

Messenger

Market Drayton Methodist Circuit

Circuit magazine

Autumn 2022



Message from Mark - Journeys

John Wesley



You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most. It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance.

AZ QUOTES

I was pondering this quote the other day, which has echoes of the Great Commission from our Lord Jesus (Matthew 28 – yes, I do mention it quite a lot!) I've also used the analogy that the Church is like a sea-going vessel. Some see 'their' church as a place for a blessing, pick-me-up, hospital or somewhere to meet family and friends providing there's nothing else on! That is more like a cruise-ship. This is where a small number of 'staff' do all the racing around and clearing-up, the entertainment and maintenance whilst the vast majority 'consume' the product, have a jolly time and then disembark until the next trip! However, to continue the analogy further, the true Church should be more like a battleship with 'all hands on deck' working together, on a mission, to rout the enemy and save those who are in great peril from the stormy waves.



For the battleship to accomplish it's vitally important mission, all the crew must be at their stations, playing their vitally important role. This brings us back to the Wesley quote above.

The main reason for the existence of the Church is to be, and bring others, into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This is what Wesley was talking about. So often churches can get distracted by good things at the expense of the best. As we give, pray, serve and love we seek to point not to ourselves, not even to the church, but to our wonderful Lord Jesus. As we do that, the Father is glorified and the church automatically grows.

We will continue to have missional events – things to invite non-Christians to. We are seeking to reach out. That is why the bus is vital to this. That is why we want to plant more churches to reach out to seek the lost and to point them to Jesus. As things get more tricky in the future it is so reassuring to know that the Lord Jesus is the Way. We don't follow a path, we follow Him. Through His Holy Spirit He gives us hope in the face of despair – He brings joy to overcome pain – and He continues to transform and heal us when we are tired and confused.

The true Church is like a battleship - we are to play our God-given role and the Captain can be trusted to navigate us and see that we reach the safe harbour when the mission is complete.

Question: what role are you playing to enable the Church to accomplish its mission to save souls?

I am happy to discover the answer with you. 😊

Bon voyage,

Rev Mark

The Extreme Tour

Kevin Lee

On Saturday 3rd September a team of six Christian musicians arrived in Market Drayton as part of a tour of Britain. As part of “The Extreme Tour” (an organization in The States who arrange these tours of Christian musicians, rappers and bands to reach the lost and sing and tell of Jesus) they had already played and stayed in Glasgow, Liverpool, Wrexham and Swansea.

Despite being absolutely shattered they set up at the town skate park and ran skating and scooter competitions and one of the team sung a few songs whilst promoting the bigger gig the following day. Half a dozen skate boarders/scooter riders took part and there were a good number of MDMC folk to support the event.

One of the church life groups had arranged their evening meal and served it to them at church, before they set off to the local scout hut for showers, then crashed out on the church hall floor!

On Sunday morning (following breakfast at church) one member of the team attended MDMC to worship and give testimony in our service whilst the others met members of the church congregation to set up all the staging and PA system at The Zone on the Fairfields estate (plus all the refreshments that had been bought to give away during the event!). Lunch was prepared for them and delivered to them by another church life group.

We had all kind of hoped that noisy music might bring out a few children and teens off the estate to come and see what was happening. In addition to that though, whole families came out (with their camping chairs!) to sit and enjoy the event! It was as if they had decided that this was a music festival taking place in their part of town and they were going to make the most of it! At one point someone counted ninety people on the field!

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the
extreme
tour



The town mayor and our big blue bus were also in attendance! Despite a miserable weather forecast the rain held off and at one point the sun even shone! During the four hours the bands/musicians were great, some Godly conversations were had, and we had some lovely feedback after the event. One lady was close to tears whilst telling us how grateful she was that the event had been organized on their estate and also commented about what a joy it had been to watch lads who would normally be fighting with each other, sitting in front of the stage watching and singing together. Another conversation was overheard with a lady impressed by how the team were able to convey their beliefs but not in a pushy way and how the message was shared that the audience were loved and special. There were also some brilliant conversations with people who just could not get their heads around why we were doing this, why it was all free and why the musicians would come over here and do this!

