



Wesley Hall

Crookes, Sheffield



www.wesleyhall.org.uk Wesley Hall is part of Wesley Ebenezer Methodist Church (charity no. 1150284)

Sunday 7th June 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Today we, along with most churches, will not be worshipping in our church buildings, but in our own homes. Below are a number of options (in no particular order) to help us to do this:

❖ Vine at Home Service

Along with this newsletter, there should also be a separate attachment called 'Service 1 (Vine)'. This is a short service that can be used at home and includes prayers, a reflection and songs (that can be played via the embedded YouTube links).

❖ Methodist Church in Britain Worship at Home

Along with this newsletter, there should also be a separate attachment called 'Service 2 (Methodist)'. This is a short service that can be used at home and includes prayers, a reflection and songs (that can be played via the embedded YouTube link).

❖ Wesley's Chapel - Livestream

Wesley's Chapel in London is live-streaming worship, adapted for a non-physical congregation, at 9:45am and 11am today. The YouTube link for the stream is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA>

❖ Methodist Central Hall, Westminster - Livestream

The team at Methodist Central Hall are providing live worship via their YouTube channel at 11.00am every Sunday. Alternatively you can watch again online at a time convenient to you. Just click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn9TkFzl-gk--V3JapCS0sQ> or type "methodist central hall Westminster youtube channel" into your search engine and it should pop up. The service is between 45 mins and an hour.

❖ Sheffield Methodist Circuit Streamed Services

[Greenhill Methodist Church](#)

[St Paul's Methodist Church, Dronfield](#)

[St Andrew's Psalter Lane Church](#)

[Carterknowle Methodist Church](#)

[Totley Rise Methodist Church](#)

[Christ Church, Stocksbridge](#)

[Stephen Hill](#)

We will endeavour to continue to offer a variety of home worship options each week. If you come across a good one, please send it to the newsletter account.

COMING SOON

❖ Zoom Service

Following good feedback from our Zoom service last Sunday, we are going to have another one! It will be at the same time of 2:00pm on Sunday 28th June and we will be using the Vine service again. If you would like to read or take another part in the service, please let Emma know.

❖ Gift Day 2020

We committed our Gift Days for 2018, 2019 and 2020 to supporting the employment of both a Families & Community Co-Ordinator and a Pre-teen and Youth Worker. Those who have filled these roles over this period have done a great job working with the children and young people of both Wesley Ebenezer congregations and the local community. Even though Claire and Sean are currently furloughed, a large portion of the income for the Children, Families and Youth Fund comes from our Gift Day, and we still need to raise at least £2,500 just to break even. Our original target for this year was £7,500 and all money raised will be spent on our children, families and youth provision.

Our Gift Day this year is on Sunday 28th June, which is when we are holding our next Zoom service. We are very happy to accept gifts at any time by cash, cheque, bank transfer or standing order, but please make it clear that your donation is for Gift Day. We are also setting up an online giving platform to enable people to pay online (more details to follow). Gifts are welcome as a one-off on or around the Gift Day, or spread over the year on a quarterly, monthly or weekly basis. Thank you very much for your generous support to date. If you have any questions about Gift Day, please contact Matt Irons.

PRAYER POINTS

- ❖ For our church, community, country and the world as we deal with and respond to the coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ For Sally, as she recovers at home following treatment in hospital.

If you have any prayer points to include in the newsletter, please pass them on to the editor (see contact details at bottom of page).

AND FINALLY...

❖ Fellowship Group

One of our Fellowship Groups is currently meeting on Wednesday evenings via Zoom. At the moment, Andrea is leading a series of studies about justice. The sessions consist of reading the set bible passage, trying to understand that passage further and exploring what it means for us today through a series of question-led discussions, and then ending in a time of prayer. If you would like to join us, please message Andrew Gray on [REDACTED].

❖ Church Finances

As well as my usual monthly finance report, I have also produced a projection to show where we will be at the end of August (which is the end of our financial year). As mentioned in previous newsletters, our offertory was already behind budget, even before lockdown, and we have since lost all income from passing around the collection plate. This will leave us £2,000 behind budget by the end of August. On top of that, we have had to undertake unbudgeted electrical repairs at a cost of £3,500, and will have lost a further £16,800 in room hire due to the building being closed. However, with a closed building there have been some savings against budget, mainly on our energy bills, totalling £3,400. All this means that at the end of August we will finish with a loss of £18,900, whereas we had budgeted for breakeven.

We hold £30,000 in our General Fund and the loss of over half of this working capital will make it very difficult to run the accounts on a day-to-day basis. The Circuit are offering support to churches that have been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, but it is unlikely to be at this level. Please could you pray for our financial situation? Nearly every year, we face some sort of deficit (although not as large as this one!) and there is no obvious way to make up the funds, but year-on-year God provides and it happens. Just because we can't see how things are going to work out, doesn't mean that God can't!

Thank you very much for your ongoing support and prayers, Matt.

❖ From Tim Crome...

I write this as we approach Trinity Sunday with a certain irony in mind. Pre-lockdown we had planned to only have four or five morning services around the circuit this week, encouraging people to travel and to gather in a larger number than usual to experience quality worship. This was to get us all used to the fact that we are not in a position to maintain our worship practices as we have known them and that things need to change!

We are already experiencing change in all sorts of unexpected ways. There are only a few services around the circuit each week, some of which are streamed, others are available in other ways. Some are choosing to 'travel' for worship all over the country. Others are finding a quiet place and time to brood over the scriptures, knowing that they are not alone as they do this.

I imagine that some experiences, like some of our traditional ways of worship, please more than others. We still might prefer a different tune or song, or feel the reading was not fully explained. What this indicates is that the people of God are willing and ready to engage in worship. We may never again be as passive as we have been, wanting to engage more. Also we may be happier with greater choices of when to worship and where.

A week after celebrating the Pentecost explosion of the Spirit, beginning a totally new chapter in the people of God and how we engage with the wider world, we now celebrate the mysterious reality of God in the Trinity.

A child once described the Trinity thus: "It begins with God; it has something to do with Jesus and it's still going on somehow." That's a pretty good summary.

God, weaving a pattern of dynamic, graceful reality throughout time and space; focused and rooted acutely in Jesus; continually coming to us by the untameable Spirit to lead us from where we are to where we have to be.

God as Trinity: before, during and after the pandemic.

Peace,
Tim

❖ **From Emma: Music to Cheer Everyone Up!**

I wanted to share with you some worship songs that are doing the rounds, which you might enjoy or find encouraging to listen to.

The first one is 'The Blessing' which can be found at <https://youtu.be/PUtl3mNj5U>. Over 65 churches and movements, representing hundreds of others, have come together online to sing a song of blessing over our land.

Secondly, I've become a member of the National Methodist Virtual Choir. They've put out some great arrangements of 'In Christ Alone' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKJfs8C14yc>) and their latest song was '10,000 Reasons' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2M58JuV-FU>). (If you watch carefully you might be able to spot me and the girls!) For anyone who's interested in being part of the choir, you can find out more information on their website: <https://nmcgb.org/>. It's really easy to sign up and then you'll be e-mailed when the parts of a new song are released. The next song is going to be 'Everlasting Arms' by Lou Fellingham. The rehearsal parts are all online and if you want to be brave and record yourself, there's details about how you do that and get your video uploaded.