



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 IN PASTORAL CHARGE:** Revd Jenny Dyer

**MINISTER TAKING PASTORAL CARE IN 2018/19:**

Revd Ted Ager

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*Thanks to all who contribute articles for the magazine*

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

**Items for the October 2018 magazine by  
Sunday 16th September  
please to Liz Royle via the Church Office or  
Church Magazine email address .above.**

# Services in September 2018

**Sunday School, Beginners Group and Crèche meet every Sunday morning at 10.00am in the Large Hall. They all come into the Church near the end of the service for "Show and tell"**

**Refreshments are available after Sunday morning service.**

## **Sunday 2nd September**

### **22nd in Ordinary Time**

10.00am Morning worship- Revd Ted Ager  
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Jenny Dyer

## **Sunday 9th September**

### **Education Sunday**

10.00am Morning worship - Local Arrangements with Spark to a Flame in Church -What is Church?  
6.30pm Evening worship - Holy Communion - Revd Neil Draper

## **Sunday 16th September**

### **24th in Ordinary Time**

10.00am Morning worship - Holy Communion  
Revd David Greenaway  
6.30pm Evening worship - Peter Nelson

## **Sunday 23rd September**

### **Freedom/Peacemaking Sunday**

10.00am Morning worship - Theresa Hartwright  
6.30pm Evening worship - David and Frankie Bray

## **Sunday 30th September**

### **26th in Ordinary Time**

10.00am Morning worship- Revd Keith Burchell  
6.30pm - Evening worship - Revd Ted Ager

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

September 2018

## **Fare Thee Well**

*"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."  
Romans 8:18*



You are well aware as you read this that I am no longer your minister as I have had to move my ministry away from Mickleover. But we didn't have many opportunities to share farewells and I thought I would like to use this means to offer my sincere thanks to everyone of you.

Although it was just a short two years that it was my privilege to be your minister, they were my first two years in circuit ministry and are never to be forgotten for the pivotal experience that such foundational years offer. I know that my ministry henceforth will forever be marked and shaped by this experience, and I am sure that this is part of the intention of divinity.

I am exhaustively convinced that God does not make mistakes and I have not the slightest doubt that both years have been fully providential and the purpose of God fully accomplished. In His eternal sovereignty He had divinely arranged my calling to you, and in that same sovereignty had brought it to an end, abruptly to the human eye but, I am sure, in perfect chime with the Master's clock.

It remains for me to say thank you all for the opportunities we were given to be together. And special thanks to you all for the kindness and support that you

extended to me and my family especially in the midst of our 'thorn in the flesh' immigration challenge.

I will continue to bring you before the throne of grace and very warmly wish you the true blessings of God.

*". . . look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."*  
*2 Corinthians 4:18*

*In His grace*  
Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

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**A time of prayer** - at 8am for approximately one hour at Church. If you are unable to come please consider praying wherever you are during this time.  
**Saturday 1st September**  
**Saturday 15th September**

# Our Calling

'Who are you? said the Caterpillar' - Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

'Who is this? Matthew 21:10

What is the Church and what is it for?

*Our Calling* is one of the ways that the Methodist Church has sought to discern and distill the answers to the last questions.

The process of discerning 'a vision of what the Church is for and where we are going' resulted in *Our Calling* and the 'Priorities for the Methodist Church'. Both documents have the power to capture, explain, and shape who we are and what we do - a snapshot of our common life helping to shape us for God's continuing purposes.

*Our Calling* serves as a reminder that *who we are and what we are begins with God*. . We love, 'because God first loved us' (1 John 4:19). We are able to seek to offer the very best we can in *our worship, our learning and caring, our service and our evangelism*, because of all that God has done for us..

The Church's "mission and its worship ... are the response to God's undeserved, unstinting love in Christ ... As agent of God's mission, the Church is a sign, foretaste and instrument of the kingdom". And so it is with confidence in God – not in ourselves, or even in the Methodist Church – that we seek to live out our purpose and our priorities.

As an agent of the mission of a dynamic God, our answer to the questions "Who are we? What are we for?" cannot be allowed to gather dust. We must forever be asking questions – seeking to go deeper – paying attention to our context, so that we might better serve the present age.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship

and mission.

