

# *Newbury Methodist Church*



*May 2021 Newsletter*

## Here we are again !

It has been some time since I prepared a newsletter and looking back over the last few months there has been a steady stream of news and information which has arrived by email from The Methodist Church. Clearly I can't include everything and some of it is now outdated.

As this is the start of what we hope will be a gradual start of our return to some form of normality, although I acknowledge it will never be quite the same as it was, I have tried to include a variety of what I have received plus a couple of extra family connected items.

The missed months of course mean we have missed a number of events and celebrations which we would have spent together but unfortunately have missed.

Two of the fund raising events we have missed but may try to rectify later this year is the JMA Beetle Drive (always popular with members as well as Shell Group/Youth Club Families) and also the Christian Aid Supper Quiz held around Christian Aid Week. (May 10-16)

For June I am hoping to have a variety of articles, some personal and some of general information and interest. If you have an article or news you wish to share please let me know. We will also be looking at our family News and Pastoral care as so many things have changed for most of us - any news or information please share.

We will also be talking about The Methodist Conference especially the importance of this years'.

This edition is to restart the monthly newsletter and I appreciate that a lot of information not accessible to non internet /smart phone users. I will see if we can address this.

David

### Dates for your diary

10-16 May - Christian Aid Week – [Explore resources here](#)

6 June - Environment Sunday

6 June - Tax Justice Sunday – [Discover resources here.](#)

# Endurance

'We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.'

1 Thessalonians 1:3.

As I prepare to go on Sabbatical I wanted briefly to express my thanks to you for your love and support during this unwelcome and difficult year or so and also to all those who have worked so hard to allow our life together to continue, as far as that has been possible.

The words above state very well what I want to say. 'Endurance inspired by hope' is the phrase that stands out to me. I am sure that at times lately endurance, and its companion perseverance, have been all too familiar to you. We have all had to hold on, to keep going and to carry on when life has been hard, limited and painful. Thank you for doing that with such determination and good grace. And thank you for helping each other to do that by keeping in touch via the phone calls, cards, gifts and Zoom calls which I know make such a difference.

The thing about endurance is that it is hard work and therefore tiring. If you are anything like me a time of refreshment and renewal may be needed. I am therefore all the more grateful to be entering this period of Sabbatical and recognise what a gift that is when it is not available to so many people who need it more than I do.

To keep on keeping on requires us to have hope as this phrase 'endurance inspired by hope' suggests. We hope for things to change so that we won't have to continue to endure, to grit our teeth and keep going in the same way. We have the hope of the vaccination programme, of increased freedoms this summer, of the opportunity to see family and friends again and to worship in a more normal way. I sincerely trust there will be opportunities for every one of you to see these hopes and much more besides become reality. It is hope that helps us to keep going. Over and above all these hopes we have ultimate hope to inspire us, hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the face of all that we have to ensure and all that we may yet have to endure this hope, the hope that does not, cannot disappoint, is reliable because it is rooted in God's dependable love and power. I look forward to seeing you again soon and to discovering what God has been, and will be, doing among us in this changed and new phase of life together.

With love and prayers, Peter.

### **Thank you to Peter**

We wish Peter a beneficial time of peace and reflection on his sabbatical and we to say thank you for all his support during the last year as a lot of people have been very appreciative of his pastoral support?

During Peter's time of his sabbatical Rachel Borgars will be covering pastoral work and Emails and phone calls will be redirected. Church Stewards will continue to be responsible for day to day church activities and for ensuring worship in person can take place where this is possible.

**An update on church services** will be in next month's (June) newsletter when hopefully we can be more specific about any changes that may happen after the 21st June.

For the time being we have to continue with our current restrictions for Worship in our Church Building.

### **Current Sunday Services**

Worship at Home will continue to be distributed and the Audio version will also be available both on USB stick and also on our Website. If you don't receive either but want to follow our services please look at our website services page.

There are also a number of "Youtube Services " which Peter and Chris have made over the last few month which are worth watching or re-watching as is also the Circuit Easter Service. Just click on the hyperlink highlighted in red on the Services Webpage ([Link to Service](#))





The La Soufrière volcano on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent began a series of eruptions on the 9 April, sending clouds of ash 20,000 feet into the air, blanketing much of the island in ash and causing

water and electricity outages.

Global Relationships have received this update from Bishop, The Rev'd Everal L. Galbraith President of Conference of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). [You can read this here.](#)

## Climate Justice For All - Launch

CJ4A is a youth-led campaign which invites the global Methodist family to take climate action and declare 'we believe in climate justice for all' together in the run-up to the UN's COP26 later this year. The campaign is asking Methodist communities to do three things as we approach COP26: listen, call and commit.



**[Climate Justice for All](#)**



## India's Coronavirus crisis: Urgent support needed

India is currently in the grips of a deadly second wave of Covid-19 – please give generously to help save lives today.

