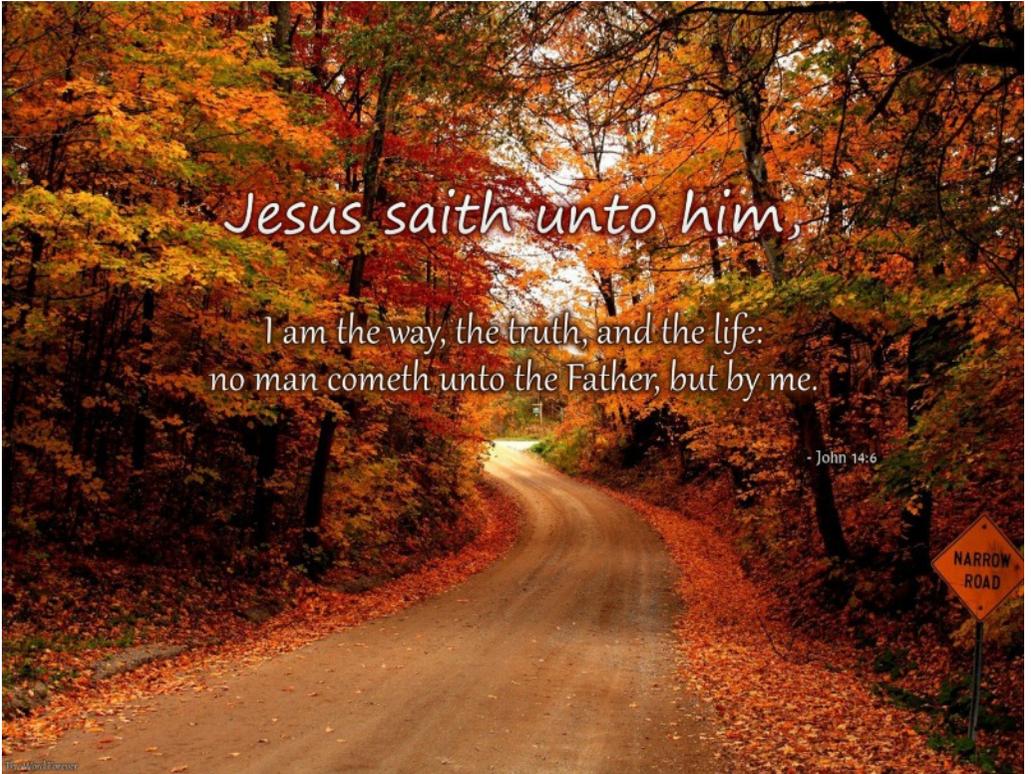


Newbury Methodist Church



Jesus saith unto him,

*I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

- John 14:6

*Autumn 2020 Newsletter
(September & October)*

Welcome to this Autumn Edition of our newsletter which covers both September and October. In this edition there is quite a variety of news, information and some more “out and about” articles and photos. Thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition.

For those of you who are not on the Internet and cannot link to some of the articles and photos which we have, I am sorry. If you are able to receive the newsletter electronically and you haven't yet transferred over please let me know and I will add you to the electronic circulation list.

If you missed any of the services over the last few months or you are not on our Sunday Service distribution list, they are still available on our Website. [Click here](#)

And click on the appropriate week. Some weeks the full service is available as a Youtube Service and this is indicated on the page.

There is also an [Audio Service](#) to listen to which is sometimes not covered by the Youtube Service.

Church Website : www.newburymethodistchurch.org.uk



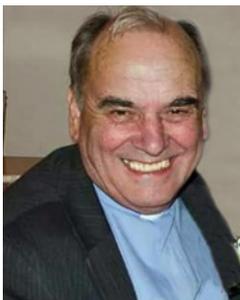
Church Family and Friends

The last couple of months I am sorry to advise you that a number of our family and friends have died.



Nora Twist 21st July 1930 -28th August 2020.
Our thoughts and prayers are with Nora's family. Nora will be missed by her many friends at church.

David Neely - 5th August 1965 - 27th August 2020.
Husband of Lesley Neely and father of Helen, Adrian, Sarah and John.
Our thoughts and prayers are with Lesley, Helen, Adrian, Sarah, John and the wider family at this difficult time. The funeral service held in our church can still be seen on the <http://bit.ly/NMC>.



Rev Andy Warren
25th September 1944 - 29th September 2020
Andy as many of you will know was our minister for 11 years and left us in 2010 for "semi- retirement" Our thoughts and Prayers are with Jan and all the family at this time.

Currently the service is available to view via the link below

<https://andywarren.muchloved.com/>

A Celebration and a Reluctant Decision - Revd Roger Ducker.

