

# Mickleover Methodist Church Magazine



Supper at Emmaus by Roy de Maistre

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I am he who lives, and was dead, and behold ,  
I am alive for evermore.

Revelation 1:18

April 2018

## **Mickleover Methodist Church**

The Mission of Mickleover Methodist Church is to develop a church family which is continually growing in Christian faith, worship and outreach so that all may know the love of God through Christ.

**Minister:**            **Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse M.Th.**  
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Barbara & Geoff Smout

***Thanks to all who contribute articles for the magazine  
Keep them coming in please.***

At present there is no charge for the magazine  
but a small donation would be appreciated.

**Items for the May 2018 magazine by  
Sunday 15th April  
please to Liz Royle via the Church Office or Church  
Magazine email address .above.**

# Services in April 2018

**Sunday School, Beginners Group and Crèche  
meet every Sunday morning at 10.00am  
Refreshments are available after Sunday morning service**

## **Sunday 1st April Easter Day**

8.00am - Holy Communion - Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse  
10.00am Morning worship - Holy Communion  
Revd Chris Briggs - District Mission Enabler  
The Methodist Church Nottingham and Derby District  
6.30pm Evening worship - Holy Communion  
Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

## **Sunday 8th April**

10.00am Morning worship - Rita Wright  
10.00am Spark to a Flame in Large Hall  
6.30pm Evening worship - Jenny Kilgour

## **Sunday 15th April**

10.00am Morning worship - Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse  
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Neil Draper

## **Sunday 22nd April**

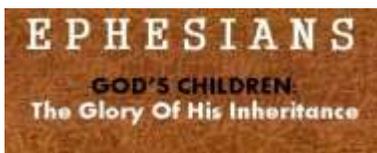
10.00am Morning worship - Revd Gareth Higgs  
6.30pm Evening worship - Holy Communion -  
Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

## **Sunday 29th April**

10.00am Morning worship - Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse  
6.30pm Evening worship - Easter Offering Service

*Please remember all the preachers in your prayers, as they  
prepare and conduct their services in churches  
in this Circuit during this month*

From The Manse



## **The Great Inheritance**

*" . . . because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan."* Ephesians 1:11

These are some of the most comforting words in all of the Holy Bible, for the Holy Spirit is speaking through the great Apostle Paul not only to the first followers of Jesus Christ to whom this letter was written but to all who will ever become His followers.

Easter is always a season of death and life. Of endings and beginnings. Of despair and hope. Christ dies and resurrects three days later to provide for humanity what it could not, and cannot, provide for itself – eternal life, gifted to believers for a perpetual inheritance.

The chief message in Ephesians 1:11 (and you could read the first 14 fourteen verses to gain the full picture) is that long before God made the world, God had prepared a special inheritance and reserved it for all those who will be His people.

In order to receive this inheritance people would have to become sons and daughters of God by living holy and blameless lives, which is impossible for sinful humanity. The only way that that could be possible would be for someone else to give them the ability to do so. An inheritance is usually passed from parents to children. For this inheritance to pass from God to humanity, they would have to be adopted as His sons and daughters.

And God in His love, made arrangements for this to be done through His only Son Jesus Christ. This He did through His death on the Cross, shedding His blood to offer the perfect and only acceptable sacrifice for humanity's sinfulness, followed by His victory over death and resurrection.

Through that sacrifice forgiveness is now made available to humanity. Those who hear the Gospel and believe in Jesus Christ receive this forgiveness from God, and they are redeemed and adopted as sons and daughters of God.

And right there and then, in that moment of hearing the Gospel and believing in Jesus Christ, they are forgiven of their sins, they are adopted as sons and daughters of God, and they are enrolled into the inheritance.

They also receive the Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee that they will come into possession of the inheritance in full when they die. That is why the reading says they are *identified* by the Holy Spirit. That is, they are *stamped, sealed, marked* and *branded* as belonging to the family of God to whom the inheritance should come.

So when believers die, it is actually a relocation to the place of the inheritance, a retirement from labour into rest, a removal from poverty to prosperity, a release from pain to health, and a rescue from bondage to freedom. And we are talking here about everlasting rest, everlasting prosperity, everlasting health, everlasting freedom. This is the inheritance planned by God even before He made the world for all who will hear the Gospel and believe in His Son Jesus Christ.

