

Withington Methodist News

November 2019



SUNDAY WORSHIP

3 rd November	10.45	Adrian Curtis
	18.30	Rev Caroline Wickens
10 th November	10.45	Rev Caroline Wickens (Holy Communion)
	18.30	No Service
17 th November	10.45	Rev Krystyna Kwarciak
	18.30	Rev Susan Williams (Holy Communion)
24 th November	10.45	Paul Johnson
	18.30	No Service

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

A warm welcome awaits you at this devotional meeting for men and women of all ages and denominations. Please check the location & details with the Church Office or on the noticeboard.

COFFEE/TEA AND BISCUITS SERVED AT 10:30AM (DONATIONS APPRECIATED FOR REFRESHMENTS, SPEAKERS EXPENSES AND THE LEPROSY MISSION)

Please contact the Church Office for information surrounding the weekly locations and topics.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Christmas season may be just a few weeks away, but first we have to deal with November, considered by many the gloomiest month of the year

The month we just want to get through.

Danish writer Henrik Nordbrandt once claimed there were 16 months: "November, December, January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, November, November and November." He's not the only one. The "misery index" - created by adding up Google searches for terms such as 'low mood', 'loneliness' and "depression" - reveals that November is one of the more challenging months of the year for much of the world population. November is such a drag.

October is all brightness, fire and hurry. October takes the breath away. In November the world takes back that breath and pauses for rest, the fire burns out, the hurry and excitement burn away.

November is dark. November is colourless. November is empty.

But it is a darkness and a colourlessness that soothes the eye, an emptiness that creates a sense of space and openness.

There is finally going to be TIME. There will be time for memory and gratitude. There will be time for grief. There will be time for reflection and second cups of tea. There will be time to stop and to listen and to hear winter arrive. The world can finally catch its breath and so can we.

We have set our clocks back in relief and accustom ourselves to seeing the sun's weak light in the mornings - again, although we know that darkness will swallow it up soon. May we all find good rest in this kind and nurturing dark.

Every blessing,

Rev. Krystyna

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE SUNDAY

But now you must also get rid of anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene speech, and all such sins. – Colossians 3:8

Women against Violence Sunday takes place every year on the Sunday before Advent. On this Sunday we are reminded of the nature of the one who is to come. We call him 'king' but his kingdom is very different from what people expect. The Gospel passage (John 18:33-37) reminds us that God's kingdom is not one of power through violence (the model of kingship in Jesus' time), rather God's kingdom is one where truth, life, and right relationships are valued. Elsewhere in the Gospels we discover more about the nature of God's kingdom. Elsewhere in John's Gospel we learn that Christ the King has friends not servants, and subverts the notion of status.

You may have heard the phrase, 'God is love,' and wondered what that means in the context of domestic abuse. If you've even quickly skimmed through the Bible—especially the Old Testament—you've seen many stories of violence - from rape, to slavery, and war. The Bible recognizes that violence and abuse exist in society. While Scripture may have been used to keep us quiet about our experiences of abuse, to urge us to stay with an abusive partner, and even to justify the abuse, the Bible is clear that God opposes those who oppress, marginalize, and abuse others.

POEM: THERE ARE HANDS...

Mónica Tirabasso

There are soft and warm hands.
There are hands worn away by work.
There are hands with thousands of little wrinkles
And little hands that want to play.

There are hands which sow and which harvest.
There are hands which teach how to walk

There are strong hands that protect me
And hands open and ready to play.

But there are other hands which only do harm.
That dirty the earth, the sky and the sea.
They are ugly and selfish hands,
They are hands which make the world cry.

Raise your hands, all those who want
A new way of living together.
Let those bad hands be isolated
And let only the good ones prosper.

The hand that heals and the tired hand,
The mischievous hand and the wrinkled hand.
The trembling hand and the hand that brings comfort.
The hand that kneads and the hand that prays.

The hand that seeks justice and truth.
Your hand, my hand...hand in hand for peace.



NOTES FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes by Don Taylor

We met on 8th October with 16 members present. We welcomed Alma Oceandy and Nick Palfreyman attending for the first time. Minutes of the AGM and of Church Council from 2nd June were approved.

The Circuit Review has been completed and a new paper entitled 'Mission in the Manchester Circuit - a response to the Circuit Review' was recently produced. We considered the proposals addressed to each local church in this paper. We decided to do more to welcome newcomers, especially those from overseas, and include them in our fellowship and mission work. We asked the Pastoral Committee to think carefully about the different communities in the area around the church.

