

ASPIRE !

Notting Hill Methodist Church Newsletter

No 5 September 2017



EARTH, WIND & FIRE

During autumn we often think about God's creation, especially at harvest time. This year, amid the ongoing activity following the Grenfell Tower fire, we are aware of more distant and no less tragic events, as earthquakes and hurricanes ravage Mexico and many Caribbean Islands.

Dominica, the Virgin Islands and Aguilla are among those worst affected, and we pray for their communities when so much damage has been done.

Two extraordinarily strong hurricanes do not prove global warming, of course, but we are reminded of the delicate balance of forces in nature, and the fragility of the infrastructure we take for granted.

As we thank God for the majesty of creation, we are reminded of the responsibility to be stewards of it, to care for God's people and God's world.

BIBLE MONTH

Throughout October we are taking part in a Methodist Church initiative to encourage fresh interest and commitment to Scripture. Our five Sunday services will take us through the letter of James: a hard-hitting epistle with themes of faith in action, wealth and poverty, and personal conduct.

October 1	<i>Doers of the Word</i>	(James 1)
October 8	<i>Faith and Works</i>	(James 2)
October 15	<i>Speech and Wisdom</i>	(James 3 – 4:12)
October 22	<i>Living for the Lord</i>	(James 4:13 – 5:16)
October 29	<i>Patience and Prayer</i>	(James 5: 17 – 20)

*'Who is wise and understanding among you?
Show by your good life that your works are done
with gentleness born of wisdom.'* (James 3:13)

We are encouraging **everyone** to read each chapter before the Sunday, and we'll be offering other ways of engaging with it. What questions does each passage raise for you? What will you change as a result? What does it say about how our church should act, or look like?

GRENFELL UPDATE

We are grateful for a £20,000 grant from the Tudor Trust as compensation for additional staff and property costs associated with the Grenfell Fire, which bring our total grant income to £35,000.

We've been hosting Hestia's Listening Bus overnight (since their generator failed), music therapy sessions, job interviews, health screenings, public meetings and much more besides, in addition to the more individual support. We are working on a singing project and ways to host counselling and therapy services in the near future. We continue to be a focal point for media attention at times, and our toilets are often in great demand too! We are still working on how we can obtain the necessary ministry support we need over the coming months.



Contact Us

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*We are on Twitter: follow us using
[@NHMC240](https://twitter.com/NHMC240)*

*We are also on Facebook:
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Statue erected outside church

Black History Month- October

Sunday 1st October - a talk by **Tony Warner** (of Black History Walks) on the Notting Hill area which covered then riots in Notting Hill in 1958 and the murder of Kelso Cochrane. 1 – 2pm in the Community Room.

We are also hoping to organise a visit to the London Docklands Museum, which contains displays on the slave trade.

Sunday Talks – half hour talks after worship by the minister

October 8 **Dementia and Pastoral Care**

Many of us will suffer from some form of dementia as we grow older. This short talk will look at how dementia affects people and the impact on those who care for them. We'll also be looking at the kind of pastoral care that will be most effective.

Special Services in the autumn

Revd Donald Eadie (former minister here during the 1970s) will be our guest preacher on Sunday 5th November. Other past ministers will be invited to come during 2018. If you would like a particular preacher (of any church) to come one Sunday, do mention this to the minister. Suggestions welcome!

NEWS ITEMS

Susannah's role has changed, and she is now our **Family and Youth Worker** with particular responsibilities for co-ordinating and developing all our children's activities during the week, on Sundays and during holidays.

Membership cards for 2017/18 have been distributed to pastoral visitors, so ought to be with all our church members soon. It reminds us of our callings to regular worship, learning (growth in faith) and caring, Christian service and evangelism. If anyone not a member is interested in being confirmed/being a church member, please do speak to the minister. We have around only 70 members and want to grow as a church!

We have recently agreed to open a Community **Foodbank**, under the guidance of the Trussell Trust, which is the UK's largest organiser of foodbanks.

The stair lift in the church is now working again!

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Ministry and Management Committee (Church Council and Circuit Meeting):
Monday 9th October at 7pm.

The next **Community Meeting** will be held after the morning service on Sunday 19th November.