

# June Newsletter

**Mission South West London**  
**Transforming Lives into Wholeness**



## Welcome to Chelsea and Fulham Methodist Church

Welcome to the fourth edition of our Newsletter. We started the month with Volunteer Week, from 1st - 7th June. We'd like to take this opportunity to express a big thank you to all our volunteers, past and present, who do so much an amazing job at Chelsea and Fulham Methodist Church. Our dedicated and passionate team keep everything going. We honour all those who give their time to prepare and serve takeaway lunches for our homeless guests at Kings Road Community Drop-In and sort their post. Sincere gratitude to you all. You can find out more about our services by visiting our website [www.chelseafulhammethodist.org.uk](http://www.chelseafulhammethodist.org.uk)

## WE GIVE - WE GAIN - WE GROW

Dear friends

We believe in the transformation of lives through Jesus Christ. Hope is the confidence we have in God's power to transform us into a state of wholeness. This month we focus on generosity. Let's think about the two faithful servants in the Parable of Talents, who improve what they had, the master commends their stewardship of little by rewarding them with much. God's joy is seeing us develop our talents and operate from a Kingdom perspective.

A Kingdom perspective knows that everything we do is for God, to bring glory to Him in the development and exercise of our gifts. When we operate in this way we see a transformation in ourselves and we also inspire a transformation in others. The Kingdom perspective knows our approach to generosity matters as much as what we give or do. Our intention, our heart and our motives are all important. Colossians 3.23-24 instructs us to incorporate our heart with intention into whatever we do, with the confidence that God rewards the faithful.

Your everyday journey can be a walk of worship, in which you determine to honour the Giver with your assumptions, speech, finances, time, gifts and talents. Daily acknowledging God's direction give us purpose that is worthy of His highest commendation, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master. Matthew 25.21.

How can you be generous and giving today? Whether it's your time, your money, or just an encouraging word, we can all be the givers that God wants us to be.

***"Lord, I trust you and I thank you for I know that you can do far more with the little that I give and I will gain abundantly more and see a transformation in my life and others." Amen.***

## Hymns and Bible Readings

### Selected Hymn: Love Divine, all loves excelling

Play tune here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/hymns/love-divine-all-loves-excelling-stf-503/>

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast,  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
Let us find that second rest.  
Take away the love of sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Sets our hearts at liberty.

Come almighty to deliver,  
Let us all thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray, and praise thee...



### Bible Reading Plan and Reflection

7 June 2020

Ephesians 2:4-5, Matthew 6:10-1,  
Corinthians 6:12-20-1, Corinthians  
3:16, Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 2:10,  
Galatians 6:2

14 June 2020

2 Corinthians 5:17, Matthew 5:8,  
Romans 8:28, Philippians 2:5-8,  
Ephesians 6:20, Hebrews 10:24-25,  
Proverbs 27:12

21 June 2020

John 5:19, John 11:6, John 11:43-44,  
Psalm 90:12, Matthew 14:13-36,  
Jeremiah 29:11, Proverbs 19:20

28 June 2020

Ephesians 5:15-17, James 4:14,  
Matthew 22:36-39, Luke 14:33,  
Isaiah 32:1-8, Mark 1:9-15,  
Psalm 50:7-15

For more worship resources during this season visit: [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)

## MEET A MEMBER

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My name is Angela Eyamba. I believe in God. I lost my Dad when I was 10 years old and my Mother returned to live with us in her Father's compound. My Mum died when she was 37 years old and I was a fourteen year old teenager. I loved to fight. But my Grandmother told me to stop fighting, respect others and whatever people do to me "don't lose your temper. You are a Christian. God is here to help you." Grandmother took good care of us even when she became blind.



Before I retired, I worked as a carer. They would call us Australian nurses. I also worked many jobs including as a machinist in Marks and Spencer.

I was baptised in the Presbyterian Church, but when we came to London, the Presbyterian Church was too far from my home. My cousin took me to Chelsea Methodist Church. The church is like my family to me, because when we worship together, I feel like we are one family. God is with us.

