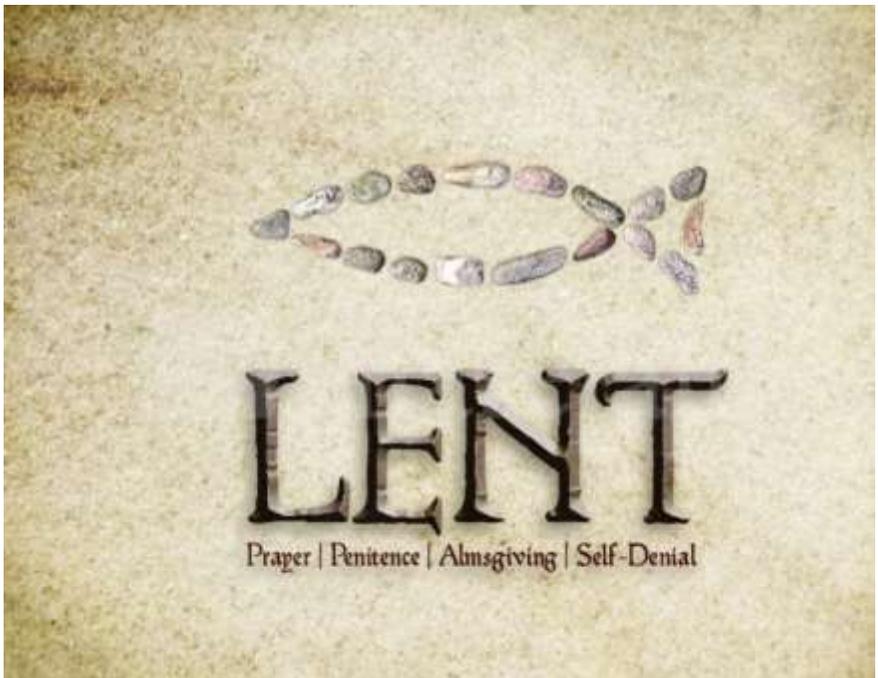


Mickleover  
Methodist  
Church  
Magazine



**March 2019**

The Mission of Micklover 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 April 2019 magazine by  
Sunday 17th March 2019  
please to Liz Royle via the Church Office or  
Church Magazine email address above .**

# Services in March 2019

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

**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 March Sunday before Lent**

10.00am Morning worship - Graham Penny  
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Neil Draper

## **Sunday 10th March 1st Sunday in Lent**

10.00am Morning worship - Peter Blount  
Spark to a Flame in Large Hall - Give up –Take up!  
6.30pm Evening worship - Holy Communion  
Revd Ted Ager

## **Sunday 17th March 2nd Sunday in Lent**

10.00am Morning worship - Holy Communion  
Revd Ted Ager  
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Colin Emerson

## **Sunday 24th March 3rd Sunday in Lent**

10.00am Morning worship - Mary Calladine  
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Jenny Dyer

## **Sunday 31st March Mothering Sunday**

10.00am Morning worship - Revd Jenny Dyer  
All Age Worship/Café Church  
6.30pm Evening worship - Revd Raymond Lunt

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

## Conversations



Have you chosen to give up something for Lent? Many people do, and for various reasons,. What about taking up something — something you may already do, but which you may understand you need to do even more.

In Luke 21, Jesus told His followers about the coming fall of Jerusalem as well as the difficulties of the times before He would return. He ended the discourse saying, “But keep on the alert at all times, praying in order that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

We know that Jesus also pressed His disciples to pray with Him in the Garden before His arrest, telling them to pray so that they wouldn’t fall into temptation. They slept instead, and the result was that they ran away in fear and Peter even denied Jesus publicly.

It was while in prayer that God called Paul and Barnabas to set out on their missionary journeys. It was during a gathering for prayer during a fearful time that the Holy Spirit filled the believers with courage and power.

There are countless stories in the Old and New Testaments where things happened because people prayed. We need to pray because we need God. All too often we worry rather than pray, or we set out to deal with something rather than kneel before the One who has the battle plan in hand. And the days we live in are dark and they are difficult; we must pray so that we remain true to our God.

