

Mickleover
Methodist
Church
Magazine



February 2019

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 March 2019 magazine by
Sunday 10th February 2019
please to Liz Royle via the Church Office or
Church Magazine email address above .**

Services in February 2019

**Sunday School, meet 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday mornings
at 10.00am in the room upstairs**

**They come into the Church near the end of the service
for “Show and Tell”**

Crèche available also on those Sunday mornings,

Refreshments are available after Sunday morning service.

Sunday 3rd February 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Morning worship - Phil Royle
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Jenny Dyer

Sunday 10th February Racial Justice Sunday

10.00am Morning worship - Revd David Greenaway
Spark to a Flame in Large Hall - Play nicely together
6.30pm Evening worship - Holy Communion
Revd Ted Ager

Sunday 17th February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Morning worship - Holy Communion
Revd Ted Ager
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Gary Watt

Sunday 24th February 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10.00am Morning worship - Anna Forey
6.30pm Evening worship - Phil Royle

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

God calls us to journey

Regional Learning and Development Officer for the North West and Mann Region, Simon Sutcliffe, sees journeys as adventurous and dangerous acts of faith. From Connexion magazine.

In most cases I love to go on a journey; the thrill of discovering something or somewhere new, the joy of arriving at my destination. I particularly love walking in the hills and spending time outdoors. The delight I experience on reaching a summit of a new mountain makes the arduous journey worthwhile. Of course, not all journeys are enjoyable. Walking home in the rain after a busy day at work because the car has broken down might not fill you with the same pleasure as an energising ramble in the Yorkshire Dales!

Faith

I do want to suggest, though, that all journeys have at least one thing in common; they always require an act of faith. In Ian Adams' beautiful little book *Cave, Refectory, Road* (Canterbury Press, 2010) he identifies "the road" – the place of journey – as a space that is both adventurous and dangerous. To journey is an activity that takes you beyond the stability of now into an unknown. No journey is ever identical – so even if you make the same journey every day, there will be different features to it.

I often wonder if Moses' dilemma at the burning bush (Exodus 3) was not simply a lack of self-confidence, but a lack of faith that periodically returned to the Israelites throughout the Exodus.

Moses was called to lead the Israelites out of an oppressive present into an unknown future and all he had to rely on was the voice of a divine being who claimed to be the God of his ancestors. Moses, utterly unprepared for the task before him, was asked if he could trust God (who has been faithful in the past) to hold out a future for him and his whole community.

When a people accept God's call to journey, they place their trust in God who, through Jesus, not only has promised to be with them in the here and now, but "to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20 NRSV). This is a God who holds out a future before us, however unknown and unpredictable it might be and it is because we can place our faith in a future held by God, that we have hope. To go on a journey is a hope-filled act of faith.

Trust

There is a striking story in Luke's Gospel where this act of faith is given a practical outworking. Jesus sends the 70 disciples "ahead of him ... to every town and place he himself intended to go" (Luke 10:1, NRSV). Notice how Jesus does not go with them or ahead of them, instead they are asked to go on a journey trusting the instructions that Jesus has given. More than that, they are told not to take any supplies with them, no emergency rations, no safety net in case the journey turns out badly for them. They simply have to trust that somehow, whatever this journey has in store for them, it is held within the economy of God.

I find it interesting that these early disciples were not to take anything with them, it meant that they could only survive for a short time before they needed the support and hospitality of others.

It reminds me that the route of the word journey comes from the Latin and French for day or daily. Perhaps when Jesus taught us how to pray "give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11 NRSV), he was hinting at the same act of faith required by the 70 disciples. Perhaps, in the desert when God commanded the Israelites to only "gather enough [bread] for that day" in Exodus journey into an unknown future, concerning ourselves only with what is needed for today and having hope in a yet-to-come held by God.

I started by telling you about my joy of walking in the mountains. Over the years I've learnt to carry as little as possible in order to make my pack light and manageable. If God is calling the Church to journey out, maybe we have to learn to do something similar and then simply trust in the God who calls.

Update from the Leadership Team January 2019

We had a very successful away day at Willesley Castle in October attended by Revd Ted Ager and Revd Jenny Dyer. This enabled us to expand our strategy and focus on priorities for the next few months.

