

Loving others as God Loves us

1) A word from our Superintendent

Hello Church,
Our **Love for our neighbours in Ukraine is being tested**. God's heart bleeds as it contends with Russia's aggression on the basis of Russia's own motives. How should those motives be the trigger of this brutal war? God's love is further tested when the aggression has led to unplanned separations of one side of families from the other. Love is always affected by the pain of separation.

God's love suffers too. God's love is tested by the departure of families to neighbouring and distant countries while the continued migration of children, the elderly, the disabled, et al, intensifies the pain that God's love suffers. For loving parents to not know where their children are speaks of a slow agony. Outcries of displaced people that God receives, near and far, steps that the war-stricken refugees make into the unknown, increase God's suffering. The voices of the people in distress, crying for justice, continue to echo in God's ears, and the evolving emerging needs of the people further trigger the suffering of God's heart.

We are called to share in and respond to God's suffering for war-stricken people. Prayer is a form of sharing, it's powerful! The offer of hospitality to refugees, a form of response, heals God's hurting heart. Donations of cash and tangible day-to-day goods please our God. Several churches in the Circuit have donated monies through our Connexional Website:

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/donate/ukraine/>.

I encourage other churches to do likewise. Let's emulate the Macedonian Church who in their poverty showed much generosity. "For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord ... taking part in the relief of the saints – and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us." (2 Corinthians 8:2-5).

Let's continue to demonstrate our love towards our neighbours in need. The truth is, "love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (1 Corinthians 13:7).

Marcus



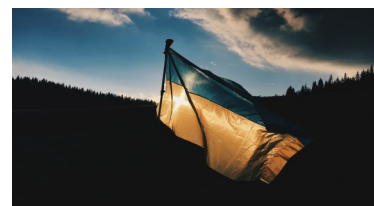
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2) Prayer for Ukraine (from Methodist Church Website)

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.



We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy. Amen

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayer-for-peace-in-ukraine/>

3) Eco Church Bronze Award

St Mary and All Saints, Fillongley, have been working hard to become an Eco Church due to their desire to care for God's creation. Over recent months a small group, led by Elizabeth Hargreaves and Colin Tracey, has brought in changes to demonstrate that care, and we are delighted to announce that we have heard today we have been awarded a bronze eco church award by A Rocha.

Eco Church is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth.

Click on this link to see more about the Eco Church Scheme
<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

4) National Express Chaplain (an extract taken from the National Express National Magazine—February 2022)

Currently operating across the West Midlands and having forged a ten year strong relationship with National Express, the team is there to speak about anything; from work worries to broader questions about life and the universe. The service has been especially valuable during the pandemic with chaplains agreeing that, "It's been the most challenging - but most rewarding - time to be a chaplain. Chaplains belong to the Christian church. They want to fulfil the church's mission to contribute to the community but, rather than "sitting in a church waiting for people to come to them, the chaplain goes out where they are needed. People spend a lot of their time at work, so that's where the chaplain goes to support them."

Coventry chaplain Clive Fowle says: "Following a tragic incident at my garage, I increased the number of my visits for several weeks, talking to many drivers, canteen colleagues and others in the garage about what had happened. That deepened my relationships with everyone, and I go into the garage far more often since that terrible time."

The work of a Chaplain is often to signpost people to other services, such as mental health.

You can read more about workplace Chaplaincy on the website: www.cigb.org.uk/chaplaincies/national-express/

6) Coffee Shop Sunday Prayer Booklet

NEW PRAYER BOOKLET FOR EASTER ADVANCE NOTICE

Orders now being taken for our new Easter Prayer Booklet.

This is our eighth booklet and is called: "FROM HOLY WEEK TO PENTECOST" 16 Prayers and 4 Reflections written by CSS Members.

The cost will be £2 per copy or £1.50 per copy for orders of more than ten copies.

We will be dispatching copies so that you have them by Palm Sunday 10th April.

Please email if you want to order copies and if so, how many? trevor_930@hotmail.com

Every blessing.

Trevor Gay, Local Lay Pastor

Coffee Shop Sunday - "Meeting God in an ordinary place"

Tel: 02476 221719; Mobile: 07966 388195

(Coffee Shop Sunday is part of Coventry and Nuneaton Methodist Circuit)

7) Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) Easter Offering

Easter offering envelopes, bookmarks and Posters will be available for churches to collect from the Circuit Meeting at Earlsdon Methodist Church on 23rd March 2022.

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 any articles, by **Wednesday 13th April 2022** to the Circuit Office c/o Bedworth Methodist Church, Mill Street, Bedworth, CV12 8JZ, Email: office@covnunmethodist.org.uk, or Telephone: 07517693474

5) Circuit Calendar of Events

23rd March 2022	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Earlsdon Methodist Church
27th March 2022	3.00pm	Circuit Children, Youth & Family Service at Earlsdon Methodist Church
2nd April 2022	7.30pm	Celebration Concert—Coventry City of Culture Orchestra & Festival Chorus at Coventry Central Hall
9th April 2022	7pm	The National Scout & Guide Concert Orchestra at Coventry Central Hall

Maundy Thursday 14th April 2022

Central Hall	7pm	Rev'd Graham Gee (including washing of feet)
Horeston Grange	6.30pm	Passover Meal
Nuneaton	7.15pm	Rev'd Marcus Torchon
Radford & Holbrooks	7pm	Communion - Rev'd Ian Coates

Good Friday 15th April 2022

Bedworth	12 Noon	Rev'd Keith Salter
Central Hall	12 Noon	Reflective Service
Collycroft	12 Noon	Share Good Friday service at Bedworth
Earlsdon	9.30am	Children's activities
Earlsdon	11am	Worship
Earlsdon	6.30pm	Rev'd Doreen Koffie-Williams - Contemplative worship with Stations of the Cross
Horeston Grange	10.30am	Service followed by coffee & hot cross bun and distribution of hot cross buns outside the Co-op
Nuneaton	10am	Rev'd Marcus Torchon
Ryton	7pm	Deacon Sue Fry

Ascension Day Thursday 26th May 2022

Woodside	7.30pm	Rev'd Richard Wilde Communion **ALL CIRCUIT INVITED**
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Save The Date from Birmingham Methodist District

The Farewell Service for the current Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District, the Rev Ian Howarth, will be on Saturday 16th July at 3pm.

The Welcome Service for the new Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District, the Rev Novette Headley, will be on Saturday 3rd September at 2:30pm.

Both services will be at Coventry Central Hall. Further details will follow in due course.