Beloved, it is well worth thinking about because we are talking here about time here on earth which is very short, and time after life on earth (eternity) which is endless. But more specifically we are talking about an eternity for which we must make preparation because we all must leave this earth someday. There is no life so long that it can live here on earth forever. Because even the earth itself as we know it will be packed up and taken away someday and replaced with a completely new earth.

So, life here is a very brief thing. The Scriptures are filled with this teaching. But I will mention just three. Firstly, the Apostle Peter writes, "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever."

1Peter 1:24-25a. Secondly, the Psalmist writes, "As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more." Psalm 103:15-16. And, thirdly, James writes, "What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." James 4:14



It has always been God's intention and plan even before He made the world that we would make our exit from this brief life of pain and sorrow for an eternal inheritance as His adopted sons and daughters in Christ Jesus – and only in Christ Jesus. So I ask you, beloved, Do you have this hope yourself? Do you know that when you die you will be entering into that inheritance? Do you know yourself to be an adopted son or daughter of God?

But the great thing right now is that you too could ask God to adopt you today as His son, as His daughter, through the only One who is able to do so – His only Son Jesus Christ. You too could ask God to forgive you today and redeem you through the only means of redemption that He has provided – the blood of His only Son Jesus Christ. You too could ask God to make you a follower of the only One who could show you the way to this inheritance – His only Son Jesus Christ.

And you would be sure – as surely as day follows night, and spring follows winter – that when your allotted days here on earth are up, and death comes to fetch you, as it must for everyone, you would be sure of this one thing: that you would be going to your inheritance prepared by God for all those who will hear the Gospel of salvation and believe in His one and only Son, Jesus Christ – the only One who is able to adopt you as a son or daughter of God.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave makes this possible. And this is what we celebrate at Easter.

*In His Grace*  
Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

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The Magazine team wish you  
a joyful and peaceful Easter  
as we celebrate the risen  
Christ

## Church Finances

It is a little while ago now that I wrote to all of you to bring to your attention the cost of employing our Children and Families worker. I also highlighted the need for us all to review our giving to the Church on a regular basis.



At Mickleover, we feel that we are at an important stage in our development and involved in exciting times; we are a very active church with a vision to share our faith with the local community. Bold initiatives such as the appointment of a new leadership team and hopefully the continued employment of a Children and Families Worker may take a number of years before we are aware of the outcome of the efforts made.

We recognise that all this takes time, effort and particularly money. We have always been fortunate in having strong and stable finances which have been sufficient to cover not only our own needs but to be able to contribute a major share to the Circuit through the Assessments, to donate to many other good causes and maintain our wonderful premises to a very high standard.

We utilise whatever means we can to maximise our income through the renting of the premises, gift aid and appropriate fundraising, but at the end of the day over 90% of our income is from yourselves either through Standing Orders, the Envelope Scheme or by donations on the collection plate.

There will be changes in some people's personal circumstances that will make the next few years more challenging than in recent times. Over the last year we have lost a number of our members for different reasons. Other people have faced a change in circumstances which have forced them to review their regular contribution to the Church. This has resulted in a loss of income of approximately £11,000 each year including gift aid. Our Church cannot afford to lose that kind of income for a sustained period of time which is the reason why I am writing this item in the magazine. Our offertories **will not be sufficient** to meet our needs especially as our overall costs will continue to rise.

All we can do is to ask that we all prayerfully consider the amount that we are able to give to the church. We thank you for whatever you are able to donate but it is possible that the amount you give by standing order or by the envelope scheme has not been revised for some time and that maybe an increase is possible. To those of you who have recently increased your giving, we thank you.

Thank you for taking time to read this article and we pray that by our actions through the giving of our time and money, the work and witness of Mickleover Methodist Church will continue to bear fruit.

This article has been written on behalf of and with the approval of the Church Council.

John Spray  
Church Treasurer



## **IT'S FUNNY YOU SAY THAT.**

During the few days before writing this article, our television screens and newspapers have been inundated with tributes to both Stephen Hawking and Ken Dodd. Professor Hawking was given a couple of years to live about fifty years ago and in spite of a crippling disease became one of the greatest scientists of all time. I also read in one publication that Ken Dodd should have died ten years ago but that God couldn't get him to leave the stage! Both of these people were geniuses in their own fields and will both be remembered for their own particular gifts.