It was reported that consultation meetings will be held in the Circuit to consider the report on marriage and relationships entitled 'God in Love Unites Us'. If the 'Guidance on the understanding of marriage' is approved at the Methodist Conference in 2020, then the Church Council will need to decide whether to allow our premises to be used for marriages of same-sex couples as well as for marriages of mixed-sex couples.

Giselle (as Treasurer) submitted a report on our current financial situation, showing that our reserves are dwindling. So we need to consider proposals for increasing income, and/or for reducing expenditure. In addition to advertising space in our building through our website, it was suggested that we could produce posters to display on gates and notice boards and that we could advertise on other websites with links to our own site.

It was reported that the planned redevelopment of the neighbouring site will involve the construction of a new block of flats on the old bank car park. Instead of the existing trees, we will look out onto a large brick wall.

The replacement of the entrance doors to our building and installation of a new secure door entry system has been delayed by the difficulty of finding

firms willing to quote for the work or for doing so at reasonable cost.

The Quinquennial Inspection of our premises was done in September and a draft report had just been received. The most urgent repairs required are to the roof of the building, where slates have broken or slipped in five different places. A specialist survey of the electrical circuits and distribution boards is also required.

Plans for the dance/drama performance of the 'Journey of the Magi' at 4 pm on Sunday 24th November were discussed. It was agreed to charge £10 for tickets for adults, with young children sitting on the floor in front.

The staffing of the Church Office and the possible resumption of the morning coffee service in the foyer were discussed. It was agreed to request Rev. Caroline Wickens to allow us to re-open the tea/coffee bar to the public on Thursdays and Fridays only.

Alma reported that the Junior Church children have returned after summer holidays and that there are now four volunteer leaders available. It was suggested that more theological input into the programme and activities was required.

Plans for Advent and Christmas – the following arrangements were approved:

1st Dec. Gift/Toy Service (with gifts to the Moston project and/or the women's refuge)

8th Dec. 6.30 pm Carol Service at St. Paul's (joint service)

22nd Dec. 10.45 am Carol Service, including Junior Church contributions

24th Dec. 5.00 pm Christingle Service

25th Dec. 10.00 am Christmas Day morning service

4th Jan. Epiphany Walk

12th Jan. Covenant Service

The next regular meeting of the Church Council will be on Monday 20th January 2020.

WELLSPRING RUCKSACK PROJECT

by Jenny Went

As many of you know, I have been involved with the Wellspring in Stockport for almost 20 years.

The work there with homeless, vulnerable and disadvantaged people is never ending, more so now with young people, men in particular.

For several years recently, they have organised a Rucksack Project whereby we have asked for goods to go into a rucksack which can be given to people who are rough sleeping. Imagine spending a whole day and night in the pouring rain (or worse) and having no dry clothing to use. Clearly the cold, wet sleeping bags have to be discarded and hopefully something new can be found.

Wellspring are hoping that folk will rummage through their cupboards and find old sleeping bags, gloves, hats etc and possibly even an old rucksack.

I will gladly take any items which you can find and get them to the Wellspring, where they will be prepared and filled, to be used by rough sleepers in the Stockport area (and even into the city of Manchester)

Thanks in advance. I know this really works and supplies hope and support to many unfortunate people.

Jenny went

THE RUCKSACK PROJECT

SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2019



SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2019

From 10am-5pm, if you wish to join us on the day then please bring any of the rucksack pack items listed below to The Wellspring, Harvey Street, Stockport, SK1 1DY and see how you can do some good for those less fortunate.

PLEASE SUPPORT US THIS WINTER

Volunteer at the project, volunteers are always needed - Join The Wellspring Facebook page or follow us on Twitter via @jon_wellspring

We are looking for as many people as possible to go to charity shops or rummage through their wardrobes, get a rucksack, sleeping bag, gloves, hat, fleece, undies, socks and extra food so that these rucksack packs can be distributed to homeless people and rough sleepers in Stockport.

More information can be found on - Facebook, search for The Wellspring Stockport.

DONATE A RUCKSACK PACK:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|---|
| 1 x Rucksack | ✓ | 1 x Hat/Scarf/Gloves | ✓ |
| 1 x Fleece/Jumper | ✓ | 2 x Socks | ✓ |
| 2 x Undies | ✓ | 1 x Flask | ✓ |
| 1 x Sleeping bag | ✓ | Tins of beans/soup etc | ✓ |

THE RUCKSACK PROJECT 24TH NOVEMBER 2019



Registered Stockport Charity Number 1157268
www.thewellspring.co.uk

Phone: 0161 477 6344

Donations can also be sent in the post to The Wellspring PO BOX 456 Stockport SK1 1YD or made in person at The Wellspring Harvey Street Stockport SK1 1YD.

NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

22 OCTOBER 2019

Methodist Council October 2019 Summary

The Methodist Council met at High Leigh Conference Centre on the 14-15 October. On the list of reports to be considered were updates regarding the on-going work to support Our Calling and the foundations of the Evangelism and Growth Strategy.

Our Calling

The Methodist Council received a report from the Connexional Secretary, Doug Swanney, on the work being undertaken to support the Council's objectives as it seeks to ensure that Our Calling is kept before all its work as the main strategic driver for decision-making and resource allocation.

- *Worship*: Improvements have been made to the Worship: Leading and Preaching course and specific pages are being made available online to support supernumeraries leading worship. To grow the number of opportunities for vocational exploration the Rise and Shine event is to evolve into a vocational exploration event for young people. The implementation of supervision for those in ministry continues.
- *Learning and Caring*: The Mission Planning Toolkit and new property advice pages of the website are now connected and live. Proposals to appoint consultants for the redevelopment of Methodist Church House are progressing with a planning application expected to be submitted in May 2020.
- *Service*: To support the discipleship of those from marginalised backgrounds, the Evangelism and Growth strategy includes streams of 'church for all' and 'church for the poor'. Work is also underway to grow 3Generate significantly with particular attention to marginalised young people. In respect of Social Holiness, the Church, through the Joint Public Issues Team, has highlighted concerns regarding the detrimental effect that a No Deal Brexit will have on the poorest in

society and the dangers of climate change. The Connexional Grants Committee reported that new priorities have increased the focus on grants for Methodist Action on Poverty and Injustice projects.

- Evangelism: The Evangelism and Growth team is now established and developing its strategy to present to the 2020 Conference. Most districts have submitted their mission plans to underpin future work and to ensure appropriate use of resources.

The Council heard a presentation from the Connexional Secretary and the Secretary of the Conference which introduced a conversation on the structure of the Church, and the need to ensure that our structures are those that best enable the mission and calling of the Methodist Church to be fulfilled. The Council discussed this in small groups and provided feedback which will be collated and shared back with the Council.

Other topics that were discussed at the meeting were-

Draft Foundations of a Connexional Evangelism and Growth Strategy

Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee

Mission and Ministry in Covenant

Response to Notice of Motion 2019/201: Review of Role of Youth President

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Task Group

Nomination of the Secretary of the Conference

For more information on these discussions, visit www.methodist.org.uk or ask Caroline for a printed full report.

21 OCTOBER 2019

Methodist artist creates artwork illustrating core values of the British Army

The Methodist Church has commissioned Methodist Presbyterian Ric Stott, an accomplished artist and pioneer minister, to produce six pieces of art on the British Army Core Values.

The Core Values illustrated by the art are: courage, discipline, respect for others, integrity, loyalty, and selfless commitment. Army chaplains will be encouraged to use the art to reflect with soldiers on the meaning of these values and how each one applies to them. Questions that might be prompted from the artwork include: What helps you to find the courage to overcome fear? What inspires you to put the needs of others above your own?

Speaking on the background to the project, Doug Swanney, Chair of the Methodist Forces Board, said:

“This resource was prompted by a Methodist army chaplain who saw the potential for art to help chaplains in drawing out soldiers’ experiences and understanding of the British Army’s Core Values. A talented Methodist minister spent time listening to soldiers’ stories of how the Core Values are lived out in their work and lives. Inspired by these stories, he used his God-given gifts to create the artwork.”



The collection has been named 'The Watkins Collection' after the Revd Owen Spencer Watkins, the first Methodist Army Chaplain to serve in the field and who was instrumental in the formation of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

The Reverend Chrissie Howe, Secretary of the Methodist Forces Board, said:

"It might surprise a few people to learn that the Methodist Church has commissioned artwork on the British Army's Core Values. Yet it makes perfect sense as our army chaplains regularly teach 'Values and Standards' to soldiers. We are delighted with Ric's work as the images are perfect discussion starters – both poignant and dynamic. Alongside sending chaplains, this artwork is another way that the Methodist Church demonstrates its commitment to those who serve in Her Majesty's armed forces."



21 OCTOBER 2019

‘God For All’: consultation continues to refine new evangelism and growth strategy

Around 250 representatives from across the Connexion came together at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on Saturday 19 October to be part of a consultation to refine the new Evangelism and Growth strategy entitled ‘God For All’.

The consultation opened with worship and song accompanied by Jazz Church from Birmingham and continued with testimonies from a variety of people from around the Connexion. The current Youth President, Thelma Commey said her early experiences of singing and dancing in Sunday School led her to want to live out what she was singing. She said in order to do this she needed to trust in God “no matter how scary it was.”

