



Sunday 25th 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.

**RUTH'S FAREWELL** As you are aware, Ruth and the family will be leaving us in the summer. We are now starting a collection to buy a farewell gift from the Circuit. If you are able and willing to put towards this, please pass your donation to Gail who is collecting on behalf of MDMC, or Rod who is collecting for Ashley. The closing date for donations to be made is Sunday 20th June. In addition, if anybody has photos of events that the churches or Ruth has been involved in over the last 6 years (such as Buttercross to Bethlehem, gospel choir, circuit anniversary celebration, 10K, Ruth's 40th birthday party etc) that you would be willing to share, please pass them to Helen Perry Thank you.

### 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](http://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=Qq9uuQq\\_6qM&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qq9uuQq_6qM&t=2s)

### WEBMASTER ROLE Churches

Together are looking for a new webmaster to look after its website. The site uses WordPress, which is an easy to use platform. For the last ten years it has been looked after by Randall Hardy who would like to pass on the responsibility to someone else in the coming months. Randall is willing to spend time familiarising his replacement with the user interface if necessary. Could this be an opportunity for you to serve the local Christian community? Time, motivation and not being terrified by computers are all that is required. In the first instance please contact Sue Frankfort

**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](http://www.cff.org.uk)

## 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

**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:  
Internet: [mdmc.org.uk/calendar-or](http://mdmc.org.uk/calendar-or)  
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.

**Ashley MC**  
10.30am 1st & 3rd Sundays

## PHONE WORSHIP

**0808 2812514**  
Free Methodist church Dial-a-prayer

**0808 281 2478**  
Free Methodist Church Dial-the-news (both updated on a Thursday)

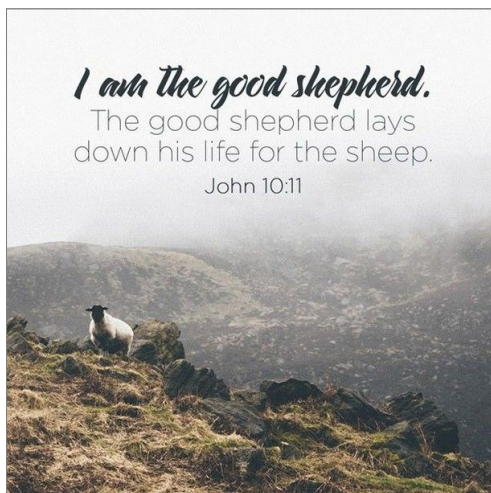
If you would like to contribute to this weekly Newsletter, please send items by Wednesday evenings to Al Savill [notices@mdmc.org.uk](mailto:notices@mdmc.org.uk). Tel: 07966295413. Please send testimonies, prayers, news, notices, activities etc.

# The Good Shepherd

John 10: 11-18

## A Prayer to Start

Lord God, wherever we may be we approach you now as your people, and the sheep of your pasture. We enter your gates with thanksgiving, and your courts with praise, for your steadfast love endures forever.



Only the love of Jesus can transform our life, heal our deepest hurts and set us free from the vicious circles of disappointment, anger and constant complaint.  
17/04/2021, 12:30

Sheep and shepherds are frequently mentioned in the Bible. Several prominent Old Testament figures spent time as shepherds, including Jacob, Moses, and, of course, King David.

The prophet Ezekiel speaks of shepherds who do not care for the sheep but are only interested in profiting from them (Chapter 34). The "shepherds" to whom

he is referring are the kings of Israel who have badly failed their subjects. God, he says, will set up in their place his servant David, who will feed his people and be their shepherd.

Jesus referred to himself as "the good shepherd", who lays down his life for the sheep. This is in contrast with the hired hand who only wants his wages. Jesus is therefore declaring himself to be the fulfilment of Ezekiel's prophecy. He is the King, "born of David's line", who has come to establish God's own sovereignty over his people.

Shepherds in the UK today drive their sheep, often aided by a dog or two. This is very different from the shepherds of Biblical times who led their sheep. The sheep knew their voices and would follow. Even in this country, however, lambs which are orphaned, or whose mothers do not have enough milk for them, are often raised by hand. They soon learn to recognise the person who feeds them, and like Mary's little lamb in the nursery rhyme, will follow them everywhere.

May we hear and recognise the voice of our own Good Shepherd, and follow him where he leads us, because we can always trust in his love and care.

Original materials by John Barnett

## Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, glorious in power and purity, we adore you.

Creator and Lord of the universe, we are amazed that you care for us, and when we were far off, you sought us in Christ, to bring us back to the fold of your love.

Forgive us that we still sometimes turn away from you like lost sheep.

Draw us back to you, we pray, assure us of your love, and enable us to share your love with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me lie in pastures green,  
he leads me by the still, still waters,  
his goodness restores my soul.*

*And I will trust in you alone,  
and I will trust in you alone,  
for your endless mercy follows me,  
your goodness will lead me home.*

*He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and he anoints my head with oil;  
and my cup -- it overflows with joy,  
I feast on his pure delights.*

*And though I walk the darkest path --  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for you are with me, and your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know.*

Stuart Townend

## #niteblessings

*May you be given the gift of faith: not naivety, arrogance, presumption or avoidance but a deep capacity to trust God with every aspect of your life and to leave your fears, hopes and dreams in His gentle Hands*

Malcolm Duncan

## Weekly Circuit Preachers

25th April Ashley No service  
MDMC Robin Perry

2nd May Ashley Paul Savill  
MDMC Pete Williams

## Circuit Contacts

During Ruth's Sabbatical (Apr-Jun)

- ◆ In the first instance, contact any of your church leadership team.
- ◆ For pastoral issues, contact;
  - \* Ashley—Jill Harrison
  - \* MDMC—Vanessa Savill
  - \* Hinstock—Edna Perry