



Ruislip Manor Methodist Church

Sunday 14th March 2021

www.rmmc.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/tempRMMC/

Can the Church get into recovery?

By the Director of Evangelism and Growth for the Methodist Church, Rev Trey Hall.

The first time I attended a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, I went – or so I told myself – solely for research purposes: I was writing a sermon on addictions. Based on my relationship with active alcoholics in my family, I expected to find loads of people whingeing and blaming others for their problems.

But when I arrived, it was the atmosphere of a party. Someone welcomed me; someone else poured me a coffee; someone else helped me find a seat.

The meeting started, and the leader asked if anyone was celebrating anniversaries. People stood up to announce: “today I’ve got a year sober”, or a month, or a decade, or “today it’s been a week without a drink”. These celebrations were micro-testimonies, and as each person announced their day count, the crowd clapped and whistled and shouted out. It was like people crying “alleluia” at a revival. It felt like good church.

As this went on, I started to cry. The ink of my sermon notes got smudged by tears. The woman next to me reached into her purse and offered me a tissue. “Thanks,” I said, “I don’t know why I’m crying! I’m just here for research purposes.” And she looked at me with the eyes of love, compassionate yet deeply seeing. She knew – and in that moment I knew, too, though I wouldn’t fully acknowledge it for a while – that it was personal for me, not just professional.

The meeting continued and someone shared a fuller testimony of their recovery. They told the truth about what had gone down in their life – the stuff they’d done, the stuff that had happened to them, the losing, the falling, the failing. But also how they’d been found by a Higher Power they didn’t expect and a community that guided them into the process of spiritual transformation.

One of the prerequisites for getting sober is hitting bottom. That’s when you finally accept that there’s nothing else you can do to get better except to admit that there’s nothing else you can do. You’ve reached the end of your own power. But there is another power. At least that’s what AA says. Does that sound like anything else we’ve heard before, Church?

I wonder what it would look like for the Church to get into recovery? Perhaps our ecumenical movement would experience new spiritual power if we came together around our common need to admit failure. To confess the egregious stuff: our propagation of material and spiritual capitalism, our infection with racism (at once lifting up white people and oppressing people of colour), our homophobia. And more generally, to confess our need to let go, to relax and release the damned control freakery, to bless the flourishing of new forms of Christianity.

One effect of the pandemic is that we’re all hitting bottom in different ways. And as we sit there at the bottom of the sea, every church and disciple has an invitation to feel afresh our own desperate need for God, to confess the sin that clutters our mission, to remember what we’re for and to live differently.

If together we find the humility to do that, maybe we’ll be surprised by God. Maybe we’ll experience “the joy of being wrong”, to use the language of theologian James Alison. Maybe we’ll rediscover discipleship as a process of actual transformation not just for newcomers but for all of us as we undergo God together.

In AA, people are getting real and therefore people are getting healed. And that’s the discipleship invitation to me, to you, to the whole Church of Jesus Christ, too. It’s never just for research purposes; it’s always deeply personal, whether we’re just beginning the journey or have been on it for a long time.

6pm Sunday 14th March Evening Service: Catherine Wells

The default access code:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81332285563?pwd=ZVB5YTk2bWVlQUx0RmFsbkxYlg2dz09> Meeting ID: 813 3228 5563. Passcode: 018864 Landline: 0203 051 2874

7.30pm Monday 15th March Lent Course

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81531797341?pwd=bnU3ZEpGUGFoSEVSK0d1N3JpOEIwUT09> Meeting ID: 815 3179 7341 Passcode: 823327 Landline: 0203 051 2874

Which is also the probable code for the remainder of the meetings.

Circuit Zoom Service

Join us at **10.45am** each Sunday morning to share in worship with others from around the Circuit. If you are unable to attend your Church service and would like to continue online worship- this is for you!

The Circuit Zoom Service this **Sunday, 14th March** will be led by **Ms Ade Benson**

Log into Zoom using the following details

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88601433540?pwd=VjZYUzBEVEFsOHdxS2VRRENUMzlsUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 0143 3540

Passcode: 611964



I would like to thank the many friends from Church who visited and phoned me on the occasion of my 90th Birthday which I celebrated on March 3rd. My house is bedecked with beautiful pot plants and flowers. I really had a wonderful day.

Beryl Henry.



Len Aves is moving to Prestwood near Great Missenden next week. Thank you Len for being such an active member at the Church and for all the tasks you have undertaken. We will miss you and will be thinking of you as you settle into your new home. If you would like Len's new address please contact Janet Fairclough.

