

# Mickleover Methodist Church Magazine



For Lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;  
the time of the singing of birds is come,  
and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land.  
Song of Songs 2:11-12

## February 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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Children and Families Worker – position vacant

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***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 March 2017 magazine by  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February  
please to Liz Royle via the Magazine email address  
or church office.**

## Services in February

**Sunday School, Beginners Group and Creche**  
meet every Sunday Morning at 10.00am

**Refreshments are available after Sunday morning service**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time**

10.00am Morning Worship – Graham Penny

6.30pm Evening Worship – Revd Helen White

### **Sunday 11 February**

#### **Racial Justice Sunday/Sunday before Lent**

10.00am Morning Worship – John McCartney

10.00am Spark to a Flame in the Large Hall – Theme: “Transforming into Love”

6.30pm Evening Worship, Holy Communion – Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

### **Sunday 18 February**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

10.00am Morning Worship, Home Missions – Ali Stacey-Chapman

6.30pm Evening Worship – Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

### **Sunday 26 February**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

10.00am Morning Worship, Holy Communion – Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

6.30pm Evening Worship – Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

*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 Glory of The Covenant**

*“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.” 1 Corinthians 3:16-17*

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2*

Many of you once again took part in the Covenant Service last month. It is one of the most distinctive things about historic Methodism and the Methodist Church. And it is probably the greatest gift we bring to the ecumenical table to bless the one, holy, catholic body of Christ.

Like many of you, I eagerly look forward to the beginning of each year to celebrate this beautiful means of grace. To rejoice in those solemn words of commitment, and feel afresh the peace that comes with consecration, the freedom that comes with surrender, and the joy that comes with believing. Let’s hear the words again.



I am no longer my own but yours.  
Put me to what you will,

rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing,  
put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you,  
or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you,  
or brought low for you;  
let me be full,  
let me be empty,  
let me have all things,  
let me have nothing:  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to your pleasure and disposal.  
And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours. So be it.  
And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in  
heaven.

Every year we return to these same words as generations  
before us have done. And this is very important because  
through the words, we renew our affirmation of who we are  
in Christ.

It is first of all, an affirmation that we are a people who have  
been bought by His precious blood. The salvation that God  
offers has been made possible only through the death of His  
only Son, Jesus Christ. It was a price no one else could pay.

Secondly, it is an affirmation that we are a people who  
completely belong to Him in every sense of the word. Firstly,  
we belong to Him by Creation, because we are created by  
God. Secondly, we belong to Him by regeneration because it  
is only through the power of His Spirit that we are born again  
and made a new creation.

Thirdly, it is an affirmation that we are a people in whom  
Christ Himself dwells. The glory of salvation is that Christ  
through the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. We are His  
temple. He lives in us. He has placed His seal upon us.

Fourthly, following on from the three points above, it is an  
affirmation that we are a people who must live to please their  
Lord. If He has paid the price and bought us, if He has  
created us and regenerated us, if He has come to take up  
residence in us because we belong to Him, then it is only  
reasonable that we can only live to please Him, not  
ourselves.

Which is why Saint Paul the Apostle, after leading the  
disciples in Rome to rejoice in the great salvation that Christ  
has won for them, he tells them what their proper response  
should be: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the  
mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.  
Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by  
the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern  
what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and  
perfect." Romans 12:1-2



The great lesson in it all is that God is Sovereign.  
And we are His subjects. If we play our part as  
subjects, He plays His as Sovereign. He is a  
Sovereign who is both absolutely able and  
faithful. We can rest assured that He will *always* give us His  
very best. This is the glory of the covenant. May we regularly  
return to the words of the covenant and renew them to  
ourselves that we may draw strength to live courageously  
under its terms. We cannot but be enraptured in its glory.

*In His Grace*

Revd Greg Obong-Oshotse

## LENT STUDY COURSE

The joint Lent Studies this year will be on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm Services, one at each of the Micklover churches. The Theme is “What Makes a Good Lent? Insights from our Own Traditions”, and the dates and places of these services are as follows:

25<sup>th</sup> Feb at Micklover Methodist, Speaker – Rev Greg

4<sup>th</sup> March at Our Lady of Lourdes – The Stations of the Cross

18<sup>th</sup> March at St John’s - Praise and Prayer Services

25<sup>th</sup> March at All Saints – Palm Sunday Evening Prayers

There will be **NO** evening services at the Methodist Church on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> March or 25<sup>th</sup> March, and everyone is invited to attend the services at the other churches if they are able. Transport will be available for those that need it



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

There will be an Ash Wednesday service at 7.30 pm on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> February, which will be led by our own minister, Revd Greg.

