

# Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:  
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 136



July, 2019

*Summer suns are glowing  
over land and sea,  
happy light is flowing,  
bountiful and free.  
Everything rejoices  
in the mellow rays,  
all earth's thousand voices*

*swell the psalm of praise. By William Walsham How (1871)*

I used to love this hymn that was often sung at my Secondary School Assemblies. I am sure that we all have fond memories of our School days.

It is said that sometimes our minds run back through the years and yearn for that better time and place – the “good old days”; but for some, the past harbours only bitter memories. Summertime is the time when life is a bit different, when we try to slow down just a bit and get in touch with ourselves and with nature. In doing so, we also have the opportunity to get in touch with the re-creation of God.

According to David Roper, It's better to remember the past as David did by contemplating the good that God has done, to “meditate on all (His) works,..... and reflect on the world of His hands”. (Ps. 143:5). As

we call to mind the loving-kindness of the Lord, we can see His blessings through the years. These are the memories that foster the highest good. They bring to mind a deep longing for more of God and more of His tender care. They transform the past into a place of familiarity and fellowship with our Lord.

The story is told in an old edition of “Our Daily Bread” about an elderly woman who would sit in silence for hours in her rocking chair, hands folded in her lap, eye gazing off into the far distance. One day her daughter asked, “Mother, what do you think about when you sit there so quietly?” Her mother replied softly with a twinkle in her eye, “That’s just between Jesus and me.”

It is our prayer that our memories and meditations would draw us into the Lord’s presence.

Have an enjoyable summer while it lasts, but in everything you do – remember to place Christ at the centre of it!

With love and every blessing!

Vida

## **CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**

I just want to say how much I appreciated the 51st Anniversary Service on 16th June. Peter Green’s personal reflections on the earliest days of our church included the fact that he was passing in 1968 when the stone laying service and ceremony took place and he stopped to see what was going on. (Angela Davis was among those who were there for the service and ceremony). Peter preached here for the first time at 7pm on 10th November 1968.

Peter challenged us to bring things up to date by reflecting on how well we were fulfilling what as a church should be doing today both in terms of inward growth and in the community. Peter used three short New Testament readings to remind us what Jesus asks of us and of how the early church got things going aided by the Holy Spirit and encouraged by Paul. Much to think and pray about.

We were smaller in number but were joined for lunch by Chris and Catherine Green and we enjoyed some wonderful food prepared by members and friends. PS

## Diary and Notice Board - July, 2019

**MONDAY BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP** will meet on the following dates in July:

**1st** @ 2.30 pm at the home of Rev'd Angela Singleton and

**15th** @ 2.30 pm at Rosemary's home - when we will continue with our study of 1 Peter

**On the 29th** we will be in the Church Lounge @ 2.30 pm for our summer meeting. All are welcome to join us for fellowship and a cream tea. Please do come along - it will be an enjoyable afternoon as are all our meetings. Rev'd Angela continues to lead our studies which we appreciate very much.

### **COFFEE MORNING: Saturday 13th July at 10.00 am**

Our speaker will be Fiona Castle, Roy Castle's widow. Fiona will be talking about her life - a very interesting and amazing one! *(I know this will be a lovely morning - I was at Holy Trinity Penn in January when Fiona spoke about her life with Roy and the work she has done since - Rosemary)*

There will also be a sale of greeting cards.- some folk will know Patsy Graham who sells 'Flamingo' cards. A percentage of the sales will be donated to a charity of our choice which is Action for Children.

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** (previously Thursday Bible Study) will meet in the Church Lounge on **24th July at 3.45 pm**. Apologies to all who come for having to postpone recent meetings. We are continuing to study Nehemiah which is proving to be very interesting. If you haven't been to previous meetings, please do come along as we will recap on our earlier studies.

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK RESULTS**

Pew Collection    £158.00

Church donation    £ 50.00

Total                    £208.00

Thanks who all who donated so generously.

## **People can be creative – enjoy this about the BIBLE!**

I went to GENESIS hotel through EXODUS road. On the way, I saw LEVITICUS recording the NUMBERS of people at DEUTERONOMY, while JOSHUA was waiting at the Beautiful gate for JUDGES to see RUTH call loudly “SAMUEL, SAMUEL”. At a stage, the FIRST and SECOND KINGS of CHRONICLES 1&2, were coming to visit EZRA, NEHEMIAH and ESTHER for the misfortune of JOB their brother. They started singing PSALMS and teaching children PROVERBS concerning ECCLESIASTES and SONGS OF SOLOMON.

This coincided with the period that ISAIAH was engaged in JEREMIAH’S LAMENTATIONS together with EZEKIEL and DANIEL their friends. By that time, AMOS and OBADIAH were not around. Three days later, HOSEA, JOEL and JONAH travelled in the same ship with MICAH and NAHUM to Jerusalem. HABAKKUK then visited ZEPHANIAH, who introduced him to HAGGAI a friend of ZECHARIAH whose cousin is MALACHI.

