

'Seeking to be the People of Christ at the Heart of the Community'.



Parkwood Methodist Church News Flash Herald



St. Mark's Parish Centre
53 Thornhill Road
Longwood HD3 4UL

October 2020

Hi Folk's. Below is an interim letter from our Minister outlining the position at the current time regarding the re-opening of our church for worship. As you will read it is not a viable proposition at this moment with all the lockdown and the constantly changing situation. The leadership team are monitoring the changes and will keep you up to date.

However all is not lost as there are a number of alternative situations to consider. Please don't hesitate to ask should you require more information.

Dear friends,

I am writing with an update on where we are towards reopening for worship together. At present, having considered all the options, the Leadership Team have concluded that we are not in a position to restart worshipping in person together. This is for a number of good reasons, not least the high increase in Covid-19 cases and the need to have all the ingredients to make sure that, when worshipping together, everyone is safe and feels confident to meet with others even when socially distanced. This was a difficult decision for all, and one that has not been taken lightly, as I'm sure you can imagine.

While we are not meeting together there are other options available for you to take part in. For example, Rev Nancy and I are committed to continuing the Zoom service. If you don't have access to the internet if you can let me or one of the Leadership Team know and we can arrange for you to have a worship at home sheet, or possibly a DVD copy if you have a player.

If you would still like to go to a worship service, St Mark's has a service at 11am, Mount at 10.45am (though this time may change), Gledholt at 10.30am, Golcar Providence at 10am and New Life Church @ the Mission at 11am (from the 25th October). If you decide to go to worship in person do

www.parkwoodmethodistchurch.org.uk

bear in mind that you will need to follow directions there for social distancing, hand sanitiser and wear a face covering unless you are exempt.

We are still looking at ways in which we can socialise and worship together, though in different ways. There is a Zoom catch up on Tuesdays at 4.30pm (for details contact Anne Ivey) and we are, like all churches at the moment, looking at what we can do together in the lead up to Christmas and on Christmas Day itself. If you have any ideas about what we could do to help our church and local community do let us know!

As you probably know we are not allowed to sing together as a congregation indoors or outside. So that we can enjoy singing carols we will be holding an online carol service this year. I will be producing a worship at home sheet for the carol service as well, and looking to see if there are any other ways to help people not online to still feel part of the service. We will also be holding a Zoom Messy Church Christingles service, which will be open to everyone, where we will be making the Christingles together and hopefully singing some carols together then as well. These services will be in addition to our regular Sunday Zoom worship together. If there are any Circuit events planned these will be advertised in the Parkwood Herald as well- so make sure you keep an eye out for them!

These are uncertain times, so the Leadership Team will be regularly reviewing the situation to see if we can set a start date. What is helpful is that we have our risk assessment in place, which helps us to work through guidance from the government and from the Methodist Connexion to keep us as safe as possible in worshipping together. We will be updating it as needed when advice changes. This means that we can act very quickly in setting a date for a service. In the meantime, I have created a leaflet that goes through the changes in how we would worship together in person to help you to prepare when we have restarted and when you feel ready.

If you have any questions, concerns or worries do feel free to contact any of the Leadership Team.

With best wishes,

Revd Roz Page

**Leadership Team: John, Anne, Gareth, Janet, Sandra.
No DVD player! No problem contact Joe Lloyd.**