

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:
Rev. John Richey

New Series No. 131



Mid January/February 2019

At the time this GND was being prepared, Vida was on compassionate leave. Vida sends her best wishes for the New Year to everyone.

The letter below is from Parish Pump our newsletter service

'A cold coming we had of it. Just the worst time of the year. For a journey and such a long journey.' (Journey of the Magi, T.S. Eliot).

In this poem, T.S. Eliot imagines the journey of the Magi to worship Jesus, as told in Matthew 2. This story is at the heart of our celebration of Epiphany, as we remember the astrologers from the East following a star to find the baby: *'Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.'* (Matthew 2:1,2).

The Magi provide a powerful picture of the journey we make in searching for God in our lives. Like them, it requires time and effort (they travelled for months) and will not always be easy! As they followed the star, so we are called to pursue God's light in our lives. What does this say to us at the beginning of a New Year? Are we ready to go deeper in our relationship with God? Are we looking for

new ways to use our time, treasure and talents for Him? It is a great time to offer these things to Him, and like the Magi, commit ourselves to pursue them. His light, through prayer, worship and His Word, will be our guide on the way.

T.S. Eliot used the imagined journey of the magi to reflect on his own spiritual journey. It reveals the pain and doubts he experienced on his long and troubled journey to find the light of Christ. He describes finding Christ as a *'hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death'*. Are we prepared to make this journey for ourselves?

Ten things God won't ask you when you die

God won't ask what kind of car you drove;

He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house,

He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet,

He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.

God won't ask which diet you were on;

He'll ask how many hungry people you helped to feed.

God won't ask what your highest salary was;

He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was;

He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask how many friends you had on Facebook;

He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived;

He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin;

He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Him;

He'll lovingly take you into his Kingdom, not leave you at the gates of Hell.

Notices and Diary—Jan-Feb 2019

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP in FEBRUARY: Meetings will be on Monday 4th and 18th at 2.30 pm. The venue will be 131 Cedar Avenue, Hazlemere (Rev'd Angela's home) and all are welcome.

FEBRUARY COFFEE MORNING will be on Saturday 9th at 10.00 am. Details for February will be decided at the January coffee morning and given in the Church announcements on Sundays.

FURTHER BIBLE STUDY

One of the items considered at our recent Church Council Meeting was a proposal for an additional Bible Study group. This would be held in the Church Lounge at 3.45pm on alternate Thursdays. If you are interested please see Rosemary to discuss details.

This will not take over from the Monday Bible Study Fellowship. It will be held on alternate weeks to the Monday fellowship and is intended for Bible reading and study - please don't expect tea and cakes! (That would spoil our evening meals)

Traidcraft to continue – but in ‘skinny’ version

The fairtrade pioneer Traidcraft has made radical changes in order to prevent closure.

It has slashed its product lines and kept just 12 employees. It will now focus on a core range of grocery products such as tea, coffee, and lavatory paper, and fewer handicrafts.

But it promises to still challenge the conventional market by adopting a more radical approach to labelling, and to ensuring that customers know how much money has gone to the producer of each product.

Online Bible Study

The Methodist Church has provided online Bible Study at www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/a-word-in-time/

CHURCH FINANCES

Question: Do I give weekly or weakly?

Answer: If I make up my "missed " weeks it is weekly!

The church contributes to the Circuit an annual amount at present of £15680 or £300 or so PER WEEK. That equates to £25 per person based on a congregation of 25. Need I say more?

We do, of course, receive a substantial amount of Rental income per annum but we also incur many increased costs as a result.

Question: When did I last look at the amount I give each week (not just when I attend church.) Five members, including me pay their weekly giving by direct Bank transfer on a monthly basis.

Question: How much should or could I give? As a guide nationally the churches advise purely as a guide 5% of net income. EG £5 per week on £5000 net income in total: £10 on £10000 and so on.

Please see Geraldine or Chris if you wish to discuss any aspect (in strict confidence) of your giving and any other questions you may have concerning your giving to our church.

Chris Hallam, Covenant Secretary

Note: Chris is quite right in saying that there is a need to review weekly giving and to make sure that it is given every week. We are in a somewhat fortunate position in this church in having an additional and reliable source of income from The Village Pre-School providing a huge financial cushion to church income. Many churches look upon such income as a gift from God to assist the church in continuing its work. A Methodist church in Poole, attended by former members of this church, has taken full advantage of this to provide an income stream to help repay a massive loan.

Chris's article is sound in that our giving should be regularly reviewed and should be based on what can be afforded from net disposable income.

Peter Stevens—Senior Steward

2019: Is it even possible to make a New Start?

The Christian faith teaches that a new start is endlessly possible. It is provided by a personal encounter with the risen and living Jesus Christ. He offers us the opportunity and the resources to make a new start, despite all our circumstances or failings.

The Bible records many encouraging examples of people who were able to start again after encountering Jesus. These include a woman caught in adultery who was facing execution by an outraged community, a hated tax collector named Zacchaeus who had been collaborating with the enemy, and Peter, the close friend of Jesus who publicly disowned him.

God's provision of a new start liberates people from the powerful hold that guilt, fear and memories of failure can have over a human. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus have made a way for humans to find God's forgiveness. A Christian is someone who has accepted God's forgiveness and now has the freedom to reject the old habits of bitterness, anger or revenge, like disposing of a 'shabby old coat'. Many Christians experience this as such a new beginning that they describe it as feeling like a different kind of life.

Forgiveness, however, is not the same as perfection. Although many Christians can look back to a specific time at which they made a decision to make a new start as a follower of the way of Jesus Christ, living up to a new way of being is an ongoing struggle. There is a frequent need to revisit and remember the new start. Church services almost always include a point at which worshippers are encouraged to think about recent failures, confess them, and ask for the mercy of God in absolute certainty that He will forgive.

The Bible describes God's promises of mercy as 'new every morning'. It is in the gracious nature of God that mistakes and failures are not a stick to be beaten with, but an opportunity to change into something better.

(Source: Parish Pump)

In this New Year ...

Loving God,
may the best that I have learned from the past, enrich my future;
may the mistakes I have made in the past not mar my future;
may your truth from the past be my truth for the future;
and may I grow in faith and maturity day by day, moment by moment, and know that yesterday, today, tomorrow and for ever: you are my God!
Amen.



And finally...

An old, tired-looking dog wandered into my house. Slowly he walked into the sitting room and fell asleep on the rug for an hour. The next day he was back for another nap. This daily visit and snooze continued for several weeks. Curious, I finally pinned a note to his collar: 'Are you are aware that your sweet dog comes to my house each day for a nap?'

The next day he arrived with a different note pinned to his collar: "He lives in a home with six children - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. Vida Foday— 📞 562788

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 10th February for the March edition, either on paper or emailed to psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞 815256

MARCH 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 If you are unable to do your turn,
13th Jan	Tony Cooper	Chris Oxby	
20th	Rev Vida Foday HC	Martin Hellewell	
27th	Roberta Lunt	Geraldine Nelson	
3rd Feb	Richard Goldstraw	Martin Hellewell	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
10th	Barbara (or David) Sparks	Toyin Akin Wale	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
17th	Rev Vida Foday HC	Chris Oxby	Christine Stevens
24th	Alan Crowle	Geraldine Nelson	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman