

## Old Circuit Chapel to get new lease of life

Chester Green Methodist Chapel can be found tucked away just outside the inner ring road of Derby on the quiet Mansfield Street. It is in the heart of the area whose name it bears.

Chester Green was last used for worship in 2016 when it was vacated due to only having a small congregation and in need of substantial repair works, not least the electrics which were totally condemned and required an estimated five figure sum to renew them. Initially, the circuit had hoped to lease the premises to an interested party, but when that proved to



not be possible we were left with a virtually derelict building on our hands.

It was at this point that Jo Howie, lay worker at Susanna Wesley House (SWH), our city centre project, came up with the proposal of transforming Chester Green into a café, community rooms, art space and somewhere for Sacred Bean\* to base themselves. The circuit are also considering relocating the Circuit Office into rooms in the building. It is the intention that the project will in time become self-financing.

The café, which will be at the heart of this new project, will follow on the work started by Sacred Bean and SWH giving people training in cooking, serving and café management. It will, of course, be serving Sacred Bean coffee.

This project is not simply about meeting social need. The vision that there will be a resurrection in terms of worship and we are looking forward to the day when there is once more a worshipping community. We give thanks and pray that this project will be a sign of God's Kingdom

*\*Sacred Bean is a Community Interest Company (CIC) that was established by Darren Howie and others to provide training and work experience for, mainly, ex offenders. It is teaching roasting and barista skills in a Christian environment and sells its coffee locally and via mail order.*

### Closing Thoughts

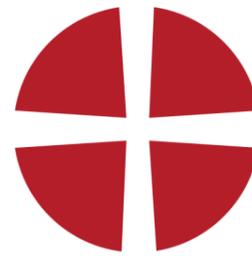
*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13:34*

For the first ten weeks of the Covid-19 lock down we socially gathered on our roads to salute the work of our NHS staff, recognising and honouring them for their commitment and sacrifice on the front line. Without a doubt, they were loving their patient's in the way that Jesus had commanded, just as he showed his love, sacrificially. They loved and cared for those they had been called to treat so much that they were even prepared to put their own lives at risk by undertaking their work despite the lack of protection for themselves. Moreover, there were the stories that became public, from grateful patients and the families of those who died, revealing how often the staff went beyond the call of duty by sitting and comforting the patient, showing the love and comfort that the family themselves could not offer due to visiting restrictions in our hospitals at the time (and still).

Over the last couple of weeks, the news on our TVs and in our papers have shown the other side of human nature. The airwaves and columns have been full of reports of people not showing any love or compassion, let alone the standard of love that Jesus showed. There is the case of George Floyd, the black man killed at the hands, or rather the knee, of a police officer. There has been the stabbings in Reading in a terrorist attack and the stabbings in Glasgow, shootings in Manchester and a host of other accounts. In each one of these attacks love was absent, but it was also present in the bystanders who tried to intervene, in the emergency services that attended and in the countless messages of condolence that have been left.

We all have the choice to love as Jesus has commanded, to be sacrificial in our care, or to be selfish and to act in a way that harms others. We may not be able to show love or hate as clearly as these illustrations, but we do it in every interaction we have, in every decision we make, in every word we speak. Always we should be asking ourselves, "Am I showing my brothers and sisters, my Fathers children, his love or my selfishness.?"

*Lord, may I love like you  
may I care like you  
that I would show your love for all people*



# Borrowwash, Draycott and Spondon

Bulletin 8

28th June 2020

### Dear Friends

It has been heartening to hear of the opportunities people are taking to meet up with their family, especially to hear of those, who have been locked down on their own, now finding the emotional support that is so important to us all. The outlook is even looking brighter for those who have been shielding due to underlying health problems—from 6th July it will be possible to go out and begin to meet people again.

It has also been good, since the latest round of announcements to hear people making plans to go away for a break. I have heard of people spring cleaning their caravans, getting ready to go to their second homes and even beginning to book accommodation for summer holidays. In small ways it is starting to feel as though we can see light at the end of the tunnel and that things are starting to return to normal.

