



Prestwood Methodist Church

A worshipping and friendly community following Jesus

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Sunday 14 June 2020 – 11th Sunday in ordinary time

Before you get to the Gospel reading today, try this little quiz: How many of the original 12 apostles can you name? Some will be easy – the ones that get mentioned in other Gospels, and in the Acts. While the memorable ones have names that have become quite common (especially in our family!) a couple never get mentioned again, and have names that you rarely hear.

I've also been asked to remind everyone that there are a lot of phone scams at the moment – people ringing up 'offering' to help you pay bills, sort out your computer, or even providing a COVID-19 check – in return for your credit or debit card or bank details. If you think a call might be genuine, it's safer to ring back using a number you've found yourself (eg on your bill or online account).



Bridget

Virtual Church

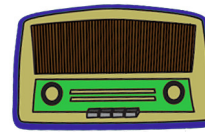
This Sunday, the service on the Amersham Methodist Circuit YouTube channel at tinyurl.com/vz9y45q will be led by Rev Dr Martin Wellings, Superintendent of the Oxford Circuit. Martin had been due to take the anniversary service at Winchmore Hill.



See **Worship during the pandemic** from the Methodist Church homepage at www.methodist.org.uk for more suggestions.

TV and radio

Radio 4: Sunday Worship at 8.10am. Cardinal Vincent Nichols celebrates Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi from Westminster Cathedral



BBC 1: Sunday Worship, 10.45 from Holy Trinity Platt Church in Manchester, with Rev Dr Paul Mathole.

Songs of Praise, 1.15pm. Aled Jones talks to people who find spiritual inspiration in the great outdoors.



Rev. Jill Marsh, the Northamptonshire District Mission Enabler, is running some Zoom sessions in the next few weeks, to which all are invited.

Friday 19 June at 10 am: Mission Beyond Lockdown. 'Starting a new place for new people: where to begin?'

Saturday 4 July, 10- 3.30pm: New Places for New People 'to help us think about how we will begin new Christian communities across the district.'

You can click on the underlined text to register on EventBrite, or email jill.marsh@methodist.org.uk for details or help registering.

Closed doors – for now

Although the UK government have said that places of worship can open for private prayer, the advice from the Methodist Church is that we remain closed. People are now free to meet in groups of six or fewer outside, so prayer in a garden or park would be possible, provided people aren't isolating or shielding.



Rev Adam Wells is meeting with the stewards across the circuit on Wednesday this week (via Zoom) so I'll let you know if anything changes as a result. Official advice is kept up to date at www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/official-guidance

Readings for this week:

- Genesis 18: 1–15
- Psalms 116: 1–2, 12–19
- Romans 5: 1–8
- Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8 (9–23)

The Sunday Amersham Methodist Circuit service this week focuses on the Romans and Matthew readings. Three weeks ago we had the Luke 10 reading, where Jesus sent out the 72 disciples to spread his message. Now we go back in time to Matthew 9, where Jesus sent out the first 12 (have you remembered those names yet?).

The prospect of mirroring the apostles in travelling far and wide is rather beyond most of us at the moment. But perhaps there is someone we can phone or email this week? There might be a family member you haven't spoken to in a while, or an acquaintance who might be surprised and pleased to get your call.

Nigel's thoughts this week consider the timeless reading we discussed at our local arrangement in February, the Beatitudes.

MHA Sunday

14 June is MHA Sunday, when we would normally pray for, and have a collection for Methodist Homes (previously Methodist Homes for the Aged, hence MHA).



Nigel Wright has provided this information on MHA.

'MHA was founded in 1943 by Rev Walter Hall and the Methodist Church as an independent charity to provide care, support and accommodation for older people in need. The first residential care home was opened in 1945 at Ryelands, Wallington. I used to take regular services at MHA Ryelands while I was in the Sutton Circuit, and previously at MHA Woodbank in the Woking and Walton-on-Thames Circuit. Services at these MHA Homes were included as preaching appointments on the local circuit plans.

There was a fascinating report on Newsnight on 3 June about the work of MHA during the COVID-19 outbreak which can be found on [iPlayer](#).'

A prayer for MHA from Rev Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

God of mercy
At this time of anxiety and fear
We thank you for the dedicated work of MHA.
We pray your blessing on all who wash feet,
Who bring healing,
Who sit with the dying
Who bring comfort in confusion
Who bring peace to the afraid
In this we see the love of Jesus
Who is our strength and hope,
In whose name we pray

AMEN

A prayer for others from ROOTS for Churches Ltd

Loving Lord, you call and equip us to serve you. Watch over those who risk their own safety by caring for others.

Strengthen and protect all those who are persecuted for their faith in places where living a Christian life in peace is not allowed.

Loving Lord, you empower us to live out our discipleship. Give wisdom, imagination and the strength to persevere to those who face apathy as they seek to live out their discipleship.

Loving Lord, you understand what it means to suffer for what is right. Give comfort and courage to those who are treated unjustly because of their faith, and indeed to all who suffer, whatever the reason.

Lord, may I know your guidance as I seek to be a faithful disciple in the places to which you send me.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. **AMEN**

Hymn for 14 June

This hymn was written by Colin Pye, previously Baptist minister in Kingshill and a chair of Lighthouse. I've sung this hymn with a tent full of 4- and 5-year olds, and its words and tune have gone around my head since I read the Matthew passage earlier this week.

Come Follow Me

Come follow me, follow me, said Jesus.
Come follow me, follow me and be my friend.

And I would ask you, to follow me when it is easy.
And I would ask you, to run with me through wind and rain.
And I promise, that I will never, ever leave you.
I will be there for you whenever you're afraid.

Colin Pye (b.1959)

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Prayers of intercession by Mary G Elms from Methodist Church Worship at Home

Our Father in heaven we lift our world to you today, knowing that you have called us to do so and knowing that you care about even the smallest detail of that world.

We lift to you all who suffer today at the hands of others, through war, greed, the abuse of power, or the abuse of words. May they find you standing with them, giving them strength. May they find your people upholding them and giving them a voice, that your love may be seen and known.

We lift to you all those who find themselves in positions of authority today, whether it be by choice, or because their skills have been recognized and needed, or because there is no one else available. May they seek wisdom in the right places and have the humility to know when they need help.

We lift to you all who suffer today as a result of this pandemic; through sickness, through the loss of loved ones, or through the exhausting workload of caring for others. May they know comfort, healing, reassurance and hope.

And we lift to you all those known to us personally who are in need today ... *(name them)* ... May they find grace, healing, and blessing.

We bring all these prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us when we pray to say ...

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father...