When the audience eventually allowed the band to finish (following continuous chants of “ONE MORE SONG!”) the van was packed up and the team headed off to enjoy the hospitality of some more MDMC folk who generously provided their evening meal (and the opportunity of an extra, bonus shower!)

Finally on Monday morning, after another night’s sleep at church and another breakfast, the team headed off to Blackpool for their final leg of the tour.

The team from America LOVED being here! They left discussing how the event could be even better if they return next year (and one team member who was working out the feasibility of moving to Market Drayton permanently!)

It was a great weekend. The team from America were brilliant, but it could not have happened without the help and support of our church members: those who prayed for the event, those who supported it financially, those who bought and prepared and served food to the team (and to Rachel who co-ordinated all the volunteers), those who bought and served refreshments at The Zone, and those who attended the events and mingled with the crowds. Many, many thanks to all who supported the events in any and every way.



BRIEF BIBLE BIOGRAPHIES

SAMSON

Rev. Paul Clapham

It was during the uncertain and perilous times, after the Exodus from Egypt, while the Israelites were struggling to establish themselves in Canaan, that Samson was born. The Israelites were trying to maintain their sense of nationality in the face of the military supremacy of several of their neighbours, but especially the Philistines. Several Israelite leaders had had temporary successes. It was into this time of uncertainty that Samson was born.

The key factor in his life was the fact that from birth he was dedicated as a Nazirite. This meant that he was not to touch wine or fermented drink; he was not to touch or even be close to a dead body; he was not to cut his hair. However, it was only his long hair which was a visible sign of the other parts of the oath.

As he grew up Samson appears to have developed into a lout. He would not have felt out of place in any of the violent gang situations of today. He lived his life as an arrogant bully. He kept the oath made on his behalf

with regard to his hair, but was not so convincing about the non-visible parts of the oath. So we find him going down to the vineyards of Timnah and having killed the lion, then returning to the dead body to see what had happened to it. Another weakness in his life appears to have been his relationships with women. Delilah enjoyed trying the power of her attractions against his physical strength. She won; and Samson lost his hair, his strength and his sight. He also lost his ability to help his people or to further God's will.

During his time in prison he had an enforced separation from vineyards, grapes, wine and dead bodies. In his blindness he could no longer be distracted and as his hair grew so did his relationship with God. Hence finally his position was redeemed and he was able in his suicide to strike one more blow against the Philistines.

The question is: was Samson a strong man or a weak man?

Read:

Judges chapters 13 to 16; Numbers 6 : 1 – 21; Hebrews 11: 34



Halloween – Are there alternatives?

As Christians, we often look for ways to share the light of Jesus especially at Halloween. Ultimately the origins of the word Halloween or All Hallows Eve, are Christian. All Saints' Day or the Feast of All Saints (November 1st) was introduced by the Christian Church in an attempt to move emphasis of the season away from pagan festivals. An older name for it was the Feast of All Hallows and so the 31st October became All Hallows Eve, later contracted to Halloween. The modern day Halloween is far from what was intended to be celebrated by the church but as Christians, we can still find plenty of reason to celebrate. While the world around us focuses on activities honouring fear and death, we can celebrate the One who brings life. Here are just a few things you could do on or around 31st October to refocus on the light.

1. Organise a Light Party! Light parties are a great way to share the light of Jesus at Halloween.
2. Pray about Halloween and for those who get involved that they might find something of the light of Jesus.
3. Why not carve a pumpkin with a cross in it, or perhaps a fish, or some other Christian message? You can sit this on your doorstep to share your message of hope this Halloween.
4. Gather for a prayer and praise meeting.

How will you spend your Halloween?



**23rd October at MDMC,
The Leprosy Mission will join us for Morning Worship**

Why leprosy?

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. That's more than 200,000 new cases a year. Although curable, millions of people worldwide are living with the effects of the disease, from physical disability to mental health problems, poverty and discrimination.

The Mission

Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity, and life in all its fullness.

