

Withington Methodist News

December 2021



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sundays at 10.45am

5 December - Revd. Krystyna Kwarciak (Holy Communion)

12 December - Bernard Treves Brown

19 December (Carol service) - Eva Manley, also livestreamed - to be followed by tea, coffee and mince pies!

25 December (10am) - Revd. Peter Went

26 December - Revd. Dr. Caroline Wickens

DEAR FRIENDS,

Evangelist Luis Palau tells of a wealthy European family that decided to have their newborn baby baptized in their enormous mansion. Dozens of guests were invited to the ceremony, and they all arrived dressed to the nines. After depositing their elegant furs and coats on a bed in an upstairs room, the guests were invited to a lavish dinner in the luxurious dining room downstairs.

Soon the time came for the main purpose of their gathering: the infant's baptismal ceremony. But where was the baby? No one seemed to know. The child's governess ran upstairs and returned with a desperate look on her face. Everyone searched frantically for the baby. Then someone recalled having seen him asleep on one of the beds. The baby was on a bed all right - buried beneath a pile of coats, jackets, and furs. The object of that day's celebration had been forgotten, neglected, and nearly smothered.

The baby whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas is easily hidden beneath the piles of traditions and cultural observances of the season. We need to enter every Christmas season asking: "Where is the baby?" We need to make sure we won't go through Advent with empty hearts and will be able to find Baby Jesus, the newborn Prince of Peace amidst the chaos and busyness of Christmas.

In the post-Covid world where some people may be asking the question:

“Where is God in all this?”, as Christians we can point to both a manger and a cross. The Eternal Word of God became flesh, Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, God among us. As Graham Kendrick wrote in one of his Christmas songs: “Uncreated light shines through infant eyes.” God sent forth his Son as Saviour at just the right time.

May the God of hope fill you with hope and peace as you draw near to the manger to worship, and as you offer the gift of your life in the service of the new-born King.

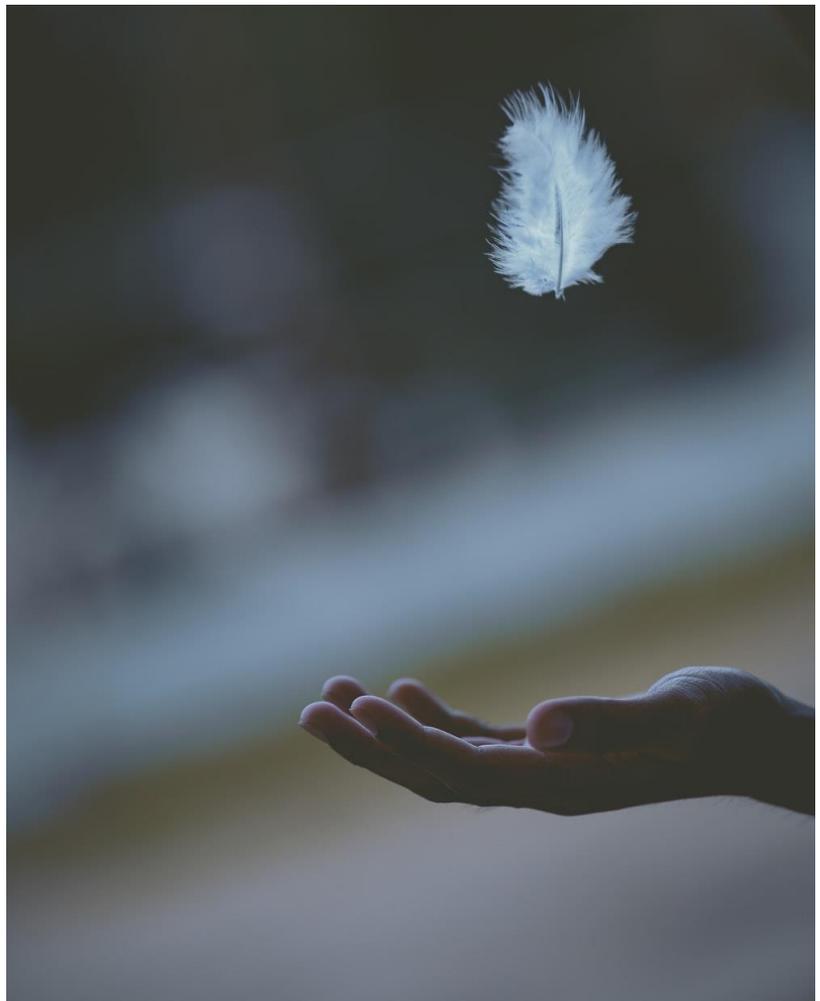
Wishing you a blessed, peaceful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year,

Rev. Krystyna

PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

The family of Kathleen,
Stasi,
Henry,
Zathilda,
Thandi,
Elaine,
Betty,
Promilla,
the Lowe family,
Georgine,
Krysten



WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Morning In Person Worship

We are happy to have our doors fully open again at Withington. The booking system is no longer in place, everyone is welcome to come whenever works for them.