A key part of our work is how we relate to other groups in the church. We have attended the Business Team meetings and the Church Treasurer is attending our meetings to report on finance. We are also meeting up with the Children and Families Worker Management Team to ensure that when Luzia starts we have a clear idea of priorities and goals.

The worship forum continues to meet monthly to plan our services in conjunction with the vestry stewards. The changes made to Sunday School have been very successful with the children now feeling much more part of our worship, and the congregation enjoying their exuberance and enthusiasm.

Providing a weekly alternative worship has proved difficult and we have not yet managed to work out how this can happen, although several successful 'All Age Worship' services have been held and more are planned. Messy Church and Spark to a Flame are continuing to attract families.

We delivered 400 plus leaflets to the new houses on Radbourne Lane advertising our activities and will finish off the remainder when the houses are complete. Some also received a Christmas card. The other new housing estates will be receiving a booklet prepared by Churches Together which also contains our details.

Events have been organised such as the Remembrance Day Tea so that we can meet together as a church family, and walks and picnics are also being held to ensure that our younger people and families feel part of the church community.

Pastoral care for the families that come to Little Micklers and Messy Church is still under discussion as we try to find out the best way to support them.

The Bible teaching provided by Terry Root has been well attended and we are already considering what next.

Following an audit of our mission work a meeting is planned to discuss how we can improve this in the future. Anyone interested is invited to attend or to send Derrick their views.

A highlight of the last few months has been working together to produce a profile of our church and to contribute to the process of finding a new minister. We are pleased and excited that Revd Gill Sharp will be joining us in September.

We each bring different strengths to the team and are working well together. As we are still short of 2 members we have reorganised slightly to reduce some team members workload. Responsibilities are detailed below.

We are grateful for the ongoing prayers and support of the church. If you have any questions or would like to know more please ask one of us.

Laraine Tuplin - Secretarial and Resources
Derrick Tuplin - Mission and Evangelism
Viv Richard – Fellowship
Janet Patmore - Worship
Andy Moore - Missing Generations
Dot Thompson – Pastoral and Learning



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 2nd February
Saturday 16th February

**Also a time of prayer in Church on Wednesday mornings for
half an hour starting at 9.30am**

Sparky's Slot



I was very Ho-peful when I arrived for December's Spark to a Flame and spied a table laid out for biscuit making . "Crumbs," I thought.

I was very Ho-peful when I watched the dramas and listened to people talking about what they would like for at Christmas. "A warm place with lots of leaves to curl up in", I thought.

But I was even more Ho-peful when I learned about the meaning of Advent and how we were getting ready for the birth of Jesus. And we weren't just hoping for lots of lovely food and lots of exciting presents - we were hoping and praying for the world to be filled with God's love and thinking about what we could do to share the message.

So in our activities we made a star to remind ourselves of God's promises , and then we wrote prayers for other people (those prayers were shared in church the following Sunday). We worked on a presentation of the Magnificat (that's a special word for Mary's prayer).

Fusion showed us the following Sunday, the collage of Hope we had created and instead of eating all the biscuits we made, we asked Marilyn to take them to the Night Shelter so that people without warm homes would know that we cared about them. (But there were still some crumbs for me and Spike.)

I popped into church a few times over Christmas. dolly mixtures on Christmas Eve., chocolate orange on Christmas morning, a mountain of mince pie crumbs and lots of love.

And then wow! - . back to my windowsill by the radiator and January Spark to a Flame for some Eureka moments. I was getting ready to hibernate but all the stories and dramas and videos last Sunday were about God revealing himself through Jesus, changing people's lives and sending them on different pathways - so that set me thinking..... keep a look out for me.

Happy Snuffling! See you on Sunday 10 February 10am in the Large Hall for the next Spark to a Flame - I've heard it's all about music!



Racial Justice Sunday

Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) has become an ecumenical event celebrated in Britain and Ireland. on the second Sunday which this year is Sunday 10 February. This Sunday is an opportunity for all Christians to join together in:

Reflecting on the importance of racial justice

Thanksgiving for human diversity

Prayer for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice

Action that truly makes a difference

Fundraising for national and local racial justice initiatives

Why Celebrate Racial Justice Sunday?

We believe that the universe was created by a loving God who chose to become a human being in Jesus Christ, who has redeemed the world and sent the Holy Spirit to enable us to love one another with God's love. All human beings are equally children of God and loved by God. Since none is outside the love of God, none should be outside our love either.

