



Cole Street Methodist Church

May Newsletter

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

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 Cole Street Church

Sunday 3rd May 2020
'Fourth Sunday of Easter'

'A warm welcome awaits you at our Church.'

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 'May Lockdown' edition to see what is still happening in the life of Cole Street and of the Dudley & Netherton Circuit.



Join us online



www.colestreetchurch.org.uk



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Scan the QR
code to visit
our website



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

Let us pray...

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Methodist Church of Great Britain

Loving God,
If we are ill, strengthen us.
If we are tired, fortify our spirits.
If we are anxious, help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air.
Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.
Help us always to hold fast to the good,
See the good in others,
And remember there is just one world, one hope,
One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.
In Jesus we make our prayer,
The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,
In whom we trust these days and all days,
Amen.

The Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Birthdays, Celebrations & Congratulations

A very happy birthday from all of the Cole Street family to all of the following people who are celebrating their special day during May (date in brackets):

Pearl Tucker (2nd), Hope Rutter (5th), June Smith (6th), Hilda Bick (10th), McKenzie Bove (17th), Peter Bick (23rd), Emma Baily (24th), Olli Drew (25th) & Martin Cotterill (26th).

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 Parker, Joan & Tony Oliver and the family & friends of Clive Fellows and the family & friends of Don Ralph.

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.

Please pray for all those known to us individually who are ill or in need at this time.

We love Thy house, O God

Please continue to be assured that while our church building and premises remain closed for worship & activities, we continue to monitor and check the premises on a very regular basis. This includes site inspections, essential maintenance and repairs as well as weekly procedures such as toilet flushes, tap-runs and heating system checks. With our onsite CCTV system and other intruder prevention systems, it ensures our building continues to be covered by Methodist Insurance and follows guidance issued by the Methodist Church of Great Britain. To this point, external grounds continue to be maintained and tidied, regular litter picks are taking place, parts for the water urn have been ordered and work to identify electrical phasing has also been commenced. All being well, investigative work to repair and maintain the cabin roof will begin next week as well as prayer garden upkeep.

Offering & Finances

During these unprecedented times, we have begun to live and learn what being 'church' is, in the confines of our own home. Watching and listening to services on the T.V, radio and social media as well as keeping in touch with one another through the medium of phone, text, email and cards.

However, whilst we are continuing to worship in our homes, we still have bills to pay and premises to upkeep at our beloved church. In a recent email from Jan Robinson (Circuit Treasurer) we are being encouraged to continue putting aside our weekly offertories until we're able to be back at church. I appreciate for some, you may not feel comfortable keeping too much money at one time. For those who are able to continue giving during these times we are now offering alternative ways for you to give:

Online/Bank Transfer

Account Name - Cole Street Methodist Church

Account Number - 00090387

Sort Code - 30 - 95 - 87

Cheque

All cheques are payable to: Cole Street Methodist Church

Please then post these to Tiras directly who will cash them in at the bank. (Contact Tiras for the details)

Envelope Scheme

For those who wish to continue putting money to one side in the envelop scheme and would like Tiras to pick them up and take them to church, contact him directly - 07812 516059.

If you are struggling financially at the moment for any reason, please let one of the stewards or Tiras know and we will do our best to support you through these difficult times. Thank you for your continued support.

Keep safe at home

With a good majority of us spending more time at home than usual, now would be a great time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms if you haven't already.

When did you last check your alarms?

If you need help to test them, or need new batteries, contact David who will be happy to help you.





Join us on Instagram...

You can now join us on Instagram.

Give us a follow and see what we've been getting up to.

Collections for the Black Country FoodBank

Thank you to all those who have continued to support the Food Bank through these uncertain times. As a Circuit, we have donated over ½ ton of food and non-perishable items since lockdown began which is a tremendous achievement.

We are continuing to run a Food Bank collection every Sunday morning, 10.10am - 10.40am on the car park at Cole Street. Social distancing rules are adhered to and all items are placed directly into the boot of Tiras' car. If you are able to buy an extra item or two when shopping and bring it on a Sunday morning, it would be gratefully received. We appreciate for some, getting extra food isn't possible as someone else is shopping for you, the Food Bank are also receiving monetary donations which they then use to purchase food.



For those who are unable to leave the house you can also donate online to their Just Giving page:

www.justgiving.com/blackcountryfoodbank

Virtual Bible Study

There are still spaces available for the online Bible studies. Contact the relevant person if you wish to join.

