



# TOGETHER

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

## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Article by Rev Peter Bates

I used to love 'Bonfire Night'. The warmth of the fire against a cold chilly night. The spectacular fireworks, rockets, Catherine wheels and the bangers. The delicious Toffee Apples and the cinder toffee were all delightful things to enjoy. But now, I worry about our dog, 'Dolly'. It was last year near 5th November when a large banger went off, and it really frightened her. It was only four o'clock in the afternoon and it was still light, she froze, and then looked up at me so I picked her up and hurried back home. I am concerned how she will react this year. Now, if she hears a car door slam, she runs back home as fast as she can.

I have been in both camps, as it were. So, I certainly don't want to spoil people's fun, but as a dog owner I would like a little more consideration as to when fireworks can be set off, perhaps limiting the time to just a couple of nights and not a whole week. We will have to see how this week goes.

There are many issues where we disagree with other people. A lot of the time they are not important enough to fall out with them. But sometimes, there are issues that are central to our faith, to the ideals that we hold, our sense of fairness and justice, and we struggle to see the other side of the argument. It was the same in the early church, great debates as to what the gentiles could do and couldn't do, and yet the Holy Spirit swept them all aside and worked in gentile and Jew. It was the love of Christ that held the Church, and it will be the love of Christ that holds us together today.

God's love moves us to share with those we do not agree with. The Spirit enables us to work with those who we would not choose to work with: And yet, in all this, if we are willing, God enables us to genuinely love those we journey with. Being a Christian is about love and forgiveness, and the more we go on journeying with others the more we learn to love and forgive. Each one of us as a Christians is called to serve and to express God's love. I think being in a church enables us to develop as a Christian, we learn to accept people as they are, and they learn to accept us as we are. Of course, there must be room to grow and change but this is all done in the context of a loving community. It is up to us to lead by example and show people what a loving community is like.

*If you would like to submit a front-page article for the TOGETHER magazine, please get in touch with Rev Peter Hibberts ([peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk)) or Rev Nathan Falla ([nathan.falla@methodist.org.uk](mailto:nathan.falla@methodist.org.uk)) and we would be only too happy to facilitate this. Front page articles are usually around 500 words, fewer if you would like to include a picture.*



## 1. YouTube Worship

**This week (31st October) our circuit service will be 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! (Also available to watch back at any time).

## 2. 'Zoom' Opportunities

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 - 31st October 2021

**'Drop, Drop Slow Tears' - Lament and longing in environmental crisis**

'Drop, Drop Slow Tears' - Lament and longing in environmental crisis as COP 26 begins. Readings, poems and prayers by Manchester poet Rachel Mann and music by Kantos Chamber Choir.

# LOVE THE LORD

Sunday Sermon | Mark 12:28-34 | Rev Peter Bates

The answer which Jesus gives to the question the teacher of the law asks is very interesting because it starts with, "Hear O Israel. The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Jesus speaks of unity, of oneness, completeness. The God we worship is one, and yet we know within that oneness there is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are one but we struggle to understand because we cannot comprehend unity which is expressed by God. The nearest I have come to understanding the oneness of God is when I watched the film, 'The Shack'. The unity of God is so beautifully expressed in that film, and it has helped me when I think about the Trinity.

It is this unity that I want to put across this morning, because unity is so important to us. God dwells in unity. When we work together, I believe that God blesses the work. In ecumenical terms it is not always easy but I believe that we witness to the world that we are together, that we are one in Christ.

Let us look at what Jesus says in verse 30. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." If we think about a whole person, we think of these four aspects which make up a person. We have known for a while that to preach to a person you need to minister to the whole person not just the soul, the spiritual part of a person. What do these aspects mean for us when we read these words of Jesus. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. I think of heart as passion, our emotions. Do we get passionate about God? Perhaps when we are singing our favourite hymns our heart swells with emotion, but what about when the preacher has chosen hymns that don't suit us, do we still sing passionately, with all our heart?

What about in our prayers, when we read the Bible, the quiet times we have, when we share with other Christians, are we passionate about our faith? Jesus didn't say, "Be passionate about God when it suits you." I think Jesus meant that we should be passionate all the time, even though we will not always show it.

Spiritually, do we maintain a healthy balance in our life? Is the spiritual side of our life on equal terms as the physical side? We need to worship God 'in spirit and in truth'. Most of us live on land for most of our lives. We feel a bit unsure

of ourselves when we are in water. If we have gone swimming in the sea or at our local swimming pool, we need to prepare ourselves. It perhaps takes us a short time to get used to being in the water but after a while we feel comfortable. Just imagine if you only went swimming once a year. How strange would it feel to be in the water after such a long time? It is the same with our spiritual life, if we spend most of our time dwelling in the physical world it is much harder then to dwell in the spiritual. We need to attune our bodies to not only use our physical senses but also to use our spiritual senses. To see a beautiful sun set or a sunrise, we see through our physical eyes but we also need to be aware of our spiritual senses, so that we can thank God and praise him.

Our bodies are delicate instruments, we need to look after them and be aware when the balance isn't right. We need to know ourselves and be sensitive to when our bodies are asking us for a rest or some food. We also need to be aware of our spiritual needs, when our soul is asking us to spend more time with God.