The current Covid-19 safety measures in place at WMC are as follows:

We will continue to wear masks during worship and social distancing will be maintained at 1 m+.

We are allowed to sing quietly with our masks on.

Socialising after the service is permitted, but without refreshments.

Communion is celebrated with bread and wine in individual glasses as usual.

Reflections and written worship resources:

If you are not on email and would like to receive a printed copy of our weekly reflections or written worship resources for Sunday,

please contact Krystyna on 0161 612 2668.

Coffee Morning and Bible Study on Zoom:

We have a virtual coffee morning every Monday from 11:00 am and a weekly Bible Study every Wednesday from 2:00 pm

Joining details for both meetings are the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84141198605>

Meeting ID: 841 4119 8605

Manchester Circuit Sunday Evening Service

A warm welcome as ever to our worship tomorrow evening.

The Zoom platform will be open from 6pm for those who wish to catch up with others from their church, and as usual worship will begin at 6:30.

The joining details follow-

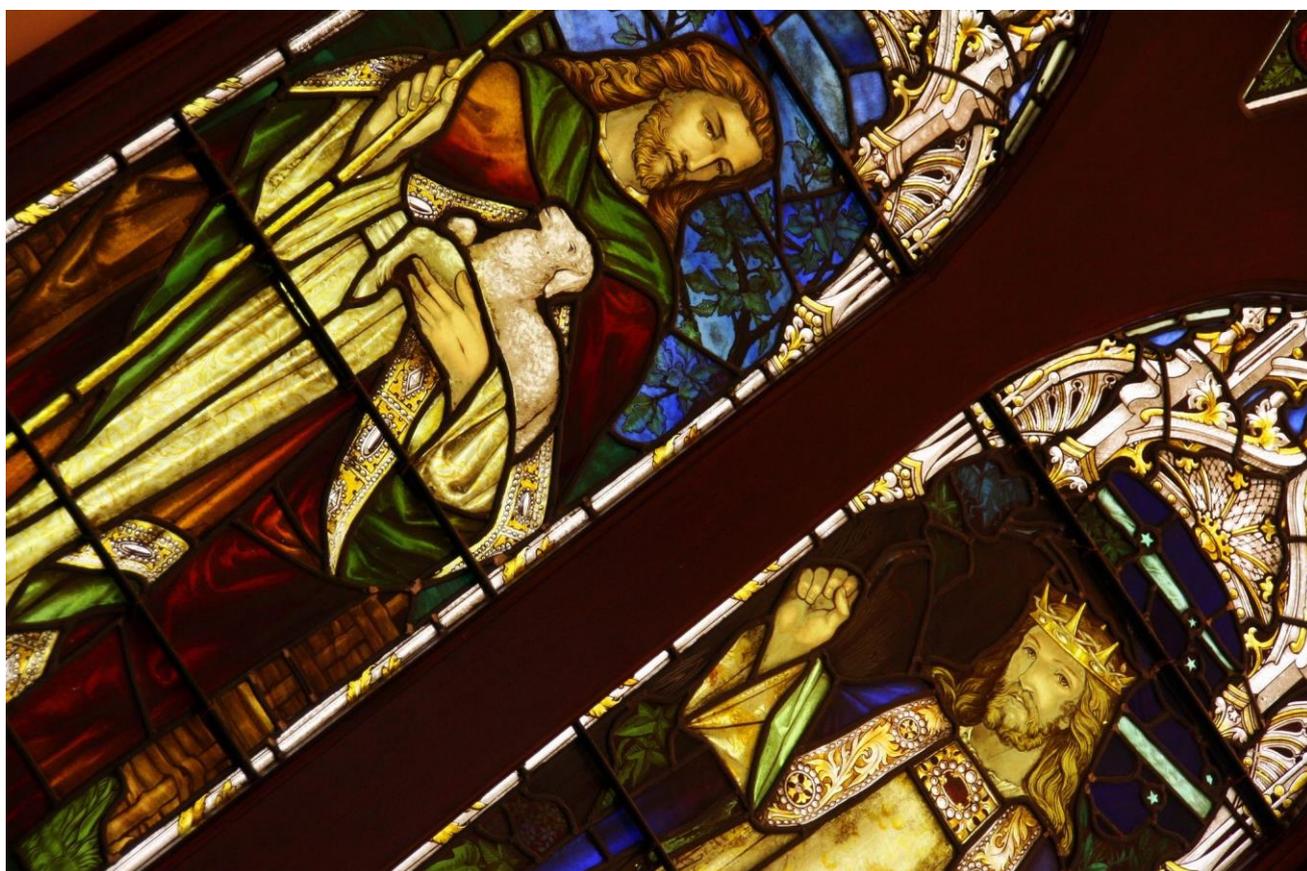
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92204599032?pwd=Tzg0SU9xcVZEZFNQK0FnYnNKWjlUQT09>

Meeting ID: 922 0459 9032

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile + 12532158782, 92204599032 #, 1901#



ADVENT CELEBRATIONS

Christian Aid Advent Activities

Our Virtual Advent Calendar can be found on our Facebook page: (www.facebook.com/CANorthWest) and [Our YouTube Page](#).

