



February 2020

Dates for your Diary

- Mon. 03 Feb. – Craft & Friendship group – 10.30am
- Mon. 10 Feb. – Craft & Friendship group – 10.30am
- Fri. 14 Feb. - Dick Whittington – 7.30pm
- Sat. 15 Feb. - Dick Whittington – 2pm and 7.30pm
- Sat. 22 Feb. - Mission in Britain Coffee - 10-11am
- Mon. 24 Feb. - Craft & Friendship group – 10.30am
- Wed. 26 Feb. - Church Council - 2pm
- Thurs 27 Feb – Men’s Meeting – 7.15pm



Family News – To our friends unable to worship with us we send our love and prayers. Please pray for God’s work here, that our church will be a beacon of God’s love in our community.



Worship at 10.30am for February

2nd – Revd T Nowell HC; 9th – Revd T Nowell; 16th Revd T Nowell M.inB, Cafe; 23rd Section Service at Central Methodist Church.

Collections for December 2019 - 1st - £172.80; 8th - £162; 15th - £166; 22nd – Carol Service; 29th - £369. Total = £869.00

January 2020 - 5th - £165; 12th – 207.75; 19th - £181.10; 25th - £153.00. Total £706.85 We need £880 a month. If you pay income tax you may give your donations through Gift Aid which means the church can claim back the tax on your contribution and this will help our church meet our expenses and obligations. If you think you may be able to do this please speak confidentially to our treasurer, David Brown.



Men’s Group will meet at 7.15pm on 27th February when the speaker will be Paul Disley, all men are welcome.

NOMAD – Thank you to everyone who supported our soup lunch for the homeless which raised £180, and we sent 20 hats, 31pairs of socks, 3 pairs of gloves and 10 books.

Deadline for March Newsletter – 23 February

MONKS ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Welcome to our church. If you are a visitor you are most welcome. We pray that everyone worshipping with us will receive encouragement and feel uplifted. We are surrounded by others who want to reflect the glory of God; we are being built up to give our lives in service and are trying to develop the fruits of the Spirit to benefit each other and those around us.



God’s Closeness As Christians we believe God is close to us and that in Jesus we see his human face and that gives us comfort and assurance. Do you sometimes feel though that YOU are far from God? Are we sometimes like St Paul - so sure of our rightness that we don’t even consider what God would require in our living? And yet God came close to Paul and showed him how vital a Christian way of life is to His world. The 25th January is the day when Paul is commemorated by Malta when he was shipwrecked. He was so impressed and thankful for the kindness and hospitality he and his fellow travellers were shown. The Week of Prayer this year focussed on hospitality and was prepared by Christians Together in Malta & Gozo. We long always to know the closeness of God but sometimes we have to readjust our thinking and living. It is easy to slip and forget to welcome and be a part of our church community, our support of others who are not like us, and to be generous to those who have little. Paul said he received “unusual kindness” and with humility we need to offer this to those of other denominations, religions, nationalities, refugees, those who are different – and to do this simply because this is what our faith demands and is the way we will show that God is close and working through our lives and our world.

Environmental Concerns Throughout 2019 we considered several ways of helping our environment and the climate: illegal palm oil in a lot of our food, particularly confectionery and what it is doing to wild-life forests in Borneo and the rain forests across the world; how plastic wrapping paper and glitter cards at Christmas cannot be recycled; consideration of over-consumption to satisfy our wants rather than our needs; the careless over-use of single-use plastic; care with our use of water in our homes & gardens and re-usable water bottles; fast fashion which demands vast resources. These are just a few of the ways of living we considered. Have you needed to adjust your ways of living and shopping e.g. using less plastic, and, if so, how have you been able to adapt to a more sustainable way of living? It is clear from what is happening in the world, with exceptional floods and heat that the climate is warming and we need to live sustainably if we are going to be able to save God's world. Perhaps you need to email / write to your MP to ensure they lobby for right living, or to shops which are full of plastic? One letter or email is thought to say to those in power that at least eleven others are thinking the same, so don't hesitate to speak out.

Heavenly Father, give us courage to care for your wonderful world. We pray that we will be filled with a spirit of concern for the future of our environment; bring an end to the exploitation of the earth's scarce resources; and live as responsible stewards protecting and respecting this gift of creation God has placed in our hands. Amen

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**Thanks, thanks, thanks**

**Leaving Care Gift Service** Thank you to everyone who supported the young people who are making the transition from Care to independent living.

**Our shrapnel** (loose change) and the Folk Carol Service, with thanks to Jonathan and friends, raised £325.00, which will mean we can provide nine toilets for families in Africa so they will not have to go into the unsafe bush and the threat of disease because of unhygienic conditions will be greatly lessened.



Don't forget your tickets!

Friday evening 14<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm & 7.30pm

Tickets £5.00 from any cast member or Terry on 754254

**Mission in Britain February**

Sunday service on 16<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30am when we consider how our church supports mission in Britain.



Saturday Coffee **22<sup>nd</sup> February** with Cake & Bric-a-brac stalls along with a raffle. If you have a Mission in Britain box please bring it to be emptied.

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Church Envelopes & Assessment The new year's envelopes are now available. If you do not have church envelopes and think you would be able to give through the scheme then please ask Rosemary Smith and she will provide them. The benefit of using envelopes is that even when you cannot attend church you are still able to put away your weekly contribution and can put the envelopes on the plate next time you are at church. This means that our church has a steady income which ensures we can carry out our mission more effectively, pay our gas & electricity & upkeep and pay our assessment. Our **assessment** is the amount we have to pay each quarter to the circuit as our contribution to our Minister's stipend and living expenses. At this time our assessment is £11,500 per year. Totalling our assessment and our own church expenses means that to keep afloat we require £10 a week from each member. We also realise that not everyone can contribute this amount so we have events through the year to raise funds so we can continue our work here on Monks Road. Thank you everyone for your support, not only of our church, but for the support you give to all the charities and good causes to which we contribute throughout the year.