How do we use our minds? God has given us this amazing ability to take in information and use it. Do we use our minds for God or do we focus on ourselves? It is the same with our strength. Do we use our energy our abilities, our strength to help others or do we use it for ourselves? There is nothing wrong with reading a book or spending time on the internet, these are pleasurable things to do. But if we spend all our time reading books or all our time on the internet, we need to think about how we can serve others. God allows us to have time for ourselves. In the very command which Jesus spoke about to the teacher of the law, he says, "Love your neighbour as yourself." If we don't love ourselves, how can we show real love to our neighbour? It is a two-fold challenge. We need to get the balance right. If all our attention is on our neighbour and helping them, we will wear ourselves out and have no time for ourselves. If all our attention is on ourselves then we will have no time for our neighbour. We need to look after our neighbour as well as ourselves.

In all this, the point is we need to get the balance right. Jesus first of all acknowledged Gods unity, he then speaks about our four-fold responsibility to God. If we get the balance right here, we have every chance of getting the balance right with loving and caring about ourselves and also being aware of our neighbour's needs. Amen

## Prayers

**Y**ou are the One True God of Israel and of all creation. You are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. You have always existed and always will and one day we will join you in heaven, but for now we worship you here on earth. Our finite minds struggling to imagine what you are really like, even though you have revealed yourself to us in so many different ways. We thank you most of all for your revelation to us of Jesus your Son. Your very nature of love shone through his life to show us how we need to live our life.

Forgive us Lord, when our lives fall short of that revelation. Forgive us for the way we so often choose the easy way, the soft option, the comfortable life, instead of service to you and our community. Forgive us also for the way we wastefully use the resources of your planet.

**Amen**

**C**reator God we bring before you the Climate Change conference in Glasgow. We pray that each leader will commit their country to real and lasting change. That our world will be saved from excessive pollution which is gradually destroying our planet. We pray that we as individuals will commit to doing all we can to help the fight against Climate Change.

We pray about our countries continued battle with Covid-19. So many people feel that the disease has gone away and yet, it is still prevalent in our communities. We ask that you will give our government wisdom and guidance in the decisions they make to help us overcome this virus.

Lord, we pray for those who are vulnerable in our society. We think of those who are unemployed, those struggling to make ends meet, people whose relationships have broken down. We also pray for those who are grieving for loved ones, and those who are struggling with their mental health. We ask that you will meet all these needs by a touch of your love on their lives.

**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!*

**Songs included in this week's online worshipO for a heart to praise my God (StF 507) [LINK](#)**

O for a heart to praise my God (StF 495) [LINK](#)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind (StF 495) [LINK](#)

May the mind of Christ my Saviour (StF 504) [LINK](#)

At the name of Jesus (StF 317)[LINK](#)

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

## Bubble Church Discussion Points



**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 do we learn from Jesus' answer in Mark 12?
2. Give some examples of how you have learned to love yourself.
3. Give some examples of how you have learned to love those who live in the houses around where you live.
4. Give some examples of how you have learned to love those in your neighbourhood.
5. Give examples of how you love the Lord your God with all your heart Soul, mind and strength.

## Face-to-face worship across the circuit in the next four weeks...

September - November 2021		31st Oct All Saints	7th Nov	14th Nov Remembrance Sunday	21st Nov Christ the King Women against Violence
Balderton	10:30 am	Gibson HC	LA	Falla R	Dalby
	6:00 pm			Bates M	
Barnbygate	10:30 am	Bates	at Hawtonville	Winnington	at Hawtonville
	3:00 pm				
Charles Street	10:30 am	Mathews	C Membery HC	Hardy	Falla
	6:00 pm	Hardy	Falla	Hart HC	Gascoyne
Collingham	10:45 am	United Service at Parish Church HC	Bates	Bates R	Cozens
	4:30 pm				
Elston	10:45 am			Hucknall HC / R / T	
	4:00 pm	Hibberts			
Hawtonville	10:30 am	at Barnbygate	Falla	at Barnbygate	Gibson
	3:00 pm				
Long Bennington	10:30 am	Cozens	Castle	Cenotaph R	Bates HC
	3:00 pm				
North End	6:00 pm	Falla	Mathews	Hibberts	Bates
North Muskham	10:30 am	LA Bubble		United Service at MRCC / R	
	2:00 pm		Hibberts HC		LA Bubble
Southwell	10:00 am	Hibberts	Hibberts	LA	Hibberts HC
	Other		Morley 4:00 pm	Hibberts PicC / HC / 2:00 pm	Ward 4:00 pm
Sutton-on-Trent	10:30 am		Morley US	Hibberts Breakfast / 9:00 am	Pearce
	4:00 pm	Hibberts Bubble / 2:00 pm		Hibberts HC / R / 10:30 am	

For more information on our Worship Opportunities visit the Circuit Website:

[www.NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.Org.UK](http://www.NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.Org.UK)

## 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.

**To contribute to TOGETHER in any way, please get in touch with Rev Peter Hibberts ([peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk)) or Rev Nathan Falla ([nathan.falla@methodist.org.uk](mailto:nathan.falla@methodist.org.uk)).**