It does this through:

**WORSHIP** - The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

**LEARNING AND CARING** - The Church exists to help people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

**SERVICE** - The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

**EVANGELISM** - The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

In partnership with others wherever possible, the Methodist Church will concentrate its prayers, resources, imagination and commitments on this priority:

To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church.

As ways towards realising this priority, the Methodist Church will give particular attention to the following;

- Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
- Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor—in Britain and worldwide
- Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith, in ways that make sense to all involved.
- Encouraging fresh ways of being a Church

Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible

The membership ticket lists commitments that members of the Methodist Church undertake: as a response to *Our Calling*. As a member of the Methodist Church we are called to:

- **worship** within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer
- **learning and caring**, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that we may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship
- **service**, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using our resources to support the Church in its mission in the world
- **evangelism**, through working out our faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

For churches there are questions to be asked;

#### Worship

- What helps us to centre our worship on God?
- Where and when do we feel the presence of God? How can these experiences enrich services of worship?
- What would help our worship to make sense to people who only come occasionally?
- What helps us express awe and wonder, thankfulness and praise, and love towards God?

What are our plans and targets for improving our worship over the next year?

#### Learning and Caring:

- What church activities help us most to deepen our faith in God?
- How do we learn about the challenges of Christian life today from churches elsewhere in Britain and the wider world?
- What links do we have with groups using our premises?

What are our plans and targets for developing our life together over the next year?

## Service

- How do we discover the needs of our community and respond to them?
- How does the life of our community and our involvement in it, feature in the prayers of the church?
- How do we challenge injustice in our community and in other parts of the world?
- Are we making the best use of our resources for service in the world?

What are our plans and targets for improving our community involvement over the next year?

## Evangelism

- Do we have a clear message? Are the words we use straightforward and meaningful to those outside Church?
- What attracts others to the Christian faith?
- How can we learn about effective witness from Christians in other cultures?

What are our plans and targets for making more followers of Jesus Christ over the next year?

## Colossians 3: 12-17 - How to live a God centred life.

‘As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.’

*Taken from Methodist in Britain website*

## **Update on the Leadership Team – August 2018**

We continue to work towards a plan for the implementation of the church's strategy as agreed by Church Council. Our constraints are lack of a permanent secretary and a Resources Lead, and now uncertainty over who will chair our meetings.

These are some of the things we have done so far: All of us attended at least one of the sessions of the Mission Shaped Introduction Course run by Ali Stacey-Chapman. This left us in no doubt that we need to consider modern culture and our community in the context of church life. The world has changed. Have we as a church adapted to embrace this change? Food for thought and for action over the next few months.

Following on from this we had already realised that we need to let the people moving into the new local housing know who and where we are. Information to the Mickleover Estates is being coordinated by 'Churches Together' but Langley Country Park (end of Station Road off Radbourne Lane) is outside of this. We have printed a simple leaflet which we hope to deliver to houses on this estate over the next few weeks.

We have identified that we need a coordinated church diary to help in planning, and Marilyn has kindly agreed to carry on producing this. Planning for the new church year is already well under way.

A very well attended worship meeting was held to consider what we have already and how we could develop further. The minutes from this meeting are on the notice board and available from the church office. Janet is hoping that a smaller group will meet on a regular basis to move this on.

We have already produced a draft church profile to go into the process of finding a new minister for 2019. We will be meeting up with our Circuit Steward shortly to finalise this.

Please remember the Leadership Team in your prayers

Laraine Tuplin (Acting Secretary)

## Main points from the Worship meeting 10 July 2018.

This meeting was an open meeting for anyone interested in the worship of our Church and arranged by Janet Patmore, Worship steward on the Leadership team.

### **What do we have already?**

- Traditional Sunday services am and pm have different ambience—different size congregation.
- Parallel Sunday services - Spark to a Flame, Sunday school, Fusion (Youth Group).
- Weekday services - Messy Church, Wednesday and Saturday morning prayers, Pathfinders, Simply Faith, Little Micklers, Girls Brigade - regular times in Women's Fellowship, Wesley Guild, House groups..
- Special occasions services - Harvest, Christmas, Memorial, Easter.

