



Sunday 18th April

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

Youth Work at MDMC

With the Covid rates reducing significantly, the National Youth Agency have relaxed some of the guidelines to allow more children's and youth activities to take place again! Would you be prepared to help run our church children's and youth work? We will need helpers both for our Sunday morning junior church groups and for our evening outreach youth club groups. Please pray into these opportunities and if you feel led in any way and wish to find out more please contact Gail about Junior Church help and Kev about youth club help. Many thanks.

Junior Church at MDMC

starts today for primary school aged children and will be weekly. Please book online as you would for attending church.

Easter Offering Service

A recording of this year's Easter Offering Service, 'Into all the world' is now available for you to watch on the MWiB YouTube channel. The video has been produced by the MWiB Executive, and lasts around 45 minutes. If you would like to donate you can do

so, via the Just Giving page, please visit www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate and reference your donation with EO Service 2021. Cash offerings can be put in the church offering in an envelope marked Easter Offering or given to Gail Ackerley. The link to the YouTube video is: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og9uuOq_6qM&t=2s

CARE FOR THE FAMILY have a number of free online events between April and July that may be of interest, such as 'A mind of their own', which looks at ways to help build children's emotional wellbeing, The Mum Show, Raising Teens, and 'Run the Race', looking at how men can recharge and look after themselves well. There are also a number of bereavement support events. Events are available on certain dates and can be accessed by registering and choosing a viewing date via the website - www.cff.org.uk

Methodist Book Centre

The doors of the Methodist Book Centre in Hanley have reopened again for browsing and sales. The shop has operated virtually through the lockdown restrictions and will continue to be available online, via email and telephone too.

Circuit contacts during Ruth's Sabbatical April-end of June

In the first instance, contact any of your church leadership team.

For pastoral issues, contact;

- ◆ Ashley—Jill Harrison
- ◆ MDMC—Vanessa Savill
- ◆ Hinstock—Edna Perry

MD Circuit Worship

ONLINE

First streaming at 10.30am on Sundays, then always available

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

Weekly Zoom Prayer
Thursdays, 7.30-8pm

Meeting ID: 771 3865 0306
Passcode: i10m9R

IN CHURCH

MDMC
10.30am every Sunday

Please book in by the Friday:
Phone: 01630 655957 and leave a message with your name and a contact number and the names of those in your group/bubble who will also attend.

Internet: mdmc.org.uk/calendar

Ashley MC
10.30am 3rd Sunday of the month

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

PHONE WORSHIP
0808 2812514
Free Methodist church Dial-a-prayer
0808 281 2478
Free Methodist Church Dial-the-news (both updated on a Thursday)



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

I don't believe it!!

Luke 24:36b-48

I'm sure we all remember "I don't believe it!" the catchphrase of Victor Meldrew, in the 1990's sitcom "One Foot in the Grave." It's a phrase we can almost hear going round Jesus' followers in our Gospel reading today. They were frightened and incredulous, which are normal reactions when the boundaries of our experience and knowledge are challenged. We don't always accept and believe what we see and are told. (I think there are still those who believe the moon landing in 1969 was a hoax!!)



After Jesus had given them physical proof that he was indeed alive, he went on to link their knowledge of scripture with their current experiences, explaining this was part of God's greater plan and they were part of it. His teaching expanded their thinking, preparing them for the start of their journey from the familiar into a new future, which involved risk, anxiety and uncertainty.

Generations of Christians have wrestled with the question of the best way to live following the teaching of Jesus in their own time and situations. Over the last year our daily life has not been normal, and many have been trying to hold on to what they know and find what God may be saying to us in our time. As we are emerging from the coronavirus restrictions, we are aware that much has changed within people's hearts and minds, and we are trying to process how to move forward as the people of God. There are parallels here with this event in Luke's gospel; both situations are extraordinary and isolating, with an uncertain future on many fronts, and in both instances, Christ's followers are called to witness to what he reveals of God's love.

So, now in these uncertain and unsettling times as we claim "I do believe it!" we face the question of how we share the gospel in our new and different circumstances. May God send us His vision and wisdom.

Prayer for others

We pray for our world, for the environment and people. That all who have any power or influence will work with integrity and wisdom, and seek to bring healing to our planet, and peace and justice to all people.

We pray for the church; for those who are persecuted and suffer for their faith; for those who have experienced hurt instead of healing; for those who are wondering and doubtful. Lord bring your revelation and transformation.

We pray for family, friends and neighbours who are living through difficult times. Particularly, who are struggling with bereavement, isolation and loneliness, exacerbated by lockdowns. (We call them to mind and bring them to God)

We pray for the royal family mourning the loss of the Duke of Edinburgh, as devoted wife, sons and daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren and so much more. For the staff, giving all the care and support they could. And as we pray for them, we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip, for his devotion to our Queen and his family, for his devotion and duty to our country and the commonwealth and beyond.

A Prayer to Start

*Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Come Lord Jesus; bring
assurance of your presence right
where I am, here and now.*

In Christ Alone

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! -- who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine --
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

#niteblessings

**May the glorious
and liberating truth
of Christ's
Resurrection cause
hope to rise in your
heart and peace to
flood your soul.
Amidst the
uncertainty of our
world, may the
certain victory of
God release
courage in your life
today**

Malcolm Duncan