

Mickleover Methodist Church

March 2021

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Snowdrops and crocuses are already blooming. The delicate bowed head of the snow-drop contrasts with the bold open-to-the-sun petals of the crocus. Both are beautiful. Both are wonders of God's creation.

The snowdrop is one of the first flowers to appear each year, a sign that spring is on its way even if there is snow on the ground. They spread easily into drifts making a carpet of white flowers. Crocuses also spread easily to form drifts of bold colours with yellow, purple and white often brightening up grassy verges by the roadside. And they certainly brighten my day when I see them on my daily walk. The month of March is when we really see spring bursting out all over! It's a time of renewal and new life. Bulbs that have lain dormant over winter send up new shoots, seeds that were dispersed in the autumn by the wind, insects or animals start to grow.

This week we have had the good news that the coronavirus vaccine is proving effective and the government has given us a plan for the lockdown restrictions to be gradually released. We, as God's people, the Church, have a unique opportunity to participate in God's mission of renewal and new spiritual life after this long period of lockdown and restrictions. Where do you long to see a spiritual blooming and bursting out? In the delicate and the bold? In the young and the old? In those we know well and those we don't yet know? At times we are like the snowdrop, bowing our heads before God, and times when we are like the crocus, boldly opening ourselves up to the Son. Both are needed. Both equip us and inspire us as followers of Jesus.

In an email I received this week the chaplain at one of the Methodist Schools shared - *'one of our brilliant 6th formers did say the other day 'we've sacrificed so much recently that I didn't want to do that again during Lent so instead I'm doing something positive for someone else each day.'* This is a time for change, for new and positive ways of being and doing, a time for bringing in the Kingdom of God.

The Lord says *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isa 43:19).*

Let us look for signs of the new, so that we become aware of what God is doing and join in.

Rev Gill

Church services in March 2021

**All church services on Zoom at the moment as
Church is closed for worship.
See the link to Zoom at the bottom of page.**

Sunday 7th March – 3rd Sunday in Lent

10am Anna Forey
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Sunday 14th March- Mothering Sunday

10am AAW led by Sunday School leaders
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Sunday 21st March – 5th Sunday in Lent

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

Sunday 28th March – Palm Sunday

10am Sally Jones
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom
6.30pm Songs of Praise

Thursday 1st April – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Revd Gill Sharp

Friday 2nd April – Good Friday

10am Revd Gill Sharp

Sunday 4th April- Easter Sunday

10am Revd Gill Sharp
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Information about all these services correct at time of printing

**If you would like to join our regular Zoom services
please email church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk for the login
information. These services include Messy Church, Spark to a Flame,
prayers and chat, coffee and chat and Sunday Worship.**

Churches Together in Mickleover

Lent Course on Zoom - Talking Jesus

Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm

Many people struggle to talk about Jesus.

