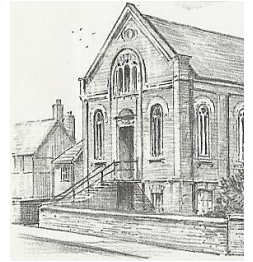


STOTFOLD METHODISTS

the church on the crossroads



OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

God says to his people: I shall fix my home among you and never reject you. I shall be your God and you will be my people.

Leviticus 26:3-13

Masked and suitably sanitised and distanced, I prepared to lead our first service in the church building for six months. Very different from before, because we're downstairs in the church hall. Upstairs, the chapel is unsuitable for social distancing and difficult to sanitise.

What sense are we to make of our various experiences in this time, traditionally the Harvest Festival season? As the church gathers to celebrate harvest, displaying goods that cannot be distributed as previously, what relevant lesson can we learn?

Perhaps, as tins and boxes are stacked and vegetables set out on the table for the Harvest Festival service, I imagine that it will bring to mind supermarket shelves that were suddenly empty as lockdown started, and food parcels that people prepared for others, and the stores that became so essential in the Need Project. These images were so much our focus six months ago. What has changed since? Obviously the supply lines are much better now, and, hopefully, hoarding will not be repeated. But there's still vulnerability and need in our neighbourhood. What I'm hoping is that the good spirit of thinking about others, the holy command to "love your neighbour as yourself", will remain in people's hearts and continue to be revealed into the future. Lockdown had devastating and long lasting effects on many people, but it also revealed a spirit of compassion that encouraged so many of us. An abundance of neighbourliness is a good harvest for any society. I pray it may continue.

Graham.

Church Council - there will be a Church Council meeting on Tuesday 13 October at 2.00pm led by Rev Malcolm Peacock - I was expecting to meet in the hall as there is space to socially distance – we will need the usual hand sanitisers and I would say face coverings should be worn. We may need to have a think about the rule of 6 and we may need to have 2 or groups of 6 to accommodate numbers.

The meeting will need to be 45 minutes or shorter, no refreshments and no lingering afterwards. If there are additional restrictions placed on people later we will have to see what impact that will have as I am not sure I would want to have an open air meeting.

The agenda will be shorter and ideally as much business done by written reports as possible.

Sunday Services

| Time | Date | Preacher |
|---------|------------|---|
| 10.00am | 4 October | Rev Jane Wheatley (Harvest Festival) |
| 10.45am | 11 October | No Service at Stotfold Rev Marcianne Uwimana at Baldock |
| 10.00am | 18 October | Rachel & Paul Burgin |
| 10.45am | 25 October | Joint Service at Baldock Rev Malcolm Peacock (Holy Communion) |

Covid Restrictions

Our Services are being held following our Church Risk Assessment and we would be grateful that if attending you would follow the guidelines as displayed in the church.

| | |
|---|---|
| Minister | Rev Graham Claydon-Knights 07340 857386 |
| Deacon | Marcianne Uwimana 07818 370435 |
| Church Secretary & Hall Hire | Julie Longhurst 01462-731167 |
| Senior Steward | Maggie Turner 01462-731030 |



www.stotfoldmethodists.org.uk