as a Church we have been led by their prophetic voice as we have responded to the climate crisis. Our young people have continually expressed their fears for the planet, and have called on those in power to do more to protect their future. We urge you to hold these fears close to your heart as you lead COP26. We ask that you test the impact of the resolutions you make on generations to come. To neglect to do so would be a betrayal of the young people whose voices have been so active in driving the climate movement, and who risk bearing the heaviest consequences of our actions in years to come."

The letter is open for Methodists to sign by following this [link](#) but only until the end of Sunday 24th October **so please do not delay**.



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.

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.

3. Radio Services

BBC Radio 4 (Also [online](#).)
08:10am – 24th October

A Haven for an Emperor

An Ethiopian Orthodox Sunday Worship featuring excerpts from a service recorded at Bath Abbey.

The programme will feature traditional Ethiopian spiritual music and sung worship from the service in Bath Abbey, much of which is recorded in the Ethiopian liturgical language Ge'ez. Professor Robert Beckford with reflections. Reading: Psalm 22.

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.)

Every Day Miracles

Online Circuit Service Sermon | Mark 10:46-52 | Revd Peter Bates

A couple of weeks ago we went to the West Coast of Scotland for a short break. We travelled by coach, and on the way back when we were approaching Newark Cathy rang some taxi firms up to book a lift home. Both taxi firms reported that they were too busy to send anyone. When we got off the coach at Northgate Retail Park, we decided to walk round to the train station. We had been on the bus for nine hours and we were hoping that there would be a taxi waiting for us at the station. I said a quiet prayer, 'Lord, this isn't important, but it would be nice if there were a taxi available at the station'. As we approached the station there was a red taxi, we asked if he was available and he said "Yes". We gratefully got in and were whisked back to Balderton. I did notice that there was a cross hanging down from the rear-view mirror. Maybe it was an answer to prayer. All through the holiday we had been thanking God and talking to him, so it comes natural for us to speak to God about everyday things.

It wouldn't have shattered my faith if there wasn't a taxi waiting for us, but it did remind me that God loves me and cares about me. Jesus uses the illustration of a father only giving good things to his children, and this reminds us about our own parents and how they wanted the very best for us. They wanted us to be happy, and so they gave us gifts on our birthdays and on other occasions, sometimes to see our faces light up with delight when we open our surprise present.

Albert Einstein, who had one of the most brilliant minds of the twentieth century said, "That there were only two ways to live: as if nothing's a miracle or as if everything is." The difference being that we wake up every day and we thank God for the miracles that we encounter throughout the day. The things like the sun setting, or a sunrise. We thank God for our health and the love of family and friends. But we also thank God for the miracle of new life, for the miracles of healing, and when unexpected things happen to us. If we don't look for the miracles, they still happen but our senses are dulled to the prospect of them happening. We go through life routinely, not expecting to witness anything wonderful or amazing. We live in a world where everything can be explained and this takes away the mystery and excitement of life. Einstein could explain things which are beyond what most of us can take in, and yet, he left room for the wonder and mystery of God.

Our reading from Mark's gospel is a story of faith and fulfilment. Here was a blind man called Bartimaeus, he is a beggar because he has no other way of acquiring money to feed himself. The commentaries suggest that he was not born blind but somehow lost his sight at some point in his life. He knows what it is to see, and he has lost this valuable ability, and I am sure that he hoped and prayed for a miracle. How many

days, weeks months, years had this man been begging, living on the generosity of others. But he still believed, he wasn't going to be ground down by his circumstances. If an opportunity came along, he was going to grab it with both hands.

Bartimaeus had a good spot, there were plenty of people passing him during the day and you would hope he had sufficient money to feed himself. On this occasion, Bartimaeus heard excitement in the crowd and he enquired what was happening. He was told that Jesus of Nazareth was passing through Jericho. Here was his chance. As a beggar he would have heard many passing conversations, and more and more people were mentioning this young preacher who had healed people. Bartimaeus shouted out to attract Jesus' attention, but there was no response. As the noise of the crowd grew nearer Bartimaeus shouted even louder, this time he was met with rebukes from those nearest to him. Bartimaeus in desperation shouted as loud as he could, and he kept on shouting, despite the grumblings from the crowd. Eventually, some people helped him up and led him to Jesus. The teacher had heard his cry for help and had asked that the blind man be brought to him.

Jesus asks a simple question, the same question he had asked when James and John petitioned him about sitting at his right and left in his glory. This time Jesus asks the question to a humble beggar who only wanted one thing. Bartimaeus answered, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," Jesus said, "your faith has healed you." What a wonderful moment for this man. He received his sight back. From now on every day would be a miracle because this blind beggar could see. His life would be completely transformed, no longer would he be sat at the roadside asking for money, he could now go out work and earn the money to feed himself. Jesus didn't just restore the man's sight; he restored his whole life. And it was because the man believed, not for a few days or weeks, or months but for years, the man was faithful in that he knew God could change his life. Every day he believed in miracles and now he could live out that miracle story, seeing anew what we take for granted.