The discontinuance of Sunday worship due to the COVID-19 outbreak lockdown has had an unexpected effect in my own case. I had expected to fulfil my appointments on the March-May preaching plan — Palm Sunday at Newbury and Easter Sunday at Thatcham. Then I had tentatively raised with the Superintendent, Rachel Borgars, and with our own minister Peter, that I might have an appointment on the next plan, perhaps a Communion Service at Thatcham, near to 7th July, which happens to be the 60th Anniversary of my Ordination. It was my firm intention that I should then, barring emergencies, retire completely from taking services.

As things have turned out, with the cancellation of all church services, it has not been possible for me to take those services. I wondered whether to keep to my original intention, even though not being able to preside at Holy Communion near to the 60th Anniversary of my Ordination. After much thought and prayer, and with support from Brenda and our sons, I decided regretfully to keep to my decision, and take no more preaching appointments on the plan. I communicated this decision to Rachel and Peter a week or two ago.

So that service which I led at Thatcham on 15th March, the final service in the church before the lockdown, now turns out to have been the final service I have taken in my ministry — stretching back 60 years to my Ordination, and almost 10 years further back to my starting out as a local preacher on trial. At least, I did not have the emotionally overwhelming experience of consciously conducting a final service!

So I will now be able to celebrate this Anniversary quietly, - looking back to that special occasion in my life, at the 1960 Methodist Conference in Liverpool. For the benefit of those of you with long Methodist memories, I add the details that the Ordination Service took place on Thursday evening 7th July, at County Road Methodist Church, Liverpool. The President of the Conference, Edward Rogers, presided at the Ordination Service, and the charge was given by Dr Eric Baker, Secretary of the Conference. I give thanks to God for every chapter of my ministry since that day, in different parts of this country and in Italy, continuing as a supernumerary minister for 18 years in the Bristol area, and then for these last few years in Thatcham and Newbury.

Brenda and I are tremendously grateful for the welcome we received here, and for the knowledge that we really belong. Even in lockdown we know we are amongst friends in the church and in the wider community. And as friends, I thought you would want to be aware of the decision I have reluctantly made, - and share with me in my quiet anniversary celebration.

Roger.

Welcome Back



Whilst we know that not everyone has or is able to rejoin us yet, our service in church is very different to those we were used too. We restarted our Sunday Morning Services together from September 6th. It is, of course, very different. As time progresses we may have to deal with further changes and we will keep you updated if this happens. For those of you not able to return yet we will be continuing with a Service at Home.

If you use the church car park please observe social distancing guidelines whilst parking and walking round to the front of the church (the current guidelines recommend that people in different households do not travel together we are unable to organize lifts).

When you arrive at the front of the church it may be necessary to queue outside if there is already someone in the vestibule – there will be signage to help and stewards available to help ensure this is done smoothly and in line with the guidelines.

When you enter the building it is now mandatory to wear a face covering unless you have an exemption (please bring your own covering but there will be some available if you have forgotten). Please use the hand sanitizer. The duty steward will need to make a note of who attends church in line with current Track and Trace purposes – this record will be kept for 21 days and then destroyed. If you have a “smart “phone please scan the NHS QR Code displayed on the first door.

There is no printed order of service, hymnbooks or Bibles – everything for the service will be on the screen.

The toilet in the vestibule is available if you need it.

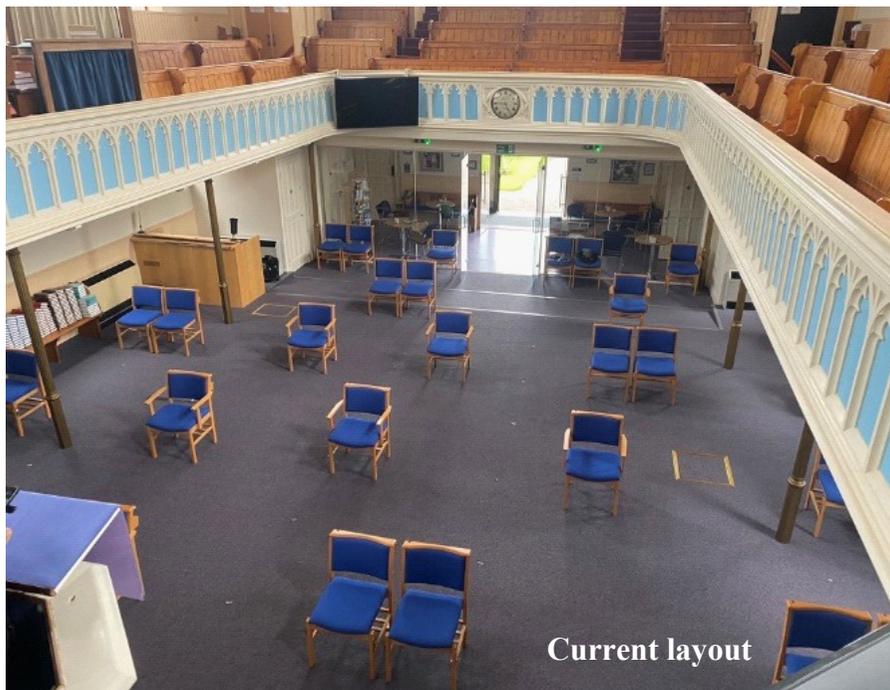
Once you have passed through the vestibule please make your way directly to a seat – either a double seat if you are with another member of your household or support bubble, or a single if not. As you will see from the picture on page 7, the chairs have been spaced out to allow for social distancing. (Please do not move the chairs)

