

## Mickleover Methodist Church

July/August 2021

Minister - Revd Gill Sharp

### ***Be God's people, everywhere, everyday***

This September it will be 20 years since the new Mickleover Methodist Church Centre was officially opened. What dreams inspired all the work and effort that went into creating the beautiful building we have now? Have all those dreams been realised? What dreams has God given you that have not been fulfilled?

Now is the time to dream dreams again. As coronavirus restrictions are lifted and we have new freedoms so we have freedom to dream of how life could be, should be. To dream God-given dreams of how His kingdom should grow within this community. Dreams of sharing God's love and serving others. Dreams of doing all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the ways we can, in all the places we can, at all the times we can, to all the people we can, as long as ever we can.

Dreams by their very nature are bigger than what we think is possible. They fire our imagination, inspire us and can unite us. When we dream we are set free from human limitations, we can soar like eagles and view things from a different perspective. What happens when we focus on what our community needs from us, rather than what we can do for the community? Our perspective changes, and perhaps we let go of some of the assumptions we make that limit us because we do not think it is possible for us, as individuals and as congregation. Remember the words of Jesus when he was talking about it being easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God: *Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.'* (Mark 10:27)

So much more is possible for God than we ever dream! Our dreams take us beyond what is humanly possible to give us a glimpse of what is possible with God. If our dreams are too small we may miss out on so much. I wonder what new dreams God will give us if we dare to ask him?

*I pray God will make us all dreamers for His kingdom.*

*Revd Gill*

## Church services in July and August 2021

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July-**

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Peter Goddard

4pm Worship @4

### **Sunday 11th July AAW**

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Revd Gill Sharp

4pm Worship @4

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July –**

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Revd Raymond Lunt Communion

3pm Spark in the Park

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July–**

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Local Arrangement

4pm Worship @4

6.30pm Songs of Praise

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Terry Root

4pm Worship @4

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August AAW**

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Theresa Hartwright

4pm Worship @4

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August**

**20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Revd Gill Sharp Communion

3pm Spark in the Park

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Phil Royle

4pm Worship @4

6.30pm Songs of Praise

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

10am Revd Gill Sharp

4pm Worship @4

Information about the services correct at time of printing.

**Worship@4, Spark to a Flame, prayer times 10am Monday and Friday ,  
coffee and chat 10am Wednesday and Sunday Worship continue to be  
available on Zoom at present.**

You can now follow us on Facebook at Mickleover Methodist Church

Church email: [church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk](mailto:church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk)

Phone: 01332 735052

## Sam's Superheroes

In May the funeral of five-year-old Sam was held in Mickleover Methodist Church. It was a service filled with deep grief and sorrow, and a service where the depth of love for Sam was evident in all that was said and done. Especially in the words of his mum and dad, and others who spoke including his schoolteacher. And also in everyone bringing a stick and a stone in memory of Sam, simple ordinary things which Sam loved to pick up and carry.

Sam's mum Rachel has a dream of creating a sustainable legacy for Sam, she is setting up a charity called Sam's Superheroes. The charity gets its name from Sam's love of superheroes, he loved them all and he had all the outfits!

Superheroes change people's lives for the better. One of the most common word used to describe Sam was 'kind'. Though we might not be superheroes we can all be kind and this makes us a superhero to someone! Rachel writes *'We have the power to change people's lives by just one small, simple act of kindness. Every act of kindness creates a beautiful rippling effect; in essence the kindness of one individual has far reaching effects in the world around us and also spreads emotions such as love and compassion.'*

The aim of Sam's Superheroes is to help fund children and family projects within the local community. Sam's dog Daisy is being trained as a Therapy Dog and it is hoped Daisy will provide affection, comfort and support to a wide range of people within the community.

To read more please go to [www.facebook.com/teamsamssuperheroes](http://www.facebook.com/teamsamssuperheroes)

The desire to make a difference in the lives of families and children through acts of kindness is one I think we can all agree with and I hope we, as Mickleover Methodist Church, will be able to support Sam's Superheroes and the work it plans as the charity develops.

