

Withington Methodist News

June 2022



**LOVE IS A
TERRIBLE THING
TO HATE**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sundays at 10.45am

5th June - Local Arrangement

12th June - Rev. Peter Went

19th June - Rev. Krystyna Kwarciak, HC

26th June - Rev. Anthony Clowes (followed by AGM)

DEAR FRIENDS,

I have only lived in England for four years and I must admit that I'm very excited about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. I remember seeing the events of the Diamond Jubilee in 2012 on the news in Poland – the parade, the street parties – and wishing I was here to experience them first-hand.

In Poland monarchy was abolished in 1918 so I'm not an expert on the matter, but I have always liked the idea of having a leader who can show the effectiveness of long-term leadership, unlike politicians who are often only interested in the lead up to the next election. Long-term leadership requires character, perseverance and adaptability, which I think the Queen has demonstrated over the years.

Our churches depend on long-term leaders, people who have been stewards, pastoral visitors, treasurers, organists etc. for many, many years and are still actively involved in the day-to-day running of their local church. The Jubilee is a good time to reflect on the gift of tireless, long-term leadership which ensures continuity and stability, also in our congregations and local communities.

The Queen has never been ostentatious in her own personal faith, but her speeches and interviews make it clear that it's something that has sustained her through difficult times. Her constitutional role allows her to say very

little in public, it must be very lonely at times for her, facing public criticism to which she is unable to respond, feeling responsible, but rarely being consulted. In such a role, she had to learn to rely on God's guidance and strength.

The Queen's openness about her faith is perhaps another thing we can learn from her – how can we effectively witness to our Christian faith without imposing our beliefs or bringing into question anyone else's interpretation of spirituality?

I wish you all a lovely Jubilee weekend, and a sunny, warm and peaceful June.

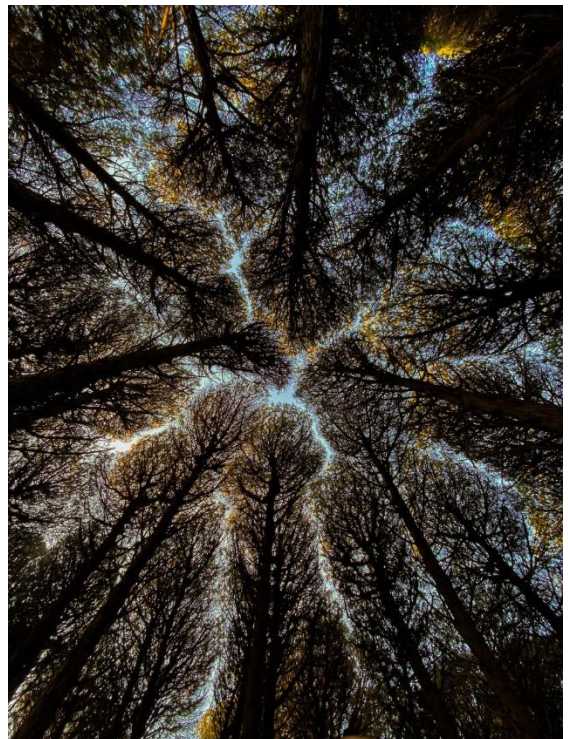
Blessings and Best Wishes,

Rev. Krystyna

PRAYER LIST

We remember in our prayers:

Hanna,
Roger and family,
Donna and Kevin,
Muriel,
Thandiwe,
Sarah,
John,
Marguerite,
Ora and Stasi,
Henry



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.

Chat and Bible Study on Zoom: (UPDATED)

We have a weekly virtual half hour catch up followed by a half hour Bible Study every Wednesday from 2:00 pm. All are welcome to join the chat, bible study or both!