Many things will pull at our time and our hearts to distract us from pursuing God’s Kingdom and lead us, instead, to indulge in worthless things. It is through talking with our Father that we can avoid the trappings, that we can find what we need for each moment, that we can be empowered by His

Spirit to live courageously and victoriously in this world

During this Lent season, pray. And if you give up something, let what you've given up remind you to pray. When the stomach rumbles, or the blank screen of the T.V. woos you to turn it on, or that piece of candy keeps calling out to you — whatever it is that you *give up*, let it lead you to *take up* prayer.

M. I. Benedict

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*What to Give Up*

*Give up complaining ..... focus on gratitude*  
*Give up pessimism..... become an optimist*  
*Give up worry..... trust God*  
*Give up bitterness..... turn to forgiveness*  
*Give up negativism.....be positive*  
*Give up anger.....be more perfect*  
*Give up pettiness..... become mature*  
*Give up gloom..... enjoy the beauty all around*  
*Give up jealousy..... pray for trust*  
*Give up gossiping.....control our tongues*  
*Give up sin..... turn to virtue*  
*Give up giving up.....hang in there!*

# CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT STUDIES 2019

This year we will be studying the five week York Course.

## DARING TO SEE GOD NOW

**Weds 13 March** 1pm & 7.30pm @All Saints  
The Good News of God

w/c 18 March OLOL  
The time is now



**Tues 26th March** 1pm & 7.30pm @St John's  
God is present

**Mon 1st April** 7.30pm & **Thurs 4th April** 1pm  
Mickleover Methodist Church  
Change your mind

**Thurs 11th April** 1pm & 7.30pm @All Saints  
Live it!

Do come and join us in this time of preparation  
for Easter

Sheet on Church notice board to sign up for a booklet.



### **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 16th March**

**Saturday 30th March**

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

Lent Communion

Every Wednesday in Lent , starting  
Wednesday 13 March at 12noon, there will a

Communion service led by Revd Ted Ager, followed by  
a soup and roll lunch.



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## **Mickleover Methodist Church**

### **Report of the Children & Families Worker from the Management Team to Church Council 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

There was one applicant for the post of the Children & Families Worker, Luzia Watt.

Luzia was interviewed and offered the job and she accepted. However, in subsequent conversations it emerged that her family circumstances meant that she did not want to work evenings, weekends or school holidays.

Given that an important part of the role would be to build relationships with school age children and their families, there was a mismatch between what she could offer and what was required, and both sides thought it best not to proceed with the appointment.

February Church Council asked Revd Jenny Dyer to contact Revd Gill Sharp for her views on advertising the post now or in September.

## Sparky's Slot



A-one -and - a - two- and -a -three and - a - four .... . feel free to join in when you've got the rhythm - introducing "Hedgehogs in Harmony", the new musical duo formed by me and my friend Spike after the February Spark to a Flame.

You see the subject for the morning was Playing together Nicely and we talked a lot about musical instruments, which ones we liked best, which ones we could recognise, and the Beavers gave us a super drama about every instrument playing a different part in a band or an orchestra but all of them being just as important in bringing the tune together. Fusion had written their version of Psalm 150, all about praising God on different instruments, with lots of illustrations on the screen.

Then we stopped talking about instruments for a bit and Jorico read what St Paul had to say about the church being like a body and every part of the body having a different job to do, but each part being equally important. That made me think a bit and he was right - I need all my four paws for shuffling, my nose for snuffling, my spikes for keeping me safe when I'm rolled up in the leaves.

While we were doing our activities, decorating musical biscuits, making our own musical instruments, having a quiet time with the Taize music, practising to play for our final worship song, I kept thinking about everything we'd heard and when we came back to sing and say our prayers and I was sitting with Spike playing my biscuit tin drum there was an epiphany ( see- I remembered last month's message) moment in my little mind. If all the different parts are needed for the body to work properly and all the different instruments are needed to make beautiful music - it must be like that with our church. We are all different but we are all important and have a special job to do. People and hedgehogs!