### **New ventures -**

- Café Worship service, positive feedback - requests to be more often. Introduce new ideas e.g. Taize, Lectio Devino.
- Liturgical dance, different ways using prayers.
- Extend repertoire of songs in StF– LA services? Use modern meditative songs more before service.

### **Use of resources -**

- material for S2aF could be used in other services, that children's services follow same theme same month.
- Music - better planning so Music Group given more notice- group have permanent area in front of organ.
- AV - used more and more effectively. Rehearsing of use of Powerpoint. Purchase specific service software - Josh knowledge of this.
- Worship Leader—preachers told of availability - up to them to contact WL to liaise with what they require from WL. If Marilyn has assisted preachers before she will actively contact them.
- Ask Fusion to lead/ participate in services more frequently.

### **General -**

- Form a Worship group to help plan ahead with representatives from Sunday school, music, AV, vestry stewards, preachers, worship leader - (*in place, meeting 4th Tuesday of every month*).
- Themed preaching twice a year? Methodist annual Bible month material suggestion, suitable for Messy Church, S2aF and House groups..

### **Sunday school -**

- Good when preacher in chapel links children's talk to children's theme in Hall.
- Children's area in Church?
- Change name of Sunday school?
- Trial - From 2 September Sunday school coming into Church at end of service instead of beginning to "show and tell" + last hymn children friendly.

## Main points from Church Council meeting 10th June 2018

**Opening Devotions:** Rev Greg's welcome was followed by the singing of hymn 395, 'Spirit of the Living God,' the reading of Matthew chapter 10 verses 34 to 39 and prayer. Rev Greg said that God values all the work done by everyone



**Stationing:** The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT), with Greg's agreement, would like to propose that Greg move from Mickleover and Dean Street Churches in summer 2019, to take responsibility for Newmount and Findern and at the same time, or in 2020 when Jenny's current appointment comes to an end, Chellaston.

The reason for asking Greg to make this move is twofold: (1) a belief that theologically Greg will be a better match for Newmount and Findern than Mickleover and Dean Street and (2) it would enable the Circuit to return to a position where Ministers are living in manses closer to, at least, their largest church.

A profile will need to be drawn up in September for a new Minister for Mickleover and Dean Street to arrive in 2019. The intention will be that the new Minister will live in the Manse in Brisbane Road which KK will vacate in the summer of 2019, on his retirement.

*(Since this meeting it has been decided that Revd Greg leaves Mickleover and takes responsibility for Newmount and Findern from 1st September 2018. This leaves Mickleover with no minister until September next year - meanwhile Revd Ted Ager will be Minister for pastoral care during this time and Revd Jenny Dyer will be Minister in Charge. Contact details inside front cover of the magazine).*

**How the Church handled data and publicised it**—a working group is looking at the way we comply with the new laws, . The Treasurer confirmed that all data would be stored securely.

**Church Council Constitution:** Chris Moore had been appointed to Church Council by the Annual Meeting and Mike Shooter appointed as Ecumenical Officer.

**Business Team:** Underspend of approx. £2,000 this year- no large sums spent on maintenance or renewals, etc. The situation at present is OK. If offertories are maintained at the current level we should just about break even for this coming year. There has been some response to the request to review giving. Church Council (i) Received and noted the report on the financial position to May 2018 And (ii) accepted and approved the budget for the financial year to August 2019.

**Feasibility study to enlarge accommodation:** Feasibility study with Alan Joyce Architects looking at an extension and re-configuration of the premises to achieve

better space for youth activities and improvement in storage. Two options have been presented by the Architects. Option A - extension of the large hall into the car park at the north end of the building and Option B - construction of a new staircase up from that extension at the far end of the social area up to first floor level .No

guarantee that we will get Planning Permission. Cost of the works would be: Option A £250,000 and Option B £205,000. Recommended to look at the drawings with the original working group, considering the activities we do, how much space we need and, if advisable, go further, how we are going to fund this and where we go from here bearing in mind the uncertainty —both in costs and in approvals.

**Learning and Pastoral Team Report:** No offers for another Pastoral Visitor

**Proposal to re-appoint a Children& Families Worker:** Church Council agreed that the team go ahead to find someone as soon as possible.

