



Museum Street Methodist Church Connections - June 2020. Number 20

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people" Galatians 6:10

Pastoral News

Martin Ellis

Following a short but aggressive illness and a spell in hospital Martin died peacefully at home on the afternoon of Thursday, 30th January 2020.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Please take the time to pray for Miriam and remember the life of a wonderful man of faith who has touched many lives and inspired preaching and discipleship.

The No.19 April-May 2020 edition of our magazine was not printed due to lockdown which meant that the reflection on the service of Martin was not published. This will be rectified at a later date when our standard production resumes.

Charles Tyrell

Charles died on 4th May. Born in the West Indies, Charles and his wife Ismay have been a part of our congregation for many years. Before retirement, Charles was a mental health nurse. In recent times, with the onset of dementia, Charles, at age 89, was unable to attend church, and in the last few weeks his health gradually declined.

Let us give God thanks for Charles' long life and hold Ismay and family close in prayer.

Tim Pipe

Our beloved Tim Pipe, age 55, died just before 6 am on 7th May. Tim was found unconscious and taken to Ipswich Hospital. There it was discovered that he had had a massive brain bleed and he did not regain consciousness.

Tim will be sorely missed by all of us. Let us give God thanks for Tim's life and hold Brian and Joy and family close in prayer.

Only family members attended the funeral services of Tim and Charles with the services being livestreamed. Tim's service will remain available to view until July 8th at <https://www.obitus.com/>; login with **username Bute1897** and **password 102774**. Both families hope to hold a Thanksgiving service at a later date.

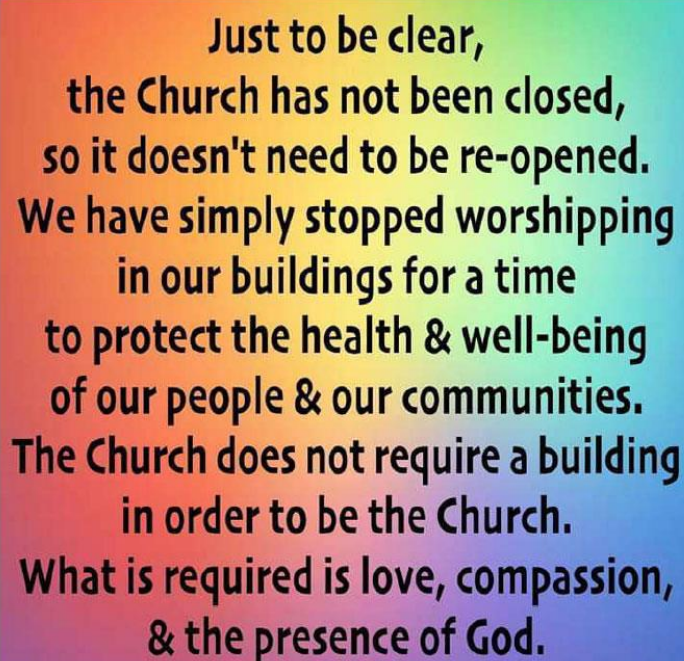
God heals the broken-hearted and bandages their wounds. (Psalm 147:3)

Reopening our Church Building

You may have heard that the government is allowing church buildings to open for private prayer from Monday 15th June and for community worship at the earliest in mid-July. Our Methodist Connexion has advised us not to open for private prayer unless it is essential to our ministry, which at this point, we do not deem it to be. There is a long and complex checklist that we will have to follow whenever we do decide that we are ready to open our building, and it will take time to prepare the building and provide training. Your church leadership team have already begun working on this.

We will proceed as a Circuit slowly, with much caution, and each church in the Circuit will re-open on a timeline that makes sense for that specific church community. While we know that many of you are anxiously awaiting us to reopen, please understand that, even when the government gives the go-ahead for community worship, Museum Street may not be opening on the government start date. We also understand that many of you, for health reasons, will be unable to immediately return when this church opens, and we are committed to continuing to provide at-home options for worship.

We are a local expression of the Body of Christ, held together by love, service and commitment to Christ, and through Christ to one another. Our community identity is not dependent on a building, but on mutual love.



