

Weekly Bulletin ~ Sunday 13th September 2020

Be a peacemaker!



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
(Matthew 5:9)

Did you know that this Sunday is designated as 'Peace Sunday' by the Methodist Church and other denominations? It comes as the closest

Sunday to the United Nations Day of Peace, which is 21 September.

We all believe in, and long for Peace, don't we, as a virtue or a state we want all people to enjoy. But what did Jesus mean when, in one of the beatitudes, he says 'Blessed are the peacemakers'?

Here are some thoughts I found from the 'Theology of Work Project':

"When we think of making peace, we envision a conflict that needs to be resolved, either on a national scale or in relationships. Working for peace surely involves an effort to reduce conflict fighting among peoples, whether they be nations, ethnicities, classes, religious groups, friends, colleagues, or family members. Wherever we find ourselves, we should seek to end conflicts of all kinds.

But the biblical notion of peace, *shalom* in the Old Testament, includes far more than the cessation of warfare. It is a positive concept that draws together ideas of justice and righteousness. If an evil tyrant imposes an unjust society upon people, this is not peaceful from a biblical perspective, even if there is not open revolt against his rule. Similarly, when it comes to personal relationships, peace includes health, intimacy, and mutual respect, not merely the absence of obvious disagreement.



When we work for peace, therefore, we are doing far more than simply "making nice." Yes, we strive to bring an end to conflict. But we are also seeking justice and wholeness in relationships.

You and I may have relatively little ability to be peacemakers in the larger world. But, as followers of Jesus, we have every opportunity and responsibility to work for genuine, expansive peace in our part of the world: at work, in our relationships, at home, in church.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION: Would those who know you well say that you are one who works for peace? Why or why not? Where in your life right now are there conflicts that need to be stilled? Where are there relationships that need greater wholeness?

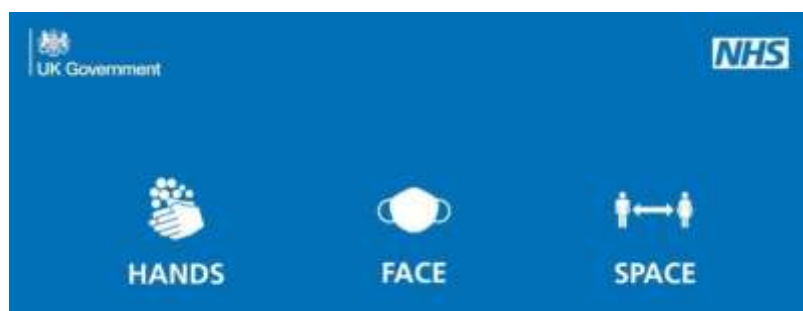
PRAYER: Gracious God, in you I find pervasive peace: peace of soul, peace of mind, peace of heart. Through you my relationships become more peaceful, both less conflictual and healthier. Most important of all, I have peace with you through Christ. How I thank you for the gift of peace!

Yet, as a recipient of your manifold peace, I have been called to be a peacemaker. Help me, Lord, to embrace this calling. Give me eyes to see, not only obvious conflict, but also that which lies beneath the surface. Moreover, may I be attentive to injustice, whether it be in my sphere of influence or across the globe. May I use every opportunity you put before me to work for peace, genuine peace. Help me not simply to whitewash over problems that need to be solved. Rather, may I be a channel of your full peace in this world.



Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen

<https://www.theologyofwork.org/the-high-calling/daily-reflection/blessed-are-peacemakers>



SUNDAY WORSHIP ~ You will be aware of the UK Government's latest announcement this week restricting social gatherings. To the best of our knowledge, from the information we can gather from various sources, meeting for worship is still permitted. Therefore, hopefully, our planned Sunday Worship should be unaffected. We will be attentive to any future guidance from the Methodist Church centrally, and will inform you should the situation change.

David & Tim



Do join us at 10:30 this Sunday 13th September
We continue with the September Sermon series 'Who are we?'
This week it is 'Belong' taken by Revd. David Milner

It is imperative that you sanitise your hands using the gel hand dispensers provided before signing in and before and after using the toilet.

- We have completed a full risk-assessment, and everything possible will be done to ensure your safety and protection – including provision of hand gel, and socially-distanced seating.
- Please wear a face-covering, and bring a pen to sign in.
- In order to speed up the sign-in process and help people get into Church quicker, a list with the names of all those who have attended since 9th August will be available at the end of the sign-in table. Anyone who has previously attended will be able to put a tick against their name on that list after sanitizing their hands. Everyone else will be required to sign in on the other register. Please remember to bring a pen!
- In other to maximise the available seating, it would be helpful if people could please fill the seats from the centre of the row first rather than sit at the end.
- The disabled access door will be open for priority access for anyone who has difficulty standing in the queue.
- Although things will be different, we seek to provide a sacred space where we can come together to meet with God and each other!



