



TOGETHER

Christ is risen - he is risen indeed, alleluia!

NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk

Greetings from the Lamb family in Grantham!

Article by Sarah Lamb



Dear friends,

We thought many of you may like to know our exciting news. As some of you may remember following our move from Newark to Grantham 10 years ago, I continued to follow a call to ordained Ministry. In 2018 I was accepted to begin part time Ministerial formation at Queens Theological college in Birmingham. This stage of training comes to an end this summer, when we shall be moving to take up her first Ministerial appointment. I have been stationed to the North Fylde Methodist Circuit in Lancashire district. There I shall be the Probationer Minister for Pilling, Knott End on Sea and Poulton Le Fylde. We are very excited about this next step in our journey with God, and would like to thank you all for your support and prayers, especially in those early days of local preacher training. We would very much appreciate your continued prayers for this next step, and especially for our family. Katie will be in her final year at the University of Birmingham where she is studying History of Art. Andrew will move with us as he decides his next steps after completing his A Level studies. Matthew will continue to work for the company in Grantham, and work from our new home. Please also remember Stuart, Christine and my Mum (Mavis) in your prayers as they adjust to our move.



1. Online Service

Join us from 10:30am on Sunday for our online Circuit Service which this week led by Revd Peter Bates.

Find it on the 'Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>)

why not invite a friend to watch it with you and share the link with them on your social media or by email!

2. Circuit 'Zoom' Coffee Time

Join folk from across the circuit from 11:30am each Sunday morning - you provide the coffee - we'll provide the fellowship! pop in for 5 minutes or half an hour - we'd love to see you!

If you'd like help to 'Zoom', please get in touch!

Please join us afterwards

Come with a drink and a biscuit to share in conversation after the service.

www.zoom.us
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185
Password: Tog3ther

Phone: 0131 460 1196
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185
Password: 48647472



3. Radio Services

BBC Radio 4 (Also [online](#).)
08:10am - 2nd May 2021

To Have And To Hold

As restrictions slowly ease we reflect on the relationships that have helped us through the past year. Led by Canon Ann Easter, sermon by Dr Krish Kandiah.

4. Radio Nottingham

Listen every Sunday, at 8am, to a live church service on BBC Radio Nottingham. (Online or on 95.1-103.8 MHz FM for free.)

If all this baffles you and you'd like to find new ways to engage with church in these times, please contact your minister.

21-4-21

IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Our Sunday Sermon | Reflections from Acts 4:5-12 | Revd. Peter Bates

If you were called to account for your faith, would you be found guilty? Would your faith offend people so much that you would be thrown into prison? That's what happened to Peter and John. They appeared before the religious rulers to be judged on whether they should be punished for what they proclaimed.

I became a Christian at a young age. When a member of my church said to me. "Do you find it difficult being a Christian at school?" I said. "No, my friends don't really bother me about my faith." It was only later, when I thought about it, that I realised I never talked about my faith at school. It is only when we make our faith public that we start to have problems. In Peter and John's case they were in big trouble, they could be imprisoned for a long time or even sentenced to death. Why were the authorities so keen to punish the two disciples when seemingly they had done a good thing?

You won't get arrested for being kind, you won't offend too many people by being kind to them. Kindness is a good thing; some people say there is not enough kindness in the world. Some of the godliest people I know have a real gift of being kind. They are people you warm to because they are inoffensive. Kindness is a good thing, especially for us as Christians. God can use our natural gifts and abilities, and he can also use the way we put others first, to glorify his name. In our reading from Acts, Peter and John had, by the power of God healed a man who was crippled. It was a kind and generous act that Peter had done. The man was begging in the street, Peter had no money and so he gave the man the only thing he could, he offered him an encounter with God, and the man was healed.

When a crowd gathered because of the miracle, Peter spoke to the people. "By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see." It was when Peter and John named Jesus as the source of the miracle that the religious leaders were offended. They thought they had got rid of Jesus and his disciples but now to their embarrassment Jesus name was being spoken of again. The authorities wanted to clamp down on any mention of Jesus name.