Rachel says she will be looking for volunteers to support Sam's Superheroes in varying ways. One way she asked if members of the congregation could help support the charity is through knitting craft items to sell to raise funds. Fiona, our Children's and Family worker, thinks this is a great idea and will find out more information for knitters when she returns from her annual leave.

## **Main points from Church Council 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 on Zoom**

### **The Leadership Team's dream for five years' time:**

- We will be a joyful people of God who have grown in faith
- Our building will be in use as a space which develops a thriving Christian community
- We will be sharing and spreading the Good News with our community making more followers of Jesus
- We will have found new ways to serve those around us locally and further afield

***What are your dreams?***

***What would you like our church to be like in 5 years time?***

***How will we achieve this?***

***What should our priorities be?***

***Now is an ideal time to rethink what we do and to start new ways of working.***

### ***Next Steps***

*Poster to be up in church over the next few weeks for you to add comments and suggestions on post-it notes.*

*Those not in church can send to Rev Gill or Laraine.*

*These need to be received by July 4th to be considered at the next Leadership meeting.*

### **Plans for the next few weeks:**

Making the foyer more welcoming with comfortable seating/reception area

Outside bench at the front for people to linger and have a chat

Summer Gardens get togethers for a chat with a cup of tea

Community Hope wall-hanging

Planning for Fairtrade Saturday mornings to start in the Autumn

Small group for 1<sup>st</sup> time Mums and non mobile babies starting on Wednesday mornings running for 6 weeks run by Fiona, Children and Families worker.

## **Financial report**

A shortfall of approximately £5k is expected this financial year. All outside hirers not yet returned to use the building and we are still losing out on weekly envelopes and cash from our offertories.

With the current situation and future unknown, there has to be a degree of uncertainty over the budget figures for the year up to August 2022, However a total figure of approximately £70,205 is needed from offertories to break even. This equates to £5,850 per month being required .

Even allowing for offertories increasing with the envelopes and loose cash, an overall increase in standing orders and envelopes is required to break even. In addition to balancing the general account, if we consider the work of our Children and Families worker to be important to continue beyond August 2022 then regular giving and/or donations will also have to increase to support this work. These increases in giving will be crucial if we are not to leave our reserves in a critical situation.

Church Council received and noted the report on the financial position to May 2021 and accepted and approved the budget for the financial year to August 2022.