If you use a walking aid this can now be kept beside your seat during the service. Once seated please do not move around unless it is essential. Depending on numbers it may be necessary, if you are able, to sit upstairs in pews indicated by the signs. Stewards will be available to help you.

The service will be slightly shorter than usual. There is no communal singing allowed at this time. The offering can be left in a collection plate as you leave after the service if you are not already making a donation online.

After the service you will be asked to leave beginning with those nearest the back of the church, use the sanitizer and then leave the church premises, as soon as possible, whilst still observing social distancing guidelines.

There is no coffee after church at the moment.



During communion services, which are currently planned for once per month, the bread and wine is served to you in your seat .

I hope that the above details explain the changes currently planned but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Peter Bennett or any of the stewards.

With best wishes and prayers from Alison, Alan, David, Kathy and Jeanette



Services for November

Sunday 1st Nov

10.30 am Morning Worship

led by Rev Andy Fitchett

Sunday 8th Nov - Remembrance Sunday

10.30 am Morning Worship

led by Rev Peter Bennett



Sunday 15th Nov

10.30 am Morning Worship

led by Rev Peter Bennett

Sunday 22nd Nov

10.30 am Morning Worship

led by Malcolm Stone

Sunday 29th Nov

10.30

Morning Worship

led by Rev Peter Bennett

includes Holy Communion



*Due to Government Announcement made on 31st October
"Places of Worship" are closed for the period of the lockdown
and therefore these services will not take place*



The Methodist Church has announced a year of online prayer focus on our Church-wide commitments to evangelism, church growth, church at the margins, and pioneering and church planting. You are able to join in live every Tuesday at 12.45pm for 15 minutes. You can join in by watching the prayer meetings at a time that suits you and of course you can pray at home when the meetings are taking place if you prefer. For more details click the [link here](#)

Prayer Meeting on Zoom

Just a reminder that on Monday 2nd November at 7.30pm Peter will be hosting a Prayer Meeting and on Monday 16th November I will be hosting the Prayer Meeting at 7.30pm. Please let Peter know if you would like to join on the 2nd Nov and me if on the 16th Nov,

Peter will be hosting again on Monday 7th December and I will be hosting on Monday 21st December

We would love you to join us in a time of prayer for anyone with us who has a pastoral need or a situation that you are concerned about.

There is always plenty to pray about and share together.

Do not feel pressured to pray out loud. You can join and just sit and pray quietly.

If you cannot join but would like prayer for a particular need or situation please let Peter or me know

Hope you will join us,

Love

Doris



*Thank you to Anne Jones
for making our new banner
now displayed at the front
of the church next to the
Communion Rail.*

Church Cleaning

The cleaning of the church and hall has been one of those jobs that has always seemed to 'just happen' behind the scenes and I would like to start by thanking all those that have done this job so well over the years. With the current restrictions and all the changes happening at the moment some of those who have done the job previously are no longer able to do so and this is therefore a plea for help from any one that could spare a couple of hours on a regular basis – be that weekly, fortnightly or monthly to help clean the church. If you feel this is something you are able to do, or would like more information about what is involved, please speak to me or call on 01635 826949.

Many thanks,

Alison Hutchins



Found whilst cleaning the church

It looks like a part of a brooch or some other piece of jewellery. It may not be particularly **valuable but it may have sentimental value to someone.**

Please contact Alison if you are the owner of this.

Live-streamed services

Worship services

We hope the four options below will offer some breadth from our tradition.

We are working in collaboration with:

Methodist Central Hall Westminster

Sundays 11.00

<https://mchw.live>

Wesley's Chapel London who will live-stream from the chapel (the Minister lives on the premises)

Sundays 11am

www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA

Swan Bank Methodist Church in Burslem, this worship will be studio based – with strict distancing rules being followed

Sundays 10:30

www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank and www.facebook.com/swanbank/

Sthie ('At home')

To join in a very different worship experience, try Sthie ('At home') from **the Isle of Man** (see image of Peel Hill, right, by Andy Fishburne). Join in live on Sundays by joining a Facebook group. For details see www.andyfishburne.com/2020/03/15/sthie-at-home-online-worship/



