

Withington Methodist News

April 2022



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sundays at 10.45am

3rd April - Rev. Peter Went

10th April Palm Sunday - All Age Worship, live streamed, Nick Palfreyman

17th April Easter Sunday - Rev. Liz Stuart

24th April - Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak, Holy Communion.

More information on Easter celebrations below.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Easter is a time to celebrate hope, life and joy, within it lies freedom, promise and second chances, it's the most important Christian holiday of all.

This year's Easter season is overshadowed by the war in Ukraine and the global uncertainty it has triggered. In these difficult times we must have faith that just as we experience the joy of Easter after the sadness of Good Friday, there will be joy and happiness again.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and anti-Nazi dissident, in his 'Letters from prison' writes: "Jesus is not gloriously transported from earth into heaven. He must instead go to the cross. And precisely there, where the cross stands, the resurrection is near. Precisely here, where all lose faith in God, where all despair about the power of God, God is fully there, and Christ is alive and near."

Even when alarms bells are ringing in the streets, Ukrainian Christians are confidently saying the words of the liturgy: "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again."

As one Ukrainian bishop said last week: We Ukrainians and Russians share

in the same baptism, even the water used in our baptism comes from the same river, the Dnieper River which begins in Russia and flows south to Ukraine. Their bond goes as deep as the waters of baptism.

It is important for all of us to remember that all Christians around the world are baptised into the death and resurrection of Jesus. This means that although the water may not have come from the same river, we all share in the same baptism as our Ukrainian and Russian brothers and sisters.

And we all share a faith in the same God who had heard the cries of his people, and did something about it once and for all through His Son who conquered death.

Blessings and Best Wishes,

Rev. Krystyna

PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

Thandiwe,
Sarah,
John,
Marguerite,
Helen Osei,
Ora and Stasi,
Henry,
Promilla and family,
the people of Ukraine and Russia,
Ukrainian refugees in the UK



WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Morning In Person Worship

Covid restrictions have been lifted in England, but we want everyone to feel safe when they come to Church, so in consideration of others, you may wish to continue wearing a mask during the service (unless exempt). However, we recognise that this is a personal choice, and will not be a condition of attending services or meetings.

We would like to resume serving refreshments after Sunday morning services, but we need volunteers for this to happen. If you are willing to help occasionally or regularly, please see Jenny Went, who is co-ordinating this. No volunteers = no coffee!