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-

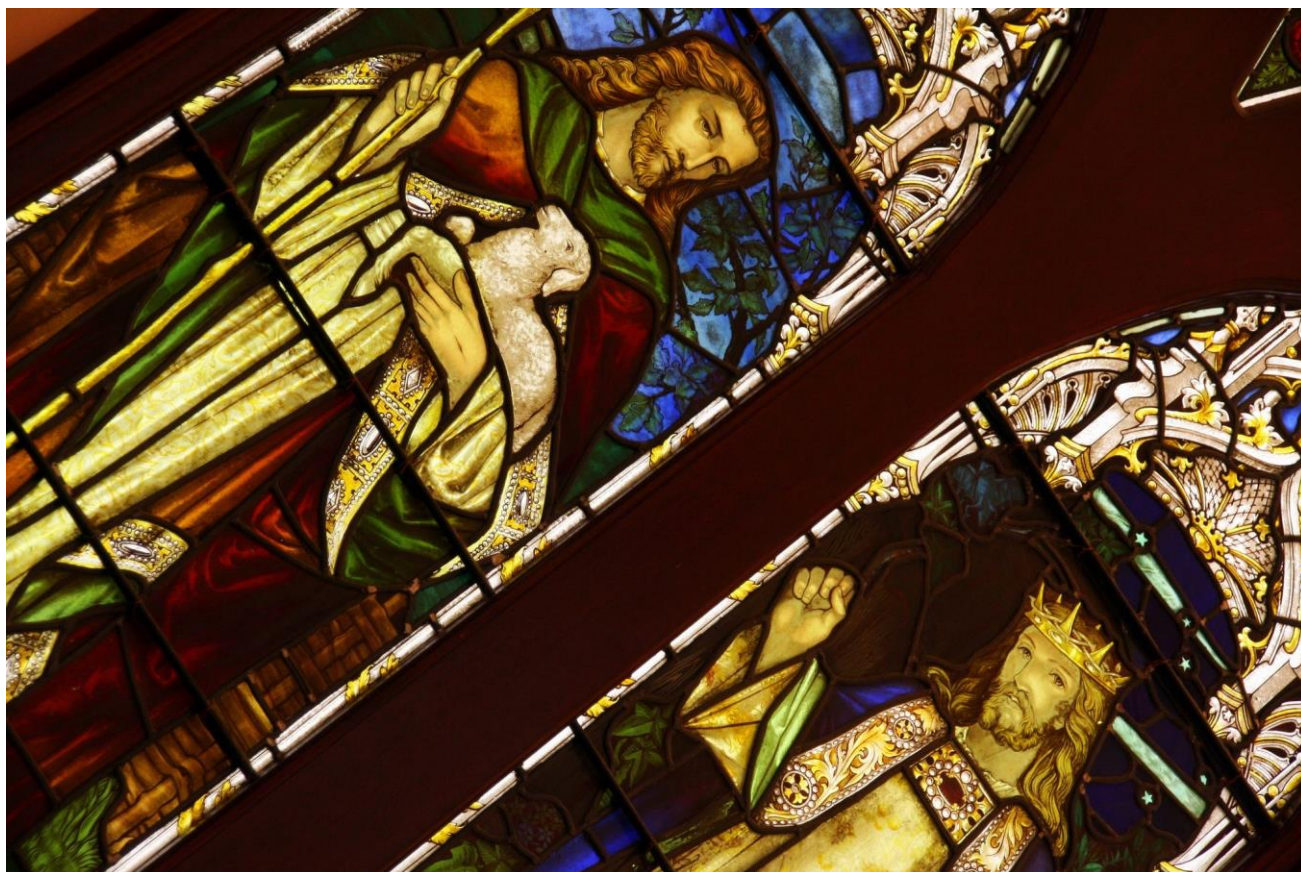
Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 922 0459 9032

Passcode: 1901

One tap mobile + 12532158782, 92204599032 #, 1901#



PRIDE MONTH

June 2022

A Prayer for Pride

Gracious God,

As during Pride month we are reminded of your love for all people, help all those who experience internalised homophobia because of the burden of their surroundings and trauma of their past.

May the grace and peace of Christ dwell richly in our hearts, so that we may be unburdened by shame, and see ourselves as you truly see us; as your precious and diverse sons and daughters in Christ.

