



The Good News Letter

COULSDON METHODIST CHURCH

www.coulsdonmethodistchurch.org

Facebook: @coulsdonmethodist

No.327

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From our minister

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter one day after Palm Sunday when British Summer Time began – on the day when – as my radio station keeps reminding me - we are able to meet outdoors with up to 6 people. That marks the first of the many stages the Government is proposing finally to end “lock-down”. Let us hope that the road map proves successful. However, it feels somewhat strange that this first taste of freedom comes just one week after we were remembering the first anniversary of Covid-19 “lock-downs”.

Since then, Church life has passed through many phases - beginning with the YouTube services I put together from Mothering Sunday to July last year. (Unlike most of my services over 40+ years, all of those are still available on my YouTube channel.) We have had two periods of return to “In Church” worship – first of 3 months and then of 2 weeks. When we have not been able to meet in Church in the 2nd and 3rd “lock-downs”, Zoom has been carrying the responsibility for our worship (together with various preachers of course). Yesterday, Palm Sunday, marked our return to worshipping in Church once again; this time we hope it is a permanent change. That return brought great joy – though there are still restrictions like distancing and not being able to sing. One day...

For those who do not yet feel ready to return, we will be trying to stream the services on YouTube live. (There will be hiccups – as yesterday proved.) That means people can share in the services at the time they take place – or later if you choose. The link for this is:

www.facebook.com/coulsdonmethodist

I will post a direct link for those who do not use Facebook, after each service.

Now we look forward to Easter – which is probably the official publication date for this Newsletter. Having passed through the struggles of Holy Week with Jesus, we shall be able to celebrate his resurrection; we shall be able to rejoice in new life coming out of death; and we shall be able to acclaim in the words of Desmond Tutu: *Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate, light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death.*

Easter is a season of joy and new life. May we find ways to embody that new life in our common life – and in our concern for the community!

With love and prayers for a blessed Easter

Stephen

Singing lockdownissimo

The strange reality of Methodist services with no hymn singing has prompted me to reflect on what a wonderful singing voice I have when I sing in my head instead of aloud... *P. Ian Issimo*

Church diary

Our church has now reopened for services with the necessary Covid-19 safety measures in place to ensure that we remain within the Government guidelines for safe worshipping, that is to say:

- please wear a facemask and sanitise hands on entry
- please maintain social distancing
- do not socialise inside the church
- hymns will be recorded, rather than sung live

However, we continue to also offer online services on Facebook live. The website for this is www.facebook.com/coulsdonmethodist

Check our church website for up-to-date details, or contact one of the stewards.

Thu 1 April	8pm	Maundy Thursday Communion (Rev. Stephen Mares)
Fri 2 April	10am	Good Friday service (Rev. Stephen Mares)
Sun 4 April	10am	Easter Sunday (Rev. Stephen Mares)
Thu 8 April	11.45am	Thursday prayers
Sun 11 April	10.30am	Morning worship (Rev. Faith Nyota)
<i>(Circuit service via Zoom. It will be relayed to our Church – so our doors will be open. People will be free to share in the service either at home or in church.)</i>		
Thu 15 April	11.45am	Thursday prayers
Sun 18 April	10am	Morning worship (Rev. Stephen Mares)
Thu 22 April	11.45am	Thursday prayers
Sun 25 April	10am	Morning worship (<i>Own arrangements</i>)
Thu 29 April	11.45am	Thursday prayers
Sun 2 May	10am	Holy Communion (Rev. Stephen Mares)