



Monthly Notices - February 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

Dear Friends,

As I write we are approaching the end of January and there are only eleven more months till Christmas! My, how time flies!

Firstly, thank you to all those of you who have shared your joy with us as you have received your first Covid jab. For those of you who are still waiting we hope your call will come before too long.

People are talking about there being a "light at the end of the Covid tunnel" as we journey on through 2021 and we are looking forward to better times. Nature is also preparing to spring into action; the hours of daylight are getting longer, bulbs are pushing their way through the soil and snowdrops are glowing white. I even spotted a daffodil flowering in one front garden! There is much to give God thanks for in these difficult days.

But it has only just dawned on me how challenging Lent will be for us this year. I sense so many of us are desperate to break out of the dark tunnel and get back into the light of a more normal life where a hug or a kiss or even a cup of coffee can be shared. However, Lent takes us in completely the opposite direction from the light of Epiphany and the joy of Spring into the darkness of Holy Week as we see the authorities seize and try to destroy Jesus, the true son of God. Perhaps some of the fear, frustration and immense grief the pandemic has caused will help us to empathise with the true meaning of Lent this year?

The Circuit staff are planning to provide a themed daily worship throughout this coming Lent beginning with a **Circuit Zoom Service at 7:30pm on Ash Wednesday (17th February)**. Please do look out for these as we hope you will find them helpful on your Lenten journey of 2021.

Jack and I send our love and blessings to you all,

Lin

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 February

7th Yvette
14th Rev Joe ++ 21st Rev Lin
28th Bridget & Paul

**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



Regret FEBRUARY date cancelled
MARCH 16th to be reviewed nearer the time
10 am - 11.30 am.



NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES

If you have an item,
please contact Roger Simms
by **26th February**



Have you done something which haunts you?

Do you ever worry that your past failings mean that God will not accept you now? Some of us have done many things which we regret, things that have caused us, or others, great pain.

We've given our children short shrift, we've betrayed our marriage partners, we've been dishonest at work, we've been ruthlessly greedy and ambitious, no matter what the cost to anyone else. And now the memory of the wrong we've done lingers, and makes us ashamed. Our past failings make us very reluctant to turn to God. Why should He forgive the damage we have done?

If you think this way, then you have a big surprise waiting for you: God isn't like that. You haven't yet encountered His GRACE. God knows all about you, and most of all He knows you need His help. Jesus said that He came into the world to reach sinners, to help anyone who turns to Him in true repentance to find forgiveness, and a new start.

You can't do anything to turn yourself into a good person. But you don't have to. All that God asks of you is that you turn to Jesus in prayer, and say you are sorry, and ask Him to forgive you, and to put His Spirit within you. Then you find His GRACE – which means His loving-kindness, beginning in YOUR life. Just try it.

Today let God begin to set you free from the past!

How to handle temptation

"I can resist everything but temptation" (Oscar Wilde). During Lent we remember Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), when *'He was led by the Spirit.. to be tempted by the devil.'* (1). Temptation is a test of *obedience*, whether we do things our way or God's way. After 40 days of fasting Jesus was tired, hungry and vulnerable. Like Him, the Devil will attack us at our most vulnerable moments, especially during this pandemic.

The first temptation was to turn stones into bread: Jesus' ministry was not about meeting His own needs, but being nourished by God's Word. *'We do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God'* (Deuteronomy 8:3). Like Jesus, we are called to make God our priority and trust Him completely.

The second temptation was to put God to the test: Jumping off the Temple pinnacle would have been a dramatic way for Jesus to gain popularity, but this is not God's way! *'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deuteronomy 6:16). We too need to learn this lesson!

The third temptation was to worship Satan: Finally, the devil took Jesus to a mountain to offer Him worldly power. In contrast, His calling as Messiah was marked by suffering and honouring God. *'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only'* (Deuteronomy 6:13). This is often our experience in living for God.

Jesus stands with us in our temptations. As we claim the promises of Scripture, we will find strength in the power of the Spirit and the victory of the Cross.

'If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. But if you look at Christ, you'll be at rest!' (Corrie Ten Boom).

Paul Hardingham



Coffee mornings on Zoom



We know how many people are missing our coffee mornings, so we wondered if you would like to join us for a Friday Zoom coffee morning?

Anyone is welcome to come along, you don't need a computer or tablet to join us as you can dial in on your phone to chat to a group of your friends.

We will put you into small groups of three or four but you will be able to choose the people that you are meeting with.

If you just want to take pot luck and join us that would be fine too!

The first coffee morning is planned for **Friday 12th February** starting at 10am until 10.45

If you have any questions or to get more details about how to join us please contact us at caldicotmc@gmail.com



Church Council

February Church Council now cancelled, re-scheduled for, **Wednesday 10th March at 7.30pm on Zoom. - All very Welcome.**
To obtain ZOOM Link email:- caldicotmc@gmail.com

Circuit Zoom Service at 7:30pm on Ash Wednesday (17th February)

To obtain ZOOM Link email:- caldicotmc@gmail.com
Details not currently available, wait until nearer the date.

Never be weary of doing good

You are never tired, O Lord, of doing us good; let us never be weary of doing Your service. But as You have pleasure in the well-being of Your servants, let us take pleasure in the service of our Lord, and abound in Your work and in Your love and praise evermore.

A prayer of John Wesley



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