



Weybridge Methodist Church

Newsletter January 2022



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.

Pastoral Message

Though I see myself as a Radio Three fan, our radio at home is tuned to Classic FM (which I also enjoy). Classic FM describes itself as ‘the home of Christmas music’. I’m not so sure about that. It is interesting that almost as soon as Christmas arrives the Christmas music stops, by and large. I suppose we are guilty of that in the church to some extent: it would be a brave minister – foolhardy, even – who insisted on delaying the annual carol service or nativity play until Advent was over. We celebrate Christmas even as we anticipate it. This is not a post-Christmas letter, even though it marks the turning of another year. New Year’s Day arrives in the midst of Christmas.

I always look forward to the annual Covenant Service, which, for most of our churches, takes place in January. At the same time, I think it a pity that certain seasonal readings may be set aside for the set readings in the Covenant Service. I believe that the Baptism of Christ should never be omitted: it is the bridge between the mystery of the Incarnation and the ministry of Jesus. It is in a true sense a new beginning, and New Year is about new beginnings, isn’t it? Well, for me it is, since I was born in January. But not for the Methodist Church, for which September begins the church year – and when some churches hold their Covenant Service. Not for the ‘liturgical year’ either, which begins on Advent Sunday – this year our gospel readings are mainly taken from Luke, in case you didn’t know.

I don’t think that God is much concerned with whether we measure time by the change of minister, or lectionary, or by birthdays, or the date by which treasurers have to finish their accounts, or New Year’s Eve parties.

New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life, and power, and thought.

Every morning, every moment in the day, is a new beginning:

New mercies, each returning day
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

There is no looking back on the past year in God's economy:

Old friends, old scenes will lovelier be,
As more of heaven in each we see;
Some softening gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

Just as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, as something to rejoice in now; so we look forward together to God's new beginning, not only on New Year's Day, but every day, loved, forgiven and made new.

I love this prayer of George McLeod's (the Church of Scotland minister who founded the Iona Community)

Keep us in the constant sense of your presence and forgiveness, that, going our way with gladness, we may come at last to those things which eye has not seen nor ear heard, but which, from the foundations of the world, you have prepared for those who love you. Amen.

Happy New Year!



Rev Peter Hills

Worship in January 2022



02 th January	Rev Julia Monaghan
09 th January	Mrs Janet Gardham
15 th January	Rev Sydney Samuel Lake – Covenant Service & Communion
23 rd January	Rev Keith Beckingham
30 th January	Mr Andrew Gibb

Refreshments will be served after the services.



Thank you to all those who help with refreshments.



Dates for your diary

- 08 January - Coffee at Addlestone Methodist church 10 -12
- 14 January – Coffee & Chat (*see page 6*)
- 22/23 January – Circuit 24 hour Prayer Vigil (*see page 5*)



Birthdays

During January we say Happy Birthday to Allen Weedon & Sydney Lake – both on 8 January.

Circuit Prayer Vigil



The circuit Mission Group are once again organising a 24 hour prayer vigil. This will take place over the weekend of 22/23 January 2022, which marks the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity so the dates seem very apposite.

As ever, your church prayer co-ordinator will receive a timetable of prayer slots nearer the time and a prayer 'aide memoire' will be circulated to run alongside the Circuit Prayer diary.

Please put these dates on your diary.

The Circuit Mission group send you all best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful new year.

Circuit Mission Group

Once I have the timetable, due prior to Sunday 9th January, I will have a signup sheet. As many as possible are urged to pray during our allotted slot but you can pray where ever suits you; home, out walking, in bed. We will receive an 'aide memoire' detailing prayer needs from other churches in the circuit but this is just a guide to help you get started, it is not prescriptive and you may feel that the needs of the world are of more importance than parochial issues. The main thing is to keep prayer going for 24 hours across the 13 circuit churches.

If our friends across the seas wish to be involved as well please do let me know.

It's me, it's me O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer
It's me, it's me O Lord
Standing in the need of prayer



Coffee & Chat (and prayer)

Do join us at 10.30am on Friday 14 January 2022 for a time of social interaction, a cup of tea or coffee and a discussion of prayer needs. All are welcome. If there is sufficient interest we can hold a session every month.

Do you recognise me?



It's a long time since I came out of the cupboard. I am a collection box who used to come out on a Sunday morning when coffee is served.

I will be making a regular appearance on a Sunday morning from January 2022 in the hope that you will put some money in me. I used to collect funds when we were raising money for the new kitchen. I now need to raise funds to assist with the major portfolio of works which are necessary during 2022 to preserve our building, (see page 7). My contents will be added to funds raised at the Coffee mornings we host at Addlestone on the

second Saturday of each month.

If anyone else has any ideas for fund raising, especially 'fun' events, the stewards and the treasurer will be happy to hear from you.



Our lovely church was opened in 1900, the hall was added in the 1940's and the middle buildings were re-modelled after the fire of 1977. The current vestry and toilets were considerably remodelled in the 2000's. However nothing stands still. Last August our church was subject to the obligatory five year (quinquennial) inspection by an independent firm of surveyors. Whilst they didn't find anything concerning the building which we weren't aware

of at a semi level, the report highlighted in black and white the scope of things which need to be addressed with the building with a degree of immediacy. The total works identified were estimated by the surveyor to total £77,000.

Obviously we cannot address everything at once; neither funds, human resource availability (or skills – unless we have a hidden expert who can assist) combine to make it possible.

Our first focus is the church roof. We know that there are some tiling issues because we have photos taken by a drone last July and most of us are aware of the curiously intermittent leak which occasionally occurs with no rhyme or reason. After the roof we must address the church gutters which are Victorian but must be replaced like for like. After that we can address the 'bubbling' paint inside the church itself.

Other works will be prioritised after the above. We do of course have to continue with regular maintenance: annual fire extinguisher checks, lightning conductor inspection, PAT testing plus 2022 sees the five year electrical inspection fall due.

As you can see there is a great need for the red pillar box and support of the coffee mornings.

Anyone who can help with smaller jobs around the building – please let Linda know.