I once had the privilege of seeing Doddy at the Assembly Rooms at a 2pm matinee performance. At 7.30 he was still going strong and the audience for the next show was waiting to come in. Apparently, their performance went on into the early hours of the morning. An overwhelming sense was that here was a man enjoying what he did, sharing fun and laughter with other people. There is something wonderful when people laugh together, and it makes the world a much more enjoyable place in which to live.

I once worked for a lovely man who seemed to have no sense of humour whatsoever, and in the seven years I knew him I only heard him laugh once, and that was when I nearly injured myself lifting a heavy box! One April the first he was given a note to phone a certain number and ask to speak to the chairman of the Lions' Club. He did not understand why the number he had been given was for Knowsley Safari Park, and kept demanding to speak to the chairman of the

Lions until the lady at the other end pointed out the date. Like Queen Victoria, he was not at all amused.

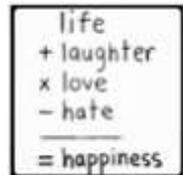
A few weeks ago, I was taking a service and was informed by the steward at the end of the service that he had been told by a Reverend gentleman that a preacher was only allowed a maximum of one humorous comment per sermon. He then pointed out that I had probably used up my quota for the next six months! Although we had a good chuckle about this, it did make me wonder whether I should perhaps adopt a different preaching style. I remember reading about a little girl who said, “We don’t laugh much in church because God didn’t tell many jokes”, and I thought that this was rather a sad state of affairs. As I look round the world and the people in it, I believe that God does have a sense of humour, and that in the person of Jesus, when telling the parables, there is an underlying humour in them as he pokes fun at the establishment and deflates the pompous. Like most humour, however, it loses something in the translation over the centuries.

Being a preacher, I see so many funny things happening in the congregation and sometimes things go wrong which can cause a smile or two. I love it when technology goes wrong and only puts the chorus to the first verse and so the congregation are trying to sing the third verse to the tune of the chorus which has a completely different metre, or the words and music are incompatible. I once preached in a church undergoing modernisation and the organist was isolated up in the roof space. When the PA system packed in I had to announce the hymn and bang on the wall behind the pulpit to start the music. I have to chuckle when, gasping for

a drink, I notice that the water glass has pond-life growing on the surface. I love it when children take an active part in services and not always in the right place, or when at the start of the address, they reach in a pocket for some piece of technology and put on their headphones. They must be telling me something that the adults are too polite to mention!

I have pondered a great deal about humour in religion and come to the conclusion that the older a religion is, the greater the sense of humour associated with it. The Jewish people are noted for their very perceptive and self-mocking humour and within Christianity there is an ability to laugh at ourselves. I think that the older a religion is, the more secure it feels and the more able to laugh at foibles. The more recent religions, maybe, do not have this security and so feel that they must take themselves absolutely seriously at all times.

Laughing at someone can be cruel and divisive, although at times it is needed to blunt the edge of anger. Laughing with someone, and at ourselves, can be a wonderfully liberating experience, and I have experienced some great times in our church fellowship where we have enjoyed a time of fun together.



Sometimes it can be difficult to laugh, and at times heartbreaking. I remember my mother in law (this sounds like Les Dawson about to make an appearance!), who planned her funeral to the Nth degree except for the eulogy which she told me that I had to do with the instruction that if I did not make the congregation laugh she would come back to haunt me! Well, that was a difficult task, but I must have succeeded to some degree as I've not seen her recently.

Humour is a large part of our lives, and as such I think that it can also be a part of our church life, and has a place in some of our services where appropriate. Some congregations do find it hard to crack a smile occasionally but, in most cases, when they realise that to laugh in church does not cause the roof to collapse, or result in thunderbolts being thrown, they can be drawn into understanding that profound truths can be explained and illustrated through humour.

So – what do you think? Is there a place for humour in our church, and does God have a sense of humour? I certainly hope so otherwise I am in big trouble!

I close by quoting Ken Dodd “Happiness, happiness – the greatest gift that I possess” – well perhaps not THE greatest gift, but it certainly ranks well up in my top ten.

Phil Royle

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You are invited to **PRAYER TIME**

At Church

Alternate Saturdays

At 8am for one hour

14th and 28th April

If you are unable to come,  
please join in prayers wherever you are

## Main points from February 2018 Church Council

**Opening Devotions:** hymn 395, 'Spirit of the living god', the reading of Hebrews chapter 6 v10 and prayer.

Order for the CCTV cameras had been placed and a fitting date was awaited.