This course will inspire you to share your faith

2nd March - What Motivates Us

9th March - Living Distinctively

16th March - Our Story

23rd March - Sharing God's Story

30th March - Go on Talking Jesus

CTiM Collection for Padley Centre

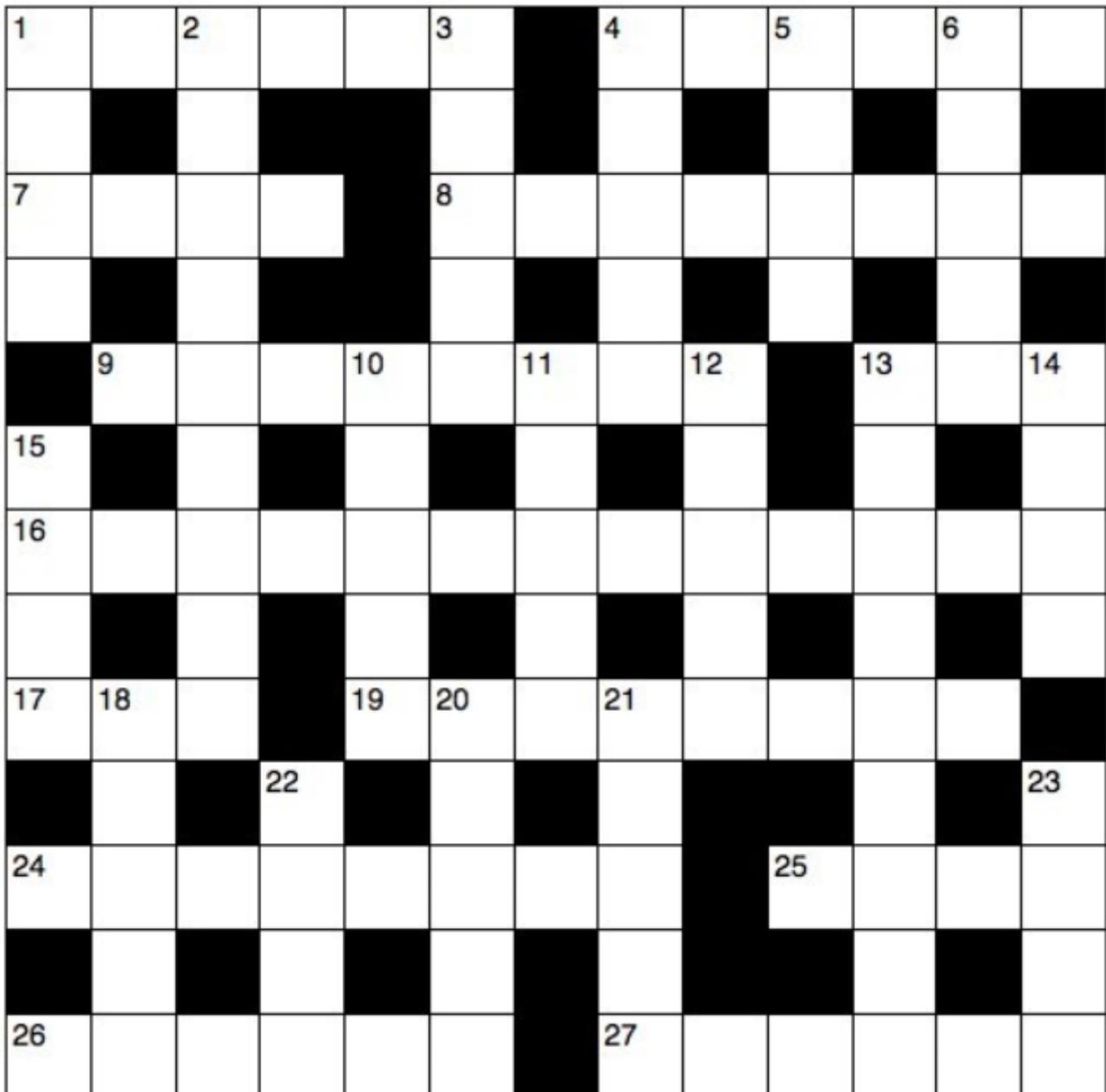
As we continue in lockdown through the winter months, Padley Day Centre remains open and continues to provide food, clothing, advice, and showers to hostel residents and rough sleepers within the city, as well as emergency food parcels to those who are homeless or have no income.

To help Padley to carry on providing these services, there will be a manned drop off point in the grounds of **Our Lady of Lourdes church, Mickleover, between 11.00 and 13.00 on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st March** to receive donations of food, clothes, bedding (no duvets) and toiletries.

Although there is no restriction for making a journey to drop off charitable donations, we strongly advise that wherever possible, the drop off should coincide with an essential journey – for example while you are out food shopping. Please observe the current social distancing and hygiene requirements as you make your donations.

If you would like to know more about how to refer families and individuals to a food bank for support, please contact 01332 774480 or admin@padleygroup.com for help to establish links with the appropriate organisations.

Thank you for your support, it is very much appreciated.



