

# ASPIRE !

Notting Hill Methodist Church Newsletter

No 7 Easter 2018



## LOVE'S VICTORY

At times it can be hard to live in hope, to be cheerful and joyful when life is hard. Plenty of good Christians know that well enough. Often we try to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps, to tough it out, to put on a brave face.

Yet it is at precisely those moments that Christ comes to our help. In his vulnerability and transparency he trusts utterly in God – not to protect him from all harm, but that God's purposes might be fulfilled in him. So can we! When we are at our lowest we can have a special understanding of the mystery of the cross, because there we know we can't save ourselves, and must rely on God.

It's been said that those ashamed of the gospel can never lament. On Good Friday above all, we are called to have the courage and faith to do so. Like the women who stayed with Jesus as he was crucified, we can also lament the desolation of the cross, but in so doing we open ourselves to the possibilities of hope and the victory of love.

The risen Christ still bears scars.  
But he is risen!

With best wishes for Easter -

*Mike Long*

## RENEWING THE FABRIC OF CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Work on the repairs will finally begin - we hope - during April, with the task now considerably larger than envisaged a few months ago. The tower spire is leaning and showing signs of serious weather damage, and the scaffolding now extends to cover it. We've also learned that the church needs underpinning right along Lancaster Road, across the front and in parts near the kitchen area. This means that the basement will unfortunately be out of action until the summer.

We will also be replacing the toilets in the basement and are obtaining quotations to refurbish the kitchen completely. The total cost of the building works alone will be over £600,000 and the work may take a further year to complete.

## Special Holy Week & Easter Services

7.30pm **Maundy Thursday** Service with lovefeast and footwashing

*Preacher: Deacon Richard Goldstraw*

11am **Good Friday** Service. *Preacher: Susannah Yarde*

11am **Easter Sunday** Communion Service.

*Preacher: Deacon Richard Goldstraw*

## GRENFELL UPDATE

The church recently received a £10,000 grant from the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation to support the new community choir for those affected by Grenfell, and which meets at the church on Monday evenings.

Plans are under way among local community and faith groups for the anniversary of the fire on June 14 and the days before and afterwards.

## Midweek Services

These started at the beginning of Lent, and take place every Wednesday in the church at 12.30pm until 1pm.



## Contact Us

### Notting Hill Methodist Church

240 Lancaster Road, W11 4AH

Telephone 020 7229 7728

email: [info@nottinghillmc.org.uk](mailto:info@nottinghillmc.org.uk)

[www.nottinghillmc.org.uk](http://www.nottinghillmc.org.uk)

*We are on Twitter: follow us using  
@NHMethodist*

*Please note the new Twitter handle!*



## 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.

## Weekend Away

We held a very successful weekend away for the members of our church Ministry & Management committee in early February at St Columba's Retreat House and Conference Centre in Woking. We are intending to hold a weekend away for the whole church community at the beginning of the autumn half-term in October. *(Some pictures are shown below.)*

## Seaside Trip

Our summer **Seaside Outing** will be to Bournemouth on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

The church barbecue will be held at Kelfield Gardens on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## NEWS ITEMS

This year's **Good Friday Meditation** on Radio 4 at 3pm is led by our own minister, Mike Long.

Richard Goldstraw will be on sabbatical during May-July, which means that his last Sunday with us will be **April 29<sup>th</sup>**. He will move in the summer to the High Wycombe circuit and we wish him well for his ministry in that appointment.

The **Church Benevolence Fund** is available to support those in need or distress in our church or local community. Donations to this fund are taken at the close of every communion service. There is also a fund for those affected in any way by the Grenfell Tower fire. For more details ask Richard or Mike.

The church has given permission to the New Studio Playgroup to construct a **Forest School** on the overgrown land at the far end of Kelfield Gardens. This will make for a much more pleasant and manageable area, and will feature woodland activities for the use of the playgroup, church and other groups.

Mike Long has been asked to chair a Commission on Social Housing organised by the charity Shelter. Further details can be found at [https://england.shelter.org.uk/support\\_us/campaigns/bigconversation](https://england.shelter.org.uk/support_us/campaigns/bigconversation)

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The next **Community Meetings** will be on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>. At the June meeting we will appoint church stewards and reps to Ministry & Management Committee.