Before I launch into this article, I would like to state that anything written is generally my own opinion and happily accept that other views are held by many people. Could I encourage people to use this magazine to share their thoughts, ideas and beliefs with the wider community?  
Phil Royle

## CREDO – I believe

I have a great fondness for the creed especially when in the Latin text and set to music in the mass. I have sung the creed to music by the Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo (modern – believe it or not!) and to the magnificent setting by Bach in his B minor Mass. I have also recited the creed many times in English during the communion service and it has always challenged me as to what I actually do believe.

In order to put it into context, the Nicaean creed was put together at the Council of Nicaea in 325AD. This council was called by the Roman Emperor Constantine in order to try to sort out some of the divisions which were occurring within the Christian Church at the time and as a result threatened the political stability of the empire. Two of the major controversies were the date of Easter and the status of Jesus. There were two points of view about Jesus, one being that he was equal to the Father and was part of the Godhead from the beginning. The other view known as the Arian heresy, and propounded by Bishop Arius, was that Jesus was created by God at a point in history to fulfil a specific task. The council was, by all accounts, a lively affair and legend has it that, at one point, Bishop Nicholas (of Santa Claus fame) got up and punched Arius across the head (and we thought Church Council could be contentious!). With the Emperor being in the chair, the decisions were not only of religious significance but also had to be politically expedient in order to hold the empire together by preventing factions. This obviously would have had some bearing on the outcomes.



The creed starts off in magnificent fashion, “I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen (visible and invisible – in the old language).

This really sets my mind boggling as I try to understand this statement of faith.

I fervently believe in the one God, however, I believe that this one God is the God whose being is expressed in many different ways and has been revealed to many different cultures and lifestyles over the ages and has been known by and worshipped in many different names. The God worshipped by the Jews and Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, Celts and Aboriginal Australians is also that of the Christian. This is the God who is the creator of everything seen and unseen, which leads us into another realm of thought and amazement. God is a wonderful creator - the God present in OT – no not Old Testament - but zero time, before anything existed who then, in some inexplicable way, set off the process of creation. Although I cannot come to terms with a seven-day creation, I believe that a God who can provide a spark of cosmic genius which resulted in everything which exists is one who commands my respect and awe.



God is a part of that creation, and is still intimately involved so that when we look upon a sunset, a mountain view, the aurora, a flower, a baby or a molecule we can be filled with a sense of awe and come somehow into catching a glimpse of the creativity of God. This is just what we can see and feel, the visible universe the infinite vastness of which is

overwhelming. On top of which the scientists tell us that there are infinite numbers of universes to be discovered all within our four known dimensions of space and time. I am led to believe that there are other dimensions outside of time and space which we cannot see but which may impact upon us - “of all that is seen and unseen”. There is a vast field of knowledge and understanding which we are only just beginning to glimpse, thanks to the researchers of quantum and theoretical physics. Maybe here in the invisible realms outside our dimensions of time and space we may find a greater knowledge and understanding because as creator of all, God must also inhabit this realm.

I believe – but am only just starting to understand what a challenge to our thoughts and intellect all of this can be. There is much to explore in this creation and we surely must not try to confine God within our own limited knowledge and thoughts but must see the mind of the creator everywhere in the world, in the arts, in the people around us, in scientific discovery and not only within the pages of a Bible.

Next month - God the Son.  
Phil Royle

## SPARKY'S SLOT

Wow! Snuffling through leaves is one thing - snuffling through snow is a different matter! The world had turned white for December's Spark to a Flame. Luckily I arrived in the large hall early and bagged my favourite seat on the window sill right over a radiator - well, when you've got 4 feet and no socks you get twice as cold.

As more and more people came - all cold and snowy - we all gathered together to share one big service. That was exciting because I met people that I didn't know very well.

We started by singing carols and acting out the Christmas story while we were singing O Holy Night. We thought a lot about Jesus coming first as a baby at Christmas but then some day returning as King. There were some yummy biscuits shaped like crowns for us to decorate, Advent Calendar crowns to make, music and carols to experiment with and time for discussion with Revd Greg. And we all helped to make a special banner but I'm not going to tell you about that - I want you all to look upwards next time you come through the main church doors and you'll see it.

I enjoyed Christmas - had a lovely time at church snuffling up all those mince pie crumbs - but I must confess I have been feeling a bit sleepy lately - Happy Hibernation!



### HOME MISSIONS SUNDAY

Home Missions Sunday is on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, and our preacher at the morning service will be Ali Stacey-Chapman, who is the new Pioneer Missioner based at Susanna Wesley House in Liversage Square. Ali has had a varied career, and the service promises to be very interesting. Please come along to meet her and to listen to what she has to tell us.

## Extraordinary Church Council Meeting 23rd January 2013

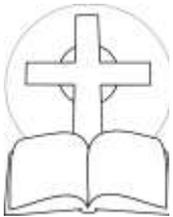
The Council approved the proposal that a Leadership Team should be created. We now need the membership of the church to support this important change, initially by helping with the next steps in finalising the various roles for the Leadership Stewards. We also need assistance in defining how the election process will be conducted. We hope that some will feel that they can become involved.

