



March 2020

Dates for your Diary

- Mon. 02 March. – Craft & Friendship group – 10.30am
- Wed. 04 March. – 1st Lent meeting, Steps to the Cross - 2pm
- Fri. 06 March. - World Day of Prayer at All Saints – 10.30am
- Fri. 06 March – Coffee Drop-in each Friday from now - 9-10am
- Mon. 09 March - Craft & Friendship group – 10.30am
- Thurs. 12 March - 2nd Lent meeting - 2pm
- Mon. 16 March - Craft & Friendship group – 10.30am
- Wed. 18 March - 3rd Lent meeting – 2pm
- Thurs. 19 March – Men’s meeting with Paul Disley at 7.15pm
- Mon. 23 March - Craft & Friendship group – 10.30am
- Wed. 25 March - 4th Lent meeting – 2pm
- Mon. 30 March to 2nd April – Emergency Lighting being installed.



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 March

- 1st – Revd T Nowell HC; 8th – Mr K Chester; 15th Revd A Burrows;
- 22nd. Revd T Nowell Parade, Mothering Sunday; 29th – Revd Nowell, Cafe

Collections for February 2019 - 2nd - £166.00; 9th – No service; 16th - £290.50; 22nd – Section Service.



Our Easter Messy church is for everyone when we will think again about the Easter message exploring it with crafts, songs and food. We begin at 10.30am and finish between

12.30 and 1pm after sharing lunch together. Make a date in your diary and join us on Saturday, 11th April at 10.30am

Deadline for March Newsletter – 28 March

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.



Deuteronomy 31:8 The Lord, He goes before you. He will be with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you. Do not fear, nor be dismayed.” God’s promises are wonderful. He made this promise to the Israelites when they were in trouble and He makes the same promise to us today. We need to remind ourselves daily that He is there before us; that He will never leave us and that He will always be with us, no matter what happens to us in life or in the world.

Throughout the Bible God makes promises to His people and His promises never fail. Psalm 100 says”...his love endures for ever and his faithfulness continues through all generations”. How many of God’s promises can you find or recall? When we remember and realise that God’s promises are true and solid our faith calls us to respond by the way we live. Living a Christian life is not always easy but resting on God’s promises day by day gives us strength to face any difficulties, courage to carry on and a deep joy that nothing else can give us. With this knowledge we know that “..nothing can separate us from the love of God” and whatever happens “...if God is for us who can be against us.”. God blesses you every day – walk in His light. *Amen*

Environmental Concerns – The churches are full of people trying to care for God's creation. The church of England's lenten journey is called *Care for God's Creation*. The Methodist church, along with other churches, is part of *Creating a climate of Change – Living Lent*. *Living Lent* encourages us to become part of a community who will respond to the call to climate action by making significant personal commitments to changing our lifestyles for the sake of climate. *Living Lent* majors on us realising that changing our climate is not just an activity but a lifestyle. Can you change your lifestyle for Lent? 40 days but 40 days which might help us to continue changing as we **hunger & thirst for righteousness**, for instance, knowing that we might refuse a plastic bag for our fashion buy but think deeper about the child who might have made the item in a sweat-shop! We need to think beyond the obvious in our living.

~~~~~

**Fairtrade Fortnight – 24 February to 8 March** The Fairtrade foundation campaigns for living wages for millions of those across the world who provide a lot of our food. This year they are concentrating on cocoa farmers. A Fairtrade price for their crops means they are more likely to receive a living wage meaning they can feed and educate their children. Please support Fairtrade.

~~~~~



Thank you so much to all our players, backstage helpers, front of house staff, singers and Jonathan, our Musical Director for the wonderful production of our pantomime on 14 & 15 February.. Three full houses cheered on and joined in as well as enjoying choc ices and trying for one of our fantastic raffle prizes. The amount raised was £1,020. This will help the church pay for the fire alarm system which will cost nearly £6,000 but is necessary to ensure safety to everyone on our premises.

~~~~~

Thank you God for times of fun & laughter. Help me to remember You in times of happiness as well as times of trouble. *Amen*

**Mission in Britain February** - Thank you to everyone who attended the coffee morning which raised £89.40 to help the Methodist church carry out it's mission throughout the country. Thank you also to those who collect through the year in Mission in Britain boxes.

~~~~~

Our shrapnel and FiSH – Our loose change does a lot of good, supporting different charities during the Autumn up to Christmas. We have decided to put out the loose change box again to support **Food in School Holidays**. Lots of families struggle to feed their children during school holidays when there are no school meals. Because of this the local churches provide vouchers to ensure the children don't go hungry. If you can help by dropping your loose change in the box, the money will be very helpful to alleviate the struggle some parents might have.

~~~~~

**Goodbye to our dear friends, Sylvia Marrows & Marjorie Farnsworth**

**Sylvia** moved to our church when 'Big Wesley' closed and used her musical gifts from the beginning in our choir. She was Sunday School treasurer for a long time and a member of the Women's Circle until fairly recently when, after a fall and a broken hip, she was unable to walk very well. For many years she sold choc ices with Mrs Brown at the pantomime. Her faith enabled her to be a central and much loved member of the church. Her funeral is in church on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March at noon.

**Marjorie** also was a life-long Christian and as a child attended the Salvation Army. Living in Walmer Street meant she could easily become involved in many aspects of our church life. She was a member of our Women's Circle and leader for many years and she enjoyed singing at the pantomimes and with the singing group. Marjorie had worked as a cook and used her baking and sewing skills to support all the churches activities. Whenever she was asked to read in church there was no hesitation and she had a beautiful reading voice. Her funeral is in church on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at noon.

We shall miss both Sylvia and Marjorie but thank God that we were able to share part of our Christian journeys with them.

*Romans 14:8 'If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.'*