



OUTWARD LOOKING | WARM-HEARTED | JESUS CENTRED

17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024

**SUNDAY SERVICE LED BY REVD. AUDREY BROWNE AT 10.30A.M.**

**TODAY - DISCOVERY PRAYER GROUP:** Audrey is hosting 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 'Discovery Prayer Group' will be on Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. at NMC in the lobby area of the church. All are welcome to come and be a part of this hour of prayer and scriptural reflection.**

Dear Friends - **I would like to send out a reflection each week of Lent, which is sent out separately.**

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.

**FOOD BANK** your gifts, once again, were most generous and so appreciated.

The last Sunday before the April collection will be April 7th. Thank you in advance.

Reminder: Any tinned meat, fish, and / or fruit. (No baked beans please). Rice, Pasta, Jams, Toiletries, baby products etc. Very many thanks. Shirley

**CRAFT FAIR** Thank you to all who baked and served at the Craft Fair last Saturday.

The wonderful sum of £327.50 was raised. An amazing effort and very generous giving of time, talents and energy! The next Fair for any who can support will be on April 6th.

**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.

**MHA FUNDRAISING CONCERT** Chen Wang and the London School of Theology choir are supporting MHA Communities West London by performing a **WE CARE fundraising concert on 12 March at Northwood Methodist Church 7:30-9pm.** Please ring the MHA Office to book a seat 01923 842494, this will assist with planning the interval refreshments  
**Tickets are £10 on the door payable on the evening £5 for our MHA members and students/children.**

**Donations towards this work are welcome as we support and care for over 300 older people in our area.** Cheques should be made out to MHA Communities West London and Gift Aid forms will be available on the night to anyone who wishes to donate and is eligible to claim this.  
Thanks Angela Flux and Julie Nevitt, Scheme Managers.

### **Important Dates For your diary:**

**STARDUST BIG BAND CONCERT** for Christian Aid  
**Sunday May 12th, 6.30-9.30pm at NMC**  
**12th- 6.30-9.30pm. There is an interval in this event.**  
**Tickets available now from Shirley or Karen.**

**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.

**DISCOVERY GROUP DETAILS Cheryl and Shirley's Discovery** We meet fortnightly on zoom at 3 pm on Thursdays. 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** who is currently asking the views of those who attended Andrew Pottage's home group for their views about when and where we meet. **Anyone wishing to join in a face to face bible study can speak to Ray or Angela Flux. Ray currently leads a study group opportunity on a Monday afternoon between 2-3pm in Betty's room at Emmanuel, this is open to people from any local congregations.** Angela's group will be hosted in the homes of those who elect to join it on a fortnightly basis, time and day yet to be determined.

**May all who attend continue to grow in their relationship with God, and may you be conformed more and more into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**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 Treasurership 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.**

## **EASTER 2024**

### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

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

### **WALK OF WITNESS GOOD FRIDAY**

Last year we walked to Holy Trinity from the War Memorial, via NMC.

**This year everyone is asked to meet at Holy Trinity at 10.00 am on Good Friday and join the walk to NMC for coffee and hot cross buns.**

**After which the passion play will be streamed from Trafalgar Square at 12.00 noon. Please come and join us in church to watch the Wintershall Passion Play being livestreamed from Trafalgar Square from 12 noon. There will be tea/coffee & hot cross buns available. Thank you,**

**This event is a free event at Trafalgar Square. The nearest tube stations are Charing Cross, Piccadilly Circus & Embankment. If travelling to the event, please check travel updates on the day.**

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

Our Easter Sunday Communion Service will be lead by the Revd Dr. Jonathan Hustler, commencing at 10:30 a.m. **There will be an Easter Breakfast provided at 9am. If you would like to join, there will be a sign-up sheet on Sunday morning, if you would come please sign up. If you are not going to be at church on Sunday but would sign up if you were there please let Sue Lloyd know. Thank you.**

**NEWSLETTER** Please send all newsletter notices by **Wednesday 1pm** to **[jessicaghatora7@gmail.com](mailto: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:

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**