

# CIRCUIT NEWS

*Loving others as God loves us*

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## Bedworth Anniversary

During November our church in Bedworth will be celebrating a very special Anniversary, our 175th. Celebrations will be very limited and postponed to a better time, but we thought it would be good to share a little of our history in photos and text with you all. Anyone who has visited our church may be under the impression from the look of our building we are quite 'young' but this is not the case. We know from records and comments made by a Rev. R. Watson in 1800 that a Methodist society existed in Bedworth and he was denied permission to preach because they felt his doctrinal views were at fault! Our church first began worshipping in a small cottage in one of Bedworth's many 'yards' in the 1820's, moved on to a private house in 1830 and went from strength to strength until they were able to purchase land on the present site in 1844 for £101.10 shillings. The total cost of the new church being £850. It was opened in Autumn 1846 by Dr Beaumont the theme of the address being "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath or doubting" 1st Timothy 2, v.8. The effect was said to be electric and the congregation could not refrain from applause". The church went from strength to strength, growing both in numbers and size below is a photo from around the turn of the century. Over the years the church grew and with spiritual enthusiasm and much fund raising, alterations were made - memorial stained glass windows, a grand organ, a new Sunday school room to accommodate the two hundred attenders and 25 staff and a new entrance. The congregation were proud of their achievements through the years and then in 1941 disaster struck. The church they loved was destroyed by fire overnight, not by wartime activity as you might think, but by faulty electric wiring. The fire going unnoticed for some time due to blackout blinds at the windows. The congregation was devastated and for the next few years relied on the good nature of other local churches for accommodation. Again, spiritual enthusiasm and much fund raising led to the opening of a new church being built and opened in 1953.

**Part 2 of this update to be continued in the next Newsletter.**

Bedworth Methodist Church around 1900.

To see more photographs and to read the full article please go to the Circuit Website : [www.covnunmethodist.org.uk](http://www.covnunmethodist.org.uk)



# The Methodist Church

Coventry & Nuneaton Methodist Circuit

## Hello Church,

A new reality of uncertainty is settling in, we are back into lockdown. Based on our needs, our experiences with lockdown differ. We use different comforting words to cope, do distinct activities to adapt and go through evolving spiritual steps to make sense of what is going on. In the process, we collectively suffer the discomforts of intense loneliness and social distancing, mourn in unique ways our losses, and resort to unprecedented ways of being church as a worshipping and witnessing community.

While a dominant factor of lockdown is social distancing, we can be confident of our God's reliable proximity. In this, God, in Christ, stands among us in the gaps of social distancing to meet our needs, as diverse as they may be, energize us and reset the Church.

In Christ and the holy spirit, distance can be replaced with close proximity from which to draw spiritual energy (*Revelation 21 1-7*).

**Marcus**

## Discipleship through Learning and Caring (Stream 2)

### Learning:

There are three external Learning Training Centres currently being reviewed, they are:

1. Cliff College
2. Launde Abbey.
3. Diocese of Coventry (C of E) but Ecumenically based.

If anyone wants to attend any training, please contact me. Currently only 'remote' Pastoral training from Cliff College is being planned, cost not yet available.

### Upcoming Events regarding Deepening Discipleship @ Launde Abbey

30<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 4pm Deepening Discipleship Day: Ministry in a Time of Trauma (Remote training) Cost: £20

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 10am to 4pm Deepening Discipleship Day: Thy Will be Done Cost: TBA

### From the Diocese of Coventry:

The Art of Spiritual Accompaniment – 2021 2022. Cost: £140 per term, payable in advance (includes provision of a course textbook).

### Caring:

Following the 1<sup>st</sup> set of Circuit wide Pastoral Secretary / Coordinator meetings, the following ideas are being followed up.

1. Could you let me know if your Church has a Prayer Shawl ministry?
2. Do you think that having a Prayer Stall outside your church (or in a market place) for people to come and chat and have a prayer said for them is something that could be copied across the circuit post lockdown?

