

Mickleover Methodist Church

January 2021

Minister - Revd Gill Sharp Phone: 01332 511039

Email: church.minister@mickleovermethodist.org.uk

You can now follow us on Facebook at Mickleover Methodist Church

A New Year! As ever we wonder what the new year will bring but perhaps this year more so than in previous years. We don't want another year like 2020, the year of the coronavirus pandemic, which brought our lives to a virtual standstill in so many ways, but we do not know how long this virus will last, so much is still unknown. The words of Minnie Louise Haskin's poem 'God knows', quoted by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast of 1939, may be more relevant than ever to us this year

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

We may want a light to show us the path we should follow, to be able to see the way ahead, but God offers us something better; he offers us his hand when we go into the darkness, the unknown. Our action comes first, we must make the first movement.

When our dog is waiting for his dinner, he watches us from his bed without moving anything except his eyes and no matter how many times we tell him he can have his dinner now, he doesn't get up until one of us gets up. As soon as we move, he is beside us, looking at us, walking with us and if we dither, he gently nudges us in the right direction. So God watches us and will be right there, alongside us, when we move into the unknown, and he may even gently nudge us when we dither.

As followers of Jesus, God with us, we cannot stand still, we have to go and... The poem 'God knows' continues '*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.*' It is in the going into the darkness, the unknown, that we find God is with us and we can take his hand, and tread gladly. '*So heart be still...God knows. His will is best*'. Go into the New Year and find God's hand and may you know the joy of walking with the Lord. May God's blessing be with you all as you go into 2021. *Revd Gill*



January
2021

Church services in January 2021

Sunday 3rd January – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

10am Anna Forey
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Sunday 10th January -Epiphany and 1st in Ordinary Time

10am Revd Gill Sharp – Covenant service
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Sunday 17th January – 2nd in Ordinary Time

10am Revd Gill Sharp
3.45pm Spark to a Flame on Zoom

Sunday 24th January – 3rd in Ordinary Time

10am Phil Royle
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom
6.30pm Songs of Praise on Zoom

Sunday 31st January -4th in Ordinary Time

10am Rev Neil Draper
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Sunday 6th February – 5th in Ordinary Time

10am Emmanuel Namoango
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Information
about all these
services correct
at time of
printing

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January 2021 - prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses the Community’s ecumenical vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family and to respect the whole of creation.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church.

Backwards or Forwards?

I am sure that most of us are more than happy to see the back of 2020, as it has been a pretty awful year for all of us, and for some more than others. However, no doubt, in the future we will look back at the Year of Covid through the rose-tinted glasses of hindsight and remember some of the positive aspects of it. Clapping for carers brought neighbours together, as did looking out for the lonely and vulnerable. Carbon emissions dropped as we stayed at home to work, and instead of driving all over the place to attend meetings, we sat in our homes and Zoomed. We appreciated our friends and families more when separated from them – absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Hopefully, we shall learn some lessons as we look back on the year, appreciating those small actions that we previously took for granted; a handshake, a hug and a chat over coffee. We will probably decide to carry on with some aspects of the restrictions, continuing to Zoom meetings (other platforms are available!), appreciating those we take for granted, and being kinder to those around us.

It is interesting, and part of our necessary development, to look back, but we should also, at the change of the year look forwards. Thanks to the work of scientists and volunteer testers, we should have the ability to vaccinate against the virus in the first half of the year. I know that as soon as I get the call, I shall be there with my left sleeve rolled up! Life for all of us will then return to something approaching normality and I look forward to resuming activities again. Going on holiday, meeting family and friends, going back to Kedleston, motor shows and races, meeting properly in church without the need for masks, social distancing and being allowed to sing!

I hope that we can look upon 2021 with confidence. We do so with the added understanding that we have not been and will not be alone as both the Church and its Creator are be with us at all times whether good or bad. With best wishes for the coming year.

Phil Royle.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. – *Corrie ten Boom*

The Covenant Service

This is a unique gift to Methodism from its founder, John Wesley: a moment for renewing our commitment to God's hopes for us – affirming that we give our lives and choices to God – even as we celebrate all that God has done for us.

The Covenant – a poem based on John Wesley's prayer for the Methodist Covenant Service

I no longer belong solely for myself, but to you, entirely.

