



OUTWARD LOOKING | WARM-HEARTED | JESUS CENTRED

18th FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY SERVICE LED BY LOCAL ARRANGEMENT AT 10.30A.M.

Dear Friends - **I would like to send out a reflection each week of Lent, starting from Ash Wednesday - Week One - 14 Feb 2024**

During my time on sabbatical between 2021/22, I centred myself in a season of focus prayer, reflection, reading and deeper Biblical Studies:

I was a member of *Our Daily Bread Ministries and Media Club*, and I received their DVDs, CDs, books etc., some of which I used to aid me in my deeper Biblical Studies, among other books on my bookshelf. I studied *The Seven Churches of Revelation*, by taking a closer look at the struggles of these New Testament ecclesiologies, in the hope that I can learn something of the essential lessons of Jesus' letters to these churches, and what may be some possible implications for contemporary church communities.

Over the Holy Season of Lent, I will be sharing some of my studies with you, in the hope that you will be inspired and encouraged in your relationship with Jesus."

God Bless, Audrey

POLITE REMINDER: As a church we are called to demonstrate God's love in our walk with Jesus. Please remember to be respectful, considerate and mindful of others attending Sunday services. We often have bereaved, vulnerable persons/families including young people, children and visitors at times. Any personal issues, please speak to your assigned church friend first or ask for a steward on duty. The presiding minister or speaker on the day is often available at the end of the service to talk to or on an arranged basis. Many thanks for your understanding.

DISCOVERY PRAYER GROUP: Audrey will be starting a 'Discovery Prayer Group' during the weeks of Lent (and beyond), and she is inviting everyone to come and join her to spend one hour of prayer together as a church. During this hour, we will pray for our church, the world, and ourselves; and, we will also have the opportunity to reflect on the scripture in ways that help us in our personal and collective discipleship. **Our first 'Discovery Prayer Group' will be on Wednesday 21st February, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at NMC.** Once we have gathered as a 'prayer group', we can talk about practicalities such as the best day, time, and room in which to meet. Also, we can think about whether we may want to use Zoom during the darker months of the year. **All are welcome to come and be a part of this hour of prayer and scriptural reflection.**

MESSY CHURCH on Saturday 24th February at 4pm at NMC. An afternoon of arts, crafts, and lots of fun! Refreshments available and all are welcome. For more information, please speak to Daphne.

Karibuni Coffee Morning at Pinner

There will be another coffee morning at **Pinner Methodist Church**, Love Lane for the Karibuni Children charity on **Saturday 9th March 10am to 12 noon.** Come along for coffee and cakes! There will also be some goods for sale.

Important Dates For your diary:

Tuesday March 12th, 7.30-9.0pm MHA fundraising concert in this Church.

LST Choir, VIVA VOCE and Musicians

Chen Wang, Soprano.

Tickets £10.0 (£5.0 members and volunteers) from

MHA Office 01923842494 Interval refreshments.

STARDUST BIG BAND CONCERT for Christian Aid

Sunday May 12th, 6.30-9.30pm in this Church

12th- 6.30-9.30pm

Tickets available in March.

FOOD BANK. The last Sunday to bring offerings for the March delivery, is Sunday March 3rd. Tinned meats, fish, rice, spaghetti, toiletries please. No more Baked Beans thanks.

A MESSAGE FROM ANGELA If any members of the NMC church want to join MHA Communities West London as supporters, members or volunteers and receive the newsletter each quarter please contact the office number or speak with Angela Flux on any Sunday she attends. See the staff page of the newsletter for telephone contact details. Angela would ask the church to pray for the work and the opportunities it affords for us to reach out and serve our community, and particularly our new partnership with St Helen's School where Edward Walter is Deputy Head.

GOOD NEWS! Delighted to report that Dame Joanna Lumley, a Patron, and three other generous friends of KIDS FOR KIDS pledged to double donations received during December 2023. That means that the £600 sent to Kids for Kids as a result of your generosity in supporting our Quiz in December, has been doubled to £1,200. It may be difficult to believe but the UN describes the situation in Sudan as 'the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today' – with more people who have lost their homes than in the rest of the world combined. Your support is invaluable. Thank you. Hazel.

DISCOVERY GROUP DETAILS Cheryl and Shirley's Discovery We meet fortnightly on zoom at 3 pm on Thursdays. **Starting January 14th.** New people welcome. Contact Cheryl or Shirley for zoom details. **For log in details contact asq28@icloud.com.**

Sue & Daphne's Discovery Group runs on Thursdays fortnightly at 7pm on zoom. Starting this Thursday. If you would like to join, please speak to Sue or Daphne for further details.

