

# Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



**Minister:**  
**Rev. Vida Foday**

New Series No. 134



May, 2019

One of my favourite activities (whether as passenger or driver) is cruising down an open highway, it just fills me with joy. I consider a good country road with beautiful landscape, just a little glimpse of heaven, and I am sure I am not alone in this passion.

When one is on the road, one is somehow outside of the familiar routines, beyond the reach of the ordinary. Time itself loses its meaning and relevance. D.H. Lawrence, in praising that great American poet of the road - Walt Whitman, goes so far as to say that, "the great home of the soul is the Open Road. Not heaven, not paradise. Not 'above.' Not even 'within.' It is a wayfarer down the road." The road suspends the ordinary in such a way that the extraordinary is revealed. I think it's also why the road is so often God's chosen meeting place.

There are several accounts of the post-resurrection appearances that are quite lengthy and very detailed, but I have particular interest in two stories, firstly the Emmaus story where Jesus appeared to Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus. The two encountered the Lord, who walked, talked with them and was invited to stay over without them recognising him. "When he was at table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their

eyes were opened and they recognised him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' (Luke 24: 30-32). They then returned to Jerusalem to notify the eleven disciples of their experience.

Secondly, Saul's story on the road to Damascus. Unlike the travellers on the Emmaus Road, Saul seemed to know right where he was going. He was confident in his own righteousness and refused to admit the slightest bit of confusion or curiosity. For him, the road was narrow, and those followers of Jesus had strayed from it. His duty was clear - go to Damascus to round them up for trial. On the way God came to him 'as a blinding flash of light and a voice from the heavens'. He was struck blind and ordered to stop persecuting Jesus' followers. And the Scriptures tell us he immediately "saw the Light" and met Christ on the Damascus road, though he had never laid eyes on Jesus of Nazareth. Out on the road, Paul found grace, and found himself. Out on the road, they all found clarity, found freedom, found God, or rather, God found them.

Jesus as the risen, living Christ could be experienced anywhere and everywhere. For those of us who take the stories of the Bible seriously but not literally, these stories of resurrection, from the empty tomb to doubting Thomas to Emmaus and Damascus, are some of the most challenging aspects of our faith. As Christians we believe that without the resurrection, Christianity is meaningless so we need to grapple with these resurrection stories.

We worship a God who meets up with us, on our road, and that makes all the difference. Let us proclaim that Christ our Lord is alive and is with us now and always. Alleluia!

Every love and blessing.

Vida

# Diary and Notice Board - May, 2019

## CHANGE OF VENUE

*Monday Bible Study Fellowship on 29th April. This will be held at 131 Cedar Avenue instead of 3 Green Street.*

## COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 11th May at 10.00 am - Cookery demonstration with Polly Oxby.

## THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY is changing to WEDNESDAYS!

Meetings will be on **Wednesday 8th and 22nd May** when we will continue to study the book of Nehemiah. All are welcome, so please come and join us.

## MONDAY BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

There will be one meeting in May on the 20th at 3 Green Street at 2.20 pm. All are welcome.

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 12th following a shortened service led by our minister. The ACM will include the annual appointment of Church Stewards. Please will existing Church Stewards let me know if they are **NOT** willing to be reappointed. Equally, any **member** interested in becoming a Church Steward for vestry duties or for leadership team work or both, please let me know prior to the meeting. *Peter Stevens*

## BIBLE MONTH

This year's Bible Month will work through the New Testament letter to the Colossians and will take place on the first four weeks in June (including our church anniversary on 16th June when our invited preacher will be Peter Green). Vida, Geraldine, Rosemary and Peter recently attended a training session in preparation for Bible Month.

## **Rev. Vida will be leading worship on ... ?**

Generally, Vida will lead worship here at Tylers Green Methodist Church on the second Sunday of each month as part of an agreement between lead stewards of her four churches to ensure an even allocation of her time. On the 1st Sunday Vida will generally be at Holmer Green, the 2nd Sunday here, the 3rd Sunday at Downley and the 4th Sunday at Cryers Hill, When there is a 5th Sunday Vida may well be preaching elsewhere in the circuit which she may also be doing on the 4th Sunday morning if she is planned at Cryers Hill for their evening service.