Set your will alight in me; may it illumine my way,

Place me amongst whoever you desire;

Set me to compassion; to suffer alongside the contemporary crucified;

Let me be immersed in your word and work and mission, for you;

Or let me be passed by, marginalised and maligned, for you;

Approved and admired for you or abused and abased, for you;

Let me be overflowing the brim, let me be exhausting the dregs,

Let me have all that I desire, let me be no-thing;

To be emptied of all possessiveness and earthly acclamations, for you;

With an unshackled and Godward-looking heart I surrender all that I have, to you

To choose your delight or disapproval, of me.

And now, most glorious and blessed God,

Creator, Redeemer and much-needed Sustainer,

You belong to me and I belong to you.

Let it be.

And the covenant now consented aloud on earth,

Confirm it sealed in heaven. Amen.

© Kirsty Clarke, December 2013. Permission granted to reproduce this poem

A New Year's resolution-prayer – following in His footsteps

Almighty eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

St Francis of Assisi (1182 – 1226)

Quarantine' - the 2020 word of the year

The Cambridge Dictionary has named 'quarantine' as its 'word of the year' for 2020. Apparently, it was the word most looked up between January and October of last year. 'Quarantine' even beat 'pandemic' and 'lockdown'.

The Cambridge Dictionary has now added a new meaning to the word 'quarantine'. -'A general period of time in which people are not allowed to leave their homes or travel freely, so that they do not catch or spread a disease.'

Some possible new words -'Quaranteam' (a group of people who go into quarantine together), Lockstalgia (a feeling of nostalgia for the lockdown period), and Coronial (someone born around the time of the pandemic)

If biblical events were being covered by today's media...

On Red Sea crossing:

WETLANDS TRAMPLED IN LABOUR STRIKE

Enforcement Officials Killed While Pursuing Unruly Mob

On the prophet Elijah on Mt Carmel:

FIRE SENDS RELIGIOUS ACTIVIST INTO FRENZY

400 Killed In Unprovoked Attack

On the birth of Christ:

HOTELS FULL, ANIMALS EJECTED FROM SHELTER

Animal Rights Advocates Enraged by Insensitive Couple

On feeding the 5,000:

LAY PREACHER STEALS CHILD'S LUNCH

Disciples Mystified Over Behaviour

On healing the 10 lepers:

QUACK PREYS ON TERMINALLY ILL

Authorities Investigating Use of Non-traditional Medical Procedure

God's Three Wishes

One day a fairy godmother, taking a break from theatre land.
Was sitting on her deck chair, feet comfortably in the sand.
What would happen she mused, if I gave God my wishes three?
Just what would he ask for, how would he use them sensibly.



“I am sure he’d wish”, said a professor “that everyone should be wise”.
“What about”, said a doctor “all people should take up exercise”.
“Stop global warming”, said a scientist “That would be God’s call”.
Pondered the lady, would these be his wishes for the benefit of us all?

Suddenly, to the godmother’s surprise
God broke into her muse and gave her this reply.....

“These are all ideas fine, but they would not be my choices.
People need to listen to me, not a myriad of other voices.

Who all think that they and only they know what I want to say.
If they understand my wishes, then maybe we can find a better way”.

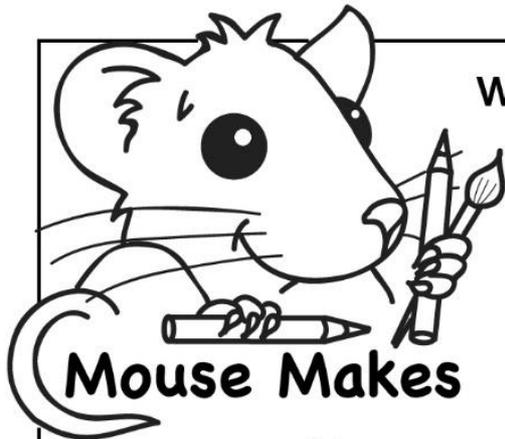
“For my first, I would wish for justice, so that all may have enough.
No one to hoard food selfishly, while others have it rough.
No wars to kill, or maim; families to destroy.
No medicines locked away, no child without a toy”.

“For my second, I would wish that all men would do the right.
Loving and caring, not doing evil in my sight.
So that when everyone comes to see me face to face.
I can ask them to be part of my family in that lovely place”.

My last, I know, will scare and challenge too.
For the different faiths see me, from only one point of view
If it could be seen aright, that each is part of my great history of love.
The radiance of my light would bring unity cascading from above”.

Thank you Fairy Godmother for offering me wishes three.
But your magic needs to inspire all my rainbow people, not just me.
How blessed they’d be, if they would but make my wishes come true
And harmony and happiness would spread the whole world through.

