



Sunday 9th May

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

INDIA COVID APPEAL

As India grapples with the devastating impact of a Covid-19 second wave, please support vulnerable communities by giving generously to the joint Emergency Coronavirus Appeal. All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain will be scaling up their response in India through All We Can's local partner in Odisha to the unfolding crisis, helping rural communities in the state to pull together, and providing vital help at this most desperate moment. To find out more and give now, visit: www.allwecan.org.uk/indias-coronavirus-crisis-urgent-support-needed

FOODBANK—5 A DAY APPEAL

Could you 'Sponsor a Spud' and be 'Fruit and Veg Champions' by regularly giving each week/month towards the purchase of fresh fruit, vegetables and potatoes for food bank families? If you are able to help, please see the Foodbank website at <https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/> for ways to donate. Standing order/gift aid forms are available to download and can also be collected from the Foodbank or posted out to you upon request (phone 01630 654007 for postal forms) Please reference your donation with 'FAD Appeal'.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

is 10th to 16th May. As Covid has restricted our ability to fundraise it is more important than ever to support them. If you are able to donate you can go online to www.christianaid.org.uk, put your gift in the collection box at the back of church or place your donation in an envelope marked Christian Aid and either put it in the offering plate or give to Gail Ackerley.

CAP ONLINE MONEY COURSE

will next be held on zoom on Mondays 14th, 21st & 28th June from 7.30pm - 9.00pm This short course helps you get to grips with your finances & makes managing your money simple. For more information or to book your place, please contact Ali Doulton at alidoulton@capjobclubs.org

JEAN SALT Any gifts in memory of Jean Salt will be shared between Loggerheads & District Befrienders & Ashley Methodist Church.

A GREEN CONVERSATION: The Chester & Stoke district are advertising a Green conversation on Monday 10th May at 7pm on zoom for 'A Green Conversation' An evening of hearing and sharing views on contemporary Christian issues on the environment. with talks from Professor David Clough (Professor of Theological Ethics at Chester University) & Martha Rand (3Generate Ecumenical Representative). To book a place email: chester.stoke@btconnect.com

RUTH'S FAREWELL If you are able and willing to put towards a collection for a gift for Ruth, please pass your donation to Gail (MDMC) or Rod (Ashley).by 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 that you would be willing to share, please pass them to Helen Perry Thank you.

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: Internet: 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)

#niteblessings

Sometimes it feels like we walk from one challenge into another, and we need a moment to gather our thoughts, take a deep breath and journey on. If you face such a moment may you be given grace to remember that you are not alone. May God strengthen and sustain you.

Malcolm Duncan

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

This is my commandment

John 15: 9-17 Acts 10: 44-48
1 John 5: 1-6

A Prayer to Start

Dear Lord, as we rise to meet each new day, please let us be filled with Your spirit. Wherever we go, let us spread love, joy, peace, goodness, and faithfulness. Let us desire to become more like you and to worship you in all we do. Help us desire these things so much more than the sin that entices us. Thank you for always going before us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Recent weeks have seen quite a debate underway about relative freedoms and responsibilities in the light of actual and possible Government announcements easing Covid. This positive tension is found in our readings for today which remind us that as disciples of The Lord Jesus Christ we face a constant series of decisions about how to live authentically as people of faith.

The first section of chapter 5 in the 1st letter of John the elder holds this together in a great declaration about what constitutes being a genuine disciple. The other – and probably better-known readings from John's Gospel and Acts illustrate this well. John's 1st letter was written to a church in trouble – a faction had advocated a view of Christ that made faith more a mystical experience that need not affect how believers lived out what they claimed to believe – rather like some contemporary secular

commentators insisting faith is a private matter. John refutes this – and in that sense this passage is straight forward, but his writing is also difficult – because it's plain and simple to see how far we have to go and grow! This leads John to assert three things:

1. New birth is the basis of the Christian life (5:1, 4). Echoing the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus, John says, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God" this seems innocent enough, but it calls us to believe that the flesh and blood carpenter of Nazareth shows us who God is!

2. Faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, is a vital sign of the new birth (5:1, 4, 5). When Peter preached at the house of Cornelius a remarkable thing happened – people from a non-religious background came to faith and were filled with God's Holy Spirit – in short, they were saved and changed. John explains to his readers: That Faith is the result of the new birth, not the cause of it (5:1). It's not the greatness of our faith that

forgives, heals and changes us, but the greatness of God's faithfulness that works in us - we respond to receive that gift with as much (or little) trust as we have. Such faith has a clearly defined object (5:1, 5).

Just as bungee jumpers have to trust the elastic rope round their ankles, so trusting in the self-sacrificial death and the rising of Jesus is what connects us to God in the household and family of faith as The Holy Spirit works in us. Our faith, then, has a clearly observable result which John calls "overcoming the world" (5:4, 5). The work of God in us changes us to want to do what God wants (Phil.2:12) so we are changed. When Billy Bray the reprobate Cornish tin miner came to faith, after hearing John Wesley preach, everyone saw the difference and he began describing himself as "The son of a King" – a complete transformation.

3. Love for God and His children is a vital sign of the new birth (5:1, 2, 3). As the love of Jesus takes root in our lives, God's Spirit forms the character of Jesus in us – all well and good. But, here's the rub, both John's letter and Jesus in John's Gospel say that love, self-giving love which expects no reward, love like Jesus shows is shown NOT in feelings or good (or daring) deeds, but an obedience which loves fellow believers as part of our witness (John 15:10,14,17).

We are called to become positively different from worldly standards; often when we're different we're seen as negative and judgemental, but when we're positive we're compromised and not very different.

All heaven declares
*the glory of the risen Lord;
who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
For ever he will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship him alone.*

*I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain
to reconcile us to God.
For ever you will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee,
and worship you alone.*

Noel & Tricia Richards

Prayer

Lord our God, we pray for our mixed up, muddled and compromised world. May those who lead peoples and nations be inspired to work in ways that benefit all whom they are called to serve. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Where tyranny, violence or oppression spread injustice, may those who know the truth be stirred to challenge and transform situations, for the good of all. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who provide health and vaccination services. May such resources be shared among nations, that all humanity may attain fullness of life. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Your Church that we may demonstrate the humility and love of Jesus, declaring in word and deed your immeasurable love. By Your Holy Spirit may we live ever to Your glory, that others may come to know their place in Your family. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Take time to sit quietly and ask, this week, for whom could the way you live and act show that your faith in Jesus who truly lived, died and rose reflect the reality of the life changing nature of your faith?

Weekly Circuit Preachers

9th May	Ashley MDMC Online	No service Peter Mitchell Mike Shingler
16th May	Ashley MDMC Online	Robert Williams Mark Savill Mark Savill



Circuit Contacts

During Ruth's Sabbatical (Apr-Jun)

- ◆ Please contact your church leadership team.
- ◆ For pastoral issues, contact;
 - * Ashley—Jill Harrison
 - * MDMC—Vanessa Savill
 - * Hinstock—Edna Perry