



Prestwood Methodist Church

A worshipping and friendly community following Jesus

Minister: Rev Nigel Wright 01494 431819

Stewards:

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Sunday 12 July 2020 - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As some of you will already have heard, our dear friend Tony Jukes died on Monday 6 July. He had been unwell but had been able to remain at his care home with his wife, Marilyn, until he was admitted to hospital in the last few days. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marilyn, their daughter Wendy and the family at this challenging time. Cards have been sent to the family on behalf of PMC.

Tony's funeral service will be taken by Rev. Nigel Wright at Amersham Crematorium at 2.00pm on Monday 27 July. Due to the COVID-19 regulations it is likely to be for family only, but we hope to be able to share a link for people to view on the internet via webcast.

When the COVID-19 restrictions are over we hope to have a memorial service at our church to celebrate Tony's life and his contribution to PMC.

On a different matter, Tina Hillas has asked me if anyone has some orchid potting compost they could spare her. She needs just enough for a 3" pot. Please contact her if you can help or contact me if you don't have her details.

Resuming church and other activities at PMC

We are collecting opinions, reviewing the ever-changing guidance from government and the Methodist church, and drawing up checklists, assessments and rule sets to see how we can re-open. Added to this, the Rev Cesar Guidi has recently retired, so with the shortage of local preachers it would be difficult to provide a service every Sunday, regardless of COVID restrictions. We would be interested on your thoughts on the following:

- We could restart in September with just one or two services a month.
- We would have to maintain social distancing.
- We would not be able to sing, but we would include some music.
- The maximum length of service would be 40 mins.
- Some weeks the sermon might be pre-recorded on video (the same video as on the YouTube channel) and played on our screen.
- Government guidance does not prohibit communion, provided we do it hygienically. This might involve pre-wrapping portions of bread, and keeping it covered during the liturgy. However, Methodist guidance might be stricter than this.

Please let Bridget, Sandie or Mary know how you would feel about attending such a service once or twice a month from September. We absolutely understand that everyone's needs are different, so please feel free to be honest without fearing judgement!

The Government have said indoor exercise classes, including dance, can restart from 25 July, provided COVID secure conditions are met. We are talking to Chiltern Academy and other users about how this can be achieved.

Bridget

Virtual Church



For daily reflections and a Sunday service from Revs Nigel and Adam, plus guests, see the "[Amersham Methodist Circuit](#)" YouTube channel. Please contact us if you'd like a CD or DVD of the Sunday service.

Bill Stephen's daughter Jenny, who has run several great services for us at PMC, will be leading services from the Wesley United Church in Ontario, Canada, on 19 and 26 July. These will be live on YouTube at 15.30 UK time, and available to watch afterwards. Subscribe to the channel by searching for "[WesleyUnited Cambridge](#)" on YouTube. I will post links to the services when they are available.



Another weekly service that comes highly recommended is at 11am from Methodist Central Hall, Westminster at www.youtube.com/mchwevents

Another option if you're on Facebook is to search for "[The Big Church Sing at Home](#)" and join in at 10.30 Sunday morning.

TV and Radio

If you're missing your hymns, Songs of Praise on Sunday (BBC 1, 1.15pm) has Aled Jones introducing the UK's top ten favourite hymns as voted by BBC audiences.

The Sunday Worship at 8.10am on Radio 4 this week includes a reflection on the parable of the sower from Rev Dr Rosa Hun, co-principal of the South Wales Baptist College.



Lighthouse

A reminder of the links to Lighthouse online this year:

- Lighthouse Live for children (although anyone can sign up to watch!). See lighthousecentral.org to sign up
- [Lighthouse Youth](#) for 12+
- [Lighthouse Prayer](#) for 18+



If you're reading this online, click on the underlined text for the appropriate links. You will also find a link at www.prestwoodmethodists.org.uk

Zoom to pray, Thursday 10-11am

Zoom meeting on Thursday with Tina Hillas and Rev Nigel Wright. Everyone is welcome, but please note that the meeting id and password changes each week, so check here for details.



If you can't Zoom, contact Nigel for instructions on how to phone in.

Readings for this week:

Genesis 25: 19-34
Psalm 119: 105-112
Romans 8: 1-11
Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

"Other seeds fell on good soil"



Prayer from Roots for Churches

Lord, it is so good to read your Word, and hear the parables you told. But, Lord, we can't leave it there.

We must take note of the explanation, and work it out in our own lives. Help us to listen, to learn, to act.

Lord God, how can I possibly understand what you have to say to me, if I don't take time to listen?

Help me to carve out moments this week where, even in my busyness, I can find a quiet corner, or even just a glance heavenward, to be with you.

Speak to me. **AMEN**

The Methodist Worship at Home resource has the full words of **The Church of Christ in every age** (STF 415). The first verse summarises well our current position.

*The Church of Christ, in every age
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.*

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Prayers of intercession from Roots on the Web

God of all seeds and all stories, we pray for the wisdom to apply the truth of Jesus' parables to our own lives and to this community where we serve you.

May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

We pray for places where climate change has brought drought, and floods; for those whose crops have been scorched, whose livelihoods have been washed away.

We pray for the people of Japan, for those caught in the heavy rains there.

We pray too for those in our own country who face continual upheaval through repeated flooding.

Intercession (continued)

May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

We pray for those whose life's seeds are being choked by anxiety, poverty and hardship. For those who have lost their jobs; for those unable to feed their families or to pay their mortgages and rent; for those living without basic facilities.

We pray for those given hope by the emergency budget and for those who feel hope-less.

We pray for foodbanks and charities that try to help all who are struggling.

May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

We pray for those unable to thrive because of illness, and those denied the opportunity to plant the seeds of their dreams in fertile soil.

We pray for those hospitalised with COVID-19; for those whose journey to recovery is slow and painful; for those who nurse them; for those who love them; for those whose treatment has been put on hold.

We pray for those robbed of the opportunity to go to school. For children in war zones and refugee camps; those who must work to find their daily food.

May we see you, may we hear you, may we know you care.

We pray for those whose seeds are watered by their tears; those grieving the loss of someone close; those who feel forgotten; those who are neglected; those who are victims of injustice, abuse, or cruelty.

May they – and all in any kind of need today – see you, may they hear you, and may know you care

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...