



Sunday 10th January

Connecting church family within the Market Drayton Circuit; Market Drayton, Ashley and Hinstock, during the restrictions of Covid-19

Market Drayton Methodist Circuit

Newsletter

Notices

CHURCH CLOSURE: Due to the current national lockdown, Ashley & MDMC will cease to hold communal worship in church for the time being with immediate effect. Whilst the government has continued to allow churches to remain open for communal worship, the Methodist Church at both national and District level have commended that we close at this point. The various leadership teams and Church Councils have taken the decision to heed this advice. We will keep a very close eye on the situation, and will reopen as soon as it feels appropriate to do so.

Please do your very best to watch over one another in love. We are in the business of being church family, and a distinctive part of that role is our spiritual wellbeing, as well as mental, emotional and physical. Please be in touch with one another, pray for and with one another, and whilst we cannot be together in person, we encourage you to join us online for both worship, and the zoom coffee morning each Sunday at 11.45am, where we can at least be together in some way. Ruth.

AMC GIFT DAY: Ashley's Covenant service on Sunday was to include receipt of Gift Day donations. Following the cancellation of the service, donations can be made by direct BACS payment to the Ashley

Methodist Church account, or by cheque made payable to Ashley Methodist Church, and sent to Rod Smith, All contributions will be gratefully received and thanks are given to those who have already contributed.

AMC CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Ashley Methodist Church Christmas Quiz, and congratulations to those people who achieved the highest score of 46. Special congratulations to our winner Muriel Ash, who provided the best estimate for the answer to the tie break question. The actual mileage was 412 miles. We hope that the quiz has provided you with some enjoyment, and we are pleased to say that it has so far raised a total of £95 towards the AV and New Organ Fund. It is still not too late to make a donation if you wish.

THANK YOU: Margaret & Gerry Maxwell would like to thank everyone for their comforting messages they've received this week following the death of Margaret's brother-in-law. All the prayers have helped them immensely.

MD CIRCUIT WORSHIP

ONLINE

First streaming at 10.30am on Sundays, then always available

- ⇒ mdmc.org.uk
- ⇒ ashleymethodist.co.uk
- ⇒ YouTube – search MDMC

IN CHURCH

MDMC & Ashley MC are both paused during January Lockdown

OTHER ONLINE WORSHIP

Truro Methodist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2XL8XC12GnrsFtWUJlbdww>

Wesley's Chapel London

Live Streams at 11am Sundays

www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

Swan Bank, Burslem

Live Streams at 10.30am and past services,

www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank

PHONE WORSHIP

0808 2812514

Free Methodist church Dial-a-prayer

0808 281 2478

Free Methodist Church Dial-the-news (both updated on a Thursday)

CIRCUIT ZOOM SUNDAY COFFEE MORNING

every Sunday after worship at 11.45am. All are very welcome!

If you would like to contribute to this weekly Newsletter, please send items by Wednesday evenings to Al Savill
Email: notices@mdmc.org.uk. Please send testimonies, prayers, news, notices, activities etc.

Water is life

Mark 1: 4-11

A Prayer for us all

Almighty God, We search for words to truly tell your glory, But there are none.
 We look for ways to describe your creation, But can't express its beauty and complexity.
 We long to show you how much we love you, But struggle to achieve our goal.
 You, O God are our greatest love, your service our deepest desire, your love for us our most precious gift and more than anything we want you to know that we adore you. Amen.

I'd like to invite you to take a few moments to think about water.
 The gentle way it washes dirt from our skin
 The powerful force that carves channels through rock.
 The refreshing, heaven sent gift that brings life to our world.

A few years ago I visited Bushmead in Zimbabwe and the school my church has helped to fund there. It was, as you might imagine a life changing experience, I was welcomed into the community and family home as both dear sister and honoured guest. Unlike many homes in Zimbabwe there was running water which meant that while my hosts took turns in the same bath water I was given the luxury of my own bathroom. I'd been fundraising for the school for years so I knew what life in Zimbabwe was like or I thought I did. But the shock of turning on the tap to find no water (common place for them) was very real. I have never been without easy access to clean water, even during essential plumbing works provision has always been made and I have known when water will be restored. Of course, my hosts were prepared, in my excitement and wonder at all around me and the love I'd been shown I'd failed to notice the most basic, there in the corner was a pack of bottled water, ready for us. Water is life, life without water cannot exist.

So what better symbol for baptism could there be, waters ability to cleanse, its power to transform and reshape and our total inability to live without it tells us much about the Spirit of God. Through Baptism in Christ we have been washed clean and offered a source of ongoing renewal. Through Baptism in Christ we have received the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives, helping us to change and reshape ourselves into the people we are called to be. Through Baptism in Christ we have been given life, true life, eternal life.

God is with us, flowing through us and out from us into our world. The source of life for all, a force which can never be completely cut off, a blessing that will never leave us.

There may be times when we don't notice God's presence, when we feel he is distant or has abandoned us and the tap gives nothing.

Don't be fooled, God is always with us, waiting for us to discover him, turn to him, rely on him, waiting to wash through us and make us truly alive.

Liz Wood

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Prayers for Others

Father God, we come to you with open hearts and minds to pray for our world,

For all who are working to help others.

For all who are unwell in body, mind or soul.

For all who fear violence, in the streets or their own homes.

For all who struggle to fill their daily needs and fear for their future.

For all who feel alone or isolated.

For Church, family, friends and neighbours.

For ourselves, right here and now, all we are and think and feel.

Father we place our world into your hands, in all things and all places may your will be done. Amen.

#niteblessings

May you rest in the embrace of the God who sees you, loves you and promises to walk with you.

He knows your deepest fears, understands your profoundest insecurities and is able to hold you through the deepest storms. May you remember that you are known and loved

Malcolm Duncan

Standing at the Portal

Frances R. Havergal

Standing at the portal
 Of the opening year,
 Words of comfort meet us,
 Hushing every fear;
 Spoken thru the silence
 By our Saviour's voice,
 Tender, strong and faithful,
 Making us rejoice.

Onward, then, and fear not,
 Children of the day;
 For His Word shall never,
 Never pass away.

I, the Lord, am with thee,
 Be thou not afraid;
 I will help and strengthen
 Be thou not dismayed.
 Yea, I will uphold thee
 With My own right hand;
 Thou art called and chosen
 In My sight to stand.

For the year before us,
 O what rich supplies!
 For the poor and needy
 Living streams shall rise;

For the sad and sinful
 Shall His grace abound;
 For the faint and feeble
 Perfect strength be found.

He will never fail us,
 He will not forsake;
 His eternal covenant
 He will never break.
 Resting on the promise,
 What have we to fear?
 God is all sufficient
 For the coming year.