Monday @7pm - Rev Bill Anderson

Wednesday @11am - Rev Gordon Morton

Thursday @7pm - Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

The Methodist Conference will meet differently this year...

The Methodist Council has agreed that the Conference cannot meet as planned in Telford in June and will look at ways for the Conference to meet in an alternative form. The officers of the Conference will bring proposals for the functioning of this alternative meeting to an additional meeting of the Council. The restriction on groups meeting has meant that some Synods have not been able to meet and give full consideration to God in Love Unites Us, and the Council therefore also agreed that the debate and voting on the provisional resolutions will be deferred until the 2021 Conference. This also means that any other business (eg. memorials) relating to those resolutions will not be considered this year. We understand that for many people the decision about the Conference may cause uncertainty and worry, but please be assured that we will issue further updates as soon as decisions are made. We will communicate directly with those most affected (eg: ordinands, district reps, and volunteers) as soon as we are able to do so and we shall keep the website updated.

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.

The Funeral of the late Don Ralph

Don's funeral will be held on Tuesday 19th May 2020 at Powke Lane Crematorium at 2:30pm. Unfortunately, due to the social distancing guidelines in place, there are a limit to the number of people able to attend. Sandwell Council do provide a webcast feature through their website where the service will be live-streamed. Details for this will circulated nearer the time. In the meantime, please hold Liz and the family in your prayers and think of her and provide her strength over the coming days.

Virtual Coffee Morning

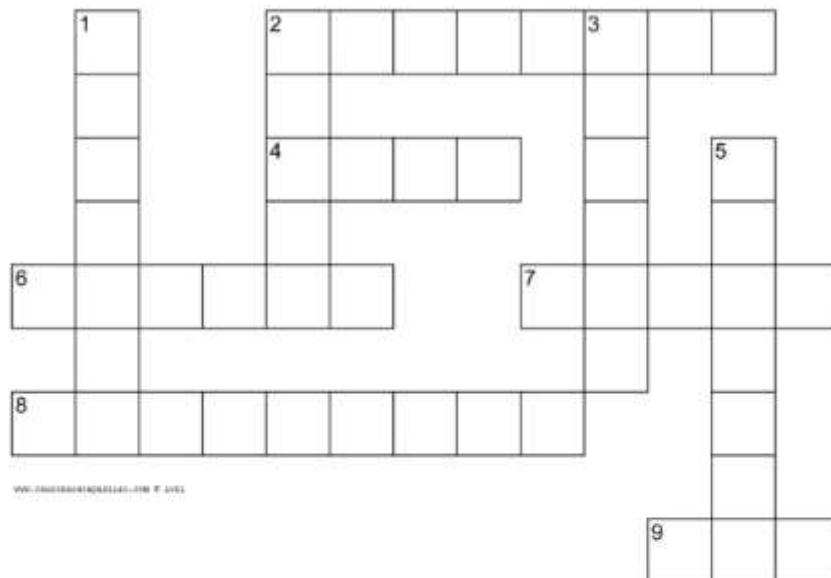
Although phoning, texting and emailing are great ways to keep in touch with one another, we are now offering a weekly Virtual Coffee Morning using the online conferencing platform, 'Zoom'. Although we appreciate not everybody has access to internet at home, and we continue to think of ways to keep in touch and engaged, for those who do have internet and a device with a camera, you're more than welcome to join us. The idea is to just catch up, have a chat with a cuppa and offer each other support.

We will meet every Thursday morning at 11am. If you want to join, let Tiras know so he can send you the appropriate details.



People in the Bible

1 Samuel



ACROSS

- 2 David's best friend
- 4 First king of Israel
- 6 Last judge of Israel
- 7 A man after God's own heart
- 8 Gave David the showbread to eat
- 9 Fell off his seat backwards and broke his neck

DOWN

- 1 Stood over nine feet tall
- 2 Shepherd from Bethlehem; his youngest son became king of Israel
- 3 Mother of the prophet Samuel
- 5 Brought food and supplies to David in the wilderness

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 you 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

*“Our Calling is to respond in love and service to the needs of our communities. We are grateful to our sisters and brothers around the world who hold us in prayer as we hold them. We should not be afraid *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7.**

Head of Mission, Jude Levermore

