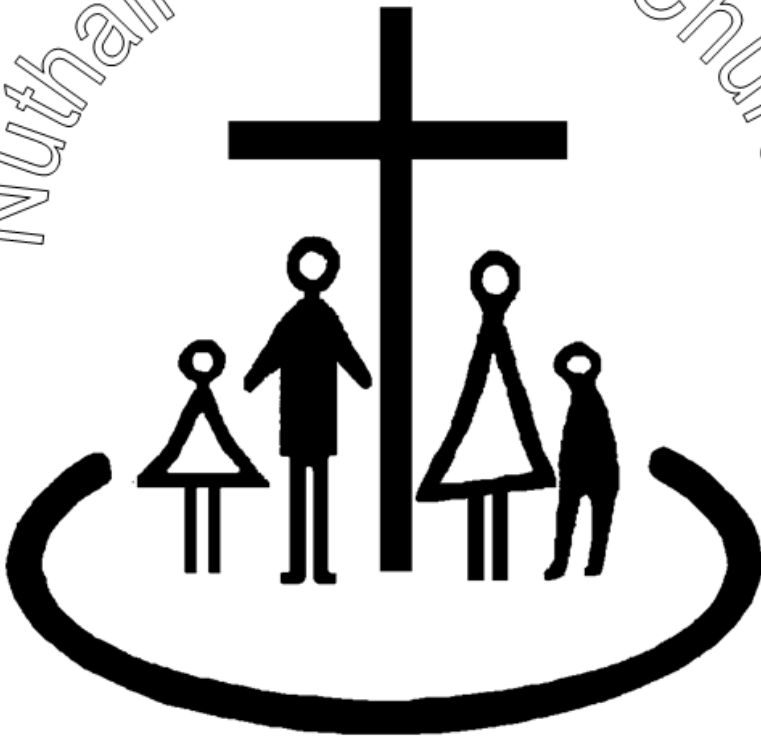


Nuthall Methodist Church



# **NEWSLETTER**

**May 2021**

## **FROM THE MINISTER'S STUDY**

Dear Friends,

On the last Sunday in April I was leading worship in person in one of our Circuit churches. The set reading for that day came from John 10, where Jesus declares that he is the "good shepherd". The question I tried to address in my sermon was what does all this mean for us today, during the season of Easter and in a pandemic in 2021.

Well of course the meaning of Easter is multifaceted and multi-layered. But in simple terms it means that the risen Christ is alive today and he will never leave us, that He has returned from death to life and nothing can ever separate us from him again. In this particular imagery, with Jesus declaring he is good shepherd we start to see what this means for us in the real world, in our daily lives.

Sheep don't like to venture out into new territory and to go into new perhaps dangerous places. But the reality is that all of us are in that place today. None of us have ever lived through a year long pandemic, faced loneliness, illness and of course for far too many, been touched by death. So as we step out again, it is all new and I know many are still frightened. But I also know this, Jesus, our risen Lord and Saviour, is the good shepherd.

This passage reminds us poetically that as we start to build our lives again out in the real world, as we face challenges and dangers perhaps seemingly on a daily basis, we are not alone. We are not left to fend for ourselves. We are not alone, for the risen Christ, the good shepherd, is with us. He is the good shepherd who does not run away at the first sign of trouble. He is the good shepherd who has willingly faced all of the challenges that real life can throw at us, who has stood up to the dangers that come in our lives and who will be with us every step of the way. In particular, the striking imagery that we are given for this moment is that of both security and intimacy.

As the good shepherd, Jesus stands in front of the flock. The dangers that lie ahead for the flock are ones that Jesus will face first. No challenge is too big for him. He faced the ultimate challenge and was willing to lay down his life for his sheep, for his flock, for you and for me, and even that was not enough to stop him from protecting us. Even that could not stop him, for Jesus is risen. He is with us whatever challenges lie ahead of us in the months to come.

Love, peace and joy

*Andrew*



### **ZOOM SERVICES**

Our Zoom services will continue in May at 11.30am each Sunday.  
All are welcome to join us.

May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. David Speed
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs. Sandra Langford
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Cathy Milne
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr. David Blount
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Andrew Charlesworth

The number for all Zoom services will be  
Meeting ID: 885 5454 1347      Passcode: 067087

### **EVENING WORSHIP AT CHURCH**

At last the time has arrived, for those who wish, to worship regularly back in Church!

From Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, as well as normal 11.30am Zoom services, there will also be an opportunity to worship at Church at 6.00pm in the evening.

2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Rev. Andrew Charlesworth - Holy Communion
9 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Mr. David Blount
16 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Rev. Andrew Charlesworth
23 <sup>rd</sup>	6.00pm	Mrs. Sandra Langford
30 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Rev. Andrew Charlesworth

A few things were learnt from the Easter Sunday service, and below are the slightly revised guidelines if you would like to attend worship at Church. Changes have been highlighted in bold.