Mark North is a minister who works in the former mining community of Bolsover in the Sheffield district and said much of his community work is with people who are experiencing addiction, poverty and deprivation. He said it was his privilege to be part of that: “In evangelism we learn as much from the communities we live in as we give to them” and concluded by saying that he was “meeting God in the beauty of brokenness.”

Trey Hall, Director of Evangelism and Growth, talked about how evangelism is a crucial and non-negotiable part of Our Calling to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Jesus Christ. He explained that the strategy had come from conversations that have been taking place around the Connexion over the past year, but ultimately the stories come from God.

The delegates attended workshops and small groups throughout the day to discuss the eight commitments that form the core of the Evangelism and Growth strategy; Centred in God, Everyone an Evangelist, Transformational Leadership, New Places for New People, Every Church a Growing Church, Church at the Margins, Digital Presence: Digital Age Mission, Young Evangelists, Pioneers and Leaders. Those attending were invited to consider what they liked and disliked regarding each commitment and to raise questions. The results were shared, with

common themes expressed around resourcing the commitments and ensuring that building God's Kingdom remained central to the strategy and to the direction of the Church's future.

Also present were representatives from other denominations; the United Reformed Church, the Salvation Army, the Baptist Union and the Methodist Church in Ireland. All were invited to contribute to the conversation and presented their own thoughts on the Evangelism and Growth Strategy from an ecumenical perspective. Simon Goddard, representing the Baptist Union and a pioneer for Fresh Expressions commented: "Methodism needs to take a risk and let the next generation take the lead."

Speaking after the event, the Director of Evangelism and Growth, Trey Hall, said: "Thank you to all the participants, who spent time preparing for the day and travelled so far to join together, to listen and talk. It has been a day of spiritual joy!"

"There was a palpable sense of the Holy Spirit among us. And a strong conviction that this great change, this culture shift towards being an increasingly evangelistic, growing, justice-seeking, and inclusive Church, is where God is leading us. There was a great sense of passion and affirmation for the draft strategy as well as some deep and prophetic questions. As one presenter said, these questions show how engaged we are with this strategy and how much we want this transformation. Now our work as a Connexion is to embed these commitments in every District, Circuit, and local church."

The Revd. Dr. Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference, thanked the contributors and challenged the consultation to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit, "who is able to do more than we ask or expect or imagine."

Feedback from Saturday's consultation, and other consultations that have taken place around the Connexion, are being collated by the Evangelism and Growth Team and will be used to further refine the 'God For All' strategy. This will be presented to the Methodist Conference 2020.

17 OCTOBER 2019

Statement on Syria

The leaders of three Churches, including the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have released a statement calling upon the UK Government to take urgent action to prevent an escalation of the conflict in Syria.

Following reports from our Church partners in Syria, we are extremely concerned about the impact on civilians of the assault on north-eastern Syria by Turkey.

The diverse people of the region were just beginning to see some respite from the turmoil and destruction that has overtaken them during the past 8 years of war. The region urgently needs a political settlement that guarantees a place for every citizen. The people of north-eastern Syria, both Muslim and Christian, need and desperately long for freedom and stability in order to live side by side in peace.

We appeal to the UK Government to take urgent and decisive political action to ensure that a further escalation of conflict is averted. We appeal for all parties to work for a sustainable peace based on agreements that guarantee respect for human rights and a complete rejection of violence.

Mr Derek Estill, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Conference of the Methodist Church

Prof. Clive Marsh, Vice-President of the Conference of the Methodist Church

Revd Tony Peck, General Secretary, European Baptist Federation

Revd Nigel Uden, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church

A prayer for Syria

Gracious God,

We weep with those in Syria,
crying out for those who have been killed,
for those who grieve loved ones,
for those who face the chaos and upheaval of losing homes and livelihoods,
for those who are injured, traumatised and violated,
for those whose futures have been stolen from them,
for those seeking power through violence.

Turn these cries of lament into calls for justice.
Convict our politicians, world leaders, and the international community to
work together create a way of lasting peace.
Give strength and wisdom to religious and community leaders in the
region who seek to build bridges across divided communities.
Challenge each of us to work for a world which enables freedom, respect
and stability for all people.

In the name of Christ,

Amen



11 OCTOBER 2019

Deaths of the homeless are the tragic tip of the iceberg of suffering

The soaring numbers of people dying on the streets represents the tip of the iceberg of suffering that is caused by homelessness, say church leaders and mission partners working on the ground.

Roger Clark, CEO of West London Mission (WLM), which has supported thousands of homeless and vulnerable people since 1887 said:

“The fact that 726 people died on the street in 2018 is an absolute scandal. Those that have passed must not be forgotten for who they were and their legacy must be action.”