It is impossible to have missed the devastating news coming out of India over the past week. With hospitals unable to cope with the ever-increasing number of cases, and oxygen supplies scarce, the situation threatens to overwhelm the country's health systems.

At the time of writing, India has recorded more than 17 million Covid-19 infections and over 200,000 deaths – however, the true impact of the virus is expected to be much higher, with many cases and deaths going unreported.

All We Can and the Methodist Church in Britain will be scaling up our response in India through the joint Emergency Coronavirus Appeal, to provide vital support to vulnerable communities at this most desperate moment.

Since April 2020, All We Can has supported more than 2 million people to stand firm in the face of the pandemic through the Emergency Coronavirus Appeal, and the work of its long-term partners. The Methodist family have also responded to the ongoing pandemic through grants given by the Methodist Church's World Mission Fund toward partner church Covid-19 responses.

As people here in the UK look forward to increasing freedoms, we must not forget about our global neighbours who are currently facing the virus at its deadliest moment.

Please pray for the situation in India, and give generously to the Emergency Coronavirus Appeal, to help save lives today.

With heartfelt thanks,  
Graeme Hodge

[\*\*Give Now\*\*](#)

Chief Executive

*All support received will go directly to our response in India, and any additional money received in excess of that needed to respond will be allocated to work supporting communities across the globe cope with the*

All We Can is the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund, a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291691. 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR.  
Email: [info@allwecan.org.uk](mailto:info@allwecan.org.uk) Tel: +44 (0)20 7467 513



The Global Relationships team have received an update and request for prayer from the General Secretary of the Church of South India as the country struggles to cope with a surging Covid 19 second wave. You can read the request and a

full report on the situation in South India [here](#).



## FLOWER ROTA

I know that many of you have missed the beauty of the flower arrangements at the front of the church during services and we are hoping to restart these soon. Unfortunately due to a variety reasons the number of people on the rota to do this has decreased and it would be lovely to have some new names so that the job can be spread amongst more people.

If you feel that this is something you might be able to help with please contact Alison

## **Christmas Deliveries December 2020** ([\*A little late!\*](#))

This is to let you know David and I made up and delivered 54 bags/ cards/ sweets to all the families.

It was a great privilege to be able to visit all these families to let them know the church is thinking of them.

We travelled out to East Garston, Hermitage, Kingsclere and areas all around Newbury.

It was great to be able to see many of the children face to face and have conversations, at a distance, with many of the parents.

Although I have sent cards and messages throughout lockdown it is so much more beneficial to see them face to face.

I want to say a big thank you to those in the Men's Group for generously donating to this project. We really appreciated your support.

The over-riding message that came across was the surprise that the church were thinking of the children and young people. Also gratitude for the support and love for them all.

There is a big move in the church nationally to ensure we do not lose contact with the younger people in our churches.

Please be assured David and I will do our best to make sure this does not happen.

We have included a couple of photographs.

One of Rhys doing one of the activities and one of the young girl who lives next door to Peter and Chris.

One of the messages I received said.

"You do not know how much we all, as a family, appreciated your visit and the activity bags.

The children so enjoyed doing them all and eating all the chocolates.

The message on the card made us stop and think of what Christmas really means.

We don't go to church but appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers. Thank you."

Love Doris x



## News from the **Global Relationships Team** of the **Methodist Church** in Britain

Download the most recent Global Relationships News

[Download World Church Bulletin March 2021 as a Pdf](#)

Next new issue due June 2021!



### **Berkshire High Sheriff Awards.**

Unbeknown to us Helen, our eldest daughter who many of you will remember, received an award.

We would like to think that many of the attributes that enables Helen to do her job she got from many of our members and friends here in our church as a young girl.

The link below will take you to the short video about the various awards. I recommend everyone watch the awards as it really is uplifting about the variety of people who do so much within their communities :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUB8vXQ3JfQ>



**Young People  
and Children First**

Last year many of you supported Rachel and Family for their sponsored cycle ride to raise much needed funds for the Local Charity , **Young People and Children First** . Earlier this year I was sent their Winter Newsletter giving news and information about their activities and fundraising, and this follows on the next few pages. For more information go to:

<https://www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk/>

# YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN FIRST

## WINTER NEWSLETTER



*I'm delighted to report we are all well at YPACF and busier than ever. The last six months have flown by as we have continued to provide daily, face to face support to our young residents.*

*We are so proud of the youngsters that are with us. 57% are currently in full time employment and have continued to work either remotely or as key workers in packaging, manufacturing and retail. 14% are in full time education, supported by us to learn from home. We thank our supporters who have helped us with technical advice and equipment to make this possible.*

*Our staff team continues to grow with an additional Support Worker, Sarah Calvert and a new administrator, Lynne Hookway. We also welcome trustees, Karen Ferris (HR Consultant) and Steve Perkins (Accountant). I couldn't ask for a more dedicated and hardworking team.*