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-

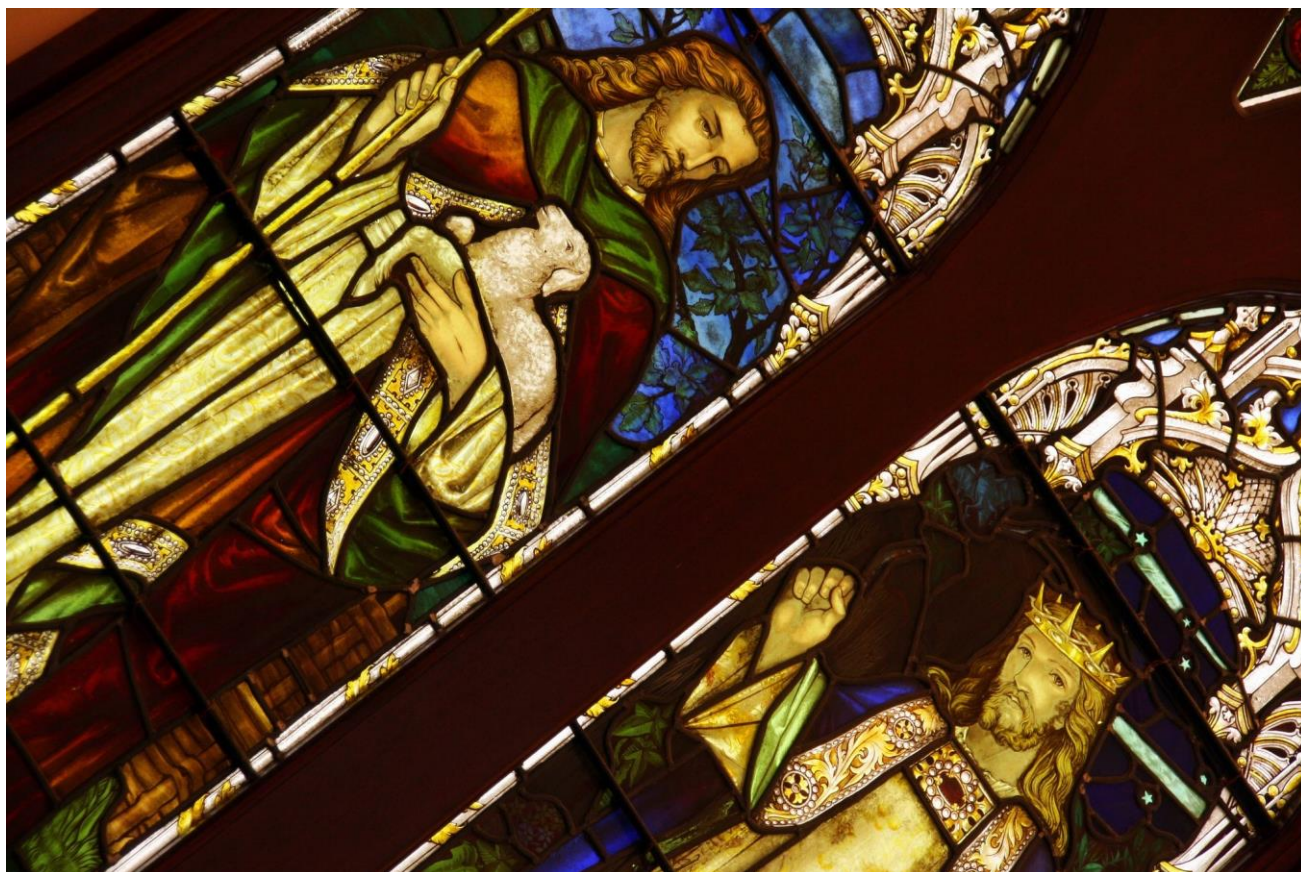
Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 922 0459 9032

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile +12532158782, 92204599032 #, 1901#



EASTER SERVICES AT WITHINGTON

Our Services and Celebrations

Palm Sunday – 10th April

On Palm Sunday you are warmly invited to our livestreamed All Age Worship service at 10:45 and in church. We will be sending the live stream link through Facebook and to our usual email list. If you would like to be included in this list please let Caroline Fielding know.

Good Friday – 15th April

On Good Friday will have a reflective ecumenical service from 10 am followed by the annual Walk of Witness starting at 11 am at Withington Methodist Church. We will be joined by our friends from L'Arche Withington, Saint Paul's church, Union Chapel and Saint Cuthbert's Roman Catholic church. The cross will be carried first to St. Cuthbert's and then on to St. Paul's where, after the conclusion of a short Liturgy, refreshments will be served. All are cordially invited to join us at one or both of these acts of worship.



Easter Sunday – 17th April

On Easter Sunday we will have a very special Easter Breakfast in church from 9 am in the Lounge. If you wish to attend, please let Heather know on: 01612837279, 07773015882 or heatherjsteward@yahoo.co.uk. Please let Heather know if you have any specific dietary requirements or if you would be able to assist with catering.

Our Easter Sunday service will be held at the usual time, 10:45 am, if you are able to, please bring fresh flowers to be displayed on a cross and then shared both with absent friends and those attending.

NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

21 MARCH 2022

Presidential Statement on Ukraine

The overwhelming response to the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme shows clear support amongst the public for helping those seeking sanctuary. Methodist churches and members around the UK stand ready to open their homes and lives to Ukrainians who desperately need our friendship and solidarity.

The scheme also demonstrates that when called for, the Government can find resources and commit to helping people in need. We are grateful that the Government has listened to the widespread calls for them to act and to begin to open routes by which Ukrainians can come to the UK for safety.

However, whilst communities are united in offering support and protection to those fleeing an unimaginable situation, we remain concerned that this welcoming approach appears to be at odds with the Government's response to refugees from other parts of the world.

