



Monthly Notices - March 2025

Our Minister - Rev Bethany Willers

To contact us please email: caldicotmc@gmail.com and your query will be directed to the relevant person. Or if you need to contact our minister, Rev. Bethany Willers, email revbwillers@gmail.com (preferred) or call 01291 625015.

Pastoral Letter

I want to start by thanking everyone for all of your prayers and support after my car accident last month. The silver lining of such a traumatic event was seeing the community that we have around us as everyone rallied together to pray, send cards, give us help as needed, and bring more flowers than I have vases for! So thank you, all of you, for being a part of that community. I appreciate it more than you know. I thank God I am alive and well and still here with you all!

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With the beginning of March this year comes the beginning of Lent on 5th March. This year the Methodist Church has chosen the theme of “Soul Food” and you can sign up to receive daily emails with “spiritual nourishment.” Here’s what you can expect if you sign up:

Mondays: A recipe video using easily available ingredients. We encourage you to cook and share this with your community—perhaps as a Sunday meal after church!

Tuesdays: A Bible study video, with discussion on questions from the week’s Gospel passage.

Wednesdays: A craft video, perfect for doing at home or in a group setting.

Thursdays: An inspiring story about how the Methodist Church and our partners work to ensure nourishment and care for all.

Fridays: A reflection on a classic soul song, revealing the good news within its lyrics.

Saturdays: Soul Food Saturday, our magazine-style video show, featuring a panel sharing weekly highlights and showcasing photos from across the church. We’d love to see what you’re up to during Lent!

Sundays: No email, but we invite you to gather in worship, reflecting on the theme as you praise God together.

You can follow this link to sign up, or simply Google “Methodist Church Soul Food” and it should be the first thing that appears. Link: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/>

If you don’t have email, no worries, we will have meaningful Sunday services you can attend throughout the season of Lent as we prepare once again for the joy of Easter.

Blessings, Bethany

A Lent Reflection

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: His divine sonship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I?' It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves? Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers



Coffee Morning

COFFEE MORNINGS

Every Tuesday & Friday 9.30am



CALDICOT METHODIST CHURCH

QUIZ AFTERNOON

RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS

Teams of 6—£1 per head—Children Welcome

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL FROM 2pm TO 4pm.



We welcome all who worship with us

MORNING WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Every Sunday at 10.00am

Preachers for February

2nd Rev B Willers CAFÉ church 9th Rev B. Willers 16th Rev A. Webster
23rd Rev B. Willers 30th Local Arrangement

Zoom Service - Every Sunday at 10.00am

United with the service in the church

To join the service or for further details or to request the Zoom link be emailed to you please contact Jack Healey or Gareth Edwards (caldicotmc@gmail.com)

Bearing fruit takes time

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.

Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary.

Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.

Editor: The Revd Dr Roger Roberts, formerly senior pastor of International Baptist Church, Brussels, considers the beginnings of discipleship...

Praying the Prayer of Forgiveness:

Numbers 12:13, 'O God, heal her, I pray.'

These six words are Moses' prayer for his sister Miriam. They tell us a lot about Moses and a lot about prayer.

For some time Miriam and her brother Aaron had been simmering with anger against Moses. They protested that he had married a Cushite woman (v.1), but the real cause of their animosity was jealousy. 'Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?' (v.2). Don't we have a ministry as well? Hasn't God also spoken through us? Why does everyone look to Moses? Why are we overlooked?

Jealousy is a powerful and deadly emotion. God had given ministries and honour to Miriam (Exod. 15:20,21) and Aaron had become the chief priest (Num. 3:1-3), but neither of them were satisfied with that. It looks as if Miriam fomented and took the lead in criticising Moses. Suddenly the Lord intervened (v.4). He called Moses, Aaron and Miriam together and defended His servant Moses. Moses is faithful in all my house! (v.7)

Whereas the Lord had often spoken to other prophets in dreams and visions, He speaks to Moses 'mouth to mouth' (v.8). How dare Aaron and Miriam question Moses whom the Lord called 'my servant' (v.8). Having so strongly defended Moses and rebuked his critics, the Lord departed and then the divine judgement fell. Suddenly Miriam, the leader of the conspiracy, was struck down with the dreaded leprosy.

Aaron immediately cried out to Moses, confessing his own and his sister's sin and foolishness (vv. 11,12). Then Moses demonstrated why the Lord honoured him so highly. He expressed no anger, no vindictiveness, no spirit of 'settling scores' against his brother and sister. In spite of their antagonism and jealousy, Moses loved them both and 'cried to the Lord' on behalf of Miriam.

He prayed one of the shortest prayers found in the Bible. 'O God, heal her, I pray' (v.13). He was grieved and full of compassion to see his sister so terribly afflicted. The prayer was prompted by the love that forgives, the love that overlooks what others have done to us, the love that wants God's best for them. And only God's grace can make us like that. The prayer is so short, so simple, so direct, so personal. 'O God, heal her, I pray.'

And God heard and answered. As a warning to others who might challenge Moses' authority, Miriam was quarantined for seven days, then fully healed and restored (vv.14, 15). How does this incident help us in our prayer life?

First, true prayer is born in compassion. The lips express the deep feelings of the heart.

Second, God will not hear our prayers if our hearts are not right with him and with one another. While we cherish resentments and grudges, our praying is powerless.

Third, while there are many times when prayer needs to be persistent, there are also times when it is a simple, deep cry from the heart.

***Dr Herbert McGonigle, former Senior Lecturer in
Historical Theology & Church History, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester***

NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES

If you have an item, please contact Roger Simms by Monday 24th March