Happy snuffling!



# Christian Aid Lent and Easter Appeal

Climate change is happening. We can't ignore its effects any longer.

For fisherfolk like Lope and Eva and Mary Ann in the Philippines, life at the sharp end of climate change has pushed their communities to the edge of survival.

After Super Typhoon Haiyan hit their small island of Tabugon in 2013 Lope and Eva struggled to provide for their family. Haiyan shook their community to the core and swept fishing boats, homes and marine life away. When a typhoon ripped away precious coral reefs and mangrove trees, it could have destroyed their way of life.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, their community was able to create an artificial reef, replant mangroves and help the environment recover. Lope now campaigns against the illegal fishing that harms marine ecosystems.

Lope and Eva are now enjoying abundant catches of fish. true climate champions, rallying their community to protect their precious livelihoods in a changing, erratic climate. But climate change is making life here, and around the world, more uncertain. Together you can rise up against climate change with Lope and Eva.

Rise up Climate Change is the biggest challenge we all face. But we have a vision of a better world, free from poverty and climate change. Where everyone has enough to eat, and can live without fear of their home being destroyed. Together we can restore God's Earth

## LENT LUNCH



Sunday 10 March 12 noon at Church

Soup with bread roll and pizza slices for children.

In aid of Rise Up Climate Change.

Your donation at this Lent Lunch may seem like a small action in the face of global hunger and poverty. But you'll be helping to transform the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable people.

## Greetings from North Devon!!

By the time you read this we will have been in Fremington for 3 months! It's hard to believe but at the same time we feel very settled and have adapted to our new way of life in the South West.

Chris, Dad and I have managed to get 2 houses into one for the time being (although the garage and storage unit are full of boxes.) There is no knowing when a place at Norah Bellot Court will come up for dad, but we've adapted to life together - Every morning we photocopy the crossword from the newspaper so that both Chris & dad have their own copy to work at!!

It's strange to wake to the sound of seagulls and to hear them when we're sitting in church. This sound has always been synonymous with holidays but now it means home.

Our house is very close to the Tarka trail (a former railway line) and Fremington Quay which was once a bustling port, importing and exporting goods around the world. Chris and I often walk to the quay and along the trail or the beach. The next little village is Instow (3.5 miles away on foot) and here there is a proper sandy beach and a calm sea unlike the sea at Westward-Ho and Saunton Sands which is great for surfing. Even last week there were surfers out at Saunton sands enjoying the breakers and the sunshine. Across from Instow lies Appledore with a shipyard which is currently under threat and Chivenor – now a Royal Marines base but formerly RAF Chivenor.



Saunton Sands, January 2019

We've made lots of new contacts on the estate. People are very friendly and because we're almost all new to the area it's good to share experiences and information. We got together with neighbours before Christmas and again on New Years Day and enjoyed chatting and finding out where we'd all come from!

Chris & I have joined the Bideford Town Band and are preparing for the 2019 Regional Championships in Torquay in March. It's strange for me being back on percussion after a break of over 20 years. Both of us are really enjoying being back in banding. I have also joined the North Devon Choral society. We are rehearsing Dvorak's Stabat Mater for a performance at the end of March at Torrington Parish Church with soloists and the Father Willis organ accompanying us. Contacts in the band have been able to give dad the opportunity to visit the church and play the magnificent organ which left him on cloud 9 as you can imagine.

We've all settled at Christ Church in Barnstaple – a united URC/Methodist church in the town centre. Our local chapel at Fremington is very convenient and active but we felt more at home at Christ Church. The building was formerly known as 'Barnstaple Methodist Church' which, in turn, was formerly known as the 'Thorne Memorial Chapel' after James Thorne of Shebbear (1795-1872) the founder of the Bible Christian Movement in North Devon. The building dates from 1876. (The Bible Christians were a separate Methodist denomination from 1815-1907). It is a happy partnership and the church is very active and busy within the community and beyond. We have been made to feel very welcome here.