It is hoped that we might be able to hold an Extraordinary Church Meeting, possibly as part of morning worship in April, to elect the Leadership Stewards. Further details will soon be available, in the meantime we would ask that this decision and its consequences are in your prayers



## Reception into membership

For the last six months, the membership group have been planning the service for five of them to be received into membership on the morning of January 28th. This is a great day in our church's life as we celebrate such a special occasion - please come and support them if you can.



## Hands (to the tune of "All through the night")

Hands that fed 5000 people Reach out to us	Hands that wrap their love around us Hold on to us
Hands that treat us all as equals Reach out in love	Hands whose tenderness surrounds us Hold us in love
Hands that show us ways of sharing Hands that show us ways of caring	Hands once given up to nails Hands that strive and never fail
Hands spread our and now declaring This is my love	Hands and heart that will prevail Bringing God's love.
Hands that cross the lands and oceans Reach out to us	Hands that work to answer prayer Hold on to us
Hands that set the world in motion Reach out in love	Hands that soothe and hands that care Hold us in love
Hands that hug in times of sorrow Hands that take us to tomorrow	Hands whose touch is always healing From a Lord who knows our feelings
Hands that lead and bid us follow Teach us to love	Hands, a father's will revealing Hold us in love

**Sam Goodman**  
(Sam is a member at Ashbourne Road Church)



Seen in the church magazine.....

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING Conference: "The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals."

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

**Wesley Guild**  
**Spring Programme**  
**Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm**

10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Jane Whittaker – 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Elections
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Rev Gareth Higgs – Holy Land
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Ted Ager - Any Questions with local Clergy
31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Keith Blood – Peak District Customs
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Brian Sims – Hudson by Fur Trade
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Members
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Barry Lings – County Ranger
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Ian Sant – Zimbabwe
7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Fred Glover – RAF Adventures Part 2
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Brian Sims – Bible Based Auction
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Rev Helen White – Caledonian Canal

**A MORNING PRAYER**

So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, or overindulgent.

I'm very thankful for that, but in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

Amen

**Women's Fellowship**  
**Programme January – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018**  
**Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 pm**

Date	Speaker	Subject	Leader
*9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Andy Moore		Ann
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Barbara Daykin MBE		Ann
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Janet Fisher	"Talking Wood	Janet
30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Ann Ellis MBE	Opera	Ann
*6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Rev Greg		Gladys
13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bob Neal	Box of Surprises	Gladys
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Half Term Holiday		
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Rosemary Holmes		Janet
*6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Rev Helen White		Janet
**13 Mar	Members Afternoon		Ann
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Joan Ward		Gladys
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Easter Holiday		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Easter Holiday		
*10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Frankie Bray		Janet
17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Alan Rowe		Ann
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Jill Harrington		Gladys
*1 <sup>st</sup> May	Rev Greg		Janet

**\*\*Bring and Buy      \*Charity Collection The Railway Children**

**Please note that the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> of February is an open meeting. Bob Neil will be bringing his "box of surprises" (antiques etc), for teams of you to guess what they are. All will be very welcome – especially men!**

## Regular Activities at MMC

Mon-Fri	10.00am	Church office open until 12.15pm	
Mon-Fri	9.15am	Preschool group -term time only	Creche
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	Weekly Fellowship	Wesley Rm
Tue	6.30 pm	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
Thur	6.30pm	Brown Bear Cub Scouts	Large Hall
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	7.30 pm	Prayer time	Office
Fri	10.00am	Live at Home Office until 12 noon	
Fri	9.00am	Drop-in Café – Refreshments & chat	Social Area
Fri	9.15am	Go Fish – under 5s with parents/carers	Large Hall
Fri	7.30pm	Kinder Scouts	Large Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	12 noon	Lunch (except January)	Large Hall
Last Sat	10.00am	Fairtrade café	Wesley Rm

## Diary for February 2018

Why not come along and join us at Micklover Church Centre?

Date	Time	Event
Sat 3rd	12 noon	Church lunches
Tues 6th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship – Rev Greg
Tues 6th	4.00 to 6.00 pm	Messy Church
Wed 7th	7.30 pm	Wesley Guild - Brian Sims
Tues 13th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship – Bob Neal (OPEN MEETING)
Wed 14th	10.00 am	Funtime
Wed 14th	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday service
Wed 14th	7.30 pm	Wesley Guild - Members
Tues 27th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship – Rosemary Holmes
Wed 21st	7.30 pm	Wesley Guild – Barry Lings
Sat 24th	10.00 to 12.00 am	Fair Trade Cafe
Wed 28th	10.00am	Funtime
Wed 28th	7.30 pm	Wesley Guild – Ian Sant
Sat 3 Mar	12 noon	Church Lunches

### THURSDAY HOUSE GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDY

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

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