

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. John Richey

New Series No. 123



50th Anniversary Issue May 2018

Dear Friend,

It's often said that seeing is believing, which is why Easter remains a challenge to a disbelieving world, especially two thousand years on when there are no witnesses left who saw the risen Jesus first hand.

This was also a challenge to confront Thomas when absent after the risen Jesus appeared to his other disciples in a locked room. Thomas can't believe that Jesus is risen because he cannot see him. The story of Thomas is for everyone who was not present on Easter evening, which of course includes you and me.

Gospel stories of Jesus' appearances is what builds bridges between those who saw Jesus and those who do not: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Nevertheless, the apostles have a unique place in the Church because they saw Jesus, they believed and were commissioned by him; without them seeing and believing there would be no Christian faith.

Today neither you nor I have any experience of the physical presence of Jesus, but our understanding of him is linked through time – through the previous generation of Christians – back to the apostles themselves; a great chain of faith linked to the person of Jesus him-

self.

Over centuries one might think the chain gets weaker, faith diminishes but the Spirit Jesus gives is a present reality in the Church and leads those who have not seen not only to a place of belief and faith, but also to be witnesses that Jesus is alive and changing lives.

In July we will be moving on, and we are in the process of preparing to move home- a process which includes organising a removal company. I have been reminded of how we went through this process to move to Wycombe from Plymouth. The manager of the removal company came around, viewed the house contents and worked out the logistics of the move with us. When the business was finished, instead of making to leave he asked us "Can I tell you about my Mum?" Of course, that was fine with us. He went on to tell us that his father had died the previous year and his Mum had taken it very badly and had been very depressed. The family had never been "religious", but a friend of his Mums who was a Christian had invited her to church. She had begun to attend and, to her son's astonishment, over a few months she was like a different person. Obviously, she was still his Mum, but she was different somehow ... she had bought a bible and was reading it, she was praying and told him she was praying for him and for his family, and she had got involved in all sorts of church activities. Things she had never done in her life before. He had asked her what had made the difference, and she told him it was Jesus. He didn't understand it, he couldn't explain it, but he couldn't deny it either. The difference shone out from her, witnessing to a new found faith that gave her hope for the future.

Such faith demands from you and me a lifetime's active nurturing; to pray about faith, think about faith, to live the life of faith. This doesn't mean we'll erase all our doubts, but if we, just like Thomas care about what we believe in, that care in time will bring us into the presence of the risen Lord Jesus.

We are now the generation that makes the message of Jesus our own and therefore you and me are the ones left to witness

and give a way to the next generation; in this way, the Gospel that proclaims the risen Lord Jesus, will never die

Easter Blessings

John

Diary and Notice board - May 2018

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP will meet on Monday, 21st May at 2.30 pm at Jenny's home, 5 Fern Walk.

COFFEE MORNING - Saturday, 12th May at 10.00 am. We welcome Polly Oxby again with another of her cookery demonstrations.

CHURCH COUNCIL Wednesday 9th May at 7.30pm

50th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY Sunday 20th May when the 10.45am service will be followed by a faith lunch. Our invited preacher is Rev Catherine Pickering, sister of Sue Horley and daughter of the late Jean Baker.

In the evening of the same day Peter will be taking our Easter Offering gifts to be dedicated at Marlow Methodist Church and during the service Margaret Newman will be recognised as a fully accredited local preacher. The service is at 6.30pm

LAURENCE HUTCHINSON will be received into church membership at the service on 27th May. We ask God's continuing blessing on Laurence in this significant new chapter in his life of faith.

EVENING SERVICES

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

6th Rev NickThompson

13th Beryl Taylor

27th` Rev Singa Vinipola

(On the 20th there is a Circuit Service at Marlow—see above)

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Many of you will have seen the April edition and in particular the item giving details of the recent Church Council Meeting.

Our contribution to the Circuit amounts to £15,680. this year which equates to £12 per week for each Member (calculation excludes adherents), and does not include all our other costs such as maintenance etc. which adds a further £10 per member per week.

