

# **TORRIDGE METHODIST CIRCUIT**

## **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

### **September 2021 - Issue 119**

Welcome to Edition Number 119

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This is the 16<sup>th</sup> Special Edition of the Newsletter, which we hope you will find useful during this period of uncertainty & distress in our homes, families, communities, nation & the wider world.

Any comments or items you wish to share, please contact the editor, Dave Watson by e-mail; phone 01237 451437 or to 6 Greenings Road, Buckland Brewer, Bideford, EX39 5LU.

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As well as the Circuit Facebook page – **Torrige Methodist Circuit**, we have a private Facebook Group where we care share thoughts, prayers & other material on **Torrige Methodist Circuit Group**. If you wish to join please push the Join button & I can add you.

Please pray for our Ministers, Rob Blackhall & Andrew Vidamour, for Frank Watson & Sarah Richards and all involved in the varied life of the Circuit; for those connected to the various Chapels & the communities in which they live & work.

#### **CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICES**

There is a plan for a Circuit Service, to take place weekly on Zoom, which will use the Services that are printed in the Circuit Newsletter. The Services now on Sunday Evenings & will start at 6.30pm – but the ‘doors will be open’ at about 6.15pm. The contact/entry details will be send out during the preceding week & the Service can be accessed via a computer/laptop with camera/microphone, I Pad/Phone or using a ‘normal’ phone. Even if you have a device with camera/microphone & do not wish to be seen – you can join in without the camera on. If you do not receive an email or want further information – please contact Sarah Richards, Circuit Administrator on 01237 472649 or [sarahrichards185@gmail.com](mailto:sarahrichards185@gmail.com)

#### **FROM REV ROB BLACKHALL – SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER**

Dear Friends

There is always something exciting about a new start. So, it is with 1st September. In its peculiar way this sees the start of the Methodist Year. And on this day, Ministers will be taking up new appointments across the country; and congregations will be meeting their new Minister’s for the first time. There will be a degree of expectation in the air. Our thoughts and prayers are with those for whom such changes are taking place.

The start of a new year is also about re-evaluating where we are? Asking questions as to purpose and intention?

What are you called to?

The first call of a Christian is to follow Jesus. That is of course by a combination of words and deeds. It is an adventure, often involving a step of faith; and certainly, has its ups and downs. It is fascinating to look at the call of the prophets in the Old Testament, often reluctant, always intriguing. The Gospels well document the call of the first disciples, from their fishing boats or as they collect money as tax collectors. Perhaps we remember hearing the call of Jesus to follow him; I suspect that we could each tell a very different tale.

In my experience, not many are called to be Property Stewards, Treasurers, Church Stewards, safeguarding officers, and all the other jobs that need doing to enable our Church life to function and prosper. I am glad that we have such people in the life of our Church; and I thank them for all that they do. May God bless you in all that you do for your Chapel and Circuit.

I am concerned that we are all doing too much of that sort of stuff. Running our Churches does take time and is necessary. But is it our primary calling?

What is God calling each of us to be and do at the start of this Methodist new year? To pray more often, to read our Bibles more diligently; to ring up our friends in the Church, especially those who cannot get out; to write a prayer for worship, to consider being a Local Preacher, to offer your musical gifts to the Church, to be part of a choir (how good it would be to have a circuit choir again), to form part of a group willing to meet and plan worship (the old idea of a mission type band should not be dead). I am sure that there are many callings; those being just a random few. What is God calling us to be and to do?

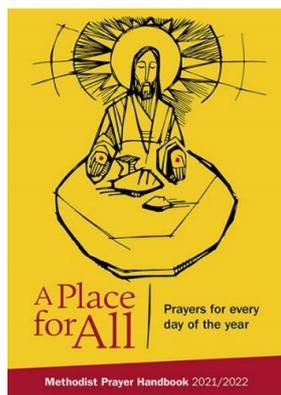
And together, how can we be the Church of Christ in North Devon in the 21st century? So much around us is changing. Some of the ways we have done things in the past are passing. Our systems and our Chapel structures are stretched; so much so, that they might not re-form in the same shape as before.

The journey for some, may be painful; and yet, I believe, strongly and firmly, that God has a plan for each of us, and for us together. Perhaps it starts with listening to the voice of God. What is your Calling? What is our Calling?

May God bless us as we journey together – Rob

**September 2021**

Wed 1st @ 7pm	Prayer Meeting	Torrington
Tues 7th @ 7pm	Leadership Meeting	Kendor
Saturday 11th 10-4	Synod	Plymouth Central Hall
Wed 15th @ 7.30pm	Circuit Meeting	Torrington
Thurs 16th @ 7pm	Circuit Safeguarding Mtg	Buckland Brewer
Wed 22nd @7.30pm	Local Preachers Meeting	Northam
Sunday 26th @1pm	CIRCUIT HARVEST LUNCH	Langtree Village Hall
Thurs 30th @7.30pm	Torrington Church Council	Torrington



**PRAYER**

The new Methodist Prayer Diary for this year has been published. Copies are available from the Methodsit Publishing House. This is a rich resource for use in our own and Church Prayer life.

Daily reflections and questions to ponder may be found at  
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/the-bible/a-word-in-time/>

Also, you can find a pray of the day at  
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayer-of-the-day/>

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Throughout the last year it has been a joy to gather for Bible Study across the circuit by zoom. I wonder what pattern of Bible study going forward people would like? Please let us know what ideas you have. Rob

### **FROM REVD ANDREW VIDAMOUR**

Dear Friends,

My sabbatical just ended was severely restricted by the coronavirus pandemic, with most of my many and varied original plans having to be abandoned.

I did manage a few days' Retreat at The Society of Mary and Martha at Sheldon (near Exeter), and two separate weeks visiting my father in Guernsey, but otherwise I stayed at home. I had intended to do some voluntary work, but infection rates were rising rapidly so I did not pursue this.

I have done a wide range of reading, including theology, spirituality, fiction, poetry, literary criticism, biography and memoir.

Attending live worship was difficult, but I did get to a few services.

The space and change of pace offered by the sabbatical have been beneficial, and I have been able to pursue several subjects of interest.

I am grateful for the opportunity to stop and reflect, and I look forward to the opportunities and challenges of the coming Church year.

May God bless and guide each one of us, in Christ, as we seek to discern the way forward as individual disciples and in Church and community.

The peace of Christ be with you - Andrew Vidamour

### **FROM FRANK WATSON – LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

Happy New Connectional Year!

'**A Place for All**' that is theme of the connectional prayer handbook this year, and what an appropriate theme it is.

As we begin this month to see the majority of places of worship around the circuit reopen. Conversations will begin to happen about the different events and activities which we can offer, some restarting, others totally brand new, for our fellowships and the wider community. I encourage all of us to use this theme as a core value for everything we are doing in the Lord's name.

The Methodist churches of the Torridge Circuit together, should be places for all. Note I say together, we are a circuit of churches not independent churches which stand alone. We need to work together because many hands make light work! So when you are thinking about which events and activities to start in the coming months, make sure to talk with your neighbouring churches. Is there a need, activity, support group which is not already offered by another church which your church could offer? Another poignant question we need to ask is, what is the purpose

of the events we offer? Is it just to get more funds in the church account or is it to be a place of sanctuary, support and rest for our communities.

Over the next few months I will be beginning to speak to each of the churches in the circuit to see how we are engaging with our communities. How we engage with the many people who enter the churches through their attendance at the many different groups and organisations which hire the churches throughout the year. So please begin to have a think about this.

*Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

*(Singing the Faith 409, Marty Haugen (b. 1950))*

**CIRCUIT HARVEST LUNCH** on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at **Langtree Village Hall**. The time will be 12.30pm for 1pm. The Menu is Beef or Wrapped Breast in Bacon; Sweets – Strawberry Pavlova, Profiteroles, Fruit Salad & Fruit Crumble – Tea & Coffee included – the cost will be £13.50 per head.

Please will anyone who wants to attend tell your Church Steward so the orders for each church can be forwarded to Beryl Oke on 01805 624294 – Thank You

### **CELTIC MORNING PRAYER & COFFEE MORNING**

On Thursday's at 10.30pm there will be a **Weekly Coffee Morning preceded by a Celtic Morning Prayer from the Northumbria Community on Zoom** – Login details will be available on the Circuit Facebook Group page or on the email that Sarah Richards sends out at the start of the week. Come along for a short period of Daily Prayer followed by an opportunity to share, drink a coffee, have a piece of cake with conversation - *Dave Watson*

### **SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION**

#### **Online Training Programme 2021-2022**

For all face-face dates please contact your District Safeguarding Officer or in the case of the Foundation course the Circuit Safeguarding Officer (Jacqui Watson)

Jacqui would like to know if anyone books onto the Advanced & Foundation Courses & when you have completed it – please let her have sight of your certificate for her records.

Please book via Eventbrite – Follow the online instructions

#### **ONLINE: Advanced Module – Creating Safer Space**

Register by 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 for a Gathered Session on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 7pm  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-version-advanced-module-safeguarding-training-registration-159105702439>

#### **ONLINE: Foundation Module – Creating Safer Space**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 9:30am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103666349>

Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 7pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103780691>

Thursday 12th May 2022 at 9:30am

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/methodist-foundation-module-safeguarding-creating-space-registration-159103937159>

### **CIRCUIT SAFEGUARDING MEETING**

This will meet at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** at 7pm on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September. This is for Church Safeguarding Officers, Circuit Safeguarding Training Officers & others closely involved in Safeguarding.

**Face to Face Safeguarding Training** will be resuming in the near future – details will be circulated when available.

## **WEEKLY SERVICES TO USE ON ITS OWN OR WITH THE ZOOM SERVICE**

### **EVENING ZOOM SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **Introduction:**

Next week is Education Sunday, but I thought we would consider it this week, partly because some schools returned in this past week; for others it is tomorrow. What is education for? How did we benefit from education? What about in other places across our globe?

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU**

#### **StF 418 We have a gospel to proclaim**

#### **Prayers**

*Father Almighty, your glory is spoken of throughout Creation. We offer praise and worship to You from our hearts.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, You came to proclaim good news and lay down Your life for us. We offer praise and worship to You from our hearts.*

*Holy Spirit, You are the fount of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We offer praise and worship to You from our hearts.*

*God of all grace and compassion, whose ways are perfect, whose words give us life, whose love seeks to draw us together in harmony to build Your heavenly kingdom; May we walk in truth and grace day by day in our teaching and learning in our living in community in the building up of one another.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen***

#### **Proverbs 4:1-9**

#### **Matthew 6:31-33**

#### **StF 254 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God**

## Interview

**Discussion:** What was your first day at school like?

### StF 610 Best of all is God is with us

#### The First Grader – Margue’s story

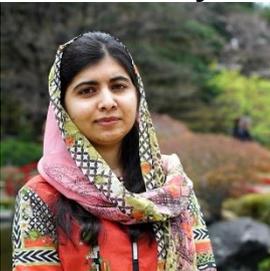


The First Grader is a 2010 biographical drama film directed by Justin Chadwick. The film is based on the true story of Kimani Maruge, a Kenyan farmer who enrolled in elementary school at the age of 84 following the Kenyan government's announcement of free universal primary education in 2003.

After beginning his initial classes, Maruge is plagued by memories of his service during the Mau Mau Uprising against the British in the 1950s. Controversy begins to stir over Maruge's education. Soon enough, the story that an elderly man going to school becomes national headlines. There is considerable opposition to Maruge’s education.

Later he was invited to make a speech before international leaders at the UN in New York regarding the power of education. He inspired a whole new generation of people to go to school for the first time. Maruge died in 2009.

#### Malala’s story



She was shot by the Taliban in 2012, when she was just 14 years old, but continued her work and became the youngest person ever to win the world-famous Nobel Peace Prize.

As a young girl of 11, the Pakistani student wrote an anonymous diary about what life was like under the rule of an extreme group called the Taliban in north-west Pakistan.

In the diary, she talked about how she wanted to stay in education and about how girls should be able to go to school. The Taliban wanted to ban girls' education. Lots of people read the diary all over the world and she became well-known for fighting for her right to an education.

But the Taliban didn't like this. And because of what she said in her diary - in October 2012, she was shot by their soldiers.

The world was appalled by what happened to Malala and she quickly won the support of millions more people.

She was treated for her injuries in a hospital in Pakistan and then brought to the UK for more treatment. After many weeks Malala was finally able to leave hospital.

Her father got a job in UK and Malala and her family settled in the city of Birmingham, where she attended school before going on to university.

## **Comment**

There can be little doubt that Education is valuable. I think I saw that most clearly during trips to the Gambia, in West Africa. There was a desire for education that I have seldom seen in the UK. Parents have to contribute to education in the Gambia, and many saw it as a priority for their children. I say most, because there was an issue about the education of females – especially when as teenagers they could be married off – probably as wife number 3 or 4 for an older man. Having said, the Gambian government for all their faults, and there were many, has pushed female education.

So it was not uncommon to see Gambian children walking to school carrying their shoes. The rule was that you had to wear shoes in school – so to make sure that they lasted, you walked to school bare foot.

And it was not uncommon to see well over 60 in a classroom. And such a willingness to learn. Paper was in very short supply – pencils were treated like gold dust. At Brikama they had loads of physics text books – in German. English was the language of education.

Teachers worked hard, very hard. The head at Brikama Mr Kamara was brilliant. There was a cookery exam so he dismantled the oven in his home and brought it school so the boys and girls could use it. Mrs Kamara wasn't pleased.

It helped to remind us what a privilege education is; how we so much take it for granted – like medical care, like running water, it is there.

We heard a little of Maruge's story. 84 and no education. He seized the opportunity when Kenya announced education for all to go to school. It shows that you are never too young to learn. We use the phrase "You can learn something new every day". Do we mean it? At the start of this academic year as young people return to school to learn, I wonder what we, who are more senior in years, are going to learn? What discoveries about ourselves; or about how we can be Christian folk in these times. How can we be Church? We have much to learn there. I wonder if we are open to the Holy Spirit's promptings.

And of course, better known is Malala's story. Shot by the Taliban for going to school. Now can we see the value of education. They wanted to stop people learning, because education gives power and choice.

Malala has gone on to great things, to Oxford University, to speak to the United Nations, to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Simply incredible; and so nearly lost to us. How many Malala's are there around the globe denied a decent education? How much human potential is there being wasted across our planet. Scandalous, scandalous.

And perhaps it makes us think about the education system here. Our prayer must be that each and every child can fulfil their potential. But we know that the system is creaking and not every child will.

And of course, education is not about facts and all that. Some seem to think that the only thing that matters is wretched examinations.

And what of wisdom what was the subject of our reading from Proverbs. Something to be treasured and valued, like the Kingdom of God of which Jesus spoke. Indeed Wisdom and the Kingdom are intertwined, bring hope, bring encouragement, fulfilling potential.

I suspect we all have a lot to learn.