I came to England to be with my late husband. He died in a motor vehicle accident leaving me with three children to rear alone. My children were baptised and grew up in the church. It was not easy working and bringing up three children by myself. I taught my children to give respect to people so that God will help you.

In the world today, not everybody is the same and we are having lots of problems. Whatever we accumulate in life, we do not take it with us when we die. When a child is born, she opens her eyes. When you die, your eyes are closed. Some people have misunderstandings with each other, but the life of a Christian and a Muslim is to be friendly.

I grew up as a Christian. My family went to the local mosque to buy goat and cow. Christian families brought food from Muslims. Now, there is a divide because people don't want to be close to Muslims yet there is one God. We are one, we share the same blood. People make other people feel so bad in life.

I am in a wheelchair now, but it don't stop me from going out. When I come to church, I have to use the London Taxicab, but I need help to enter the mobility taxi. Me and my whole family are in God's hands. I pray a lot, giving thanks to God for his love and peace.

I read Psalm 27, especially when my son troubled me. I hold on in confidence to the Lord's Prayer and Psalm 23 "I shall not want."

Interviewer: Marilyn Neufville. Dated: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

# A Word or Two From your Deacon

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## Guy Austin-Bride



Greetings wonderful people of Chelsea and Fulham. I write this on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2020, my first day back after a three-month sabbatical. A Sabbatical that was gifted to me by the Methodist church and which I gratefully accepted and then filled with all kinds of activities, studies, retreats, and visits. I had hoped to take the time to wind down and reflect on eight years of service here in the Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham Methodist Circuit and also prepare myself for my move to Leeds, in between that sporadic times of study, retreat, and rest, also visits to family all over the North of the Country, (I actually feel tired just thinking about all that). Then the Coronavirus hit, and two weeks into my sabbatical lockdown happened – and indeed is still happening!

One of the things I learned on my Sabbatical was that I was expecting too much of myself. Like Noah I was facing a great deluge of water, but it was a flood of my own making. I was in danger of being out of my depth, being waterlogged and washed out. The first couple of days in lockdown were really difficult, I didn't know what to do, I had a pile of books to read for work, I couldn't sit for very long because I had overwhelmed myself. So, I started with what was important – Time with God. I got up early each morning, sat in the garden and had my time of prayer and scripture reading. After the first week I was spending at least two to three hours each day doing this and it was so refreshing and relaxing. I then picked up a book - not a theological book, not a Bible commentary, or something to do with preaching, church history or governance. It was actually a book of poems. I started to get back to reading books on subjects that I hadn't read for ten years. I read poetry and plays, short stories and novels. I listened to music that I hadn't heard in years. And before all these things each day I spent the morning in prayer and scripture – always putting what is important first. Thanks to God's grace and mercy I found myself again. I had gone into this Sabbatical trying to find something I thought was missing between God and I, but I learned that God was always there, He was always with me, it was me that was missing.

Meanwhile in the world outside, during the first weeks of lockdown there was so much fear, panic (remember the toilet roll incidents!) There was a realisation that we are fragile, that we have taken somethings for granted, that we aren't in control and above all a realisation that we are all vulnerable. Some reacted as I mentioned; in fear and panic, some chose to play the blame game, some chose to ignore it, and others chose stubborn anger. But in the darkness, light shone; some chose love, some chose peace, some chose mercy, and some chose to reach out. Even though we are at a distance and we can't physically touch people, I am sure that like me you too have learned the value of hearing a voice on the phone, of seeing someone on Zoom or Whatsapp, receiving a letter or email, or even a poke on Facebook. As well as all the negativity we have also learned how loving we are, how important we are, how much we need family and community, how precious we are to each other and to our Father God.



We have seen so many people giving generously and freely of their time, their talents, their abilities. How many of us were overjoyed as Captain Tom reached his one hundredth laps, and raised a staggering amount of money for our NHS heroes. So many people engaging in loving acts of service to individuals and communities not for money or fame, but just to say 'you are not alone, you are worthy, you are important'. A message that God our Father has been telling us right from the start.

