

ASPIRE !

Notting Hill Methodist Church Newsletter – Lent 2017



CLOSER TO GOD

Lent - which begins on Ash Wednesday – is in the Christian Church characterised as a special time for prayer and self-denial, in preparation for the festivals of Passiontide (Holy Week and Good Friday) and Easter. Traditionally it was a time for giving up certain foodstuffs or activities, but also for moderation and almsgiving: giving to the poor and needy. Many churches now combine the spiritual disciplines of prayer, abstinence and fasting with fund-raising efforts for charity. My last church used to collect donations for WaterAid, for example.

At the heart of this time is the desire to draw closer to God, whether attending to our private life or through our conduct in the wider world. Fasting, for instance, can heighten our awareness to other complicated relationship we have with food: not only when we are hungry (obviously!) but also how we like to eat purely because we are sad, lonely, or bored.... Through this, and other disciplines, we become more aware of ourselves, the needs of others, and our need of God. But we also discover much about the riches of God's faithfulness and mercy to sustain us in our pilgrimage of faith.

EVENTS FOR LENT & HOLY WEEK

There is a Communion Service on Ash Wednesday: 1st March at 7.30pm

The Thursday Bible Study group welcomes all newcomers to join for a special set of meetings during Lent: Thursdays from 2.30pm – 4pm.

There will be special services throughout Holy Week, including the usual ones on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Look out for details on the weekly Concerns notices sheet.

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CHURCH AWAYDAY – SATURDAY 11TH MARCH

This is open to everyone and is held at the Sion Centre on Chepstow Villas, W11 from 10.30 – 4pm with a free sandwich lunch provided. More details are in the Concerns sheet, but we will be looking at the ‘big picture’ of our life as a church, with bible study, prayer and discussion. We will be asking what is important to us, and thinking the key hallmarks of a church.

Holy Communion at Home

If you would like to receive the sacrament of holy communion at home, please do contact the minister or one of the pastoral visitors.

Minibus Lifts

If you would like a lift to church in the minibus please let Susannah or your pastoral visitor know.

Thank You

Thank you to those who volunteered to help with projection during worship, we are still pursuing getting the necessary equipment and support required, but hope to implement this very soon.



Contact Us

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NEWS ITEMS

We are pleased that **Kevin French** has been appointed as our new Facilities and Property Manager, replacing Michael Pereira. He comes from a facilities management background in the City, and started at the beginning of February. Also on staff matters, we hope that **Carly Maybin** will be returning to work in the next few weeks.

‘Archive’ Day We have a whole room full of old minute books, documents, etc dating back many decades. On Monday 13th March we are going to sort through it all, deciding which to keep, dispose of or take to the London Metropolitan Archive in Clerkenwell, where many Methodist records are stored. In addition to looking sorting the material, it would be good to have some help with fetching and carrying the boxes, shredding and filing. If you are interested do come along, the task will probably take all day from 10am onwards. Thank you!

On Sunday 21st May the President of the Methodist Conference, Revd Dr Roger Walton, will be visiting Notting Hill and preaching at our morning service. More details to follow, but we hope this will be a stimulating and memorable occasion.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Ministry and Management (Church Council and Circuit Meeting): Thursday 13th March, 7.30pm.

The next **Community Meeting** will be on Sunday 19th March. We are still in need of someone to act as secretary to this meeting, that is, to write up the minutes. If you can help please let the minister or stewards know, or talk to Wendy Chase, who used to do this and so knows what’s involved.

A prayer for Lent:

Ever-present God, you sent angels to minister to your Son Jesus in the wilderness. Help us to follow in his footsteps, to leave behind the things we need to carry no longer. May we discover new riches of your grace, new dimensions to your love, new aspects of your kingdom. And may we journey with confidence, knowing that with you even the desert brings forth fruit. Amen.

Come down, O Love divine,	O let it freely burn,
seek thou this soul of mine,	till earthly passions turn
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;	to dust and ashes, in its heart consuming;
O Comforter, draw near,	and let thy glorious light
within my heart appear	shine ever on my sight,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.	And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.