**Scottish Bible Society
7 Hampton place
Edinburgh,
EH12SXU**

**NEW THEME:
THE BLESSING OF FRUITFULNESS**

The blessing of fruitfulness

A series of readings that explore the theme of "fruitfulness": what happens when God is at work in our life

Today's (26th) Reading: Psalm 1:1-3

Oh, the joys of those who do not
follow the advice of the wicked,
or stand around with sinners,
or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the Lord,
meditating on it day and night.
They are like trees planted along the riverbank,
bearing fruit each season.
Their leaves never wither,
and they prosper in all they do. (NLT)



Reading Plan

26 October 2020.....	Psalm 1:1-3	5 November 2020.....	James 3:17-18
27 October 2020.....	Psalm 92:12-15	6 November 2020.....	Ephesians 4:29-32
28 October 2020.....	Isaiah 27:2-3	7 November 2020.....	2 Peter 1:5-8
29 October 2020.....	Ezekiel 36:9-11	8 November 2020.....	2 Corinthians 9:6-8
30 October 2020.....	Psalm 107:33-38	9 November 2020.....	Galatians 2:20
31 October 2020.....	2 Corinthians 3:18	10 November 2020.....	Philippians 3:10-12
1 November 2020.....	John 15:5-8	11 November 2020.....	1 Corinthians 1:7-9
2 November 2020.....	Romans 12:1-2	12 November 2020.....	Ephesians 1:15-17
3 November 2020.....	Colossians 3:12-14	13 November 2020.....	Colossians 1:9-12
4 November 2020.....	Galatians 5:22-23	14 November 2020.....	2 Timothy 4:7-8

Methodist Modern Art Collection

Postcards

Containing 24 detachable postcards from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, these postcards are some of the most popular in the Methodist Modern Art Collection, selected and arranged to tell the gospel story.



Postcard booklet containing 24 detachable postcards from the Methodist Modern Art Collection.

The 24 works reproduced on these postcards are some of the most popular in the Methodist Modern Art Collection, selected and arranged to tell the gospel story.

Starting with the Nativity, they progress through stories of Christ the teacher and of his miracles, to the events of Holy Week, culminating with the Ascension. Finally, we come full circle to Pentecost, regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church.

A valuable resource for house groups, for use in worship, or simply sent in the traditional manner for communicating with friends.

The Methodist Modern Art Collection is essentially a touring collection, administered by an experienced Management Committee on behalf of a trustee body, the Methodist Council.

Among the 55 paintings, drawings and prints that currently make up the Collection are works by world-class artists including Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink, Edward Burra, Ceri Richards and Craigie Aitchison; all are represented within this postcard booklet.

Further details about the Collection, associated resources, including a series of videos, and how the Collection might be hired by religious or educational bodies, can be found online at: www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection



<https://resetthedebt.uk/>

A fresh start for families in Britain swept into debt by Covid-19

Reset the Debt - email your MP now

Since the beginning of lockdown, an estimated six million people in the UK have fallen behind on one or more household bills, with poorest households hit the hardest.

This is an urgent problem that demands a solution. That's why we're asking the Chancellor to create a Jubilee Fund, to pay off and cancel unavoidable Covid debt for households in the UK.

You can help. Write to your MP today, and ask them to write to the Chancellor.

We need to:

Raise these concerns about Covid-19 household debt and its impact on the poorest families.

Find out how the government intends to address this urgent problem.

We need to make sure everyone has a stable platform from which to face the future. Add your voice to call on the UK Government to #ResetTheDebt.

Reset The Debt is coordinated by Church Action on Poverty and the Joint Public Issues Team.

Fill in your details on the form. This can be found if you click on the link [here](#)

Reset The Debt is a campaign launched by the Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, Church Action on Poverty, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church.

Christmas

JOY



Hello to all our ladies ,

We all know these are very difficult times ! As we approach the joy of the Christmas season let us think of meeting together to celebrate by sharing a meal together.

I fully understand that not all of you will be comfortable with this for various reasons.

For those of you happy to share in this meal I assure you that I have looked into the safety of the Rampant Cat.

David and I have been and checked out that all recommendations are being adhered to. We are reassured by everything being in place.

We have spoken to Caroline and she would be delighted to accommodate us.

We propose to keep to the date planned , Tuesday, 15th December at 7pm.

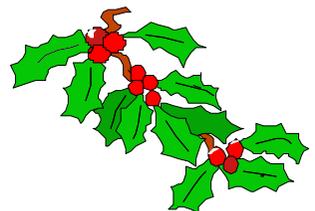
We do not have a menu yet but will let those of you interested have a menu.

At the moment I just want an indication of numbers please.

If you could let me know a s a p please.

With every blessing to you. Very much missing our fellowship together and looking forward to meeting up in December with at least some of you.

Love Doris X





The Methodist News - the latest news from the Methodist Church Media Office can be obtained by going to the link [here](#)

More normal.