The Revd Mike Long, Minister of Notting Hill Methodist Church and Chair of Shelter’s Commission, ‘A Vision for Social Housing’, said:

“These deaths represent the tragic tip of the iceberg in terms of the suffering that homelessness causes. Hundreds of thousands of people are classed as homeless in Britain today, having to cope with ‘temporary’ accommodation that in many cases is harmful to physical and mental health. 'This makes no economic sense nor is it morally acceptable'.

The work of thousands of people of faith across the country supports the increasing homeless population. At West London Mission a range of services prevent homelessness through empowering people to make positive changes in their lives. CEO Roger Clark says, “At present we are focused on getting our centre at Seymour Place, Marylebone refurbished and relaunched to give people a route off the street which isn’t paying the ultimate price.”

A co-ordinated holistic response to homelessness across Manchester, of which the faith sector plays a critical part, aims to bring an end to rough sleeping. The Revd Ian Rutherford, City Centre Minister at Methodist Central Hall, Manchester, Chair of the Greater Manchester Homelessness Faith Network, Co-Chair of Greater Manchester Citizens and member of the Greater Manchester Homelessness Programme Board, said:

“There has been a large increase in the number of people who are homeless due to termination of tenancies. There are, of course, other causes too and we aim to reduce homelessness by tackling these causes.

“In Great Manchester, A Bed Every Night offers respite for people with nowhere to go. We aid recovery by helping individuals to work towards independence and ultimately reconnecting with their potential. This is achieved by giving, for example, opportunities for employment, volunteering, training and education.

“In my own church the café offers training and employment opportunities for people seeking to reskill.”

Paul Morrison, Policy Adviser for the Joint Public Issues Team, said:

“Homelessness has rapidly increased over the last decade. Cuts in housing benefit and support services have taken their toll. It cannot be right that families in work are unable to make ends meet and pay the rent.

It is fantastic that churches are responding to the increasing need – but in the long term we need radical policy change to ensure that family’s incomes and rents can meet”



HAVE YOU HEARD THE UNKNOWN VOICE?

By Ian W Mutton

Perceptive people hear God speaking in a rich variety of ways. He often speaks when you read the newspaper or hear the news on television or radio. Many turn to prayer as a result of these bulletins. Your Creator speaks through the people you see - a beggar in the streets or a friend in need. Sometimes the divine voice comes through a conversation.

God often speaks through your imagination. When Joan of Arc was called to lead France she claimed she was led by compelling voices. In Bernard Shaw's play Robert sneers at the voices, "They come from your imagination." Joan replies, "That is how God's messages come to us." Charles says, "Why don't they come to me? I am King, not you." Joan responds, "They do come to you, but you do not hear them. You have not sat in the field in the evening listening for them. When the angelous rings you cross yourself and have done with it, but if you prayed from your heart and listened to the trillings of the bells in the air after they have stopped ringing, you would hear the voices as well as I do."

But how do you hear the voice of God? Unfortunately, the devil is a clever impersonator. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews says, "discern both good and evil" (5.14). Peter Sutcliffe heard a voice encouraging him to murder women of the streets. Had he discerned the tempter's voice he would not have embarked on his dastardly scheme. The Royal Command is: You shall love the Lord your God.... and your neighbour as yourself (Matt 22.37,39). Such attention would have put the murderer right. Unfortunately the murderer respected neither God nor his neighbour. He certainly did not love his neighbour as himself. Presumably he would not wish murder on himself.

God spoke to Moses in an arresting nature whilst tending the sheep of Jethro, his father-in-law. He spotted a bush blazing with fire yet the bush was not consumed. Moses recognized he was in the presence of God. He removed his shoes, he stood on holy ground. God spoke, "I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt and hear their cry by reason of their taskmasters for I know their sorrows (Exod.3.7). God wished to send Moses to the Pharaoh. Moses made excuses but God's will must be done. Eventually Pharaoh gives way and the children of Israel are set free.

God spoke to Samuel when he turned in for the night. Three times he thought Eli the priest called him. After the third time Eli realised Samuel heard the voice of God, telling the lad to respond, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

William Threlfall the missionary to the Namaquas heard God speaking as he read his Bible. As he read Isaiah 6 a voice addressed him. He was aware a minister was wanted for Madagascar. He read, "Who shall I send and who will go for us?" Like the prophet Threlfall answered, "Here am I, send me." God speaks in a variety of ways. As the psalmist said, "I heard a voice I did not know." (81.5) Although Threlfall went to Madagascar he was forbidden entry so made for Namaqualand, only to be murdered on the way.

