

Pastoral note 23rd August

Do remember in your prayers all the young people who have received downgraded A levels that have caused so much anguish. GCSE results are not out as I write, but we remember all those waiting, and then affected by the results. Many of you will have family members involved.

We do want to congratulate Eloise (Suzi Green's daughter) on getting good results that enable her to go to Loughborough University in September. We send our very best wishes Eloise for your future studies.

The house for the Sukkott project is ready for tenants. On Thursday 27th, we are asked to join others in Churches Together to pray especially for those who will be living there, those guiding and supporting, and those living round about. We pray that this will become a gateway to people finding new purpose and value in their lives, enabling them to move onwards to full independence. We thank all who have played a part in helping this to happen.

We send our love and continuing prayers to you all, Angela.

For anyone able to access this blog it is a very hope filled piece from Beirut – with an opportunity to donate through a well respected charity.

<https://www.embrace.org/blog/hope-future>

CHURCH RE OPENING

FRIENDS ----This is written as a desire to keep everyone informed about the decisions to be made prior to re opening church eventually. The Stewards are closely involved with Circuit discussions concerning Barn hill church and how their plans can be used for OMC. We would need volunteers to help with guiding folk safely, stewarding and cleaning church before and after a service - as in all churches. "call to arms"! PLEASE notify any of the Stewards if you can offer any help and say in what capacity you are willing to volunteer!! We have a preliminary planning meeting at the beginning of September. Thanks!

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- Limited number of Attendees(30 possibly)--- guided to distanced seats.Constant use of Sanitiser at Entrance and Exit doors and on touched surfaces.
- Current Social distancing, wearing face coverings at all times.
- Services shortened to 30/45 mins.
- No singing or use of church books or leaflets.
- No physical greetings or lingering before or after services.
- Toilets probably out of bounds.

ONLINE SERVICES. For the foreseeable future Circuit intends to provide * "Online church" on the preaching plan as well as printed services--- which may reassure those not yet ready to return to a church building. Stay safe and well ----- from The Stewards.

NORTHGATE

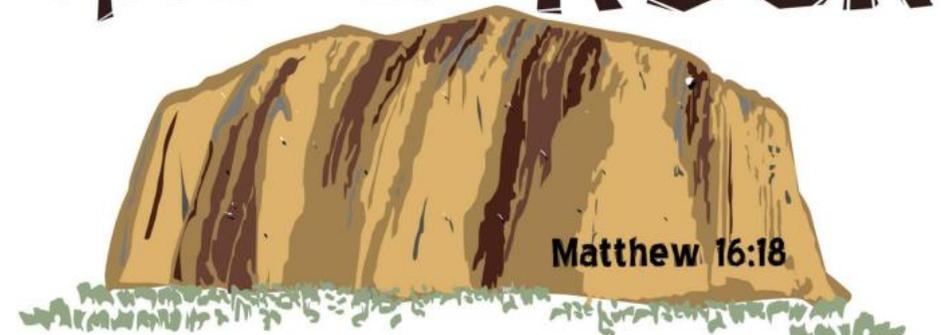
The weekly notices of
OAKHAM METHODIST CHURCH
Minister contact 1st June - 1st September 2020:
Rev. Andy Fyall - 01780 762282
www.oakhammethodistchurch.co.uk

**"...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it".
Matthew ch.16 v 18.**

Sunday 23rd August 2020
Worship Notes prepared by Ron Curtis.

Simon Peter

Upon This ROCK



I Will Build My Church

Methodist Church Service – Sunday 23rd August – The Truth will Set You Free

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long. [Psalm 25:4,5]

In our Gospel reading today Peter declares the truth about Jesus; the same truth we now declare.

Jesus is the name we honour;

Jesus is the name we praise;

Jesus is the name we worship;

Jesus is the name we trust;

Jesus is the Father’s splendour;

Jesus is the Father’s joy;

We will glorify,

we will lift him high,

we will give him honour and praise.

We will glorify,

we will lift him high,

we will give him honour and praise.

(StF 354)

Let us Pray:

We thank you, Lord, for this time of worship; apart from each other, but still together as the church of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We turn to you in love and praise, for you are always turned towards us in your boundless love and mercy.

We praise your Holy Name.

Dearest Lord, you desire truth in our hearts.

Forgive the untruth within us; our evasions, lies, half-truths, exaggerations and self-deception.

Grant us to see the truth about ourselves,

and, above all, the truth of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who comes to us in forgiveness now. **Amen.**

Read Matthew 16:13-20

Truth is very precious. But it can seem fragile when our confidence in the truth is shaken. It can often be difficult to arrive at the truth.

In today’s passage from St Matthew’s Gospel Peter has hit on the truth. Jesus asks his disciples, ‘What are people saying about me?’ They tell him, ‘They say you are one of the great prophets’, come to life, as it were. People were also saying that Jesus was a blasphemer, a heretic, a subversive. His family, at one stage, even believed he was out of his mind! When, later, Pilate became the focus of these contradictory opinions, in particular, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ he decided that truth was political expediency.

But Peter has hit on the Truth; ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God’. He has lived with Jesus, seen him in action at close quarters, seen his miracles, heard his teaching and known his compelling attraction to all who meet him. This experience has brought him to the inescapable truth. But above all, for which Jesus blesses him, this truth was revealed to Peter ‘by my Father’, God. It is a truth to which we hold today, thanks be to God; for, like Jesus himself, it comes from God. It is (capital letter) Truth, which will not be denied. **Amen.**

Prayers for others.

We pray for those who suffer because of the coronavirus pandemic.; those who are sick; those who grieve the loss of loved ones who have died from it; the many who are isolated in their loneliness, or trapped in an abusive home. Bless them and keep them, Lord, we pray, and bring them to your healing peace.

Support and strengthen, Lord, all those who work to mitigate and to rid us of this disease; health care staff; scientists who would bring us a cure. Grant wisdom to our leaders in our country and the world that they may manage this crisis and its consequences for the best. Bless those who keep essential services going and all who help us through.

In a period of reflection, we offer to God’s love and mercy those known to each one of us who are in special need of them at this time.

The Lord’s Prayer

No boundary sign will stand against this faith,

no wall restrain this preaching of the Word:

the Good News travels on, it rides the road

and draws to unity the realm of God.

Thank God for all who listened and believed,

who still are by the Spirit set on fire – our hearts be warmed again, for Christ will wait

*on beach, in upper room, or Aldersgate. **(StF 408)***

Blessing: *You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. [John 8:32]*

God bless us and keep us as we walk the road of the Good News; constrained by ‘lockdown’, but still free in the Lord and the Truth of his Word. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us this coming week, and always. **Amen.**

