



Sunday 7th February

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

LORD-LIEUTENANT THANKS

Congratulations to Gail Ackerley and Matt Baker on receiving a special 'Thank You' from the Queen's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire for services to the community during the pandemic period.

DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Do you have extensive experience of safeguarding in a voluntary or statutory agency? Are you able to work flexibly and independently? Are you open to working in the faith sector? If so, this post may be for you. £25,350 pa pro rata (full time equivalent £39,080) 6% Pension Contribution Home based 24 hours a week, worked flexibly including some evening and weekend work. There is a need to travel all across the Chester & Stoke District. For an application pack please contact Rob Glassonbury, at chester.stoke@btconnect.com. More info safeguarding@chestokemethodists.com Closing date: Friday 26 February, 12pm.

MDMC ONLINE PRAYER

Thursday evenings 7.30-8pm, join us for a prayer gathering on Zoom to prayer for MDMC; For the church family, the vision, the mission and more!

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77138650306...>

Meeting ID: 771 3865 0306
Passcode: i10m9R

NATIONAL MONTH OF PRAYER

During the month of February we as a nation are being invited to a Month of Prayer. Initiated by the Church of England has supported by other people of faith. The suggestion is that at 6pm each day a time is set aside for prayer. How each of us engages with pray will be as unique as our relationship to God is unique.

CIRCUIT MEETING

A reminder to all those who are involved that there is a Circuit Meeting on Wednesday 10th February at 7.30pm via Zoom. If you don't have the Zoom details, please contact Joan Scrivener.

COMMUNITY BLESSINGS

Ruth is planning to put together a small gift (sweets/chocolate etc) with a label attached with words of thanks and encouragement for all staff at the Primary School's in MD and for the medical practice staff on behalf of MDMC. Initially, we'll be making up 300 of these at a cost of just under £1 per gift. If you'd like to contribute towards the costs, it'd be a great way of supporting this small ministry and enable us to do more in the future. Please send any money to Gail Ackerley (contact her for bank transfer details if that helps) or you can drop it off in a marked envelope to the manse. Any excess funds will build up a 'blessings reserve' for future use.

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 / February

OTHER ONLINE WORSHIP

Truro Methodist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2XL8XC12GnsFtWUJlbdww>

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!

Use the following link...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83410523806?pwd=SmZBQml3K3lXM1lybzNDZnhMUU5PUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 1052 3806, Password: 277175

If you would like to contribute to this weekly Newsletter, please send items by Wednesday evenings to Al Savill
Email: notices@mdmc.org.uk. Tel: 07966295413. Please send testimonies, prayers, news, notices, activities etc.

Time with God

O BREATH OF GOD, BREATHE ON US NOW,
And move within us while we pray;
The Spring of our new life art Thou,
The very light of our new day.

O strangely art Thou with us, Lord,
Neither in height nor depth to seek:
In nearness shall Thy voice be heard;
Spirit to spirit Thou dost speak.

Christ is our Advocate on high;
Thou art our Advocate within.
O plead the truth, and make reply
To every argument of sin.

But ah, this faithless heart of mine,
The way I know, I know my Guide;
Forgive me, O my Friend divine,
That I so often turn aside.

Be with me when no other friend
The mystery of my heart can share;
And be Thou known, when fears transcend,
By Thy best name of Comforter.

Alfred H Vine

A Prayer to start

Father, it is our privilege and joy to praise you. As we pray, may our words and thoughts be pleasing to you. As we open your word may we trust in your unfailing promises. Your word holds true, it is living and active, sharper than a two-edged sword. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may see you more clearly today. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

27th January was Holocaust Memorial Day. I watched a television in which men and women of great dignity spoke about their own experiences of being in concentration camps during World War 2. Two things spoke strongly to me; the awfulness of the atrocious experiences they had lived through and their commitment to living. They said that they spoke to bear witness to what was done but also to encourage those people who heard them to choose to live in the best possible way they could.

During the month of February we as a nation are being invited to a **Month of Prayer**. The Church of England has initiated this invitation and is supported in the initiative by other people of faith. The suggestion is that **at 6pm each day a time is set aside for prayer**. How each of us engages with pray will be as unique as our relationship to God is unique.

Christians have often been accused of being 'so heavenly minded they are no earthly use'. During this last year I think this idea of people of faith being so concerned with the spiritual life that they are unable to 'roll their sleeves up' and get stuck in has been considerably overturned.

Choosing to live life as best we can is about how we enhance our own spiritual, mental and physical well-being and our contribution to the well-being of others. Jesus know the value of prayer and refreshment in his own life and encouraged his friends and followers to be attentive to their own needs so that they could then reach out the hand of compassion to others. We have recorded in Luke's Gospel chapter 11, a conversation in which Jesus is asked; 'teach us to pray'. Jesus then gives these words; **Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.**' He then follows with a story about a friend in need who asks for help. The help is given. 'Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.'

The invitation to the life well lived is to find the whisper of God's voice in your heart restoring your soul, and to be moved to acts of kindness and compassion towards friend and family and stranger.

So then the invitation to prayer may be formally setting aside time at 6pm in the quiet of your own home or it may be to hold in an intentional way God at the front of your thoughts wherever you are, or for others it will be to continue with the task at hand. God speaks to us in the silence of our being when we wait upon God but God also surprises us by speaking into the everyday situations we find ourselves in.

Reflection

Mother Julian of Norwich experienced God speaking to her like a feather moving through her being.

In silence or in activity we hear God's whisper moving like a feather through our being, stroking and transforming our timid souls into fiery passion for peace and justice. In silence or activity allow God's whisper to speak to you of grace and forgiveness. In silence or activity allow God's whisper to speak to you and empower you daily to live in the best ways you can.

A Prayer

Loving God, come to us now, as you have come to your people in every age. We thank you for all who have reflected the light of Christ. Help us to follow their example and bring us with them to live for ever in your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#niteblessings

May you live in childlike wonder - neither lost in your world nor intimidated by your circumstances. May you face life with a sense of adventure and possibility, but may you be aware that as you step into tomorrow, God has gone ahead of you and may this give you hope

Malcolm Duncan