Each day over advent, churches, groups and individuals across the North West and Staffordshire will be sharing music, songs and poetry to both entertain and inspire us as we prepare for Christmas. Please do give it a watch, and if you want you can like, share or comment on the videos.

The second event happening is an online Zoom Quiz on Friday 10th December at 7pm. It promises to be a fun evening event which is open to all! If you'd like to sign up, we ask for a donation to our appeal at www.justgiving.com/quizmas2021 where you will then receive your Zoom login. You can enter as individuals or groups (you'll be put in breakout rooms as a group to discuss your answers).

You're invited

Join Christian Aid's Church Engagement Officers Darren and Christel for an online fundraising quiz this December!

Cost: We kindly ask for a donation.
All proceeds go directly to Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal

[Can't make it? Why not create your own online quiz or fundraiser for Christian Aid?]



When: Friday 10th December at 7pm

Where: Via zoom

To sign up, visit: www.justgiving.com/quizmas2021 or email dstaunton@christian-aid.org

RSVP: Hosted by Darren and Christel



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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Write for Rights 2021

As part of our Advent preparations we will again be thinking about prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International campaigns to protect people when they've taken a stand for justice, fairness, freedom and truth. Every year in its Write for Rights campaign, Amnesty asks people to send messages of hope to people whose rights have been abused. A card is being sent on behalf of all of us at Withington Methodist Church this year to each of the following very brave people:

THAILAND - Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul

Once a shy, quiet teenager, Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul – known as ‘Rung’ – has become a leading voice in Thailand’s democracy movement. The student, a vocal proponent for equality and freedom of expression, opposes the use of the draconian lèse-majesté law – which penalises criticism of the monarchy – to silence government critics. In March 2021, she was jailed for 60 days under this law. After going on hunger



strike for 38 days, Rung was released, but she now faces the prospect of life imprisonment. Rung bravely took part in demonstrations for social and political change throughout 2020, and by August had become a protest leader. Watched by thousands, Rung called for equality, freedom of expression, and reform of the monarchy, a highly sensitive topic in Thailand. This unprecedented act propelled her onto the national stage and she was branded a troublemaker by the authorities. Today, Rung faces 25 charges and, if convicted, a life sentence. ‘In Thailand, for people who want a better society, we are being put in jail’ - Rung

BELARUS - Mikita Zalatarou

Teenager Mikita Zalatarou was waiting for the bus in the city of Homel’s main square when the police moved in on a nearby, and largely peaceful,

protest about the results of the recent presidential election. As the crowd started to run, someone told Mikita to do the same. He took the advice, but the next day police officers came to his home and arrested him. The police accused Mikita of throwing a Molotov cocktail at two officers the night before. They beat him with an electric-shock truncheon, and interrogated him without a lawyer or responsible adult present. He was



then locked up for six months before being put on trial. There was no video evidence of Mikita taking part in any violence. Indeed, media reports of the demonstration did not mention mass unrest at all. Nevertheless, the judge still convicted Mikita of mass disorder and using illegal explosives, and sentenced him to five years in a child educational prison colony. 'For those who beat him, my son is just a step on the career ladder... and somebody will get a medal' - Mikhail Zalatarou, Mikita's father

NIGERIA - Imoleayo Adeyeun Michael

When young people took to Nigeria's streets in October 2020 to protest against a notoriously violent police unit, Imoleayo Adeyeun Michael joined them. Now he faces the prospect of a long spell behind bars. The protesters were demonstrating against violence, extortion and killings by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, which is popularly known as SARS. Imoleayo, a young computer programmer, promoted the protests on social media, using the hashtag #EndSARS. Two weeks later, in the early hours of 13 November, 20 armed men raided Imoleayo's home. They shattered his bedroom window and pointed a gun at him, forcing him to open his front door. Once inside, they seized his mobile phones and computer, locked his wife, elderly mother and seven-month-old son in a room, and disconnected the power supply to the street lights around his house. Imoleayo was then taken away, locked in an underground cell for 41 days, and now faces



years in prison. ‘I’m not a criminal. I only protested for the betterment of my fatherland. As a programmer, I should be able to move around with my laptop without fear of being killed by [the police]’ - Imoleayo

MEXICO - Wendy Andrea Galarza Herrera



For childcare worker Wendy Andrea Galarza Herrera, helping to raise young children is the best way to create a fairer world. It is a goal she works hard for in Mexico, where women are often abused and killed simply because they are women. On 9 November 2020, Wendy attended a march organised by feminist collectives in Cancún to demand justice for the murder of a woman known as Alexis. But when a group of demonstrators began pulling down and burning some wooden barriers, police officers fired shots into the air and, some say, into the crowd; Wendy was left with several bullet wounds. Two days later, she lodged a complaint against the police. Yet it took months for the state prosecutor to accept her additional evidence, which included clothing showing bullet holes from the day of the protest. Today, the case continues, but those suspected of criminal responsibility for her shooting have still not been brought to justice. ‘They beat us. It was a massacre... We need justice. We already went out once demanding that they do their job. We’re not asking for anything else’ – Wendy

What news of the people we wrote to and prayed for this time last year?