**StF 255 The kingdom of God is justice and joy**

**Intercessions**

*Loving God we pray today for those involved in the difficult and often unappreciated task of education. We pray for teachers with all the pressures they face – expectations from parents, demands from governments and politicians, a growing burden of administration.  
Grant your wisdom to guide **and your hand to bless***

*We pray for schools and colleges in an increasingly competitive world – struggling to balance budgets, short of staff and resources, disheartened by the pressures of society.  
Grant your wisdom to guide **and your hand to bless***

*We pray for staff who feel unable to cope with the demands upon them – worn down by stress, confused by change, frustrated by bureaucracy, exhausted by overwork.  
Grant your wisdom to guide **and your hand to bless***

*We pray also for students who feel similar overwhelmed – through different pressures, crushed by the weight of expectations, broken by bullying, wrestling with learning difficulties, fearful of examinations and the future.  
Grant your wisdom to guide **and your hand to bless***

*We pray for governors and those who have responsibility for education, as they seek to respond in a changing world, struggling with the practical, the financial and the society in which we live.  
Grant your wisdom to guide **and your hand to bless***

*Loving God  
We pray for all involved in the task of education.*

*In a moment we pray in silence for those we know involved in education, for our local schools and colleges.....*

*Reach out in love and grant to each, your guidance, wisdom, strength and support.  
Grant your wisdom to guide **and your hand to bless***

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN***

## **Lord's Prayer**

**StF 545 Be thou my vision**

## **The Grace**

### **EVENING ZOOM SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

## **Call to Worship**

Come to worship,  
to be comforted and disturbed,  
challenged from our complacency,  
but also offered forgiveness  
and the hope of eternal life.  
Come to Jesus, prophet, priest and king.

**StF 20 Be still for the presence of the Lord**

## **Prayers of Adoration**

*Lord, you walked with your disciples from village to village.  
And on the way you talked to them about many things.  
Some things were not easy to hear or to understand.  
We meet you here today, Lord, to hear these things too.  
You don't call us to sit doing nothing.  
You want us to be on the move:  
taking risks to change our world and save our lives.  
Help us, then, to draw close to you,  
to be ready to listen. Then to act.*

*Most merciful and gracious God,  
we offer you our heartfelt love and praise  
because your Son, Jesus Christ,  
was willing to risk everything for the whole world.  
Even for us.  
We come to worship you,  
earnestly seeking your will for us –  
however risky that might be, you are worth it. **Amen.***

## **Prayer of Confession**

*'Who is Jesus?'*

*For the times I have been asked this question, and have struggled to give an answer:*

***Forgive me, Lord, and give me your words to speak.***

*For the times I have been ashamed to acknowledge you:*

***Forgive me, Lord, and grant me courage.***

*For the times I considered only human concerns, and not God's:*

***Forgive me, Lord, and widen my horizons.***

*For the times I saw opportunities to take risks for God but looked the other way through fear or indecision:*

***Forgive me, Lord, and build up my confidence in you.***

*For the times I only take the chocolates I like out of your box:*

***Forgive me, Lord, and make me whole, ready to do your good will.***

***Amen.***

## **Assurance of forgiveness**

*We have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.*

*The same Jesus who took up his cross and died for our sins.*

*The same Jesus who looks on us now with love and intercedes on our behalf.*

*Open our hearts to receive your forgiveness and blessing, Lord.*

***Amen.***

**Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**StF 239 Send by the Lord am I**

**Mark 8:27-38**

## **Meditation: Peter's Thoughts**

As I look back on our journey, I remember Caesarea Philippi as a group of villages straddling the hilltops. Jesus brought us from Tyre to walk above the olive groves out to the fields of sheep,

where the eye could look across great distances, and dwell on the expanse of the valleys and mountains. He was expansive in his questions. 'Who,' he asked, almost meditatively, 'do people say I am?' We looked at one another. It was a question we had heard many times on the edges of crowds. We answered him as they did: 'John the Baptist, reincarnated.' 'Elijah, returned from heaven.' 'Any one of the prophets!'

There was a pause, as Jesus considered our answers. He cocked his head on one side, and a smile played around his mouth. 'You've been listening to gossip,' he said. 'Alright...when you hear those speculations, who do you say I am?'

... He looked right at us. There was an embarrassed silence, which grew until the beating of my heart and the stirring in my chest grew too loud to ignore. I blurted out what we had talked about among ourselves, 'You are the Messiah.' The smile reached Jesus' eyes. And we walked on. There was nothing more to be said as that thought, finally articulated, rolled around in our minds and hearts. Messiah. Messiah. Then Jesus told us to stop overthinking and concentrate on a place to stay for the night.

Later that evening, as we sat watching the fire burn low, Jesus returned to the subject. Messiahs don't always come in triumph. Had we thought that maybe God had another plan in mind? Had we considered that the path ahead might not end in glory, but in suffering, rejection, torture and death? There would be glory, but not in the way we expected. It would come on the third day, when death would be conquered for ever.

It was late. In my defence, I was tired and confused. I took Jesus aside. This was no sales pitch. Who would want to follow Jesus if the stakes were so high? But Jesus was angry. He sent me to bed with a flea in my ear, calling me some rude names. But the next morning, he settled down with the people who crowded around him, so that he could unpick the familiar story of Messiah and reweave the story of salvation in his own way.

'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it.' Jesus carried on talking for a long time – riddles that we didn't understand until much later. What I understood him to mean was, that if we live life as we please, our lives will soon be over and that's it; but if we live to please God, we gain everlasting life.

Then he looked straight at me. He was a prophet of course, as well as Messiah. He said, 'Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' That prophecy was to come true in time to come. I was ashamed of him. I denied him three times. I repented...on the beach, when Jesus challenged me, oh so gently, so lovingly. He was not ashamed of me. Never. He forgave me and gave me a new commission: to feed his sheep.

### **Sermon**

Caesarea Philippi, built by Philip in honour of Emperor Augustus, was a long way from Galilee. Here Jesus and his disciples escape the crowd briefly and grab the chance to talk. There are lots of views of Jesus 'out there', but Jesus wants to know what the twelve disciples think. Like a shot, Peter says 'You are the Messiah' (v.29). Jesus doesn't want them telling anyone about it. Why? Because the title had connotations of a warrior king, and that is not what Jesus has in mind at all.

So, he begins to speak about his death using his favourite title, Son of Man (v.31). Peter is having none of it. Dying is not part of the Messiah's job description; surely Jesus has got his wires

crossed! Peter thinks to put Jesus right and takes him to one side. But, after making sure that all the disciples are in earshot, Jesus rebukes Peter in front of them (v.33a) and says, in effect, that he's been infected by the 'yeast of the Pharisees and...Herod' (see 8.15) and is doing Satan's work. God's reign is not built on the bodies of his enemies.

## 1. Turning Point

This event marks a real turning point in Jesus' life and ministry. It comes about half way through Mark's Gospel. From this point onwards there is no doubt where the story is heading – Jerusalem and the cross. Of that there is no doubt. Some have described Mark's Gospel as a Passion story with an introduction. This is the point that the focus is on Jesus' forthcoming death.

There are always turning points in life, moments when things change. Sometimes, in human history they are dramatic. The shooting of the Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 led to the First World War. Yes there was a considerable build up, with countries arming themselves and flexing their muscles, but once he was shot, the world was heading for war.

