



Sunday 24th 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

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY & CHURCHES TOGETHER

**AGM** The Unity Week service, hosted by St Mary's commences at 6pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January via Zoom followed by the Annual General Meeting.

At the AGM we will be looking for nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Please prayerfully consider whether you are called to this work.

### CHRISTMAS CARD:

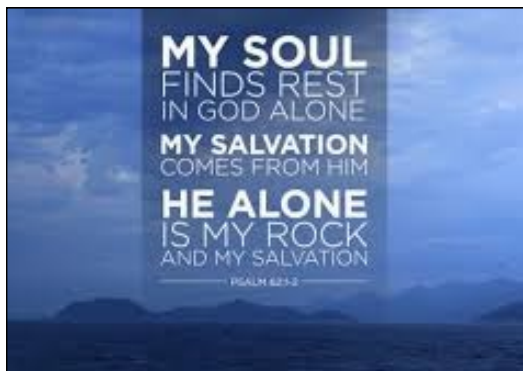
Joyce and Ken Scott's Christmas Card in Ashley Methodist Church raised £125 for the Donna Louise Trust and with direct contributions sent to Donna Louise a grand total of £140 was sent off. They pass on their heartfelt thanks for your

generosity in such difficult times.

### LIST OF URGENT FOODBANK NEEDS:

- JAM - NO STOCK
- COFFEE - NO STOCK
- CARTONS FRUIT JUICE - LONG LIFE
- SPONGE PUDDINGS/SLAB CAKE
- CUSTARD AND RICE PUDDING
- TINNED CHICKEN
- DOG FOOD - WET - LOW STOCK
- SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER - NO STOCK
- TOILET ROLLS
- TINNED SPAGHETTI
- LOCAL SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS/VOUCHERS - MORRISONS/ LIDL/ALDI/ASDA/SAINSBURY'S

They have plenty of Pasta, rice, & tea. Drop of places are still at the supermarkets in town but also at Savers, in the town centre and at the Parish rooms, Tues & Fridays 9-11am.



### MD CIRCUIT WORSHIP

#### ONLINE

First streaming at 10.30am on Sundays, then always available

- ⇒ [mdmc.org.uk](http://mdmc.org.uk)
- ⇒ [ashleymethodist.co.uk](http://ashleymethodist.co.uk)
- ⇒ YouTube – search MDMC

#### IN CHURCH

*MDMC & Ashley MC are both paused during January / February 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](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA)

#### Swan Bank, Burslem

Live Streams at 10.30am and past services,  
[www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank](http://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](mailto:notices@mdmc.org.uk). Tel: 07966295413. Please send testimonies, prayers, news, notices, activities etc.

# Now for something different

Mark1: 14-20  
Psalm 62: 1-12

## A Prayer to start

Loving Lord, thank you that you meet us where we are, in the middle and muddle of our daily tasks. Help us to hear your call, to recognise your voice, and to respond to your invitation to be with you now. Amen

## Bible notes

If there is one phrase that characterises Mark, it is 'and immediately'. It's found twice in this short reading alone, and it reflects the urgency of sharing the gospel as widely as possible. The time is now! Jesus expresses this in the first words he speaks in this Gospel. The word used for time (v.15) is *kairos*, which means 'the right time' or even 'crisis moment'. Jesus' verbs pick up on the same urgency: 'is fulfilled', 'has come near'. He has a crucial message to share. God's kingdom is about to dawn! So, he invites people to change their way of life, picking up on John the baptizer's message (1.4), and put their trust in the good news, the work that God is doing in and through him. There is an undercurrent of tension contributing to the urgency. Mark introduced us to John as the forerunner. Now we learn that John has been arrested (v.14). How long will Jesus have before he suffers the same fate?

Jesus' urgent words are illustrated by his call to the disciples and their unhesitating response. There are vivid images: Simon and Andrew casting their net, then letting it fall to follow Jesus. They abandon the net, which has been their means of making a living, and they let go of their well-honed skill in using it. James and John leave their father in the boat – how would he have reacted to the loss of his two sons and their economic contribution to the family? These instantaneous decisions had difficult consequences for many. Ched Myers comments that the first step in radical discipleship is to overturn the socio-economic position of the disciples.

The disciples are embarking on a new way of life. Jesus' invitation to change is vividly expressed: 'Come behind me', he says, and gives us an image of this little group making their way behind their new leader to start fishing for people. They had no idea where the journey would take them, but it was the beginning of something radically different.

## Reflection

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading.

- What do you feel about the idea that you are chosen by Jesus?
- What is it about Jesus that would make you want to say, 'yes'?
- What might make you hesitate in your response to Jesus?

## A prayer for us

We thank you, Lord, for all these blessings caught in your net of good news. Thank you for the changes you have brought about in our lives, and the difference you continue to make as we follow and learn from you. Thank you that you never ask us to go beyond our capabilities. Thank you for the many blessings we receive when we follow through on what you ask of us. May we be a blessing to others in your name, by spreading the good news. Amen

## Psalm 62: 5-12

**The psalmist invites us to focus on God as the sole source of strength and hope. God is a rock, a fortress, a refuge. We can say anything to God. This contrasts with human ways of evaluating status or acquiring wealth, which carry no weight. The psalmist brings the whole psalm together in God's steadfast love, which is the foundation of God's strength and concern for us.**

## JESUS CALLS US

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,  
saying "Christian, follow me."*

*As, of old, apostles heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for his dear sake.*

*Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying "Christian, love me more."*

*In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."*

*Jesus calls us; by thy mercies,  
Saviour, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience,  
serve and love thee best of all.*

## #niteblessings

May your life be rooted in the truth of Who God is, and may God's character, compassion and faithfulness give you courage, grace and hope. May the promises of God's Word feed you, sustain you and inspire you. When the storms rise may you be anchored by Christ.

Malcolm Duncan

Cecil Frances Alexander