Janet, Chris & John

Christ Church  
Barnstaple



## The Perfect Minister

I must confess that a few months ago, I was feeling quite smug. The sector of the circuit for which John McCartney is responsible had to go through the complicated procedure of stationing.

John did a fantastic job and we are shortly to have a new minister. My sector of the circuit was all cut and dried and so I did not have to go through all this rigmarole and so breathed a sigh of relief.

However, it turned out that the Duffield and Allestree sector suddenly had to go into the stationing process, and at a week's notice I had to sort out profiles, arrange visits and subsequent letters of understanding etc. I am very grateful to John McCartney who, graciously, sent me copies of all his paperwork so that I could adapt them to fit the new circumstances.

As a result, a new Minister has been appointed to the Duffield, Allestree and St. John's churches and this has now been approved by the stationing process. David and Trish Owen will be joining us in the circuit in September and we look forward to their arrival.

This process made me think about what makes the perfect minister, and so I have gathered in the collected wisdom of Methodist members from the past fifty years or so and drawn up a profile for your consideration. Although I use the term "he" in this, I do mean "he/she" throughout – so please take that as read.

A Methodist Minister should:-

- Be available 24 hours a day and for at least seven days a week, whilst at the same time spending good deal of time in service preparation, personal prayer and Bible Study.

Be a good visitor and remember the names of all the congregation within the first week of arrival, including family members, even unto the third and fourth generation, although they must only visit when convenient to the family and not outstay their welcome. He must also have a working knowledge of the hobbies/interests of all the congregation members in order to engage meaningfully with them.

Be able, at the drop of a hat, to bake four dozen scones and lighter than air Victoria sponges for whatever event is taking place at the time.

Church services should be traditional and modern at the same time, choosing everyone's favourite hymn/song to be sung in each service

Theologically the stance taken should be fundamentalist-conservative evangelical-liberal-radical in all aspects of preaching. Sermons should be no longer than the congregation members' concentration span which can range from five minutes to three hours, whilst at the same time engaging meaningfully with all ages from new-borns to 100+. Preaching should be "from the Bible" but not using lots of confusing quotations, whilst stressing the social Gospel at the same time.

As we all know, ministers only work for one day a week, which gives them plenty of time to organise and take part in all the activities of the church including those of our ecumenical partners.

Quality time off must be taken to allow a suitable home/work balance: therefore a regular day off should be factored in - 29<sup>th</sup> Feb seems an opportune day.

Chairing of meetings is paramount in importance, and he must have the skill of allowing everyone present to have their say, whilst not allowing the meeting to go on for longer than one hour - especially if there is something interesting on the telly.

He must walk everywhere so as to engage with the general population, but must have a car instantly available to attend emergencies. Clerical garb should be used to indicate who he is but dress should be informal to allow engagement with those outside the church.

He must be available whenever needed in the Minister's Office in Church but must be out in the community at the same time. The Manse should be open to all with a constant supply of tea and cakes – with gluten/sugar/dairy free and vegan options always available.

This is a compilation of comments which I have had or heard over the years and I am sure that you have a number of your own to add. Is it any wonder that so few people wish to enter ministerial training and so many burn out or leave because of unreasonable expectations, whether they be real or perceived?

This article is written with tongue very firmly in cheek and I hope it raises a smile. However, it has a serious point in that we all expect so much of our ministers and often fail to accept that they are not superhuman. They need our love and understanding, our support and encouragement. There may be differences of opinion which should be discussed in the spirit of openness tempered with love and respect. A clerical collar does not confer absolute wisdom or perfection upon those who wear it, but marks them out as a member of a team with a particular role.

The perfect Minister does not exist, we need to accept that, and nurture him/her to the best of our ability.

Phil Royle

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## Jesus the carpenter

Jesus the carpenter who cared  
the carpenter who transformed  
wood and nails into beautiful objects, useful articles.

