

Mickleover Methodist Church

Minister - Revd Gill Sharp

Church Office Phone: 01332 735052

What are you looking forward to doing most when all Covid restrictions are lifted? Have you already made plans? Or does the future still seem too uncertain? We have the Government Roadmap steps telling us when we may be able to meet others indoors in May - if all is going according to plan. Then in June, maybe...we will have to wait and see!

The weeks after Jesus' resurrection were a waiting time for Jesus' followers. They were looking to the future with perhaps the same sort of uncertainty as we feel at the moment. For Jesus' followers it was still safer to stay at home, to limit the number of people they came into contact with. They feared what the 'government', the Romans, might do next. The future was uncertain... except for one thing – Jesus had told them to wait in Jerusalem for the gift he promised them! The gift of the Holy Spirit.

And so we wait for the day when Covid restrictions are lifted, when that day comes it will perhaps feel like we have been given a gift, the gift of freedom, free to live our lives as we choose. So too Jesus' followers waited for the day when the promised gift would be given, but they had no inkling of what it would be like and what would happen next. The day came at last and on the Day of Pentecost, when they were indoors together, they were given the gift of the Holy Spirit, the gift of freedom! No longer did they stay indoors, limiting their contact with others, worrying about what the Romans would do next - they were freed to go out and speak to as many people as they liked. And they did! They spoke to all who would listen. Empowered by the Holy Spirit they shared the good news that Jesus is alive and gives new life and freedom to all who turn to him.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost on May 23rd this year, but we don't have to wait for this gift. It is available to all so we can live in the freedom Jesus offers now, loved and valued by God, free to live in relationship with Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Cor 3:17)*

Revd Gill

Be God's people, everywhere, everyday

Church services in May 2021

Church is open for Sunday morning worship services at 10am and the service continue to be on Zoom at present for those preferring to worship at home.

Until further notice restrictions in place for face to face worship are as before – wearing of face masks, social distancing, no singing, no lingering after worship, no coffee after service.

Sunday 2nd May – 5th Sunday after Easter

10am Catherine James
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Sunday 9th May – 6th Sunday after Easter

10am Sally Jones– All age worship
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Sunday 16th May – 7th Sunday after Easter

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

Sunday 23rd May – Pentecost and Aldersgate Sunday

10am Revd Gill Sharp
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom
6.30pm A shortened Songs of Praise service followed by
the Annual Church Meeting at 7pm

Sunday 30th May – Trinity Sunday

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

Information about the 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, prayer times, coffee and chat and Sunday Worship.

You can now follow us on Facebook at Mickleover Methodist Church

What Next? – Conclusion

Last month, I wrote a little about the open letter to Methodists, which is under much discussion at this time. As I said last time, it has come under some adverse criticism in that it is perceived as promoting a “social gospel”.

Being a fairly practical sort of person, I have always been drawn towards a practical way of living out my Christianity, which was reflected in being drawn into special needs teaching and supporting practical and socially-aware charities and organisations. One of my favourite verses of the New Testament is “Faith without works is dead” and although I know that this is not the whole story, I have found it to be a useful personal guide which I have tried (and failed) to live up to.

There are many ways of expressing our faith. Some are called to a life of prayer, others of study, some of cutting off the “outside world” and some of service to others. Perhaps, during our lives, we combine some of these, making changes from time to time as our outlook or ability changes. We need to embrace the fact that there are many ways of living our faith.

As we slowly emerge from the restrictions imposed upon us during the past year or so, we have to look at what we have gained from the experience as well as what we have lost and re-evaluate our way of working. Although not a great personal fan of Zoom (or most media technology), I hope that it will continue, as it opens up services to those who cannot leave home and also for many meetings it means that we do not have to go out to the far-flung parts of our circuit thus saving time and lessening pollution.

Many churches are evaluating their potential and viability, looking at consolidation as a way forward. As a connexion, a circuit, a church and as an individual, we need to evaluate our direction for the future, enjoying the ability to do those activities which we value again, but also considering whether there may be better ways of living out our Christian calling in a society which has been drastically changed by Covid.