Other turning points are less dramatic, and often only seen in hindsight. Like when Alexander Fleming returned to his lab one morning and saw mould growing in one of the culture dishes. As he said later: "One sometimes finds, what one is not looking for. When I woke up just after dawn on September 28, 1928, I certainly didn't plan to revolutionize all medicine by discovering the world's first antibiotic, or bacteria killer. But I suppose that was exactly what I did." Where would the world be without penicillin?

What about for us. Are there moments when life has turned for us on a moment? Of course, those might not necessarily be dramatic – perhaps they were. For Mr Williams who worshipped with us at Torrington – he was working out in, I think Jerusalem. He had to be out of the office for the day. That very day it was blown up. He would have been killed if he had been at his desk. I suppose that does focus the mind. It certainly was a turning point.

Other turning points might only be seen in hindsight – and only by looking back can we see the way in which direction has changed.

## 2. The Way of the cross

For Jesus the turning point was to Jerusalem and the cross – there is no doubt about that. For Jesus that is the way that he will now walk. No turning back, but resolutely towards Golgotha. And time and time again he talks about it, not that, like here, the disciples get it. In fact, far from it. And amazingly that is our way too. *If any want to become my followers, let them take up deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

That is our way. And how we work that out is part of our discipleship. When were we told that the way of Jesus was easy? Well certainly not here.

There are crosses in life to bear. There are times when it isn't about us but about others.

So to sum up this passage; Jesus' understanding of his role fuses power and vindication with suffering and death. Jesus follows his blunt prediction of his death with a meditation on the way of the cross. But the first mention of 'cross' is ours not his, the one we take up as we follow after him. The disciples saw the Messiah's mission only in terms of glory. But Jesus explains his mission in terms of suffering and exaltation; he knew God's power could only be seen through his sacrifice. And we are invited to do the same.

**Amen**

## StF 247 Lord of the dance

### Intercessions

*Loving God,  
we bring to you those who have been wounded by words.*

*They may be words from the past,  
that have burrowed into their skin,  
undermining their sense of worth.  
They may be words in the present,  
a constant reminder of conflict or dislike,  
hampering the hearts of those who receive them.  
They may be words not yet said but imagined,  
fears about what labels may be pressed upon them,  
when it becomes hard to believe in anything different.  
We pray, too, for those who have particular authority,  
whose words carry more weight, who have a wide audience.  
Give them extraordinary wisdom,  
knowing when to speak and when not to speak,  
not rushing to appraise or condemn,  
but always to consider and reflect  
before making statements that can alter the lives of others.  
In a world full of voices,  
so ready to condemn or to adulate,  
so willing to speak without thinking,  
have mercy, O God, and help us  
to use words to heal, not to harm.  
In Jesus' name. **Amen.***

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **StF 673 Will you come and follow me?**

#### **Prayer**

*Loving God,  
we commit to following you this week  
into corners of the community  
we usually prefer to ignore.  
Help us to pray and speak and act for change.  
**Amen.***

#### **Blessing**

### **CIRCUIT ZOOM SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **Theme. Three Great Prayers from the Old Testament**

#### **Call to Worship**

On this day, in this place, come in faith. In the company of all God's children  
Come to worship.

At this unique moment, full of potential, receive the gifts of God. As a child of God,  
Receive the love that is for you, today.

With confidence that God is near lift up your hearts. In trust that God is love,  
lift up your hearts.

Prepare to worship God.

**StF 185      Sing we the King who is coming to reign**

## **Prayers**

### **A Gathering Prayer**

*Creative God,*

*you called us into your kingdom,  
and adopted us as your children.*

*Redeeming Saviour,*

*you showed us how to be servants,  
denying ourselves to serve others.*

*Sustaining Spirit,*

*you give us strength to take up our cross  
in the service of the kingdom of God.*

*Teach us to serve others,*

*and in doing so, to serve you. **Amen.***

### **A prayer of adoration**

*Most merciful and gracious God,*

*we offer you our heartfelt love and praise*

*because your Son, Jesus Christ,*

*was willing to risk everything for the whole world.*

*Even for us.*

*We come to worship you,*

*earnestly seeking your will for us –*

*however risky that might be, you are worth it. **Amen.***

### **A prayer of confession and an Assurance of forgiveness**

**'Who is Jesus?'**

For the times I have been asked this question, and have  
struggled to give an answer:

**Forgive me, Lord, and give me your words to speak.**

For the times I have been ashamed to acknowledge you:

**Forgive me, Lord, and grant me courage.**

For the times I considered only human concerns, and not God's:

### **Forgive me, Lord, and widen my horizons.**

For the times I saw opportunities to take risks for God but looked the other way through fear or indecision:

### **Forgive me, Lord, and build up my confidence in you.**

For the times I only take the chocolates I like out of your box:

**Forgive me, Lord, and make me whole,  
ready to do your good will. Amen.**

### **Assurance of forgiveness**

*We have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.*

*The same Jesus who took up his cross and died for our sins.*

*The same Jesus who looks on us now with love and intercedes on our behalf.*

*Open our hearts to receive your forgiveness and blessing, Lord.*

***Amen.***

### **Genesis 18 vv 20 – 33**

#### **Comment**

#### **The Prayer of Abraham**

God called Abraham when he was seventy-five years of age. He was called from a pagan culture. And God made him an extraordinary promise. At that age most of us are thinking of retiring and taking it easy but Abraham followed in faith and embarked upon a relationship with God, which took him on a very long journey, both spiritually and physically.

Abraham's nephew Lot was with him and at first all was well. But it soon became clear that they could not dwell together and the land could not support them all. So they agreed to separate. Lot chose the valley of Jordan and pitched his tents near to Sodom, whilst Abraham lived in the land of Canaan.

Sodom was a very wicked city and God confided in Abraham that he was going to destroy it because of the wickedness of the people living there.

However, Abraham was convinced that there were some righteous persons living there and could not believe that his just God would destroy the righteous along with the wicked. So he pleads with God to pardon the city and refrain from its destruction.

Would God sweep away the righteous with the unrighteous? He did not pray merely for Lot he appealed to God on the basis of God's justice.

Abraham's great character is revealed by his intercession. He prayed that all would be spared the wicked as well as the righteous.

There are those of course who consider that we should not bargain with God. But Abraham's prayers though audacious were made with genuine humility and profound reverence. It was for justice that he pleaded; deliverance for Sodom if there were 50 ... 45 ... 40 ... 30 ... 20 ... or even 10 righteous persons. He was not trying to talk God into something against His will.

Thus the theme of justice predominates those who will (a) enjoy God's blessing will teach justice (b) may intercede for just judgement to preserve the righteous and (c) know that God may preserve the wicked for the sake of the righteous.

Righteousness exalts a nation

All that is needed for wickedness to prevail is that good people do nothing.

### **StF 91                      The God of Abraham Praise**

#### **Exodus 32 vv 30 – 32**

#### **Comment**

#### **The Prayer of Moses**

Moses, another such, that was called by God later in life, was probably in his eighties when he led the Israelites out of Egypt in what we now refer to as the Exodus.

When God first told Moses to go to the Pharaoh and tell him to let the people of God go he refused saying he was not any good at speaking so God allowed Moses to take Aaron with him. In this way Moses missed the highest will of God and accepted second best, the permissive will of God. We see later in the story that this led the Israelites into sin.

We pick up the story of Moses when he had been up the mountain to speak with God. Moses was gone for so long that the people grumbled and complained and wanted to have a God that they could see. They pleaded with Aaron and he told the people to bring their gold. He then melted it down and made a golden calf that the people worshipped.

God was so angry and threatened to punish the people for their sins but Moses interceded for them.