**Church Council Constitution:** Dot Thompson be appointed as Secretary to the Pastoral Team. All other principle members of Church Council agreed to continue in their present positions.

**Finance;** the loss of a number of standing orders recently for different reasons will amount to a loss of income of approximately £11,000 per year. The Treasurer urged everyone to review their giving on a regular basis

Church Council approved the Annual report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The Treasurer also tabled a paper at the request of the Auditor on Charity governance, finance and resilience. This would be discussed in detail by the Business team and the Leadership team when in place.

Update on building work: A feasibility study is being prepared by the architects which they hope to submit by the end of February 2018.

Children & Families Worker – update the expertise of a Children and Families Worker to support the Leadership team would be advisable and that this should be seriously considered.

Navigating Change: work to be assessed. There will be a review of the year in terms of how groups are moving forward . Research will be carried out to keep on top of what is happening and to keep things 'ticking over' with Churches Together and Our Mickleover activity

**Pre-school:** The meeting received Michelle's resignation from the post of Chair of Pre-school Management. Michelle has held this post for eight years and will be missed. Her work has been greatly appreciated.

### **Discussion on the Church Council Vision and Strategy:**

The Leadership Stewards will be working with groups in the Church, the Stewards will be the Vestry Team making sure that things keep ticking over on Sundays, particularly to see that worship goes ahead. The Fellowship Steward will make sure that things take place.



It was agreed that there would be an Extra Ordinary Church Meeting on 15 April when all Church Members will be able to vote for the new Leadership Stewards. The vote will take place at the end of the morning service. There will also be an opportunity for Church Members who only attend evening services to take part in the vote.

A nomination pack has been prepared for people interested in becoming Leadership Stewards

Packs will go out to Church Members and all who attend, to make sure everyone is brought up to date. There will be a simplified form about what the Leadership Team is and what is involved in becoming a Leadership Steward. Everyone needs to be involved in encouraging people to become Leadership Stewards.

**Annual General Meeting 23 May 2018** - Until the Leadership Team are ready to take over the roles for which they are elected the current Stewards will still be in place. Church Stewards be elected at the AGM in order to give continuity until the Leadership Stewards have settled in and are ready to take over. The Leadership Stewards, once elected are carrying out their duties on behalf of Church Council which has responsibility for the Church.

## .. Messy Church

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 60+ people of all ages were worshipping in church. Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Children and us, the Messy Church Team. Our theme was Jesus is Alive! We decided that as we can't fit in a Messy Church in April due to school holidays and the Easter Bank Holiday we should celebrate Easter a bit early as it's important for our Messy Church families to have the chance to experience this amazing story.

We started off with some vigorous games and then into a lively action song. Still in excited mode we smashed (well made a small hole in!) a papier-maché Easter Egg to reveal sweets which we carefully gathered up to be handed out at home time. This was related to the horrible things which happened to Jesus on Good Friday, but by His resurrection God showed His love for us, which we need to share with others.

We heard the Easter morning bible reading of the stone rolled away and then watched a cartoon video telling us the whole Easter Story, and telling us how Jesus took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. It was amazing how quiet 30+ children can be. Our prayers were linked to one of our activities, an Easter Garden. We finished with another lively song 'He's Alive'.

Our activities included Easter gardens, Easter biscuits, lego models and decorated crosses.

We all sat down to jacket potatoes, beans and cheese followed by jelly and ice cream or apple strudel and custard. Over the meal I had a chance to chat with some parents to find out

why they come. Most want their children to hear the Bible stories and experience the Christian message which they no longer get at school. It is also a time of fun and fellowship, 'Not sitting watching the TV or computer game' said one mum.

We have a core group of families who return every month, many are now firm friends and others we are still getting to know.

None of this would be possible without the many people who give up their time to help. There must be around 20 of us! Cooks, washer uppers, table layers, worship leaders, activity helpers, cleaners, furniture movers, AV preparers and computer operators. Hope I haven't missed anyone out? Thanks to you all; without you it wouldn't happen.

I bet you are all thinking why can't I come? Well, you can. Messy Church is not just for children, the teaching and worship is for all ages, but be warned it can get a bit noisy!

