

1) A Royal Visit!

Who is this King? It is Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee! He comes to share the eternal truth, that the hour of trouble is nearing, reassuring us at once, that "It is for this very reason that I have come to this hour" so that when "I am lifted up from the earth I will draw everyone to myself". It's King Jesus, sitting on a donkey's colt, on a royal visit to our homes. He wants to be part of our family bubbles, of course, he desires to be in our groups of six, if he has not yet been allowed.

Yes, it's King Jesus, the healer, in the middle of this pandemic, making his rounds in our villages, towns, and cities. He does not allow us to gather in the streets as this will help spread the virus more quickly. He decides to visit us, in our homes, workplaces, streets, one by one. He is right at our doorsteps, knocking at the door, saying 'If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and we will eat together' (Rev.3.20).

Then, together with the people in our streets, outside, each at our doorsteps, with palm crosses in our hands, we may clap and cheer or bang an object for Jesus. We may shout peacefully, 'Blessed is he who comes, in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven'.

It's King Jesus coming along on the day of the resurrection, without knocking, to meet up with the disciples in their locked room. He breathed in them his own Breath, dispelled their fear, and set them free from their lockdown. Then, as Easter people, we may joyfully sing, "He is risen, He is risen indeed, alleluia!". Jesus does not only visit our homes, he also wills to reign in our hearts. Amen! **By Marcus**

2) Evangelical Growth Action Plan (EGAP) (Part 3)

What's expected of Local Churches?

The Local Church is expected to:

- Be more vigilant in prayer, confident about the future, think BIG, claim the MOMENT, and enlarge the scope of their GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES.
- Prepare a 3, 5 or 7 year VISION GROWTH PLAN (September 2020 - February 2021 for submission to relevant Circuit Meetings (before budget deadline) or as conveniently and strategically possible in given contexts.
- Explore new ways of being church.
- involve (alone or in groups of churches) in starting and nurturing new types of church: virtual church, cell church, digital worship, community church, and church at the margins with the support of Stream 3 and Stream 7.
- twin with another local church, ecumenically or within the Circuit.
- increase its membership 15% by 2026 (and 20% by 2030)
- developing other ministries in response to community needs.
- draw resources from the Streams and the District.

For you to reflect on and share:

1. How practical are these objectives for your local church ?
2. What can't you do that you might want to do?

3) Circuit Calendar of Events

Youth Fellowship for those who are 11years+	28th of March at 3pm - Zoom
Youth Fellowship for those who are 10 years and below; Year 1 and below	4th of April at 2pm - Zoom
Youth Fellowship for those who are 10 years and below; Year 2 - Year 6	4th of April at 3pm - Zoom
Wellbeing Burnout Course for leaders	10th of April at 10.30am-12pm - Zoom
Coffee Shop Sunday Digital Church - The Learning so Far and The Future - Zoom	14 th April at 7.00pm to 8.30pm and 28th April at 7.00pm to 8.30pm
Easter Services around the Circuit	
Arley - reopening from Easter 4th April 2021 at 10.30 am	4th April 2021 10.30 am in person
Atherstone	4th April 2021 9.30am via Zoom
Balsall Common - in person just for Easter Sunday	4th April 2021 10.30am in person
Bedworth - in person just for Good Friday & Easter Sunday	2nd April 2021 11am, 4th April 2021 10.30am in person
Central Hall - all via Zoom -	Lent morning weekday prayer 9am, Holy Week reflection Mon, Tues, Wed 6pm, Maundy Thursday Breaking Bread 7.15pm, Good Friday 11am, 4th April 2021 10.30am
Collycroft	4th April 2021 10.30am via Zoom
Earlsdon	4th April 2021 10.30am via Zoom
Fillongley - already open	4th April 2021 10.30am in person
Horeston Grange	4th April 2021 6.30am and 9.30am via Zoom
Meriden - in person just for short service Easter Sunday	4th April 2021 4pm in person
Nuneaton - from Easter Sunday	4th April 2021 10am in person
Radford & Holbrooks	4th April 2021 10.45am in person
Ridge Lane - in person just for Easter Sunday	4th April 2021 10.30am in person
Ryton - in person just for Easter Sunday	4th April 2021 10am in person
Woodside - from Easter Sunday	4th April 2021 10.30am in person
Coffee Shop Sunday	Good Friday reflection 9pm via Zoom

4) News from around the Circuit

Update from Kenneth Holmes

I am Chair of Trustees of a Christian based Charity, St Andrews House Residential care home. They currently have 9 residential vacancies and would like to offer these first and foremost to those from church backgrounds or affiliations.