Many thanks to Angela Flux for offering to lead the Discovery Group that was led by the Revd Andrew Pottage. May all who attend continue to grow in their relationship with God, and may they be confirmed more and more into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ

Audrey would like to encourage those who were a part of that Discovery Group, to **please join one of the other Discovery Groups if you can.** Audrey has sensed that there is an urgent need for collective prayer as a church, and therefore, she will be focusing on a 'Discovery Prayer Group', and she is inviting everyone to come and be a part of this time of prayer. See notice on Discovery Prayer Group for further information

ROLES AT NMC: Northwood Methodist Church is urgently in need of more volunteers, to ensure that we can continue to properly function as a church. The Leadership Team is working hard to ensure that we can continue to manage our finances well, so we value your prayers, as we endeavour to make good progress in finding the best way forward. If you think you can assist in any way with the Treasureship at NMC, the Leadership Team would love to speak with you.

These are the vacant roles that need filling at NMC urgently:

- **Church Council Secretary**
- **Church Friends Coordinator**
- **Church Treasurer**
- **Gift Aid Secretary**
- **Article for Northwood Residents Association (coordinator)**
- **Property & Finance Committee members & chair**
- **NMC Weekly News Letter Distributor**

Please speak with Audrey or Sue Lloyd if you think you would like to offer yourself for one of the above roles. Thank you.

LITTLE ACORNS on Mondays, TERM TIME ONLY, from 9.30am at NMC for babies, toddlers and pre-school children. For more information contact Julia or Daphne.

Every Tuesday - Take Yourself Out Tuesdays (TYOT) @ Ruislip Methodist Church 10am – 12noon. Save on your heating and use ours! At a loose end? Popping to the shops and fancy a cuppa? RMC are on the U1, E7, 278 bus routes or just around the corner from the high Street - drop in for a free drink and a warm welcome.

EASTER SERVICES

There is a joint ‘Ash Wednesday Service’ at Wealdstone Methodist Church, Commencing at 2:00 p.m. This service will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. All are welcome to attend.

There will also be a joint ‘Good Friday Service’ at Wealdstone Methodist Church, commencing at 12:00 noon. All are welcome to attend.

As we journey through Lent to Easter, may this be our prayer:

**God, my light, and my salvation,
illuminate my life,
that I may see your goodness in the land of the living,
and, looking on your beauty,
may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ my Lord.**

Revd. Audrey D Browne

NEWSLETTER Please send all newsletter notices by **Wednesday 1pm** to **jessicaghatora7@gmail.com** or text message or call & leave a message on: **07902-067-946**. Remember all newsletters are uploaded onto the church website

A PRAYER FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity to have a new start.

Too many times, I have strayed from my relationship with you. In times of distress and worry, I chose to try and handle things on my own.

Moments of frustration, anger, and sadness have flooded my body. In those conflicting times, I chose to stay away from you.

I neglected to seek your help. Father, forgive me. You are the way, the truth, and the light.

I ask you once again to guide me on the path to a new start in life.

Please cover me with your love, protection, and mercy. Please allow me to show your love to others as I begin a new day.

Thank You, Father, for your love and forgiveness.

Thank You for searching and finding me again. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Thank You for never leaving me alone. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

OUR MINISTER'S LETTER AT LENT

Dear Friends,

The holy season of Lent is here again when we pay closer attention to the 'temptations of Jesus' to find strength and courage for our own lives, as we seek to be better disciples of Jesus. Lent can be a very challenging time for us because we are invited to look inward and deal with ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit. It is also a time when we are invited to look outward toward others with love and compassion and to treat others as we would want to be treated. This looking inward and outward is designed to transform us more and more into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our journey through Lent doesn't need to be onerous, because genuine relationship with God is a delight. However, our journey through Lent to the heart of our Christian faith — Easter, requires us to be intentional in our relationship with God, to better appreciate God's transforming grace offered to us in Jesus Christ.

I encourage us all to take this personal journey through Lent beginning on 'Ash Wednesday', all the way through to Holy Week, and to receive God's love afresh, as we engage with the scriptures, prayer, and acts of faith, both individually and collectively. There is a joint 'Ash Wednesday Service' at Wealdstone Methodist Church, commencing at 2:00 p.m. This service will include Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. All are welcome to attend. There will also be a joint 'Good Friday Service' at Wealdstone Methodist Church, commencing at 12:00 noon. All are welcome to attend. As we journey through Lent to Easter, may this be our prayer:

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Rev. Audrey D Browne