#### **Read Exodus chapter 32 vv 30 – 32**

Moses is willing to sacrifice his own life for the sins of the people but this offer is refused, as a person is responsible for his own sins.

However this does not detract from this prayer of Moses where he stands in the breach between God and the people.

### **StF 309                      See What a Morning Gloriously Bright**

#### **Nehemiah 1 vv 1 – 11**

#### **Comment**

## **The Prayer of Nehemiah**

The Israelite nation were a conquered people and had been taken into exile by the Babylonian Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar.

The policy of the Babylonians was to take the captives into exile. But Babylon had now fallen to the Persians, and one of Cyrus's first actions was to repatriate the exiled peoples and allow them to reinstate their national gods. Among those to benefit from the change in policy are the Jews.

Nehemiah's life spanned the reigns of five Persian Kings. We pick up Nehemiah's story, when he was cupbearer to King Artaxerxes. Not much is known of Nehemiah's early years but he was probably born in exile. He had risen in rank and it was now his job to taste the wine before the King drank it in case it was poisoned.

While serving in the winter palace at Susa he receives bad news. This news came from his brother who had returned earlier to Jerusalem. The report came in the month of Kislev that would be our November/December in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes reign. Approximately 444 BC.

The report instantly depressed Nehemiah. It pertained to his people and their land. The Jews in Judah were greatly troubled and disgraced. Jerusalem's wall was broken and its gates had been burned. This left the city defenceless against enemy attack.

On receiving this report Nehemiah sat down and wept, he mourned fasted and prayed to the God Heaven.

Nehemiah faced a situation he knew he could not solve by himself. But he also knew that with God all things are possible.

Nehemiah began his prayer by acknowledging that fact "**O Lord God of Heaven, the great and awesome God.**

**Let your ear be attentive to the prayer your servant is praying.**

**Nehemiah confesses his sins and the sins of his people.**

Nehemiah made his prayer to the God of Heaven, day and night for FOUR months. When opportunity arose he was able to bring his petition to the King and as a result was given permission to return to his homeland.

What lessons can these great prayers bring to us today?

When we pray we need to acknowledge the awesomeness of God.

Like Abraham we need not be afraid to remind God that he is a just God. Surely the judge of all the earth doeth right.

We need to confess our sins. Keep short accounts with God when we know we have sinned to confess at once. Don't wait.

Like Moses we need to stand in the breach.

Like Nehemiah our prayer needs to be continuous not a short once for all prayer but keep on until we have the answer.

**StF 518                      Father hear the Prayer we Offer**

**Prayers of Intercession**

*We pray for people who struggle with their lives;  
for those for whom the chips are down  
and everything feels like an uphill struggle.  
We pray for all whose lives have been affected by tragedy.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.***

*We pray for lawmakers and peacekeepers,  
as they seek to make the world a better place;  
for police, as they deal with challenging situations...  
We pray for the work of hospices,  
as they seek to bring a good end to life;  
for staff in care and nursing homes,  
who have the responsibility of looking after people  
who are no longer able to care for themselves...  
Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer***

*We pray for parents nurturing children;  
for teachers;  
and for the church's role in the nurture  
of the physically young and the spiritually young...  
We pray for people living with addictions;  
for organisations that seek  
to help them in their search for wholeness,  
and to bring normality back to their lives...  
Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our Prayer***

*We pray for ourselves,  
that we will make the most of our God-given time,  
and that we will live well and be thankful...*

We pray all these prayers in the name of Jesus who taught us when we pray to say

**Our Father who art in heaven .....**

**On Our Daily Journey – Bare feet and Buttercups – Ruth Bowen**

God of our past,  
Reconcile our brokenness,

God of our future,  
Renew our faith

God of the present moment,  
Reach out and touch us,  
And through us  
The lives of all we meet on our daily journey.

May we be made whole  
Through the holiness of God the Father,  
The humility of Christ the Son  
And the healing power of the Holy Spirit **Amen**

**StF 528 Pray Without Ceasing**

**Benediction – Jude**

*Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only wise God our Saviour be glory, majesty, dominion and power before all ages now and for evermore.*

**Amen**

**Elsie Potter would like people to contact her if they would take part in the Service above**

**CIRCUIT ZOOM EVENING SERVICE FOR SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Call to Worship**

We see the fruitful harvest our gracious God provides  
And how in His abundance our needs are satisfied.  
He sends the yearly seasons and feeds with joy and care  
Pure light and living water poured out for all to share.

**Hymn StF 123 – Come ye thankful people come**

**Opening prayers**

*Father God, we come before you today to offer you our heartfelt praise and thanks for your boundless goodness and generosity. We feel so unworthy, and yet you love us so much that you provide for us, over and above our needs always. We praise and thank you that you give us so much more than we dare to ask or deserve.*

*At this season of harvest we thank you for the bounty of the earth and wonder at the amazing world you have created which provides us with so much for so little effort on our part.*

*Father, we are sorry that so often we take our world and our surroundings for granted. Open our eyes, hearts and minds and really and help us take time to wonder and really appreciate the bounty of your provision.*

*Help us also to be mindful, that whilst we have the luxury of plenty, many others struggle with little or nothing.*

*Father, help us to live out our calling from you and share our plenty with those who have so little, and in doing so, make this world more like the world you intended it to be.*

*We ask all this in and through the name of our precious Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.***

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Old Testament Lesson – Genesis 1 v 24-28**

### **Hymn StF 124 – For the fruits of His creation**

### **New Testament Lesson – Luke 12 v 13-21**

#### **Talk –**

The Bible says in Exodus 23 v 14-17 – 3 times a year you are to celebrate a festival to me. The first festival is the feast of unleavened bread to celebrate when God brought His people out of Egypt.

The second festival is to celebrate the feast of harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your fields.

The third festival is to celebrate the ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in your crops from the field.

So as God's people not only do we thank God for His grace everyday but three time a year we should celebrate His provision for us.

In our Old Testament lesson which is in Genesis 1 v 24-31 we read that God said let the land produce all living creatures, birds of the air and fish of the sea, and then God said let us make man in our image.

God blessed them and said, rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and every living creature that moves on the ground. God saw that all he had made was very good and there was evening and morning the sixth day.

Genesis 8 v 22 reads 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.

Why have things gone wrong?

Proverbs 13 v 23 'A poor man's field may produce abundant food but injustice sweeps it away'

#### **The Harvest of the Spirit**

There is a space in all people that only God can fill. In Acts chapter 2 v 17 Paul quotes from Joel chapter 2 v 28-29, he says in the last days I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

In Old Testament times it was thought God only poured out His Spirit on the priests.

In John 14 v 15-31 Jesus talks about leaving us with the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us in all things.

The parable of the sower has two parts, it depicts our own spiritual growth and the sowing of seed for others to see.

As Christians our calling in life is to bring others to the knowledge of Jesus's gift of eternal life.