We believe that the diversity of the human race was no mistake on God's part. God deliberately created variety within the human family and wants us to take as much delight in that variety as God does.

But racism persists in Britain and Ireland. At its most obvious and brutal, it takes the form of physical attacks, which sometimes end in murder. But it takes many other forms as well, like discrimination within the police force, popular prejudice against Travellers or people seeking asylum, or reluctance to accept people of a different ethnic or cultural group as neighbours. Even within churches, people can face discrimination and unkindness because they are different from the majority in a particular community.

As long as this continues, we believe that it is important to make time to give thanks for our diversity and to pray for God's help in overcoming our prejudices and the injustices that reflect and reinforce them.

'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.'

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN, 1948

Forty Years in the Wilderness?

2019 marks a very important year in the Methodist world (not really!) as it was in 1979 that I became fully accredited as a Local Preacher. I would like to add that I was only five years old at the time, but unfortunately that would not be true.

During those forty years I have learned one or two things about preaching from congregations, stewards and other individuals, some of which I would like to share with you, along with some fairly random thoughts of my own.

Appearance is very important in the eyes of many, as was pointed out at one of my very first services when the vestry steward told me in no uncertain terms that in future I would not be welcome in that particular church. At this point I had only just arrived in the vestry and had not uttered a single word other than “Good Morning”.

He then went on at great length about my hairstyle which was also of great length (this being the 1970s and I was in my hippy era) and which was, to him, unacceptable in a preacher. As luck would have it there was a picture of the long-haired, blond, blue-eyed Jesus on the wall of the vestry and I could not resist looking at it and asking if He would also be banned from the pulpit.

To give him his due, the steward thought for a while and then apologised and I subsequently preached there on many occasions complete with flowing locks. It did, and still does, make me aware on how appearance is important but also how our preconceptions of others' appearance can very often result in an unfair opinion.

Timing is of great importance to many in our congregations, and there was one church in Liverpool where if a service was 59 minutes long “It was not worth getting out of bed for!”. If it was 61 minutes long “that went on for too long and my dinner will be charcoal when I get home!”. However, a 60 minute service resulted in “Good service this morning, lad”. Never mind the quality, just time it.

Obviously with my reputation for service times it would be a case of ‘You didn’t even give us time to sit down! if I were to return there today.

There was also, at the same church, a fairly elderly man who always sat in the farthest corner under the balcony, who wore hearing aids but would not switch them on as this “wasted” the battery. At the end of a service he berated me and said that I obviously knew nothing about deafness, and should spend some time with deaf people before I stood up to preach again.

I gently pointed out that this was not the case and that I was a qualified teacher of the Deaf and worked with some of the deafest people in the country as my day job. I asked to see his hearing aids and switched them on, cleaned about three years’ worth of wax from the earmoulds and pointed out where acoustically the best seats in the building were before leaving.

Years later after moving to Derby I was talking to a new minister in the circuit at the end of his morning service. He looked at me and asked had I once lived in Liverpool and preached in this particular church, to which I replied in the affirmative. He then said, “I thought I recognised you, you are the reason I became a preacher – I said to myself, “If he can do it, then so can I!” ”. I decided to take this as a compliment.

I often wonder what people hear when I preach, as on several occasions congregation members have said to me at the end of a service, “It was really helpful (or confusing) when you talked about.....” and I think to myself that I did not say anything like that, and wonder if sometimes people hear what they want or need to hear, rather than what is actually said.

I have, many times, been told that I tell too many stories, not enough stories, use too much levity, am too serious, sermons are too short and too long, I don’t preach from the Bible, I explain Biblical truths in an understandable way, use complicated and over-simplistic language, they like the hymns but I should use more songs, and the list goes on as every congregation member is a critic.

I could go on – which brings me to my next point. When to stop and call it a day. There have been several occasions in the last forty years when I have felt that I am going stale in my preaching and have on these occasions come off the plan for one or two quarters as a sort of “sabbatical”, at the end of which I was ready to get back into the pulpit again.

The question then comes as to when to retire completely, which can be a thorny problem for all involved, especially when an embarrassed superintendent minister or church minister has to explain that it may be time to give preaching a rest after many years of service

There was a preacher in one of my previous circuits who was obviously well past his Best By Date and rambled on and on in his services. I have always been worried that this would happen to me, and so I told Liz that when I start to approach that point she is to say that person’s name to me, and my retirement from preaching will follow immediately.