The major festivals (Christmas and Easter for example) will be apportioned in the same way so that over a period of four years she will lead worship at each of the four churches.

The pattern is not rigid and there may be times when arrangements have to be changed. E.g. to accommodate special events (such as Circuit or Sectional services) or times when Vida is on holiday.

I have put this explanation in GND because some were pleased yet puzzled that Vida led worship here both on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Palm Sunday was the 2nd Sunday of the month (Vida's Sunday here) and Easter the 3rd. The 3rd Sunday is Downley's turn and this year it coincided with Easter when Vida led a Sunrise service on Downley Common and a 9.30 service in Downley Methodist Church. The nearest church to Downley is ours and this is likely to be the reason Vida was planned to be with us for our Easter service. I hope this clarifies matters.

Peter

## **Prayer requests**

For those who haven't heard, Chris Hallam has now been transferred to Amersham Hospital to continue treatment.

Derek, the husband of our former minister Rev Jean Holyhead has now been in hospital for six weeks following a massive stroke.

## **New Member**

We have welcomed Lil Picton into membership of our church and ask God's blessing upon her. Lil has been worshipping with us for several year's having first come into the church through our monthly coffee mornings.

## **Julian of Norwich: a voice from a distant cell**

*by Canon David Winter*

Many years ago, studying English literature at university, I was intrigued to be introduced to the work of Julian of Norwich. She was writing at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when our modern English language was slowly emerging from its origins in Anglo-Saxon and Middle English.

Our lecturer was mainly concerned with her importance in the history of the language (she was the first woman, and the first significant writer, to write in English). But I was more intrigued by the ideas she was expressing. She was an anchoress – someone who had committed herself to a life of solitude, giving herself to prayer and fasting. St Julian's, Norwich was the church where she had her 'cell'.

Her masterpiece, *Revelations of Divine Love*, reveals a mystic of such depth and insight that today up and down Britain there are hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'Julian Groups' who meet regularly to study her writings and try to put them into practise.

She is honoured this month (8<sup>th</sup>) in the Lutheran and Anglican Churches, but although she is held in high regard by many Roman Catholics, her own Church has never felt able to recognise her as a 'saint'. This is probably because – over 600 years ago! – she spoke of God as embracing both male and female qualities. *Revelations* is an account of the visions she received in her tiny room, which thousands of pilgrims visit every year.

Her most famous saying, quoted by T S Eliot in one of his poems, is 'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well' – words that have brought comfort and strength to many a soul in distress.

## Looking up into Heaven

The Church remembers the Ascension this month – when Jesus went back up into heaven. But where is heaven? How will we experience it?

The Bible is clear that Christians can expect a personal, conscious life after death. It is clear that heaven is NOT some wispy, anaemic realm with a few clouds floating around, but as real as oceans and suns, winds and planets. The Bible tells us that the triumph of Christ over dark powers will release the cosmos from sin's bondage (Rom. 8.21) and we will become more, not less, embodied. Heaven will be physically perfect, sparkingly alive, and stunningly beautiful.

The apostle Paul called the present “whole creation” as groaning like a woman in labour, waiting to be delivered. Those who believe in Jesus have the “first-fruits of the Spirit” and can expect bodily redemption and sharing the glory of the risen Lord (Rom. 8:15-25). The apostle Peter spoke of “a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness”. (2 Pet. 3.13).

For Jesus's triumph over death signals our own victory. Death is not the last word, life is! And it will be life that is personal, conscious continuation beyond death.

And best of all, we will be with the risen Jesus (Phil 1.23) and see Him face to face. He promised: “I will take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also.” (Jn 14.3)

## Wycombe Sharing of Faiths

Wycombe Sharing of Faiths has come to an end after 38 years of working together across faiths in High Wycombe. Funds left in their bank account are being equally shared between Wycombe Refugee Partnership and Wycombe Homeless Connection.

**Grass Cutting—volunteer mowers needed urgently. Please make your commitment on the rota on the notice board.**

## **A good question!**

A little Swedish girl was walking with her father one night under the starry sky, gazing intently up at the glories of heaven. At last she said: “If the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what will the right side be like?”

## **24<sup>th</sup> May - John & Charles Wesley: Let's Sing a Hymn**

*by Canon David Winter*

In 24th May the Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John's great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He actually wrote over 6,000, most of which aren't sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – ‘Love divine, all loves excelling’, ‘O for a thousand tongues to sing’. ‘Jesu lover of my soul’, ‘Hark the herald angels sing’ – and scores more.