An average of £25 giving per member per week should cover our costs. A plea from the Stewards :- To all those who give their weekly offering through the envelope scheme. "Only money should be in the envelope, not any previous weeks empty envelopes which do not need to be included at any time".

I concur with the Stewards and would add that if anyone is mindful to give on a monthly basis direct to the TGMC Bank Account please do so (I have done it for a number of years and it does ensure that I give 52 x the weekly amount even when I am in Australia!)

Questions: How much do you give in the freewill offering each week towards these costs? and do you make up the amounts for any "missing" weeks when you are not able to be at the Sunday service?

Also have you reviewed the amount you give each week and have you been able to increase the amount of your weekly offering?

Please give prayerful consideration to this delicate subject of financial matters, and if you are able to give more each week it will ensure that our Church can continue to cover all our costs.

Tax Refunds on giving is a most valuable contribution to our income (the tax year ended 2017 amounted to £3,361.) as is the substantial amount of rental income from Pre School.*

If you would like to discuss your giving with me, or ask any questions, please contact me by phone or see me at church. All financial matters

are treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Chris Hallam

Covenant Secretary

Editor's note: The Pre-School income Chris referred to is £350 per week.

What is Holy Spirit all about?

Rev Paul Hardingham writes:

At Pentecost, we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples. It was a powerful experience, when along with wind and fire, *'all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit'* (Acts 2:4).

Power is experienced in two ways: it can be either unleashed or harnessed. The energy in petrol can be released explosively by dropping a lighted match into it. However, in the engine of a car, it will transport people in a controlled way! The Holy Spirit works in a similar way. At Pentecost, He exploded onto the scene and 3000 people were added to the Church, because of Peter's preaching. He also equips us with His gifts to engage in the mission and ministry of the Church.

However, the Spirit's power also enables us so to grow in our faith. He assures us of God's love and acceptance in our lives, despite our fears, doubts or failures: *'God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us'* (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit is also committed to producing the character of Jesus in us, enabling us to live as Jesus would in our place ie job, family and time: *'the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* (Galatians 5:22,23).

'Let the church return to Pentecost, and Pentecost will return to her. The Spirit of God cannot take possession of believers beyond their capacity of receiving Him' (Andrew Murray).

Memories

Well, I asked for them and I got them!

Thank you to all contributors.

Peter

Rev Mike Hill: The grand 40th Anniversary was just a few weeks before I came to Tylers Green, and now at the 50th Anniversary I'm committed to an event elsewhere on that day. I'm sorry to have missed both.

Some of you can remember the heydays of Tylers Green Methodist Church, and that will rightly be part of the anniversary celebration. These last ten years have had ups and downs, even to the extent of wondering if this church can or should continue. Well, continue it does! Alleluia! And long may it continue!

The strength and delight of the church lies in the committed fellowship and friendship of the people. We've been blessed with a succession of talented musicians, so our worship has gone with a swing. Artistic talent has always kept the church looking good and inspiring. The flowers and banners and visual imagery offer a counter-balance to the words of prayers and preaching.

Weekday housegroups provide bible study and mutual support by friendship and prayer. And coffee morning and meals together (I especially appreciated the Maundy Thursday Last Suppers) draw together the core of the church and those on the fringe.

Importantly our church shares its premises with the Preschool. That partnership has often proved a bit tricky, an interesting symbiosis, but I am delighted that it continues. It's an exceptionally good Preschool (Ofsted outstanding!), serving young families locally and some a little further afield. This is a service to the community which the church alone wouldn't be able to do.

The anniversary this year is on Pentecost Sunday celebrating the birthday of Tylers Green Methodist Church but also the birthday of The Church, when God poured out His Holy Spirit. The disciples realized that with

Jesus no longer physically with them, it was up to them, as it is now up to us, to share the good news of Jesus's life and death and resurrection: for eternal life and for new life here on earth. It's now up to us, but the sheer power and strength of the Holy Spirit was poured out for them then, and for us now. It's up to us, but we're not on our own. May the Lord who poured out His Spirit long ago continue to pour out His Spirit today, and especially here at Tylers Green. God bless you all.