Obviously this time has been very difficult, some have lost loved ones, and some have been very ill – almost touching death, and for some life has changed immeasurably. We join in the sorrow, we join in the mourning and we pray constantly and in the Spirit to the Father who knows and shares our pain and sorrow, the Father who holds us and loves us even when we struggle to understand, the Father who lays us down and lifts us up to join Him and his Son in eternal Glory, Amen.

We have seen the church – the body of Christ bursting out of closed buildings and almost taking over social media, acts of love and kindness everywhere, sermons online, Bible studies online, church groups meeting on Zoom and Whatsapp, God being praised via Skype. The whole internet all over the world is on fire with the Holy Spirit – Hallelujah.

Finally, I would like to ask: 'What now?' I keep hearing people talking about going back to 'normal'. That word 'normal' is being used so much. So, I decided to look into the word, what it means and where it comes from. What I found really encouraged me. When I looked it up, the word 'normal' comes from the Greek 'gnomon' and the Latin 'norma', both of which mean 'A Carpenter's square - used for building walls, roofs, checking planks are flat, straight.'

A carpenter's Square or rule, helps us to answer the questions: Is something right? is it standard? is it useable? fit for purpose? As we look to life after lockdown maybe we need to think about our churches and the church as a whole and ask ourselves are we right? straight? fit for purpose? are we part of building the kingdom? are we following our Carpenter's rule? Jesus says that the rule we will be judged by is Matthew 25:35 onwards: Clothe the naked, feed the hungry, heal the sick, visit the lost and lonely. This is our carpenter's rule. So when people ask 'are you looking forward to getting back to normal' we can reply 'yes so long as it is according to the carpenter's rule'.

In conclusion, I am glad to be back from a very refreshing and renewing time of Sabbatical. I am proud of the amazing work you have all done to promote the Good News and build and strengthen community in such difficult times, and how you have fanned the flames of the Holy Spirit throughout social media and beyond. I look forward to spending my remaining weeks here with you all side by side as we continue to Worship and serve our loving Father God through the rule of the carpenter - Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**We'd like to take the opportunity to welcome back Deacon Guy Austin-Bride, if you would like prayer and/or pastoral support you can contact him on email: [guy.austinbride@methodist.org.uk](mailto:guy.austinbride@methodist.org.uk) or tel: 07825700313**



## WORSHIP LOUNGE ON ZOOM

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### PRAYER, PRAISE AND POETRY

We had an amazing time on our very first Worship Lounge on Zoom and look forward to our next appearance later this month (date to be confirmed). We welcome Gospel Artists, Singers, Poets, Musicians who would like to inspire others by sharing their spiritual gifts and talents. If you would like to perform please contact Andrea Joseph [andrea@chelseamethodist.org.uk](mailto:andrea@chelseamethodist.org.uk)



Heart of Worship: <https://youtu.be/OD4tB1o6YLw>

This is my Desire: <https://youtu.be/obi5ZGujiuU>

Lover of my Soul: <https://youtu.be/w09fQneRCIc>

Never Lost: <https://youtu.be/d6DDQy4tL3I>

*People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.  
Forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.  
Be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.  
Succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.  
Be honest and sincere anyway.*

*What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.  
Create anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.  
Be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, will often be forgotten.  
Do good anyway.*

*Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.  
Give your best anyway.*

*In the final analysis, it is between you and God.  
It was never between you and them anyway.*

**This version is credited to Mother Teresa**



# HEARTBEAT CAFE

## WATER FOR LIFE



The human body is made up of approximately 70% water. We can live without food for 3-4 weeks but we cannot live without water for more than 3 days. Water is vital to the creation & maintaining of life. We are surrounded by water from the time we are conceived. That water cushions us in the womb. When we are about to be birthed our mothers waters break in order for us to come into the world. When we are now in the world we use water to hydrate & clean our bodies & our surroundings. When we soak in the bath & shower we soothe our bodies of aches & pains & relax our minds. Most people feel calm when they are near the water outdoors.