Over the past few weeks, non-Ukrainian nationals fleeing the conflict have been treated with hostility across Europe. Many foreign students, refugees who have settled within Ukraine and others who have made Ukraine their home have struggled to find routes out of the conflict, and have instead faced discrimination and harsh treatment. All people fleeing Ukraine need to be offered safety, not only those holding a Ukrainian passport.

In the UK, this hostility is particularly demonstrated in the Nationality and Borders Bill currently going through Parliament.

With this Bill, the Government is continuing to pursue a hostile and unwelcoming approach towards some of the most vulnerable people in the world. The Bill will have a detrimental impact on many people seeking refuge, criminalising people with a legitimate claim to asylum, keeping families apart and undermining people's right to refugee protection. The Bill currently presents no new safe routes by which refugees can reach the UK, leaving people fleeing conflict and persecution in places such as Yemen, Syria and

Iran without options. At the same time as the Government asks us to open our homes to Ukrainian refugees, they are closing the door on refugees from around the world.

The Refugee Convention was established over 70 years ago in 1951, in the wake of war. Signatories to the convention committed that the way someone travelled to seek refugee protection should not matter, acknowledging that escaping conflict, oppression and persecution was the immediate priority. Despite the risk of war rising once again, the Nationality and Borders Bill directly undermines this principle.

As Christians, we are called to welcome the stranger, and to recognise God amongst them. We cannot abide any kind of discrimination which seeks to ignore or mar the image of God that all people bear. This Bill which judges a person's legitimate claim to sanctuary based on how they arrive in the UK should not be tolerated. Just as the Government is right to make every effort to welcome people from Ukraine, we must ensure that this effort is made whenever necessary.

Any response to people fleeing conflict in Ukraine must now be applied across the board. We urge the Government to look carefully at the Nationality and Borders Bill, recognise this inconsistency, and take immediate action so that all who seek sanctuary are protected.

The President and Vice-President of the Conference

Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton

14 MARCH 2022

Presidency joins call to end pharma monopolies and vaccine inequity

130+ leading voices call for an end to vaccine monopolies after two years of pandemic

The Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton, President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, have joined more than 130 former world leaders, Nobel laureates, leading scientists, economists, humanitarians, faith leaders,

business leaders, trade unionists, and celebrities in calling for urgent action to vaccinate low and middle-income countries and bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter coordinated by the People's Vaccine Alliance, the authoritative voices united on the second anniversary of the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration that the COVID-19 outbreak had become a pandemic. They urge world leaders "to do what is necessary to end this crisis" and unite behind a People's

Vaccine, based on the principles of equity and solidarity; accessible to everyone, everywhere; and free from patents and profiteering.

They warn that "despite what some leaders in wealthy countries would like us to believe, the pandemic is not over". But an end to COVID-19 is "within our grasp", they say, if we give "everyone, everywhere access to safe and effective vaccines and other life-saving COVID-19 technologies".

Read more about the call to end vaccine inequity here - <https://peoplesvaccine.org/resources/media/world-leader-2-year-letter/>



30 MARCH 2022

#WePrayForUkraine - How can you join in?

The Methodist Church is joining with Churches Together in England, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and Christian Aid to invite churches and Christians from across the UK and Ireland to come together on Sunday 3 April in an act of witness to pray and light candles for Ukraine, for an end to the conflict, and for all those affected by the terrible impact of war.

Across the country, churches of all denominations are encouraging congregations to pray for Ukraine and to hold a visible act of witness – including the lighting of candles - in their local community.

National events will also take place in London, Edinburgh, Wales and Northern Ireland. In London, people are expected to come together, light a candle, and pray for the people of Ukraine outside the Ukrainian embassy at 2pm.

Join Christian Aid on Facebook throughout the afternoon on 3 April to see updates from the Embassy of Ukraine and share any photos of your act of witness on social media using #WePrayForUkraine

A prayer for Ukraine-

God of all peoples and nations,
Who created all things alive and breathing,
United and whole,
Show us the way of peace that is Your overwhelming presence.
We hold before you the peoples of Ukraine and Russia,
Every child and every adult.
We long for the time
When weapons of war are beaten into ploughshares
When nations no longer lift up sword against nation.
We cry out to you for peace;
Protect those who only desire and deserve to live in security and safety
Comfort those who fear for their lives and the lives of their loved ones

Be with those who are bereaved.
Change the hearts of those set on violence and aggression
And fill leaders with the wisdom that leads to peace.
Kindle again in us a love of our neighbour,
And a passion for justice to prevail and a renewed recognition that we all
play a part in peace.
Creator of all hear our prayer
And bring us peace. make us whole.