Chris and Margaret Hallam: Visit by the Rt Revd David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool in January 1988. We have the Order of Service on that day- the 10th January. and this could be on display at the Anniversary.

The weddings of our two daughters Kay and Sue in 1987 and 1990 respectively.

Many Anniversary Garden Parties at our house over the years in the 80s and 90s.

Catherine Ogden (née Bowler): My earliest memory of Tylers Green Methodist Church is being in Mr. Stanyon's Sunday School class with Susanne Crayford and being taken out every now and again to the park around the corner. I'm afraid I can't remember what we were being taught on those particular weeks but it was good fun feeling like we were sneaking out while the grown-ups were being serious!

Later on (at the age of 11 I believe) I was put 'in charge' of playing the piano and helping Mr Stanyon with that class. I then remember being responsible for my own group which consisted of one boy who I taught using the Scripture Union notes that I still teach my Sunday School classes with now. Instead of just one child, I am now in charge of over 50 children in our church! Thanks to Mr Stanyon's discipleship.

I also remember helping Ian and Lyn to start up and run a Friday Young People's group – I seem to remember this was for Junior aged children.

I was very serious about it and even invited a new boyfriend along one week as helping with the group was my priority rather than the romance! One week we were playing a game that involved jumping and I jumped bare-footed straight onto a drawing pin. Not wanting to make a fuss I hopped to the kitchen and had to get two of my YPF friends to pull it out!

YPF was fantastic! Ian and Lyn Stanyon and Peter Harker. What great role models they were. We had fun but learnt important spiritual truths and I still quote them sometimes even now nearly thirty years later! YPF holidays away, MAYC marches up in London to the Royal Albert Hall all dressed in green and yellow, terrible '80s fashions! Great, great memories.

I have so many other lovely memories – Annual 'Commotion Sundays' where we had the morning service in the large Sunday School room; austerity lunches where we ate cheese and soup; collecting for JMA; a few organ lessons with Gerald Davis (although I was never going to be able to co-ordinate feet as well as hands!); bring & buy sales where I remember buying a fabulous pair of dark blue high heels with the brand new 20p piece! Not sure Mum was so impressed with them as I was only 11 years old at the time!

I hope that my girls grow up to have so many fond memories of our church when they are older and have so many people who are willing to give up their time and experience to encourage them.

Rosemary Newman: (June 1996): I will always remember the love and kindness I received from the congregation when my Mum, Gladys Piner, died suddenly. Overnight my life changed and I became a carer for my Dad, Ernie. The funeral was of course a very difficult day for me, but a group of ladies took over the catering at Church after the funeral. Everything was done to help me so that I could spend time with my family and friends. I wasn't even allowed into the kitchen. Their care and support carried me through and turned a sad day into one with happy memories. I am for ever grateful for that.

Mike Gillham: My immediate thoughts go back to when Mike and Ann Stanyon left the church some 40? odd years or so ago.

Rosemarie and I took over the running of their Friday evening youth club.

Can't remember exactly how many children attended but it was always very well attended re playing billiards, table tennis, dancing and singing to favourite ABBA records especially the girls, ours included.

I must confess, one main activity was purchasing food and drink goodies which Rosemarie and I had bought previously at trade prices from somewhere on the High Wycombe trading estate. We would normally sell out with good profits going to church funds.

Sunday school classes were also very well attended at that time, requiring 3-4 teachers, and many parents attended the main church. Car parking was made easy at that time due to the church's land on the Chilton Close corner now occupied recently by a large house.

I recall the drainage system got damaged in the car park and I have a vivid memory of repairing the damage with bricks and mortar after attending a brick laying class at the HW college!

