

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 127



September, 2018

New Beginnings!

When I got the news that I have been matched with four Churches (Cryers Hill, Downley, Holmer Green and Tylers Green) in the High Wycombe Circuit (Northampton District), in fact, my heart sank a bit. I use the words '*a bit*' because I was hoping that I would be given two Churches this time as I am approaching retirement age, having had three churches in my past two circuits.

As an itinerant Methodist Minister, I am however aware that the Church could send me to where my gifts are most needed, and that may result in me being moved out of my comfort zone. My hope is that God who has called me to His service, will guide, strengthen, and grant me the wisdom to lead and support my new congregations in the journey of faith.

What assured us (my family and I) that High Wycombe is indeed where God wants me to be now, is the great welcome and hospitality that we received when we first visited the three churches. We met with a cross-section of lovely people from the four churches and the Circuit plus the Superintendent, and the hospitality was the great

attraction, (1 Peter 4:9 states “Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling”) NIV.

I am a down-to-earth person, ready to learn and share my gifts with everyone. My initial priorities at my four Churches will be, to encourage the congregations to develop and deepen their faith, and to assist individuals in sharing that faith in a way that draws other people to God. More importantly, I hope to provide pastoral support (which I am passionate about) to my four congregations.

Getting to know my new congregations and their needs in terms of ministry will be on the top of my agenda. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:20 “We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God” (NIV). As Christians, we are all called to be ambassadors for Christ, and I hope that together we will be become good ambassadors for the Lord.

With love and every blessing

Vida

METHODISTS WELCOME CLOSER TIES

The Methodist Conference has welcomed the *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* joint report by the Methodist Church and the Church of England. The report outlines proposals for bringing the Methodist Church and the Church of England into communion with each other.

If accepted, the proposals would enable interchangeability between presbyteral ministries and see increased missional opportunities as the two churches work closer together to support the communities they serve.

The joint report has already been welcomed by the Church of England at its General Synod. The Methodist Conference asked for a further report to be brought to the 2019 Conference.

Diary and Notice Board - September 2018

COFFEE MORNING AND QUIZ

At the Church on Saturday 8th September at 10.00 am.

ANNUAL CIRCUIT COVENANT SERVICE—9TH SEPTEMBER AT 11.00AM

At John Hampden Grammar School. A Circuit Choir is being formed for this service and all who enjoy singing are invited to take part. There will be just 2 rehearsals

Thursday 6th September at 8-00 pm at Marlow

Saturday 8th September at 10-00 am at The Avenue

If you would like to take part please contact Jackie Duxbury (01628 481296 or jackie.duxbury1@btinternet.com

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

The Bible Study Fellowship will meet on Monday 17th September at 2.30 pm. Venue to be announced.

CIRCUIT MEETING

Wednesday 19th September—7.30 for 7.45pm at Marlow Bottom

PREACHERS AND WORSHIP LEADERS MEETING

Tuesday 25th September at The Avenue. 7.45 for 8.00 pm.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

For your diaries our Harvest Thanksgiving will be on Sunday 30th September and will be led by Rev Vida Foday. Our harvest gifts will be for The Whitechapel Mission (see page 6 for details of what is needed).

EVENING SERVICES

With the Circuit reorganisation taking effect from 1st September, two of the three Circuit Churches holding regular evening services are now in our Section at Holmer Green and Cryers Hill. The third church with regular evening services is at Flackwell Heath and one Sunday a month this is a 'Come and Praise' service to which all are invited. Full details of evening services at these three churches are in the Circuit Plan.

Editor: The Rev Tony Horsfall considers the inspiring story of the Thailand cave boys.

We are like the Thai boys trapped in the cave

The dramatic rescue of the boys trapped deep inside a cave in Thailand has been an inspiration around the world. That all of them could be brought out alive seemed almost beyond belief, yet because of the bravery, skill and ingenuity of their rescuers it happened. One news reporter spoke about their 'salvation', and it certainly is a remarkable illustration of the salvation that Jesus offers us.

The boys were trapped deep underground in the darkness of a flooded cave for nine days, with no way of escape and no hope of saving themselves. They were lost and cut off from the outside world, separated from their families and friends. What a picture of the condition we find ourselves in when we are separated from God because of our sin.

