



## Prestwood **Methodist** Church

A worshipping and friendly community following Jesus

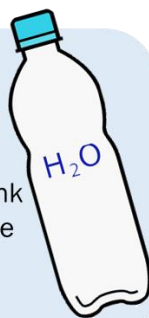
### Bring a face covering



- Please wear while entering & exiting.
- You can remove it during the service if needed for health reasons if you keep 2m distance.

### Bring a drink

- Kitchen is out of use.
- If you need a drink during the service please bring a bottle of water.



## Back to church at Prestwood **Methodist** Church

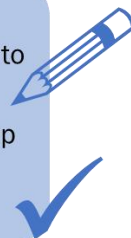


### Sit as advised

- You might need to sit in a different place to your usual seat.
- Chairs are positioned at a safe distance.
- Please do not move any chairs.

### Test & trace

- You don't need to book.
- We need to keep a test & trace register.



### Timing

- Don't arrive before 10.50am.
- Service starts at 11am.
- Finishes by 11.40am.
- Unfortunately, no coffee!



Minister: Rev Nigel Wright 01494 431819

Stewards:

Sandie Wheatley 01494 712373

Bridget Appleby 01494 890840

Mary Spooner 01494 862431

Website: [www.prestwoodmethodists.org.uk](http://www.prestwoodmethodists.org.uk)

Email: [steward@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk](mailto:steward@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk)

### Sunday 13 Sept 2020 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hopefully you all received your copy of Open Door. I have some paper copies left, so please let me know if you or anyone else would like one. I will leave some at the back of the church next week if anyone would like to take one.

So 'church next week' – that's an expression I haven't used for a while. We were relieved to have it confirmed that the 'rule of six' does not impact church services. We already have a process in place to enable each household (whether that's one person or six) to be two metres from any other household (or 1m + for a short period).

We are therefore going ahead with a communion service next Sunday (20 September). You do not have to receive communion if you are not comfortable for any reason. We will explain everything clearly when you arrive, and during the service, but there is summary of what you might need to know in advance on the back. What I haven't included in the summary is that the accessible toilet will be available before, during and after the service!

We welcome feedback from everyone – whether you feel comfortable to join us next week, whether something held you back, or whether you are just more relaxed at home until the COVID-19 situation improves.

Bridget

### Zoom to pray, Thursday 10-11am

Zoom prayer meeting every Thursday with Tina Hillas and Rev Nigel Wright. Everyone is welcome, but check here for a new meeting id and password each week.

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

Zoom meeting ID: 882 2091 8067

Passcode: 236269



### YouTube worship at home

The "[Amersham Methodist Circuit](#)" YouTube channel posts twice a week (Wednesday and Sunday). CDs/ DVDs are available for the Sunday service if you can't watch on YouTube.



Search for [mchw.live](#) on YouTube to find Sunday services from Methodist Church Central Hall

Search Isle of Man Methodist Church for the Sthie services (not a spelling mistake!) which include downloadable resources, and 'flipped preaching' which is a great preparation for the Sunday sermon.

### Radio worship options

The Sunday service on Radio 4 at 8.10 this week celebrates the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower with a service led by the Bishop of Plymouth.



Radio Three Counties still has a short service at 8am on Sunday, hidden within the breakfast show.

### Readings

Exodus 14: 19-31  
Psalm 114  
Romans 14: 1-12  
Matthew 18: 21-35



Readings for all weeks this quarter are as shown in Open Door. Let me know if you don't have a copy.

### Bible characters in lockdown by Mary Spooner: Ascension Day

During the war I was evacuated to a lovely village church school in the countryside. As well as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, Ascension Day was an important celebration. We all went to church, were given an orange, and had the rest of the day as a holiday.

Forty days after the Resurrection Jesus took his disciples up into a mountain. He talked about the Kingdom of God, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem to receive this promised gift from the Father. They saw Jesus ascend into the clouds. As they stared up into the sky, suddenly two white robed men stood with them and asked "Why are you standing here gazing into the sky? This same Jesus, who has gone away into Heaven will one day return, just as you have seen Him go."

Puzzled, but exhilarated, the disciples went back to Jerusalem, and waited there for this 'Promise', unsure what would happen next. On Pentecost Sunday they were all together in a house, probably locked in for safety, when suddenly the place was filled with the roaring of a strong rushing wind. What appeared like flames of flickering fire settled on each of them. They were filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit of God. Although they had been very anxious and afraid, suddenly they were overwhelmed with bold excitement and rushed out into the street. Crowds of people rushed to see what was going on. To their amazement, the disciples began to talk about Jesus in a powerful way, and everyone could hear and understand them in their own language. Peter was no longer afraid or hesitant. He explained clearly that this was a special sign which had been foretold by the prophet Joel, that the Holy Spirit would one day be poured out on everyone.

When Jesus was on the earth, He could only be in one place at one time, even after the resurrection. However, God's Holy Spirit is accessible to everyone, for guidance, comfort and hope. We too can experience His presence with us at all times. The same hard things will happen to us as will happen to all people in this life – but through the Holy Spirit we may have the presence of Jesus with us now. We trust in His promise to see us safely through everything that life can throw at us until we come into His everlasting Kingdom.

*"Although He made the world, the world didn't recognize Him when He came. He came unto his own, but His own would not receive Him. But to as many **did** receive Him, He gave them power to become children of God." John 1:10-12*

Read Acts 1:1-12 and 2:1-21 for the full story.

Mary