



Cole Street Methodist Church

March & April Newsletter

Darby End, Netherton, Dudley, DY2 9PA
part of the Dudley & Netherton Methodist Church Circuit

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 Cole Street Church

Thursday 9th April 2020

'Holy Week'
'Maundy Thursday'

Welcome

Welcome to what we hope will be a unique set of notices in these unprecedented times! Although we can't meet at church, as a church, we can still be a church, and a circuit, which is relevant and alive utilising technology and communication. Take a look in this 'Lockdown' edition to see what is still happening in the life of Cole Street and of the Dudley & Netherton Circuit.



Join us online



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Please consider the
environment. Could you recycle
your notices or pass them onto
someone else to read?

'A warm welcome awaits you at our Church.'

Let us pray...

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.



The Methodist Church of Great Britain

The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference said: "We are asking people to change their way of 'going to church' to help to protect themselves and others. We have put in place measures that will enable Methodists still to be part of the worshipping community, whilst for everyone's sake staying away from church buildings. There is a range of resources available for people to use at home which we hope will help them to continue their cycle of prayer and worship. The Methodist Church is more than its buildings and if in these unprecedented times we can continue our life as Methodists without using our buildings we will help to reduce the chances of transmission of the virus." For the wealth of guidance, resources and advice the Methodist Church is offering, please visit: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/coronavirus/>

Birthdays, Celebrations & Congratulations

A very happy birthday from all of the Cole Street family to all of the following people who celebrated their special day from mid-March until the end of April: Emma Lewis, Sylvia Holyoake, Rhonda Hackett, Gary Moss, Hazel Kiteley, Jan Green, Suzie Haywood & Maggie Bove.

And a very special mention to the lovely Mrs. Jean Ellis who is celebrating her 90th birthday on Saturday 25th April.

A very happy birthday, as different as it may have been, and God Bless you all.

Please remember in your prayers...

Dot Grainger, baby Ellie-Piper, Lillian Pallett, Richard Taylor, Lewis & Marion Cooper, Elaine Poulton, Bernard Hickman, Mark Kelly, Charlie Cowley, Hazel Owen, Don Ralph, Jean Lavender, Mark Wood, Roslyn Grainger, Jordan Priest, Alice Parke Joan & Tony Oliver and the family and friends of the late Fr. Michael Brain.

Please also pray for all of the NHS Workers and other Key Workers continuing to work despite the huge pressures and risks which presently exist. Please ask for their sacrifice to be valued and protect them as they continue to serve.

Cole Street celebrates 199 years of worship in Darby End

April 1st, as well as being April Fool's Day, is very significant in the life and history of Cole Street – it is the anniversary date of the opening of Cole Street in 1821 on the site which Cole Street still stands today. The original building, 'Darby End Wesleyan Chapel' opened on 1st April 1821 and was sited on what is now the upper car park at church. The building would be used as a Chapel and a Sunday School for the following 40 years and stood until 1950 (after some rebuilding and shoring-up work in the early 1900s due to subsidence). In 1950, it was deemed beyond reasonable repair when it was then replaced with today's building which opened in 1959 (using the Sunday School building erected in 1861 in the interim).

More about the history of Cole Street can be found on our website:

<http://www.colestreetchurch.org.uk/ColeStreetABriefHistory>

Of course, this means that next year marks our 200th anniversary – a significant occasion! Keep a look out for details about how we will mark this occasion when some kind of normality resumes!

Offering & Finances

The current situation presents Cole Street with a scenario which we have never had to face before. At present, Cole Street has no financial income as the building is closed. Cole Street is now on the verge of entering restricted funds, otherwise known as our reserves. These cater for around 6 months running costs of the building after which, funds will almost cease to exist.

Cole Street, as a growing, community-reaching church, has a significant expenditure each year in the following main areas: Assessments to the Circuit (formally known as Quaterage and payable by all Methodist churches to cover ministerial costs, manses, circuit assessments etc.), Running Costs (such as direct debits, services, gas, electric, water etc.), Property (insurance, inspections, licenses, maintenance, cleaning materials, toilet paper etc.) and other costs such as activities, events, productions etc. and of course any donations we make to charitable causes. Without factoring in any specific projects etc., it costs approximately on average, £1,800.00-£2,000.00 per month to remain open and ready for use by the church and the wider community (around £1,400.00 of this being in Assessments alone).

Cole Street, therefore, relies heavily on three main areas of income: external hire, fundraising events and your kind weekly offering and/or donations. With external hire and fundraising events out of the question for the foreseeable future, we are asking graciously that you continue to save your weekly offering so that when we return, our finances can be somewhat rebalanced. And of course, we can claim back Gift Aid on a certain percentage of the offering – usually quite a significant amount when this adds up throughout the year.

We, as a church, strive to enact our Mission Statement, of which part talks about making more disciples of God – in other words, reaching out into our community and being there for our community. This doesn't come without cost, both monetary and of time, which makes Cole Street such a beacon in Darby End.

Please continue to pray for our church, our church building and ask that God will protect and guide us, willingly, through this uncertain time.



Being Church during these strange days...

