



DAYST MARK'S CRESCENT METHODIST CHURCH

ST MARK'S MATTERS

(Pages last updated on 11 January)

FORTHCOMING SERVICES



SUNDAY 16 JANUARY

10.30AM MORNING WORSHIP

Led by Mr David Tottingham

SUNDAY 23 JANUARY

10.30AM MORNING WORSHIP

Led by Mrs Kathy Rickman

**Please note there will be a Circuit Service at High St but no service at St Mark's on 30 January
(see following letter from Rev Vicci Davidson)**

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY, 6.30PM

COVENANT SERVICE

at Windsor Methodist Church

for those who have not been able to attend a service this Connexional year
and all are welcome to attend

WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS NOW THAT COVID RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN TIGHTENED

- Full services now take place with congregational singing
- Holy Communion continues with no Sharing of the Peace
- Seating is arranged to allow social distancing for vulnerable people and those wishing to be cautious. All remaining chairs will be well spaced
- Wearing of face coverings will be mandatory except when singing
- Hand sanitiser will be available on entry to church and all will be encouraged to use
- Hymns will normally be projected on a screen with hymn books available if required
- Offertory plates will be placed at the entrance and exit
- Shaking hands is discouraged and, in welcoming the congregation, Door Stewards will wear masks and be socially distanced.
- Records will be kept of those attending to facilitate tracking/tracing.

Letter from Circuit Superintendant Rev Vicci Davidson

Friends

As we start the New Year, with its round of New Year's Resolutions, Covenant Services, hopes and fears, we wonder if by next year we will be living with a Covid that has become manageable. We may also be wondering what a return to normal will look like. What is normality in the context of a world that has been so changed over the last two years? We can look back in the history of the country, or indeed the world, to see how everything returned after previous pandemics and two world wars, but it is still hard to imagine what it will be like in our time. Our exit from the European Union has also been murmuring along in the background, but it has not been as front and centre as it would have been if it was not overshadowed by the international efforts to manage this massive health crisis and we still don't know what further impact we will experience from this.

It is all too easy to ask "But what is God's response? What is God doing? Why is he allowing this? Where is his redemptive act in all of this?" We want to see God at work now, and we are faced with other people who, having always challenged the idea of a loving Creator God, now feel that their scepticism is borne out. And yet...

Two thousand and twenty years ago, give or take a couple of years, a baby was born and laid in a manger because there was no room for him at the inn. In that single act, all of the answers were given and the events that were set in motion, events we will follow in the lectionary between now and Pentecost, tell us that the answer is the work of God through God's people, enabled by the indwelling Holy Spirit. We cannot ask what God is doing about the pandemic because he has already done it and, setting in place this chain of events, he equipped us to respond to all the exigencies of life leaning on his power, following the pattern shown to us by Jesus, strengthened and led by the Spirit. Not a magic, wand-waving, three wishes and all your problems are solved sort of response, but a way of life set out and enabled by a loving parent.

Jesus was able to live that life perfectly and we should certainly aspire to do so also. However, "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" * and aspiration is usually all we can manage. Someone who has always been honest about his "fallen shortness" and yet who has spoken with great eloquence about his love of God, is the singer Johnny Cash. At the end of January, when all the Covenant services are complete, we are going to do something a little unusual. On the 30 January we are going to have a morning Circuit service, which will be at High Street, and also streamed, which will be led by a Christian band who use the songs of Johnny Cash to speak into the life of faith. For those of you who would find that too challenging or not conducive to worship, we are asking the churches to offer a low-key local arrangement, but the hope of the staff team is that as many people as possible will attend, either on site or online, as we explore something different in our worshipping life.

High Street is the ideal church for this because of the tech support it can offer and I am grateful to them for agreeing to host this. Although parking is always an issue in this circuit, the Nicholson car park is free on a Sunday and the staff team and I hope to see you there. In the meantime, may I wish you all the very best for a wonderful 2022 and may God's blessing rest upon you this Epiphany and always.

God bless
Vicci

*Romans 3:23



SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY, 3.45PM, AT ST MARK'S



ON-LINE MEDITATION – THURSDAYS, 9.15–9.45AM

“Take Time” provides a 30 minute space for guided meditation in which to use imagination to find calm, peace, encouragement and inspiration through the stories of Jesus.

The meditations are spiritual, not religious and, although each is based on an episode from the Christian tradition, no religious knowledge or background is required.

Everyone is welcome

Please pre-register by emailing eileen.chislett@btinternet.com

SENIORS' COFFEE HOUSE

The regular Thursday “Coffee House” in “The Hub” runs from 10.15 – 11.45am

All are welcome to drop in for coffee and a chat

Face coverings are now required except when seated

THURSDAY LUNCHES HAVE RETURNED!!

The first (light) lunch of 2022 will follow the Coffee House this week (13 January) at 12noon

For catering purposes, please e-mail

elizabeth.1136@btinternet.com

if you'd like to come.

Face coverings are now required except when seated

MONTHLY BAZAAR

THIS SATURDAY 15 JANUARY

10 – 11.30am

(Stalls including Cakes, Books, Stationery, Bric-a-Brac and Raffle)

Why not drop in for coffee and a chat?