Hear the cries of our hearts and free us by the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen

Watch a video about a gay couple's story about getting married in their Methodist Church here - <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/the-methodist-church/the-inclusive-methodist-church/lgbtplus/pride-month-2022/our-methodist-church-wedding/>



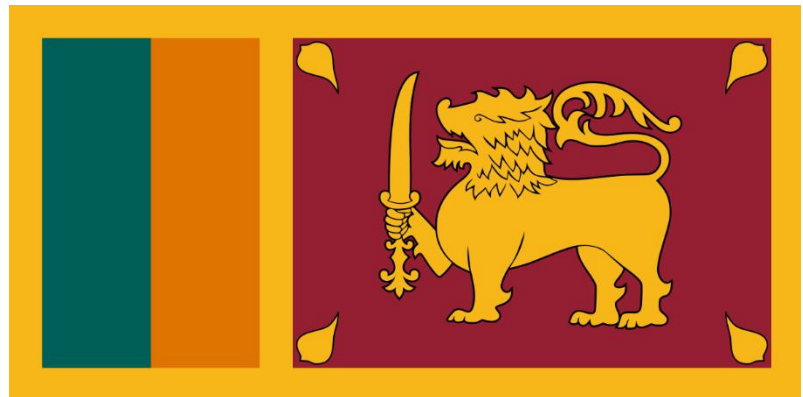
'Proud to be gay... Now make me proud to be a Christian' - Alison from Open Table Cambridge holds a placard during a vigil outside General Synod, the governing body of the Church of England, in London, February 2017. CREDIT: REUTERS / Hannah McKay

NEWS FROM THE CONNEXION

19 MAY 2022

The political and economic crisis in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is experiencing the worst economic crisis since becoming independent in 1948. The government has insufficient foreign currency to import essentials such as food, petrol, cooking gas and medicines, so there are



severe shortages. Waiting in queues has become normal, and the wait to purchase petrol can now be longer than 24 hours. However, rising inflation means that basic items have become too expensive for many people to afford. In the light of the anger and frustration which have led to public protests, the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka has called for action on the part of those in power, and non-violent approaches from both the protesters and the authorities.

The Methodist Church in Britain received this letter from Revd W.P. Ebenezer Joseph, President of Conference, Methodist Church, Sri Lanka in which he commented, "The Methodist Church Sri Lanka is grieved and alarmed at the current political developments that are unfolding before us, at a time when as a nation we are facing an acute economic crisis, causing immense suffering and hardship, leading to frustration and hopelessness among all our people."

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have offered this statement of support and solidarity in response.

Over the past weeks we have seen the reports of the situation in Sri Lanka as the country has experienced economic collapse on top of the social disruption brought about by the Covid crisis. We have noted with concern the sufferings of the Sri Lankan people as soaring inflation has led to

unaffordable prices of basic goods and shortages of foods, medicines and fuel.

In response to the Appeal from the Methodist Church, Sri Lanka Pertaining to the Current Situation, and in the face of the growing anger and political unrest in Sri Lanka, we join in calling for calm attempts to reach peaceful solutions, and in affirming the need for all individuals to treat others with care and love.

The Methodist Church in Britain values the partnership of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka. We stand in solidarity with them at this time of economic and political crisis, and support them in their appeals for solutions according to democratic principles. We join them in their call for non-violent action and dignified treatment of other people, both on the part of protesters, and on the part of the authorities when dealing with peaceful protests.

We continue to hold the leadership and members of the Methodist Church Sri Lanka in our prayers,

The President and Vice-President of the Conference
Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton

30 MAY 2022

Statement on the kidnap of the Prelate of the Methodist Church Nigeria

We thank God for the safe release of the Prelate of the Methodist Church Nigeria, Most Rev Dr. Samuel C. Kanu Uche, the Bishop of Owerri, Rt. Rev. Dennis Mark, and the Prelate's Chaplain, Very Rev. Jeremiah Shittu, by gunmen whilst on official duty in Abia state after attending an event on Sunday 29 May.

We pray for others in Nigeria who have recently been abducted and are still being held, and those anywhere in the hands of violent kidnappers.

CHURCH NEWS

Celebration of the Queen's Jubilee

Nearly 100 people enjoyed a Jubilee party at Withington Methodist on 2nd June. This was a hugely successful celebration in which the Civic Society and Assist joined church members for an afternoon of tea, cake and magic. It was wonderful to see our hall packed with so many happy partygoers and everything went off according to plan thanks to our combined teams of helpers.

