

Weybridge Methodist Church

Newsletter May 2019



**‘Sing a Song of Maytime, Sing a song of
Spring’**

Weybridge Methodist Church

Café Church

**led by David and Caryl
Ingoldby**

Sunday 12 May 2019.

6.15 for 6.30 pm

Mission

Brother, Sister let me serve you.

www.weybridgemethodistchurch.org.uk

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Learning through God's story

by Sandra Brower.

I've just returned from a week teaching at Wesley State University in Ondo, Nigeria, about a five-hour drive northeast of Lagos. It was a fresh reminder that theology is, indeed, everywhere. I always jump at the chance to leave my desk, and its associated duties, in order to visit and engage with sisters and brothers in Christ around the world. It's so good to hear stories which are very different from mine, yet aligned to the story that we share. As soon as we arrived on campus, we were greeted by many different individuals who had come from various districts to participate in their first week of a Doctor of Ministry programme. One minister shared his desire that we would take away the good and *positive* stories about his country, as a foil to the negative press we were likely to get on our newsfeeds.

Storytelling is at the forefront of my mind. Back home now, I've been madly trying to meet a deadline for the Postgraduate Certificate of Higher Education programme I'm enrolled on this year. My allocated small group has to submit material this week on the topic of 'storytelling as a learning tool'. It's been fascinating to look at storytelling as a learning theory; much research supports the claim that 'whatever we learn, we're learning it through someone else's story and through their eyes' (Ashton & Stone, 2018, p. 147). My week in Nigeria was no exception.

I was invited to deliver lectures on liturgical worship. The Church has long proclaimed the motto '*lex orandi, lex credendi*' as we pray, so we believe. In other words our *liturgy* leads to and informs our *theology*. During our week together, the students and I considered the proposition that in corporate worship, we gather together as a community of faith to be guided by the God who seeks after us. The scattered community brings the various stories that have developed in the time apart, gathering once again to have these stories shaped by and oriented to *God's* story. At the end of my teaching week, I asked each student to answer the question, 'what was the most significant learning point this week?' A common response was the concept that Christian worship starts and ends in community. It doesn't start with us, individually, or even corporately; it starts with the Triune God, a community in his very being, who calls us to worship, gathering us to himself. By his Son and his Spirit, the Father draws us in to participate in the life of God.

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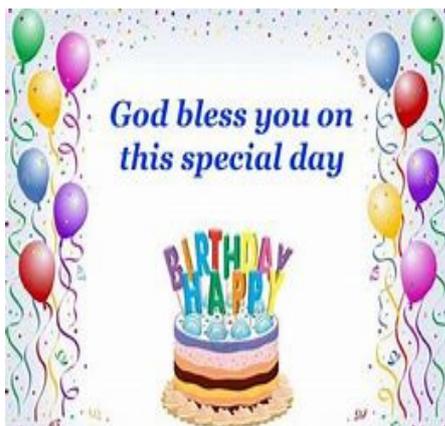
One of the PowerPoint slides for my PGCE group's presentation on storytelling defines storytelling as 'a learning tool to make sense of experience' and a 'way of knowing that it is socially constructed.' I can't help but think how this relates to theology and corporate worship. Stated as simply as possible, theology is 'God-talk' – talking about God. It is the conviction of many that we can't engage in this task in any meaningful way unless the God of whom we speak reveals himself to us. If he doesn't, how on earth can we know what to say? But where is God revealed to us?

When I lecture on worship, I often come back to David Peterson's definition of worship as 'an engagement with God, on the terms that he proposes, and in a way that he alone makes possible.' In worship, we don't simply gather to talk *about* God, we meet *with* him. The Latin motto begins to make sense. Worship is the fount of theology, because it is where we meet with God, and come to know him. And in coming to know *God*, we come to know and understand *ourselves*. It is in this engagement, then, that our stories become meaningful and we are, indeed, able to make sense of our experience.

I find it frustrating when worship leaders assume that we call ourselves to corporate worship (the latest fashion being 'countdowns' to worship). It turns the framework of *Christian* worship on its head – we gather ourselves to call on God, often expressed in an *initial* time of songs of praise and adoration. Certainly corporate worship must incorporate our adoration and praise, but these must always be understood in the context of *response*. Worship leaders (and planners) are instrumental in determining whether or not our worship, from the *outset*, expresses a gospel of grace. If whatever we learn is indeed through someone else's story and through their eyes, let it be *God's* story and through *God's* eyes. Then, and only then, will we have eyes to see and ears to hear the good and positive stories my Nigerian brother challenged us to bear witness to.

