

GLAZEBURY METHODIST CHURCH

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REV ANDREW'S MESSAGE –

Perhaps the biggest challenge for gardeners this year will have been dealing with the unexpected. The recent lockdown and the closure of Garden Centres (now open of course) was not necessarily the ideal way to start a new growing season, but I am sure that gardeners are used to being flexible.

There's always going to be a balance between preserving the original spirit of a garden and maintaining plant health and vigour. It's daunting to have to renovate a 100-year-old hedge or thin out shrubberies that have become too big, but it's important to keep gardens under constant review.

Invasive species can be a problem and new plant diseases now zoom around the world at speed, Box blight, Phytophthora (root rot) and any number of diseases making plants vulnerable.

May be as you read this you wonder what it has to do with church life today. Well read it again and I think you'll recognise any number of similarities reflected in the life of a church and the challenges that they may face year on year.

That said, there is no institution in the world so unworthy of anxiety as the Church. The Church has survived every kind of disaster, upheaval, and war, and continues to perform its work all the same. The Church abides "hell will not prevail against it" *Matthew, 16:18*.

Over the years' churches have sought to identify their missional, purpose vision. We at Glazebury have shared such conversations, have had many good ideas, though have never formalised, or articulated just what Glazebury Methodist church represents, what is its reason for existing.

Mission is the core if you like, it's what we do, who we serve, how we serve them?

Vision is about what you want to become. It's aspirational, what are our hopes and dreams, what problem are we solving for the greater good, who and what are we inspiring to change?

Of course, all good businesses have a mission and a vision,

Facebook mission statement "to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected."

Facebook vision statement "People use Facebook to stay connected with friends and family, to discover what's going on in the world, and to share and express what matters to them."

Amazon mission statement "We strive to offer our customers the lowest possible prices, the best available selection, and the utmost convenience."

Amazon vision statement “to be Earth’s most customer-centric company, where customers can find and discover anything they might want to buy online.”

The Methodist Church recognises the value of a shared mission, a vision for the church, moreover it says that having a ‘mission plan’ or ‘growth plan’ is **essential** to the health of every Methodist church.

Notice that – ‘**essential**’ to the health of the church!

The calling of the Methodist Church is “to respond to the gospel of God’s love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.”

Just as each church worships differently, so each church goes out in mission to its community differently. The shape of a local church’s mission will depend on lots of factors, such as the gifts and resources of the people who make up that church, and the needs of the community it serves.

We can’t all do the same things and we don’t need to – but we can all do something. Every church is an essential part of the mission of God and has a part to play.

So I suggest, as you emerge from this pandemic that you as a church community begin to think again just why you exist, who it is that you actually serve, and how you go about in that service.

It needs to become your passion, your drive, your check point for anything that you do – your first port of call, does this idea, activity, expenditure, sit well with our Mission and Vision as a church, if it does then embrace it, if it doesn’t then don’t give it oxygen, else it will become a canker, root rot, a disease that pulls you away from your prime focus - vision is a picture of the future that produces **passion** – we need to recapture our passion, not so much for ‘church’ but what it represents in the world and the community in which it finds itself.

The Church may have committed itself to many things, to many struggles for a better world. The wider church has been right to support ecology, peace, solidarity, and the equitable distribution of wealth, but it needs also to be careful that those causes don’t make it forget the words of Jesus: ‘My kingdom is not of this world.’ If there is any insidious disease eating away at the Church then it may be the thought that she was ‘of this world,’ and that makes churches vulnerable and exposed.

And then when you’ve nailed it down - nail it to the tree! Like Luther’s thesis, it becomes your very reason for being a Christian today in Glazebury post Covid19 pandemic.

There’s always going to be a balance between preserving the original spirit of a church and maintaining church health and vigour, it’s important to keep churches under constant review. Now seems like the perfect opportunity, new Connexional year looming, new Presbyter waiting to take up post, a time for some soul searching, a time for everything, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to keep and a time to throw away.

For Jesus says – ‘I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.’

Bible readings for 28 June 2020 – Genesis 22: 1-14, Psalm 13, Romans 6:12-23 and Matthew 10:40-42



Happy Birthday to Barbara Worthington who celebrates a special birthday (not saying what number!) on Sunday, 28 June. Happy Birthday Barbara from all your church family.

THANK YOU TO THE 'CRAFTY LADIES' - Let me take this opportunity of saying thank you to the Craft Group for their Face Masks. As you know they are in demand and all the ones on the tree outside church have gone! I believe there are some more being made. Thank you, and very well done. Andrew.

EMAIL NEWS SHEET

We are setting up a 'Google Groups' for the circulation of the weekly newsheet, so you may have received this week's news twice, once from Me (Christine) and once via Google. It is very likely that we have sent it to you via Google and would ask you to check your spam and junk email and find it there.

Next week it will only come via Google so keep an eye on your junk mail just in case.

If you have received this in the post, and would like to receive it via email then please let me know. Thanks Christine.

SHARING SUNDAY WORSHIP

We are sharing our Sunday Service over the telephone. Most weeks we have over 180 callers from across the Leigh & Hindley and Liverpool North Circuits.

If you would like to listen in, at 10.30am on Sunday:

Dial **020 3478 5289** on your telephone,

When it asks for the access code, enter **145 404 825#**.

(this number will be the same each week)

When it asks for your ID, press **#**

We can then join together in worship

The call will be charged at the standard UK phone rate.

FOR THOSE THAT LISTEN TO THE SUNDAY SERVICE AND EVEN TO THE PODCASTS. IF YOU HAVE NOT GOT A SINGING THE FAITH HYMN BOOK AT HOME - SO THAT YOU CAN SING ALONG – PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND I WILL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO RECEIVE ONE – Christine Taylor Mobile: 07801 252625 or email – christine.arran4872@aol.com

PODCASTS

Regular podcasts from Rev Viv can be found on: <https://soundcloud.com/user-476066366>

I send these out daily to those who receive notice sheets by email each week. If you know of anyone who would like to receive them please let me have their email address and I will include them in the distribution. Christine Taylor

FEELING THE EFFECTS OF 'LOCKDOWN'? If you are on your own, or not, and are feeling the effects of the 'lockdown' then phone your Pastoral Visitor for a chat.

IF YOU ARE not a member of church and need to talk please ring Rev Andrew Bradley or Delia Caswell on the phone numbers at the top of the first page of this news sheet.

- Let me have some thoughts/reflections on the lockdown situation. You could also send stories, poems, and prayers. (Christine)

Here is one from Barbara Worthington (Thanks Barbara)

I am not quite ancient enough to remember WW2 - that only left me with a fear of confined spaces and hating the sound of factory sirens, but I do remember QUEUES FOR EVERYTHING after the war ended.

As a young child my mother would place me in the queue for nylon stockings (oh boy were they scarce for years) whilst she joined a queue further down the street for fruit and veg, then back to join me hoping the supplies would not run out before our turn. Then on to the biggest queue at the butchers.

Everything was purchased with points in a ration book.

My mother liked clothes for us both so our sweet ration got swapped at work for more clothing coupons. I never saw sweets except on special occasions for which I am now thankful as I smile through my own ancient teeth.

This had only come to mind with Supermarket queuing and some shortages we have experienced recently.

I really cannot praise too highly the food industry for how it has dealt with social distancing and finding supplies.

It took more than five years of rationing after WW2 and what have we really gone short of in our cupboards.

Let us PRAY that those who ALWAYS go short can be fed in future. God Bless.

Barbara Worthington

Patience, Kindness, Goodness

Reading: Love is patient, love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. [1 Corinthians 13: 4-7]

Reflection: Love is lived out. Love is not just a declaration. It is commitment in action. That God feels love for us is absolutely amazing. It is humbling, God is always patient and kind with us, seeking to shape our lives by love.

One thing that God can really challenge us on is whether our Christian lives show something different, which is worth living for. If there's nothing that looks particularly necessary or attractive about being a Christian, then what's the point? What if we went out of our way to try to demonstrate God to as many people as we could, not just in our prayers but in our actions and in our praise? What if we were loving people, full of God's goodness, joy and grace? People would notice: they might not call it 'God' at the time, but there would be something special about us – our relationship with God. The fruit of that relationship is a loving nature.

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the way you love us. Please help me by the power of your Holy Spirit to love as you love, so that my friends may come to know you.

Action: Do something practical to show Jesus' love to one of your friends, or look through your diary and think when you will speak with them next.

The above is from Jesus loves all (A Prayer Journal) www.thykingdomcome.global.

If anyone, who is able to go out, is feeling a bit at a loss of what to do!!! Why don't you think of giving the church allotment (opposite Bents) a little attention? All help would be appreciated. Thank you to Aaron and Alan for their on-going caring of the allotment. If you are interested please contact Alan Crozier on his email address – alancpds@hotmail.com. Or ring me (Christine Taylor) on my mobile below.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THE NEWS SHEET PLEASE CONTACT ME ON EMAIL BY WEDNESDAY OF EACH WEEK: christine.arran4872@aol.com or phone me on Mobile: 07801252625.