**Preschool:** Church Council agreed : (i) to change the Preschool constitution to allow a non-church member to become chairperson; (ii) agreed to the appointment of Katie Burgess as Preschool Chairman with immediate effect : (iii) to the appointment of Liz Greaves to the Preschool Management Team to enable the Church to maintain two members on this committee. Constitution will be amended accordingly and brought back to the Church Council October 2018 for approval.

**Homelessness Charter:** Church Council accepted the Charter. Micklever is already involved. Any other suggestions can be taken to the Leadership Team People encouraged to become involved in the areas already being supported by church.

**Leadership Stewards Report** and update on progress of the Strategic Plan: Urgent to fill Team Secretary and Resources' Steward . The team continue to carry out groundwork and are in a state of transition. An informal meeting at church on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm, looking at worship.

**Feedback on Circuit Business:** . Peter Middlehurst retiring from post of Circuit Steward for Micklever. Church Council wish to record our thanks to Peter for his work with us during his time as Circuit Steward.

**Dates of future meetings:**

- (a) Church Council 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- (b) Church Council 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- (c) Annual Church Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

**Closing Devotions:** The meeting closed with the singing of 'When I survey the wondrous cross' followed by the sharing of The Grace.

# WHY DOES THE BIBLE MATTER?



## BIBLE STUDY WITH A *DIFFERENCE*

A series of interactive discussions on the questions which modern Christians face when reading the bible.

- What is the Bible?
- What isn't the Bible?
- Where did it come from?
- Who wrote the Bible, when and why?
- What is the authority of the Bible?
- What is the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament?
- Why are there discrepancies between different parts of the Bible?
- What do we mean when we say that the Bible is the word of God (or the Word of God)?
- HOW should Christians study the Bible?
- Why are there so many different bibles?

This is not meant to be a definitive list and doubtless other questions will arise during these discussions. These are challenging questions but we should not be afraid to ask them. Indeed God expects us to ask questions like these:

***If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. (James 1: 5-6.)***

The discussions will be led by Terry Root who became a member of our church last year. Terry, a retired Police Officer, has been a Local Preacher for more than twenty years. His experience in many Methodist Circuits during those years has convinced him that there are numerous people in the church, despite wanting to study the Bible, are unsure of how to approach it because of such questions.

If you have ever asked any of these questions – or would like to – then these discussions are for you.

Terry has offered to lead these discussions to facilitate the learning aspect of navigating change.

There will be a tick sheet for those interested in attending out of interest or curiosity in the Church foyer in September.

Please indicate any of the times you could be available so that we can try to accommodate as many people as possible.

Depending on the demand, we will decide whether to hold it in the daytime or evening or both. They could be weekly or 2 weekly.

They will commence in October

Thank you,

Dot Thompson

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## Operation Christmas Child 2018

For a number of years our church has strongly supported this worthwhile cause.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ

Since 1990, more than 157 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

From October boxes will be available in the Foyer together with instructions on how best they can be filled and what gifts are most suitable for the age or gender of the child. The target is for all boxes to be returned by November 18<sup>th</sup> to be dedicated in church that morning and delivered to the collection point in Derby during the following week.

Ray Forey



## THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE.....?

As many of you will know, I am not an early morning person and so it came as a great shock to my system to find myself getting up and out of the house in the middle of July about half an hour or so before dawn. "What on earth is the reason for this?" you may well ask and it was a question which I posed to myself several times that week.

The answer is, that I was out so early to help with the badger vaccination programme to try to stop the spread of bovine TB in the cattle population. This may seem altruistic but there is another reason as far as I am concerned, and it is that I am one of the comparatively few people who comes into very close contact with a live badger. Two of the badgers we caught this year were cubs and it was a remarkable experience to look into the eyes of a young badger in the wild and try to build up some rapport with it. Elsewhere in this issue Terry writes about seeing God in the eyes of a collie, and I felt much the same looking into the eyes of a badger.



I ask myself why am I, as a Christian, engaged in working with wildlife when humans are so much more important; however, I feel that it is important to help both. We are very much linked with the world of nature and are an integral part of it, and apart from the fact that I would like my grandchildren and subsequent generations to be able to enjoy animals in the wild, I am convinced that we upset the balance of nature at our peril.

I read recently that if bees die out then the extinction of the human race will follow within four years. We were given stewardship of this planet and it is a task we must begin to take a lot more seriously.