We look forward to our next event on Saturday 18th June when the National Methodist Youth Brass Band will be treating us to concert. All are welcome!





the
**National Methodist
Youth Brass Band**

In Concert

**Withington
Methodist Church**

Saturday 18th June | 7.30pm

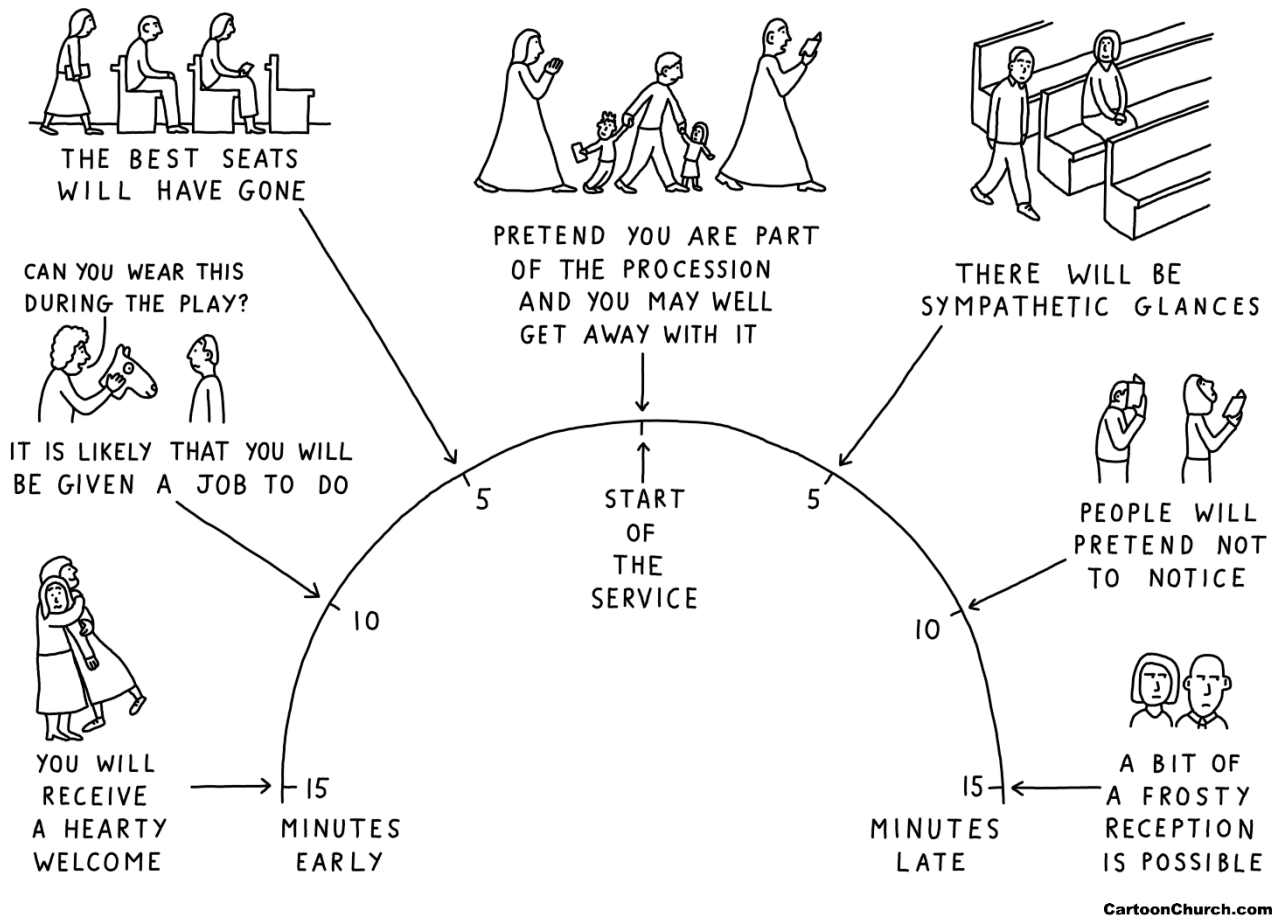
Admission Free

Donations welcome for
Head Forward, Withington

Contact **Heather** for tickets on **07773 015882**

THANK YOU FOR READING!

ARRIVING AT CHURCH



The next magazine will be out on the 3rd July 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)