In a time when we can't be physically together, we can still be part of the body of Christ in our homes and in our communities. To support this, the Dudley & Netherton Methodist Circuit Staff, ourselves and others from around the circuit churches have put together some resources and support for during this time:

Online Bible Study

Starting on Monday 20th April, Online Bible Studies will be led by various members of circuit staff using 'Zoom', an online video conferencing platform. You will need internet access with both audio and video capability to take part. Each group will be able to accommodate 8 people plus the leader. Groups will meet:

Monday 7pm – Revd. Bill Anderson

Tuesday 11am – Revd. Gordon Morton

Wednesday 11am – Tiras

Thursday 11am – Richard

Thursday 7pm – Revd. Barbara Evans-Routley

Spaces are still available (as of notices publication date) and if you would like join, please email Liz Dean:

lizdeanmeth@gmail.com

Worship

The staff team we have talked and prayed about how best to offer worship during this ongoing period. We concluded that we couldn't compete with the BBC sound department! And however exciting and innovative online worship would be, it would likely exclude very many of our members.

Therefore, we have chosen to encourage everyone to be part of the national act of worship, broadcast on BBC One at 11.45am on Sunday mornings.

An order of service can be found each week here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000h05p>

St. James' Church, Pensnett are also offering a pre-recorded audio service which will be available to stream from their homepage on their website: www.stjamesmethodistchurch.btck.co.uk

Circuit Support

If you need any help or support from the circuit over the coming weeks, please use the contact details below.

A circuit telephone number has been set up: 07703 814106 and an email: dudleyandnethertonmethodist@gmail.com

Circuit staff will check these regularly.

Collections for the Black Country FoodBank

A huge thank you to all involved and who have donated towards the local FoodBank in Dudley over the past two Sundays. We donated, as a Circuit, 193.04Kg of food and 15Kg of non-food products most recently and 150Kg the previous week. This is a great achievement during these difficult times. We will continue to hold collection points each Sunday. Someone will be on duty at:

St. James' Car Park - 9.30am - 10.00am

Cole Street's Car Park - 10.10am - 10.40am

Central's Car Park - 10.45am - 11.15am

BLACK COUNTRY
FOODBANK

LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

Please do support if you're able. You can use your daily exercise to drop some items off. We are also accepting monetary donations. Please remember to maintain Social Distancing guidelines when dropping your donations off. If you have had the symptoms of Coronavirus, you should not be leaving your house for 14 days as per the guidance.

Easter 2020

Something of a different Easter remembrance and celebration this year! Traditionally, Maundy Thursday would have seen Cole Street host its annual Easter Experience dramatisation of the Easter story. Instead, we have a range of resources available for you to use instead this year.

<http://www.colestreetchurch.org.uk/Easter2020>

EASTER

Holy Week Reflections

A selection of Holy Week Reflections have been produced by the Staff Team in the Circuit. There is a reflection for each day of Holy Week which you can use to meditate and pray at home with.

These will be posted on our Social Media platforms daily during Holy Week and can be downloaded as a booklet from our website on the Easter 2020 page.

A Messy Easter at Home

The Messy Church Easter celebration story, told by Martin Payne, will be available live on the Messy Church – BRF Facebook page from 5pm on Easter Sunday, 12th April 2020. The activity suggestions booklet is available to download from our Easter 2020 page on our website.

A Holy Week Journey for Young People

A reflective journal has been designed to be used alongside the Dwell at Home resource available from the Methodist Church of Great Britain website created by the Methodist Church of Great Britain Children, Youth and Family Team. See our website for the download link.





Easter Bonnet Competition

Open to families and leaders from any Messy Church in the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District.

From the **despair** of the crown of thorns to the **hope** of resurrection, new life and joy!





The challenge is to use recycled materials from home, your garden or from your walks.

To be judged by Mayor of West Midlands Andy Street

Best hat will receive a glass rainbow in the post created by our District Choir Rev Rachel Parkinson.

Looking for inspiration – Can you show some of the Easter story?

Email your photos to VLHEYDON@GMAIL.COM

By 12noon on Saturday 11th April 2020

All entries will be displayed on the Messy Church St John's Blawith Facebook page (these may be widely shared by associated groups linked to Messy Church and/or Mayor Andy Street)

(If children are in the photos please include written consent within the email, otherwise just the hat is fine). Winner will be notified by email.

Blawith & Willenhall Circuit

Take care, stay safe

Please continue to follow the advice issued by the Government.

Please utilise the support of family, friends, neighbours and your local council if you are in need of help or support.

Please use the contact details issued above if you require support or help from the Circuit.

An intercessory prayer

You call us to speak to you in prayer– even when the places we would usually go to are not available.

Help us to know your Spirit's presence wherever we pray.

Today we especially pray for those who are living in fear – give them your strength.

For those who have not yet realised the urgency of the situation – protect them, and all of us from harm.

Today I especially want to pray for

In the name of Jesus. Amen

“As we deal with the practicalities of protecting people from coronavirus, we continue to remember Our Calling to care for the other whilst always being mindful that is that our call is always to respond to the good news in Jesus.

We are a people of hope we need to declare and model good news in these difficult times.”

Revd Paul Wood, Interim Director of the Ministries Team

