



Irthlingborough Methodist Church

A warm welcome is extended to all

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Special notices:

Good Morning and I hope you are all staying well. When I woke up this morning the sun was shining so I went for my daily exercise early. The lakes and meadows were looking really beautiful and the birds were singing away. A lovely start to the day.

Staying in touch:

Our FaceBook page continues to reach out to those in our community. There is something going out every day, for which we are very grateful.

The church phone is available to leave a message if you need to have a chat and one of our pastoral leaders will get back to you (don't forget to leave a number!). The phone is set up for remote access to the messages. The number is at the top of this newsletter.

Thank you to those who have sent me things to go in the newsletter. Please keep them coming. I shall be continuing to work on Tuesday and Friday mornings and will be checking emails then. It is lovely to be receiving so many more bits and pieces.

Worship and Prayer:

The service sheets for Sunday are now available on the website and will be circulated. The service this week has been prepared by Jean Hinchcliffe. There is also a reflection by Rev'd Michael Langstaff. Plenty to keep us occupied.

Claire Jennings is sending a text out every morning to those of us at Wellingborough with a verse and a short thought for the day so I am pinching her thought for today!

Ephesians 3:12

'Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.'

It's not easy to trust when life is breezy and windy and our branches are being blown around. However if our roots are strong and firm in God we won't go far wrong.

Pastoral letter from the Rev'd Lesley:

To: The Nene Valley Circuit

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

'In times such as these'

I write to you as your Superintendent Minister in a time such as this, looking forward to when we can all be together again as the family of God in the Nene Valley Circuit.

In my previous letter I mentioned anticipation of what is to come and, like the present mood of our Government, we too need to begin to think how we are going to begin to approach the thought of coming together in our Churches.

We will have to see what the Government proposes on 7 May but, perhaps like our nation, we too will have to bring coming together again gradually. Please know that Kim and I, and your Circuit Stewards, are giving this serious thought.

Talking of Kim. Kim, this year, is entering stationing which from September 2021, will lead to the next stage of her Ministry Journey. During this time of discernment for both Kim and the CLT, we would very much appreciate your prayers.

With regard to ministry, may I, at this point say 'thank you' to our Local Preachers who have, and who continue to, offer weekly acts of Worship. The feedback from this has been positive and I think it important that this is acknowledged for our Local Preachers. I also take the opportunity of saying I'm very grateful to those of you who send the services on to others throughout the Circuit; and also those of you who take the time and offer the resources to print the services off and send them to folk who don't have internet access.

With regard to this, the CLT does realise that there has been a cost in providing this service. Therefore, if you have done this and feel the need for reimbursement, please do not hesitate to telephone me.

This leads me on nicely to our Pastoral Workers who are doing a wonderful work in keeping in touch with everyone, every week. Kim and I would like to thank you for all the love and the care which you show by doing this so diligently.

As you can appreciate, in keeping our Circuit running smoothly, and keeping everything as near as possible to what is scheduled for the year, decisions have to be made, even in times such as we find ourselves in. These decisions have been made by the CLT (Circuit Leadership Team) who, because the Circuit Meeting has not been able to meet, have devolved power to be able to do so. I am grateful to all members of the CLT for fulfilling this responsibility. Circuit Stewards play a vital role in the life of our Circuit. They work in partnership with Kim and I as Presbyters and Rachael as our Young People and Family worker, together with our other Circuit Stewards in order to enable you as individuals and the communities within our Circuit find fulfilment and belonging within the Church as a whole. As the role is voluntary, many Circuit Stewards carry out their responsibilities alongside full-time jobs, family commitments and other responsibilities. So, patience and a sense of humour are essential criteria for the job! Circuit stewards have a range of duties and if you wish to find out more about what these are then please, don't hesitate to telephone me or one of our Circuit Stewards to have a chat because at present, we have vacancies. Do you feel called to be a Circuit Steward? I would ask that you think and pray about this, so that this important role within our Circuit can thrive with a good helping of diversity in gifts and graces.

And so, I think that's quite enough from me!

To you all I send this blessing:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace... so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Stay safe dear people so that soon we may join one another once again in Worship of our audacious yet gracious God.

Rev'd Lesley

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Family News:

Lena has sent us the following to make us chuckle:

Newspaper Headlines From 1998

Include your children when baking cookies.

Kids make nutritious snacks

Stolen painting found by tree

Miners refuse to work after death

Something went wrong in jet crash, experts say

Communication

What do you mean we don't communicate? Just yesterday I emailed you a reply to the recorded message you left on the answer phone.

Have a good weekend everyone.

Wendy