What areas in our life do we need to continue to believe that God can bring about a miracle? What areas in the life of our church do we need to believe that God can bring about a miracle? Miracles happen every day and so we need to keep our eyes open to the way that God is working in us and in our churches. I have seen congregations that have almost been down and out and yet, because they are willing to take tiny steps, they begin to believe that they have a future. We need to look at the opportunities God sends our way and grasp them. They may not be obvious opportunities of sharing our faith but if we are willing to serve our community God will make himself known in some way, perhaps through us or other people.

Continue to look for the every-day miracles, and believe.

Prayer Space

Opening Prayer

Lord, we thank you
that you are a great God,
we see your mighty works
throughout your creation.
We see miracles that you bring about
in our every-day world.
We worship you today
because of the transformation
you have brought in our life,
and the way you are still working
to transform the world you created.
When we look around us and see
the beautiful planet you have placed us on,
even though it is tarnished by our sin
we can see your handiwork
in so much of what is good in our world.
We wonder what heaven must be like
when we realise this is our temporary
home.

Forgive us Lord, for the selfish way
we have treated your planet.
Help us to learn how to care for it
as you do.

To be determined to make the changes
to our lifestyle which will give future
generations the opportunities we have.
Thank you that as you have transformed
us, we pray that you will transform our
government and the leaders of nations to
take Climate Change seriously. Amen

Prayers for others

Lord, we pray for the family of Sir David
Amess, we ask that you will comfort them
in their time of loss.

We pray for protection for our MP's and
others who serve in public roles in our
country. We are saddened that people who
do so much good are targeted by those
who are filled with hatred.

We pray for the COP Climate Change
conference which is taking place next
month. We ask that the delegates will carry
out their promises to reduce emissions to
safe our planet from further destruction.
We ask that the conference will be positive
and supportive of all the initiatives that are
proposed, and that help will be given to
the countries less able to adapt their
economies to the fighting climate change.

Lord, we continue to pray for our
government as they combat the
Coronavirus. Give them wisdom and
guidance in the policies they make and the
actions they take. Amen

Hymns and worship songs

Songs chosen for inclusion in the YouTube service:

O Jesus, I have promised – SOF 418, StF 563

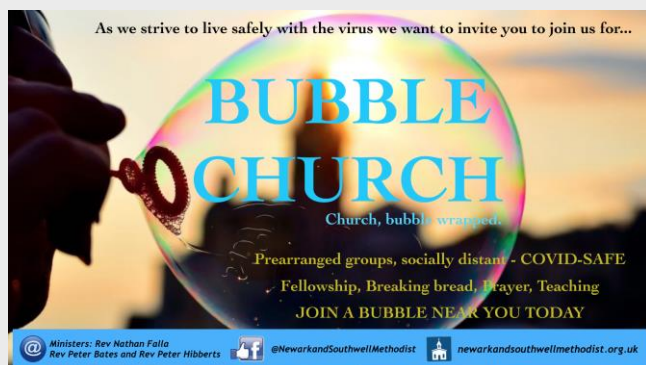
I, the Lord of sea and sky – SOF 830, StF 663

I watch the sunrise – StF 469

Blessed assurance – SOF 44, StF 548

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. Do you believe in every-day miracles?
2. There is a debate as to whether the quote from Einstein is authentic. What do you think?
3. What is your most recent every-day miracle and have you shared it with someone?
4. Have you experienced a transformational moment for yourself?
5. Do you believe God can transform your church?
6. What areas of the church are you praying for transformation?

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 you even want it? 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 24th October across the Circuit...

Balderton

10.30am Revd Peter Bates

Barnbygate

10.30am Local Arrangement
Joint Service with Hawtonville

Charles Street

10.30am Revd Nathan Falla (Holy Communion)
6pm Mr Eddie Adams

Collingham:

10.45am Local Arrangement

Elston

10.45am Mr Terry Pearce

Hawtonville

10.30am Joint service at Barnbygate

Long Bennington

10.30am Mrs Melanie Ward

North End

6pm Revd Peter Bates (Holy Communion)

North Muskham

10.30am Mrs Rachel Dalby

Southwell

10am Mrs Jennifer Winnington

Sutton-on-Trent

10am United Service at All Saints
(Holy Communion)

Please pray for all those leading worship on Sunday and all the churches in our circuit family not forgetting our two schools:

All Saints Anglican/Methodist Primary in Elston and Lowes Wong Junior School in Southwell.