*Please enjoy the charity updates below, stay safe, and we hope to see you soon, fingers crossed.*

### OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

*Over the summer, James and Lewis from FINK Street Food came to one of our gardens for an exciting cooking experience. Our youngsters learnt to cook some wonderful nutritious dishes together. FINK uses food and cooking to encourage people to make positive steps to improve their mental health. It was delicious!*





*As the summer hit and restrictions were lifted, our support workers and young people had a lovely couple of days glamping in Devon. Cooking over the firepit, playing cards into the night, walking along the beach, and of course, fish and chips, all made for a fun time together. This was made possible by a grant from the National Lottery and the kindness and generosity of Claire Ranyard of The Red House Farm, Devon. These special times together are so important for our young people and staff. Trust is built and memories made, which are then pulled on when times become hard.*

## AUTUMN

*Centrepont's annual 'Sleep Out' took place this year as a 'Stay Up' to keep within Covid guidelines. We joined J Finance in staying up all night. Night activities included an 80s keep fit session, a zoom on 'being homeless' and midnight snacks baked by one of our residents.*



*Did we see you at our charity car wash at Greenham Business Park in Oct? HW Services and staff washed over 40 cars. Next one is in April. See you there.*

## CHRISTMAS



*December was a mad time for the Charity. Our staff, volunteers and young people were busy making wonderful Christmas cakes and gifts to sell and we were part of Greenham Trusts Double Match Day. In 24 hours we had to raise £5,000 which Greenham Trust would Double Match to become £15,000. We were generously supported by so many people and we raised just over £21,000! We were thrilled.*

*Christmas was especially hard for our young people, as it was for everyone this year. Not being able to spend it with their loved ones certainly took its toll. A lovely Christmas dinner supplied by Waitrose Newbury, and lots of pressies certainly helped raise spirits.*

*Thank you to all the businesses, individuals and volunteers who gave so much this Christmas.*

## CHARITY

*We are so close to acquiring our third house so we can support more young people who need us. Our third house is being acquired by experienced property investors who have been supporters of our charity for many years. They have viewed over 15 properties and continue to search for the right property for the charity. We have been blessed with donations of furniture and goodies from Ikea Reading and supporters, so are ready to go once we have the house! I look forward to sharing more news on this soon.*

*The need for our supported housing continues to grow and our referrals reflect this. We certainly agree with the British Association of Social Workers who expect a "tsunami of needs" as the UK recovers from the pandemic. With the opening of a third house and then looking for a fourth, our charity will do everything in its power to meet the demand for young people in need in West Berkshire and surrounding areas.*

# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

*Our corporate supporters and associations are so important to the charity. Whether holding events, donating goods and services or providing much needed funds, we thank and appreciate each and everyone one of them.*

*YPACF looks forward to working with our supporters in 2021. We hope to be running with them at the ASICS 10k in London, having a drink together at our Autumn Ball, and much, much more.*



## STAY IN TOUCH

We would love to hear from you. If you would like to get in touch at any time please email us at [info@ypacf.org.uk](mailto:info@ypacf.org.uk).

To keep up to date on all the goings on at the charity, follow us on Facebook and Instagram where you will find lots of photos and fun activities.

Please visit our new website, recently redesigned by the fabulous Karen Chapple at JCK Marketing.

<https://www.youngpeopleandchildrenfirst.org.uk>

Our website will also give details of any job vacancies, volunteering opportunities and how to donate.

We hope to see you soon. Take care and be safe. With kind regards from us all at YPACF.



## **Contact details:**

**Rev Peter Bennett-** (emails will be forwarded to Rachel Borgars during Peter's Sabbatical)

Email : [minister@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

**Senior Steward**

Email : [steward@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:steward@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

Other Email addresses can be found on our website.

## **Next Newsletter**

Any information or articles for inclusion in the **June** edition should be with me by

**Sunday May16th**

Email information should be sent to

[newsletter@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@newburymethodistchurch.org.uk)

## **Electronic Version of the Newsletter**

Newsletter is available and distributed in electronic format in colour and is a great way to enjoy each edition of the newsletter.

If you have not already told me but would like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of in paper hard copy format please let me know and I will add you to E-Mail distribution list

## **On our Website**

You can now read the current and previous newsletters on our website . [Click here to be redirected to Webpage:](#)



## *Sunday Services for May 2021*

*Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May*

*10.30am Morning Worship  
led by Tessa Bennett*

*Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May*

*10.30am Morning Worship  
led by Rev Andy Fitchet*

*Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May*

*10.30am Morning Worship  
led by Muriel Wood*

*Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May*

*10.30am Morning Worship  
with Holy Communion  
led by Rev Rachel Borgars*

*Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May*

*10.30am Morning Worship  
led by Helen Watson*