The service will also be live-streamed on YouTube for anyone wanting to follow from home, or to catch up later, on the following link: **www.bit.ly/LivePMC**

You should be able to access this from around 10.20am, but keep refreshing the page periodically if it isn't there when you log on.



PMC continues to provide a **weekly podcast** which is available to download from our website: **www.penrithmethodist.co.uk**
or by dialling **01768 800793**

Zoom Coffee Morning tomorrow morning, **Saturday 12th September, at 11am**, which will be hosted by Fred & Deborah Setters. The Zoom link has been emailed out separately.





Remember you can join in worship in any of the following ways -

On TV at 1.15pm, this Sunday - BBC1: Songs of Praise

On national radio at 8.10am - Radio 4

On local radio: 8 am (until 8.30 am) on **BBC Radio Cumbria** and 10 am (until 10.30am) on **Eden FM**

Worship from **Methodist Central Hall** every Sunday at 11am on You Tube, and also available any time after on **mchw.live**

Thanks to all who contributed in any way to our 'Plant and Gardenalia Recycling Event'!

We had a fun morning meeting people safely on the street and most plants and things found a new home.

Thelma and Carol



Leaflets to guide you to pack your own shoebox are in Reception. We won't be able to have our regular communal packing morning this year, but I'll arrange a time for you to drop off items to pack towards the end of October. Remember no sweets or toothpaste now, but hand knitted stuffed toys are allowed as long as the stuffing is new and not rice etc.

We need to raise the transport / distribution costs too - £5 per box. This has come partly from Sunday coffees etc in previous years. If you are able to help, collect your spare change in an envelope between now and the end of October.

Thank you, Judith Joyce.



Welcome and thank you to our new supporters for signing up to support us by shopping online through easy fundraising. It really makes a difference! Please sign up too, it's easy and completely FREE! 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you do your usual online shopping with them - at no extra cost to you!

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/penrithmethodistchurch/?invite=S7B1VG%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=nst



THE CUMBRIA DISTRICT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

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8th September 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

Interim cover for the Kirkoswald & Alston Moor Circuit

Many of you will be unaware that the Revd Colin Marchment, the Superintendent Minister of the Kirkoswald & Alston Moor (KOAM) Circuit, has not been well in recent weeks. All being well, time and space will bring a full recovery, but, as Colin has reflected upon this, he has now made the decision to ask to curtail his appointment and to seek permission to retire early. We are all very sorry that Colin's ministry in the area will be ending early, but we also need and indeed wish to respect this decision.

Working through the necessary processes of curtailment and early retirement will take some time, but in the meantime, supported by his GP, Colin remains signed off work, and for the foreseeable future this is likely to remain the case. Colin is the only Methodist Minister in the KOAM Circuit – it being a single-minister appointment, which potentially leaves that Circuit without any Methodist ministerial input, oversight or cover for the period ahead.

Consequently, in both the immediate (i.e. until at least the summer of 2021) and the longer terms, it is important that arrangements are quickly put in place to ensure that there is ministerial cover, including for the superintendency of the Circuit and the co-leadership of the East of Eden Mission Community (EEMC), both roles which Colin has held.

As part of a possible interim solution, there have been discussions with the leadership of the Penrith Circuit (where in recent years, as you know, the Revd David Milner has been the superintendent minister, a role which from 1st September he is now sharing with the Revd Tim Cooke). In consequence, for the immediate future, the Revd David Milner will act as superintendent of the KOAM Circuit, and as EEMC Co-Leader. David will give approximately one third of his time to the KOAM Circuit and to the EEMC.

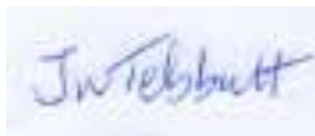
These arrangements will obviously have a big impact upon both Dave and Tim's workload and capacity, and the Circuit Stewards and Circuit Leadership Team will work carefully with them to determine how they can best be supported. It reflects one part of the Methodist family being willing to support another part, for which the KOAM Circuit leadership, as well as the District Chair, are very grateful.

We would appreciate your understanding and support through this difficult time. If you have any particular queries, please contact the Penrith Circuit Stewards who will

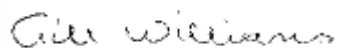
endeavour to help. We find ourselves in a situation that none of us would have wished for. However, the God who holds us all can sometimes use these situations in unexpected ways, so we look forward to being part of the new thing that God is doing amongst us. As we seek to discover God's will and purposes for our two Circuits, please continue to hold this situation, and all those involved in it, not least Colin and his wife Helen, in your prayers.

This communication is being sent out in the first instance electronically, as being the quickest and most cost-efficient way of disseminating the information, but we are keenly aware that there are a number of people across the Circuit we are unable to reach through this medium. Please, having received this letter, print it off and pass it on to anybody you know who needs to read it. Thank you.

With every blessing, and, yours faithfully,



The Revd Dr James Tebbutt
Chair of District



Mrs Gill Williams
Senior Circuit Steward

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PMC Website: www.penrithmethodist.co.uk

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