Jesus the carpenter  
killed by the very same wood and nails,  
yet still transformed the  
ugly brutality of the cross  
into beauty and value by His love and care. . .



What about me, my life? do I care? do I love?  
do I transform?

What are my tools?  
can I lend a hand,  
or am I too blind to see the need? can I share the little I have,  
or am I too selfish?

Jesus,  
I pray that your transforming love and care may continue ... through me.

*Ann Edwards*



## Nigeria Health Care Project (NHCP)- Charity for March

Nigeria has more than 170 million people. Over half of them live in poverty. Child and maternal mortality rates are some of the highest in the world. But thanks to NHCP steady progress is being made.

The Nigeria Health Care Project (NHCP) comprises a small team of volunteers in the UK who work in partnership with the Methodist Church Nigeria (MCN) promoting primary care in rural areas of Nigeria. In the rural areas of Nigeria live some of the poorest people in the world, and in 1992, the Wesley Guild decided that it should seek to re-establish the task of supporting primary health care within Nigeria. Since then support has grown within the Guild movement, the wider church, Christian Guild Holidays, other organisations and from individuals.

Today the Guild movement are financially supporting eight hospitals, health centres and clinics, three centres for mentally ill people, one leprosy and rehabilitation centre, a motherless babies home and a community-based orphan care programme.

NHCP is also committed to assist in the training and education of health workers. We support a College of Health Technology, which trains community health workers and we are actively involved in promoting a school of nursing and midwifery.

NHCP's training of trainers programmes are closely allied to local and national priorities in Nigeria. We work closely with local health authorities to try and reduce death and disease in newborn babies by enabling staff to prevent and treat problems.

The long term partnerships, including regular report and visits continues to ensure the accountability and effectiveness of the work of NHCP.

So how can we get involved. We have in Church the 5p pot for the collection of 5ps . We have a retiring collection every year. Lastly we can include the NCHP and its work In our prayers.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!”



How does anyone get away with exhorting others to rejoice? If you are feeling down, does it really help for someone to come along and say, “Cheer up?” And yet, it seems that is what the Church is doing today.

Without pausing to assess the mood or attitude of everyone who has gathered here today, the Church makes bold to exhort people on the Third Sunday of Advent, ready or not, to rejoice.

For centuries this Advent Sunday has been called Gaudete Sunday named after the Latin word at the beginning of our second reading “Gaudete” – “Rejoice!”

St. Paul wrote the words of our second reading while he was in a Roman prison...always good to have context – “rejoice” comes echoing out of the prison cell of St. Paul.

Actually, our first reading, the Prophet Zephaniah, “Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel” these words come from the difficult times of the Babylonian Captivity – the Hebrew people ripped from their land and yet they can picture that the Lord “will sing joyfully...as one sings at festivals.” So how do you find joy in a prison cell - how do you rejoice when life seems full of struggles.

A lot of people confuse joy with pleasure, but there is a world of difference between them, and unless you know this difference, you have not yet begun to live.

Joy consists in having a love affair with life. It is having a heart that glows with warmth for all of our companions on the road of life. This is not cheap joy. The readings today speak of the joy that comes to life when we open our hearts to God. Isaiah connects rejoicing with “seeking the Lord, seek justice, seek humility.”

St. Paul tells us when we give our lives to the Lord, joy follows, “have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.”

John the Baptist made it clear that the coming of God in the person of Jesus would mean good news to those whose lives were “fruitful” in ways that show repentance...and bad news to those whose lives did not produce such fruit. When questioned by the crowds as to what precisely “fruitful” living meant, he replied concretely: don’t cheat, don’t extort, don’t falsely accuse, be content with your wages, and share food and clothing.

“Rejoice in the Lord always” – the scriptures today tell us that if we live under the reign of God – if we embrace the life of Christ – if we live by Christ’s values of justice, compassion, forgiveness, peace – then your life and what you do with it matters. You will find a deep and eternal joy.

If you truly live the Christian life – whatever your role – tax collector, soldier, butcher, baker, student, retired – if you live like Christ the world will be a better place and your destiny will not be the trash heap!