I find great inspiration from being out in the world of nature enjoying the sights and sounds of our countryside and am especially fond of the wild and high places which to many seem to be very forbidding, but this is where I feel closest to God. In the mountains there is a great deal of inspiration, and one of my favourite pieces of verse is on a gravestone of two climbers buried in St. Olav's churchyard in Wasdale.



It reads thus:

One moment stood they as the angels stand  
High in the stainless eminence of air.  
The next they were not,  
To their Fatherland translated unaware

It is in that stainless eminence of air that I find inspiration and a closeness with God and nature. I suppose that is why I feel an affinity with Celtic and Franciscan spirituality, in that both of these see God and His love in the world around us, and not just in the beauty, but also in the pain and suffering as well. Here is the challenge to work alongside nature, and, with other people, to make the best that we can of this world and to take our stewardship seriously.



I rejoice in the fact that other people find inspiration and a closeness to God in a myriad of ways, in scripture, prayer, worship and church buildings, and I can sometimes feel that way too, but for me it is mainly in the quiet places, in music and in the natural world that I find a closeness with

God.

We are all different and we find our inspiration in different ways. Alan Titchmarsh often quotes a poem about being near to God in a garden, and there are many who go along with him on that but to me, gardens are OK, they have flowers and trees etc. but I'm afraid that I visit them reluctantly, as I am not really able to appreciate the niceties of horticulture.

I must also admit that when gardeners start to speak a strange version of Latin and go into the finer points of the hardness of the Formica Agoraphobia and which soil it thrives best in, then I look for a shady corner in which to hide! However, each to their own, and I would not expect everyone to be able to distinguish the model and variant of a Morgan car at a glance.



Each one of us is unique and we should celebrate diversity in belief, outlook and expression because, after all is said and done, that is how we were created.

Phil Royle

## Can you find 30 books of the Bible hidden in this passage?

This puzzle *was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends.*

One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his John-boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised.

Truthfully from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these paragraphs.

During a recent fund raising event, which features this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi-Lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 50 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen.

As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, 'the books are all right here in plain view, hidden from sight'. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books Timothy and Samuel appear without their numbers.

Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal.

A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mass exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found.

*(Don't look now but answers elsewhere in this edition of the magazine!)*

## Harvest Festival – Sunday 7th October

This year the Harvest Festival Services will be led by Anna Forey in the morning and Matthew Cadden-Hyde in the evening.

As has been our custom for many years we look forward to the front of our chapel area being full of produce that has been donated to celebrate Harvest and also to provide much needed help to those in need in Derby.

A list of suitable items can be found on the notice board. We will be supporting both the Padley Centre and Derby Food Bank and the donations will be sorted and delivered during the following week.

On Sunday 7 October 2018 there will be a hot 2 course Harvest lunch after morning service for approximately £5. Look out for the sheet on the Church notice board for choices of dishes to **tick. The meal is in aid of the Methodist charity 'All We Can'**

All ages are welcome –**there will be a separate children's menu** or smaller portions of the adult meals - £.2 per child.

### **Live at Home Mickleover**

By Saturday 1 September the Live at Home office will have moved from Church to the Spondon Live at Home Office.

From 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 1 September they will host with Church an afternoon of games and activities and tea for

Live at Home people and for Church people.

Come if you can for an entertaining afternoon.

If you can help with transport or refreshments see

Barbara Sims or Janet Patmore.

## GOD IN THE EYES OF A COLLIE



This is Tom, our first Border Collie. We had Tom (actually he had us) from a puppy until he died in my arms at almost 13 years of age. We now rescue Border Collies from the Border Collie trust GB.

Someone once said that if you want to see God, look into your dog's eyes. Well, having just lost Tom, after 12 wonderful years of love and faithfulness, it occurred to me just how true that was. That was why I wrote this poem, in grief but with hope.

This isn't (I hope) sentimental Christianity, just a growing realisation that Tom constantly exhibited all of the attributes which I have sometimes struggled to see in humans, yet which I believe to be the characteristics of God within us all.

Tom was a well known member of the congregation where we lived, whether attending worship, or helpfully emptying the biscuit plate at coffee afterwards. He even came to Bible Study once or twice, but it was a bit late in the evening for him!