**Peter Dipple**

**We welcome Churches and individuals to offer news items of up to 150 words to be included in the next Newsletter. Please send, by 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, to the Circuit Office Email : [office@covnunmethodist.org.uk](mailto:office@covnunmethodist.org.uk) or Tel: 07517 693474**

## CHURCHES AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### Atherstone Trinity Church

The last hymn at our final service before lockdown was “You shall go out with joy” – well we tried! Each member of Leaders’ Council took responsibility for maintaining contact on a regular basis with a small group of our members and this continues. Prayer shawl ministry continued. Our minister Rev. Dr Allan Smith, organised Zoom services on Sunday mornings at 9.30 a.m. when we were pleased to share worship with the other churches in the North Warwickshire Pastorate, enabling us to make new friends. We are grateful to our lay preachers Pam and Rosemary who produced prayer and readings sheets monthly which helped with our devotions at home, circulated to everyone via email or a few circuits of Atherstone on foot! Unfortunately, we have been unable to resume services in church because of significant repairs that need to be undertaken. We ask for your prayers as we work through the minefield of surveyor’s reports, quotes, and requests for grants etc. In the meantime, we continue to care for each other and remain very much part of the Trinity family.

### Compassion Justice and Peace (Stream 4)

Caring for the environment is one of the three pillars that the stream ‘Compassion Justice and Peace’ seeks to focus its work within the circuit. The other two pillars being: Equality, diversity, & inclusion and Social Justice. Human activity has directly influenced the massive environmental and climate crisis that we are now facing. Caring for God’s world is therefore a hope-filled and life-giving aspect of our Christian faith and witness. As the circuit leadership team, we have made a statement to register our intention to work towards being an ‘eco-circuit’. Our hope and prayer is to journey alongside local churches as they work towards becoming eco-churches and communities. Learning, teaching, and adopting different ways of being and doing will hopefully help us all to tread more lightly on the earth. Please consider being your church’s environmental champion and joining our circuit eco-group. Can you share with us some ways you and/or your church have taken steps to show care for God’s world, which is also our home? By emailing to: [justice@covnunmethodist.org.uk](mailto:justice@covnunmethodist.org.uk) or [Tendai.Mugodi@covnunmethodist.org.uk](mailto:Tendai.Mugodi@covnunmethodist.org.uk)

**Tendai Munemo**

### Fillongley LEP.

We have held regular Sunday worship services at Fillongley since the beginning of July following diocesan guidelines on social distancing and sanitising. A weekly church bulletin including the full printed service for the forthcoming Sunday service is distributed online as is the bi-monthly Church/Parish newsletter. We held our Harvest Festival in the Churchyard which generated interest from Neighbours and passers-by. As we could not hold the Wednesday luncheon club in the meeting room Church members have been taking the meals to the homes of the regular attenders. We intend to proceed as we have so far unless further Government restrictions prevent us from doing so. We are holding the Remembrance Service outdoors around the War Memorial where wreaths to the fallen will be laid.

### Nuneaton

Since Sunday 15th March Nuneaton have been unable to lead Sunday Services due to the Covid-19 in our Church building. As a Church we have led Pastoral support to our elderly Members and undertaken to do Church Services either on Zoom or conference call. Junior Church has been meeting over Zoom which has been a great success. As Senior Steward during the peak of lock down I contacted many members via phone to do Pastoral support as unfortunately on the 26th March we heard that Christine Temple who was a Member and a Church Steward had passed away suddenly in the early hours which was a big shock and sad news to the Church. Our Mid-week Oasis Service continued via conference call and eventually zoom. As the weeks continued, we commenced our Monday Evening Prayer and Bible Study via zoom. During the Summer months we started a Virtual Coffee Morning on a Friday Morning and a virtual Singing session on a Tuesday afternoon. Every week a few people have been delivering Worship sheets to Members of the Church, this has been much appreciated by everyone at Church to keep them connected. On the 6th September we commenced having a short Morning Service in our Church building after completing a full risk assessment and action plan. These Services have been really supported with an average of 25 people attending. This has been a Welcome and spiritual support for our members who have missed coming to Church each week for fellowship. Junior Church is still meeting on Zoom.