

# ASPIRE !

Notting Hill Methodist Church Newsletter – Winter 2017



## NEW BEGINNINGS

Each New Year is a gift, but so is every day. Our annual Covenant Service reminds us of the way God takes the initiative and constantly offers people the chance to make a new start.

Often, like with so many New Year's Resolutions, we don't feel up to the task, and we expect to fail. However, with God's help we can indeed experience renewal and a transformation of heart and mind. So too with the life of our church.

Our hope is not that everything will turn out wonderful, or what we want, but is that God's purposes will prevail and God's faithfulness will be demonstrated. Our hopefulness of this is part of our witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

May 2017 be a blessed year for us all!

## NEW MINISTER – REVD MIKE LONG

Mike was officially welcomed in November but starts his ministry on a full-time basis this month. Mike has been a minister for over 25 years in various places, including London, Surrey and North Wales. Before coming to us he was a superintendent minister in Haringey, North London. Mike is married to Suzie and they have two children: Imogen (20) and Sam (17). They hope to move into 9 Denbigh Road at around the beginning of April.

### How's your IT?

We have fabulous projection facilities for use during worship but nobody to run it. Can you use powerpoint? Would you be interested in learning how to use worship software to prepare hymns and songs for use during worship? Do let Mike know if you are at all interested.

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*'God's constant gift to God's people is the ability to make a new start, enabled by grace, empowered by the Spirit.'*

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## CHURCH AWAYDAY

Plans are underway to hold a church awayday on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March** from 10.30am – 4pm at the Sion Centre on Chepstow Villas, W11. The purpose will be to spend a day talking about our priorities as a church, and think particularly about our worship, developing our music, and our mission in the local community. There will also be time for prayer and bible study too. This will be an event open to all, it is entirely free and a sandwich lunch will be provided.

## Confirmation preparation

If you would like to consider being confirmed as a member in the Methodist Church, please do talk to your pastoral visitor or the minister.



## Contact Us

### Notting Hill Methodist Church

240 Lancaster Road

W11 4AH

Telephone 020 7229 7728

[www.nottinghillmethodistchurch.org](http://www.nottinghillmethodistchurch.org)

## NEWS ITEMS

We are sorry that Michael Pereira, our Facilities and Property Manager, will be leaving us at the end of January. He has been with us for three years – the longest serving member of staff! – and his skill and wise advice will be missed. We are currently recruiting his successor.

Membership tickets ought to be handed out during January (though in future they will be issued each September). Do let the minister or your pastoral visitor know if you do not receive one.

Mike our new minister intends to visit every church member in the next few months, so do expect a call from him asking if he can make a call sometime, or arrange a conversation at church if this is easier. He is often available to meet upon request (suggest you call first), or simply call in at church during the week.

The cracks in the property, particularly visible in the sanctuary and staircase, are the result of subsidence caused by one or more trees on the pavement. The council removed one of the trees in late November, and we hope to be able to start repairs within a few months.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Ministry and Management (Church Council and Circuit Meeting): Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 7.30pm.

We are holding a meeting for **children** in Junior Church, and their parents/guardians, after the morning service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The purpose is to see how we can develop this important work.

There is also a meeting for all our **young people** (14 – 18 years) at church on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January from 7pm. Pizza and drinks will be provided. We want to listen to the young people and what they would like the church to do for them.

A prayer from the Methodist Handbook 2016-17 by Jane Bingham:

*Lord God, we are called to love you with all our heart and soul and strength and mind.*

*Give us pure hearts so that in the encounter with others we will always see you.*

*Fill our souls with delight in your love that we might share it with everyone we meet.*

*Help us to be strong in the face of discouragement or difficulty so that even then we may feel your presence with us.*

*Open our minds to new ideas and possibilities so that your will be done, not ours, Amen.*