In more normal times, we were speaking of how busy we were, of how there seemed to be too much to do and not enough time or people to do it. Demands, responsibilities and work driving us, sometimes beyond what seems reasonable (or faith-filled). It is always the same in September and October (and a few other months besides), but in the chaos of these strange times, and this 'year of doing things differently', it seems that we might be saying the same thing.

Shouldn't this be the moment of changing all that?

Couldn't this be the moment of changing all that?

Could it be that we need to adjust our vision, reset our goals and remember what is most important? It may mean setting aside different parts of our home, or different time slots, for different activities and roles. It may mean, intentionally, creating moments where we can retreat, rest, and remember what is important to us (again?). It may mean resting into being God's people all over again, and catching a glimpse of the world made new. Revelation 21 normal, anyone?

Grace and Peace to you and yours,
Adrian, James, Katie and Jon.

(The Southern & Islands Learning Network Team)



NEWBURY FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICE
www.newburycounselling.org

August 2020

Newbury Methodist Church Members

Dear Church Members

Donations in memory of Nat Tinkler

I know that many church members contributed to donations to Newbury Family Counselling Service in memory of Nat. On behalf of Trustees and the team our enormous thanks to you all.

Nat was instrumental, with others, in enabling Newbury Family Counselling Service to come to fruition. Nat was heavily involved in the initial fundraising to establish the service, persuading NCH/Action For Children that this was a much needed service and had Newbury Methodist Church's support, and in continuing fundraising endeavours. 28 years later the service continues.

Your donations in Nat's memory are particularly crucial at this time of national crisis. The service has continued throughout the 'lockdown' using telephone counselling and we are now beginning to see the impact of the pandemic on the wellbeing of parents, especially those with young children. Your support enables us to provide the service those families need.

Nat will be remembered by us with much affection and gratitude for playing a vital role in the service's beginnings and its longevity. Our thanks to you all.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Lilley
NFCS Manager
Nfcs.manager@googlemail.com

Newbury Family Counselling Service Limited
Company no: 5911090; Charity no: 1117783
Registered address: 'Foray', Elms Avenue, Thattham, Berks RG19 4JT
Supported by:





As many of you will know we supported West Berks Foodbank at our Harvest Service at the end of September. If you missed the opportunity to support the foodbank, which has a greater demand on it than ever, I am sure they will be happy to receive a Harvest Box as detailed on the next page. If you are unable to get it to the foodbank warehouse or drop it into our collecting basket at church please let one of the stewards know and arrangements will be made for it to be

The latest list of items needed is shown below :

Urgently needed - Tinned Fish, Sponge Puddings, Custard, Sugar, Tinned Fruit, Rice Pudding

Low in Stock - Chilli Mix, Shampoo, Tinned Vegetables, Cleaning Products, Soup

Well Stocked - Dried Pasta & Rice.

West Berks foodbank 2020 Harvest Box Appeal

Can you help the West Berks Foodbank this harvest? Have a go at making your own Harvest Box!



What to do

1. **Find** a box
2. **Decorate** it!
3. **Label** it – use the label below if you like
4. **Fill** it – with non perishable foods and toiletries
5. You can take a **photo** of it and show off your creation using the tag @westberksfoodbank on Facebook or send it to us by messaging our Facebook page
6. **Drop** it off at our warehouse on Greenham Common, Mon–Friday 9–12am or contact us for collection

COINS Calling

Praise & Prayer for Newbury Schools' Work



Taking Jesus to School
September 2020

Although it was very different from anything we may have expected, the academic year 2019/20 was still amazing and we praise God for all the wonderful ways in which He undertook for us.

Praise

Assemblies: Despite the restrictions we were still able to hold 19 face-to-face assemblies, reaching around 600 pupils.

- ★ **An Adventure Awaits:** It was so good to be part of the Thatcham Year 6 leavers' assembly. We also created three **COINS** transition to secondary school films, which were videoed and edited very swiftly and, thank God, had such an impact.

Facebook: Our new Facebook page has had over 3,870 video views. Do come and visit it, there is lots to see www.facebook.com/COINSnewbury.

Pray

- ★ **Harvest Assembly:** This has been filmed 'on location' at Rushall Farm, near Bradfield, and links the fruit of the Spirit with the harvest celebration. Please pray that it will be well received and used by the schools. You can view the prayer that features in our assembly by using this link: https://youtu.be/3z_g44VOpKo.

COINS-a-nory: Do you have a favourite Bible story? Perhaps you would like to be one of our volunteers and read a Bible story as part of our **COINS-a-nory** videos for Key Stage 1 children. We pray that this will be a real bridge between churches and schools and that more people will get involved. To see **COINS** Session Worker Kate Adlam reading the story of Jonah visit https://youtu.be/1pzmFnDX_XI.