How that is done

Everything Leprosy Mission do is focused on their goals of zero leprosy transmission, zero leprosy disability and zero leprosy discrimination. They work in four key areas to achieve this: Diagnosing and treating leprosy, Caring for disabled people, Fighting stigma and advocating for change, and Pioneering research.

For more information, see www.leprosymission.org.uk and come along to our morning service on 23rd October at MDMC.

What makes a person poor?

Carolyn Lawrence

We're hearing a lot at the moment about the cost of living crisis and the financial difficulties many people in our nation are facing, especially as Autumn approaches. Indeed, in my role as Debt Centre Manager for Christians Against Poverty I am meeting a lot of people who are already finding it difficult to make ends meet and are fearful and anxious about the coming months. Even people who have been reasonably comfortable financially are starting to feel the pinch with increasing bills and having to make decisions about ways to save money.

When we had the privilege of visiting Uganda a few years ago we worked with Pastor Lazarus who had spent a year in the UK studying before returning to his homeland to plant and pastor churches.



Lazarus said he was shocked that in England every home had running water and electricity, that people often had two cars each and could eat whatever they wanted. He found it hard going back and getting into his life in Africa again after being here amongst such plenty.

There is so much need in places like Uganda that it can be a bit overwhelming. The material need is great but there is such wealth in other ways that we often

lack here in the affluent West. I read a book called 'When Helping Hurts', and the author, Steve Corbett writes about different kinds of poverty.

Poverty of spirituality is to do with our relationship with God. It occurs when we try to live our lives without God and make it on our own. We are meant to be in a relationship with God and when we ignore him or reject him, we suffer a lack of spiritual intimacy in our lives.

Poverty of being is to do with our relationship with ourselves. If we have too high an opinion of ourselves we can become proud and insufferable but if we have too low opinion of ourselves we can suffer poor self-esteem so we need a healthy balance.

Poverty of community is to do with our relationships with others. Sometimes our relationships break down or we don't make time for people who are important to us and when that happens we suffer a lack of community.

Poverty of stewardship is to do with our relationship with creation – the world around us. When people suffer from lack of material goods through their own fault or because of corrupt, unjust or oppressive systems.

The premise of the book is that when you look at different types of poverty we discover that actually all of us are poor in one way or another. We in the West often think of the poor people in the third world who need material goods but forget that we are often poor when it comes to building relationships, in the ways we view ourselves or in our relationship with God, so there is no ground for us to feel superior in any way.

In Africa, as in other parts of the world, we have seen the most dreadful material poverty and yet a richness in relationships both within communities and in the deep rooted faith of the people. Conversely we have seen people in our own country who have everything money can buy materially but are poor in their relationships, community, self-esteem or faith.

I pray that through the current financial crisis, those who are better off will be willing to share with those who have so much less. But most of all I encourage each one of us to come before God and ask him to show us any poverty in our lives, asking him to pour out the riches of his grace into every area so that we in turn can be a blessing to others.

Dates for your diary

ASHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Bible Study – Thursdays at 10am

Harvest Festival – 10.30am – Sunday 2nd October

Chapel Anniversary – 10.30am – Sunday 6th November

MARKET DRAYTON METHODIST CHURCH

Church Anniversary – 25th September

Harvest Festival – 10.30am – 16th October

Wednesday Communions – 11am – 28th Sept, 26th Oct, 30th Nov

Worship at 6 – 6pm – 2nd October, 13th November

Songs of Praise – 3.30pm – 25th Sept, 23rd Oct, 27th Nov

Early Morning Prayer Meeting: every Thursday 6.30-7am

Worship @ The Zone – 3pm – 16th October, 20th November

@The Zone, Linden Way, Market Drayton TF9 1QT

Encounter @ Hinstock Chapel

Worship & Prayer – 3pm – 2nd October

Harvest Service – 3pm – 16th October

Big Blue Bus at the Memorial Hall with Hot Dogs & Hot Chocolate

3pm to 4.30pm – 30th October

Worship & Prayer – 3pm – 6th November

Worship & Prayer – 3pm – 20th November



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