Janet Tristram



What happened after Jesus had been born in Bethlehem?

READ Matthew 2:1-12

Who came from the East?

Why had they come?

What were they following?

Who was alarmed by their arrival?

Who had the prophet written about?

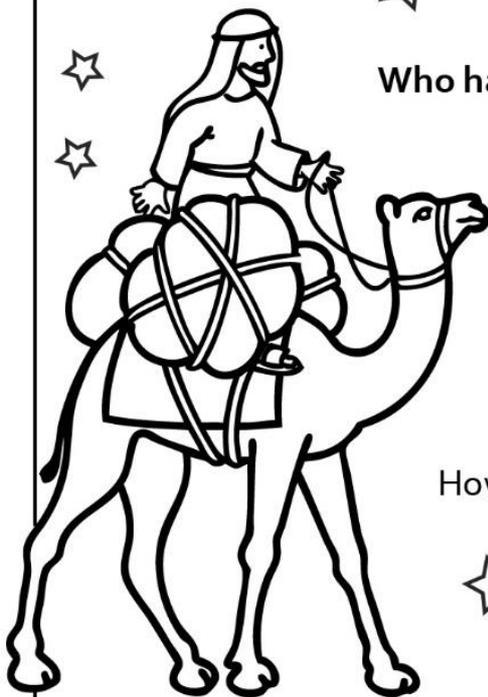
Where were they then sent?

What were they to look for?
..... and why?

Where did the star lead them?

Who did they see? What did they do?

How were they warned to go home another way?



READ Matthew 2:13-23

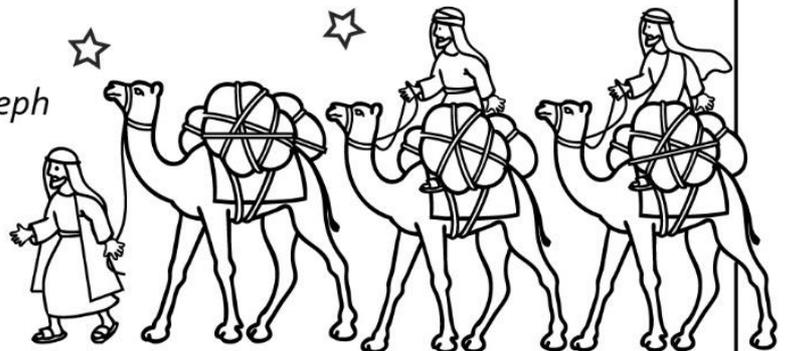
Who appeared to Joseph?

What was he told? Why? What did he do?

Who then became angry?.... and why? What horrible thing did he then do?

When Herod died where was Joseph told to take his family?

Where did Jesus finally grow up?



CTM Prayer for Mickleover By Zoom Thurs 7th Jan 10.15am Unfortunately we cannot meet in peoples houses to pray due to Covid restrictions, but we can still meet via Zoom, and I plan to host a Zoom meeting at our normal time of 10.15am on Thursday 7th January. We get 40 minutes on the free Zoom software, which should allow us reasonable time to pray, and wait on God. If you would like to be part of this, please contact me for the meeting I.D. and password which I plan to send to our regulars via email. Tel 239645 or email ray_lee16@yahoo.co.uk Thanks *Ray Lee*

UPDATE ON THE FLOWER ROTA - It is looking increasingly unlikely that Covid restrictions will be eased in the near future. As a result we shall be continuing to use artificial flowers and not fresh flowers in church for the foreseeable future. Because of that, I won't produce new flower rotas until they're needed, and will then circulate them via email and the church noticeboard, as well as calling individuals as usual when their turns are coming up. Thank you
Liz Royle

Each word goes with the word "light"

- We look up at these as they twinkle in the sky.
- Something we might use to read under the bed clothes as children.
- This is a fruit, but refers to being the star of the show
- Not bright enough to read by, but it certainly keeps you warm
- We may have to look hard for the answer to this one.
- You won't find this during the night, for it's the complete opposite.
- This is associated with Christmas carol services
- You won't get far driving at night without this.
- Used in the theatre, or as a metaphor for being the centre of attention.
- You'll need this if you are taking photos indoors.
- Not used under water, despite how it might sound.
- Just the thing, so they say, for a romantic evening stroll.
- You could be fined if you jump this
- Not a light, but a window in the roof that lets light in.

.....

Stealing someone's coffee is called mugging.

Nowadays the only time a person gets on his knees is to look for his contact lenses.