The next Messy Church is 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Laraine Tuplin



**Easter Monday – 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

To complete your Easter Weekend,  
why not come along to church at 2pm  
and join in a Treasure Hunt

or if you would prefer, some indoor  
activities.

At 4pm join in a Bring  
and Share Tea and a chat

**DO COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THIS TIME  
OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER**

The poster features illustrations of three children (two boys and one girl) looking at a map, a treasure chest, and a small cross icon.

## A 10 Point Theology for Decluttering



1. Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions. Luke 12:15
2. Spiritual life can be choked out by clutter, which is part of "the cares and riches of this life." Luke 8:14
3. God is pleased when we give things away cheerfully. 2 Cor. 9:7
4. Sharing our excess goods is one way to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Luke 3:11
5. One of God's names is Jehova Jira – God who provides. If we give away something and end up *needing* it later, we can trust God to provide. Phil. 4:19
6. Giving to those in need stores riches for us in Heaven, and is an expression of love for the church. Luke 12:33
7. Sharing what we have pleases God. Hebrews 13:16
8. Everything we own has been given to us by God. We are only stewards of our stuff. Psalm 24:1
9. God is not a God of confusion, but of order (think about how this is exemplified in creation). An orderly home reflects God's character. Genesis 1
10. Hoarding goods "just in case" can be a way of trusting my stuff to keep me safe and happy instead of my God. Psalm 31:6's

# IMPORTANT IT DEPARTMENT MEMO

Since the Information Technology expenditures have risen dramatically, the corporate office has defined a low-cost alternative to computers. The goal is to remove all computers from the desktop by June 2018. Instead everyone will be provided with an Etch-A-Sketch.

There are many sound reasons for doing this:

1. No boot-up problems
2. No technical glitches keeping work from being done.
3. No more wasted time reading and writing emails.

Frequently Asked Questions from the Etch-A-Sketch Help Desk:

Q: My Etch-A-Sketch has all of these funny little lines all over the screen.

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I turn my Etch-A-Sketch off?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: What's the shortcut for Undo?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I create a New Document window?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I set the background and foreground to the same color?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: What is the proper procedure for rebooting my Etch-A-Sketch?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I delete a document on my Etch-A-Sketch?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I save my Etch-A-Sketch document?

A: Don't shake it.



# Easter Prayer

This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson. (from Methodist in Britain )

When everything was dark  
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,  
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,  
too wide,  
too deep  
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love  
dance and spread  
and burst forth  
with resurrection light.



Gracious God,  
We praise you for the light of new life  
made possible through Jesus.  
We praise you for the light of new life  
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.  
We praise you for the light of new life  
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,  
will live in us each day;  
and that we will be bearers of that light  
into the lives of others.

Amen.

## Reflection — Mary Magdalene

*Do not be alarmed. He has been raised; he is not here. (Mark 16:6)*

Mark, he doesn't share much does he? The bare bones of the story, everything stripped back, no unnecessary details, but plenty to be filled in - room to bring yourself into the story, space to bring your own thoughts, your own reflections, your own questions, your own doubts.

And here are my thoughts. Mark calls me Mary Magdalene but he only lets me come into the story at the cross although he does acknowledge that in Galilee I was one of the women who had followed Jesus and cared for his needs.



We had done that, not just cared for Jesus but for all of the disciples. We'd all cared for each other. We had lived and learnt together. We had struggled to understand Jesus, what he said, what he meant, but we just knew that he was different. The way he wanted us to live, we liked the sound of it, a way so radically different from our own backgrounds and traditions but it was being together, it was being with Him. Even if we wanted to run away from all he challenged us with, even if we were scared about being associated with someone who had no fear of the authorities, even someone who dared to answer the high priest's question Are you the Messiah? With Yes I am.

But his confidence didn't do him any good as he was left to carry that cross – at least there was another man to help him. I hadn't seen him before – who knows where he had come from, but there were thousands in the city for the Passover. We had come from Galilee, I'd come with Mary, Jesus's mother. I was worried enough about her, so on the journey down that I hadn't really had time to think about myself or what I might be feeling.