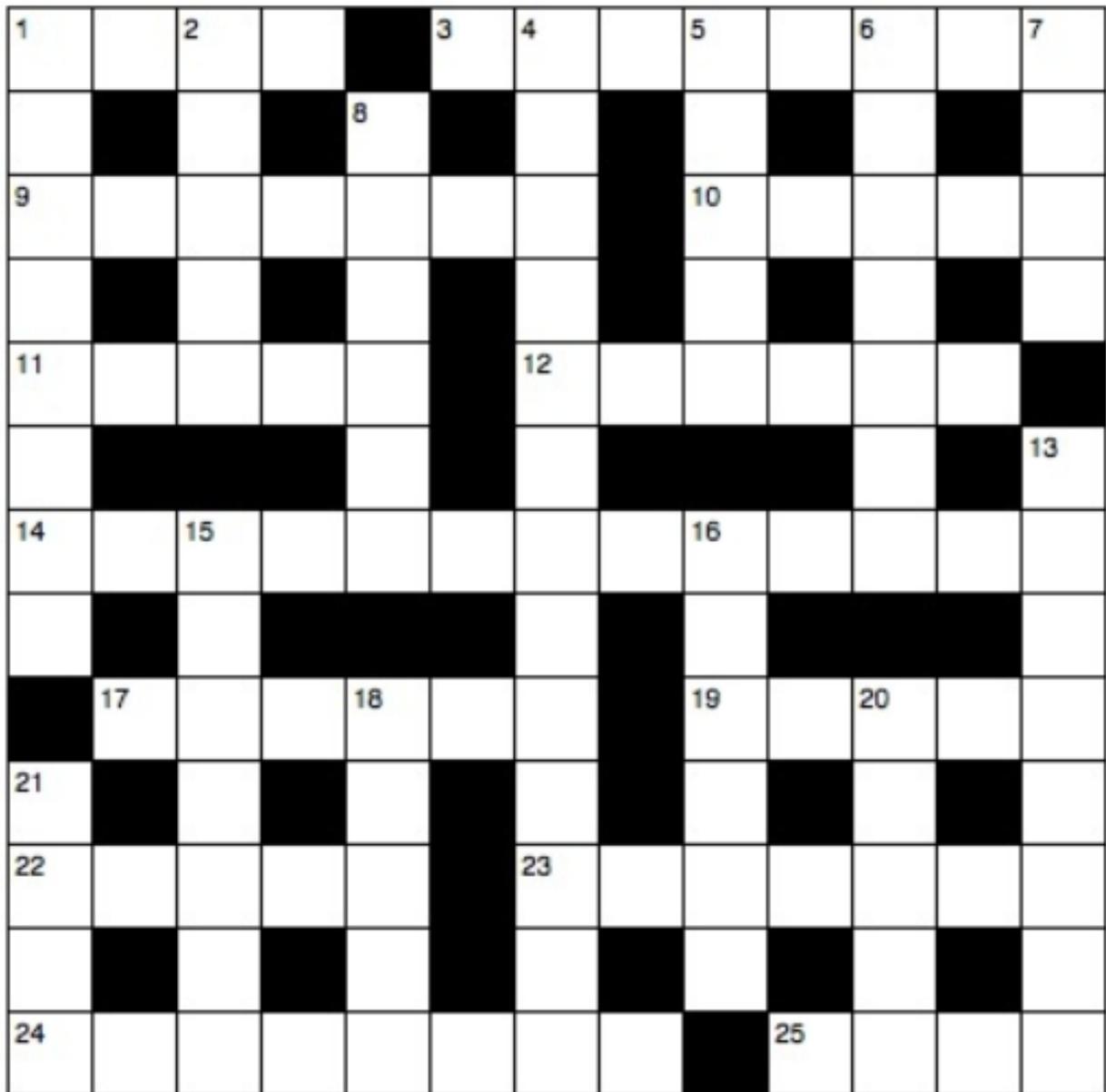
## **Children and Families Worker**

Fiona has managed to maintain good contact with many families via email and phone calls. Packs have been delivered by a team of volunteers and the feedback has been very positive.

Fiona is looking at the possibility of organising 3 activity sessions during August. These could be half day sessions over a 3 week period and could possibly take place outside. The activity days may be a Mickleover Churches Together venture.

**Mickleover Methodist Preschool:** Numbers attending and finances are good.

**Our Mickleover** has given Church a donation of £500 in recognition of its support at Our Mickleover events to be given to a charity of Church Council's choice. It was agreed to split the donation with half going to the charity Safe Families in Derby (we donated Easter eggs and Christmas boxes to them) and the vaccine blessing appeal from All We Can to send and distribute Covid vaccines in the poorer areas of the world.



**ACROSS**

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah’s ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)
- 3 ‘The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives’ (8)
- 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as ‘the Devil in solution’ (7)
- 10 ‘Whoever — his life for my sake will find it’ (Matthew 10:39) (5)
- 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
- 12 Gideon’s home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
- 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
- 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)

- 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
- 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
- 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
- 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
- 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
- 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
- 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
- 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
- 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
- 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
- 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
- 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
- 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
- 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
- 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
- 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
- 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)

### **Mums and baby support group at Mickleover Methodist church.**

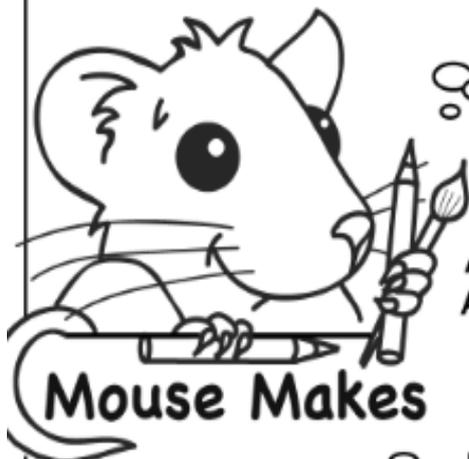
a gentle way to get to know a few other new Mums

**Spaces available** for Mums with non mobile babies and will run for 6 weeks on a Wednesday morning and follow covid safe rules.