BURUNDI - Human rights defender Germain Rukuki was sentenced to 32 years in prison because of his peaceful activism. Amnesty supporters took more than 346,000 actions for him during the campaign. On 4 June 2021, a court of appeal overturned Germain’s conviction for several charges, including ‘threatening internal state security’, though his conviction for ‘rebellion’ was upheld. With his sentence reduced to a year in prison and a small fine, Germain was released on 30 June.

COLOMBIA - For decades, Jani Silva has defended the environment and natural resources of the Colombian Amazon. As a result, she has been repeatedly followed, intimidated by armed men and received death threats. More than 461,000 actions were taken on her case during the campaign. Jani has still not been granted the protection she needs, but Amnesty is keeping up the pressure on the Colombian government. 'I am very grateful for all the letters. From the bottom of my heart, this campaign has kept me alive, it's what has stopped them from killing me' - Jani Silva

PAKISTAN - Human rights defender Idris Khattak was 'disappeared' in 2019. He now faces charges under the Official Secrets Act, which provides for up to 14 years in prison or even the death penalty. Amnesty supporters took more than 344,000 actions for Idris during the campaign, and we continue to work on his case. 'I'm really looking forward to reading all the letters from Amnesty supporters with Papa when he is back. It is so incredibly sweet of everybody to have written them' - Idris's daughter Talia

SAUDI ARABIA - Prominent activist Nassima al-Sada was detained because of her campaigning for women's rights. Amnesty supporters took more than 777,000 actions during the campaign. In the run-up to the G20 summit in Saudi Arabia, Amnesty ran billboards and newspaper adverts calling for the release of Nassima and other detained women's rights campaigners. They also delivered a 41,000-signature petition to the UK government, urging it to pressure the Saudi authorities. As a result, the summit was overshadowed, and in June 2021 Nassima was conditionally released, though she still has a travel ban. 'I am overwhelmed... A huge thanks to all of you for your solidarity' - Moussa, Nassima's son



INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY – 19TH DEC

Jesus the Migrant – by Anand Peacock

Used with permission from Our Daily Bread Ministries. Original article can be found here:
<https://ourdailybread.org/article/jesus-the-migrant/>

Migration is not an uncommon biblical theme. In the Old Testament Abraham and Sarah are commanded to migrate from the land of Ur to the land of Canaan. (Genesis 12:1-2). The Israelites had their own migrant experience for over 40 years and God wanted them to recall this always, He said: *“You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt”* (Leviticus 19:33-34).

Before Christ’s birth, Mary his mother was running from pillar to post to find a safe place to deliver the child. Every door of civilization had been shut on them for them to be led to the stable. And so, Jesus Christ entered our world amidst strife and terror. He spent his infancy hidden in Egypt as a refugee and a migrant. The Gospels narrate the hard journey to Bethlehem, the lack of welcome, the birth among the animals of the stable. Not to mention the persecution of Herod, the massacre of the innocents, and the flight to Egypt. John the Apostle writes *“He came to what was his own, but his own did not accept him”* (John 1: 11). Jesus understood what it was to be a migrant.

Pause here for a moment and walk back on the experience of closed doors. God closes doors sometimes to protect us from danger, He may not always open another door but He always does it for our good. But when we shut doors on our fellow beings, we begin to play God and in doing so we choose whom to keep in and whom to keep out. We take justice into our own hands and measure how much justice someone deserves, and how less we ought to mete it out to someone else.

When Jesus looks at the displaced migrant today, walking home hundreds of kilometres in the blazing heat, barefoot, without food and water He genuinely understands their predicament, for He too was



born under such circumstances. From Bethlehem to Egypt to Galilee, these weren't small distances especially when you consider it was made on the back of a gentle donkey or by walk. He never knew when or where His next meal would come from, and that is why when He would speak to scores of people later as an adult, He encourages them saying *"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"* (Matthew 6). He was speaking from His own experience, with the assurance and faith that God would feed Him.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus was depicted as an itinerant mover, a teacher, and healer in transit through Judea and Samaria to share the message of love, and salvation for all. He owned no place of His own and leaned on the generosity of others for His own needs and that of His disciples.

Today any discussion on migrants tends to refer to them as they, the term itself is loaded with derogatory references as the other. But make no mistake, they are the ones who make our city and lives, they wash our dishes, press our clothes, fix our cars, wait on us at eat-outs, fix our water filters at home and work, drive us to work and even ferry our favourite meals to our homes through a few clicks on our mobiles. They do things we don't want to and because of them, our life is better.