Phil Royle

A man went to his doctor to say that his eyesight was getting worse. The doctor asked the man to look out the window and to tell him what he saw. “I see the sun,” the man replied.

The doctor replied: “Just how much farther do you want to see?”

Rose needs every last drop to survive this climate crisis

The climate chaos is having a significant impact on communities in Kenya.

Without a reliable source of water, many communities are struggling to survive, and the coronavirus pandemic has made the lack of water more desperate. One of these people is Rose.

Rose battles every day to bring water home for her grandchildren. But the climate crisis is driving her to the brink.

‘We have to walk long distances. We are suffering,’ Rose said. ‘Because of climate change, I worry a lot about food. I pray to God that the rainfall will become normal.’

Faced with this devastation, Rose strives to provide for her grandchildren. Every morning, after nothing to eat, she sets out on a long and dangerous journey, walking six hours to collect water.

There is an earth dam just minutes away from her home. It should be a lifeline. But it’s not wide enough or deep enough for everyone’s needs. It runs out of water too quickly.

Together, we can help stop this climate crisis. But we need to act now.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), you could help people like Rose fight the climate crisis. Donate to help communities like hers have what they need to survive: a reliable source of water.

- **£4.40** could teach 10 farmers how to plant **drought-tolerant crops** that can survive the drought.
- **£10** could buy a pair of taps at a **water point** which will be installed at an earth dam, making it easier for people to fetch water.
- **£42** could buy 350kg of **cement**, which is needed to build an earth dam.
- **£545** could pay for a **skilled labourer** to work on the construction of an earth or sand dam.

With a dam full of water, Rose would be free from her long, painful journeys. She’d have time to grow fresh vegetables for her family to eat. And she could see her grandchildren grow up to live life in all its fullness.

From Christian Aid

Prayer - Embracing

Loving God, you weave around us your threads of care, concern and fellowship.

You take our differences and blend them into an intricate pattern where colours merge and single strands of faith become indistinguishable in the overall picture of your love.

You link us together and draw us into a circle where we become your body, the church in the world in which we live today.

As Jesus used many ways of dealing with individual people, so our differences in work and worship offer that same variety of approach.

We can never see your design in the way that you do, but we can learn to trust your guiding hand so that each strand of faith will play its part in making the picture complete.

Teach us that, above all else, we must keep on loving.