I pray that this testimony to the love of God, exhibited in one of his creatures, may be true to Tom and pleasing to God. *Terry Root.*

The first time I saw Tom, in a byre on a mountain in Wales,  
He was all tummy and tail,  
yet already those eyes said, "I'll love you if you let me,  
so please take me home",  
and we did  
and he did  
'till the end.

The next time I saw Tom in our house, on a bed with a hole,  
He was covered in foam,  
looking guilty but so cute  
And those eyes said, “I love you, so although it’s gone wrong, lets forgive  
and be faithful”

Where’re I saw Tom, in a field, or the garden  
He was returning with a ball  
or a stick I’d tossed away,  
And those bright eyes looking knowingly into mine said, “For ever.”  
And it was  
And he was  
‘till the end.

The last time I saw Tom he lay in my arms, waiting.  
And he knew that I loved him  
as I asked his forgiveness,  
for those sad eyes said, “You’re e mine, of course I forgive you, please  
don’t cry.”  
But I did  
And he  
And he did  
‘till the end

Yet still I see Tom on the hills where we walked,  
but now his worn out old body is renewed,  
full of spirit.  
And his eyes say “I told you that I’d never leave you, I’m still here, I still  
love you”  
And he does  
And he will  
Without end

## The Holy Spirit - part 2



The Thursday morning Bible Study has been looking at The Holy Spirit, trying to understand His work in our lives.

Looking at Romans ch 8 v1-39 we read that in Jesus Christ, with the Spirit at work in us and for us, whatever our situation of suffering, we can be sure that nothing will ever be able to condemn us and separate us from the love of God. This is tremendous news!

The study showed us that the Holy Spirit is constantly seeking to draw out of us all the potential which God has built into us into the kind of persons God sees us to be. The Holy Spirit longs to produce His fruit into our lives and bestow us with gifts and abilities to build up the Body of Christ and reach out to others with the message of God's love. When we open up to Him, to depend on Him and consult Him, we receive the love, wisdom and spiritual sustenance we need to live effectively and dynamically for Christ.

One of our studies encouraged us to reflect on how important it is for every Christian to have a close relationship with the Holy Spirit, to desire more of the Spirit on a daily basis. Luke 11; 11-13 shows how keen God is to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

We learnt that to understand more about the Holy Spirit is to understand more about God himself and that knowledge will strengthen our faith and make us more spiritually fruitful.

Christianity is a faith in which the Holy Spirit plays a prominent part. The benediction that we use to close each meeting includes the words: 'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all' can be understood in this way. Like a series of steps the grace of Jesus Christ introduces us to the love of God, which results in us enjoying the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Grace and love lead us into a relationship with the Holy Spirit and that relationship is for all.

We felt that there is much, much more that could be said about the Holy Spirit. We had touched only a small, but very important part of understanding His work in our lives.

Marilyn Bagworth

## Poem/Reflection: The Call

God calls all ages,  
all types of people  
and when that call comes  
it is not always easy to answer.

Why me?

What have I got to offer?

I can't speak, sing, work or pray  
in the way I'm being challenged to.  
I'm not good enough.

God calls all ages,  
all types of people  
and when that call comes  
it is because God knows we have,  
or can develop,  
the ability to do whatever we are called to.

God knows us inside out.  
God knows about our fears,  
our doubts, our hesitations  
and also knows that we may not feel able  
to answer that call right now.

God calls all ages,  
all types of people  
and keeps on calling.

Just as God called Jeremiah,  
as a boy who thought  
he was too young to speak  
and just as Jesus persevered  
with his awkward disciples  
to help to make them  
into effective apostles,  
so God will help us to equip ourselves  
to answer that call, if we are willing.

Are we?

Marjorie Dobson



## Poem: Listening

Listening is under-rated.  
Too many people believe  
that the more they make  
their voices heard  
the better the impression  
they make on those who  
listen.

But how good it is  
to pour out the fears  
and hopes of the heart  
to someone who will listen  
and be still  
and hear every word  
with understanding.

Such people  
are a blessing  
sent from God  
and a solace to the soul.

## **Perfect Puns?**

I really wanted a camouflage shirt, but I couldn't find one.  
My friend said she did not understand cloning. I told her that makes two of us..