Joy – at the end of the day the call to rejoice has little to do with mood and much to do with living a way of life revealed to us by Jesus.

This way of life is seen when the majesty of God becomes flesh, becomes human in Jesus Christ. John the Baptist, overwhelmed by the greatness and splendour of Christ said, “I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.” Foot washing was the most humble service performed by a slave, and John did not think himself worthy of washing Jesus’s feet. And yet later on, it was Christ himself who knelt before his own disciples, undid their sandal straps and washed their dusty feet – it would have astonished John the Baptist. It astonished the disciples. But by that startling action Jesus showed us the way to life – dying to self in love of the other – a way of life that leads to eternal joy.

Contributed by Lana Jamieson

## Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is a lovely thanksgiving occasion but it does present a few problems when we reflect upon its origins and our contemporary practice. The changing structures of families, requires us to rethink our understanding of both the nature of 'family', and the role of mothers within it. That which once was relatively simple has become unexpectedly difficult.

For example, families are not what they were fifty, thirty or even ten years ago. Nor can we confidently assert that the Church family has been able to care for its members as well as we would like, or as well as God expects. So this day presents a good opportunity to remind ourselves what we should be about rather than simply, by thought or act, affirming a questionable model.

This model I take to be the nuclear family of mum, dad and 2.4 children. In many places this has been replaced by the one parent family as the norm. We may well worry about the children involved, and the stability of such an arrangement, but it is worth noting that there were a variety of practices in Biblical times too.

In the Old Testament, there are families with concubines, or a number of wives, as well as extended families, open to bringing in others and caring for them, as endorsed in the Levitical Law. What's more, in the New Testament, there are examples of husbands leaving families for long periods of time to carry out the Lords work, and of people who have not married, or been widowed, doing great things for God.

Whatever the structure of families, what shines through both testaments, is the conviction that life long loving commitment within the family relationships is absolutely essential. I would go further and suggest that there is a sense in which family exists wherever people are loving towards one another on a life long basis. This challenges us to rediscover the extended family, and for our families to become more open, welcoming groups, rather than a narrowly defined exclusive units.

This is applicable to the church family as well, where at its best it is a place where all are welcome – regardless of age, status, race, class or any other barrier to inclusiveness. God calls us to be loving, open, and forgiving. Such a church family is attractive in itself. If the Church was better known for being loving and welcoming to all, then there is a good chance that more people would want to belong to it, and share in the



visible unconditional love between its members. The realisation that this emanates from God may well come later or alongside this.

We have another example of the love and support which we should be encouraging in this short Gospel reading, namely John 19:25-27. We hear Jesus words at the scene of his Crucifixion, as he turns to his mother and says of the beloved disciple 'here is your son' and to the disciple 'here is your mother.'

This short Gospel passage is striking for two reasons. Firstly, it is astonishing that even through the agony he is suffering Jesus seeks to comfort both his own mother and one of his closest friends by creating a relationship of dependence between them.

The second reason is that implicit in this action there is a statement about family, namely that family exists where it is made. That it is not necessarily something that comes about just by birth, or blood, or tradition. Family means commitment and that means working at the relationship. Support, love and mutuality do not always come naturally. It requires effort. Jesus recognized that, and so should we, both in the relationships we have with our kin, and in the supportive, forgiving, loving relationships that should characterize our Church life.

And so on Mothering Sunday we have the opportunity to recommit ourselves to creating the loving, open community that we should be. When this happens then the description of 'Mother Church' can truly be used without irony. And likewise if we do this at home too, then we will be better able to appreciate the work and love of those whose calling is to be mothers. And of equal importance to be open and welcoming to those fear ladies who are not to called to biological motherhood.

Colin Smith - The Worship Cloud

## Fairtrade Fortnight 25 February to 10 March 2019

Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.



With Fairtrade you have the power to change the world every day. With simple shopping choices you can get farmers a better deal. And that means they can make their own decisions, control their future and lead the dignified life everyone deserves.