©Marjorie Dobson

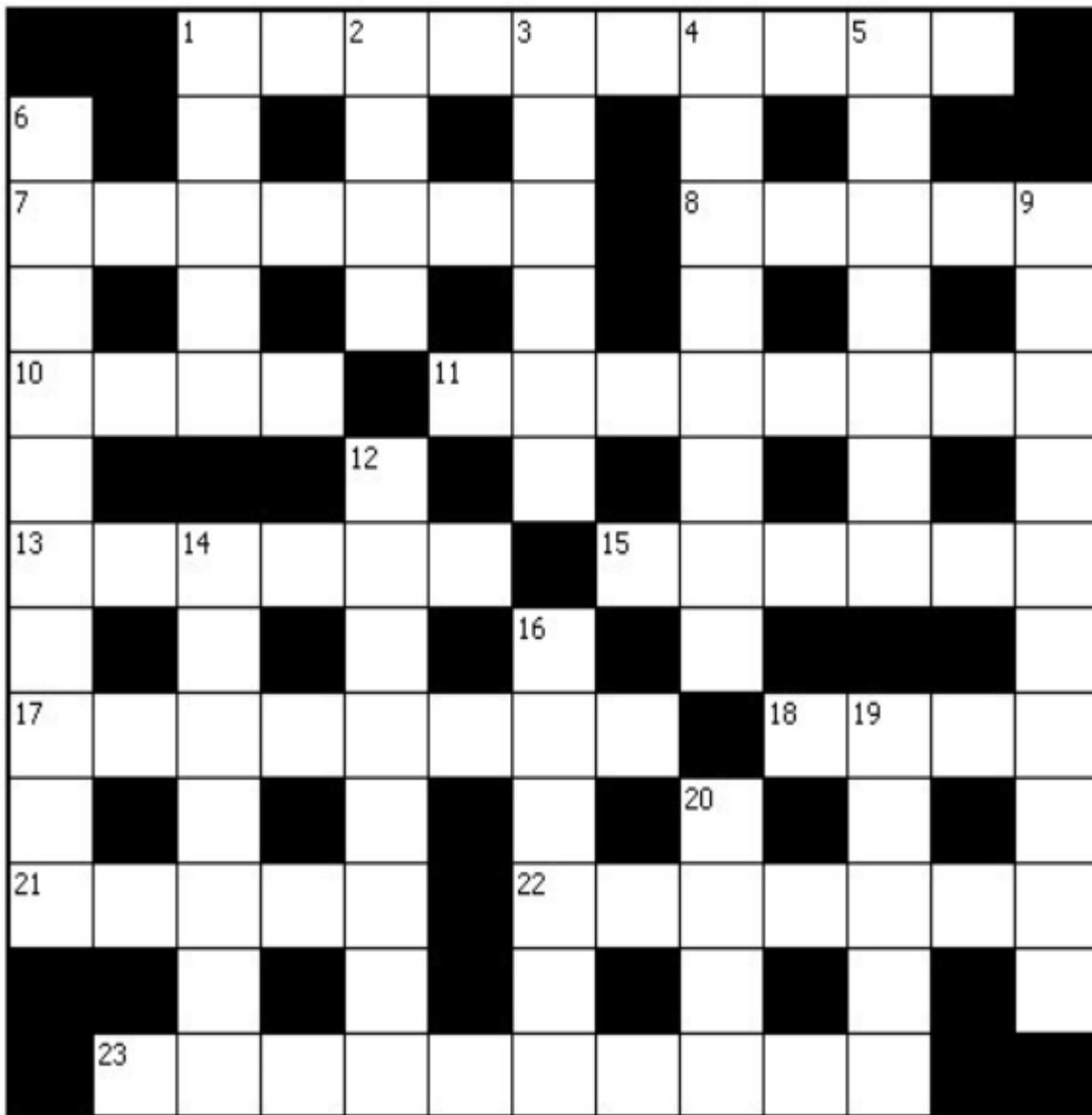
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Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement inviting Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. Thy Kingdom Come this year falls between 13 - 23 May 2021.

We are invited to pray for God's Spirit to move within the church, equipping us to share God's love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today.

It is for people to pray in whatever way they want, with whoever they want and wherever they can, that others might come to know Jesus Christ. It's a good way to practice the commitment in *A Methodist Way of Life* to 'pray daily'.

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Acre: Someone who aches
Paradox: Two doctors
Diode: a pair of poems
Eclipse: What a Cockney barber does
Pharmacist: a farm labourer

Carnation: place where everyone owns a car
Colander: Someone who arrives with you on the same plane
Relief: what trees do in spring



Crossword clues

Across

- 1** Sense of right and wrong (*1 Corinthians 8:7*) (10)
- 7** Coming (*John 11:17*) (7)
- 8** 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (*John 17:10*) (5)
- 10** Smarten (*Acts 9:34*) (4)
- 11** Hold back (*Job 9:13*) (8)
- 13** Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 15** At ague (anag.) (6)

17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)

18 So be it (*Galatians 6:18*) (4)

21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)

22 Empowers (*Philippians 3:21*) (7)

23 Imposing (*1 Samuel 9:2*) (10)

Down

1 Healed (*Luke 7:21*) (5)

2 Central space in a church (4)

3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)

4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (*Exodus 2:12*) (8)

5 Bravery (*Acts 4:13*) (7)

6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (*Acts 16:26*) (10)

9 Transgression (*Psalms 36:1*) (10)

12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)

14 Same hit (anag.) (7)

16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (*Genesis 1:2*) (6)

19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)