### **Hymn StF 126 – Praise God for the harvest**

#### **Prayers of Intersessions -**

*Father God, we come before you to offer our prayers for others and for ourselves.*

*Father, we are living in difficult times; the coronavirus pandemic has changed our lives and the world for ever.*

*World leaders and governments have difficult decisions to make. Father, we ask that you will guide their thinking, their words and their decisions. Give them the wisdom to choose the right path, even if it is unpopular, and give us the wisdom to play our part.*

*Father we are aware that directly or indirectly many people have been sick, are still sick and many more will become sick.*

*For those who are ill, for those who care for them and for those who are bereaved, we pray for your love, your healing, your comfort and your guidance that we may play our part.*

*Father, we pray for ourselves, so often we are aware that we fall short of what you would want us to be. Help us to slow down, to really take time to listen when you talk to us and to move forward in your strength and light. We know Lord that we can be confident, however much we wander, you never move away, and are the most constant presence in our lives. Strengthen us today, to live in your way, showing your love to all your people in whatever way you lead us. All this we ask in and through the name of our most precious Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen***

## **Hymn StF 130 – We plough the fields and scatter**

### **Prayer -**

*Almighty Creator God, you call us to share in the care of your creation, You have given us this earth as an inheritance for ourselves and for generations to come. In your hands are the seeds of life, and you have blessed us abundantly. May we sow that others may reap and rejoice in a harvest of plenty. In the Name of your Son Jesus Christ **Amen***

### **Blessing**

## **TORRINGTON ACTION FOR CHILDREN—A VICTORIAN FAMILY CHRISTMAS CONCERT.**

**Advance notice** for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December - 6.30pm for 7pm start. The church at Torrington and the Circuit has many talented people. Please offer your help to raise funds for this important work. Any soloists, poetry readers, drama groups, choir, musicians etc will be welcomed The theme will be central. Admission fee to be decided and due to covid restrictions tea/coffee together with a piece of wrapped cake will be included . Victorian dress optional. Prizes for the best costume. Contact Vivienne Sheriff 623024,

Let us light up Christmas and enjoy a wonderful evening of entertainment by our local talented people.

## **LANGTREE METHODIST CHURCH - SAMARITANS PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL**



We decided earlier in the year to support Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal as in previous years. We are not sure if we will be able to meet this year for a packing party so we will continue to pack boxes in our homes. (If the situation improves and meeting indoors becomes a plausible option, I will let you know). We have some flat-pack boxes available (saves time wrapping) and some leaflets with packing instructions and ideas. If you would like a box/leaflet,

please let me know and I will make sure you get one. I can make sure that any filled boxes get to a distribution centre in November. More details are available on the Samaritans Purse website with options to pack a box online, stories, craft ideas, resources etc.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Many thanks

Cathy Ley on 01805 601247 or [withacott@btconnect.com](mailto:withacott@btconnect.com)

### **FROM JULIA SPENCER - TUESDAY AUTUMN BIBLE STUDY 'WOMEN WHO MET JESUS'**

Place: 10 Yeo drive Appledore EX39 1RD

Date and Time: WEEKLY from September 14th Tuesday's @ 2-3 pm.

#### **Topics and Readings :**

Week 1. Psalm 48. Great is the Lord, our God. Women who met Jesus

Week 2. The Samaritan Woman. John: 4: 5 - 26 [ 27 - 42]

Week 3. The Woman Who touched his garment. Mark 5: 24 - 34

Week 4. The Syro Phoenician Woman. Matthew 15: 21 - 28

Week 5. The Woman Taken in Adultery. John 7: 53 - 8: 11

Week 6. He Woman Who anointed Jesus for his Death. Matthew 26: 6 – 13

Week 7. The Woman Bent Double. Luke 13: 10 – 17

This Bible Study Group is open to anyone: YOU are welcome.

Please phone Julia for more information on 01237 425 361

### **BUCKLAND BREWER**

The new updated Chapel has now restarted Services in Buckland & Community activities have started to resume. There will be an official **re-opening Service** on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm when Rev Graham Thompson, Chair of the Plymouth & Exeter District & President Designate of the Methodist Conference, will led worship – this should be Live Streamed but please come along.

The Weekly '**Time Together**' **Toddler Group** has recently restarted at **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** with both Methodist & Anglican volunteers being present. We meet on Monday's from 9.30am to about 12noon initially during Term Time, but we have been meeting during the Summer. The cost is £1.50 per family & the numbers have been steadily increasing – families do not just come from Buckland but from neighbouring communities – they often come as friendship groups – so if anyone is aware of any Babies & Toddlers, who with their parents, grandparents or carers are looking for a 'chilled out' session of play & chat with tea/coffee/biscuits – just point them in the direction of Buckland Chapel – Dave Watson 07484 223515 or [bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com](mailto:bucklanddave1953@btinternet.com)

A **Wednesday Weekly Coffee Morning** will run in **Buckland Brewer Methodist Church** starting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September from 10am-12noon – this is for **ALL** but especially for those who have moved into the parish/village since lockdown or anyone who would like to meet others in the community over a mug of tea/coffee with Tradecraft Biscuits & possibly Cake!! – details from Dave Watson (see above)

The **Snooker Club** resumes on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm at the Chapel & the monthly '**Mini Market**' is now resuming – this is to raise funds for the Community & takes place in the Chapel from 10am-1pm – the next one is on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September

**Buckland Parish Council** & **Buckland History Group** are now having their monthly meeting, partly in person in the Chapel but also on-line.

## **“CARING FOR THE COPS” - STREET PASTORS AT G7 SUMMIT**

During the run-up to the G7 Summit at Carbis Bay, Cornwall, we were asked by the Devon and Cornwall Police Chaplains if Street Pastors could provide some night-time support to police officers on point duty. Some 5000 police officers were to be brought in from around the UK to cover the biggest police operation ever mounted by the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. This was a unique opportunity for Street Pastors to, as the Chaplains put it, “Care for the Cops”. Part of an extensive police wellbeing provision.

### **Man’s Plan**

We were asked to consider patrols from 6th to 13 June 2021 at Carbis Bay and Newquay. As the police deployment became finalised the need was rationalised to a limited period in Carbis Bay. Eventually we committed to covering at least the period from 10.00 p.m. to 02.00 a.m. each night of 10, 11 and 12 June with an emphasis on patrolling the secured area of St Ives Road. Rob Leggett (Barnstaple) and Duncan Withall (Bideford) planned to be in the area from 9th to 13th June with teams joining each night. The plan was to use Duncan’s motorhome as a base but finding all the campsites fully booked sought assistance from local churches who, despite their goodwill towards us, found themselves unable to help.

### **God’s Plan**

Confident that God had things in hand, Duncan moved the motorhome as planned to St Ives. He felt constrained to approach the fully booked Hellesveor Holidays and found that a space for 1 night had become available a few minutes earlier. Yes, God had a plan! As the days progressed the owners of this family campsite found that pitches became available and they were able to find space for us for the whole period. Due to illness and other issues our numbers were somewhat reduced but, as Gideon found (Judges 7:3-7), our God has no need of numbers! The original list of 28 volunteers finally became six.

An excursion into the police lines on 9th June, to check out what we would be doing, very quickly became a patrol as police officers of all ranks welcomed us and engaged in conversation. We were encouraged by one of the police inspectors to talk to his team at Tregenna Castle. Any concerns that police personnel may be reluctant to share with us were quickly dispelled. Consequently our progress around Tregenna and along St Ives Road was slow but fruitful. The idea of a four hour shift was gone! The pattern for the following days was set and collectively Street Pastor volunteers patrolled for over 120 hours.

Wellbeing takes many forms and much of our time was spent in general conversation and light-hearted banter. These were interspersed with some very personal interaction with police officers experiencing stress in their private or occupational lives. In some measure, God was using our presence to bless his people. As we made our way back along the police cordon at the end of our final shift the number of senior officers who made a point of thanking us was very humbling.

We are thankful to the police welfare team for giving us the opportunity, the many people who were praying for us and the people who felt safe in confiding with us. Most of all we thank our wonderful God who in blessing others also brought blessing to our lives.