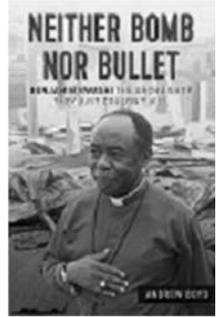
Immediately after the tradition, MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN got involved in ACTS and ROMANS who were behaving like the 1<sup>st</sup> CORINTHIANS group because the 2<sup>nd</sup> CORINTHIANS group were always at loggerheads with the GALATIANS. At that time too, they realised that the EPHESIANS and PHILIPPIANS were close to the COLOSSIANS, and a suggestion for the FIRST THESSALONIANS visit was made, and that on their SECOND THESSALONIANS visit, they should first of all see the FIRST AND SECOND of the TIMOTHY brothers who had gone to the house of TITUS to teach PHILEMON, his younger brother, how to read and write in HEBREW. On hearing this, JAMES asked PETER twice to explain to him how the THREE JOHNS have disclosed to JUDE the REVELATIONS of this journey.

*(A friend sent the above to me and thought I would share - Vida)*

### **National ‘Don’t Step on a Bee’ Day is on 10th July**

This annual day encourages people to protect and encourage their local bees. For ideas of how you can best help the bees in your garden, visit: [www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/dont-step-on-a-bee-day-2019/](http://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/dont-step-on-a-bee-day-2019/)

**Neither Bomb Nor Bullet: Benjamin Kwashi, the Archbishop they just couldn't kill** By Andrew Boyd, Monarch, £9.99



In the warzone that Nigeria has become, Archbishop Ben Kwashi has survived three assassination attempts. A brutal assault on his wife, Gloria, drove him to his knees - to forgive and find the strength to press on. Islamist militants have Nigeria in their sights.

These are the terrorists who kidnapped hundreds of Christian schoolgirls - who have vowed to turn Africa's most populous nation into a hard-line Islamic state. Their plan is to drive the Christian minority from the north by kidnapping, bombing and attacking churches. Plateau State is on the frontline.

But holding that line against Boko Haram, and standing firm for the Gospel, is Ben Kwashi, the Anglican Archbishop of Jos. In Jos, churches have been turned into fortresses and Archbishop Ben now conducts more funerals than weddings and baptisms put together.

Yet his faith grows ever more vibrant. He has adopted scores of orphans who live in his home, including many who are HIV positive. And the challenge of his message - to live for the Gospel even in the face of terror - has never been so timely.

Your Editor has just received the weekly notice sheet from Wesley Methodist Church. It contained the following:

**TEN WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH**

1. Attend Regularly
2. Give Generously
3. Love Radically
4. Bring Others consistently
5. Volunteer Joyfully
6. Share Jesus willingly
7. Fellowship purposely
8. Show up energetically
9. Pray fervently
10. Encourage Faithfully

*Editor: Tony Horsfall reflects on the strong quiet folk who keep our churches going...*

## **In praise of stalwarts**

In the church I belong to we recently suffered two deaths in quick succession. Two of our older members (both in their eighties) passed away within a short time of each other, and we will miss them dearly.

Doreen was with us from when we first started the church some 27 years ago. The matriarch of a large family, she was quiet and unassuming, yet deep in her faith and she never missed a Sunday. Kath was full of life, a woman of prayer who witnessed keenly to anyone she met, and whose constant prayer was for revival. They will leave a huge gap in our fellowship, because they were both 'stalwarts'.

'Stalwart' is a Scottish word usually applied to someone who is physically strong, hardy, robust and courageous. It is used nowadays to describe someone who is loyal and reliable, hard-working and deeply committed to a cause, especially over a long period of time. At the same time, it may give a slight suggestion of someone who is not very exciting, even a little boring because they never seek the limelight or do anything particularly dramatic.

Most churches would not function without a good number of stalwarts because they are foundational people. They are the ones we all rely on to do the jobs that need doing without fuss. They are always there, and we can depend on them, but it is easy to take them for granted. And that is the danger.

Stop and think for a moment about the stalwarts you know. Who are they? How can you encourage and appreciate them? And if you are a stalwart yourself, don't undervalue your contribution. You are vital to your church's stability.

## Early May Bank Holiday 2020

I have just learned through my professional association that HM Government has commendably decided to move the Early May Bank Holiday in 2020 from Monday 4th to Friday 8th May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. So, if you have a diary that extends that far ....

Peter Stevens

Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the benefits of a holiday.

