



The Good News Letter

COULSDON METHODIST CHURCH

www.coulsdonmethodistchurch.org

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No.329

June 2021

From our minister

Dear Friends,

For a number of years now, the Methodist Church has been inviting us to hold a Bible month – with a strong focus on one book of the Bible. One of my colleagues in Taunton objected to this title, arguing (quite correctly) that every month should be a Bible month. Thus we tended to call them a month with whichever book of the Bible we were studying during that month. On all occasions so far, that has been one of the shorter books of the Bible, which could be neatly divided into 4 sections – one per week.

June is the church's chosen Bible month (if my former colleague will forgive me). This year is different, as the book we will be studying – and some of us will be preaching on – is the gospel according to St. Mark. As some of you will already know – and others of you can check – this runs to 16 chapters, so we certainly won't be able to study the whole book in detail. The other peculiarity of this choice – as was pointed out at the Preachers' and Worship Leaders' meeting – is that we are in the year of Mark according to the Lectionary. Throughout this year from Advent Sunday 2020 to the Sunday before Advent 2021, Mark has been the main gospel. It gets interspersed with sections of John, who does not merit a year to himself. The danger is therefore that it will feel too much like a series of repeats. I will do my best to avoid that – and even to offer a few new ideas. We shall see.

At some point soon, we must hold our General Church Meeting – the opportunity for everyone to have their say – and for us together to seek God's guidance about our future. Watch out for a calling notice for this!

With love and prayers

Stephen

The World Day of Prayer.

...when March becomes June. The World Day of Prayer is usually celebrated on the first Friday of March, but this year it had to be postponed. The annual service in this area takes place on Friday 25 June at Coulsdon Methodist Church at 10.30am, to which you are warmly invited. Sadly we must still maintain social distancing, wear face masks, and refrain from congregational singing. However, we hope that a small choir of up to six singers will take part.

The archipelago of Vanuatu, in the South Pacific Ocean, may be far removed from us geographically but we all have similar problems to face. The Christian women of these islands have prepared this year's service on the theme of "[Build on a strong foundation](#)"; the order of service booklet gives more information about the islands, the hymns and a Bible reflection.

Focussing annually on another part of the world helps to open our hearts and minds. We ask God to open our eyes to the needs of others, so please accept the invitation to our service.

Your local committee

Walking with Micah

The former Prime Minister Gordon Brown is to give the first Methodist Justice Lecture on Justice and Hope on Sunday June 13 at 7pm. In the face of Covid 19, the climate emergency and global inequality, our world faces many questions around where justice and hope are to be found. He will argue that real change is possible, and that people of faith have a role to play. The lecture will mark the launch of the two-year project, **Walking with Micah: Methodist Principles for Social Justice** which aims to help the Methodist Church explore what it means to be a justice-seeking church.

Rachel Lampard, who is leading the Walking with Micah project, said: "Methodists often say that working for a fairer world is embedded deep within their faith. The prophet Micah reminded people that the worship God wants is for us to act justly, to love as God loves, and to walk humbly with God. Walking with Micah aims to hear stories about how Methodists are working for justice, by responding to needs locally and campaigning for change, and how we are shaped in our walk with God. I hope that people from around the Connexion and beyond will come to reflect together on ideas of justice and hope through this lecture, and find out how they can take part in this project." You can sign up to join this free online event at: www.methodist.org.uk/walking-with-micah

Jesus said:

"I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you."

John: 14: v.18

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
- hymns will be recorded, rather than sung live

As the Government restrictions start to ease we are offering a chance for a "social gathering" inside the church on Sunday. People will have the opportunity to meet and talk inside the church in groups of up to 6. The tables will be organised at the back of the church to facilitate this. There will be no tea or coffee served.

Sunday services will be streamed to YouTube live via the Church web-site using the YouTube tab.

After the service a direct link to the service will be sent to members whose email addresses we have.

This is correct at the time of writing – please check our church website for up-to-date details, or contact one of the stewards.

Sun 6 June	10am	Holy Communion (Rev. Stephen Mares)
Thu 10 June	11am	Open Church; 11.45, Thursday prayers
Sun 13 June	10am	Morning worship (Rev. Ermal Kirby)
Thu 17 June	11am	Open Church; 11.45, Thursday prayers
Sun 20 June	10am	Morning worship & Baptism (Rev. Stephen Mares)
	6.30pm	Holy Communion (Rev. Stephen Mares)
Thu 24 June	11am	Open Church; 11.45, Thursday prayers
Fri 25 June	10.30am	World Day of Prayer service
Sun 27 June	10am	Morning worship (<i>local arrangements</i>)
Thu 1 July	11am	Open Church; 11.45, Thursday prayers
Sun 4 July	10am	Holy Communion (Rev. Stephen Mares)