



Wesley Hall

Crookes, Sheffield



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

Sunday 31st May 2020

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Today we, along with most churches, we 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.

THIS WEEK

❖ Pentecost

This afternoon, we'll be celebrating Pentecost by joining together for a virtual service. Sally will lead us, with Emma providing the music. We'll meet via Zoom and the meeting details are:

Topic: Pentecost Praise

Time: May 31, 2020 1:45pm

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: [REDACTED]

Password: [REDACTED]

There is also an option to connect by telephone. If you would like to do this, please follow these instructions:

1. Dial one of these numbers –
 - a. 0131 460 1196
 - b. 0203 051 2874
 - c. 0203 481 5237
 - d. 0203 481 5240
2. An automated voice will ask you to enter the Meeting ID followed by hash; enter **836 9660 3836, #**
3. It will ask you to enter your Participant ID (you don't have one) or just press hash, so press **#**
4. It will then ask you to enter the Meeting Password followed by hash; enter **138357, #**
5. You will be in the meeting!

During the service, the children will be sharing the flames they have made. Also, we'll be lighting a candle during our prayers, so please have one ready.

PRAYER POINTS

- ❖ For our church, community, country and the world as we deal with and respond to the coronavirus outbreak.

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...

❖ YourNeighbour.org

A new initiative, YourNeighbour.org, aims to support the work that churches are doing to be good neighbours in communities across the UK during the coronavirus crisis. They will support vulnerable people, working as a coordinated national response, partnering with the UK government and other agencies. For more information, see their website: YourNeighbour.org. Or if you need help, please call **0300 323 9952**.

❖ Weekly Offertory *(updated)*

Thank you to everyone who usually gives using envelopes that has managed to find an alternative way of giving! What we are still missing, though, is the loose cash that was put in the offering plate as it went round during our Sunday worship. The total given in this way was up to £50 per week, but since the church building is closed and we are not meeting for worship, this has now reduced to zero.

If you are able to make a one off gift, in lieu of any missed offering plate donations, here are two options below:

- Post a cheque with your offering to Wesley Hall, either using the postal system or by dropping it into the post box next to the main entrance if you are out for a walk and passing.
- Make a bank transfer to Wesley Hall (just ask Matt for the bank details).

Thank you very much to everyone who gives to Wesley Hall; we wouldn't be here without you!

❖ Fellowship Group

One of our Fellowship Groups is currently meeting on Wednesday evenings via Zoom. At the moment, Andrea is leading a study 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].

❖ 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/PUtll3mNj5U>. 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.

❖ **A Message from Rev'd Tim Crome, Co-Superintendent**

To ease or not to ease – that is the question!

While our politicians give confusing messages about the easing of lockdown, many places of work and organisations are trying to work out whether they can manage to operate with appropriate social distancing.

Many in our churches are asking when we might get back to being able to meet for worship and fellowship. The short answer is that we cannot tell. All the evidence is stacked against an early return. Many of our people fall into the vulnerable category due to age or health conditions. The virus has spread most rapidly when people spend extended periods of time in close proximity, and singing accelerates the spread.

Even if we were to spread people out in the church, everyone will be touching chairs, doors, books etc. which is all a nightmare to clean. If we had to limit numbers attending, then this ceases to be public worship. Who should be let in and who should not?

In the church calendar, we find ourselves preparing to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the followers of Jesus, often referred to as the birth of the church. The early church had to discover its identity, purpose and ways of doing things. There was no blue print. They had to use their common sense; their awareness of their context undergirded with their deep experience and trust in the living spirit of Christ. We know that the explosion of the early followers of Jesus had a disproportional impact on the then-known world.

Dare I suggest that we face some similar opportunities? We are not sure how we will emerge from Covid-19. We are already having to develop new ways of being church, and will need to keep doing so if we have to live with this virus long into the future. What has been familiar may prove to be impossible to sustain.

Opening ourselves to the breath of the unpredictable but reliable Spirit of Christ through our praying and yearning is the only way forward. We may be led into completely new ways of being God's people in God's world but is that not what the life of faith is about?

Peace,

Tim