Help for the boys came in the form of experienced divers and skilled cave rescue teams, not just from within Thailand, but from all around the world. These brave people left what they were doing to save the boys, exposing themselves to danger and harm, and risking their lives to rescue the boys. Indeed, one Thai navy diver lost his life in the process. They entered the dark world of the cave system to search for the boys and bring them back home. It reminds us that Christ left the glory of heaven and entered the darkness of our world in order to rescue us from our spiritual plight. He took on human form and became one of us so that He might save us – and of course, it cost Him His life.

What was most striking was that, having found the boys, the rescuers then had to carefully escort each one through the floodwaters of the cave system. One diver went in front, and another came behind, while the boys had to trust completely in their rescuers during the arduous exit from the caves. Only in this way could they be saved. It reminds us again of the way in which Jesus, in bringing many sons to glory (to use a phrase from Hebrews 2:10) gently and carefully leads each one of us from the dark place of life without God into the light of His pres-

ence. He asks us to trust Him as He leads the way, and to believe that He is able to save us completely, and for all time.

The book of Hebrews uses an unusual title for Jesus. It calls Him the 'pioneer' of our salvation (2:10). The word 'pioneer' suggests one who goes before us, making a way possible where there was no way before. It suggests an adventurer, one is brave and bold and willing to risk everything to save others. In a very real sense the people who rescued the boys were pioneers, because such a rescue had never been attempted before. It was daring, dramatic and heroic. So too was the rescue mission of Jesus that brought Him into our world and took Him to the darkness of the cross at Calvary. It is what pioneers do; lay down their lives for others. It's what Jesus did for each one of us.

BIGGER IN AMERICA

We all know about the American preference for bigger cars and houses. But Americans even like their churches to be bigger. More than half of American churchgoers attend one of the 1,600 megachurches (each with at least 2,000 in attendance).

The five largest American churches are beyond imagining in a UK context:

Lakewood Church, Houston, Texas. Pastor: Joel Steen with 43,500 weekly.

North Point Community Church, Alpharet, Georgia. Pastor: Andy Stanley with 30,700 weekly.

Life. Church, Edmond, Oklahoma. Pastor: Craig Groeschel with 30,000 weekly.

Gateway Church, Southlake, Texas. Pastor: Robert Morris with 28,000 weekly.

Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, Illinois. Pastors: Steve Carter and Heather Larson with 25,750 weekly.

However, the pastors feel that while existing megachurches will continue the trend now is for simpler, more traditional expressions of worship with smaller congregations.

HARVEST GIFTS FOR THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

The gifts needed by the Mission are similar to what we regularly provide for The One Can Trust. However, at the time of writing, the Mission is desperately short of:

- Baked Beans
- Plum Tomatoes (not chopped)
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Honey
- Instant Hot Chocolate
- Toothbrushes
- Disposable Razors
- Carrier Bags
- 35mm Film Canisters or similar (used to distribute shampoo)

The Mission also needs help with:

- Breakfast Cereal
- Pepper
- Brown Sauce
- Pot Noodles
- Tea
- Nutella
- Squash
- Hand Cream
- Face Cream
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Nail clippers

No perishable goods can be accepted as our gifts will be stored until they are collected by the Mission for use over the particularly busy Christmas period.

SAYING THANK YOU FOR FOOD

Throughout this month and next, churches across the country will be having Harvest Festival Services. These often involve bringing food donations and sometimes toiletries to give to food banks or homeless charities. Often they'll be hymns and songs to say 'thank you' to God for all that He provides, every day.

This year our Harvest Service will be held on 30th September and you are most welcome to attend. In the meantime, here are some simple ways to say 'thank you' to God at home, too:

A line in the Lord's Prayer asks God to 'Give us this day our daily bread.' When we say that line, we're asking God to provide the basic things in life that keep us healthy and happy. It can start with the food we need to eat each day, but for lots of different reasons, not everyone has enough.

So saying thank you for our food is important – we might thank the person who cooked it, and we might go back further and think of the people in the shops where we bought the ingredients, and even trace it right back to the farmers who grew the crops in the first place.