20 Cab (4)

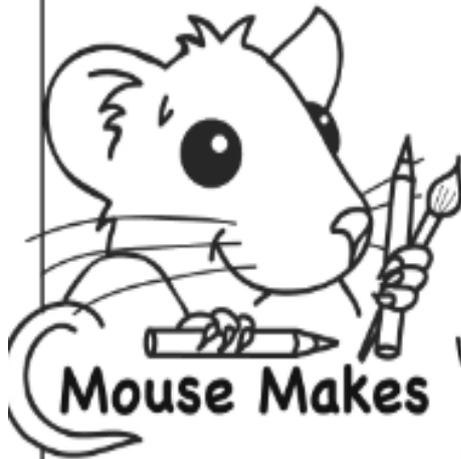
Dear reader, please consider writing a few words for the magazine on the following:

How you are feeling now that life outside of lockdown is starting to pick up?

Do you feel you have accomplished something during these lockdown periods?

What is the thing you are most looking forward to doing after the lockdown is somewhat resolved?

Thank you



On the day of PENTECOST
the disciples were gathered
together in one place...

What sound did they hear?

Acts 2:2

What did they see?

Acts 2:3

What filled them?

Acts 2:4

How did they speak?

Acts 2:4

What did the crowd hear?

Acts 2:6

Which countries
had they come from?

Acts 2:9

What was
their reaction?

Acts 2:12-13

Who explained
what was
happening?

What did he say?

Acts 2:14-36

How many
people were
baptised
that day?

Acts 2:41

Change each letter to the
letter before it in the
alphabet and see what
the **Holy Spirit**
produces in us:

KPZ

IVNJMJUZ

TFMG DPOUSPM

GBJUIGVMOFTT

LJOEOFTT

QBUJFODF

QFBDF

MPWF

HPPEOFTT

Galatians 5:22

Re arrange the scrambled
letters to find the missing words.

The Holy Spirit
VSEIL
with us and in us.

The Holy Spirit
helps us to
WKNO
we belong to God.

The Holy Spirit
HCTSEEA
us about God.

The Holy Spirit
KPESSA
God's word to us.

The Holy Spirit
PHLSE
us to tell others
about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit
helps us when we
AYPR

What is the work of the
Holy Spirit? What does He do?

Fill in the missing letters.

TEAC _ ES

COMF _ RTS

REVEA _ S

IN _ OU

TRAN _ FORMS

HEL _ S

GU _ DES

_ ENEWS

CONV _ CTS

SANC _ IFIES

Passing on the vaccine blessing..... is the title of a recent article in the Methodist Recorder. It tells of a project in the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and reports how folk are responding to the pandemic and the need for widespread vaccination and in gratitude for the vaccines we have received so quickly and efficiently are making it possible for people who do not have the benefit of our NHS to receive the vaccine and other medication and preventive measures.

Our donations will be forwarded to All We Can and our Church Treasurer John Spray will be happy to receive your Thank Offering. Please make cheques payable to Mickleover Methodist Church and a combined contribution can be forward to All We Can. Alternatively you can make a donation through internet banking. Payments should be made to: -

Account Name: Mickleover Methodist Church
Sort code: 40-33-30
Account number: 31071076
Reference: Vaccine blessing

Travels Afar!

I have been to many places in my life but never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognises you there..

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not keen on physical activity anymore.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It gets the adrenaline flowing And sometimes I think I am in Vincible but life shows me that I am not. .

It's not as difficult as it seems!

Some Mensa members went out for lunch at a local cafe. One of them discovered that the salt shaker contained pepper and the pepper shaker was full of salt. How could they swap the contents of the two bottles without spilling any & using only the implements at hand?

Clearly this was a job for Mensa minds. The group debated the problem, presented ideas & finally came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw and an empty saucer.

They called the waitress over, ready to dazzle her with their solution. "Miss", they said, " We couldn't help but notice that the pepper shaker contains salt and the salt shaker - ". But before they could finish, the waitress interrupted, "Oh! Sorry about that". She leaned over the table, unscrewed the caps of both bottles and switched them!

Dates to remember in May

13th May Ascension Day. As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection!

Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love.