Amen.



Peace For Ukraine © Banana.ti Banana.ti Used with consent via Creatives for Ukraine

TOOLS WITH A MISSION

Join Manchester Methodists this Lent and support Tools with a Mission (TWAM)

The Methodist Circuit are supporting this Christian charity, an organisation which collects tools for a wide variety of occupations, refurbishes them and then ships them out to developing countries where they enable people to set up in business and gain an independent income. At present over 500 projects have been helped in DR Congo, Namibia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Every year around 14,000 tool kits, power tools, computers, sewing and knitting machines are sent out in around 18 containers.

Tools can be brought either to Withington Methodist or be collected by Heather (contact details 0161 283 7279/ email heatherjsteward@yahoo.co.uk) where they can be stored until the TWAM van collects and delivers them to the refurbishment centre in Coventry.

Further details can be found on their website <http://www.twam.co.uk> which also explains what they can and cannot accept. Tools can be sharpened and surface rust removed but broken tools cannot be repaired and wooden tools should be woodworm free.

Yes please

Agricultural tools: Fork, spade, hoe, garden rake, hand fork and trowel, lopper, secateurs and hand shears

Builders' tools: Spade, shovel, 3ft spirit level, axe, crowbar, fork, sledgehammer, bow saw, bolsters, chisels, all types of hammers and trowels, pin and lines, tape measures, hacksaws and Stanley and hacksaw blades

Carpenters' tools: Bevel, braces, clamps, hand drills and bits, all types of files and hammers, Stanley knife, all types of planes and saws, pliers, rules, all types of saws and screwdrivers, squares plus screws, nails and bolts

Electricians' tools: Allen keys, hand drills and bits, all types of pliers and hacksaws, screwdrivers, spanners, soldering iron, voltmeter

Motor mechanics' tools: Allen keys, cold chisels, breast drill and bits, all types of hammers and pliers, punches, metric socket sets, spanners, adjustable spanners, cantilever toolboxes, tyre pressure gauge

Plumbers' tools: Basin or tap wrench, wire brush, breast drill and bits, various grips and saws, screwdriver, oil can etc

Garage workshop: Hydraulic jack, axle stands, battery charger, ramps and large engineers vice

Power tools: Hand and bench drills, sander, planer, jigsaw, circular, band and chop saws, lathe, cultivator, rotavator, welding machine and generator

Sewing machines: manual, electric, treadle and industrial

Knitting machines: machine and hand wool, needles and patterns

Haberdashery: needles, cottons, large material pieces/rolls, buttons, zips, tapes

Fully working IT equipment: Desktop computers and laptops running a minimum of Microsoft Windows 7, tablets, networking switch routers and cables

Bibles: in modern English

No thank you

It's not about what we want, it's about what people can use. What may be useful to us, may not be useful to recipients in our partner countries. If we say we can't take something, we're not being ungrateful, we're just being honest.

All broken tools - we can sharpen and remove surface rust, but can't repair or take tools with woodworm.

Ladders and step ladders

Lawn rakes/long-handled shears

Electric and hand lawnmowers

Printers, scanners, typewriters

Disability aids: walking frames, wheelchairs, medicines and glasses

Clothes and shoes

Bikes: men's, women's and children's

Books

Embroidery materials, curtains and weaving materials

Cooking pots, pans and kitchen utensils, crockery and cutlery, household appliances and musical instruments

This isn't an exhaustive list, just the main things we're offered by well-meaning supporters on a regular basis

Please note:

Sometimes people donate tools that are not suitable to send to Africa, either due to their age or because they would not be used. We also have some tools donated in such quantities that we cannot use all of them. On these occasions, we will attempt to sell the items to raise vital funds for our work.