Ann Dickenson

In the early eighties, when I had not long joined the church and my girls were in Sunday School, we had a sports day at a field beside the Pedestal in West Wycombe. It proved a hit with my girls but never seemed to happen again.

Was it a Methodist Church sports? Or all churches sports?

Dave Monk sends his best wishes from the USA.

(It was Dave, who in his YF days, brought us back from Australia the clock we have in the church lounge)

Helen Healey (néé Bowler):

I have lots of happy memories of my time at Tylers Green Methodist Church. We started attending as a family when I was around 14. I joined the youth fellowship which I really enjoyed and felt welcomed in by Peter Harker and the other young people in the group.

We had lots of fantastic holidays away with the youth fellowship staying at other churches, camping on the floor and doing our own cooking; I did manage to burn the toast on a regular occurrence. This was wonderful and very exciting and unlike anything else I had done before. It was at one of these holidays that I gave my life to Christ at the age of 16.

Attending the MAYC (Methodist Association of Youth Clubs) was one of the highlights of my year. We all dressed up in yellow and green and headed for the Albert Hall in London. This was when fluorescent socks were all the rage so we usually wore one luminous yellow and one green sock, we were dressed in head to toe in green and yellow even spraying our hair too. We were often photographed by passing tourists intrigued what was happening. Hundreds of churches together then marched through London carrying their churches banner.

I enjoyed over the years going to the Davis' garden to celebrate the churches anniversary and I have happy memories of taking part in the production of Daybreak and Breaking Bread alongside the youth fellowship.

I remember taking part in a play as the 'fat prophet' I did get some laughs as I was probably the least suitable for the part!

Andy and I got married at the church 29 years ago and our 2 daughters were christened there too so there has been lots of happy memories over the years. This is also tinged with sad memories of losing love ones that we have lost along the way.

Happy 50th anniversary.

Peter and Christine Stevens:

Our family has been part of this church for 40 years—not as long as Angela Davis who was here from the very beginning, or a few others we still see week by week.

We transferred membership here in April 1978 just a few months after moving up from Wiltshire. Soon after we came we experienced the first big church anniversary—10 years! In those days we had the annexe on the carpark and it was there that the anniversary social took place. We were invited to take part in “Mr and Mrs”, a popular TV programme of the time, designed to discover how much couples really knew about each other. This time it was the church finding out about us. I remember that we were introduced by Ian Stanyon in drag!

We had moved from a large Methodist Church in Salisbury with over 250 members and 3 (yes three) ministers on the staff including Rev David Jenkins who was in training and who I invited to lead worship here when he was minister of Aylesbury Methodist Church.

We were ‘adopted’ by Pat and David Maidment who looked after Helen during the move. I had already met Pat during the weeks before the move at a local preachers meeting. The Maidment’s welcoming help and encouragement in the early months of settling in was so important to us.

Christine took over from Brenda Sadler as flower secretary and I took over from Marion Jackson doing the weekly church notes later to become the monthly Good News Desk. These tasks came to us before Rachel was born, and Rachel is now expecting her first baby in September. There were a lot more people able to arrange flowers in those days, so Christine’s main job was to look after the flower rota. Times have changed.

We are delighted that we are now sometimes here, particularly towards the end of services, as a family with Helen and Charlotte joining us in church before the end of the service—and Charlotte doing her preaching practice after the service has ended!

The Late, Late Lent Lunch

I tried to give snow up for Lent but it didn't work out! Our Lent Lunch had to be postponed and it eventually took place on 14th April when some 30 people came to enjoy the meal including folk from Downley and Naphill Methodist Churches. £138.50 was raised for the charity 'Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

THE WAY I SEE IT: Telling the Time by Canon David Winter

I was having a little button problem with the ATM. A message appeared on the screen. 'Would you like more time?' I clicked the 'yes' button, eventually collected my cash, and spent the rest of the afternoon thinking about that profound question. Well, would I? As an elderly man, do I really want *more* time, or am I content to face the fact that time is the raw material of our lives and eventually it runs out?