In the absence of this happening I would hope that my friends would be brave enough to say to me that my Best By Date has expired, and I will pack up my drills and stop boring. Please form an orderly queue and don’t push!

The preaching years have been a challenge, a privilege and a joy to share Good News and challenges with God’s people, and apparently at some point in 2019 I will be presented with a letter/certificate from the Methodist Church to thank me for forty years of service. This will be the first letter I have had in the forty years since the last one congratulating me on becoming fully accredited, but I think that the thanks should not go to me, but to the congregations who, for all those years, have encouraged, supported, stayed awake (mostly) and put up with me for over four decades.

If you find yourself listening to me or any other preacher and thinking either that you could do better or you could fill that role, then please have a word with a minister or preacher who would be more than happy to encourage you to give it a try. I can guarantee that even if the congregations get bored, you will not.

Funny how a £5 note "looks" so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the shopping centre.

Funny how long it takes to serve God for an hour, but how quickly a team plays 90 minutes of football.

Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray, but don't have any trouble thinking of things to say to a friend.

Funny how we get thrilled when a football game goes into extra time, but complain when a sermon is longer than the regular time.

Funny how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a best selling novel.

Funny how people want to get a front row seat at any game or concert, but scramble to get a back seat at church services.

Funny how we need 2 or 3 weeks advance notice to fit a church event into our schedule, but can adjust our schedule for other events at the last moment

Funny how hard it is for people to learn a simple gospel passage well enough to tell others, but how simple it is for the same people to understand and repeat gossip.

Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, or to think, or to say, or do anything.

Funny how you can send a thousand 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding Jesus, people think twice about sharing.

MICKLEOVER METHODIST CHURCH
Minutes of a Meeting of the Church Council
on Tuesday the 16th October 2018

Eighteen Church members present plus Revd Jenny Dyer (chair) and John McCartney (Circuit Steward).

Revd Greg's move brought forward to Sept 2018. Revds Jenny Dyer and Ted Ager to look after Mickleover. Process to begin in finding a minister for Mickleover and Dean Street to start September 2019.

Pre-school management representation: As the newly appointed Chair of the Pre-school Management Committee is not a Church member Liz Greaves is to be invited to join the Committee as representative from the Church Council.

Leadership stewards report:

Kathy Greig confirmed as the Publicity Co-ordinator.

Church Council in favour of adding use of premises to Priority 1.

Team thinking about how to provide a 'meet and greet' reception in Church.

Unfilled positions on the team – Resources Secretary and Evangelism.

Priority 2 – flow of information, developing a Welcome pack and Church calendar, pro-active advertising, development of simple form for details of families who attend Messy Church, Little Micklers etc.

Priority 4 – Worship forum led by Janet Patmore established.

Mission and Service – Derrick is looking at what we are doing and new opportunities.

Laraine encouraged anyone who wished to know more about the Team's work to ask them. Revd. Jenny congratulated Laraine and the Team on their work.

GDPR -General Data Protection Regulation:

An organisation has a legitimate interest in holding the contact details of its members and using those details and legitimate interest is one of other legal bases.

Church can have an address list provided it's kept secure - should be held by a limited number of people, perhaps the Church Minister and Pastoral Secretary. Pastoral Visitors have an interest in holding details of their own groups. Non church people to be asked to sign a form for contact, for their details be held, to receive information about future events in the Church..

Discussions were also taking place with regard to Ministers' retention of personal details from baptisms, weddings and funerals. Contact details to be kept as long as they are needed.

A group of people within the Church is working on a form which will be available in the near future.

Business Team:

The budget revised because the financial situation has changed since June 2018. For various reasons income had been lost from offertories. Also lost the income of £5,250 per annum from Live at Home. Maintenance budget has been reduced by half to offset some of the lost income. Letters will be going out with a direct appeal to everyone to give more. The meeting was in agreement with the proposal

Church Council gave approval for the team to obtain an estimate for work in the kitchen up to the value of £10,000 to be carried out

After looking into various possibilities, and the financial aspect of the work involved, the group recommended not going ahead with any extensions at this time. The room previously used by Live at Home to be used as a multi-purpose room. Fire regulations to be checked,. Easyvac chair to be available.