Crossword Clues and Answers

Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)

- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
 6 To put forth (5)
 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
 12 ‘After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel’(Genesis 25:26) (5)
 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha’s request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
 14 ‘Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me’ (Luke22:34) (4)
 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
 18 ‘When I — , I am still with you’ (Psalm 139:18) (5)
 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
 21 Thyatira’s dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
 22 Does (anag.) (4)
 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh’s dream were this(Genesis 41:19) (4)

Bible study on Zoom this month

Wednesday 3 rd March at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root
Wednesday 10 th March at 2pm	Philippians –Vic Green	Dot Thompson
Wednesday 17 th March at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root
Wednesday 24 th March at 2pm	Philippians –Vic Green	Dot Thompson
Wednesday 31 st March at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root
Wednesday 7 th April at 2pm	Philippians –Vic Green	Dot Thompson

Be joyful and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about; I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us. – *St David* Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus, or Happy Saint David’s Day!

Our Church Finances as a result of the pandemic

This last year has certainly been different in many ways for all of us. Little did we realise that last February we would be holding our services on Zoom and all our meetings of every kind would be held in the same way. Our Church building has not been open to any groups apart from Preschool who have continued to welcome the very young of our community during these difficult times.

In our own personal lives, the majority of us are in that age bracket where we do not have to worry whether or not our job is secure. Our income is guaranteed and annual increases on our pensions are guaranteed (for those of us who worked in the public sector anyway). So when was the last time you went out for a meal? Or when did you last go to the theatre to see a play or the concert hall to see a show or classical concert? How many of us transferred our holidays from last year to this and may even have to transfer them to 2022? Have we missed going to the petrol station to fill up our cars as we are not clocking up the mileage like we normally do? And all the time our bank balances are increasing but earning 0% interest because of the non-existent interest rates due to the economic situation.

The situation for our Church could not be more different. With no groups or outside organisations being able to use our premises apart from a brief period during September/October of 2020, the impact on our Church finances has been significant particularly from the lack of income from hiring out our premises. Last year up to August 2020 we suffered a £10k deficit, this current year a deficit of £15k is predicted and we already have commitments for next year to meet above our normal expenses. This has seriously depleted our reserves and we will be operating on an extremely low amount of reserves than we have done for some considerable time.

It is only right therefore that, following Church Council, I am letting you all know about our current financial situation and appeal to all of us to very prayerfully consider our giving to the Church.

When we do eventually come through this epidemic and our lives begin to return to some kind of normality, there will be a great need within our community to provide help in so many ways, both physically and financially. We as a Church need to be ready to respond to that need and while we do not know what that will be as yet, our continued support and employment of our Children and Families worker will be essential to our response. There will be

more about this in the future when we are able to open up fully as a Church again supporting the community we serve.

As for the present, we do need to address our dwindling reserves and that means all of us reviewing how much we give to the Church especially in these difficult times. When did you last increase the amount you give in the weekly envelope or increased your monthly standing order? Or perhaps you may be able to give a "one-off" donation from some of the funds you have accumulated this last year because of the restrictions on our lives. If you do wish to make a donation, then please use internet banking if you can, the bank details for the Church are: -

Account Name: Mickleover Methodist Church

Sort code: 403330

Account number: 31071076

Alternatively you can send a cheque to the Church Centre and marked for my attention.

In her opening devotions at the Church Council last month, Rev Gill talked about "dreaming the dream" of what we see as the future of our Church for the community we serve as we come out of this pandemic. Our much needed response to the Church's financial situation is just the beginning.

John Spray
Church Treasurer

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On March 20th is National Classics for Carers Day when owners of classic cars are being asked to put them out on the drive for passers -by to enjoy. "Rally Plaques" have been on sale to raise funds for NHS charities.

On that day Megan - my Morgan 4/4 will be on the drive - so if you want to include Auckland Close on your exercise that day 10am onwards, come and say a socially distanced hello.

Phil Royle

<p style="text-align: right;">Answers</p> <p>ACROSS: 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Balthead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arsen.</p> <p>DOWN: 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.</p>

Golden Oldies?

