

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. John Richey

New Series No. 121



March 2018

Dear Friend,

As you read this letter, we're almost through Lent and fast approaching Easter, when we celebrate the most important feast in the Christian calendar.

I guess Lent however is not always associated with Good News, particularly if this means we need to face up to the challenges around us. Lent in the forty days and nights, the Church takes us into the wilderness, to pause, to pray, to meditate and reflect on the various readings of scriptures, to take us on a journey with Jesus. On this journey one can recognise that Jesus lived his life having to face real temptations, which was a true measure of his humanity.

Although we're never likely having to face death to overcome temptations; temptation is something we need to endure, however, the wilderness is something we need never have to face alone by depending upon our own resources. We are tempted; we all fail and sin. I'm sure there have been times in your life, mine also, when we may have wondered if there is a way out of the wilderness.

All of us need to hear like Jesus the love of God, his Father that recognises us as his beloved children. So, when hearing that voice calling us to repent, it is the call to stay with the one who loves us. The Gospel challenges us to change our minds about the way we think, to change our hearts about parts of the Gospel we ignore, and to change our ways about habits of sin. Let's be clear, Jesus spiritual battle with 'Satan' was not overcome in the wilderness, it ended with his death in Jerusalem. For Jesus overcoming temptation was his lifetimes work.

Our lifetime's task is no less a spiritual battle, we've temptation to overcome. So, not to over-spiritualize will share a story of an Indian Chief standing with his grandson on a reservation, telling him of all the battles, won and lost on an Indian land, but said the greatest battle to be won is one that takes place within every human heart where two wolves (spirits) live:

The first wolf is bad: it's filled with: anger – envy- jealousy – sorrow – regret – greed – arrogance – self-pity – guilt – resentment – vendetta- inferiority – lies – false pride – superiority and ego. The second wolf is good: it's filled with: joy – peace – love – hope – serenity – humility – kindness – benevolence – empathy – generosity – truth – compassion and faith.

After a few moments pause – the grandson asks: 'Granddad which of the two wolves wins?' The chief replied... "My son this depends upon which one you feed."

Each of us will have varying degrees of the bad and good wolf living within us and that Lent serves to remind us of our need to begin facing up to the bad wolf within. The Good News is that we have the word of God that informs us. When we align ourselves to the word of God, the good wolf surfaces, thereby we find ourselves on the road that draws us nearer to the kingdom of God.

Every Blessing

John

Diary and Notice board - March 2018

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP will meet on Monday, 5th at 3 Green Street and Monday, 19th March at 131 Cedar Avenue.

Our LENT LUNCH takes place on SATURDAY, 3rd MARCH from 12.00 noon. This will be instead of the Coffee Morning.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 29th March at 7.00pm— Supper with Holy Communion led by Rev Angela Singleton.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS AND END OF TAX YEAR

The end of the tax year is only weeks away so please do ensure that your weekly collections are up to date so that we can maximise the Tax Refunds from HMRC.

A gentle reminder at this stage of the Tax year gives everyone time to assess their weekly giving and for those who are able, to bring up to date any "missing" amounts!

Last year our Tax Refunds amounted to £3661. which gave a substantial increase to our Church funds.

EMERGENCY APPEAL

£50 has been sent from the Emergency Fund for the Methodist appeal to assist the Rohingya Refugee fund.

TEAR FUND

The retiring collection at the Tear Fund service raised £246.80

GRASS CUTTING

Spring will soon be upon us and we look forward to seeing the new growth all around us. To ensure that the Church keeps a welcoming look it is essential that the lawns are cut regularly and our willing band of volunteers helps to maintain the surrounds to our Church. The lawn mower is quite easy to use and is not a heavy machine, so if there are more people on our rota it will spread the workload around! The list will be on the notice board early March so if you can assist please do so. Every little helps!