We can do so much good today as Christians but once we start to mention the name of Jesus some people get offended. Our faith is not a by-product of our kindness, our kindness is an expression of our faith. Sooner or later people will need to know the source of our kindness and that will mean we name the name of Jesus. We can address all kinds of human need as Christians but the one need that everyone has, is to be loved and reconciled to God. It is only through Jesus that this can be done. I am not saying that everyone has to name the name of Jesus to be saved. That would be impossible for someone who has never heard of Jesus, but it is through the blood of Jesus that people are saved.

God sees into people's hearts; he doesn't need verbal communication to know whether someone is a believer or not.

If we do not give people the opportunity of knowing Jesus, we are not offering them the full gospel, we are offering a gospel of kindness, goodness etc. The apostles were willing to die for their faith rather than not mention Jesus' name. The greatest need in the world today is to know Jesus and his saving power. I am not saying that this world would be a perfect place if everyone was a Christian. We are human and we make mistakes, so we need forgiveness, not just by God but also by our fellow humans.

Peter said, "Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Central to our faith is Jesus' death and resurrection. This means that we, like the apostles must proclaim Jesus as Lord. We can do this by the way we live and also by the words we speak. We have a wonderful relationship with God and our desire should be to pass that knowledge on to others. Let us ask God to give us the opportunity to share our faith with others, so that he will prompt us at the right time and give us the words to say, the other thing which is important is that we pray for these people, our family, our friends, our neighbours.

A hymn which sprang to mind when I was thinking about this sermon, was, "Nothing but the blood of Jesus." There are modern versions to this hymn but I went back to an old hymn book to find the words. They are wonderful words which focus on the saving power of Jesus.

'What can wash away my stain? What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Oh precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*

For my cleansing this I see- For my pardon this my plea.
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone, naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace, this is all my righteousness-
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

*Oh precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*

I think that when we focus on what God has done for us, the sacrifice which Jesus made, the love that he expressed, but also the love he expressed to us personally; the transformation that God has brought to our life. How can we not want to share God's love with others?

Amen.

Prayer Space

Lord, when we consider who you are, we cannot comprehend your limitless power, your omnipresence and your eternal existence. We can only grasp a fraction of who you are. We thank you that you have revealed yourself so wonderfully through the Bible and through the life of Jesus, your Son. We see you at work today, in the lives that are transformed by your love and power. We thank you for the gift of your Spirit which enables us to live our lives bringing glory to your name. We ask for your forgiveness for the things we have done wrong. Times that we have deliberately gone our own way and offended you and hurt others. Times that we have said things or done something which has caused hurt to others. Forgive us Lord, and wash away our sin, so that we may be made right with you

Amen

We live in uncertain times and the only assurance that we have is that God is with us, he holds us in his hands. We pray today for world leaders as they address the threat of climate change. Influence the leading nations to make policies which will enable our planet to recover from the damage which has been inflicted on it by our desire to produce more wealth. We pray for the Black Lives Matter campaign in Britain and America, that it will make a difference in people's hearts and minds, as we acknowledge that everyone is valued and loved by God. We pray for the Queen and her family as they continue to grieve. Help them to support each other. We pray for our government that you will help them in the decisions they make about easing the lockdown restrictions.

Amen

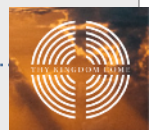
EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like to join a prayer chain and receive prayer requests or to submit a prayer request (with permission of the recipient) please get in touch with Colin...

Colin Beckett colin1244@gmail.com.

It is for those of any church or none!

Thy Kingdom Come



Ascension and Pentecost are on the horizon and so is the annual 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative. TKC is a call to prayer that this year will happen from 13th - 23rd May. There are many opportunities to get involved in TKC as a church and as an individual. One central way is to follow the [Prayer Journal](#) which you can access online at thykingdomcome.global. If you would like a paper copy they are also available. There is also a wonderful 'Novena' which prays daily through the Psalms and encourages us to pray for 11 people specially during TKC. Get in touch for more details and watch this space for more TKC activities.

Songs...

Songs chosen for inclusion in the YouTube service...

