



Sunday 28th February

Connecting church family within the Market Drayton Circuit; Market Drayton, Ashley and Hinstock, during the restrictions of Covid-19

Market Drayton Methodist Circuit

# Newsletter

## Notices



### MDMC URGENT FINANCIAL APPEAL & GIFT DAY

Further to the letter sent out last week to all MDMC people, please prayerfully consider this week how you will respond to this appeal. Our Gift Day is on Monday 1st March. Gift Day Offerings can be made directly to the church bank account, or if you are unable to do this, cheques can be posted or delivered to Gail Ackerley's home. (Please put your cheque in an envelope and include a note with the name of the giver and gift aid status. There will be a box in Gail's porch for you to put your envelope in). If you haven't received a letter, please let Al Savill know and she will send one to you.

### THINKING CAPS ON

Download a copy of the AMC Easter Quiz from our church website [www.ashleymethodist.co.uk](http://www.ashleymethodist.co.uk) or telephone 01630 673952 for a paper copy. The winner will receive a gift token. Further information & rules are on the quiz sheet. All proceeds to our AV & New Organ Fund. Invite your friends to take part too.

### CHURCHES RE-OPENING

As we now have a roadmap out of 'lockdown', churches are deciding on how to proceed. As promised we have been keeping a close eye on this and are making decisions about reopening.

Ashley Methodist Church Council met this week and have decided to restart services in church on Easter Sunday (4th April) and on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month for April & May. The building will also be open for private prayer each week during Lent.

MDMC's Leadership are meeting on Sunday to look at this and make a proposal to the Church Council and we'll inform you asap of that decision. Any MDMC church council members who have opinions that they'd like the Leadership to consider, please email Ruth asap. Many thanks.

### FOODBANK

#### List of urgent 'Out of Stock' Food:

- CUSTARD - NO STOCK
- SPONGE PUDDINGS/SLAB CAKE
- WHOLE (BLUE) UHT MILK
- TINNED HAM AND CORNED BEEF
- TINNED FISH (NOT TUNA) -

*Our faith is not meant to get us out of a hard place or change our painful condition. Rather, it is meant to reveal God's faithfulness to us in the midst of our dire situation.*

*- David Wilkerson -*

### MD CIRCUIT WORSHIP

#### ONLINE

First streaming at 10.30am on Sundays, then always available

- ⇒ [mdmc.org.uk](http://mdmc.org.uk)
- ⇒ [ashleymethodist.co.uk](http://ashleymethodist.co.uk)
- ⇒ YouTube – search MDMC

#### Weekly Zoom Prayer Thursdays, 7.30-8pm

Meeting ID: 771 3865 0306  
Passcode: i10m9R

#### IN CHURCH

MDMC & Ashley MC are both paused during current Lockdown

### OTHER ONLINE WORSHIP

#### Truro Methodist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2XL8XC12GnrsFtWUJlbdww>

#### Wesley's Chapel London

Live Streams at 11am Sundays  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA)

### PHONE WORSHIP

0808 2812514  
Free Methodist church Dial-a-prayer

0808 281 2478  
Free Methodist Church Dial-the-news  
(both updated on a Thursday)

If you would like to contribute to this weekly Newsletter, please send items by Wednesday evenings to Al Savill Email: [notices@mdmc.org.uk](mailto:notices@mdmc.org.uk). Tel: 07966295413. Please send testimonies, prayers, news, notices, activities etc.

# Sacrifice & Faithfulness

Mark 8: 31-48  
Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

**Do you always manage to do something you have said you will do? Or do you sometimes find that time runs away with you, you simply forget or that it just proves to be impossible?**

**In today's Bible passages we see the opposite we see a God who is faithful and who always does what has been promised. We have already been assured of pardon for our knowing that is true because 'if we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9)**

**In our Genesis reading we see the making of the Covenant with Abraham. Even Abraham's name was changed from Abram to reflect this. We know that God's people did not always follow God but we do know that God kept that covenant for God is faithful.**

**Perhaps the ultimate expression of God's faithfulness was Christ- God incarnate-dying on the cross for us. In our gospel reading Jesus makes it clear that he must suffer and die, choosing to suffer for us out of pure obedience and love.**

**Jesus offered us a challenge as to whether we are prepared to take up our cross and follow him? In Lent we traditionally think about temptation. Perhaps the ultimate temptation is not to be faithful to Christ. We know that because he was faithful to his calling we can be equipped in the power of the Holy Spirit to be faithful to our calling to follow him.**

## **A Prayer to Start**

O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer, guide our thoughts and our words today. Let our hearts be filled with your praise. Let us never forget the good things you do for us. You have forgiven our sins. You have rescued us from death. You have crowned us with love and tender mercies. Renew our strength and refresh our souls. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

How up to date is your Covid-19 vaccination knowledge?

There is plenty of evidence around now to give us hope that life might soon return to some sort of normal.

However, alongside that promise of hope there is the debate over how richer countries with more than enough vaccine doses should pass their surplus on to poorer countries who are unable to vaccinate even those most in need. It's natural just to want to look after ourselves and our families but the global COVID situation reminds us that, if we are selfish, we leave others in danger and in turn endanger ourselves.

In Mark 8.31-38 Jesus talks about the need for his followers to deny themselves, to make sacrifices. He made it clear to his followers not to expect an easy life, but he said their sacrifices would be worth it. If richer countries 'sacrifice' some of their vaccine supplies, that means other poorer countries can vaccinate their populations and it makes the world safer. Similarly, when we, as Christians, learn to deny ourselves, step outside our comfort zones and take risks to show people God's love, we find ourselves being used by God in ways we could never imagine.

**Are there any sacrifices you could make this week to show God's love to someone?**

## *#niteblessings*

When Hope is all you have, may you remember that Hope is still enough. When all you can do is trust the grace of God, may you be able to leave your fears in God's hands. When letting go is impossible, may God give you the ability to change your grip. May you trust His timing, even when you don't understand it

*Malcolm Duncan*

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father**

There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions,  
they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

*Thomas Chisholm*

## **A Prayer for Others**

We pray for our world. Particularly thinking of those places we know that are on our screens on the news this week...

We pray for our communities and particularly those parts of our communities where hurt or division is felt...

We pray for those we know who are sick and suffering and ask that they know your presence...

We remember all who have died and their families and ask that you comfort the bereaved and hold those who have died in your eternal care.

Merciful God accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.