40 years ago almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that's no longer true. Traditional hymns aren't usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for ‘Songs of Praise’ on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are over 50.

With only about ten per cent of the population even irregular church-goers there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is ‘Jerusalem’ and ‘Amazing Grace’, because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing ‘Bread of heaven’! It seems a pity to lose it.

It's not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think what is your favourite hymn, and why – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience.

*Editor: Nigel Beeton pays tribute to church magazine editors.  
I don't have the problems referred to in the 3rd verse. Items for GND generally come when I ask for them and Vida's letter is sometimes received before I ask! I do know of churches where their magazine editors really do have regular 'battles to be won'. So thank you Geraldine, Chris, Rosemary and others who provide regular information for me to include. And if you—yes, YOU, have something you would like to have included, please let me know.*

Peter

### **Duty Done (For this month)**

Sitting there, on Sunday morning,  
Congregations in their pews  
Read their magazines, informing  
Them of all the latest news.

All save one who sits there smiling –  
She knows that journal very well  
Having spent a month compiling –  
She knows what those pages tell!

6

She it was who, deadlines facing  
Got those varied items in  
Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing  
Each a battle she must win!

Though she earns no princely wages  
Though she gladly gives her time  
Efficiently she fills those pages  
Choosing pictures, prose, and rhyme.

So she sits, her rest deserving  
For this month her duty's done  
Maybe she's just strength conserving –  
Soon she starts another one!

# The Inexperienced Gardener

A vicar, from Islington way,  
Permitted his rose to decay.  
His wife, with more vigour  
Bought a hose with a trigger  
And said to her spouse, "let us spray!"

*By Nigel Beeton*

## International Dawn Chorus Day 2019 – 5<sup>th</sup> May

This popular annual event is promoted by the Wildlife Trust and is the perfect opportunity for all nature lovers to gather at dawn to enjoy the song of their local birds. Nowadays Dawn Chorus Day is celebrated in more than 80 countries, and even in parts of Antarctica and the Caribbean. For details of how to find a local gathering, or how to hold your own, go to: <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/international-dawn-chorus-day-2019/>



Thought for the month

Christ was taken up into heaven, not to enjoy blessed rest at a distance from us, but to govern the world for the salvation of all believers.

John Calvin



"The vicar's looked at the weather forecast and is preparing us for another roof-appeal."

## 30th May is Ascension Day

Hail the day that sees him rise  
To his throne above the skies;  
Christ, a while to mortals given,  
Re-ascends his native heaven.

Charles Wesley



### And finally...

#### Epitaphs found on headstones

*In London:*

Here lies Ann Mann  
Who lived an old maid  
But died an old Mann.

*In Hartscombe:*

On the 22nd of June  
Jonathan Fiddle  
Went out of tune.

*In Wimbourne:*

John Penny  
Reader if cash thou art in want of any  
Dig four feet deep and thou wilt find a penny.

*In Pennsylvania:*

Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake  
Stepped on the gas  
Instead of the brake.

*In Maryland:*

Here lies an Atheist  
All dressed up, and no place to go.

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Minister: Rev. Vida Foday\* - 📞 562788** (Vida's day off is Friday)

**Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson\* and Chris Oxby\***

**Senior Church Steward/LP : 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](mailto: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 15th May for the for the June edition, either on paper or emailed to [psredkite@googlemail.com](mailto: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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preacher/Service Details</b>	<b>Vestry Steward</b>	<b>Org</b>	<b>Welcome Stewards</b> If you are unable to do your turn, <u>please arrange cover!</u>
5th May	David Carter (from St Margaret's)	Peter Stevens	Yes	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
12th	Rev Vida Foday	Geraldine Nelson	No	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
19th	Rev Gregory Hargrove	Toyin Akinwale	No	Christine Stevens
26th	Pam Sweet	Martin Hellewell	Yes	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman

### **Please pray for**

Chris and Margaret and their family, Jean and Derek Holyhead and their family.

The families of those who lost their lives in the Colombo bomb attacks and for all those injured in the explosions.

For all our politicians in these fraught times and the need for them to find ways of working together to find solutions.