Blessed Assurance (StF 548) [LINK](#)

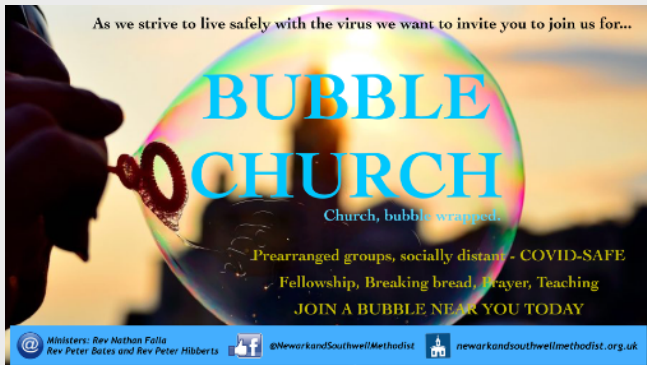
10,000 Reasons [LINK](#)

Reign in me (Over all the earth) (StF 63) [LINK](#)

Love Divine (StF 503) [LINK](#)

Click [LINK's](#) to access YouTube clips of each song.

Bubble Church Resources



As things become safer, many of our Bubbles will be reopening. Would you like to be part of Covid-Safe face-to-face church? Join a bubble today by getting in touch with your minister.

The following questions are designed to get you thinking and, if you're involved in Bubble Church talking about the topic!

1. If being a Christian was illegal in this country, what evidence would there be to convict you?
2. Have you ever done something in the name of Jesus (because of your faith) that has brought you to discomfort?
3. Why, do you think, were the authorities so keen to punish the two disciples when they had seemingly done a good thing? Do you feel like you are sealed or filled with the Holy Spirit?
4. What would you be willing to do, in the name of Jesus? What risks or discomfort would you be willing to endure for your faith?
5. When you focus on what God has done for you, the sacrifice which Jesus made, the love that he expressed, how do you respond?

For more information checkout the Bubble Church guide with risk assessment on the Circuit Website: <https://www.newarkandsouthwellmethodist.org.uk/newsroom/bubble-church.html>

Dial-a-sermon

Don't forget our Dial-a-sermon service where you can dial up a local number to hear the sermon for the week and other materials over the phone...

Dial a Sermon

01636 552255

Listen to the circuit sermon
each week.

Newark and Southwell
Methodist Circuit
helping you stay connected
whilst we're apart.



Families:
families4SMC@gmail.com

by Katie Hibberts

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

This passage in Acts follows on from the account in Acts 3:1-26 where Peter heals a man. Peter spoke to the crowd afterwards and explained that it was actually God who had healed the man. The religious leaders didn't like the way Peter spoke about Jesus and had him arrested, but the Bible tells us that many who had heard Peter's message became Christians that day.

Read Acts 3:1-26 together.

A question for adults to ask children:

Peter had spent three years watching Jesus – what similarities can you see between what Peter did in the story and what Jesus did?

Just like Jesus, Peter showed love for those around him, Jesus healed those who came to him when he was on the earth, he cared for and loved those around him. Not only did Peter listen to the man and show compassion to him, he used the heavenly power he had through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to declare healing for the man.

Just like Jesus when in front of a large group, Peter took the opportunity to share about God's love and preached the gospel to all those around him.

A question for children to ask adults:

Can you think of a time when you were able to pray for somebody else who was sick or in need?

I wonder how brave we would be in sharing our faith if we thought we might get bullied or arrested for it?

Family Musical Bumps

The man in the story had never walked in his life, but after he was healed, he went 'walking and jumping and praising God.' Play a game of musical bumps together, start sitting on the floor – when the music plays everybody jumps up and dances around – when the music is paused everybody sits down as fast as they can.

Active Prayers

You will need: Paper, pens, a timer

Peter and John were some of the first Christians, they were still exploring what it meant to be church together. What might they have made of our churches today? Take some time to pray for as many people as you can from your own church. Set the timer for a few minutes, everybody should write down as many names of people from your church as they can think of. Then set the timer again, this time, your challenge is to pray for all of the people you have written down. Put a tick by them as you pray...don't miss anybody out!

TOGETHER contributions needed!

As Nathan goes on his sabbatical in the next few months, we need your input into TOGETHER more than ever. Could you write a front page article (around 500 words) for one of our editions? Perhaps you could contribute a prayer, an encouraging or even a challenging piece. Maybe you would be willing to be part of the editorial team? Perhaps you'd like us to advertise something in your church or across the circuit.

If you would like to join the team or make a one-off contribution, please get in touch with Revd. Peter Hibberts by email (peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk) or telephone (01636812166).