HIGH WYCOMBE METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWS

STAFF CHANGES

The Circuit Leadership Team is pleased to announce that, with effect from August 2018, Richard Goldstraw has been appointed as Deacon in this Circuit. He will assume Ruth Richey's responsibilities when she takes up her new role at the end of this Connexional year. Richard is a very experienced Deacon having worked in many Circuits in the London area. His current role is at Notting Hill Methodist Church where he has been supporting the work among those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire. He will be moving to the Rye View manse with his civil partner Josh and their three cats. Please pray for Richard and Josh over the Summer months as they prepare for this move.

This Connexional Year we have been involved as a Circuit with two changes of Staff as Revd John Richey is "sitting down" this summer and our Deacon, Ruth Richey, has been called to serve the Diaconal Order as Deputy Warden. Ruth in fact will be beginning to spend time out of the Circuit to prepare for this important role quite soon. We offer our prayers and love to John and Ruth as they begin a new phase of life and ministry in London.

On July 15th we will be joining together in a Circuit Service to say thank you and farewell to them both. We will announce more details about this service as soon as possible, including the host Church of course.

At this service we will also be saying farewell to Ken and Joanne Kingston, and their family. Ken has been stationed to the Harrow and Hillingdon Circuit from September, as he begins his ministry as a Presbyterian there. Our prayers and love go to them all too, as they prepare for their new beginnings in that Circuit.

The formal service of welcome for our new minister, Vida and for Richard, will be led by the Chair of the District, the Rev Helen Cameron at 7.00pm on Friday 31st August at The Avenue Methodist Church.

The story behind the hymn: 'Christ Arose!'

This Easter marks the 144th birthday of this much-loved hymn, sung each year by millions of Christians worldwide. It all began on a little pump organ in the living room of a college professor in Pennsylvania, back in 1874.

Robert Lowry was professor of literature at Bucknell University, and pastor of a nearby church. He had a passion for poetry and music, and explained his 'muse' this way: 'I watch my moods and when anything strikes me, whether words or music, no matter where I am, at home, on the street, I jot it down. My brain is a sort of spinning machine, for there is music running through it all the time. Sometimes the words come and the music follows.'

Easter 1874 was approaching, and on this particular day, Robert Lowry had been meditating on the gospel narratives of the Passion and Resurrection. The angel's words at the empty tomb, 'He is not here, but is risen' kept running through his mind. There was something there... Lowry moved to the little pump organ in his living room and gave himself up to the moment. Soon the words and the music for this joyous Easter hymn just fell into place.

Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay
Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus my Lord!

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey,
Jesus my Saviour!
He tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord!

Editor: With Easter Sunday coming on the 1st April it is timely to think about how Christians celebrate Holy Week and the resurrection. Christianity.org.uk is the website of the Christian Enquiry Agency Ltd. This is an agency of Churches Together in England. This article may be helpful as a general introduction to Holy Week.

Celebrating Easter – how do various Christians do it?

Virtually all Christians mark Easter (the Society of Friends or Quakers is one of a few exceptions). The ways they celebrate it vary:

The week leading up to Easter Sunday is often called Holy Week and Christians focus more deeply than usual on their faith.

It begins with Palm Sunday. Services on this day, seven days before Easter, recall Jesus entering Jerusalem triumphantly, cheered by crowds as He rode a donkey. Palm leaves were waved on that occasion, and are still significant in church worship, often twisted into the shape of a cross.

Four days later is Maundy Thursday, when Jesus' followers remember that on the night before He died He asked them to remember Him by eating bread and drinking wine. Maundy comes from the Latin word for commandment, recalling Jesus' command that day that Christians should love each other in the same way that He loves them.

The next day is Good Friday (called Holy Friday in countries with large numbers of Roman Catholic Christians). This is the most solemn day of the Christian year because it is used to recall the appalling death of Jesus. Although it is a public holiday, it is increasingly difficult to distinguish it from other days of the year, so many churches hold processions or open-air services in public places to draw attention to its significance. Inside churches there are meditative services in a bare setting. It may be that the day was originally known as God Friday, and the name changed as language developed. Elsewhere in the world, it is called Great Friday or Holy Friday.

