



Wesley Hall

Crookes, Sheffield



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

Sunday 14th 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](#)

[St Andrew's, Gosforth Valley](#)

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

❖ Church Council

We had a Church Council meeting in the diary for Thursday 25th June. Since we missed our last meeting on Thursday 26th March, and our year end is at the end of August, we really do need to meet this time. Sally is currently off sick so Gareth Jones has kindly offered to chair the meeting for us. However, he is not available on Thursday 25th June, so the meeting will now take place one day earlier on Wednesday 24th June at 7:30pm. Since we are not able to meet in person, the meeting will be taking place via Zoom. Details of how to connect (including via a standard telephone line) will be made available before the meeting. If you have any agenda items, please give them to Matt as soon as possible. We are also looking for a secretary to send papers out before the meeting, take minutes and then distribute them afterwards. If you are interested in this role or would like to know more, please contact Matt.

❖ 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, awaiting further hospital treatment.

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...

❖ From Tim Crome...

"Before you judge my life, my past or my character, walk in my shoes, walk the path I have travelled, live my sorrow, my doubts, my fear, my pain and my laughter. Remember, everyone has a story, when you've lived my life then you can judge me." Anon.

Many years ago, I read a book Called 'Black like me'. It was published in 1962 and was written by a white man, John Howard Griffin. With the help of a doctor he darkened his skin and trudged alone, as only a southern black American can be alone, through the hostile Deep South. There he discovered the true horror of being black in a world of narrow-minded, brutal whites. He writes his harrowing account: "I offer it in all its crudity and rawness. It traces the changes which occur to heart and body and intelligence when a so-called first-class citizen is cast on the junk heap of second-class citizenship."

The worldwide protests in recent days, after the death of George Floyd, are a painful reminder of our failure to treat others as we would like to be treated. The systemic and cultural racism is real and an everyday reality for many. The swell of protests, even under lockdown, have expressed the frustration and fear that we still have a long way to go, and that the temptation might be to just get back to the ways things have always been.

We have joined in with the applause and support for the NHS and key workers for weeks now; many of whom have been overlooked and underappreciated; many of whom are from the BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities). Will we cease to appreciate and support them once the pandemic recedes? Or can we build a new normal, offering the radical approach Jesus took with those who were considered beyond the pale? Jesus came for all of us, not just some of us. That was the new normal for him; may it be so for us too.

Peace,

Tim

Rev'd Tim Crome, Co Superintendent

❖ 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.

❖ **Christian Aid – Thank You**

Andrea Killingsworth would like to say thanks to everyone who has donated to Christian Aid, whether that was through the Wesley Hall Facebook Fundraiser, sponsoring Liz and Andy's bike ride, or passing cash/cheques on to her or Matt. In total, we managed to raise £1,342, which is great, considering the circumstances. Thank you.

❖ **Fellowship Group**

One of our Fellowship Groups is currently meeting on Thursday 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].