But all that changed when we followed him to the hill where the crucifixion was going to take place. We watched from a distance, Mark says, well that's right. It was bad enough hearing the nails hammered in, the sound of the bones breaking, the way the blood flooded out of the wounds. No, we were near enough. Did he hear our sobbing, that sobbing that you can't stop and it

aches under your rib-cage but you've got to the point where you can't stop and actually you don't want to, because it would mean that your brain will have to take over where your body has left off, and that's too painful so it's easier to give in to the sobbing?

But after we heard that last shout and saw his head sink, we just knew that he had gone. And you know how it is, that practical side of you just kicks in quick. And there were only a few hours before the Sabbath so we had to move fast, the merchants were shutting up shop so, there just wasn't time to get hold of the spices we would need to anoint the body. And we needed to keep an eye on what was happening. Where was he going to be buried – this is a crucifixion in Jerusalem at Passover – this is not Galilee when there is a death, news gets round quick and you know who to get hold of and what to do. It happened too quickly, there were too many unknowns.

So, we watched at a distance while someone who looked pretty important arrived with a bundle of white cloth. There were another couple of men with him, and he seemed to be telling them what to do. The important looking man wrapped him in the cloth and carried him off. We followed him at a distance until they got to a tomb which had been cut into the rock. The body was placed in the tomb, and they were really gentle, respectful even, the important looking man rolled a stone over the entrance. It took some effort and he wasn't a small man. It was a good job it was not left to us, even if we had wanted to, we wouldn't have managed to move that stone, even if all of us together had pushed – it was just too heavy

Then there was nothing left to do that night – we had to leave and get back to the rest of the group from Galilee. And then we had to wait, all Friday night and the rest of the Sabbath. Most of that time was spent in that silent state of shock, that shock which follows deep grief we can't understand. For there are no words. No words that are right, no words that don't sound empty and hollow.

Then exhausted from the anxiety, the waiting, I must have fallen asleep. Mary was shaking me, it was time to go. Before anyone could see us, before we'd get in trouble. And on the way we were already worrying about how we'd move the stone so we could get to Jesus' body. But when we got there the stone had been pushed to one side – we went straight in. I don't know why we didn't run then, we weren't thinking at all. But then we all stopped, a man in white robes who said he knew we were looking for Jesus, showed us where the body had been and told us he had risen, and gone on ahead of us. And even in our confusion and disbelief, I remember the next bit, he said we would meet Jesus again, that Jesus was going on ahead of us to Galilee.



We were to go off and find Peter and the other disciples, but what were we to say?

Who would listen to us?

How would you? How are you going to tell others that he has risen?

Christine Dutton—the worship cloud.

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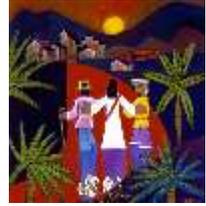
## Thy Kingdom Come -

The aim of Thy Kingdom Come is that Christians pray that people might know Jesus Christ during a focused time between Ascension and Pentecost from **10 - 20 May 2018.** The invitation is simply for people to pray in whatever way they want, with whoever they want and wherever they can, that others might know Jesus Christ



## Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35

After a bereavement,  
as well as grief, there is sometimes a sense of  
detachment,  
remoteness,  
unreality.



We had lost him.  
Everything had changed - and we couldn't accept that change.  
We were in limbo, unwilling to move on.  
And so we had spent the day doing the usual things,  
even though nothing seemed to matter any more.  
But as we walked home in the quiet of the evening we began,  
step by step,  
to share our bewilderment and pain.  
And in the depth of our distress we became aware of him  
walking alongside us.  
We had found it difficult to talk to one another;  
but now we found ourselves opening up to a stranger:  
telling of our hopes,  
disappointments,  
loss.  
And then he spoke:  
making connections,  
re-kindling faith.

Although tired, we were almost sorry to reach our village, journey's  
end.  
We didn't want to lose our companion.  
Then, suddenly, we both thought,  
not of ourselves and our needs, but of the needs of this stranger.  
Dusk was falling and the next village was much further on.  
Stay with us!  
Share our supper!  
And he came in to eat with us.

Blessing - and breaking.

It was what he had always done.

Blessing outcasts; breaking down the barriers that divide us.

Blessing the poor and humble; breaking down pride and self-righteousness.

Blessing and breaking bread;

Blessing us and being broken for us.

It was what he had always done.

And so we recognised him.

It is what he still does, for us and with us.