All the government guidelines will be observed.

- Do not enter the building if you have any covid-19 symptoms
  - o A high temperature
  - o A new, continuous cough
  - o A loss / change to your sense of smell or taste
- Maintain 2m social distance
- Sanitise your hands
- Wear a face covering
- Leave your contact details for Track & Trace

## **Booking a place**

- **Services will take place at 6.00pm every Sunday. You will need to book a space beforehand.**
- **Please book a place by contacting Val Stone between 3.00pm – 6.00pm on the Wednesday before each service.**
- **If you try to book and the service is full, you will be placed at the top of the list for the following week. Please be understanding that there may not be space for everyone to attend every week, but we feel that this scheme will give fairness and we anticipate that everyone wanting to should be able to attend at least once a fortnight. We will review after May services and adjust if necessary.**
- Val will take your contact details for track and trace, meaning we will simply require 'a tick' when entering the building to say that you attended.
- 30 people are allowed in the congregation at each service, this is in addition to the stewards and the minister.
- Most spaces are as single chairs, however there are limited numbers of twos available (for people in the same household/bubble). It is not possible to re-arrange chairs. If you would like 2 chairs together, please ask, as these will be allocated at the time of booking (subject to availability).

- Please do not book a space if you feel unwell or have any Covid-19 symptoms (A high temperature, a new continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste).
- If you book a space but then feel unwell in the meantime, please do not attend the service.
- There will be no specific children's activity in the service. Any children attending will need to be booked in and counted as part of the overall total, they will need to remain in their seat for the full duration of the service and be able to socially-distance from others during the time of arriving and leaving church.

## **Arriving at church**

- Please arrive a **maximum** of 5-10 minutes before the service is due to start.
- Social distancing will be in place outside and inside the church, so we ask you to wait in your car until a steward asks you to move into church. For those travelling on foot please use the 2m bays on the ramp at the main entrance until you are invited to enter church. You will then be escorted through the process.
- You will be asked to sanitise your hands as you enter the church.
- You must wear a face covering for the whole-time inside church unless you are medically exempt.
- The accessible toilet will be available if needed.
- The chairs in the worship area have been socially distanced for individuals and couples. We will fill up seats from the front first. You will be advised which seat to use, once seated please do not get up and wander round to chat to others. Even though we might not have seen each other for a while we need to keep our distance especially indoors.
- You may want to wear an extra layer of clothing as windows and doors will be kept open as much as possible to aid ventilation.

## **During the Service**

- Due to the current restrictions, worship will be different from before. However, we hope it will be a time to encounter God, perhaps through more reflective moments together with space for silence, thought and prayer.

**· The service will normally last a maximum of 30 minutes, and up to 40 minutes if communion is part of the service.**

· There is currently no singing allowed in Methodist Churches. Andrew may use a part recorded message on the day.

· Communion will be offered; this will only have been handled by one person using the strictest hygiene conditions and following current Methodist Church guidelines. If you do not wish to consume the bread and wine during the worship that is perfectly fine.

## **After the Service**

**· Once worship has finished, please remain in your seat until you are invited to leave through the main front door. Those sat nearest will be asked to leave first.**

· Anyone with a physical disability who is unable to leave by the fire exit should remain in their seat until all have exited, and then they will be invited to leave via the front main entrance.

· Please sanitise your hands on the way out

· Please do not loiter at the exit of the building or in car park. We need to always maintain social distancing.

· Please leave the church site immediately after the service.

Reopening the church for regular worship does not mean that the risk of the virus has gone away. Gathering indoors for a prolonged period with people is still risky and individuals will need to make their own decisions as to whether to attend worship at this time.

Be assured we are trying to combine your safety with an opportunity to worship. We have undertaken extensive Covid-19 / building risk assessments as required by the government and Methodist Church in order to be able to open for worship. We simply ask that you play your part in keeping yourself and each other safe.

## NUTHALL NEWS

### **PRAYER STREETS**

Please remember the residents of the following streets in your prayers. Our friends at St. Patrick's Church and the churches in Kimberley are joining with us in this activity. The streets in italics are in Kimberley.

<b>May</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cokefield Avenue, Collins Close & Beech Avenue <i>Church Hill &amp; Greens Lane</i>
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Apollo Drive & Northolt Drive <i>Ruby Paddocks &amp; Wetherby Close</i>
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Glebe Road, Lime Close & Edward Road <i>Ascot Avenue &amp; Oak Lodge Drive</i>
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hazel Drive, Roosa Close & Drummond Drive <i>Parkham Road &amp; Chapter Drive</i>
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Sedley Avenue, St. Patrick's Road & Eisele Close <i>Leslie Avenue &amp; Victoria Street</i>

### **THANK YOU**

During the pandemic it has been heartening to see the work of the Church continue.

