



Congresbury Methodist Church News

Weeks beginning 14th January 2024

Minister: Rev. Meg Slingo, Tel: 01934 852314

Circuit Website-www.somersetmendipmethodists.com

Please Note we
have a Facebook Page
@ CONGRESBURY
METHODIST CHURCH



Church Services for January 2024

Sunday 14th 11.00am Morning Worship led by the
Worship Leaders **CANCELLED**

Sunday 21st 11.00am **COVENANT SERVICE** and Holy
Communion led by Rev. Meg Slingo

Sunday 28th 11.00am Morning Worship led by Lois Emm

URGENT NOTICE

Because of illness we regret we are forced to close our church for worship this Sunday . Two stewards and myself have COVID. Also Iris, our senior steward is in hospital and we ask that you pray for Iris and Dave at this most difficult time that they will receive the Lord's comfort and strength and know His peace.

NEXT WEEK: A reminder that next Sunday we have our Covenant Service which includes Holy Communion. This is a most special service when we as Christians have the opportunity to renew our vows. Meg will be leading this act of worship and we pray it will be a blessing to us all

John and Kathleen

Food bank

REMINDER Lucy has been invited to speak at the Ladies Friendly meeting on 24th January at 7.30pm in the Methodist Hall so please keep this date and come along and listen to the stories she has to tell.

Kathleen xxxx



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

It is the time collecting in the Action for Children boxes. It (Thank you for those who have done so already) we are asking now that any box holders will hand them in to us by Sunday 14th January. Thank you.

John and Kathleen

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live it's discipleship in worship and mission

There is a very warm welcome to everyone worshipping our Lord in this place. After morning worship there is refreshments and an opportunity to have a chat



PRAYER God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice that can be experienced by all.

Father God after almost a century of mistrust and fratricide, you inspired Jews, Christians, and Muslims to take the path of reconciliation in the Middle East... We ask for your forgiveness, O God, yet we find it hard to forgive our past enemies. May Your Words touch those who still stray in the wilderness of vengeful violence forgetting your command to forgive those who trespass against us. We pray, even in this late hour that you will hear our prayers that peace and justice can be experienced by all. We ask this in Jesus Name. Amen

My thoughts We have recently celebrated Epiphany, which by definition is, “an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking”.

I can't help thinking that is exactly what Paula Vennells (Ex Chief Executive of the Post Office) had following the recent screening of Mr Bates vs The Post Office on Itv. If you haven't watched it, get it on catch up either directly or via a friend, it is truly harrowing to see what those sub-postmasters were put through between 1999 and today, 24 years and counting. I know there are plans afoot to rectify the error but for 24 years plus the establishment stood their ground and refused to accept that they had done anything wrong. It may not be the worst miscarriage of justice to ever happen and when we consider what is happening in Gaza, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world the impact is relatively minor, but it is still wrong.

We celebrate Epiphany as the realisation that God had come to earth in the form of Jesus and he would show us the way to eternal life. That option is still available to us, to anyone who believes. Since Jesus, there have been many “Epiphany Moments” through science, Archimedes discovering how to calculate the size of an irregular article or Isaac Newton grasping the impact of the gravitational pull on the moon and falling apples on earth. Amazing though these are they don't hold a candle to the promise made by Jesus that if you truly believe you will inherit eternal life.

I struggle daily to get my head around this. I understand the Post Office fiasco, I get gravity, but eternal life!!!! That is a huge challenge for anyone to try and comprehend. It is a massive leap of faith that many of us would like to make but have we got the resolve to believe it is true. I would like to think I would say “yes I believe”, but not just to make life easy/comfortable but because I can see the truth in what Jesus preached.

I have little time left to correct some of the wrongs I have committed but I pray I can do some good in my latter years that will help to sway the pendulum. As for “Epiphany”, I don't think I have had mine yet but I can see the impact of those who have.

Barry Sparks. S

Thought for the week

***WE ARE TRUSTING YOU,
LORD JESUS***