And so our journey was not over;  
or rather a new journey had begun.

Just as he had once done,

we set out -

towards Jerusalem.



Sue Brown

.....

..

## **Easter Offering 2018    Seek peace and pursue it**

The EASTER OFFERING 2018 dedication service, Seek peace and pursue it (Psalm 34:14) features stories from Mission Partners in Sri Lanka, Japan and Israel/Palestine supported by the World Mission Fund where each one is working towards peace and reconciliation in their own situations.



This worship will encourage us to consider how we might learn from these situations and find ways to seek peace and pursue it, in our individual lives, churches and communities.

### **Service on Sunday evening 15th April at Mickleover Methodist Church**

Peace is possible – we have to believe that to make it happen.

Peace is practical (or personal) – we have to do something to be people of peace.

Peace is prayerful – peace comes from God, and part of our practical response is to pray.

## Supper at Emmaus - front cover painting

Luke 24: 13–32

De Maistre shows Jesus, in a white gown, positioned centrally at the table with one of his disciples on the left and the other sitting at the side of the table. Jesus is breaking the bread and has an apple (or some other green fruit) in front of him. More fruit lie on a plate or bowl on the table. The disciples are portrayed just as recognition dawns on them that their companion is Jesus. The wounds, the nail hole in Jesus' left hand and the wound of the spear in his side are clearly visible and confirm their realization. In 1959, the artist commented: 'religion is not merely a subject for a painting but a perpetual reality which has preoccupied me ever since I remember and is inseparable for me from every other thought'.

### Commentary from **A Guide to the Methodist**

Spondon Methodist Church present Paul Field  
writer of a number of the songs that we sing in  
church, notably StF 602 **With all my heart I  
thank you, Lord**



On Saturday 21 April at Spondon Methodist  
**Workshop** in the afternoon 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm  
free of charge but place needs to be booked telephone 07790  
291877

**Concert** in Evening starting 7.30 pm tickets £8.50 can be  
booked through Margaret on 01332 674940 or Derek on 01332  
671427

## Regular Activities at MMC

Mon-Fri	10.00am	Church Office open until 12.15pm	
Mon-Fri	9.15am	Preschool group-Term time only	Crèche
Mon	10.00am	Live at Home office until 12 noon	
Mon	12.30pm	Simply Faith	Wesley Rm
Mon	1.30pm	Little Micklers-Toddlers -Term time only	Large Hall
Mon	6.00pm	Derwent Beavers	Large Hall
Tue	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship	Wesley Rm
Tue	6.30pm	Red Fox Cub Scouts	Large Hall
Wed	9.30am	Prayers and meditation	Chapel
Wed	10.00am	Live at Home office until 12 noon	
Wed	5.00pm	Dove Beavers	Large Hall
Wed	5.30pm -	Girls Brigade - Explorers/Juniors/Seniors/	Large Hall
Wed	7.30pm	Wesley Guild	Wesley Rm
Thurs	6.30pm	Brown Bear Cub Scouts	Large Hall
Thurs 3rd	7.30pm	Prayer Time	Office
Fri	10.00am	Live at Home office until 12 noon	
Fri	10.00am	Drop in café -Refreshments &	Social Area
Fri	7.30pm	Kinder Scouts	Large Hall
Sat 1st	12noon	Lunch (except January)	Large Hall
Sat 3rd	10.00am	Fairtrade café & Traidcraft stall	Wesley Rm

# Diary for April 2018

Tues 3rd	4pm to 6pm	No Messy Church—next meeting Tuesday 1 May
Tues 3rd	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Easter holiday - No meeting
Weds 4th	10.00am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, game sand fellowship
Weds 4th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Easter holiday - No meeting
Sat 7th	12noon	Lunches
Tues 10th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Frankie Bray
Weds 11th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Peter Branson Laughter and Humour
Sat 14th	8.00am	Prayers
Tues 17th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Alan Rowe
Weds 18th	10.00am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, game sand fellowship
Weds 18th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild- John and Meryl Spray Venice
Tues 24th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Jill Harrington
Weds 25th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Members evening
Sat 28th	8.00am	Prayers

## THURSDAY HOUSE GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDY

**At 10.00am at 233 Ladybank Road Mike and Marilyn Bagworth**

**At 7.30pm at 3 Station Road Charles and Liz Norman**