

# ASPIRE !

Notting Hill Methodist Church Newsletter

No 6 December 2017



## GOD WITH US

God is with us is the great theme of Christmas. The children in junior church had been looking at the names of God and Emmanuel – God with us came up. The great hymn of Charles Wesley has these words that are emblazoned on my heart “Our God contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man”. The incarnation is a mystery and incomprehensible. But out of love for us God sent His son.

The Methodist Prayer Handbook of which there are a few left to take - has a lovely prayer by the Revd David Easton who is the the Chair of the Scotland District. In the prayer are these words: ‘and yet we are caught up in the mystery of you being revealed in Jesus.’

In our watching and waiting in Advent and in our rejoicing of the birth of the Christ child may we be caught up in that divine mystery. I look forward to journeying with you at the special and holy time of the year.

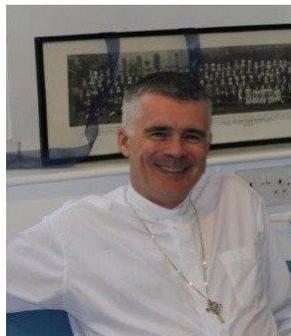
Kind thoughts and prayers

*Deacon Richard D Goldstraw*

## WELCOME TO DEACON RICHARD !

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the warmth of your welcome and I trust that in the few months that I will be with you, I will serve you well.



You will soon find out that I love the poetry of hymns and it is worth our while reading through the Advent section of Singing the Faith 165-189. Maybe make it an advent discipline? The theology, in my opinion is good and the hymns have that common theme of expectancy and hope. I have inherited a love of shopping from my father. He at 81 shops every day except Sunday. He loves a bargain as do I. One winter I remember as a child waiting in expectance, as I always did, for my dad to come home, often with a bargain or a surprise! He did not return at his expected time. Before I went to bed I looked out at the heavy snow and wondered where my dad was. I fell asleep and was awoken by my dad calling me from outside and the thud of a snowball on my bedroom window. There is that hymn isn't there that has the words “I have heard you calling in the night” - I the Lord of sea and sky. I had hope and expectance, a childlike trust, that he would return and he did. Hope and expectancy are great themes of Advent. Watching and waiting and preparing are other great themes of this glorious season. In our fast food, instant, microwave culture we are not good at watching and waiting. We watch for signs of God's kingdom breaking out and they do! He moves in mysterious ways. Having eyes to see and ears to hear are very important.

***Come, Lord ,and visit us peace that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart – The Advent Antiphon.***

Deacon Richard

## Special Christmas Services

11pm Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

11am Christmas Day Service for all ages:  
bring a present with you if you can!

11pm New Year's Eve: Watchnight Service





## Contact Us

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*We are on Twitter: follow us using*

*@NHMethodist*

*Please note the new Twitter handle!*

*We are also on Facebook:*

*[www.facebook.com/NottingHillMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NottingHillMethodistChurch)*



*One of the painted stones in our entrance area*

We are working to ensure that the church is open for prayer or conversation during the afternoons between Christmas and New Year.

## GRENFELL UPDATE

Screenings of the Public Inquiry will be held at church on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

The Grenfell Memorial Service will take place at St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday 14 December at 11am – the 6-month anniversary of the fire that claimed 71 lives. It will be broadcast live on BBC and also screened at the church. There will be another silent march starting at the church at 6.30pm.

## Foodbank

We are still hard at work on setting up a new Foodbank: we have now registered as the 'Kensington & Chelsea Foodbank' with the Trussell Trust and hope to open in a few months' time.

## Sunday Talks – on the basics of faith

A series of short talks and discussions on the basics of the Christian faith, following Sunday service, beginning in January. This is aimed at new Christians or those thinking about being confirmed but anyone is welcome! Come along if you are interested, or speak to Mike or Richard.

## Christmas Concert

Our **Christmas Concert** takes place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. All are welcome to this free event featuring our church choir, the Xpress band, some of our Music Academy pupils and the Junior Church. It is followed by Christmas food and drink in the basement. Do invite others to come!

## NEWS ITEMS

Richard Goldstraw is our new deacon, stationed with us from November until summer 2018, when he will take up his new appointment. It is good to have him here and we look forward to his ministry among us.

The cracks in the church have become much worse in recent weeks, and now require urgent repair work. Much of the building will be covered in scaffolding for many months, but we hope to continue operations as normal. We don't yet know the exact scope or cost of the work, but it is fair to say that they will be considerable.

We are planning activities for children during the February half-term: contact Susannah for more information.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The next **Community Meeting** will be after the service on 25<sup>th</sup> February.