From the delivery of a pot of spring bulbs at Christmas by the leaders but prepared by the children of the Sunday School to we 'older members', to referral to Catherine, Circuit Secretary, of names of members who need paper copies of the weekly services, so we could follow them (and during Lent, daily readings, plus commentary) so we could follow them too.

In between, our pastoral leaders keeping in touch; the leaders of our Bible Study group supplying us with monthly readings and questions for us to study in our small hubs. In the interim, between lockdowns, invitations to sit in gardens in small groups and chat.

On Easter Day, for Andrew to arrange Communion in a safe environment (our stewards working hard to plan, disinfect and execute our entrance and exit and all the planning beforehand).

No doubt other groups have carried on (like the monthly preparation and distribution of this newsletter).

There are so many within the Church family who continue to work hard, so a heartfelt thank you to you all.

Val Morgan

## **CHURCH STEWARDING TEAM – UPDATE**

In the Methodist church we appoint church stewards to carry out the tasks involved in making our worship run smoothly, and to support the minister in leading the life of our church and making the decisions taken by our church council happen. In our church we usually appoint two new stewards each year to serve for 4 years. This means that we always have a team of 8 people so there is a good number of people to share the work and support each other. Usually at Nuthall the new stewards have started each May and this happened last year, but given the very strange year we have all had, the decision was taken at Church Council that the current team would all stay an additional few months and the next change would happen in September 2021, when Caroline and Barry will step down as Senior stewards and 2 new stewards will start. This also means our practice will then match up with the normal Methodist pattern.

As we come to the time when we need to think about who the stewards will be, we want to make sure we are being inclusive and exploring the whole church family for people to have the great opportunity to be involved in the life of our church in this way. There are many different aspects to the role from practical tasks in preparing for worship, meeting to plan events in the life of church, communicating news to the congregation, getting feedback and supporting our minister as needed. We are lucky that because of the size of our team there is lots of support and flexibility in who does what, depending on each person's skills and availability, so it is not necessary to be able to attend every service or every week. We are also fortunate that many of our church family are willing and able to help with tasks so we certainly don't have to do every job ourselves. In the past we have been able to include stewards who sometimes work on a Sunday, have family commitments at certain times, have periods away for travel or health reasons or have other commitments in the life of the church such as preaching or leading Sunday school or youth work. Sometimes people think they couldn't be a steward for reasons such as because they are not physically able to move lots of chairs or are not comfortable speaking at the front of church or don't know enough, but none of these are true! All that is actually needed in someone being a steward is that you are a church member, are willing to have the appropriate Safeguarding checks and training, and then are willing to be active as part of the team! It is a wonderful chance to be involved in church life and get to know our worshipping family better.



So perhaps you are thinking this is exactly the role for you? Or that you are not sure but would like to find out a bit more? We are delighted that we have now had one volunteer step forward, but we do want to make sure that everyone has had the chance to explore if this is something they would like to do. We would love to hear from you, whether you have previously been a steward or not and whether thinking about starting this year or that now is not quite the right time but you would be interested in the future . If so please talk to Andrew or any of the current stewarding team (Caroline Lovatt, Barry Langford, David Coleman, Kathryn Blount, Val Stone, Sue Perrett, Rachel Jackson or Chris Page).



1. As well as generating electricity from the solar panels at church, our car-charging points are now also in position. These still need to be commissioned but look out for information in the next newsletter about how people can charge their electric cars while parked at church.
2. The Ecochurch group will be meeting soon to think about our next steps in making our church and community as environmentally-friendly and sustainable as possible. If anyone has any suggestions or would like more information please contact Sarah Charlesworth or Kathryn Blount.
3. As the lockdown eases and we start looking forward to doing some of the things we enjoy, it is a good time to reflect on how we can do this making the best choices we can for our planet. Are there some good habits we have started which we could continue, for example walking more and driving less, planning our cooking and food-shopping more carefully to avoid wastage, buying fewer clothes? Many of us will have appreciated the local natural world more than ever this year and this is a good reminder that we need to think, pray and campaign to care for our planet.

## CIRCUIT NEWS

### **ALPHA ONLINE FILM SERIES**

Have you done Alpha before? We are starting a new film series of Alpha Online on a Wednesday 1:30pm to 2:45pm from April 21<sup>st</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>, only about an hour a week. This is designed for those who would like to explore the Christian faith, as well as for those who would like to revitalise their existing faith.

If you are free, why don't you join us for a friendly fellowship? Please register your place by emailing Rev Yanyan Case This course will be done via zoom.



### **MINISTER**

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### **SENIOR STEWARDS**

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Caroline Lovatt



Please submit any items for the June newsletter  
to Margaret Sendall  
**by Sunday May 23rd.** Thank you

