

Circuit Newsletter

APRIL 2022



Coventry & Nuneaton
METHODIST CIRCUIT

Loving others as God Loves us

1) A word from our Superintendent

Hello church,

As this has been my experience, I trust that you have had a joyful Easter celebration.

It was the first time, in two years, the church gathered in large numbers to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. The observation was that *“people were back to church”*. Thankfully, we were able to sing in the presence of our risen Lord, in renewed fellowship, *“See what a morning, gloriously bright”, “Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son”* and as such, I join in to sing with you, *“Christ the Lord is risen today; Alleluia!”* The gathered church and the dispersed church proclaimed with confidence that *“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”*

As we’re emerging into a living-with-Covid reality in the ‘new normal’, and in the light of our first joyful Easter celebration in this new normal, it is becoming increasingly important to ask, *“What’s the church?”* From your own perspectives as members, leaders, preachers, and friends of the church, *“What do you say that the church is?”*. Or *“What’s your experience of church?”*

The hope that the Resurrection inspires constrains me to consistently address you as the church as in *“Good morning, Church”* or *“Hello Church”*. *Church*, I am fully

2) Letter from Local Preacher Michael Harris

Dear Friends

70 years ago, on June 29th 1952 I led my first act of worship as a local preacher “on trial” at the old Balsall Common chapel and in June this year I will be leading worship at the Church Anniversary service at the present Balsall Common church 70 years later.

I have, after much thought, decided to make this my final service. I have always sought to retire from various tasks, voluntary work, and jobs in my life before being told by my friends and family that I ought to go, and now feel that developments in the Methodist Church in general and circumstances in my own life and faith make this the appropriate time to “sit down”.

Before this however I am appointed to lead worship at my own church, Woodside Avenue this Sunday, May 1st and intend to use it as a time of reflection and thanksgiving for the years during which I have been given the health and energy to continue as a local preacher. I want to take this opportunity to thank all my congregations in this and other circuits for their patience, toleration and support over the years.

With every blessing,

Michael Harris

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convinced that you’re the church, a vibrant Christian community sent out to proclaim and demonstrate the gospel of our risen Lord towards transforming individuals and communities. Then, I repeat to ask, *“Who are we?”*, *“Who do the neighbours say that we are?”*

I wonder if you want to take some time from your busy schedules to share, may be in small groups, what you think the church is. Or you may wish to share, in writing, with your local church or the Circuit, what you think the church is called to be in the ‘new normal’.

As Jesus stands among us, may the hope and joy of his Resurrection disrupt and redeem the culture of fear, sin, evil, and adversities that confront us today.

We look forward to Ascension and Pentecost with much joy! Marcus

3) Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

You are invited to a...

Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving

The **Methodist Church**
Birmingham District

for the ministry of **Rev'd Ian Howarth** as he retires
as Chair of the Birmingham Methodist District.



at...

Coventry Central Hall

Warwick Lane, Coventry CV1 2AH

on...

Saturday July 16th 2022, 3pm

To be followed by tea and refreshments

RSVP synod@birminghammethodist.org.uk



4) Pastoral Care Training

Stream 2 Discipleship through Learning and Caring are running a Pastoral Care Training event.

Date: Saturday 14th May 2022—via Zoom

Participants will reflect on their calling to and experience of pastoral care, understand definitions of pastoral care and gain practical skills in pastoral care.

Training Course Target Audience Church leaders and other church members who give pastoral care to others in the life of the church.

If you would like to register for this event or would like details of times and the zoom link please contact Peter Dipple via email on learning@covnunmethodist.org.uk

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 11th May 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

Wednesday 11th May - Prayer and Discernment Session at Balsall Common, Methodist Church. These sessions are for all, but particularly important for those in positions of leadership and responsibility: Church Stewards, Local Preachers, and Ministers.

Tea and coffee with opportunity for discussion, is available throughout the sessions.

5:00pm – 7:00pm Drop-in session, with prayer areas to encourage and challenge.

7:00pm Lectio Divina. A time of quiet to listen to God

7:30pm – a structured session of prayer and worship. finish by 8:30pm

Sunday 22nd May - Family Service at Earlsdon Methodist Church 3pm-4pm—All welcome.

Thursday 26th May - Ascension Day Service at Woodside Methodist Church - 7.30pm Rev'd Richard

Save The Date from Birmingham Methodist District

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

Further details will be available closer to the date.