In 1 Peter 2:11, the Apostle terms all Christians as "foreigners and exiles." Just as God reminded the Israelites that they were once migrants and pilgrims God reminds us we who are passing through this world are migrants too. The situation in our land today does not reflect God's true justice. However, Jesus in his words made it explicitly clear that we as His followers cannot claim to love God and be indifferent to the needs of our neighbour. We cannot shut the door on the plight of those in need. When we open our doors to a stranger, we open it to the work of God through us, as we read in Hebrews 13: 2 *"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."* So, what do we do? Reach out our hand to them in aid, uphold them in prayer, and if the situation arises welcome them with open arms. For in the face of each migrant we find the 'image' of God. Let us recognize that little bit of Jesus in every migrant, just as there was the migrant in Jesus.

NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

9 NOVEMBER 2021

Methodist Global Declaration calls for Climate Justice

Over 20 senior leaders from Methodist Churches around the world have signed a joint statement calling on world leaders to act at COP26 to achieve climate justice.

Leaders from the Methodist Churches in Italy, the Pacific Islands, Zambia, Britain and Uruguay join leaders from six other countries and regions, and leaders from the European Methodist Council, World Methodist Council and United Methodist Church to release the statement at the start of the second week of COP26.

In the statement, the church leaders identify their Methodist and Uniting Church heritage as a quality which brings them together. They also highlight their identity as climate activists, saying that “the climate crisis is the greatest threat to life on earth and must be tackled”.

They also recognise the leadership on climate issues offered to their churches by young people, before they turn to call on world leaders at COP26 to take action for Climate Justice.

The statement reads:

“We believe that COP26 must be a turning point in the movement towards climate justice.

We believe that the nations of the world should work together at COP26 to meaningfully and urgently reduce their emissions, and to strive for fair agreements, where the highest emitters take the most action.

We believe that COP26 should agree and commit to resources for vulnerable nations to be equipped with the financial support they need to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change, to mitigate their own emissions, and to rebuild from climate related loss and damage.”

The Methodist leaders go on to call on world leaders at COP26 to “ensure that everyone’s voice is heard, and that brave and committed action is taken.”

The statement was coordinated by Climate Justice For All, a joint initiative supported by the Methodist Church in Britain which has brought together six young leaders from five countries to lead Methodist Churches worldwide in climate action ahead of COP26. The group have been represented as official delegates at COP26 in Glasgow, as well as hosting events in the city whilst the conference took place.

Camilla Ferreiro, the Climate Justice For All team member from Uruguay, said:

“COP26 is our last best hope for genuine commitments to be made to tackle the climate crisis. We cannot let this moment pass us by without doing everything within our power to ensure climate justice can be achieved. As young people, we are deeply aware of the impact the climate crisis will have on our lives, and on future generations.

We’re pleased to see Methodist leaders from around the world using their position to influence action at COP26. As people of faith, we know that we have a moral and spiritual duty to use our resources and influence to seek the good of all creation. In this second week of COP26, the time has really come to focus on achieving all we can before time is up. We pray that COP26 may be an historical moment where we see real change for climate justice.”

14 NOVEMBER 2021

Presidency reacts to COP26 agreement

Following the announcement that a final deal has been reached in Glasgow at COP26 the Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference and Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have released the following statements:

The Revd Sonia Hicks said:

“Even after 200 marches in cities across the globe over the past two weeks, COP26 has not met expectations. The Methodist Church along with its partners have called on COP26 to achieve the long-awaited promise of a \$100bn per year to support mitigation and adaptation for developing nations. This promise has yet to be realised. In addition, communities devastated by hurricanes and other climate related disasters are still waiting for the finance needed to repair loss and damage. There was much resistance at COP26 to the establishment of such a fund.

“On a more positive note, the Glasgow COP summit will be marked as the summit at which the end to public funding of oil, gas and coal gained traction with governments although there is still much work to do here. The Methodist Church has for many years engaged with oil and gas companies over their future investment plans. The sector has been too slow to take action and, on the urging of Methodist Conference, Methodist Church funds are now disinvested from all oil and gas.

“In the UK, we must deepen the dialogue across the whole of society and the Methodist Church will contribute in this, along with other faith partners. Recognising that we face a climate emergency the Methodist Conference has endorsed a commitment to achieve net zero by 2030. More Methodist churches are becoming Eco Churches yet we recognise that our churches also have difficult decisions ahead as we look at how we use and heat our buildings and how we travel.

“There is no easy path to achieving economies that provide sustainable livelihoods for all. Our world is riven with inequality, yet God gives us a vision of a different future. It is a future in which justice, including climate justice, is at the heart of our economic systems; a future which belongs to all and in which all are consulted, heard and therefore flourish.”

Barbara Easton said:

“Over the last 18 months the global Methodist family have been brought together by young people across 5 continents. The Climate Justice 4 All campaign, supported by the Methodist Church in Britain and the World Methodist Council, has ensured that Methodist partners could have a physical presence in the COP26 summit.