Spring Harvest

Spring Harvest is taking place online again this year, from 4th to 8th April. Unlike last year, this year's event will be ticketed. Ticket prices start at £55 which gives full access to the event for two devices in the same household, with the ability to catch up on sessions missed until the end of April. More information is available from the Spring Harvest website at: <https://springharvest.org/springharvesthome21>.

Prayer Requests

We pray for

Graham and Jess. Graham is having his second Chemotherapy & Immunotherapy treatment at Mount Vernon Hospital on Tuesday (16th)

Also for David And Marilyn and family , David's sister Rosemary passed away recently.

Please also continue to pray for :-

anyone suffering from mental issues and from loneliness because of isolation.

all those who have contracted Coronavirus and thank God for all who have survived.

Prayers and Blessings to all at Ruislip Manor and beyond - stay safe.

Friday 12th March:

This week we pray for everyone at Kenton Methodist Church

We bring Christian Aid, World Church and JMA to God in prayer.

We also pray for the people who live in Cornwall Road and Cottingham Chase

We wish many happy returns to all who celebrate a birthday in March



CIRCUIT PRAYER MEETING All are welcome to join our Circuit Prayer Meeting every Thursday morning starting at 9am and finishing by 9.30am. Currently, the Circuit Mission Strategy is focusing on Prayer and we look forward to praying together.

Please find Login details below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84168659990?pwd=NWpOcW1YNIRSeIdHVU1iaVXWGgwQT09>

Meeting ID: 841 6865 9990

Passcode: 296725

Methodist Women in Britain 2021.



The service will be held at Lighthouse Centre, Queen's Walk, South Ruislip, HA4 0NL on Sunday 16th May 2021 starting at 6pm (Please note the service may be via ZOOM depending on the COVID restrictions at the time).

Every Easter the Methodist Church in Britain invites donations to the World Mission Fund through Easter Offering envelopes. Your giving to the Methodist World Mission Fund helps support mission partners working overseas, nationals in mission appointments and overseas students in ministry training. It allows the Church to make grants to Partner Churches for special projects. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic Easter Offering in 2020 did not take place.

Please make your donations to the Church Treasurer by 20th April 2021. This can be done electronically to CAF bank, account number: 00033759, sort code: 40-52-40 quoting Easter Offering as

the reference. If you are signed up to gift aid, that will automatically apply. If you cannot give electronically, please post cheques, made payable to Ruislip Manor Methodist Church to Graham. Thank you



Methodist Women in Britain 2011-2021



Tenth Anniversary Celebrations

As you're no doubt aware, 2021 marks ten years since the launch of Methodist Women in Britain at the Methodist Conference in Southport, in 2011, and we are planning a number of activities and events throughout the year to mark this milestone. Of course, some of our plans have been postponed or changed due to COVID-19, but we hope you'll be able to join us as we celebrate over the next few months.

Note the following dates and events*, and join us during our special year:

For women, for justice, for Christ

April–October 2021, at Epworth Old Rectory

An exhibition highlighting the people, projects, events and campaigns that tell the story of the first ten years of MWiB. The exhibition may be repeated in 2022, and we hope to produce a booklet to accompany the exhibition.

Together... A time of celebration

Sunday 18th April, online

On the Sunday afternoon following our online conference (see page 2 for details), we will be sharing in an online time of celebration together, with worship (including two new hymns written for the occasion), a fun quiz, and more. Go to the conference information on www.mwib.org.uk, follow the link to register, make a donation if you wish, then—get your glad rags and your party hat on, bring your own cake and candle, and join us for the occasion!

Methodist Conference

24th June–1st July, Birmingham

We hope to share cake and conversation with delegates and visitors on the Saturday of Conference, to make a presentation to the Conference about the work of MWiB, and to lead Conference worship one morning—all details tbc. Our Fringe Event *[date tbc]* will include worship, anniversary celebrations, and the commissioning of Ruth Parrott as MWiB President.

Summer Garden Party

August [date tbc], at Epworth Old Rectory

A chance to get together to celebrate MWiB, to eat together, to visit the Rectory and exhibition, and to enjoy (we hope!) some sunshine!

*(*Dates and details are all subject to change depending on the ongoing coronavirus situation; information will appear in mailings, on the MWiB website, and on Facebook and Twitter)*



Items for the News sheet for Friday 19th March to **Janet Miles**, by email

newsletter@rmmc.org.uk by **Wednesday 17th March**, please