Easter Sunday recalls the day when Jesus' followers discovered that His tomb was empty. It is the most important and joyful day of the Christian year. Jubilant music is performed, and flowers and banners fill the churches

with colour. The centuries-old cry, 'Alleluia! Christ is risen!' is met with the response, 'He is risen indeed. Alleluia!'

In the first Christian centuries Easter Sunday was the day on which new converts to Christianity were baptised. This tradition continues in some places. More recent, but popular, ways of celebrating include Easter vigils late on Saturday night, which begin in darkness and culminate in the lighting of a fire in the early hours of Easter morning. Since the 18th century there has been a tradition of gathering on the highest local hill for a service of praise to God as the sun rises.



More articles like this can be found at Christianity.org.uk

EASTER AGAPÉ

Our founder, John Wesley was constantly being asked for Holy Communion but maintained a position, still current, that only ordained ministers could administer the sacraments, and there was not enough of them to go round!. And so he brought back the ancient Agapé or Love Feast Service, which has similarities with a Communion Service but without the bread and wine.

At a meeting of our Sectional Stewards the representatives from Holmer Green spoke of the Agapé service I led for them on Easter Sunday 2017 and it was suggested that I repeat the service this Easter at Tylers Green. I agreed to do so. Please will any Church or Communion Stewards planning to come on Easter Sunday let me know as soon as possible. Thank you. Peter

Evening Services

On Sundays evenings in March there are services at Holmer Green Methodist Church in Earl Howe Road starting at 6.00pm. All invited.

4th Lesley Hatton

11th Rev Nick Thompson

18th Rev Gregory Hargrove

25th Rev Singa Vinipola

Church of England and Methodist Church to continue exploring closer communion

Following debate at the General Synod, the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission will now undertake further refinement and clarification on proposals that would see the Church of England and the Methodist Church enter into a relationship of communion and enable an interchange of their presbyteral ministries.

Building on the theological convergence encapsulated in An Anglican-Methodist Covenant, signed in 2003,* and the work of the Covenant's Joint Implementation Commission from 2003-2014, acceptance of the proposals would mark a further step on the journey of reconciliation between the two Churches.

After the debate, the Revd Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, said: "We are very grateful to the Church of England for this opportunity to address the General Synod and discuss the progress we are making together on the path towards reconciliation and the ordering of our existing ministries in a way that reflects the needs and wishes of both Churches.

"We recognise that these are matters of significance to all within our Churches. As we move forward, we will continue to discern the will of God and deepen our understanding of each other through ongoing dialogue."

The proposals are already available for discussion in both Churches. In light of the further work, and to enable time for proper reflection, it is unlikely that the proposals will be brought to the Methodist Conference for discussion before 2019.

** Note: Judy Jarvis was one of the signatories for the Methodist Church.*

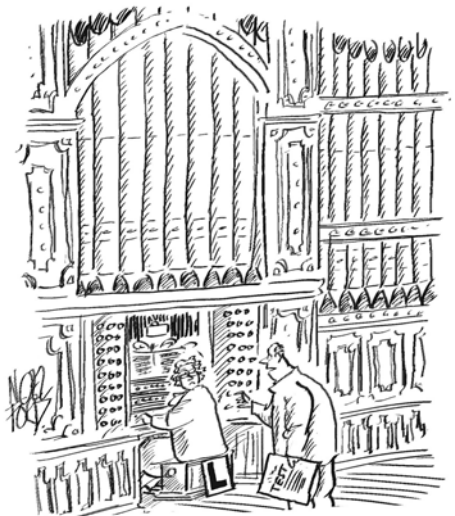
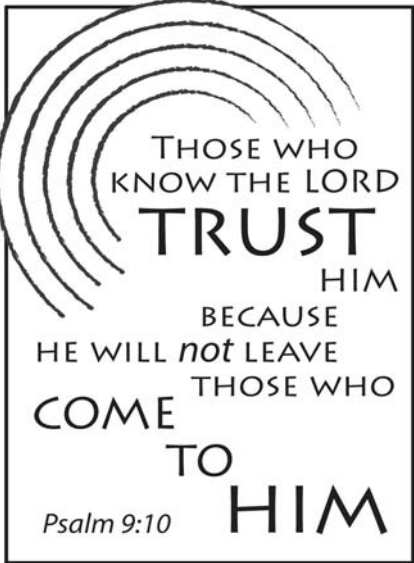
The unexpected effect of celebrity vicars