Learning and Pastoral Team:

Derrick Tuplin has joined the team. "Does the Bible Matter" 10 sessions of bible study led by Terry Root starts evening 1st November repeated afternoons on 8th November.

Church Family and Outreach Matters:

Children & Families Worker –. post was widely advertised where no charges were involved. Closing date is 24th October -interviews on 13th November
Safeguarding update –Because we are registered with the Charity Commission any safeguarding incident or concern now has to be reported to them by Susan McIvor District Safeguarding Officer. Secondly the District and Circuit carrying out self-assessment audit for outside groups who use Methodist Church premises.

Churches Together in Mickleover ---nothing to report.

Our Mickleover – A community leaflet been prepared, going into Doctors' surgeries, etc.. Church leaflet been put together, giving details of future events – eg Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Lent, etc.. Remembrance Day – all the churches had been asked to take part and this would be a big event.

Our Mickleover Christmas event – Murray Park School choir taking part. Carol singing e on 25th November.

Pre- school

Children are now being taken from the age of 2 as a result of low birth rates two years ago, the age range has been widened to ensure sustainability and the boosting of numbers

Circuit Business Feedback

As a result of the resignation of Ali Stacey Chapman, an advert will be released to recruit for the role in Suzanna Wesley House

The Reverend who was due to come to the Allestree Churchs is still awaiting immigration clearance, may not arrive in time for the next plan.

Dates of Future Meetings

Church Council 12th February 2019 at 7 30pm

Church Council 11th June 2019

Annual Church Meeting 22nd May 2019

We welcome Luzia Watt who has taken up the appointment of Children and Families Worker at Mickleover Methodist. She will start in early February and is enthusiastic and experienced having had a similar role in Kent. We look forward her input and to working with her.

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 friend's bakery burned down last night. Now his business is toast.

My job at the concrete plant seems to get harder and harder.

I think Santa has a riverfront property in Brazil. All our presents came from Amazon this year.

Combine Harvesters—and you'll have a really big restaurant.

Churches Together in Mickleover

Minutes of a Meeting of the Churches Together Outreach Group (CTOG) held on Wednesday 9 January 2019 at All Saints Church Centre

Coffee Morning for Children in Need: very successful, although it was hoped to revert to the Alternative Gift Market this year.

Remembrance Day: parade very successful, with 700-800 people present.

Scarecrow Festival: didn't really happen, largely because information from David Lewis was received very late. Note that 'Our Mickleover' is now a Community Interest Company and is supported by local councillors. CTM (Peter and Mike) will request a liaison meeting to discuss dates and planning.

'Our Mickleover' Christmas Festival: stewards provided by CTM. Both the band and choir were smaller than in previous years –

Christmas Tree Festival: it was suggested that we try something different – some other 'performance' delivered in each church by a CTM group, supported by members of the respective churches with children from the associated schools to be invited, and involved as much as possible.

Christmas Services / Activities: generally the family services on Christmas Eve were very well attended, with variable numbers at 'midnight' and Christmas Day.

Talk on Modern Day Slavery at OLOL on 16 January.

Lent Groups: Using the York Course and deliver each weekly part in a different church (offering a day-time and evening slot)

w/c 11 March	-	All Saints
w/c 18 March	-	OLOL
w/c 25 March	-	St John's
w/c 1 April	-	MMC
w/c 8 April	(if needed)	All Saints.

Holy Week: each church offers its own services/activities, culminating in the Walk of Witness, should include an "event" outside Rowditch Furnishers – perhaps dramatic readings if not a play. St John's is planning "Gently into Easter" on Wednesday 17 April – all invited.

Youth and Family Worker: Pathfinders group had been revived. The Hangout also has low numbers but a useful step from Pathfinders.

Jonathan is also active in local schools, particularly Ravensdale and Mickleover Primary. He is looking forward to working with the new families worker at MMC in due course.

Prayer initiative "Thy Kingdom Come" returns between Ascension and Pentecost (30 May – 9 June).

Thinking about Valentine's Day

Valentines' Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. Jesus says: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' (John 13:34).

How can we express love in our everyday relationships as Jesus did?

Listening: We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for their answer. 'Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry' (*James 1:19*). How well do we listen to others?