### Holy Days or Holidays?

Some porters were hired to carry a group's possessions on a trip through the jungle. The pace quickly increased until the head porter called a halt: 'We've come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'

How often do we feel like this? July is a month when many of us take a break. Jesus and His disciples often took time to withdraw from the crowds: 'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' (Mark 6: 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break from their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday or taking time off gives us an opportunity of letting go the burdens of everyday life and renewing our rest in Him. This enables us to entrust Jesus with our issues and concerns, as we take time aside declare a holy day or holiday!

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, 'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'. John replied, 'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'

*Editor: Nigel Beeton writes: 'In Acts 10:9-16 we read of how Peter went up on a roof to pray and, while doing so, was shown a vision of all kinds of food specifically banned in Leviticus. God, of course, was preparing Peter for ministry to the Gentiles, starting with Cornelius, but the lesson about God cutting through our prejudices is a very valuable one.*

*I'm not sure if God uses sarcasm as depicted in verse three, but then He does use rather heavy irony, such as in his dealings with Job. Perhaps God needs to show me a vision of curbing my tendency to see the funny side of things!'*

## **Peter's Vision**

Peter knelt upon a roof –  
He'd gone up there to pray;  
He'd gone to seek his Father's face  
In the middle of the day.  
He saw a sheet of dodgy food  
And heard an angel say,  
"I know you're hungry, Peter, so  
Come, eat your fill today!"

**6**

But Peter gazed with horror at  
This gift of food, divine;  
Filled with things he mustn't eat  
Like birds, and prawns, and swine.  
"I can't eat that!" he said to God,  
"Leviticus' line:  
"I may not eat this kind of stuff  
"Not now, nor any time!"

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This drew a sharp response from God,  
“Who do you think you are?  
“What food did you expect, perhaps  
“A bowl of caviar?  
“A champagne sorbet? Quails’ eggs?  
“And then a nice cigar?  
“No! Food that I’ve declared is good  
“You have no right to bar!”

So help us Father, as we seek  
Your guidance from above;  
Our prejudices, fears, and sins –  
Those may you rid us of!  
But may your Holy Spirit come  
Upon us, like a dove  
That we may very clearly see  
The visions of your love.

*Nigel Beeton*



### Thought for the month

**Keep praying but be thankful  
that God's answers are wiser  
than your prayers! -**

*William Culbertson*

The rector had been unwell and a parishioner asked his housekeeper how he was. She replied: "It's his head you know, it's been on and off all the week."



## Childlike in simplicity

Forgive us, Lord, that as we grow to maturity, our faith is blighted with doubts, withered with worry, tainted with sophistication. We pray that you will make us like children again in faith – not childish, but childlike in the simplicity of a faith that is willing to trust you even though we cannot see what tomorrow will bring.

*Written by Peter Marshall. He immigrated to the United States from Scotland, trained as a Presbyterian minister, and in 1947 was made chaplain to the United States Senate.*

## From a letter to the minister

Please pray for all the airline pilots on Sunday. I am flying to California on Monday. Laurie. Age 10.



### And finally...

Two ministers who were strangers to each other were seated next to each other on their flight. They were recognisable by their dog collars and one of the ministers thought that it would be a good conversation starter to ask the other a somewhat controversial theological question.

“Do you believe in infant baptism” he asked.

The other one replied, “Believe in it? I’ve seen it done.”

# 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**

### Communion Stewards

**Angela Davis — 📞 671836**

**Rosemary Newman — 📞 461492**

**Jenny Crayford — 📞 812546**

**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: Rosemary Newman— 📞 461492 and Christine Stevens - 📞815256**

**Property : Peter Stevens— 📞815256**

\* Church Leadership Team

## Church Premises

Please mention anything requiring attention to any of the  
Property Stewards: Peter and Christine Stevens,  
Martin Hellewell or Rosemary Newman.

## ITEMS FOR THE AUGUST GOOD NEWS DESK TO PE- TER BY 15TH JULY PLEASE

We are grateful to Parish Pump for providing some of the content of  
Good News Desk



## 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> <small>If you are unable to do your turn <u>please arrange cover!</u></small>
<b>7th July</b>	<b>Peter Stevens</b> (the last in the Bible Month series on Colossians)	Martin Hellewell	Yes	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
<b>14th</b>	<b>Rev Vida Foday—Holy Communion</b>	Toyin Akinwale	Yes	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
<b>21st</b>	<b>Songs of Praise LA led by Geraldine Nelson</b>	Geraldine Nelson	Yes	Christine Stevens
<b>28th</b>	<b>Rev Gregory Hargrove</b>	Chris Oxby	No	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman

### **Please pray for**

Martin and Hazel Hellewell and family, following the death of Martin's mother. For Chris and Margaret Hallam as Chris continues his slow improvement. For all those planning holidays in the near future including our minister who will be in Ghana for the month of August.