Something interesting is happening in the Church of England. Celebrity clergy such as the Revd Richard Coles and the Revd Kate Bottley have helped the Church of England, by making it appear more accessible, and thereby boosting the number of trainee clergy up to a ten-year high.

Such is the belief of a number of church leaders, such as the Bishop of Repton, the Rt Rev Jan McFarlane. 'With Richard and Kate being on *Strictly Come Dancing* and shows like that, they've just come across as human people who happen to have a strong faith.'

And so, while in 2016 there were 476 new trainees; last year there were 544 new trainees. New priests are also getting younger; last year 28 per cent of trainees were under 32.

I understand that Revd Kate Bottley now has Sunday shows running on Radio 2 and on Classic FM as well as presenting on 'Songs of Praise'. I expect they are all pre-recorded as Kate, like any vicar, will be preaching, administering Holy Communion, doing baptisms etc. How does she fit it all in? - Editor



"At some point between Verses 3 and 6, I'll signal for you to do an Emergency-Stop."

Prayer—The Word of God

Living God, living Word,
as this is my Bible,
release my imagination
that I may be able to enter
Into the world of Scripture, and
seeing you through the eyes
of peasant and prophet,
matriarch and maid,
find you in its pages,
And discover you in my heart.
Amen

*(From 'More than Words—400 Pray Now Daily Devotions'
St Andrews Press, adapted)*

Road sign in Malaysia: Caution: Water on road during rain

And finally...

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, young James stayed home from church with his granny. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," James fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up."

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. John Richey* - 📞 526747

Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson and Chris Oxby

Senior Church Steward: Peter Stevens*— 📞815256

Church Stewards:

Toyin Akinwale— 📞 817792

Martin Hellewell— 📞 816168

Geraldine Nelson* – 📞 815631

Chris Oxby* – 📞 814982

Church Treasurer : Geraldine Nelson - 📞815631

Church Council Secretary: Sue Horley Sue.horley1@gmail.com

Room Bookings: Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Pastoral & First Steps: Christine Stevens - 📞815256

Property : Peter Stevens— 📞815256

* Members of the Church Leadership Team

Church Premises

Please mention anything requiring maintenance or attention to any of the Property Stewards: Peter and Christine Stevens, Martin Hellewell or Rosemary Newman.

Good-News Desk

Items for the next Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by the 12th March for the Easter edition, either on paper or emailed to

psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞815256

EASTER EDITION AVAILABLE ON 25th MARCH

Note: Some items in Good-News Desk are included by subscription to Parish Pump—the resource site for Church Newsletters.



SERVICES DIARY - SERVICES AT 10.45 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

Date	Preacher/Service Details	Vestry Steward	Welcome Stewards <small>If you are unable to do your turn, please arrange cover!</small>
4th March	Rev John Richey—Holy Communion	Toyin Akinwale	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
11th	Margaret Newman	Geraldine Nelson	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
18th	Peter Stevens	Martin Hellewell	Christine Stevens
25th	Local Arrangement with Geraldine and Chris	Geraldine Nelson	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman
29th Maundy Thu.	7.00 pm –Rev Angela Singleton Supper with Holy Communion	Rosemary Newman	

PRAY

Please pray for those who have found shelter, food and safety at the Wycombe Homeless Connection's Night Shelter, that they may remain safe with the support they need as the night shelter season comes to an end