Just outside Stoke, on the canal network is Harecastle tunnel. It is only wide enough for one way movement of boats and so the tunnel keepers let in a convoy from one end and then close the doors behind them to stop others entering. The tunnel is just over one and a half miles long and takes about thirty minutes to get through. Even as you first go in, if you peer through the gloom, you can see the faintest of light from the exit and as you continue through the light gets brighter until it encompasses the whole view.

I am reminded that our faith is based on the hope of The Light of the World and that in the form of the baby Jesus and as he hung on the cross it was the merest flicker, but now it is the roaring blaze of assurance. In the same way we see the flicker in our tunnel out of lockdown we know that one day soon the flicker will be a blazing light of normality.

Colin

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Zoom is Changing from 5th July

The owners of the Zoom - the online video conferencing system that we use for the church services, coffee mornings and a number of other activities - are making the meeting spaces more secure. In future, to get into a meeting you will require both a Meeting ID and a Passcode.

At the same time we are moving the Church and Coffee Lounge onto a new account. Unfortunately we cannot use the same Meeting ID we have been using the last few months.

All Meeting IDs that you currently have will remain the same until midnight, 4th July and the new Meeting IDs and Passcodes will not be used until 9.00am on 5th July. In other words you will need the new Meeting ID to access worship on 5th July and for the Coffee Mornings from 6th July.

The current Meeting IDs can be found at the bottom of this page for Sunday Worship and the bottom of page 2 for the Coffee Lounge.

The new Meeting IDs and Passcodes will be:

#### Church

Meeting ID 827 0960 1674  
Passcode 248724

#### Coffee Lounge

Meeting ID 893 9534 3022  
Passcode 568643

For those who ring in on the phone, you will ring the number and when prompted enter the Meeting ID followed by # and then the Passcode followed by #.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Sunday Worship 10:30 am.

Zoom Meeting ID : 771 4334 5903

or by Phone: 0131 460 1196 or 0203 481 5240 then Meeting ID followed by # then #

## Bible Month 2020

### The Book of Ruth

This year will be the fourth time that the Bible Month initiative has been run. In the previous years church congregations and preachers have been encouraged to look at the books of James, Jonah and Colossians. Bible Month is a partnership between the Leaders of worship trust and the Methodist Church.

Bible Month 2020 focuses on the book of Ruth, a short and sometimes overlooked story that shows God's faithfulness to a Moabite who travels to Israel. I wonder when you last heard a preacher centre their sermon around Ruth, and that was probably at a Harvest Festival. Could you name the main characters? And what about the more minor characters. Can you remember who Ruth is?

During July, we are going to spend time looking at the book of Ruth, the characters, their stories and thinking about the message that Ruth has for her readers in today's world. As we focus on this small book we will gain a greater sense of the importance of its literary and historical context and make links between this book and the rest of scripture.

For each of the four Sundays of July our services will focus on the book of Ruth, which is conveniently four chapters long so one chapter a week. Each week we will be looking at one of four different characters:

Week one is the story of Orpah\*.

Week two is the story of Boaz

Week three is the story of Ruth

Week four is the story of Naomi.

To help us do this, we have invited four guest preachers two from the circuit and two from further afield. From the circuit we have the Local Preachers Chandra Morbey and Hilary Lamont as well as Susan McIvor, Nottingham and Derby District Safeguarding officer and Sarah Pitkeathly, a diaconal ordinand.

Sarah is currently studying at The Queen's Foundation in

Birmingham where she is a student of Dr. Rachel Starr who is the principal author of the Bible notes upon which this year's Bible Month is based. Sarah will be able to bring an extra special understanding of Dr Starr's view point from having spent time with her before the lock down.

Also during July there will be a half hour reflective service at 7pm on a Tuesday starting on Tuesday 7th. These will be led by Colin and Judith. These short meetings will look back at the reading from the previous Sunday.

Both the Sunday and Tuesday meeting are on our new Meeting ID 827 0960 1674, Passcode 248724

A magazine is available to download at [www.preachweb.org/biblemonth](http://www.preachweb.org/biblemonth) (or, for those without internet access, Colin has a small number available at £2.50 each. If you would like a copy please ring him and he will get a copy to you).