During the last Church Council there was an appeal for more members of the Leadership Team as all members were now over seventy years of age. This made me think quite a lot during the following few days and I would like to share some of those thoughts.

My first one being that when the alarm goes off at church it is a group of four people who are contacted, out of which two should turn up, at whatever hour, to investigate problem and all of whom are late 60s or 70s. Looking at the various teams who organise the day to day running of the church and the church council, it is obvious that the vast majority are over retirement age.

This is the same in all of our churches in the circuit and I find it worrying that the largest circuit in the district is unable to find two more circuit stewards to bring the number up to six. I know that people of working age have priorities of family and work in these difficult modern times. However, looking back over the last fifty years I cannot think of a period of more than a couple of years when I was not the holder of some sort of church office on top of a demanding job and a young (or growing up) family.

Fifty or so years ago, there was an expectation that most church members would make some sort of commitment to the organisation of the church and most of our efforts were taken up in just keeping the church going for its members. Little emphasis was given to prayer, study, worship or outreach. At the time I was very frustrated that most of our efforts were inward-looking.

Thankfully things have changed, but I wonder whether it has gone too far the other way. The recent documents on “The Methodist Way of Life” have an emphasis on personal spiritual development and on service to the community but I cannot find any reference to service to the church as an organisation.

I leave you with two points to ponder. We often ask, “What is the church doing for young people?” We should perhaps ask “What are young people doing for the church?”. Also, if those members of retirement age retired from their various roles in the church after many years of service, what would happen then?

Phil Royle

World Day of Prayer service is on 5th March, prepared by the Christian women of the Republic of Vanuatu, an island country in the South Pacific, consisting of an archipelago of 80 islands. Services will be live streamed on Zoom, further details nearer the time. Theme is ‘build on a strong foundation’ calling people of all ages to live in unity, love and peace in the context of ethnic and cultural diversity.

Be a Community of Hope

It's been a hard year, where have you experienced signs of hope? Could you design and make a fabric square to show your threads of hope?

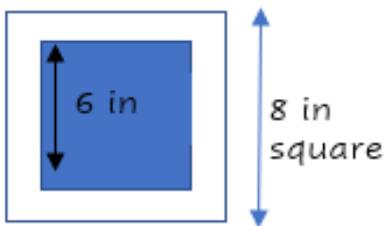
Churches Together in Mickleover invites all members of the community of Mickleover, young and old, male and female, to create a fabric square for Mickleover's 'Be a Community of Hope' wall-hanging.

We would like to draw together the experiences that have given each of us hope over the past year and create a patchwork wall-hanging to show the threads of hope that weave through our lives as a community.

It is the intention that the wall-hanging will be made in sections so that together it forms a whole, but each section can be hung in a different place within the community.

The design on your fabric square may be in embroidery, cross stitch, applique, or painted – using pictures, words, or shapes – the choice is yours!

You may wish to include the name of a loved one who has died during the coronavirus pandemic.

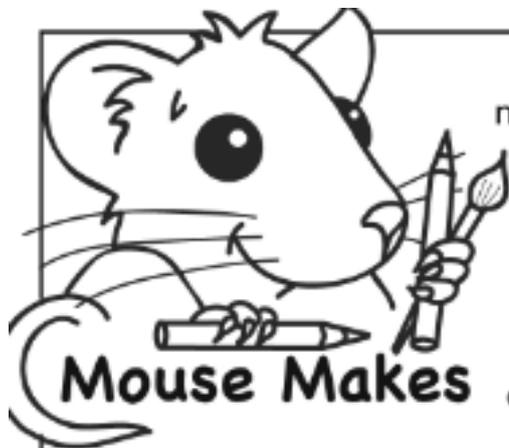


Fabric squares must be 8-inch (20cm) squares with the design being within the central 6-inch square. Please use any suitable fabric you already have, upcycling if possible.