Thank you

- To Claire for undertaking the weekly checks of the Fire equipment.
- To Lili & Jose for their faithful service in helping Brenda to attend church.
- To all those who continue to help out at services by providing music, undertaking readings or prayers and providing refreshments.
- To those who have signed up to provide flowers on a Sunday morning. The wonderful displays created by Carol on a weekly basis provide a focal point for recognizing God's glory.
- To those who help out at the monthly coffee morning and the Bedding bank.
- To those who add prayers to the prayer tree



Happy Birthday

To:

Pru Ashplant and Hawa Lake

To: friends Hazel Bell and David Ingoldby



Prayer Time:

Please pray for

- Brenda & Keith, who are still awaiting a move date.
- Teresa and Steve, mourning the loss of a treasured family pet
- All those who are travelling during this month whether by air, land or Sea.

Prayer Vigil and Thy Kingdom Come

The 2019 Thy Kingdom Come prayer event runs from 30 May until 9 June. We will all receive coloured paper stars on which to place the names of the five people for whom we wish to pray and we can hang them on the prayer tree on Sunday 9 June. We will also receive the prayer Novena and a prayer diary. Please sign up on the website and register for your 'light' to appear on the world map.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/#Pledge2PrayCounter>

The Wey Valley Circuit are holding a 24 hour prayer vigil on Sat 1 and Sun 2 June to tie in with this global event. Our church has been assigned the slots 10 – 11am on Saturday 1 June and 5 – 6 am on Sunday 2 June. Please sign up and commit to at least 30 minutes during these two hours. An 'aide memoire' of prayer needs to assist your time of prayer will be available for your use if you so desire.

The 'mobile' prayer group is open to all. Please add prayer needs as they occur to you. If you wish to be added to this group, contact Linda who will add you to the WhatsApp prayer group.

n.b the 'WhatsApp' application is downloadable from the App store and it is free. It is the safest application as it is the only one with end to end encryption of all content.

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For discussion at the next Church Council meeting.

The Mission Statement of the Methodist Church in Great Britain ('Our Calling') is as follows:

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. It does this through:

Worship - The church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

Learning and caring - The church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

Service - The church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

Evangelism - The church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Taking this as a starting point, the Circuit Leadership Team has framed three questions which we ask churches to bear in mind as they proceed with reviews:

- 1. *Listening to God's calling, what do you hope your church will have become in five years' time and how would that differ from what it is today?***
[This is about mission - think in terms of worship, witness, people, relationships, premises]
- 2. *What resources are needed to achieve your goal?***
[What attributes does your church possess which are particularly valuable on the journey? What might be discarded? What is lacking?]
- 3. *What practical steps do you need to take to make real progress towards your goal? [How could the Circuit assist?]***

These questions are relevant to the ongoing mission of each church and the Circuit as a whole. They are not intended to replace or cut across any work being done already but we believe that the review process should enable each church to be able to answer them. It is proposed to use our [Circuit Meeting on Tuesday 16 July 2019](#) for a further discussion on these issues and we hope that each of our churches will have had meaningful discussion around these questions at Church Council meeting. Your Circuit Meeting rep (in our case Carol) will be asked to contribute feedback at this Mission focussed Circuit meeting.

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Church Property Matters

Work to install emergency lighting throughout the building has been completed.

Work to rectify problems on the heating system has been completed.

The annual inspection of the Fire Extinguishers has been completed and the new certificate of conformity is on display.

We are awaiting a start date for the work to box-in the electrical switches in the front of the church. Once all this work has been completed we will organize a deep clean of the church.

The annual inspection of the Lightning Conductor and the annual P.A.T testing has been booked for July.

The bi-annual treatment of the Mayfield Hall floor has been booked for August.

Once this work is completed we will look at the other recommendations.

There are also some outstanding tasks from the last Quinquennial report to undertake which will be followed up after we have become compliant with the fire safety recommendations.

HERE I AM AGAIN!



Fund raising work has commenced to raise funds for a replacement P.A system. This will be a very expensive piece of work which will run into many thousands of pounds and at present we cannot deal with this as a priority from the general funds.

I am always standing proud on a Sunday Morning on the Coffee bar to receive your donations towards this target. As a church we do not hold an annual gift day so your opportunity to contribute is via me.