Listening takes time; you can't rush it!

Touching: Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in his world, including lepers, the sick and children. One survey has suggested that we all need at least 8-10 meaningful touches a day to maintain emotional health! Of course, it should be appropriate touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking: Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (*John 1:14*). Do we speak words of grace, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern?

Prayer pointers for February

1. Give thanks for those who have inspired us in our faith
2. Presentation of Christ in the Temple Dedication of our lives to God
3. Thank God for his creation
4. Open our eyes to the beauty which surrounds us
5. The work of environmentalists
6. The work of conservationists
7. Our own love and care for the whole of God's creation
8. A fair distribution of the world's resources
9. An end to hunger, malnutrition and starvation
10. Racial Justice Sunday
11. For the discipline to regularly read and study the Bible
12. For perseverance in prayer
13. Trust in Jesus
14. The clergy and congregations of our neighbouring churches
15. The work of Churches Together in Mickleover
16. For compassion to welcome and help refugees
17. For all who are forced to flee their homes
18. For compassion to welcome and help refugees
19. To be faithful servants in his Name this year.
20. Our worship of, and growth towards God.
21. Our care and support for one another.
22. Our presence in the local community.
23. The use and care of our building and halls.
24. All who work for the peace of the world.
25. Strengthening of our faith
26. All those recovering from natural disasters.
27. Local hospitals, GPs and health workers

Candlemas blessings

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February, 40 days after Christmas Day.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy, it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the temple with Jesus, her first male child, to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple which today is also known as Candlemas.

So why Candlemas? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, indeed, he called himself this when he said 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness.' (*John 8:12*)

With this in mind, early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this festival and the Church fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used only on this day, during the distribution of candles before the eucharist. Gradually the Nunc Dimittis won a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

If 2 February is not on a Sunday it is usual to celebrate it on the nearest Sunday, hence this year we celebrate it on the first Sunday of February - this year it falls on 3 February.

God's New Year honour's list

We are all familiar with the Queen's New Year's honours list, celebrating those who have made a significant contribution to public life

What would God's New Year's honours list look like? In 1 Samuel 2 v 30 God says, ***"Those who honour me I will honour."*** In this New Year how can we honour God in our lives?

Honouring God means giving Him reverence, submission and obedience; the complete surrender of our entire lives to His glory and loving service: *"in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God- this is your true and proper worship."* (Roman 12 v 1)

Suggestions for honouring God this year in five key areas:

My Time: how can I use my time to glorify God?

My Gifts: how am I using my God- given gifts and abilities in His service?

My Body: in what ways do I honour God in my body?

My Treasure: who is in charge of my finances?

My Heart: how do I honour God not just outwardly, but from my heart?

"These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." (Isaiah 29 v 13)

Here's a challenge for 2019. When we wake up each day, let's ask God: "How can I honour you today? Please help me to honour you with the time, gifts, body, finance and heart that you have given me."

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



Come – Everything is Ready!

Friday 1 March 2019

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer.* Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 1st 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

Service at Littleover Methodist Church 1 March at 2pm.
All are welcome to come.

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	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
Fri	10.00am	Drop in café -Refreshments & chat	Social Area
Fri 4th in month	10am	Scrabble	Wesley Rm
Fri	7.30pm	Kinder Scouts	Large Hall
Sat 1st month	12noon	Lunch (except January)	Large Hall
Sat 3rd month	10.00am	Fairtrade café & Traidcraft stall	Wesley Rm

Diary for February 2019

Sat 2nd	12noon	Lunches
Tues 5th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship- Revd Alun Rowlands
Tues 5th	4pm to 6pm	Messy Church– Saying sorry—Prodigal Son
Weds 6th	7.30pm	Wesley Guide - Members
Fri 7th	10.00am to 12noon	Friday Cafe
Tues 12th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - tba
Weds 13th	10.00am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 14th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Brian and Barbara Sims A Mediterranean Cruise
Fri 15th	10.00am to 12noon	Café
Tues 19th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - no meeting
Weds 20th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - No meeting
Friday 22nd	10.00am to 12noon	Café
Tues 26th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - Revd Ted Ager
Weds 27th	10am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 27th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Denise Coppen Dwarfism
Fri 25th	9.15am to 12noon	Café
Sat 2nd Mar	12noon	Lunches