“Being in Glasgow alongside our sisters and brothers from the Pacific rim

enabled us to sit with people whose very existence is threatened by the climate crisis. They spoke not just to summon us to urgent action but also to move on in our thinking about this planet that God has made for us. As a church, we need a theology and a spirituality that recalibrates traditional ideas of 'dominion', moving us to a closer relationship of partnership with the planet and its people.

“It is tremendously important that when political leaders meet to negotiate climate action, they meet in the presence of those for whom climate change has already been devastating. At COP26, governments have not responded sufficiently to the urgent crisis that we face, but thankfully the pace of action has been stepped up.

“The presence of different faith communities in Glasgow was evident. The richness of being part of a global church is the opportunity it provides to appreciate our diversity. It is only through dialogue with others that possibilities for action become clear. United in Christ’s love and saving grace we must continue to work together to realise justice for creation and all God’s people.”

15 NOVEMBER 2021

A message of hope and solidarity for Inter-Faith Week

“Let God’s light, shining through us, be a blessing to those in most need of it, those in the throes of famine for food and for spiritual nourishment. Let the table be plentiful and wide enough for all to be welcomed. Let hope overcome despair and divine light shine in times of need and gloom.”

At the start of Inter Faith Week, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, send a letter of greetings to faith communities through the Inter-Faith Network on behalf of the Methodist Church:

Warm greetings to you on behalf of the Methodist Church in this 2021 Inter-Faith Week.

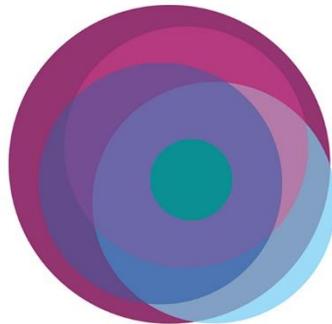
May this Inter-Faith Week be an opportunity for all to share their message of hope and solidarity against the background of the Covid-19 pandemic, the

sadness of the loss of dear ones, the struggles to cope with the economic consequences of repeated lockdowns, and in more medium and long terms, the threat of environmental crisis.

Inter Faith Week

8-15 November

www.interfaithweek.org



At the core of every religious experience, there is a flame of hope in God and in humanity. In this Inter-faith Week, we celebrate the varieties of ways in which this flame is kindled and maintained by the means of our religious practices. It is significant that we take time

to meet each other and to offer friendship and solidarity to one another. Inter-Faith Week offers an opportunity for us to get to know and appreciate each other's spiritual practices. Our varied forms of spirituality enable God's light, that is the source of all solidarity and love, to shine in the world.

We pray that God's light will shine in each of our encounters this Inter-Faith Week and beyond, that hope will be proclaimed and heard even in times of sorrow and despair such as these. Let God's light, shining through us, be a blessing to those in most need of it, those in the throes of famine for food and for spiritual nourishment. Let the table be plentiful and wide enough for all to be welcomed. Let hope overcome despair and divine light shine in times of need and gloom.

If to kindle hope takes silence, then silence should be kept in the presence of each other. If it takes conversation and sharing, then interaction with one another. If it takes prayer, then a time of prayer. If it takes solidarity and celebrating, then let us together, set a table where all are welcome.

Our prayers are with you for a blessed Inter-Faith Week 2021.

With warmest wishes,

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference 2021/2022

Mrs Barbara Easton, Vice - President of the Methodist Conference 2021/2022

17 NOVEMBER 2021

Methodist Chaplain announced as next Chaplain General for the British Army

It's been announced that the Reverend Michael D Parker will be taking over as Chaplain General of the British Army in 2022.

Mike Parker was born in Cornwall and initially trained as an electrical engineer for the Ministry of Defence. He read Theology at the University of Birmingham and trained for Methodist ministry at Queen's College (now The Queen's Foundation). He worked in the Colchester Circuit for four years and was commissioned into the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 2000.

Operational service has taken him to Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan and he has, since September 2020, been the Deputy Chaplain General for the army.

He will take up his new post as the 26th Chaplain General of her Majesty's Land Forces in May 2022.

Speaking after the announcement, Padre Parker said: "It is the greatest of honours to have been selected as the next Chaplain General for Her Majesty's Land Forces. Methodism has a long and treasured history of providing soldiers and chaplains in service of their country, that they do so explicitly as people of faith continues to make the organisation a better place to be.

Since the Methodist Church first stationed me to serve alongside the military community I have had the privilege of offering pastoral care, spiritual support and moral guidance, around the globe in good times and bad. I have witnessed the joy of new found faith and the renewal brought by Methodist brothers and sisters from distant shores. Throughout, the words of Charles Wesley have been a constant –



Jesus, confirm my heart's desire to work, and speak, and think for thee; still let me guard the holy fire, and still stir up thy gift in me"

The Secretary of the Conference, the Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler said: "I am delighted that the Revd Michael Parker has been appointed as the next Chaplain General to the British Army. He is a dedicated well-respected chaplain and his ministry is a great blessing to those who serve and work with the army. The announcement is a sign of the high regard in which he is held and an important reminder of the great work that is done by Methodist Chaplains in the armed forces. He and his colleagues will be in prayers of the Methodist people at this continued time of challenge and change."