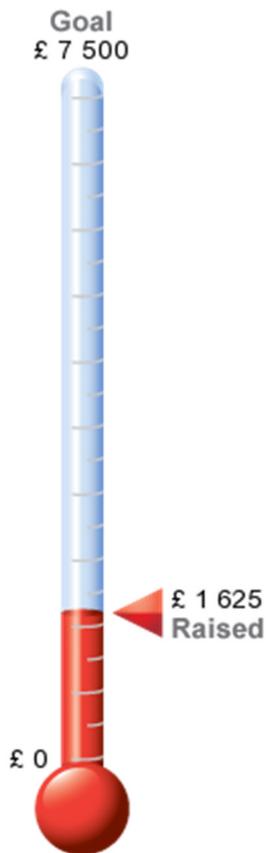


Thanks to Carol, Paula and Linda who provide and serve cakes on the second Saturday of every month at Addlestone from 10 – 12. The monies raised are being secured towards the new P.A system. Come over and visit us for a cup of tea or Coffee (REAL COFFEE!!!) and a piece of cake for only £2.

Thanks go to Sydney Samuel who always comes to support us.

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Thanks to another generous donation of £50 and the ladies who ran the April Coffee morning our special fund for the new PA system currently stands at £1,575. The 'total cost' shown is an estimate based loosely on the costs incurred by our sister church at Godalming.



Hello & Goodbye



On 31 March we officially welcomed Adelaide into the church family and formally said goodbye to Brenda, although she is still waiting for a confirmed move date.

We ask God's blessing on Adelaide and Brenda as they move to a new (and exciting) stage in their life.

Dates for the diary

Sunday 5 May 10.30 am	Morning Worship Songs of Praise	Run by the Church <i>Steward: Pru</i> <i>Music: Jose</i> <i>Refreshments: Linda</i>
Wednesday 08 May 12.30	Munch With Mozart with Anthony Gritten	Weybridge United Reformed Church – Queens Rd
Saturday 11 May 10 - 12	Coffee Morning	Addlestone Methodist Church
Sunday 12 May	Morning Worship 10.30 am	Preacher: Rev Denis Vernon <i>Steward: Carol</i> <i>Music: Teresa</i> <i>Refreshments: Lili</i>
Sunday 12 May	Café Church	Led by Dave & Caryl Ingoldby
Thursday 16 May 1.45pm	Weybridge Old Folks Club	Our turn to help
Saturday 18 May 2019 9 – 1.30	How can I talk about my Faith?	Trinity Methodist Church, Woking
Sunday 19 May	Holy Communion 10.30 am	Preacher: Rev Sydney Samuel Lake <i>Steward: Jose</i> <i>Music: Adrian</i> <i>Communion: Paula</i> <i>Refreshments: Carol</i>
Tuesday 21 May	All Our Yesterdays service 2.30pm	St James Parish Church
Sunday 26 May	Morning Worship 10.30am	Preacher: Rev Allan Taylor <i>Steward: Linda</i> <i>Music: Adrian</i> <i>Refreshments: Paula</i>
ADVANCE NOTICES		
30 May – 9 June. Thy Kingdom Come		
1 & 2 June	24 hour prayer vigil	10 – 11 (1/6) & 5 -6 (2/6)
Sat 8 June 2.30 prompt.	Church Family Walk	See Next Page



Family walk and talk for Easter

Thanks to those who joined us for a gentle walk along part of the Wey Navigation in a scorching Easter Saturday

We returned to church (collecting Anna en route) for tea and Hot Cross Buns which we consumed sitting outside on the back patio.

A photo of some of the walkers.



As the weather continued to be kind we also had our refreshments after the Easter Sunday service out on the patio where we enjoyed birthday cake to celebrate Mary's Birthday and of course more Hot Cross Buns/



We are planning a second church family walk on Saturday 8 June when we aim to walk along the Broadwater to Cowey Sale and back the same way – there is a fair amount of shade on this route and a dearth of cyclists to avoid.

We will stop for a comfort break and refreshments at Cowey Sale (hot or cold drinks and ice cream are available).

Meet at 2.20 pm at Grenside Rd (KT13 8PY) for a prompt start at 2.30pm.

n.b there is off street parking available at Grenside Rd



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the singers at the
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Festival of Church Music?**

**Guildford Cathedral
Saturday 12 October 2019**

Festival Conductor - Peter J Williams

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**For more information contact
Elizabeth Crisp 01252 626937 or
elizap10@btinternet.com**

Visit the website <http://www.freechurchchoirs.org.uk>