**Booking essential** - Numbers are kept small, but if there is enough demand we may run more than one group!

Please get in touch via Facebook messenger (or email) if you think this group will be of interest

Currently we can't cater for older siblings, but we are aiming to restart our main group for older babies and toddlers after the summer.



Mouse Makes



Read the full story in  
Luke 10:25-37

### The Parable of the Good Samaritan

A man asked Jesus "Who is my neighbour?" and Jesus replied with this parable:

A man was attacked by robbers, they tore his clothes, beat him and left him almost dead. A priest saw him but walked by on the other side. A Levite saw him but walked by on the other side. A Samaritan saw him and took pity on him, he poured oil and wine on his wounds and then bandaged them. He lifted the man onto his donkey, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he gave the innkeeper two denarii to look after the man until he returned.

Which of the three travellers do you think was the neighbour to the man who was attacked?



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

JESUS • PARABLE • JERUSALEM • JERICO • JOURNEY • MAN • ROBBERS • SAW  
 CLOTHES • DOWN • ROAD • PRIEST • PASSED • PLACE • SIDE • LEVITE • CARE  
 GOOD • SAMARITAN • COMPASSION • BOUND • WOUNDS • POURED • OIL  
 WINE • MERCY • INN • TWO • DENARII • REPAY • BACK • NEIGHBOUR • GO DO

## The Good Book?

As I have mentioned before, during lockdown I have been doing quite a lot of reading. One thing I decided to do was to read the Bible from beginning to end. Not to study it but just to read through it. I tried to put myself in the position of someone exploring Christianity and being given a Bible with the advice “all you need to know is in there.” To tell you the truth, I was horrified and, had I not studied and had some understanding of the Bible before, I would have been signing up as a Humanist very rapidly.

Large sections of the Bible depict God as being a capricious tyrant who seems to enjoy putting people in a certain position and then punishing them (and theirs) as a result. To put it bluntly He comes across as a genocidal war criminal and someone who condones certain actions in some people and condemns them in others. Even the psalms cry out for vengeance and violence in parts. I would find it difficult to understand a God who is love if I had a literal interpretation of the Bible.

In my study of Ancient History at Liverpool, my lecturer always gave us the following advice when reading ancient texts, advising us to ask “Who wrote it? For whom was it written? When was it written? What is it trying to convey? What is the purpose for which it was written? And; What is the context?”.

Most of us accept that the Bible was written by various people in various situations, each with their own agenda. We must read the Bible with that in mind, knowing that it was written by people who were by no means perfect.

As we read, we can see that it is a history of human understanding of God and how he has been seen to care for :- a family, a tribe, a nation, a world and finally individuals. Throughout the Bible there is a strong understanding that God is love and anything in scripture which contradicts that should be regarded with suspicion.

I understand that there are Christians who will disagree with my views, but this is my understanding which I share with you here.

Phil Royle

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.



**Summer gardens:** a time for tea and a chat

You are invited to have a cup of tea and chat on

**17<sup>th</sup> July and 21<sup>st</sup> August from 2pm to 5pm**

Look out for details of addresses nearer the time.

Donations received on this day will be split  
between church projects and a local charity.

---

Freedom is coming!

Dear Lord, I was so looking forward to the day they were calling Freedom Day.

And now it's postponed I'm thinking of all  
those whose plans are more complicated, and whose lives are impacted,  
those on furlough dreaming of going back,  
those who long to dance at their wedding,  
those who live in fear of a third wave.

Lord help me to remember that my freedom is tied up only in You, that you  
are the God who sets me free. Help me to choose again that sort of freedom.

