

ASPIRE !

Notting Hill Methodist Church Newsletter no 4 - Summer 2017



GRENFELL FIRE

All our thoughts and actions continue to be dominated by the terrible fire on 14 June. It has destroyed families, traumatized survivors and scarred our community in ways we cannot yet fathom.

Our response is to support those most cruelly affected by this appalling tragedy, to assist the wider community come to terms with what has happened, and to advocate a transparent, sensitive and just process whereby the causes of this avoidable disaster can be made known, and any wrongdoing held to account.

This event will change us, our community and our church profoundly over the coming months. Through it all we may be helped to remember that it is in weakness that we are strengthened by God, and the promise that 'my grace is sufficient for you' (2 Cor 12:9)

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Hundreds of unsung volunteers helped out at church on the first few days following the fire. An estimated 3 tons of food, many new clothes, 10 tons of used clothes and around 50 boxes of toiletries were sorted and stored. The food and new clothes were distributed immediately; the used clothes have now been removed from warehousing to the Red Cross depot. The toiletries will be sold in aid of the Grenfell Fund at Portobello market. Do let us know if you could help with this!

We have received many messages of support and prayers from around the country, and considerable donations from churches and the public. To date we have donated over £24,000 directly to Tower survivors and evacuees.

'... my grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'

We continue to be used for a wide variety of purposes: vigils outside the church; information, listening and assistance for those affected by Grenfell; TV and radio broadcasts from the premises; community meetings; prayer opportunity, and much more besides.

WELCOME TO RAMONA SAMUEL !

As many will already know, Deacon Ramona Samuel has been stationed with us following the fire, and will be with us until mid-August, when she will then prepare for her new appointment in the Ealing circuit.



Sunday Talks – half hour talks after worship by the minister

July 23: What is Methodism? (recent history, what's happening now)

(The talk on dementia and pastoral care will now take place in the autumn)



Contact Us

Notting Hill Methodist Church

240 Lancaster Road, W11 4AH

Telephone 020 7229 7728

email: info@nottinghillmc.org.uk

www.nottinghillmc.org.uk

*We are now on Twitter: follow us using
@NHMC240*

We are also on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NottingHillMethodistChurch



Flowers outside the church



Special Services in August

Our outdoor service will take place on 20th August on the square outside the church. The following Sunday is Carnival, and although we do not expect to be able to open for worship on 27th August, we are thinking about having our building open for those who may wish to use us for prayer or reflection.

NEWS ITEMS

We are pleased that the Methodist Conference accepted our memorial (see last issue of *Aspire*) and will therefore seek to promote inclusion and anti-racism, and a conference on the subject coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the 'Notting Hill Consultation' at the old Denbigh Road Ecumenical Centre (now Etheline Holder Hall) in May 1969.

The re-launch of our church website will take place in the late summer, but we'd **still** love any photos of recent church events, services and outings to put on it. (Photos including children must have parents/guardians' permission.) Please give to stewards or send to

reception@nottinghillmc.org.uk

If you are very observant you may have noticed that all the staff email addresses (and the website) have changed recently. Don't worry if this causes confusion – the old addresses will continue to work for quite some time to come.

We are planning a trip for our church young people to the Lee Valley White Water Centre on Monday 14th August. Contact Susannah Yarde (07407 246220 or susannah@nottinghillmc.org.uk) for more information.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Ministry and Management (Church Council and Circuit Meeting): Monday 14th August at 7.30pm.

A further **Community Meeting** will be on Sunday 16th July, to complete the task we began a few weeks ago of appointing church stewards and representatives to the Min & Man Committee every year, which is our local governing body. If you manage to read this before the meeting and are interested, do talk to Revd Mike or one of the circuit or church stewards: Elaine Spence, Esther Samuels, Sonia Barnes, Sharon Meredith, Hannah Kawa and Wendy Yarde-Chase.