### **A Street Pastor’s testimony:- G7 Street Pastors**

As part of the preparations for Operation Trelawny (G7 meeting in Cornwall) the Street Pastors were asked to supplement the Police Chaplains in the task of caring for the police force that had been drafted into the area from all over the UK. Our role was aligned to our normal patrol times, and we were assigned those on nights allowing the chaplains to operate during the day. Our brief was simple 'Make yourself known and speak with the

cops', this we did and what followed will stay with me for as long as I breathe.

Firstly, there was the provision: this included accommodation, food and security clearance - all with less than four weeks' notice, actually more like four days as location was changed from Newquay to St Ives, and no budget. With days to go none were resolved, but what was clear was the call to serve and the certain knowledge that nothing was impossible when we walk with God. We arranged to meet outside the Methodist church at Hellesveor - just before leaving a text message changed the meeting point to Hellesveor Holidays as someone had left a day earlier than planned and we had a pitch for the night. Not only that, but the young family that owned the site was able to juggle and provide throughout the stay, including last minute extension enabling us to rest before travelling home.

Then the presence: we were never alone and constantly led by both word and people we met along the way. And despite 40 hours plus on our feet patrolling with less than 10 hours sleep total, we never tired and woke each time with a smile ready to re-engage. We did more than asked, not only spending time with the night shift, but also visiting during the day as well. We felt that to be accepted we had to walk the walk and while we stood on the shoulders of those who had gone before, we had to make it personal. We were conscious that while street pastors were known by the police, we rarely get the opportunity to engage beyond the job. This we did and thoroughly enjoyed the comradery experienced, especially being labelled 'Impastors' because we had run out of lollypops, only to be chased down the street by officers who had found some lollies for us to use.

And then the blessings: from the personal answer to prayer of seeing a badger and the sunrise over Carbis Bay, to the eager Inspector on our first official patrol who excitedly told us of the alpha course about to start, then the bobbies we helped make it through the night, to the tough tactical officer who made a point of finding us as we finished our last patrol to express the thanks of the police, and say 'Power to Jesus'.

But more, the sense that we had been part of something very special: yes, we had stepped forward in faith, but so had someone else and all involved witnessed the difference Christ can make - hopefully, this hasn't been a one-off and Christ will be on the list of must haves when planning future events.

Glory to God, through Jesus Christ - G7 Street Pastor

### **HAITI EARTHQUAKE**

The Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can have launched a joint Emergency Appeal after the earthquake in Haiti on Saturday 14th August. Sandra Lopez from Global Relationships, Methodist Church in Britain, is in touch with MCB partner, the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and America's (MCCA) and received this reflection and report on Sunday evening from David Draeger - MCCA Haiti District Mission Volunteer Coordinator.

The sun is going down on another day since the earthquake struck the southern peninsula of Haiti. Hundreds of thousands of people will sleep under the stars tonight for fear of the aftershocks that still continue. Many will go to sleep hungry because they don't have access to food or the ability to cook. Many will go to sleep not knowing the fate of loved ones still buried under rubble. Countless numbers have injuries that have not been treated because there is no medicine available. Vast areas are inaccessible due to landslides or failed bridges.

What is your response? Do you say "Ain't it awful" and roll over in your comfortable bed for the night.

What is an alternate response?

It is still too early and virtually impossible to send much physical aid. We know that continued financial aid is going to be essential for a very long time. Some people have pledged financial support. Others have already generously given. Other people are on their knees praying the people of Haiti in their misery.

What is your response?

Here are a few more facts.

The death toll continues to rise and is approaching or has passed 1000.  
Thousands are injured.

The damage to buildings is becoming more evident with every passing hour.

On an individual basis, many homes are destroyed or rendered unlivable.

Multiple businesses in downtown Jeremie are damaged or destroyed.

The Catholic Church in Jeremie has significant damage.

The Methodist Church at Jeremie has significant cracks and it was not safe to have worship indoors.

The Jeremie Guesthouse has damage and it is unknown whether it is structural or not.

The security wall around the guesthouse has failed and is down.

There is damage to the church at Annette.

There is damage reported at Despagne.

There is damage to the church at Leon.

The conditions of other churches in the Leon Circuit are unknown.

The conditions of other schools in the Jeremie and Leon Circuits are unknown.

The Good Samaritan Home seems to be intact.

The Gebeau Clinic looks intact from the exterior although an internal inspection has not been done.

The John Wesley school appears to be intact with only minor plaster damage.

Gommier is OK.

Roseaux is OK.

The orphanage at Roseau is OK.

The main bridge at Jeremie is closed and awaiting inspection due to unknown damage.

The road between Camp Perin and Beaumont is closed by a large landslide.

The large Catholic Church in Les Cayes is heavily damaged.

The Hospital Lummiere is severely damaged.

Many businesses and homes in Cayes are damaged or destroyed.

The Church at Les Cayes is damaged.

The road to Les Cayes is impassable making deliveries of aid impossible by land.

The manse at Les Cayes seems to be OK but the security fence is down.

Many smaller communities throughout the region are destroyed or damaged.

A bit of good News. Missionary Flights International has announced bridge flights from Port au Prince to Les Cayes.

Moncricet Jose, an experienced emergency room doctor has agreed to come to the Gebeau Clinic for at least three months and a resupply of medications to support the Gebeau Clinic has been pledged.

I know that sometimes the situation seems hopeless and it is indeed overwhelming but God is in control and He promises us that he will take care of us. We all need to cling to the hope that even in the darkest hours there is hope. It is that hope that keeps me going everyday.

May God Bless you each and everyone.  
David Draeger

We keep Haiti, its people and the Methodist people in our prayers.  
Please give to the Emergency Appeal for Haiti – details on the Methodist Website

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE METHODIST PEOPLE OF PLYMOUTH**

On behalf of the Methodist people of Plymouth we offer our heartfelt thanks for the hundreds of messages of support and prayers offered for our city at this most difficult of times.

The Methodist Church has had a presence in the community of Keyham for generations as part of the Plymouth Mission Circuit, and even though our regular work in our premises there is currently paused, the legacy of faithful and prayerful community-facing ministry is acutely felt in times of crisis. We stand alongside our community in its grief and mourning, and through the ministry of our two circuits, seek to offer signs of hope and healing to those among whom we minister. We offer the following prayer which may be helpful in leading worship in the coming days.

*Loving Father, we hold before you the community of Keyham and the city of Plymouth. We pray for all those who are suffering injury and trauma as a result of the events of this week. We ask for your strength for those who ran towards danger, for those in the response services that stepped forward and risked their own lives. We pray too for those who are dealing with the aftermath.*

*We think especially of those who, in their loss and grief, are trying to deal with the emotional results and come to terms with loss and their impacted lives.*

*May all those who suffer know that the God of all power holds their hand in gentle love - **Amen.***

Rev Gareth J Higgs (Superintendent, Plymouth Methodist Mission)  
Rev Andy Chislett-McDonald (Superintendent, Plymouth & Devonport Circuit)  
Rev Graham Thompson (Chair, Plymouth & Exeter District)

### **The following is the Pan for September, October & November**

HC= Holy Communion	PC= At Parish Church
MC= Methodist Church	C& F= Coffee and Fellowship
Café= Café Worship	SB=Sunday Breakfast

### **Post codes of Chapels**

Alverdiscott – EX31 3PT	Alwington – EX39 5BU
Bideford (High Street) – EX39 2AN	Black Torrington – EX21 5QF
Buckland Brewer – EX39 5LP	Langtree – EX38 8NF
Littleham – EX39 5HW	Milton Damerel – EX22 7DJ
Northam – EX39 1BS	Parkham – EX39 5PG
Shebbear – EX21 5SJ	Sheepwash – EX21 5NA
Thornhillhead – EX39 5NT	Torrington – EX38 8AL