*Isaiah 44:3 KJV For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*

### Benefits drinking water

- Provides oxygen -H<sub>2</sub>O
- Hydrates you & quenches your thirst
- Lubricates your joints
- Plumps up our cells
- Cleanses our cells
- Lowers your blood pressure
- Boosts your energy
- Improves your brain function
- Transports toxins out through your breath, urine, sweat & stool



*Psalms 23:2 KJV He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

### Water Challenge

- Drink a glass of water every hour from the time you wake up until you go to sleep.
- A short glass should hold 200ml. That way you should get 1.5 - 2 liters of water per day.
- You can start with a 1.5 litre bottle of water and try to get through that. The key is little and often.
- When you do that your body will absorb the water into your cells & you will not be going to the loo too often.
- Set reminders/alarms on your phone, computer or Alexa to remind you to drink.
- Keep a record of how you feel at the end of each day. By the end of the week you will notice some improvements in your overall well being!

*Ezekiel 36:25 KJV Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.*

**For healthy eating ideas, delicious recipes please visit Dianne Taylor's Facebook page :**

**<https://www.facebook.com/4-Your-Good-Health-193611164849/>**





## BIBLE STUDY

### NAMES MATTER

This month in our Bible Study we are looking at the book of Ruth. The first chapter of Ruth is all about journeys ...

Elimelech (meaning "My God is King"), his wife Naomi (meaning "Pleasantness") and their two sons Mahlon (meaning weakness) and Chilion (meaning wasting) make the journey from Bethlehem (meaning House of Bread) to the land of Moab (meaning "from the Father")

The family settle in Moab and make it their home. Elimelech unfortunately dies leaving Naomi to raise her children on her own. With time the sons find themselves Moabite wives. One named Oprah (meaning submitted) and the other Ruth (meaning friend). Unfortunately, after 10 years both Mahlon and Chilion die, leaving Naomi without her husband and two sons.

With these deaths Naomi decides to leave the country of Moab with her 2 daughters-in-law to return to Bethlehem, in Judah. As she is setting out, Naomi has a change of mind with regard to her daughters-in-law journeying with her. "Go back" she says to your mother's house and lists reasons why they would be better off staying. Clearly Naomi has lost any hope she might have. Oprah decides to stay but Ruth we are told clings on to her mother-in-law.

"Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge"

When Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem, we are told that the whole town was "stirred " because of them. And the women of the town ask, "is this Naomi", is this pleasantness? Clearly Naomi is no longer the woman she was when she had left Bethlehem. Naomi recognises this herself " Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara (meaning bitterness) for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty"

So easily we can be bitter and resentful for the situation we find ourselves. So easily we can see what we do not have and yet do not see what we have been blessed with. Naomi had Ruth. Naomi and a friend who promised to "cling" to her through thick and thin. We too have a friend who promises to never leave us, even in the most difficult of times. And his name is Jesus (meaning God saves). So, do not be like Naomi and lose hope just remember you have Ruth (meaning friend).

"What a friend we have in Jesus all our sins and griefs to bear, and what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer" Amen



**Chelsea and Fulham Bible Study -**

**Every Monday afternoon at 2pm on Zoom**





# BEAUTY IN EXCHANGE 4 ASHES

## GOD KNOWS MY HEART

When I was asked to share a little snippet on prayer, the first thing I wanted to do was to be very honest about my own experiences in prayer.

There have been many times when I have struggled when trying to pray and at times still do, but one thing I've realised through scripture is that God knows my heart and knows me, he knows me better than I know myself, there is nothing I can hide or be hidden from God as he knows everything about me, all my short comings, my victories, my doubts and my fears. Knowing how much I am loved by God, has helped me so much and given me the confidence to turn to him despite any given circumstances.

If I have sinned or made a mistake I ask God to forgive me and importantly remember to accept His forgiveness, then I forgive myself, I have also learned the importance of doing this, this is paramount - one of the key things to be able to walk in freedom I've found is being able to accept and believe in an instance that God does not remember the things I have done wrong, my short comings, my failures but rather delights in me and celebrates me and accepts me as his own, God loves us to run to him when we are in trouble or not, there is nothing that can separate us from Gods love, how deep the fathers love is for us. God is cheering us on, I maintain the picture of this in my head the picture of God being my number one cheer-leader, cheering me on to succeed.