My job at the concrete plant seems to get harder and harder.  
I knew a guy who collected candy canes. They were all in mint condition.

Did you know they won't be making yardsticks any longer?  
I think Santa has riverfront property in Brazil. All our presents came from Amazon this year.

## **Thought for the Day**

I can't believe the weight watchers website asks me to accept cookies.

## **Oneliners**

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is now fully recovered..

Oxygen and Potassium went on a date. It went OK.

Never trust atoms. They make up everything.

I'm not a big fan of archery. It has too many drawbacks.

I was hoping for a sine from above. Sorry, sometimes I go off on a tangent.

For chemists, alcohol is not a problem. It's a solution.

## **It's Magic!**

"What's your father's occupation?" asked the school secretary on the first day of the new academic year.

"He's a magician, ma'am" said Little Johnny.

"How interesting. What's his favorite trick?"

"He saws people in half."

"Wow! Now, next question. Any brothers or sisters?"

"One half brother and two half sisters."

## Prayer topics for September

1. Children and teachers at the start of a new term
2. Modern day slaves
3. God's transforming love for everyone
4. Prisoners and offenders
5. Rough sleepers
6. Those suffering with chronic mental ill health
7. Drug addicts and substance abusers
8. Refugees
9. Those in government responsible for education
10. God's generosity to us
11. Our response to God's generosity
12. Those who live in poverty
13. Those working to alleviate poverty
14. Policy makers
15. Global concerns
16. The poor in spirit
17. Troubled countries of the world especially...
18. Syria
19. Iraq
20. Afghanistan
21. Israel and Palestine
22. The Yemen
23. A peaceful existence for all
24. For all of God's creation
25. Conservation of wildlife
26. A fair sharing of the world's resources
27. Care of the environment
28. Recycling projects
29. Clean water projects
30. Respect for nature

**ANSWERS TO: Can you find 30 books of the Bible hidden in this passage?**

This is a **most remarkable** puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, **keeping** him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **John-boat**. Another friend studied it while playing his **banjo**. **Elaine Taylor**, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column

Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving that **she brews** a cup of tea to help her nerves. **There** will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact**. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam**, **especially** since the books are not necessarily capitalised. **Truthfully from answers** we get, we are forced to admit **it usually** takes a minister or scholar to see some of them **at the worst**. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these paragraphs. During a recent fundraising event, which features this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phil-Lemonade** booth set a new sales record.

The local paper, the **Chronicle**, surveyed over 50 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel Humana** **humbly** puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view, hidden from sight". **Those** able to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books **Timothy** and **Samuel** appear without their **numbers**. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. **A chipper** attitude will help you **compete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mass **exodus**, there really are 30 books of the Bible **lurking** somewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found.

## 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	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	5.00pm	Dove Beavers	Large Hall
Wed	5.30pm -	Girls Brigade - Explorers/Juniors/Seniors/ Brigaders	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	Drop in café -Refreshments & chat	Social Area
Fri	7.30pm	Kinder Scouts	Large Hall
Sat 1st mmmonth	12noon	Lunch (except January)	Large Hall
Sat 3rd	10.00am	Fairtrade café & Traidcraft stall	Wesley Rm

# Diary for September 2018

Sat 1st	8am to 9am	Prayers in Church
Sat 1st	12noon	Lunches
Tues 4th	4pm	No Messy Church this month - next one 2nd October
Fri 7th	10am to 12 noon	Friday Café
Mon 10th	1.30pm	Little Micklers returns up to October half term.
Tues 11th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Revd Jenny Dyer
Weds 12th	10am to 12 noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 12th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Revd Greg Communion and talk
Fri 14th	10.00am to 12noon	Friday Café
Sat 15th	8am to 9am	Prayers in Church
Mon 17th	12.30pm to 1.30pm	Simply Faith
Tues 18th	1.2.30pm	Women's Fellowship- Imogen Sutherland
Weds 19th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild- Angela Sargent- The Farming Year
Fri 21st	10.00am to 12noon	Friday Café
Mon 24th	12.30pm to 1.30pm	Simply Faith
Tues 25th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Visit to St Luke's Church - Cookery Demo
Weds 26th	10.00am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 26th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Richard Horth Alcatraz
Sat 29th	10am to noon	Fairtrade cafe