- ✦ **New Website:** We continue to work on the **COINS CONNECT** website. Please pray for this, that it will have a real impact on the schools and that the Lord will overrule in all the technical issues.
- ✦ **Kennet Connect Club:** We have permission to begin holding a 'live' club from September. Do pray that this will work well amid social distancing guidelines; that everyone will be kept safe and the children will come along and really enjoy the group, as well as learning lots about God!
- ✦ **Zoom Prayer:** Our 'Pause and Pray' meeting for schools is on Tuesdays between 10.30- 11.15 am. We would love you to join us, so do contact us if you want to participate.
- ✦ **The Future:** Please pray for peace in our schools and wisdom for head teachers, school leaders and class teachers. Pray for the **COINS** Team, that we might know how to proceed with our face-to-face activities such as clubs and events, particularly as we make plans for *The Christmas Gift*. May we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and be faithful both to pursue new ideas, but also to lay things down if required.

As we enter a new school year we are grateful to each one of you who support us in so many different ways. We continue to pray for God's enabling on our ministry, for health and safety for all involved and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on our activities in the coming term.

Looking ahead, it will soon be time to organise our Christmas events. Pray that God will give us much wisdom in these arrangements, so that, although its format may be different, The Christmas Gift will still be as meaningful and moving as in previous years.

Please contact admin@coinsnewbury.org for more information, to receive our newsletters or if you would like us to visit your church or group. Learn more at www.coinsnewbury.org and www.facebook.com/COINSNewbury.

Christian **O**utreach **I**n **N**ewbury **S**chools

Registered Charity No: **1051406**. In association with **Scripture Union**
 26 Swan Drive, Aldermaston Wharf, READING, RG7 4UZ, 0118 971 4887,
www.coinsnewbury.org

Trustees: Peter Bradley, Jonathan Hilliard, Liz How, Matthew Kingston, Siân Lupton, Elizabeth Oxbury

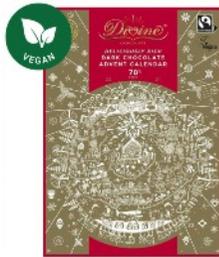


Festive fun & glorious gifts

Fair Trade Christmas Products

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS, FAIR TRADE
DECORATIONS AND ECO-ADVENT CALENDARS

*Your December
essentials sorted*



Welcome to Christmas at Traidcraft! This is your one-stop-shop for everything you need for an ethical and handmade Christmas. From charity Christmas cards to hand-carved nativity sets, we've travelled the world to find the best handmade fair trade Christmas products, gifts and decorations — everything you could ever want for a truly unique festive season.

Browse our fair trade Christmas collection and discover our range of Christmas gifts. You'll find handcrafted collectables, thoughtful tokens, stocking fillers, and everything in between for him, for her, and for kids, each piece with its own handmade story. Our selection of recycled Christmas gifts will delight the eco-warrior in your life, or fans of creative design. Hand-write a message in one of our Christmas cards to finish a gift in true fair trade style. And don't forget the Christmas wrapping paper!

And when it comes to decorating your home, we have everything you could ever need for a real handmade Christmas. From the guest bedroom to your dining room, our jingling bell garlands and handmade lanterns will bring some vintage style to your decorating, while our huge selection of handmade baubles will bring your Christmas tree truly to life. Our selection of Christmas tableware will certainly bring a little fair trade culture to your Christmas dinner, while our handmade Christmas Nativity sets, crafted from natural materials such as soapstone and olive wood, will provide a talking point. Each one is designed to be an heirloom in the making, passed down through families for generations.

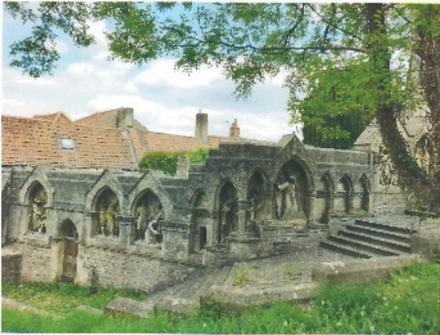
When you've finished hanging up your handcrafted decorations and hosting family and friends, take a load off your feet and tuck into some truly ethical fair trade Christmas food. You deserve it.

Go to Traidcraft website for the full collection of their range Christmas. [Click Here](#)

Answers to the last photo quiz



Wells Cathedral



Via Crucis,
at St John the Baptist,
Frome, Somerset



But where is this?

Thanks to Sid for the picture quiz

A prayer for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic

Dear God, the virus did not respect borders. It spread from place to place and person to person. It has brought grief, fear, hardship, suffering and isolation.

Dear God, your love does not respect borders. It flows from place to place and person to person. It brings comfort, hope, justice, wholeness and community.

Dear God, we pray for all those around the world whose lives have been impacted by coronavirus.

We pray for our churches as we rediscover community and learn new ways of being.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our peace and our Saviour.
Amen.