As Augustine sat under a leafy fig tree he heard the Divine speaking in the voice of a child who called, "Take up and read! Take up and read!" Augustine informs us he picked up the nearest book by Alypius to read a text from the Bible: "Not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying but put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof (Rom 14.13,14). God spoke, Augustine must obey. Today he is considered one of God's greatest saints.

One of the reasons you should read the Bible each day is to hear the word of God. Take for example the story of Tokichi Ishii of Tokyo. He was thrown into prison for his drunkenness. There to relieve his boredom he commenced reading the New Testament. One day he overheard prisoners talking about the murder of a geisha girl in a Tokyo tea house. He knew he was responsible for her murder. Reading the story of the cross Tokichi discovered Christ said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." He heard that voice he had not known before. He knew he must admit to the murder. He could not permit the girl's lover to be condemned for murder. He promptly owned up to be tried and condemned himself. Receiving the Blood of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion made him clean from his terrible sin.

Who knows what God will say to you. He calls to service, saying as to His disciples, "Follow me." The He cleanses from all sin. From hence He directs your footsteps.

A young man with nothing else to do went one evening to the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. He knew his parents had met in the choir there. The preacher that night was the Reverend Kenneth Waights who spoke on the Cleansing of the Temple. The preacher made a point that the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Just as Christ cleansed the Jerusalem temple, so He must cleanse the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. That night the young man heard the "voice he had not known". He offered his life as an oblation, was cleansed of his sin and, although he has sinned, has walked with God ever since. I know this story is true because I was the young man.

TRAIDCRAFT SPOTLIGHT ON FAIRPALM

Augmented from article by Traidcraft

Palm Oil: The Facts

Palm oil is a type of vegetable oil that comes from the fruits of African palms. With 66 million tonnes annually, palm oil is the most commonly produced vegetable oil and can be found in almost half of our everyday purchases. Palm oil products are found in every corner of your home and is hidden away in the likes of soap, candles, lipstick, chocolate, biscuits and so much more!

Since 1980, palm oil production has increased tenfold – with estimates that production will increase 50% by 2050. The oil palm only grows within 10 degrees north or south of the equator, and Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are among the top palm oil producing nations. These regions typically house vast areas of rainforest, rich in biodiversity and important ecosystems.

Sadly, the demand for palm oil is leading to extensive deforestation, as more space is cleared for production. The equivalent of 300 football fields of rainforest are currently destroyed every hour! These forests are home to indigenous people, endangered animals and trees which store greenhouse gases – which get released when the trees are felled. And as with any industry where increased demand leads to greater production and profit chasing, unsustainable palm oil production is also leading to child labour and worker rights abuses.

What can we do?

We should not avoid palm oil all together. In fact palm oil is a very efficient crop, with less pesticides and fertilisers needing to be used, as well as less land required to grow it, in comparison to similar crops like soybean or coconut oil. It is also important to remember that the production of palm oil has provided jobs for millions of smallholder farmers, helping them to

work with dignity, earn more money and provide a better life for themselves and their families.

What we need to do is focus on using palm oil responsibly, and by this, we mean only buying products where the palm oil has been sourced sustainably – which brings us to FairPalm...

Where can we buy products containing FairPalm?

Together with Serendipalm and Natural Habitats, we have developed FairPalm – the world's only fair trade, organic palm oil, that protects the environment whilst supporting smallholder growers. FairPalm recognises that palm oil is a great crop for smallholders to focus on, since little land is needed and that it's fairly low maintenance, but extremely high yielding.

FairPalm is a key ingredient in many of our products, including our Clean & Fair bars of soap and popular oaty biscuits. A splash of FairPalm can also be found in our best-selling cookies.



WHAT'S ON?



A spectacular Christmas treat by Springs Dance Company

Withington Methodist Church – Sunday 24th November @ 4pm.
Email JotM@WithingtonMethodistChurch.org or visit the church office to buy your tickets now. £10 per adult, children under 12 free.

Hot drinks and mince pies served in the interval – included in ticket price.

Withington Methodist Church, 439 Wilmslow Road, M20 4AN

Journey of the Magi

A sparkling production of dance, theatre, song and poetry for all the family!



Step out of the rush to Christmas this year and pause to reflect on the festive season!
London-based Springs Dance Company is bringing its Advent tour

Journey of the Magi to

Withington Methodist Church on Sunday 24th November at 4pm.