Help us to remember the promise that those who hope in the Lord will renew  
our strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; run and not grow weary,  
walk and not be faint.

Lord, give us freedom in you, and strength to wait patiently until the current  
restrictions end and we can sing your praises again, with our voices and our  
lives-as you made us able to. Amen

*By Jude Levermore, Head of Mission at the Methodist Church in Britain.*

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go  
away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and heaven than I can  
when assisted by all the telescopes of earth. – *Isaac Newton*

Tea time prayer  
God of all of life,  
waiting for the water to boil  
we confess and lament  
the rise of temperature  
that has led to a climate  
crisis across this beautiful planet.  
We wait, impatient for change.  
Pouring out hot water  
on loose-leaf or tea bag,  
into teapot or favourite mug,  
we pour out our intercessions  
for a change of heart by politicians  
to put planet and people first.  
Stirring teabag, leaves or sugar  
we ask that you would stir in us  
a passion to take action,  
to do all we can at this critical hour  
to take care of our common home  
and amplify the call for climate justice.  
Drinking that first satisfying sip  
we give thanks for the day when  
'they will hunger no more,  
and thirst no more'\*  
Infuse us with a strongly brewed vision  
of your creation healed and restored.  
Amen.

### **How climate change could affect your cup of tea**

Now here's something that will send you straight to your kitchen to put the kettle on: the Great British cup of tea may not taste quite so good in the future.

It seems that extreme weather and rising temperatures could lead to inferior leaves in the future, according to Christian Aid.

Kenya, the world's foremost exporter of black tea, is now affected by erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. India, Sri Lanka and China, also major tea producers, face climate change problems as well.

Climate change has been predicted by some as likely to cut production in Kenya's best tea-making areas by as much as a quarter by 2050. Even areas of only average growing conditions could see production fall by 39 per cent.

As one tea farmer in Kenya's Western Highlands, explained: "We cannot predict seasons anymore. Temperatures are rising, rainfall is erratic, often accompanied by unusual hailstones and longer droughts. If this continues, it will make growing tea much harder."

## Dream dreams

I was sorry to wake up, for it was a beautiful dream, a vision of life as it could and should be –touched by peace, joy and contentment, obstacles overcome, problems at an end –and it was a wrench to return to reality, to the cold light of day.

Help me to dream dreams, Lord, not as a form of escapism but in order to glimpse your purpose and understand more of your transforming love; to catch sight of all you are able to do and all I can become; to recognise that there is more to life than my senses can grasp; things too wonderful for me as yet to fathom. Give me a vision of the future and confidence that you will turn dream into reality. Amen.

Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> August at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> August at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root
<i>Keep a lookout for dates in July and August for Dot's Bible study sessions</i>		

### CTM Prayer Walk for Mickleover

**Thurs 1st July @10.15am**

please contact Ray Lee for details.

Tel 239645 or email

[raylee16@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:raylee16@yahoo.co.uk)

### Book in your diaries:

Jane's' Blooming Great Tea  
Party' at Church  
**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August**

### Churches Together in Mickleover

**'Be a Community of Hope' wall-hanging!**

**Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> July**

Finished squares can be put into a box in  
the foyer at

Mickleover Methodist Church

Further information: email at

[church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk](mailto:church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk)

or [admin@allsaintsmickleover.org.uk](mailto:admin@allsaintsmickleover.org.uk)

Or by telephone on 735052 or 510446

**ACROSS:** 1, Dove. 3, Offender. 9, Alcohol. 10, Loses. 11, Horam. 12, Ophrah. 14, Archbishopric. 17, Samuel. 19, Dwarf. 22, Lacks. 23, Imagine. 24, Military. 25, Revd.

**DOWN:** 1, Drachmas. 2, Vicar. 4, Fellow-soldier. 5, Eglah. 6, Despair. 7, Rust. 8, The mob. 13, Scofield. 15, Chancel. 16, Ordeal. 18, Upset. 20, Alike. 21, Elim.