	<b>Sept 5</b>	<b>Sept 12</b>	<b>Sept 19</b>	<b>Sept 26</b>
	<b>Ordinary 23</b>	<b>Ordinary 24</b>	<b>Ordinary 25</b>	<b>Ordinary 26</b>
<b>Circuit Zoom</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>Alverdiscott</b> 11am	<b>Potter</b>		<b>Blackhall HC</b>	
5pm		<b>Blackhall CW</b>		<b>LA Explore</b>
<b>Alwington</b> 11am		<b>Spencer</b>		
<b>Bideford</b> 10.30am	<b>Harris</b>	<b>Vidamour HC</b>	<b>Burgon Harvest</b>	<b>Withall</b>
<b>Black Torrington</b> Friday 3pm		<b>Blackhall HC</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> Sep		<b>Bate</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Sep
<b>Buckland Brewer</b> 10am (PC)	<b>HC (9.30am)</b>	<b>F Watson</b>		
10am (MC)			<b>Anglican preacher</b>	<b>Blackhall</b>
<b>Clovelly</b>				
<b>Langtree</b> 11am	<b>Hall-Tomkin</b>	<b>Parish Church</b>	<b>Ley - Harvest</b>	
<b>Littleham</b> 10.30am	<b>Withall</b>		<b>Vidamour - Harvest</b>	
<b>Milton Damerel</b> 11am		<b>D Watson</b> All age		
<b>Northam</b> 10.30am	<b>Spencer</b>	<b>Bate</b>	<b>Potter</b>	<b>Vidamour HC</b>
<b>Parkham</b> 11am	<b>Vidamour HC</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>LA Harvest</b>	
<b>Shebbear</b> 11am		<b>C&amp;F</b>		<b>Harris - Harvest</b>
<b>Sheepwash</b> 2.45pm	<b>United Service</b>		<b>Harvest Parish Church</b>	
<b>Thornhillhead</b> 11am		<b>Dawe</b>		
<b>Torrington</b> 10.30pm	<b>Blackhall HC</b>	<b>Blackhall Harvest</b>	<b>Harris</b>	<b>Harding</b>

### **Lectionary**

Sep 5 - Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10,14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Sep 12 – Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Sep 19 – Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3,7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Sep 26 – Esther 7:1-6,9-10, 9:2-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

	<b>Oct 3</b>	<b>Oct 10</b>	<b>Oct 17</b>	<b>Oct 24</b>	<b>Oct 31</b>
	<b>Ordinary 27</b>	<b>Ordinary 28</b>	<b>Ordinary 29</b>	<b>Ordinary 30</b>	<b>Ordinary 31</b>
<b>Circuit Zoom</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>Alverdiscott</b> 11am  5pm	<b>Blackhall</b> <b>Harvest</b>	  <b>Vidamour CW</b>	<b>Withall</b>	  <b>Blackhall HC</b> <b>Explore</b>	<b>Potter CW</b>
<b>Alwington</b> 11am			<b>Vidamour</b> <b>Harvest</b>		
<b>Bideford</b> 10.30am	<b>Vidamour HC</b>	<b>D Watson</b>	<b>Potter</b>	<b>Sheriff</b>	<b>Ley</b>
<b>Black Torrington</b> Friday 3pm		<b>Blackhall</b> <b>Harvest</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>		<b>Withall</b> <b>22<sup>nd</sup> Oct</b>	
<b>Buckland Brewer</b> 10am (PC)  10am (MC) <b>Clovelly</b>	<b>HC (9.30am)</b>	<b>Hall-Tomkin</b>	  <b>Anglican</b> <b>preacher</b>	  <b>D Watson</b>	  <b>Blackhall</b>
<b>Langtree</b> 11am	<b>F Watson</b>	<b>Parish Church</b>	<b>Blackhall HC</b>		
<b>Littleham</b> 10.30am	<b>Burgon HC</b>		<b>Spencer</b>		
<b>Milton Damerel</b> 11am		<b>Ley</b> <b>All age</b>		<b>Hall-Tomkin</b>	
<b>Northam</b> 10.30am	<b>Harris</b> <b>Harvest</b>	<b>Vidamour</b>	<b>Burgon</b>	<b>Ley</b>	<b>Vidamour HC</b>
<b>Parkham</b> 11am	<b>Parish</b> <b>Church</b> <b>Harvest</b>	<b>SB</b>		<b>F Watson</b>	
<b>Shebbear</b> 11am		<b>C&amp;F</b>		<b>Withall</b>	
<b>Sheepwash</b> 2.45pm	<b>Blackhall US</b>				
<b>Thornhillhead</b> 11am		<b>Blackhall</b> <b>Harvest</b>			
<b>Torrington</b> 10.30pm	<b>Bray</b>	<b>Briggs</b>	<b>Bate</b>	<b>Blackhall HC</b>	<b>Burd</b>

### **Lectionary**

Oct 3 – Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4,2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Oct 10 – Job 23:1-9,16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Oct 17 – Job 38:1-7; Psalm 104:1-9,24,35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Oct 24 – Job 42:1-6,10-17; Psalm 38:1-7(19-22); Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Oct 31- Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

	<b>Nov 7</b>	<b>Nov 14</b>	<b>Nov 21</b>	<b>Nov 28</b>
	<b>Ordinary 32</b>	<b>Ordinary 33 Remembrance</b>	<b>Sun before Advent Christ the King</b>	<b>Advent</b>
<b>Circuit Zoom</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>
<b>Alverdiscott 11am</b>	<b>Harris</b>		<b>Blackhall HC</b>	
<b>5pm</b>		<b>Potter CW</b>		<b>LA Explore</b>
<b>Alwington 11am</b>			<b>Harris HC</b>	
<b>Bideford 10.30am</b>	<b>Vidamour HC</b>	<b>Bate</b>	<b>Macbeth</b>	<b>Harris</b>
<b>Black Torrington Friday 3pm</b>		<b>Vidamour HC 12<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>		<b>F Watson 26<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>
<b>Buckland Brewer 10am (PC)</b>	<b>HC (9.30am)</b>	<b>M Bray Rem 10.45am</b>		
<b>10am (MC)</b>	<b>Thompson 3pm</b>	<b>War Memorial &amp; MC</b>	<b>Anglican preacher</b>	<b>Bate</b>
<b>Clovelly</b>				
<b>Langtree 11am</b>	<b>Bate</b>	<b>Parish Church</b>	<b>Withall</b>	
<b>Littleham 10.30am</b>	<b>D Watson</b>		<b>Dawe</b>	
<b>Milton Damerel 11am</b>		<b>Harris All age</b>		
<b>Northam 10.30am</b>	<b>Thompson</b>	<b>PC Rem</b>	<b>Sheriff</b>	<b>Vidamour</b>
<b>Parkham 11am</b>	<b>SB</b>	<b>PC Rem</b>	<b>Vidamour HC</b>	
<b>Shebbear 11am</b>		<b>PC Rem</b>		<b>Spencer</b>
<b>Sheepwash 2.45pm</b>	<b>United Service</b>			
<b>Thornhillhead 11am</b>		<b>Vidamour HC</b>		
<b>Torrington 10.30pm</b>	<b>Blackhall</b>	<b>Sheriff Rem</b>	<b>A Biggs</b>	<b>Whatton HC</b>

### **Lectionary**

Nov 7 – Ruth 3:1-5,4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Nov 14- 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

Nov 21 – 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-18; Revelations 1:4b-8; John 18:33-17

Nov 28 – Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36