The show, which is an inspirational evening of dance, music and theatre, has been the Company's most popular performance to date. Inspired by the poem by T.S. Eliot, the performance helps audiences to reflect on not only the famous journey the wise men made following the star to Jesus, but also the journey each of us makes every year in preparing for Christmas Day. ***Journey of the Magi*** is an ingenious mix of dance and theatre, enjoyed by children and adults alike. A mix of laugh-out-loud funny, moving and entertaining scenes explore images in the poem to bring the Christmas story to life. The show not only entertains but also provokes consideration for change.

'Forget The Nutcracker, Springs Dance Company's Journey of the Magi is the best Christmas show I have ever seen! I went along to see it one dark, wet and dismal night in Birmingham and I came out having been touched, amused and moved to tears.

Journey of the Magi looks beyond the tinsel and trappings and reveals the real meaning of Christmas.' - David Bintley CBE, Artistic Director, Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Email JotM@WithingtonMethodistChurch.org or visit the church office to buy your tickets now. £10 per ticket, children under 12 free.

Hot drinks and mince pies served in the interval – included in ticket price.

Withington Methodist Church, 439 Wilmslow Road, M20 4AN

WHAT'S ON?

REMAINING FAITHFUL

www.remainingfaithful.network

REGIONAL GATHERING



Are you concerned about Marriage and Relationships within the Methodist Church?

Come and worship, hear vision for the way forward, network, pray and share together

Organised by Methodist Evangelicals Together

Saturday 9 Nov 10.00am – 1.00pm
The Ridge Methodist Church
Marple, Stockport SK6 7ER

Further details from Michael Sparrow
msparrow11@googlemail.com 0161 4279232

met | Methodist
Evangelicals Together www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk

WHAT'S ON?

Gift Service

The Church Council and the Worship Group have planned the Gift Service for this year on **SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER**

We have been encouraged to support our friends at Moston Methodist Church in their new project: that of establishing a Church Resource Bank. This bank is to assist new mothers in their area who are affected by extreme poverty. This a new venture for the members of the Methodist Church in Moston, who have been astonished in recent months by the difficulties new mothers and their families are facing.

You can see the suggested items in our Weekly Newsletter, they fall under two headings, goods for a Starter Pack and those specifically for new Mothers.

If you have problems with these lists and would rather donate customary toys etc, please don't hesitate in giving, we will ensure that 'good homes' are found for all the donated gifts.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



WHAT'S ON?



Conflict in the Church

working for transformation

Saturday, November 23rd (10am-4pm)



www.nazarene.ac.uk/conflict



Conflict in the Church

working for transformation

This workshop day will focus on 'conflict in the church' in the morning and 'working for transformation' in the afternoon. In the morning we will look at assumptions about conflict in the church and patterns and levels of conflict. In the afternoon we will explore conflict and communication, and how to be an effective leader in the midst of conflict.

This workshop day is for all who are interested in how to help bring resolution and transformation to situations of conflict in the church. It will be of particular interest to those in leadership positions in the church.

Facilitator

The workshop will be led by Revd Dr Julie Lunn who teaches Practical Theology at NTC and is an ordained minister. Julie has trained in Conflict Transformation through Bridge Builders.

Date and Times

Saturday, November 23rd (10am-4pm)

Venue

Nazarene Theological College, Dene Road, Didsbury, M20 2GU

Cost

£20 Including refreshments, light lunch and certificate of attendance.

Registration

www.nazarene.ac.uk/conflict or email enquiries@nazarene.ac.uk

(This workshop also forms part of the Polity and Practice unit requirements taken by Nazarene Licenced Ministers)

WHAT'S ON?

LET THERE BE CHRISTMAS

A Carol Concert Featuring music by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN.

Presented by United Christian
Singers

At East Didsbury Methodist Church
On Sunday November 24th at 6.30pm.

&

At Edge Lane @ The Church of the
Epiphany
On Sunday December 1st at 6.30pm.

SUNDAY DOOR STEWARDS

The role of a Door Steward is very important in the life of our Church, as they are the 1st person to meet people as they arrive.

We like Door Stewards to be at Church at 10:00 am, to enable the Church Stewards to prepare for Worship. We need to have one person downstairs at the office, and one at the top of the stairs to give out books and notices.

Two people are needed to take the collection – either the Door Stewards or members of the congregation. The Steward at the top of the stairs should stay at the table until the second hymn. We also need a Steward in the office during the Service.

