



Salisbury Methodist Church

Weekly News – Sunday 14th June 2020

MHA (Methodist Homes) Sunday.

Giving to MHA



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Or, if you prefer, you can call on [01332 221641](tel:01332 221641) to donate by credit or debit card, or, you can send a cheque to:

MHA, Epworth House, Stuart Street, Derby, DE1 2EQ. *(Please make cheques payable to MHA)*

Today's Flowers

The flowers shown at the start of today's service are to celebrate Alison Babey's Mum's 100th Birthday. We wish Eileen a very Happy Birthday on Wednesday.

The Climate Coalition

The Climate coalition are having a "Virtual Lobby" called "The Time is Now" on 30th June. If you wish to be involved and have an Internet connection, then please visit <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org> for full details.

A personal message from the President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Dr Barbara Glasson

It is with outrage and deep sorrow that we have witnessed the recent brutal killing of George Floyd in the United States.

But outrage and sorrow are not a sufficient response to racism and inequality in society. How to begin a process of change? It starts with self-examination and listening to the people whose lives are affected by discrimination and hate.

This week I received these words from a Methodist living in south London:

"The young people whom I have worked with for over the last 15 years have felt the impact of racism in every institution they have been part of from schools, to university, to various work places, and other than local support and informal church networks they have not found the Methodist Church as a place that speaks up for them."

As your President, I start by saying I am sorry. Sorry for being silent when we should have spoken out against the everyday injustices that affect BAME communities. I am sorry that, despite our efforts, we have not done enough for those who feel excluded and we need to do better. We know this includes people of all ages from the Windrush generation to the very young. I am sorry when

we have not listened carefully enough and not challenged the assumptions of white privilege and bias.

Repentance can lead us to change, to embody a gracious, loving spirit of inclusion and understanding. There is no excuse for racism. All people are made in God's image. We are one body in Christ Jesus.

I hope we can listen more carefully to the voices of BAME members, especially younger people, who face racism, discrimination and violence on a daily basis. Then our Church must be brave, speak out, speak up and challenge racism wherever we find it, especially when we find it in ourselves.

I have been in contact with the Vice-President who joins me in supporting this statement.

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

A prayer from the Chairs of the London District:

God of the persecuted and the bereaved,

Pour Your love upon Your sorrowing servants.

In the sickening and devastating acts of human intent,

Pour out your power we pray,

that we may be given hope

and an assurance of Your presence in these tumultuous times.

Open your hand of grace dear God to all the people of the USA

Enable them to find common ground, to yield to justice and to find peace.

Empower them to have compassion through the presence of your Holy Spirit.

Forgive our failing hearts as we allow these tragic events to overtake us,

Forgive our anger as we allow senseless killings to control us

And forgive our fearfulness in remaining silent and doing nothing.

Give us O Lord a glimpse of a hopeful future,

through the presence and life affirming power of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Who reigns with You in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and always, amen.

May justice, peace and love be a symbol of our unstinting solidarity;

The District Chairs, Jongi, Nigel & Micky.

Home for Good – from Churches Together in Salisbury



Home for Good has been made aware by our friends in Wiltshire Council's fostering team that they are being put under increasing pressure by COVID-19.

Before the start of the COVID-19 crisis, Wiltshire Council had approaching 500 children in care and needed to recruit at least 100 more foster families. In some areas of the county there are children who need to be kept safe but no foster carers at all.

The current crisis has only increased their challenge.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for all of us, and some have experienced profound loss. But alongside the news of new cases, second peaks, tests and vaccines, there are also shocking headlines of domestic violence cases rising by 20%, of more than 2 million children living in hugely vulnerable situations exacerbated by lockdown, and of just 5% of children known to be at risk attending school.

Wiltshire and other local authorities are reporting to Home for Good that safeguarding referrals are significantly down, which is hugely concerning. All are preparing for a significant rise in referrals as lockdown ends and all children return to school. This will put huge pressure on children's services and more foster homes will be needed.

We have a window to act now so that we are ready.

If you have the internet, please visit <https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/wiltshire-response> for more information.

Clare Walker

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Twitter: [@home4gd](https://twitter.com/home4gd) | Facebook: [@home4gd](https://www.facebook.com/home4gd) | Instagram: [@homeforgood.org.uk](https://www.instagram.com/homeforgood.org.uk)

Methodist Church Coronavirus Update 11 June

The Government has changed its advice to allow churches and other religious buildings to open for individual prayer from Saturday June 13.

The Methodist Church's advice remains that churches stay closed.

When the Government announced its intention to change the advice it stated that: *'Places of worship still have discretion over when they consider it safe to open and may decide to remain closed or reopen at a slower pace if they wish'* and we would like to stress that no-one should feel under any pressure to open buildings for individual prayer.

We understand the vital need for prayer at this time and have found that our people have been praying no less because they have not had buildings in which to pray. We know that mission, ministry and church has been happening in new and exciting ways in these times.

We are conscious that those churches in jurisdictions outside England may have different needs and mission opportunities, and have to abide by different regulations from English churches.

Above all, we want people to pray and worship safely and as we have already stated, we are committed to doing a full review of our guidance after the Conference.

If you have news that you wish to share at the time of our Sunday Worship, please contact Margaret Rutt

weekly.news@salisburymethodist.org.uk or phone 01722 331013