This magazine will give you background information and will give some insight to the book of Ruth. It has background articles, detailed Bible notes, suggestions

for small group work and a host of other material. It provides a good introduction to the book and the story of Ruth and well worth reading. It's not home work as I know that the four preachers will discuss the book without anyone having to have done any pre reading.

Even if you don't look at the magazine, I would suggest that, though this isn't homework, that you read Ruth and familiarise yourself with the story. If you do it will help you to start to think about what the story might be saying to us now.

I hope that you will find this approach to a book helpful and that you will join us to explore this book and to understand it more fully. JN

\*I had to look up who this was!—editor



Our prayers this week are with

Ellie Hill, Spondon as she begins a new round of chemotherapy, that the treatment would be successful.

Dale Schnoor, Spondon, whose results are somewhat mixed and who is having a rest before starting further treatment in September and for Fiona, that travel to America would soon be possible once again.

The family of Beryl Law, from Spondon, as they continue to mourn her death.

The Family of Roy Watkinson, from Borrowash, whose funeral was on 26th July.

The family of Joan Shallcross who has been called home to glory, especially Ray her husband. Giving thanks to God for Joan's witness and service.

Darren and Jo Howie, Annie, Hugo and Angus as they deal with the stresses of lockdown

The Methodist Conference as it meets online to confer and make decisions regarding the life of the church.

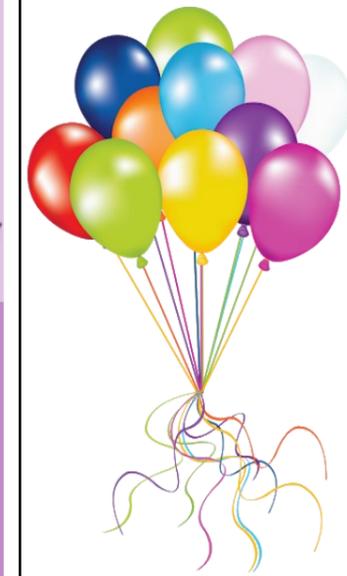
For the Methodist ordinands who were due to be ordained this weekend, but whose ordinations have been deferred because of Covid-19, especially we remember Judith Lincoln, who was placed with Colin during her candidating year, and John Malnutt from the Mid Derbyshire Circuit, whom Colin has been mentoring through his probationary period.

Our Chinese and other ethnic minority groupings within the city, that they may know they matter to God and to us, especially in this time when abuse is increasing.

Headteachers who are having to juggle the needs of their pupils, changing guidance government guidance, and limited space and resources as well as keeping their staff safe. May God grant them wisdom, peace and resilience.

Owners of small businesses that are preparing to reopen next week and those who are still not allowed to do so.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**



Come on let's celebrate!

Janice Beeson who turns 80 on 28th June

Congratulations

## STOP PRESS

### Churches to reopen (but not yet)

The government has announced that places of worship can reopen for religious ceremonies from 4th July.

At the time of writing we are still waiting for both government and Connexional guidance as to what this means in practice. We do not expect the Methodist Church to have made a response before the end of June.

As was stated in the last edition of the *Bulletin*, once we have definitive guidance there will be a process to follow including risk assessments, marking out the church, determining how to operate a ticket system for those who wish to attend and the holding of a Church Council. All this will take time.

At the weekly meeting of the Circuit staff team, the ministers were of the opinion that we should not rush to get the churches open and that we should be looking at reopening in September, by which time restrictions will, hopefully, have been eased still further. This is the view of your minister and the majority of our stewards.

While we know that this is not the news some of you will want to hear, we ask that you would support us in this decision and help us as we make the preparations to return in the autumn.

Coffee Lounge 10:00 am.

Tuesday, Borrowash / Wednesday, Spondon / Thursday, Draycott

Zoom Meeting ID: 850-4611-3985

Food Bank Collection Points

Borrowash, 2a Nursery Close / Draycott, 10a Derby Road / Spondon, 20 Chapel Street