For two weeks each year, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to celebrate the people who grow our food, people who live in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year we are focusing on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much.

£1.86 is the amount a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn each day in order to achieve a living income. Currently, a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on around 74p a day. Almost all cocoa farmers in West Africa live in poverty.

For the women the situation is even worse. They may plant and harvest on the farm, look after children, carry water, collect wood, cook and clean for the family, and transport the cocoa beans to market but often with fewer rights than men.

This is why Fairtrade is campaigning for a living income to become a reality for cocoa farmers in West Africa. If governments, chocolate companies and retailers can work together to make the commitments and policies necessary, then it can happen.

The Bible says that Moses was given a set of rules by God. They cover a lot of different things, including laws to protect poor people and foreigners.

***Do not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether that worker is a fellow Israelite or a foreigner residing in one of your towns. Pay them their wages each day before sunset, because they are poor and are counting on it.***

*(Deuteronomy 24:14-15 - NIV)* 20

Although it is thousands of years after the Old Testament, it looks like it matters just as much today that we treat the people who grow our food fairly, even though, , they might live far away in another country

This year Fairtrade will be increasing the prices that are paid to farmers, to make even more of a difference. Fairtrade helps in other ways too, supporting farmers on the ground with training and advice. That all happens when people choose to buy Fairtrade.

Changing things for cocoa farmers in Cote d'Ivoire is not easy, and will take time and effort. But we can all help- by thinking carefully about what we buy, and whether it has been produced fairly. We can tell businesses and government that we want trade to be fair. And we can pray for ourselves and for all the people around the world who grow our food, who make our clothes, or produce other things that we consume

In recent years we are increasingly aware of just how much trade matters to our daily lives. The many jobs, government policies, the goods we buy and services we enjoy are linked to trade – both here in the UK, and in countries right around the world.

Trade is a way for everyone to have better lives. Without trade, we could not eat bananas, or drink coffee, for example. Without trade, many jobs would simply not exist. Trade is cooperation, and partnership that helps us all.

Trade is a tough business. Negotiations are hard fought. No-one wants to come out with a bad deal. To "arm wrestle" successfully in trade negotiations, you need big economic and political muscles.

So, when trading with poorer communities around the world, it is right to ask two questions.

First, who's got the power? Or, if you like, who's got the biggest muscles? Second, are those we trade with opponents and competitors – or friends and partners?

This year the Fairtrade Foundation puts the spotlight on the Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), the world's biggest cocoa producer. Four million people across Cote d'Ivoire grow cocoa, much of which comes to the UK. And yet, shockingly, 60 percent of all cocoa farmers live below the United Nations poverty line of just £1.47 per day.

Who's got the power in this trading relationship? It isn't the farmers.

## Six short prayers for the Lenten period

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. **Amen**

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son,  
Jesus. **Amen**

From The Methodist Church in Britain website

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Little Micklers 10th birthday celebrations  
Saturday 9 March at Church 2pm to 4pm  
Children's entertainer, games, and party food,  
Come and help us celebrate!



## 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 9.15am 4th Fri	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	10.00am	Fairtrade café & Traidcraft stall (not every month check weekly church notices)	Wesley Rm

## Diary for March 2019

Sat 2nd	12noon	Lunches
Tues 5th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship– tba
Tues 5th	4pm to 6pm	Messy Church– Jesus the healer
Weds 6th	7.30pm	Wesley Guide - David Down - Mastermind - my experience
Fri 8th	10.00am to 12noon	Friday Café
Tues 12th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - tba
Weds 13th	10.00am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 13th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Revd Ted Ager
Fri 15th	10.00am to 12noon	Café
Tues 19th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - no meeting
Weds 20th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Jane Whitaker 19th Century Elections
Friday 22nd	10.00am to 12noon	Café
Tues 26th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship - tba
Weds 27th	10am to 12noon	Funtime -coffee, games and fellowship
Weds 27th	7.30pm	Wesley Guild - Phil Royle Deliberations
Fri 29th	9.15am to 12noon	Café