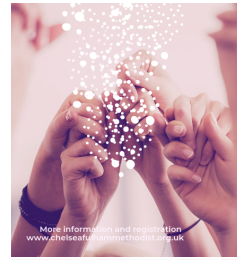
I think this must be my number one success in prayer, knowing how much we are loved by God and knowing nothing can separate us from this love. The scripture also says, 'if my heart fails me God is greater than my heart,' He always makes a way for His children and is very passionate about wanting to help us. Understanding and knowing this and the love of God has been my foundation in prayer.

Hope this blesses you, lots of love Hayley..xx

(1 John 3.20, Ephesians 3.16-19)

***Thank you Hayley for your stewardship, generosity and kindness in serving and supporting this ministry. May God continue to bless you and enrich you greatly. Amen***

Also, here's a short video by [Hayley Finucane on YouTube on Keeping the Faith During Lockdown](#)





# KINGS ROAD COMMUNITY DROP-IN



We are so pleased to have received £30,000 of funding to support the homeless community during COVID-19 at the Kings Road Homeless Drop-In Centre. This amazing provision will enable the Church to continue the mission which dates back to 1903. This pandemic is having a great impact on our church in so many ways, but our God is faithful. We are so grateful for your ongoing support and prayers. We are still continuing with our Crowdfunding Campaign with [www.givey.com/missionswLondon](http://www.givey.com/missionswLondon) and #Pay4aMeal Social Media Campaign. We are preparing to expand our services beyond takeaways as soon as the government gives the go ahead and although the harvest is plenty the workers are few. Matthew 9.37.

## A CALL TO SUPPORT OTHERS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**We need volunteers to help us provide hot takeaway meals and survival packs at our Drop-In Centre at Chelsea Methodist Church.**

**Contact us: [communitydropin@chelseamethodist.org.uk](mailto:communitydropin@chelseamethodist.org.uk) or visit [www.chelseafulhammethodist.org.uk](http://www.chelseafulhammethodist.org.uk) for more information.**



# Notices, Useful Contacts and Pastoral Care

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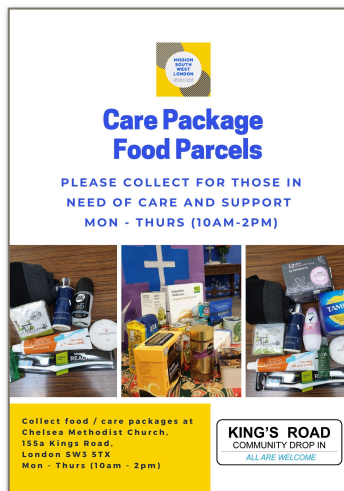
PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

2

MISSION & COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH

3

TITHES & OFFERINGS



## PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, PASTORAL CARE OR TO JOIN OUR WHATSAPP GROUP

You are welcome to contact Reverend Mark Davenport by email [revmarkdavenport@chelseamethodist.org.uk](mailto:revmarkdavenport@chelseamethodist.org.uk) or on 07932 076813 .

Hayley Finucane on 07898 896466 and Chris Corton on [chris.corton@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.corton@btinternet.com)

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Andrea Joseph Resourcing Mission Executive Officer: Enquiries relating to Mission South West London: serving, volunteering, community outreach, food parcels and care packages contact [andrea@chelseamethodist.org.uk](mailto:andrea@chelseamethodist.org.uk)

Shane Wimalasuriya Community Service Drop-In Manager  
020 7352 9305 or [communitydropin@chelseamethodist.org.uk](mailto:communitydropin@chelseamethodist.org.uk)

## TITHE OFFERINGS AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Postal correspondence, tithes and offerings by cheque can be sent to: Chelsea Methodist Church, 155a Kings Road, London SW3 5TX. Alternatively give online via: [www.chelseafulhammethodist.org/church-members](http://www.chelseafulhammethodist.org/church-members) and click on the **donate** button.

Please note Fulham Church office is currently closed, direct enquiries to Andrea Joseph