*Conrad Hicks, Director of Global Relationships, GR team
(From the 2020/2021 Prayer Handbook)*

Lockdown.

My experience of lockdown has been of trying to sell our house and move to Nottingham where one of our daughters lives. We have had several false starts, including the death of our first buyer from the coronavirus. We have now found another buyer and things seem to be progressing smoothly. The new house is already ours and we have so far made two trips to Nottingham, putting up curtains and installing toilet roll holders and other things not provided in a new house.

So my experience of lockdown has been characterised by a lot of sorting and discarding - the tip reopening has been a boon - the making of multiple lists and a lot of Click and Collect and internet shopping. If we had known in January what was coming down the line for all of us, we would never have embarked on this!

We hope to be moving in mid-September and I hope that the church will have opened in some form or other before then, as I would dearly like to be able to say goodbyes in person.

Blessings,
Anne Jones

Do you remember

Do you remember that Sunday when we were asked to take a card and stickers, and pray about human injustice and exploitation, and what we could do, among a list of suggestions, inside.

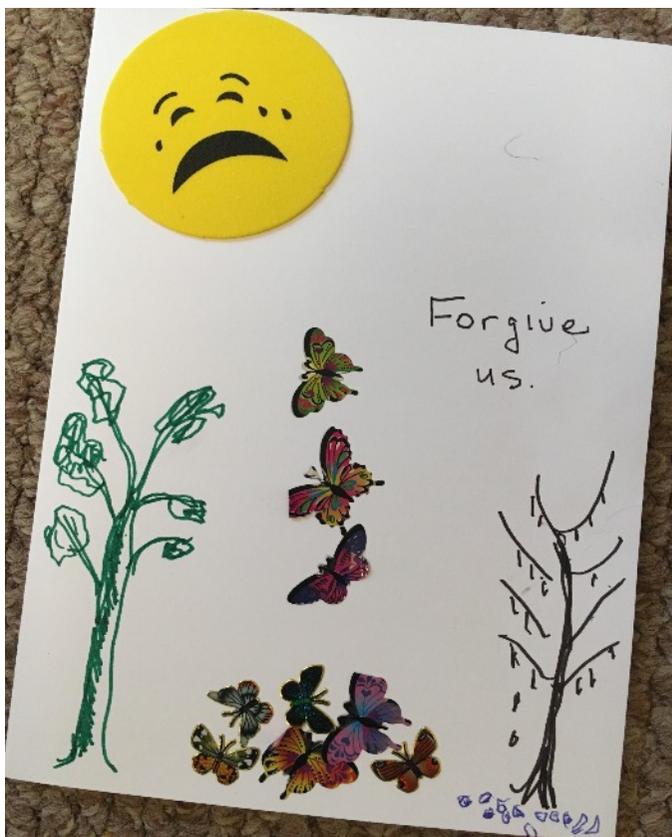
Well, when I got to the table out front, this sad sun gripped my imagination. Was it how Father God felt? (he is often portrayed in art, as a sun shining out over his creation).

When I was five years old I fell in love with 'nature' and God, because he made it all, including wonders which, back then, I had yet to learn about.. I'm still fascinated by its beauty and balance.

Some people find nature programmes abhorrent, with tooth and claw and constant hunting, but us humans kill vast numbers of our own species and ruin our environment!

So I've prayed hard about that and will endeavour to help, as and where I can.

Dorothy Peters



Time Away

Andy, Naomi and Robert had taken a cottage at Capel Bangor just outside Aberystwth. Gill and I and the two dogs were in the motorhome on a lovely site at Devil's Bridge. We met up one morning to have a walk in the Hafod Estate. It was a super walk, something for everyone, wonderful views and rocks and fallen trees for Robert to test his balancing skills.

There was the most lovely walled garden. Originally there had been a monastery in the estate. The monks used to walk from Strata Florida to Hafod. Strata Florida is now a ruin just outside Tregaron. The atmosphere in the garden was so peaceful, I felt it had imbued, in some way all the hours of contemplation and prayers which had been said there. In normal time it is tended by volunteers but of course that had not been possible this year. It has a collection of plants and roses which would have been grown at the time when the monks were in residence. I really felt very close to God in that special place. I offered up a prayer for my family and friends, and all the other families who were in need.



We walked on and came to a lovely river, as you see from the photo, Robert tried his skill at making us catch our breath, as we waited for him to fall in the river!



We all marvelled at the wonderful shapes, crevices and falls that the river made as it came down the hill. The dogs enjoyed a swim!

Nanny was pleased to have help from Robert as we made our way

back up the steep slope to the car park.



Can you spot the creature in the grass

We also spent two days on the beach at Yns-Las. The young people enjoyed the waves and I loved the scenery and the peace!



We were so very fortunate to have this time together, and somehow this year it felt even more special.

Love and God bless,
Muriel.

