

Parkwood Methodist Church



The Herald

September 2021

St. Mark's Parish Centre
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Dear friends,

As we approach September we come to a time of newness for many people. We turn the corner of summer and begin our approach to autumn, and the weather starts to take on that autumnal feel. For us in the Methodist Church we start a new Connexional year. We have said goodbye to our friends, Revd David Bidnell and Revd Nancy Ndoho and we welcome our new Superintendent minister, Revd Peter Catford, as we all start a new chapter in the life of our Circuit.

While we often look at the calendar year as a time to think about what has happened in the past and look at what is to come, I think that it is true to say that the past year has been very different for all of us. Since September last year we have weathered a cold winter, a variable summer and the uncertainty of two lockdowns. We have thought about what it means for our churches to reopen for worship in person and journeyed through worship at home on a Sunday- as well as the rest of the week. We have reopened with social distancing, hand sanitizer and face masks. We have recently begun to sing together again. We have lost friends, family members, and church family members and we remember them with love as well as with sadness.

It may feel that the church has changed over these past 18 months, and it has. There are lots of questions that we have asked of

ourselves as a church community, especially about where we will go next. Some of this questioning and journeying takes time, but the best journeys are ones where we learn new things along the way.

In the gospels we see that Jesus and his followers are people that travel. They spend their time travelling around the countryside, but they also find places to stop and to rest, to share, pray and eat together. As they travel, they change together along a road that it not always an easy route to traverse. Through all our changes and travelling together we accompany one who knows what change is like!

On Facebook there is a section that pops up with items you have written and posted on there in the past. This week it came up with a post that I wrote when I moved into my first appointment, when I was a probationer. I quoted a hymn that resonated with me then as well as now, by Joseph Hart. You can find it in Singing the Faith, hymn 67. The last line has stayed with me ever since, and I offer it as a prayer today- 'We will praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that's to come.'

Happy New Year!

Rev Ros

Parkwood Community Breakfast Re-opens after Lockdown



After serving a Community Breakfast for many years in our old Chapel building, and then moving it to the middle of a community on the Trees Estate at the Drop-By Cafe, we have finally re-opened again. Here's a few photographs from the reopening. If you look carefully you may even find our minister, Rev Roz, tucking into a hearty breakfast!



Garden Party
 Pleased to announce that the Garden Party managed to take place and the weather, although a little bit cold, was generally quite kind to us. Raising £255 for church funds. It was really the first time we could all get together and have a really good natter (chat). What a generous lot you all are. Thank You: Joe.

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My kind of humour



**Be very careful it's not all over yet!
 Stay Safe.
 Just in case, make sure you're up to date!**



**First Saturday of every month.
 Next one:- 4th September
 Hope to see you there.
 Full plated breakfast, sandwich or
 toasted teacake. Tea/Coffee**



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**A date for your diary
folks!**

**Saturday 11th
September 2021
Afternoon Tea
2.00pm to 4.30pm
Tickets £8 per head
(..Generous “tips”
accepted for church
funds..)
@ 3 Leafield Avenue**

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**My guess is that people don't want to
play at “Guess Who this is” with the
early photos.
Only three tried over the last two
months entries.**

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**DON'T FORGET
NO SERVICE AT
PARKWOOD on the
29th AUGUST.
Circuit Service
At
Lindley**

A few photos from yesteryear!





**Stay Safe Folks.
We still need to be careful**