



CALDICOT METHODIST CHURCH

Monthly Notices - January 2021

Our Ministers - Rev Lin Healey & Rev Joe Rooney

To communicate with our Ministers please use the website
www.caldicotmethodists.co.uk - and select 'Contact Us'

Pastoral Letter

January 2021

Dear Friends,

As we reach the end of 2020 and look ahead to 2021, I am sure many of you feel like the people of Israel did, when Moses led them from slavery in Egypt, to the promised land of their own. It took them forty years to get there, with many mishaps along the way.

Let's pray that our present wanderings through lockdown will not be that long. In their wilderness journey, the Jewish people made many mistakes, the greatest being that they turned away from the Living God and instead put their trust in the idols which they built.

It is with sadness and regret that for now our churches need to be closed again and it would be easy to wander away from God and one another, if care is not taken to encourage and enable each other to keep our faith alive.

Through varied and different ways, not least of which are our services on Zoom and You-tube, we try to maintain, reshape and review our pilgrimage and help each other to stay on track. Making our Christian faith relevant through these tiresome and difficult days is not easy. That is why it is important to read the Bible and think about how what we discover there, relates to life here and now.

It is important dear friends to make time and space to be alone with God. You will find twenty minutes a day with God, does change many things.

Stay safe, keep well, and may God bless us all in 2021

Joe Rooney

NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES

If you have an item, please contact Roger
by **29th January** -Tel : 01633 880304 or
email :- roger@barbaraandroger.co.uk



We welcome all who worship with us

There is Morning Worship every Sunday at 10am

When the church building is open we have limited numbers and booking is essential.

Booking a seat

Nick and Marion Jones have kindly agreed to coordinate this. Booking can only be made for the following Sunday by contacting them at a specific time Fridays between 3pm and 6pm on 01291 423981. Please be considerate when calling them and keep the call brief by just giving them your name and telephone contact number. Should we have no free seats then you will be given the option to add your name to the list for the next service.

Zoom Service - Every Sunday at 10.00am

United with the service in the church, when legal

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)

Preachers for January

3rd Rev Lin - Covenant Service - Holy Communion
10th Rev Joe ++ 17th Rev Rachel
24th Paula ++ 31st Rev Joe

**The Leadership Team of Caldicot Methodist Church
have sadly made the decision to close the church building
until we feel it is safe to re-open**

2021 with 'Dolly the Trolley

Sadly there will be many families still requiring help in the New Year and to help with this DOLLY THE TROLLEY will be awaiting your donations at the front porch of our church, for the FOOD BANK, once a month on the 3rd Tuesday of the following months :-



JANUARY (19th)
FEBRUARY (16th)
MARCH (16th)
All from 10 am - 11.30 am.



Thank you to everyone who were so generous for Harvest and Christmas, the staff at the Food Bank were very grateful.

For further information or if you need help with collection of donations please ring Olive.

Where do we go from here?

Perhaps this was a question the Wise Men asked after seeing the infant Jesus. They had come from a distant land to Jerusalem. They had followed a star and expected to see a royal child. Now in Bethlehem, they saw things differently. No doubt, Mary and Joseph shared with these men their recent experiences and knew God was with them. Now the Magi had to have eyes of faith to recognise that this child was God in the flesh.

On 6th January many churches will celebrate Epiphany. On this day we remember the Eastern Men bringing their gifts to Jesus. The word 'epiphany' describes their 'revelation' or 'insight' that this was no ordinary baby. Who could they tell? Not King Herod. They had a dream warning them to return home a different way.

Their return to familiar surroundings was going to be different. They couldn't be silent about what they had experienced. Their lives were now changed. On returning home they faced new circumstances and challenges.

Doesn't this sound a bit familiar to us today? The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all of us in one way or another. Where do we go from here? We have celebrated our Lord's birth, but now we are returning to our previous activities. The festive break is over, and we are returning to changed, very difficult circumstances.

We go into a New Year that is so different from this time last year. While we might be downcast with all the upsets around us, there is one thing that has not changed.

It is almighty God! He is our rock. We can look to Him in this world of confusion and uncertainty. Perhaps, from now on, we shall be worshipping and serving Him in different ways. So, with the challenges that lie ahead, let's continually seek His guidance.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding....and He will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Lester Amann

Prayer for New Year 2021

Dear Father God,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of this New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic. The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare - because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have - that You have been with us through it all. Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity - if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes.

You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We will be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be.

You are with us! You are with us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Five things I'd like to see in 2021

I keep hearing people say that 2020 was a 'year like no other.' Friends have been writing a special journal recording the year, so they can pass it on to their grandchildren. Others just want to leave 2020 behind and look to a happier new year. Both reactions are completely understandable. But I've been looking ahead to 2021 and thinking about the five top things I'd like to see in the year ahead. I wonder if you'll agree with them or not? Maybe you could put together your own list.

Let's make sure the vaccines are distributed fairly and speedily. Those who need the vaccine most urgently should receive it first, with a fair system for ensuring everyone else can be vaccinated quickly and efficiently. We need to ensure that everyone receives the vaccine wherever they live in the world – from the poorest to the richest. Especially, in those parts of the world where there is war, and people are living as refugees.

Let's learn the lessons of the pandemic – not just going back to how life was, as quickly as possible. Many of us learnt to appreciate our family so very much more – especially when we could not be with them for months on end. We learnt lessons about how important our neighbours and local businesses are, how precious our NHS, medical researchers, care providers and other frontline workers are. Let's not forget them.

Let's value nature. Those of us with gardens, or with parks or fields nearby, have been massively blessed. I've learnt to pay attention to birdsong, to the changing colours of the trees, and how unexpected plants have taken root in our garden. Pets have played a major part in helping us endure the lockdowns, especially for people who live alone. May we all learn to value the natural world on our doorsteps in the year ahead and beyond.

Let's bless technology. Without the use of the internet, meeting people 'online' or keeping in touch via email, Facetime or other technologies, 2020 would have been a whole lot tougher. Churches across the country moved their Sunday services online, and soon adapted to a different way of worshipping – not the same, but still helping us to worship together and see familiar faces. Let's continue to give thanks for the science that made that contact possible in 2020.

Let's value our church family. Imperfect we may be, like any family. But the months without being physically able to worship with them, share communion with them, sing alongside them have been hard. I value so much how many churches have risen to the pandemic challenge and sought to serve their communities in all kinds of ways. May we take all this experience into 2021 and build upon it.

Whatever 2021 holds for you and all those that you love, I pray that you may know the love of God in your life and be able to pass it on to others.

Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans



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Margaret Cook



Best Wishes to all
our Church family,

Laurie Tarr