TRIP TO COMPTON ACRES GARDENS WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2020 by Myles.



Very inspirational is it not?

When I learned that Barnes Coaches of Swindon were operating again, naturally I was very pleased. After hardly having gone more than a few miles out of Newbury since March, it gave me a chance to at last 'spread my wings'. From the admittedly reduced programme, one trip stood out which entailed a visit to Compton Acres.

Compton Acres is a garden in a residential part of Bournemouth, not far from Sandbanks. It is in a quiet unassuming street in leafy suburbia. The entrance is far from palatial and it would be fairly easy to pass by without noticing. The coach left Newbury at 09.20 and was actually extra comfortable with the excess spaces naturally factored in. A swift journey followed skirting the northern fringe of the New Forest and I arrived at the gardens two hours later. By the time the tickets had been sorted out it was about 11.45. There were about four hours to explore the gardens which are not huge. They are however beautifully landscaped and feature a number of themed gardens. The first thing to say is that I am no gardener. Mother used to put me embarrassingly on the spot regarding names of plants and most of the species I could not identify, but I really do appreciate the efforts of those who have green fingers.

Unlike Exbury Gardens near Bealieu which seems to specialise in certain varieties (e.g. Azalea, Hydrangea), Compton acres seems to go in for a greater variety of plants and shrubs. I was impressed by the heather which was on display. There was a small clump of bamboo as well. Because of its relative height, there are far ranging views from Compton Acres across Poole Harbour and towards the Isle of Purbeck.

The first stop was the Roman or Italian Garden. I think the picture says it all really.



The Roman Garden. Fine stonework and columns, expertly manicured shrubs, mature pines and a pond filled with lily pads.

From the Roman garden, a network of paths takes one round in a series of loops that intersect with one another. There is always something to see at Compton Acres, some hidden delight. There are water features and a whole host of shrubs and plants.





Very beautiful, but what is it?

A simple lily pad can be transformed by a flower such as this.

White agapanthus and orange Crocosmia. (Krokos in Greek means Saffron).



Two of my favourite plants (you see I do know some of the names!) were here in abundance. Agapanthus (the lily of the Nile) and Crocosmia also known as montbretia the bright orange plant that grows all over banks and verges in the south.



In the pond of the Japanese Garden, giant carp (or are they Koi?) are clearly visible.



The Japanese garden features a small waterfall and a tea hut.

The other large themed garden was the Japanese one. Again this was stunning. A circuit of intricate paths wound their way around and across the pond. There were a couple of modest waterfalls and a stepping stone link across the pond. Here large fish would swim up clearly intent on some handouts. A red painted wooden Japanese tea hut completed the scene. After Compton Acres there was a brief trip down to Poole Quay. It was heartening to see some vibrancy here and cafes and restaurants were open, but the atmosphere understandably was muted. Nevertheless it was uplifting to briefly see the sea after about six months and all too soon I was headed home. We left Poole at 6.00 and were back in Newbury at 7.45.



Lympstone, Exe Estuary, Devon.

Photo from Myle's trip to the West Country

A Sound of Music parody about the Covid-19 virus

How Do You Solve A Problem Like Corona?

By **dovelybell**

Click on the link below

[Something to make you smile](#)

Priest's viral 'Hamilton' video reminds parishioners, 'You'll Be Back'

By Egan Millard - Posted Jul 27, 2020 [Episcopal News Service]

The Rev. Lonnie Lacy, rector of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Tifton, Georgia, had been looking forward to seeing "Hamilton" in Atlanta with his daughter for months. But then the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the performance they had tickets for was postponed until next year. So when a recording of the Broadway musical started streaming on Disney+ earlier this month, they watched it together. When King George III started singing "You'll Be Back" in his flowing robes, Lacy got an idea.

"I thought, 'You know what? I have a cape that looks just like that,'" he told Episcopal News Service, referring to the cape-like vestment priests sometimes wear for special occasions.

He decided to rewrite the song – in which King George orders the American colonies to stop rebelling, or else – to remind his parishioners that their church will be waiting for them when the pandemic ends. It was the perfect number to use in the annual parish talent show (which, like everything else, has been moved online).

"Every year at the talent show, I try to do something really big and really ridiculous as the closing act. And it's just become a thing – people know that Lonnie's going to do something big and stupid," he said.

The song-and-dance routine has been viewed 1,557,773 views on Youtube

"What I have discovered is there is such a hunger to be back together," Lacy told ENS. The video is "a little humorous word of hope, a promise that God is going to get us through this. There is going to be another side of this, and we will get back together."

[You'll be back](#)

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Next Newsletter

Any information or articles for inclusion in the **November / December** edition should be with me by **Sunday 22nd November 2020**

Email information should be sent to

newsletter@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk

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The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

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Worship

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

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- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
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- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
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- We will challenge injustice.

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- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
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for the transformation of the world.**

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