They knew they would see Jesus again one day! ' (John 14:2,3)

In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

23rd May Pentecost. Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now His Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, His body on earth. Within 30 years the Gospel had spread to Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta and to the very heart of the Roman Empire - Rome.

The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.

24th May Aldersgate. We are familiar with the story of John Wesley's transforming experience at the Aldersgate meeting. But Aldersgate is not just about the past, or just about John Wesley. His experience expressed in his journal, demonstrates the difference it makes knowing God for ourselves. When one least expects it, when things haven't turned out the way we hoped or when we feel we've heard it all before, there can be change. Just as John Wesley felt his heart 'strangely warmed', we too can be refreshed and inspired by sharing our faith stories with each other.

30th May Trinity Sunday is when we celebrate our God as three persons.

One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky - the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit.

You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

Beyond these walls of worship

Jesus commands us to love God first and to love our neighbours as ourselves. There are no other commandments more important than these. We are made to live together in fellowship – to help one another, to bear each other's burdens and to encourage those around us to keep going and that includes everybody, known or unknown, follower of Jesus or not.

Every single person we meet is loved by God and is someone Jesus died for. Everyone we encounter through the day, strangers, acquaintances, friends, family, can experience God's love through us. Every day we have the opportunity to show God's love to others.

In Acts 2, the picture of church is one of close community – so close that they would pool their resources and share their things. While this is not what all communities have to look like, it does provide a model to look to and work towards, - one filled with mutual care and enfolded in God's love. Church should be a blessing to the community, standing at its heart, to be hubs of social and spiritual activity, welcoming all people with open hearts and minds, recognizing the value and dignity of everyone.

The hymn Beyond these walls of worship – Stf 547 – is about whole life discipleship and an understanding that our faith matters after the time of worship on Sunday is over. The hymn gives us some questions to think about shown here:

‘in the stress and joy of life can we offer you our bodies as a living sacrifice? that is attempting to live every moment for God that whatever we do, in thought, word or deed, we do for God.

Will we keep you at the centre far beyond the Sunday call?

Will we turn to you, be transformed by you still declare you God of all?

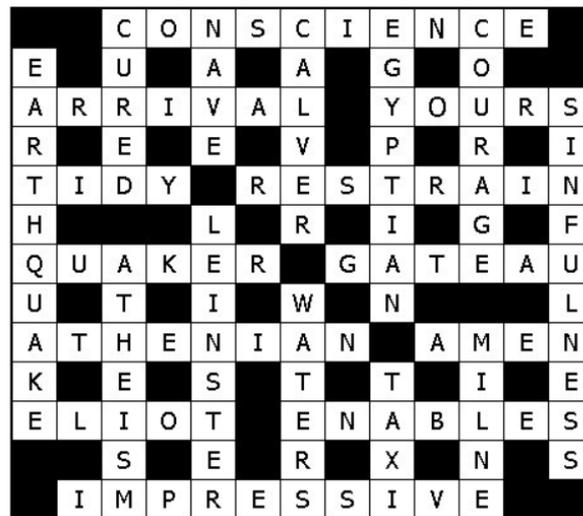
In times of work and rest, will we display your love for all when our faith's put to the test?

When the people that surround us deny that you are there, will we display our faith in you – in life, in praise, in prayer.

From this hour in your presence send us out now to proclaim that we'll live our life as sacrifice to the glory of your name.'

Bible study on Zoom this month

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday 5 th May at 2pm | Bible study with Vic Green | Dot Thompson |
| Wednesday 12 th May at 2pm | Walking through Acts | Terry Root |
| Wednesday 19 th May at 2pm | Bible study with Vic Green | Dot Thompson |
| Wednesday 26 th May at 2pm | Walking through Acts | Terry Root |



CTM Prayer for Micklover by Zoom Thurs 6th April 10.15am

We will meet to pray via Zoom at 10.15am on Thursday 6th May. 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*

Churches Together in Micklover invites all members of the community of Micklover, young and old, male and female, to create a fabric square for

Micklover's 'Be a Community of Hope' hanging.

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

Further information: email at church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk or admin@allsaintsmickleover.org.uk

Or by telephone on 735052 or 510446