St Andrew's House, Coventry, is a residential home for older people, aiming to provide a caring environment, whilst also offering choice and independence to support the community of residents to live a constructive, positive, and fulfilling lifestyle. The home has been recently redeveloped to provide extensive,

up to-date facilities and the home can currently accommodate up to thirty-five people in single en-suite rooms. It has one large and two smaller lounges, two modern dining rooms, an activities room, a hair



dressing salon, a dedicated chapel, and extensive gardens. The home

also has a Christian ethos with weekly services available for any residents who would like to attend. COVID vaccinated staff, regular testing, high standard of infection control exercised, COVID free residents since June 2020. Currently the home is offering a limited time offer, 4 weeks for the price of 3! This is for anyone who wants to try out the home before making a commitment or even just wants a little rest and relaxation for a short time.

Please contact Kenneth Holmes, for more information: ken.holmes@live.co.uk

Perspective on Palm Sunday by Penny McCulloch

Every day was the same, boring but at least I had a kindly owner. I didn't know who on earth they were. As the two of them came up to the gate and untethered me, I was relieved to see my owner. He asked, 'What are you doing?' and they just answered, 'Our master needs him,' and led me away. That was it. As we approached their master, they took off their cloaks and put them on my back. They helped him up though I didn't understand why that was necessary as he looked such a fit young fellow and I'm quite small. As we set off, I couldn't see him sat on my back but fortunately he was a gentle rider who did not press too hard against my frame. I didn't feel the roughness of the road because the two of them and their

friends took off their clothes and laid them down on the ground. More people came out. There was a cacophony of excited voices, young, old, high, and low. I could never ever have dreamt of such a momentous first outing. As we were approaching the Mount of Olives, people ripped down branches from the palm trees, and spread them as an emerald carpet, for me? Then the voices started to come together in unison:

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the Highest, Hosanna, Hosanna!

It obviously wasn't about me, but a king? Why would I, a young colt carry a king? Surely the most handsome steed should have been chosen? As we came nearer to the city of Jerusalem there were more and more voices, louder but very clear:

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the Highest, Hosanna, Hosanna!

It was a bit stifling and slightly smelly being surrounded by such a throng. So many, yet I sensed that each one of them was an individual. It was the way they looked at him, young and old, black, brown, and white. I couldn't see but there must have been something special about the way he looked at each of them.

Suddenly, someone strode out of the crowd and complained about the raucous din. The 'king' on my back just answered calmly,

'If I tell them to stop, the very stones will cry out!'

He was probably right. I felt a slight wobble under my hooves.

We welcome Churches and individuals to offer prayer concerns, news items, inspirational poems, moving testimony (up to 200 words), or even a Bible puzzle or crossword to be included in the next Newsletter. Please send, by 7th April 2021, to the Circuit Office c/o Bedworth Methodist Church, Mill Street, Bedworth, CV12 8JZ, Email: office@covnunmethodist.org.uk, or Telephone: 07517693474

There are many Virtual activities happening across the Circuit: Prayer Meetings, Bible Study, Fellowship & Praise. If you would like to attend any of these, please contact the Minister.

Rev'd Marcus Torchon – 024 7673 4785 or 07722 488411

Rev'd Jane Braund – 016 7653 3737 or 07706 956070

Deacon Sheila Dawson – 024 7631 0707 or 07845 238921

Rev'd Doreen Koffie-Williams - 024 7671 3314 or 07534 453909

Rev'd Stephen Willey – 024 7625 2411 or 07817 210207

Deacon Sue Fry - 024 7631 7338

Rev'd Richard Wilde - 07971 218356

Rev'd Allan Smith - 024 7792 1338

Rev'd Keith Salter - 024 7634 5524

Rev'd Ali Massey - 07837 124509