If you have an idea for a square but need assistance creating the design and/or require fabric squares please get in touch using the contact details below:

By email at church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk

Or by telephone on 735052



Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14

Who is my mother?
Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL
Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH
Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL
Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY
2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN
Genesis 29:32

GAD
Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL
1 Samuel 1:20

OBED
Matthew 1:5

ISAAC
Genesis 21:3



R	A	C	H	E	L	M	A	R	Y	A	V	Z
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	H	E	V	I
B	Z	D	R	E	B	V	S	U	A	U	O	L
E	T	M	U	M	L	E	A	H	N	N	L	P
K	M	O	T	H	E	R	R	T	N	I	E	A
A	I	S	H	H	A	G	A	R	A	C	G	H
H	S	T	A	B	A	T	H	S	H	E	B	A

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

The Hope Centre Food Bank

Since last March (2019), Mickleover Methodist Church has been donating a carload of food each week to the Hope Centre in Curzon Street. Before approaching our church, I made enquires as to where I should give food and was directed to this centre, which is run by Derby City Church (as distinct from Derby City Mission). The Hope Centre food bank has been running for eight years with two paid part-time staff and normally 35-40 volunteers. Due to Covid the team has had to be reduced to 7, whilst the need has gone up to over a 100 food parcels per week), so the workload is considerable.

On my arrival, the food bags are put into the car park from where members of the team take them inside to the first floor of the building. Here they are sorted into categories and stored according to shelf life.

This is an **emergency** food bank and access to it is through emailed vouchers, obtained from over seventy sources such as social services, the doctors, alcohol addiction centres, the probation services, refugee centres, charity sources, schools etc. The voucher tells the Hope Centre how many adults/children to cater for and, whereas before Covid people could choose their own food from the tables, now the bags have to be packaged ready for them - single, couple, family, mega- with the option to swop items they do not like. Each bag contains three meals a day for three days.

Using the food bank is limited. You can only access emergency food four times in three months. The majority of people needing this service tend to be those who have lost jobs and fall into a time-lag between signing on for benefits and receiving payments.

To be able to feed the hungry is our Christian commitment but alongside that, there must be a commitment to help break the cycle of poverty. This is where a skilled infrastructure needs to be in place, especially involving the giving of time to listen to peoples' needs. Before Covid the Hope Centre ran a drop-in café where people could sit and talk and be directed to agencies, such as debt advice, alcohol centres and help with life-style choices, that would be able to help them. This has had to be temporarily closed.

But...Derby City **Mission** (Basics Bank) is providing debt advice, alongside SafeSpace. These outstanding food banks and charities work together and support each other.

The pandemic has brought out the best in many people- the recognition of our blessings, the compassion for those who are struggling and a yearning to help through abundant generosity.

Thank you to all those who give faithfully through the good and the hard times- and to all those who have organized their neighbours, streets, passer-bys and estates by setting up depo sites in their own homes. It is wonderful to work with you all!

If you would like to donate food to the Hope Centre, it is open on Tuesdays 1-3pm and Fridays 10.30-1pm; I run a collection round on Thursday mornings if you would like me to collect from your drive.

If you would like to donate money, I can collect that too or it can be transferred direct to the centre at EFGA RE DERBY HOPE CENTRE 2, Account no. 19562160, Sort code 60-05-16.

The Hope Centre also run the Emergency Household Store, which supplies those in need with everything from bedlinen to pots and pans. Although currently closed due to the restrictions, it will be open again soon.

Hilary Lamont

**CTM Prayer for Mickleover
By Zoom Thurs 4th March 10.15am**

As we cannot currently meet in peoples' houses to pray, we will meet via Zoom at our normal time of 10.15am on Thursday 4th March. We get 40 minutes on the free Zoom software, which allows us reasonable time to pray, and wait on God. If you would like take part in this, please contact me for the meeting I.D. and password.

Tel 239645 or email
raylee16@yahoo.co.uk Thanks *Ray Lee*



Change the clocks
On Saturday March 27th
before you go to bed
move your clocks
1 hour forward