We exist within a framework of time: days, weeks, months, years. We can't imagine life without it, and yet God, the Creator, is eternal, He simply and gloriously *exists*. That's his Name – 'I AM'. So if the end of time for us is to be with him, will we at last be free from its tyranny?

Most of my working life was dominated by time, so that seems a pleasant prospect. But in an unpredictable world our hearts break for those who lose a child or who die as we say 'prematurely'. Sometimes those of us of riper years feel a kind of guilt: why not us? Thankfully, age will not be an issue in heaven. God doesn't grow old. There will be no more dying, young or old. Like Him, we shall just sublimely *be*.

All of that, of course, is a matter of faith, and may seem irrelevant to those whose immediate concern is living in the here and now. But time simply ticks on, and one day that question may arise: Would you like more time? It's easy to answer when life is full of promise, or as yet unfulfilled goals. It's not quite so simple when early onset decrepitude threatens. For me, every hour of life is a gift of God, so it's still the 'yes' button until a wiser hand intervenes: 'your time is up'.

BIBLE MONTH IN JUNE

Last year the CofE initiated Bible Month as a time when services and other activities could be linked to a themed study of a Bible Book. This year our Circuit has accepted the invitation of the Methodist Church of GB to get involved and the month will focus on the Book of Jonah. We are not yet sure what is involved and how our Church can participate, but Geraldine and Peter plan to attend a meeting in May when we shall learn more.

A shipwrecked man spent five years on a deserted island. One day he was overjoyed to see a ship drop anchor in the bay. A dinghy approached, and a ship's officer handed the sailor The Times, The Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph. "The captain suggests," said the officer, "that you read what's going on in the world before you decide if you wish to be rescued."

Genuine Church Notes—

Reported by The News Programme on BBC Radio 4

The door to the toilet is to the left of the altar. It is possible to receive communion whilst seated. Just speak to the church warden.

Thought for the month

He who has the Holy Spirit in his heart and the Scriptures in his hands has all he needs.

A MacLaren



...I wonder if I could have a quick word with the flower arrangers at the end of this service...?

Pentecost Prayer

Father,

Thank you for sending Jesus to be one of us and to show us how you want us to live.

Thank you that He chose to live for us and to die for us.

Thank you that when He returned to you, He didn't leave us to flounder but sent us His Spirit to live in us and to equip us to continue the work He had begun.

Thank you for that Day of Pentecost when the Spirit became freely available to everyone who believes in Jesus and is willing to receive Him.

May we be willing Lord, willing and confident that whatever challenges life throws at us, we can face them and overcome them because you are with us and in us.

Please fill us afresh daily with your Spirit, that we may overflow with your love and peace and joy.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



And finally...

My boyfriend was working as an attendant in Canterbury Cathedral when one afternoon he was approached by two American tourists. "Are you a monk?" one of the women asked eagerly.

"No," he replied, "I wear this robe as part of my job, but I'm not a member of any religious order."

"Then where are the monks?" asked the woman, looking around.

My boyfriend explained: 'Oh, there haven't been any monks here since 1415.'

Hearing this, the woman looked at her watch and announced to her friend, 'Betty, we missed the monks.'

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 15th May for the June edition, either on paper or emailed to

psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞 815256

MAY EDITION AVAILABLE ON 27TH MAY

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 If you are unable to do your turn,
6th	Barbara Sparks	Chris Oxby	Christine Stevens and Jenny Crayford
13th	Christian Aid—Peter Stevens	Martin Hellewell	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
20th	50th Anniversery Service—Rev Catherine Pickering	Peter Stevens	Christine Stevens
20th	6.30 pm—Circuit Service at Marlow Dedication of the Easter Offering and, during the service, Margaret Newman will be recognised as a fully accredited local preacher		
27th	Reception of new member—Rev John Richey (Holy Communion)	Geraldine Nelson	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman