

# Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:  
Rev. John Richey

New Series No. 126



August, 2018

## Letter to Tylers Green Methodist Church from our Superintendent Minister, Rev Nick Thompson

Dear Friends

John Wesley wrote in his Journal on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1738 when his faith was transformed utterly at the point that he realised that he trusted Jesus Christ completely for his salvation:- “An assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

John Wesley, like all of us, wrestled with very difficult feelings on his journey of faith. Although he was an ordained priest in the Church of England, he did not feel that he was truly loved and forgiven by God until this moment described so movingly in his Journal. Indeed at times he wondered whether he should even carry on preaching. But he received some good advice: “Preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith.”

Inevitably all of us go through periods of uncertainty in our faith or we find ourselves unable to get away from persistent feelings of guilt. It is encouraging to know that even a man such as Wesley

went through the same anxious times. He did not give up on his search for deeper faith. He went to listen and receive that night in Aldersgate Street even if he went “very unwillingly.” Wesley put himself in the right place to receive and found that he was given that real sense of joy and assurance for which he was looking.

None of us has to wait until we have all the answers before we can commit ourselves to a life of faith and discovery in the Church. Our faith, after all, rests not on our feelings but on the promises of our faithful God who will not let us go.

Another important part of being a Methodist is that we go through nothing in life on our own. Hardwired into our DNA is the desire to belong to something bigger and to have a feeling of real connection to each other and to God. Charles Wesley wrote of this in a hymn, “He bids us build each other up; And gathered into one, To our high calling’s glorious hope, We hand in hand go on.”

We are all part of the Body of Christ, which is an image which dates back to St Paul. Just as a human body needs all of its different parts to function and flourish, so we need to be close and caring enough to feel each other’s pain and joy.

Being a part of the Body means also that everyone has gifts to offer and we all need to discern them and use them. As Rev Vida Foday joins our Circuit Team, to be in part the Minister at Tylers Green, I pray that everyone in this Church will know a time of rich blessing in the years ahead and that together you will find new inspiration to be a people of Good News and Hope to the local community and the wider world!

God Bless

Nick

## **Diary and Notice Board - August, 2018**

**Saturday 11th—Coffee morning at 10.00 am.** A holiday themed morning, so bring your memories with you.

**Monday 13th—Bible Study Fellowship at 2.30 pm** at the Church led by Rev Angela Singleton

**Note: The welcome service for Vida (and Deacon Richard) will be at The Avenue on Friday 31st August at 7.00 pm at The Avenue Church**

### **Advance Notice: United Covenant Service for all Circuit Churches**

Sunday 8th September, 11.00 am at John Hampden School

Note: There will not be a service at Tylers Green MC that day.

### **Methodist Conference 2018**

There are copies of this year's Methodist Conference Digest available at church or you can view at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/8624/methodist-conference-business-digest-2018.pdf>

### **Did you know?**

That the last official duty John Richey had in the area was as chaplain to the police at a certain large house a few miles north of here during the visit of a certain important visitor, famous for saying one thing and claiming to mean the exact opposite.

### **Evening Services**

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

5th Rev Mike Hall—Holy Communion

12th Rev Gregory Gargrove

19th Beryl Taylor

26th Rev Mike Hall

**A coincidence is when God performs a miracle  
and decides to remain anonymous.**

## **Testimony Faith Homes**

Those of you who read the Testimony Faith Homes newsletters on the church notice board will be aware of both the wonderful work carried out by John and Esther Green amongst orphaned and/or vulnerable children in Eldoret, Kenya and of how God blesses them in the many times that money is short and the food has gone. The situation is desperate. They have managed to pay off debts accruing from February but had no money to pay salaries in June when the latest newsletter was written.

To give an idea of the help they give, in May two boys aged 3 and 5 came to them following their father's brutality. He had tried to strangle the eldest child, following their mother's desertion. They have settled in well and now have a settled home and will be able to attend the on-site school. Over the years they have cared for 406 children, all coming to them in distressful circumstances.

Every year our Christmas offerings are donated to TFH and they get support from other churches and individuals from around the world—but no help from the Nigerian authorities. We support many good causes at TGMC but I sometimes wonder about TFH and whether we could do more.

On a lighter note, John writes about having watched Prince Harry and Megan's Royal Wedding on TV and was particularly blessed by Bishop Currey's message which, he fears, was rather unexpected by the Establishment. I think so too—but what a preacher! (PS)

**Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going  
to McDonald's makes you a hamburger.**

## **Review: In order to live by Yeonmi Park**

The true story of a young girl and her family living in North Korea and their difficult escape to freedom through China is difficult but possible provided the right people can be bribed. Yeonmi was 13 but in order to go, had to pretend to be much older.

Still in North Korea and after Yeonmi's father had been imprisoned his health deteriorated. Yeonmi and her mother bribed their way into China where they hoped to find Yeonmi's sister who had already made her escape.

In China Yeonmi and her mother were caught up in a web of people trafficking and sexual exploitation and were bought and sold several times before coming into the care of missionaries who introduced them to Christianity and arranged their escape to South Korea via Mongolia. They had not found Yeonmi's missing sister but never gave up hope.

Yeonmi found the freedom of South Korea difficult to cope with at first and had no formal education. Then, largely through her own initiative and efforts she caught up academically with her age group and eventually was won a scholarship to an American university where, when working with a Christian youth organisation, she was able to go to a poor region of South America to work amongst those in desperate need.

Whilst there, Yeonmi received word from her mother that her sister was safe and had also escaped to South Korea. Her father had died by this time but the rest of the family gave permission for Yeonmi to write this book, telling her complete story including things she had not until that stage been able to share with her mother.

She became a television personality as escapees from the North always had something worth saying. Yeonmi now travels the world as a speaker and human rights advocate.

This book is a fascinating story of the moving from a world where you could not think for yourself, to freedom and a life of faith.

*Book is available but publisher has changed since my 2nd-hand copy -Peter Stevens*

## Overcoming our familiarity

Sometimes we forget what we are praying when we say The Lord's Prayer. New renderings of the prayer can breath fresh life into its meaning. This version was written by school children and is published in the current issue of the quarterly magazine Magnet.

Our father in heaven, you are awesome!  
Show us who you are and how you want us to be.  
Make earth more like heaven.  
Please give us what we need to keep going each day.  
Help us to know when we are wrong  
and clean us up from the inside.  
Help us to let other people off and move on.  
Keep us safe from bad stuff.  
You're in charge!  
You're strong and powerful and always there.  
Forever.

## And finally ...

We accompanied our son and his fiancée when they met with the priest to sign some pre-wedding ceremony papers. While filling out the form, our son read aloud a few questions. When he got to the last one, which read 'Are you entering this marriage at your own will?' he looked over at his fiancée.

'Put down "yes,"' she said.

**The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Minister: Rev. Vida Foday\* from 1st September**

**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 August for the September edition, either on paper or emailed to

psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞 815256

**JULY EDITION AVAILABLE ON 26th AUGUST**

**Note: Some items in Good-News Desk are included by subscription to**



## 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>
5th	F e'ao Vinipola	Martin Hellewell	Christine   Stevens and Jenny Crayford
12th	Rev Singa Vinipola	Geraldine Nelson	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
19th	Local Arrangement	Chris Oxby	Christine Stevens
26th	Barbara (or David) Sparks	Toyin Akinwale	Margaret Hallam and Rosemary Newman
1st September	Rev Nick Thompson (tbc)	Not yet known	Christine   Stevens and Jenny Crayford

Please pray for John and Ruth Richey, Ken and Joanne Kingston, Rev Vida Foday and Richard Goldstraw