

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING
Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 14th June 2020

Message from Rev Jackie Case

Dear Friends,

We are indeed living through momentous times: much of what we are experiencing now will be recorded in some detail in historical texts of the future. Covid 19 and its ongoing social and economic effects may well alter 'normal life' for all of us in years to come. This week has seen the funeral of black American George Floyd, murdered by a Minneapolis policeman kneeling on his neck, callously ignoring his cries that he couldn't breathe. As the Civil Rights movement was spurred on by the arrest of Rosa Parks in 1960s, and the resurgence of the 'Me Too' campaign against the sexual harassment and abuse of women was sparked by allegations against Harvey Weinstein in 2017, George Floyd's death has been the catalyst for a re-invigorated movement against racial oppression across the world. As a student in 1970s Bristol, I was aware of the great contributions made to civic life by the seventeenth century merchant Edward Colston, but I'm ashamed to say that I was blissfully unaware of the connection of Colston, and indeed the whole city of Bristol, with horrors of the slave trade. I didn't fully realise this until I revisited the city in 2000 with friends and visited the museum on slavery in the newly refurbished dock area. Despite his benevolence to the city, even building alms-houses for the poor, I cannot now call Colston 'virtuous' or 'wise' (as the plaque beneath his recently toppled statue stated) or even a philanthropist, because his benevolence did not extend to the multitude of human beings he bought, sold, and transported like cattle. The conditions for the human 'cargo' in ships' holds were so awful that 20% died before ever reaching their destination, where their new owners and overseers literally had the power of life and death over them for the rest of their short lives.

The legacy of this view that some human lives are worth less than others, that some people are little more than economic commodities or objects existing purely for the gratification of those more privileged or powerful, can be seen everywhere if we are willing

to open our eyes, our hearts and our minds. In Britain today there are trafficked sex workers, domestic slaves, car valets, and clothing sweat shop workers; there are those verbally and physically abused because of the colour of their skin, their distinctive clothing or their accent; prejudice and injustice results in many finding it harder to get fairly paid work or to gain promotion, or even to go about their lawful business without unprovoked interference because of institutional racism.

Where is God in all of this? Throughout the Bible the message is clear. God is on the side of the widow, the orphan and the oppressed and so should we be, whatever the cost. "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream".

[Amos 5:24]

Every Blessing,

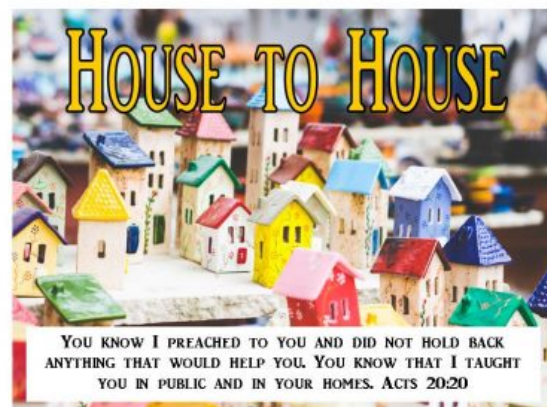
Jackie

Could a Zoom house group work for you?

Methodism was founded on small group meetings. It flourished and grew. Today's growing churches are often built on a robust small group culture. The similarity to the early days of Methodism is striking. My observation is that there is certainly scope for a few more 'house groups' at Trinity.

And thus says he who is not currently a member of a house group! To save shouts of hypocrisy, Helen and I offer to start a new house group. I don't know when we will meet, nor how often, nor exactly what we will do (bible study, prayer and encouraging each other in our faith will feature). The only thing I know is that we will meet on Zoom – certainly until lockdown is behind us. What I'm looking for is 2 or 3 people to help us launch this new group. Interested? Could this format work for you? If so, then please email me (hugh.bowerman@gmail.com). Once we have a few names we'll meet on Zoom and agree our way forward.

Hugh Bowerman, 07900 483728



Unlocking the Church

You will all have probably heard in the news that the Government is to allow Churches and Places of Worship to open for private prayer from next Monday. Unfortunately, it is not that simple. Firstly, the latest guidance from Methodist Church House (as at the time of writing this message) is that no decision will be made about opening our Churches until after conference at the beginning of July.

Secondly, we simply do not have enough stewards to open the Church either for Private Prayer or for when we are eventually allowed to worship in Church.

We will need at least **SIX** stewards at any one time to ensure social distancing is observed, to marshal folk in one entrance and out of another and to regulate numbers using the toilets. As well as this the Church and facilities will have to be cleaned each time they are used.

So, I am asking you, well in advance, whether you would volunteer to be a steward for either Private Prayer or Sunday Worship.

Please give prayerful thought to this request and if you are willing please let me know on

jean.normington@gmail.com

Jean Normington – on behalf of the Leadership Team

MHA Sunday

This Sunday, 14 June, is MHA Sunday.

In normal times we would have envelopes in the pews for a special collection on this Sunday.

We will not be able to do it this year. MHA is totally self-funded and relies on donations to operate.

The organisation will miss the annual donation from Methodist Churches across the land. The current situation is grave.

Last Wednesday, 3 June, BBC Newsnight devoted 30 minutes totally focussed on MHA. For those who didn't see it, the program is still available via BBC Player or the link is below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000ir6j/newsnight-03062020>

Please consider donating as you would if we were in church.