Many of us have grandchildren. For children who are old enough, try talking about this together one meal time, taking each item on the plate and thinking about where it came from and all the people and work that has gone into bringing it to your table.

Saying grace before a meal is a way of saying thank you to God for making the earth and everything in it – all good things come from God, and it's up to us to use them in the very best and most generous way.

'For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful and keep us always mindful of the needs of others.'

Some families hold hands while they say grace – this reminds us that we are thankful not only for our food, but that we can share it with people we love.

(This Parish Pump article is printed with permission from Church of England Christenings).

A SIMPLE SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

Lord, our very being here today is a prayer.

By being here we say 'We love you, Lord' and appreciate all you have done in saving us from our sins.

By being here we say 'Thank you, Lord' because we are aware of all the daily blessings you shower on our lives.

By being here we say 'Use us, Lord' because we are offering ourselves again to your service, and to live for your glory.

By being here we say 'Help us, Lord' because we face many trials and temptations are in need of your grace.

By being here we say 'Change us, Lord' because we want to be more like Jesus in all we say and do.

Our being here today is a prayer Lord, whether spoken or not.

Hear us we ask, in Jesus' Name. Amen

CHINESE CHURCH GROWING – DESPITE PERSECUTION

A former house church leader, prisoner of faith, and one of the leading voices for the persecuted Church in China, Bob Fu has recently warned that the persecution of Christians in China is worsening and is now as severe as at any time since the Cultural Revolution.

Bob Fu was one of the original Chinese pro-democracy campaigners and founder of China Aid. On a recent visit to London, through the help of Release International, he said that despite the increasingly open persecution of Christians in China, the growth of Christianity there seems unstoppable. 'Under communism, Christianity has grown from one million Christians in China to an estimated 100 million today.'

Some sociologists project that the number of Chinese Christians will exceed 220 million by 2030 – making China the largest Christianised nation in the world. Meanwhile, China is arresting pastors, pulling down crosses and demolishing churches. Christian human rights lawyers claim they are being intimidated and tortured, and lawyer Li Baiguang, who had been an outspoken campaigner for religious freedom, died in suspicious circumstances this Spring. Please pray for Christians in China including Robert Moran from High Wycombe and his Chinese family.

A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: 'If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home.'

WHEN THE SUN GOES EDGEWISE – AND DAYTIME EQUALS NIGHT

23rd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere) The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.



Military men should make ideal husbands – they're in good health, they can cook, sew, and make beds, and they're already accustomed to taking orders.



A prayer for the lonely and lost

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for loving us. So many people feel lonely and isolated and unloved today. In a culture that values *I* above all things, help us to look beyond our *i*- phones and *i*- pads and *selfies*.

Help us to see with your eyes, to love with your heart; to reach out to the lost and lonely and arginalised with your compassion. Help us to reflect your Kingdom values and, by the way we live, enable your love to be experienced by all who so need you.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

And finally...

A travelling preacher took his wife to one of his appointments. She was left on her own in the church and eventually sat down in a back pew. A steward came and chatted to her, not knowing who she was but warmly welcomed her to the service.

Afterwards, as she was on her way out, the steward whispered to her confidentially: 'Let me tell you, we don't get a duffer like this in the pulpit every Sunday.'

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. Vida Foday* - ☎

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

*** 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 16th September for the October edition, either on paper or emailed to psredkite@googlemail.com or ☎815256

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,</small>
2nd Sept	Rev Nick Thompson	Chris Oxby	Christine Stevens and Jenny Crayford
9th	Circuit Covenant Service at John Hampden School (11.00 am)	/	/
16th	Local Arrangement	Geraldine Nelson	Christine Stevens
23rd	Fe'ao Vinipola	Martin Hellewell	Margaret Hallam and Rosemary Newman
20th	Harvest Thansgiving—Rev Vida Foday	Toyin Akinwale	Christine Stevens

Please pray for the Methodists everywhere at the beginning of our denominational year. Please continue to pray for Ann and Mick Burnard, Ann Dickenson, Rosemary Gillham and little Bertie (it will be several weeks before we know if his operation has achieved what was hoped)