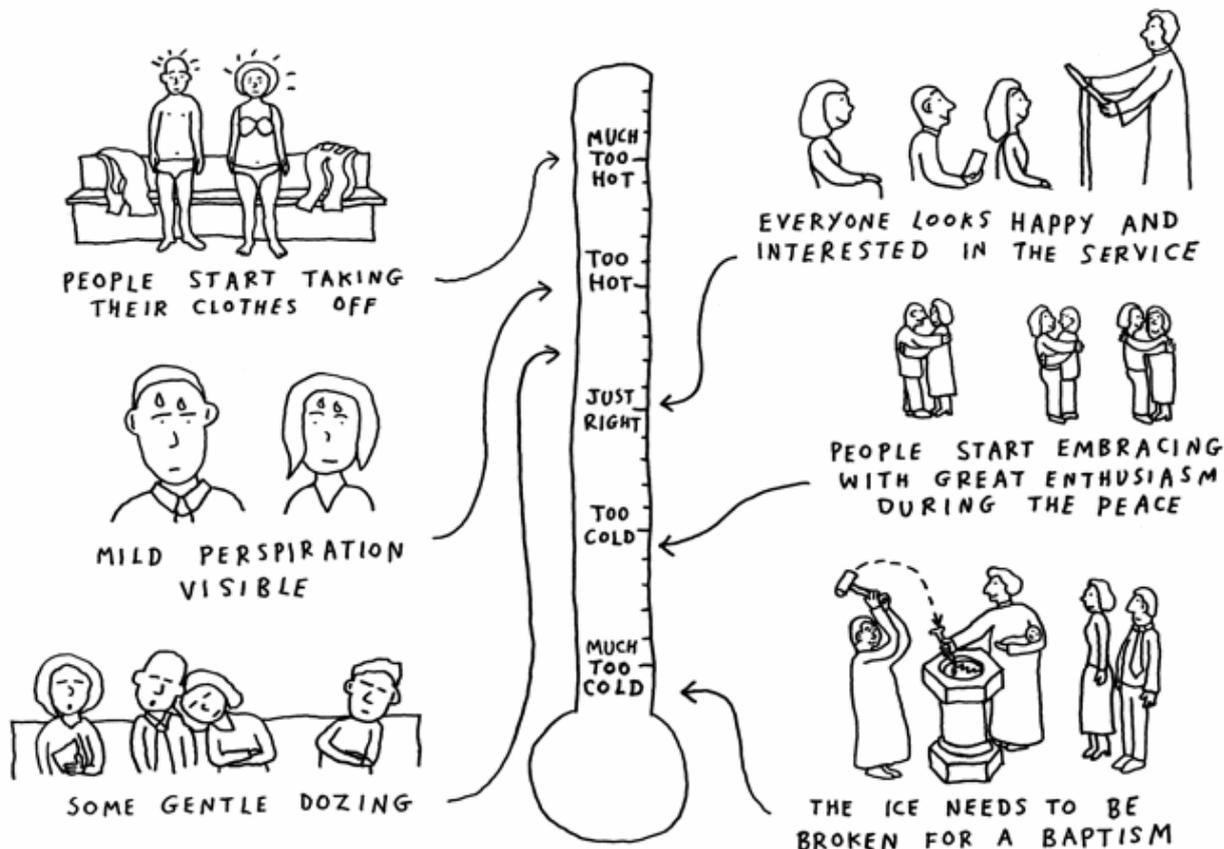
We need more Sunday Door Stewards. If you feel you can help, please have a word with any Church Stewards, or Jacqueline or Margaret.

We would be very grateful for any help.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

THE HEATING SYSTEM

HOW TO TELL IF IT IS SET CORRECTLY



CartoonChurch.com

If you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's magazine, please pass it on to Caroline Fielding - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

If you would like to receive a digital copy of the magazine please email - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

Withington Methodist Church

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Sunday Services

Morning Worship* and Junior Church: 10:45 am

Evening Worship*: 6:30 pm

*for Holy Communion see inside cover

Regular Activities

Monday	Monday Monkeys – 10:00am - 11:30am
Tuesday	Tuesday Tots – 10:00am - 12 noon Tuesday morning coffee fellowship <i>see inside cover</i>
Wednesday	Rainbows – 5:30 - 6:30pm Brownies – 6:30 - 8:00pm
Thursday	Needles & Yarns craft group – 2-4pm
Friday	Men's Club – 2:00 - 4:30pm
Saturday	Contact Centre – 2:30 - 4:30pm

About Withington Methodist Church

We are a community of people who meet to worship God every Sunday morning and evening (see inside cover for details). Our services are open to all. At our morning service, we have both a crèche and Junior Church available for children ('All Age Worship' will only have the crèche as older children are welcomed into the main service).

During the week we have various other activities & organisations meeting at our premises. We have two toddler groups a week and are open weekday mornings for anyone to have a coffee and a chat. Our craft group meets on Thursday afternoons for anyone who wants to bring a craft or learn a new one. We have various rooms available for hire for anything from a once off hourly basis to a long term let, please speak to the Church Office for details, or email withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com.