CHURCH NEWS

Same-sex weddings at Withington Methodist Church

At its recent meeting on 7th March, the Church Council discussed the decision of the Methodist Conference to allow same-sex weddings to be held in those Methodist churches which were willing to host such weddings.

After the discussion, the Church Council held a secret ballot to decide whether we should allow our church to be used for such weddings. The vote was unanimously in favour of this proposal and Krystyna is now proceeding to register Withington Methodist Church as a venue for same-sex weddings.



The Book Club is back!

We usually meet once a month, and read a wide range of classic and contemporary novels.

If you enjoy reading, and would like to chat about books in a small and friendly group, then join us!

We are next meeting at church on Monday 11th April, 7.30pm, to discuss, "Rebecca" by Daphne du Maurier.

Any questions, just ask Helen or Heather.



Could you be our next Church Council Secretary?

We are looking for a new Church Council secretary, someone who would:

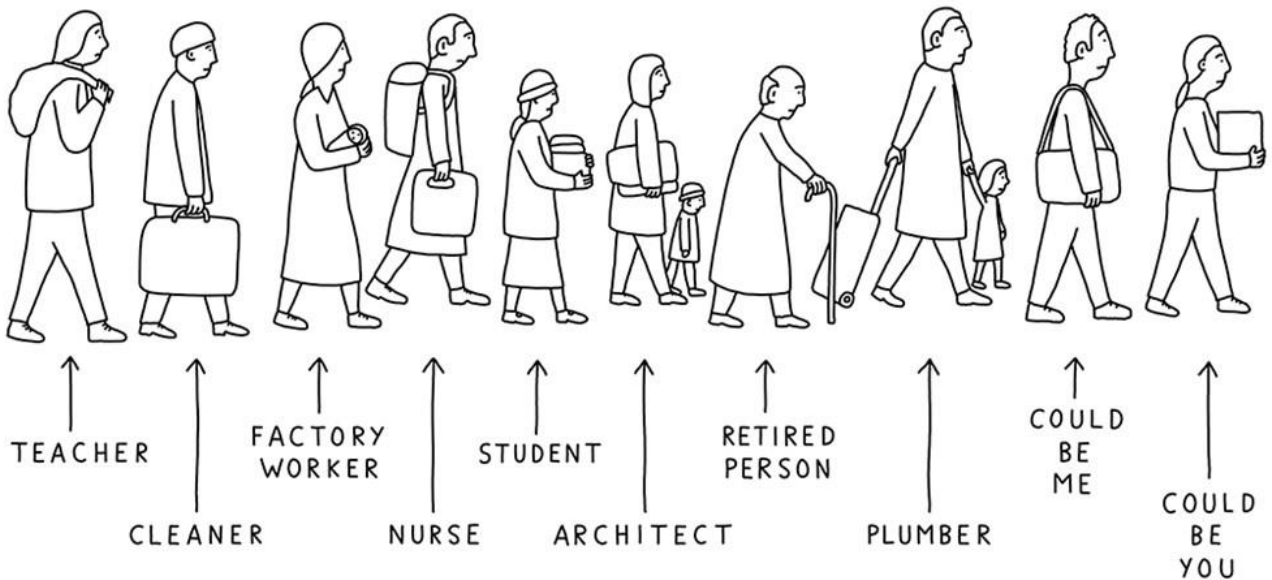
1. Maintain a list of members of Church Council, who are the Managing Trustees of the local church, including their contact details.
2. Plan the agenda for Church Council meetings together with the Minister as Chairperson.
3. Take the Minutes of Church Council meetings and distribute them afterwards.
4. Plan the agenda for the annual General Church Meeting (AGM), including nominations for office-holders and representatives to Church Council.
5. Take the Minutes of General Church Meetings and distribute them afterwards.

If you feel God might be calling you to this very important role, please get in touch with Rev. Krystyna.



THANK YOU FOR READING!

REFUGEES



QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

WHY WILL THE BORDERS BILL CRIMINALISE ASYLUM SEEKERS WHO HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO ARRIVE IN THE UK VIA 'IRREGULAR ROUTES'?



WHY ARE WE MAKING IT SO DIFFICULT FOR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE TO COME TO THE UK?



The next magazine will be out on the 1st May 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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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)