**Just to be clear,
the Church has not been closed,
so it doesn't need to be re-opened.
We have simply stopped worshipping
in our buildings for a time
to protect the health & well-being
of our people & our communities.
The Church does not require a building
in order to be the Church.
What is required is love, compassion,
& the presence of God.**

Covid-19

Coronavirus has been an opportunity for all of us to live differently and to reflect on our priorities. If the question was asked: "What one thing would you do if you were God for a day?" I am sure your answers would contain many wants. We would want **equality, tolerance, respect, love and fairness.**

We are all grateful for the world we have, God's Creation, and for the many people within our **church, family, friends and neighbourhood** who have seized the **opportunity** to 'grow' in **thoughtfulness, kindness and love.**

The lockdown has forced us out of our comfort zone, out of the four walls of our church building, and we are now starting a new journey into a different **community**, that of the Internet. Yes, there are dangers and challenges to be faced in the journey ahead - but as a **church** together with the **Holy Spirit** and using all our new and old gifts of **wisdom**, we can and will stay safe and stay healthy.

- ✓ To mark Epiphany and the New Year, Rev. Joan gave us all a "STAR-WORD".
- ✓ I am sure you that whilst in lockdown you could find a few words to say about your Star-Word?
- ✓ Please send them to..... parker.mj@btinternet.com.

David Welbourn is the first to share thoughts on his "STAR-WORD"

When I picked my STAR-WORD at the beginning of the year, it took me three or four attempts before I landed on a word which I felt would pose a serious challenge throughout the year ahead. The rejected ones all sat squarely in areas which I knew were likely to sit too comfortably with me. When "kindness" popped out, I knew that there would be situations in which this would not be my most natural inclination. It isn't that I have a disposition towards unkindness. It isn't that I make a habit of avoiding doing or saying things which are kind. It's just that I'm more of a tough-love person, exacerbated with pachydermal qualities.

I am sufficiently self-aware to know that I am not an easy person. I won't shy away from "telling it the way it is." I have learnt to be comfortable with the need to have uncomfortable conversations. I don't believe in pretending that everything will be alright or softening the truth that life is not fair. I turn enthusiastically towards uncertainty and revel in change. My ideal support for people lies in preparing them to understand and deal with life: warts and all, not to offer tea and sympathy.

This cold and impersonal attitude is inwardly motivated by care and concern, but can rarely be interpreted as radiating kindness. In January, my optimistic expectation for the year included further polarisation of society, rising civil unrest and growing hardship. All driven by political ineptitude as the UK faced a mismanaged Brexit hurtling us towards global irrelevance and marginalisation, whilst on the global stage Trump doing goodness knows what damage. Perhaps polishing up my kindness might be a challenging but worthy penance for the year.

We weren't far into the year before the anticipated ignorant and polarising tweets were joined by an even more malign viral influence shaking the fabric of society. I've been busier than ever, dealing with the fallout from the pandemic and trying to make sufficient sense to energise people frozen into indecision and inaction by fear of the unfamiliar. Suffice it to say, that many is the time I've had to pull myself up and draw on the inspiration of my starword. Mostly responding to unacceptable behaviours in folk whose normal restraint and common sense has been tipped out of balance by fear and anxiety. Or picking up the pieces of misinformation spread without thought to the consequence. Worse still, trying to dampen the out-of-control conspiracy-theories. Maybe that timely pause to remind myself of the need for outwardly visible kindness has yielded fruit, drawn from the hidden resources and internal kindness, inspired by hope, confidence, stability, peace and calm. Even if occasionally, forced solitude seems far preferable to social acceptance!



FIND

is a Suffolk charity that supports all those in need, regardless of faith or circumstance.

Our thanks go to Carolyn Macartney for organising a food drive for FIND. Carolyn put out a request to you all, and many

people responded. She did a socially distant pickup and then transported the food to FIND.

Thank you to all who contributed.

😊 Humour Corner 😊

Some traffic news announcements that have probably never happened. But who knows?

- On the A14 a lorryload of raspberries has collided with a lorryload of sugar, causing an enormous jam. Drivers should stick to the inside lane.
- Report just in: a van has spilled its load of cold remedy on the Cornhill. Suffolk Police are reporting no congestion.
- On the A12 at Copdock a lorryload of shoe polish has shunted an ice-cream van. Drivers should look out for black ice.

Have you ever asked why is dyslexia so hard to spell?

And why is abbreviation such a long word?

And why is lemon juice made with artificial flavour and dish washer with real lemons?

A lexophile is someone who loves using words, especially word play and puns such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish".

- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.
- When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

Congratulations and Love.

To all who have or will be celebrating a special occasion.

Pentecost {31st May 2020}

Pentecost occurred during a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot. The apostles were gathered together in a room when the Holy Spirit descended on them. It sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire. The apostles were able to speak in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.

Thank you

Joy, Brian and family wish to thank all who have held us in their prayers on the loss of our much-loved son Tim. Also, for the cards, telephone calls and donations in memory of Tim. There have been so many to reply to individually and they have given us so much comfort. Thank you so much.

Joy, Brian and family.

Please share your news through this Magazine.

Do not forget to let your Pastoral Visitor know of anything you wish to share with others or there is any change in your circumstances so that we can spread the word and help each other. (Please ensure that you have permission from the people concerned or relatives before submitting items.)

Find us on Facebook

Museum Street Methodist Church now has a facebook page.

Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/museumstreetmethodist/>.

Like the page and share the articles with your friends.



**Ipswich Methodist Circuit
Arts & Crafts Online 2020**

Please let us have photographs or videos of your "creations"! There are no specific classes – just anything which you have made or produced. This could be knitting; woodwork; sewing; painting or drawing; photography; fruit, flowers or vegetables; anything!

Please send your photos to the following email address by 30th June: artandcraft@methodistic.org.uk

We plan on having an on-line exhibition from 12th July

If you prefer, you can post photos of your items to:
Robin Pattinson, 4 Thurmans Lane, Trimley St Mary,
Felixstowe IP11 0SR

Please remember to include your name and your Church.

Wednesday Virtual Coffee Mornings

As we are all in our homes and our Wednesday coffee mornings from 10.00 till 11.30 are now on Zoom. You can join by telephone or from your computer or tablet. Come along and catch-up with everyone. Call a church leader for details.

Circuit Website

The Ipswich Methodist Circuit has a new website. <https://methodistic.org.uk/>. On this site, you will find worship services, a 'thought for the day', the circuit news, letters from ministers, Bible Study, and more!

There's also a Circuit Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/methodistic/>.

Our Experiences of Lockdown

For the next edition, in July, please share a few words about one of the following, or anything else that you want to share.

Your best experience so far during lockdown.

What did you do?

Why was it good?

A new hobby you've taken up.

A book you've read.

A piece of music you've discovered.

A new part of your neighbourhood you've discovered on your daily walk.

What have you discovered about your neighbours that you didn't know before?

Something that has encouraged you.

You can email your contributions to Mike Parker.

Or if you prefer to use the Royal Mail,

34 Churchill Avenue

Ipswich

IP45DS

Thank you!

Connections Number20 – July 2020 issue

Please get all contributions ASAP to Mike Parker.

"Connections" is available on our website www.museumstreet.org.uk and if you wish by email. For those without a computer, a copy will be posted.

Please contact Mike Parker if you know anyone not receiving a copy who wishes to do so. Thank you.

Mike Parker

parker.mj@btinternet.com

01473 274321.

Please pray:

For all those struggling to cope with the Covid19 epidemic, whose lives have been disrupted in many ways:
those who are ill, both here and elsewhere, and their families;
those who have lost loved ones;
those who have medical treatment cancelled or postponed because of the strain on the NHS;
those who are unable to visit family in care homes because of restrictions in place to try to keep them safe;
for all those whose businesses or employment is at risk because of travel restrictions, thinking particularly of those working in the travel, hospitality and tourism sectors;
Give thanks for those who are working to develop a vaccine and effective treatments for the problem;
for doctors, nurses and health care assistants working hard to care for those who need it;
for neighbours who offer to bring shopping to those who are self-isolating or in quarantine.
That we remember that, whatever befalls us, we are in God's hands, safe and loved

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38-39

If you are isolated at home and don't have family or neighbour support, there is a network of volunteers from this church who will try to help. If in need of help (food, medicines, post) please access this help via your Pastoral Visitor who will have identified themselves to you already.

“May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us always.

AMEN”

STAY SAFE – protect the NHS