Padre Parker holds a BA in theology, an MTh in chaplaincy studies and an MA in defence studies. In his spare time, he enjoys distance running, cycling, music and watching Wales beat England at rugby.

18 NOVEMBER 2021

Methodist Youth President Elected for 2022/2023

Following the election held at this year's 3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, it has been announced that the Youth President for 2022/2023 will be James Carver from Nottingham. James will become the new Youth President at a service to be held in the autumn next year.

James, who is 22, attends Clifton Methodist Church in the Nottingham and Derby District. He is currently studying for a Masters in Criminology at Nottingham Trent University. James has previously been a Youth Rep with the Methodist Church, tackling issues of social justice and advocating for Methodist children and young people at the British Youth Council.

James said: "I want to raise awareness of mental health issues and other conditions such as ADHD and autism that the Church needs to increase awareness of if it is to become truly inclusive."

James is open about his own ADHD diagnosis, he is also partially deaf and lives with a stammer, "It is so important that people talk about these issues. Without exposure to disabilities, people don't understand the conditions,

their impact on daily life, and how to interact with those who live with them. It's better to be out in the open than to hide these things.

“I was involved with my Student Union in college as an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer and I want to bring some of that experience to the Youth President position. With young people's mental health having suffered so badly during Covid, I also want to give people some fun. I think young people need to enjoy themselves at Church.”

James is also keen to support the wellbeing of children and young people: “The Bible teaches us that we are made in the image of God, and so we need to recognise and respect the image of God within ourselves and others.”

The current Methodist Youth President, Daud Irfan commented: “My congratulations and prayers are with James. The issues he will be raising will help to ensure that the Methodist Church and senior positions within it are truly open to all. His message will be vital to the whole Church, as well as to its children and young people.”

The Methodist Youth President is a salaried position working full-time for one year to serve the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain. The role involves meeting and representing the young Methodist people to ensure that their voices are heard and to help them be involved in every aspect of Church life.

25 NOVEMBER 2021

A prayer for the people whose lives were ended in the English Channel

Following the tragic deaths of 27 people in the English Channel, the Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, offer the following prayer:

Holy God, your Son, Jesus Christ stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

We pray for those whose lives were ended in the English Channel.

Men, women and children searching for a better life, seeking a better life only to find death in the chilly depths.

We pray for those still determined to make that journey no matter what the risks. O God, help us, in the West, to urge our political leaders to find a better solution to the migrant crisis as people try to escape from persecution, war and poverty. May we campaign for more safe corridors so that the people smugglers cannot continue to prey on the desperation of others. May we open our hearts to the refugees in our midst remembering that the Holy Family journeyed to Egypt to escape the murderous intentions of the Herod. We ask these prayers in and through the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

3 DECEMBER 2021

Methodist Chaplain announced as Deputy Chaplain General for the British Army

It's been announced that Methodist Minister, the Revd David Barrett will take over as the Deputy Chaplain General in the Royal Army Chaplains' Department. It will mean that for the first time, Methodist Ministers will occupy the two most senior chaplaincy positions in the British Army after the it was announced last month that the Rev'd Michael D Parker (who is the current Deputy Chaplain General) will be promoted to Chaplain General in the new year.

David is originally from Blackpool in Lancashire and trained be a Methodist minister at Wesley College in Bristol before he was ordained in 1992. Following circuit appointments in Kent he joined the Royal Army Chaplains' Department in 1999 and served as a regimental chaplain in both the United Kingdom and Germany, before becoming Senior Chaplain in 2012. Most recently David was appointed Assistant Chaplain General to the 1st (United Kingdom) Division in York in January 2019 and in November 2021 became Assistant Chaplain General, Regional Command, based in Aldershot. During his time in the Army he has deployed on operations to the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. Since 2011 he has been a member of the Methodist Forces Board and the Denominational Representative Chaplain to the Army for the Methodist Church.

Married to Domini, his wider interests include running, travel and following the ups and downs of his hometown football club.

Speaking after his appointment was announced, Revd Barrett said: “It is an honour to be appointed as Deputy Chaplain-General and I will do my best to support the incoming Chaplain-General, the Reverend Mike Parker, as well as the wider RACHD, as we seek to deliver the kind of chaplaincy that the army needs and deserves”.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

In Memory of Sheila Hemsted

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of a longstanding WMC member, Sheila Hemsted. The funeral service for Sheila will take place at Manchester Crematorium, Old Chapel, on Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 3:00 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Assist Craft Afternoon

Assist Craft Afternoon will take place on Thursday 2nd December, 1:00-3:00 pm, in the Ground Floor Hall. It will be run by two facilitators from Arc, an arts charity based in Stockport Hat Museum, who will bring materials to make winter decorations and crafts. The session will include mulled apple juice, mince pies and carols. All welcome, no experience necessary whatsoever!