CHURCH FLOWER ROTA



Sincere thanks go, to all those who provide flowers for the church each week

Date	Name
16 January	Volunteer required
23 January	Volunteer required
30 January	Volunteer required
6 February	Mr & Mrs M Hogg
13 February	Mr T King (in Memory of Kieron Shaw)
20 February	Volunteer required
27 February	Mrs M Farrar

There are some gaps in the rota going forward into 2022 and if you would like to provide flowers on any occasion (perhaps for a week which holds a special memory for you) please e-mail info@stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY BAZAAR

Saturday 19 February
10 – 11.30am

(Stalls including Cakes, Books, Stationery, Bric-a-Brac and Raffle)
Why not drop in for coffee and a chat?

QUIZ EVENING

Saturday 12 March
7.00 for prompt 7.30pm start
At Woodlands Park Centre,
Manifold Way, SL6 3GW

£7.50pp in aid of St Mark's Building Fund

Teams of up to six people – let us know if you'd like to help to make up a table of six.

Bring your own "Picnic" Food, Drink, Glasses etc

Book early to avoid disappointment at info@stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk

OTHER DATES FOR DIARIES

SEE OUR DIARY PAGE

www.stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk/diary.pdf

CHURCH AT THE MARGINS

We've been asked to publicise the following:-



Over the following ten months we are holding an introduction to Church at the Margins in each learning network region. OPEN TO ALL.

Poverty across the UK is rising with a devastating impact on the lives of individuals and communities. How should we respond? What is God's invitation to us? Why is it important for social justice and evangelism to be deeply connected? This webinar offers an introduction to the vision and values of Church at the economic margins with stories from local practitioners in urban and rural contexts.

Hosted by:

Eunice Attwood, Church at the Margins Officer and Sarah Hulme, Rural Officer.

When: 7-8.30pm on Wednesday 30th March 2022

For: Southern & Islands Learning Network region

REGISTER NOW

Deacon Eunice Attwood | Church at the Margins Officer
The Connexional Team 020 7467 5270.

The Methodist Church

Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR | +44 (0) 20 7486 5502 [Enquiries]
www.methodist.org.uk | Registered Charity no. 1132208



<https://www.facebook.com/EvangelismGrowth> | <https://www.instagram.com/evangelismgrowth/> | <https://twitter.com/evangelismmc>

VACANCIES FOR CARE SUPPORT STAFF

We've been asked to publicise the following vacancies for staff to support social care activities in the Royal Borough.

If you or anyone you know is interested, please pass on this information.



Our teams work across Berkshire and our services are growing, take a look at our open opportunities

Rehabilitation Care Assistant

Our Reablement teams support people to get back on their feet and regain their independence, following a temporary illness or injury. Join our team of experienced Rehabilitation Assistants, supporting people to recover in their own homes by helping to manage personal care, meals and medicines alongside physiotherapy and occupational therapy programmes.

Extra Care Support Worker

Join our team providing care and support to our customers living in Extra Care Services meeting their person centred care needs. This includes delivering personal care, meeting nutritional needs, administering medication, supporting activities and undertaking domestic duties. Experience is not essential as we provide a full training before you embark on your role.

We're hiring - Join our Out and About Services

We're not an Agency. Optalis is a local authority trading company owned by and providing adult social care on behalf of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council.

We are looking for enthusiastic and motivated staff to join our team, supporting adults with learning disabilities to have FUN with activities and outings during the day and weekends.

Activities include:

- Cinema
- Bowling
- Sports
- Shopping
- Eating Out
- Visiting places of interest

You don't need your own transport – but do need to be able to drive

Join us and enjoy:

- Flexible work patterns
- Full and Part time
- Weekdays, Weekends and Evenings available
- Fantastic benefits package
- Work with an experienced dedicated team

To play a part in this rewarding service contact us now for an immediate introduction on our recruitment line, call: 01189 778 676 or email: alison.stephenson@optalis.org

Independent Living Support Worker

In this role you will work with people with learning disabilities, supporting them in their own home with all aspects of their daily routines to ensure that they are able to live the lives they want to. You will work with residents and their support networks to help individuals retain practical and social skills and their independence

Activity Support Organiser

This role includes working with adults with learning disabilities to find out what activities they enjoy. Supporting people to develop skills and encourage independence. Planning and running a programme of activities in a variety of venues and helping people take part.

This role not for you? – Take a look at our other open opportunities...



www.optalis.org/jobs

ARE YOU CONNECTED TO THE POLICE MESSAGING SERVICE?

You can request addition of your e-mail address via one of the following to receive regular alerts to crime incidents in the Maidenhead area

alert@neighbourhoodalert.co.uk

maidenhead@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The messages include warnings of scams operating locally

If you are finding these pages helpful and would like to send news of what you've been doing during the pandemic or send messages to friends, please feel free to e-mail info@stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk or phone 01628 623263

You can also keep up to date through our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Crescent-Methodist-Church-262078984451396/ or by Clicking the Facebook icon on the website Welcome page

If you need or know of someone who needs help of any sort and there appears to be no one to provide it, please e-mail

info@stmarksmaidenhead.org.uk
and we will do our best to find a solution.