You can do this via <https://www.mha.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/mha-sunday/> and pressing the 'DONATE' button or by sending a cheque to:

MHA

Epworth House

Stuart Street

Derby

DE1 2EQ

Written by Linda Weedon, submitted by David Lander

A Word in Season 12

'When I awake, I am still with you'. (Psalm 139:18)

*Still, still with thee, when purple morning breaketh,
when the bird waketh and the shadows flee.
Fairer than morning, lovelier than daylight, dawns the
sweet consciousness I am with thee.
(Harriet Beecher Stowe)*

The sunrise on Sunday morning was touched with cloud but it was a special new morning, it was the first Sunday of the easing of 'lockdown' restrictions. Dan and I were extremely excited as Bernhard, Jessica, Isobel, and Clara were coming to visit for the first time since January. As you know, we have been doing guided reading with the girls and sharing Family Quiz Night by Zoom since lockdown but that is not the same as being with them in the flesh. We spent the morning preparing – erecting the Gazebo, setting up two tables 2 metres apart, separating the crockery and cutlery and getting the BBQ ready for the different foods to be served separately.

Just before 12.00 they arrived, O, the joy and pleasure, yet touched by sadness as we couldn't touch, or cuddle. However, we were luckier than the many who were not able to meet their family or friends or had no one to share with. We had a great time and as they were leaving there was the sadness, we could not kiss them goodbye, but plans are being made for a socially distanced Father's Day celebration in two weeks.

As we sat in the evening sharing the joys of the day, Dan and I were aware of the great sadness of lockdown and isolation, our hearts went out to those who are un-visited, isolated, lonely, and 'down'. Then on the evening news was the detail of the protests across the world sharing the distress and sadness of the events in the United States. All the anger expressed at the evil of racism, sadly being used, by some, as a reason for violence breaking out. Violence at that level solves nothing; it just raises the levels of violence and undermines the justice of the original protest. This was followed by the news that the police of Germany, Portugal and the UK were releasing information about the probable murder of Madelaine McCann thirteen years ago.

My heart was both elated and breaking as I went to bed. I was hurting, how much more would others closer to events be hurting. It was then Harriet Beecher Stowe's words came to me. She had spent a large part of her adult life fighting against the evils of slavery in the spoken and written word and actions. She would rise at around 4.30am in the morning to walk round her garden and talk to God.

*When sinks the soul, subdued by toil to slumber, its closing eye looks up to you in prayer,
Sweet the repose beneath your wings o'er shadowing,
but sweeter still, to wake and find you there.*

Her words reflect the promises of God found often in Psalms. As Paul said in Romans, 8:39, despite everything,

'Nothing in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord'.

As each evening of lockdown comes and the new day breaks and we awake; as the changes slowly come with each new day, we can be sure that when we awake God is with us throughout the day and night, every day. For, we can be sure, in the words of T W Maltby that,

Christ is the answer to my every need, Christ is the answer, he is my friend indeed.

*Problems of life my spirit may assail, with Christ my Saviour I can never fail,
For Christ is the answer to my need.*

This week I pray: 'Lord, that you will be our best thought in the day and the night, both waking and sleeping, your presence our light. Be our wisdom, our true word, you our great God, and we your children with you in us dwelling we are with you as one'.
(From StF545, H&P 378 Be thou my vision, 8thC Irish)
Graham Warr

Statement of Giving

For those who have an email registered with Trinity and who contribute by either cheque, envelope, or Standing Order, your "Statement of Giving" has been emailed to you recently.

If you have not received yours, please check your spam folder in case it has ended up there.

If you still can't find it, please let me know as soon as possible.

For all those who don't have an email, the Statements will be sent by post.

Regards

Mike Tozer

Gift Aid Secretary

tozermike@hotmail.com

Quiz Answers for last week

What is the capitol of Barbados? *Bridgetown*

What are the Christian names of the artist L.S: Lowry?
Laurence Stephen

Where in the body is the patella? *Kneecap*

What is a Flying Fox? *A large fruit eating bat*

What is the official language of Brazil? *Portuguese*

Who invented the miners safety lamp?
Sir Humphry Davy

What is the former name of Zimbabwe?
Rhodesia

What are the Queen's second names?
Alexandra Mary

Where is Tallahassee? *Florida*

Isambard Kingdom Brunel revolutionised British engineering?

Who was the female star in My Fair Lady in 1965?
Audrey Hepburn

In what year was Concord's last flight? *2003*

Who was Rudolf Nureyev's dancing partner?
Dame Margot Fontein

Which is the largest and most populated island in the Mediterranean? *Sicily*

Where are the sculptress Barbara Hepworth's works exhibited? *St Ives*

Valerie's Quiz Corner!

1. What type of Bridge is Tower Bridge?
2. Which river rises in Northamptonshire?
3. Of which fish is sockeye a variety?
4. What type of musical instrument was Antonio Stradivari most famous for making?
5. What does the acronym SCUBA stand for?
6. Axilla is the proper name for which part of the body?
7. What is the official name of Hull in N.E.England?
8. Who was Sir Ernest, Henry, Shackleton?
9. What is Monaco's chief source of income?
10. Who developed the radio?
11. Who wrote the books of Sherlock Holmes?
12. Which is the oldest university in Britain?

Another of Jill Willis's recent pictures of the Trinity Garden.