Carols on Demand

Local Preacher Eva Manley, who will be taking our Carol Service on 19th December, would like to ask you about your choice of hymns. Please let one of the stewards know if you would like your carol of choice to be sung during the service. The service will be livestreamed on YouTube and followed by refreshments.

All are welcome!

Our next Church Council meeting will take place at 7:30 pm on 6th December at the church. You are all welcome to attend, whether or not you are officially members.

Toy Service Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the Whalley Range Toy Library at our Annual Toy Service on the first Sunday of Advent, and Elycia for the lovely Advent wreath.

Notes from the Stewards

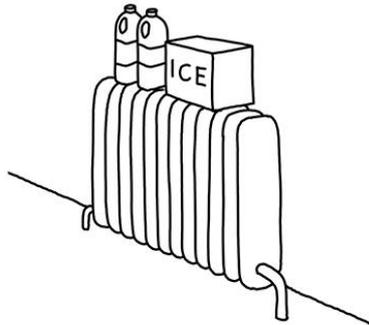
We'd just like to remind you that our Sunday morning services are continuing apace and would like to invite those of you who have not yet been able to share in worship to come along at the usual time of 10.45. We have a faithful core of around twenty worshippers who gather together in the small hall at the rear of the church (come in by the car park entrance) and have recently enjoyed our annual Toy Service led by Peter Went when a large number of gifts was received. These will be delivered to the Toy Library at Whalley Range Methodist Church. We are also holding monthly communion services and, of course, our series of Advent services. The annual Carol Service will be held on December 19 and this will also be live streamed. The Christmas Day service will be held at 10.00. Do join us, if you can, for these traditional occasions when we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

We would also like to pay tribute to Kathleen McMorran who was one of our stewards for a long number of years, in addition to her fulfilling many other roles in the life of Withington Methodist Church. Kathleen passed away peacefully on the 27th November and was a much-loved member of our congregation. She will be greatly missed and the stewards would like to thank her for all her faithful work and devotion. We will all miss her cheerfulness and conscientiousness and, of course, her lovely Northern Irish accent! We will hold her and Robin, her son, in our thoughts and prayers.

THANK YOU FOR READING!

CHURCH HEATING

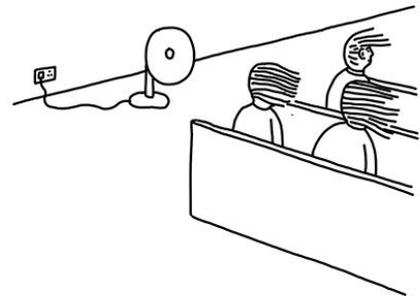
THE DIFFERENT TYPES



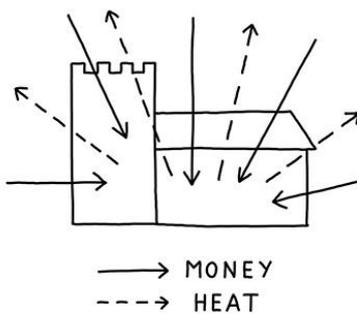
THE INADEQUATE RADIATOR



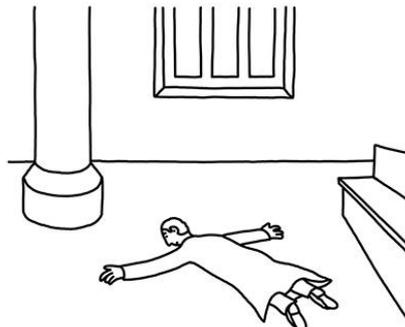
THE PROMISING VENT



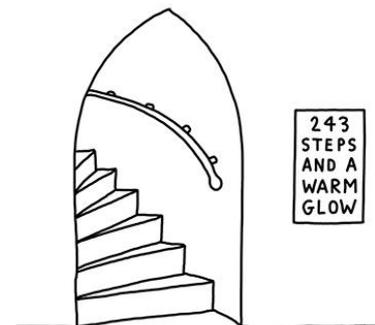
THE PORTABLE FAN



THE GROUND /AIR SOURCE PUMP



THE UNDERFLOOR SYSTEM



THE UPLIFTING SIGN

The next magazine will be out on the 2nd January on the Withington Methodist Church Facebook Group and via email.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to next month's magazine please pass it on to Caroline Fielding - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the magazine please email - withingtonmethodistnews@gmail.com

Withington Methodist Church

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Minister: Rev Krystyna Kwarciak

Sunday Services

Morning Worship : 10:45 am taking place in the ground floor hall. Holy Communion once a month.

Regular Activities

Monday Monkeys (Mondays 10:00 - 11:30am)

Kundalini Yoga (7:00 - 8:30pm)

Brownies (Wednesdays from Oct. 6:45 - 8:15pm)

Snooker Group (Fridays 1:00 - 3:00pm)

