

**Questions
for reflection**

- ▶ When have you ever experienced life from the viewpoint of an outsider?
- ▶ How can we be better at listening to those who are 'outsiders'?
- ▶ What new understandings might we gain from listening to them?



Live your faith

Do something that gives you another perspective this week: e.g. listen to a new style of music or watch an informative TV programme that you do not normally watch. Talk with a friend about the experience.

Read Matthew 15.(10-20),21-28

A prayer for others

The Canaanite woman sought your help. She loved her daughter so much, she was so desperately in need, that she wouldn't give up till she had her answer.

Lord, may we learn from this woman, to wait on you expectantly, patiently, persistently, doggedly. Grant us the courage of our convictions when we truly believe we are doing your will.

We pray today for those who feel excluded, whatever their situation, whatever the reason: for prisoners, refugees, the homeless; for the sick, the mentally unstable; for any who feel that they are outsiders.

We pray for ourselves when our faith is weak, or we feel that we don't belong.

Amen.

A personal prayer

Lord, the Pharisees were offended by your words.

You could have been offended by the Canaanite woman's words.

I ask that, as I go about my business, I will take the time to consider each person I meet as unique, special to you, and worthy of my listening ear.

May I not be offended just because something is out of my comfort zone.

Amen.



Wesley Methodist Church

<https://wesley.valeofstour.org.uk>

<https://wesley.valeofstour.org.uk/virtual-church>

Newsletter: Sunday 16th August 2020

Weekly Feature – Favourite Hymns –From Sunday School days

Do you remember the actions; why not try them as you sing

Zacchaeus was a very little man
and a very little man was he.
He climbed up into a sycamore tree
for the Saviour he wanted to see.
And when the Saviour passed that way
He looked into the tree
and said ' Now Zacchaeus, you come down,
for I'm coming to your house for tea.'

Minister: Revd. Josephine Soon 01384 821854

Church Contact: Margaret Kite 01384 392310

Keep Safe – God Bless

Report from Meeting of Stewards and Property in the Manse Garden
Saturday 8th August 2020

It was recorded that the Trustees of Wesley – namely Church Council made up of all the actual members of the Methodist Church – would be held responsible should anything go wrong, if the church opened without the correct Risk Assessment (checked by the Circuit) and action plan in place and agreed by the Church Council

As at the date of the meeting, opening of church would require all to wear a mask, there would be no singing or communion and there could not be any socialising in the church and limited to 30 people in attendance. . The Risk Assessment forms seem to change weekly as does Government guidance. A track and trace would have to be in place – which would mean that everyone would have to supply contact details. Should someone new come to church and not be prepared to give details they would be refused entry. All would have to have their temperature taken and if showing any Covid 19 signs also refused entry. Anyone using the toilet (only opened for emergencies) would be responsible for cleaning the facilities before the next person used them.

After much discussion including the age of our congregation putting nearly everyone into a vulnerable category and some having health issues - the following time table agreed.

By end of September – Risk Assessment carried out and agreed by Circuit and Action plan in place.

During October this to be made available to the congregation and Church Council to agree it and at the same time ask for volunteers to

carry out the jobs required on the action plan which would be updated each week when church open.

Look towards to opening on November 29th, 1st Sunday in Advent – members to be asked to agree if service start time 10.30am or 10.45am. Under present guidelines this would be a shorter service – prayers, reading and sermon, with hymns just played, no singing.

Other items discussed

Josephine presented her August letter which is included with these notices.

We did look to opening for Harvest – agreed this not possible, but would endeavour to have a collecting point for the Food Bank, at Wesley on Saturday 3rd October 10am – 11.00am so that the congregation could contribute harvest gifts.



Dear sisters and brothers,

We thank God for His faithfulness and love for all of us. The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to participate and to pray for our church lives.

Below are some of the updated activities within our church lives at Wesley Methodist Church.

Parents with young children families – 11/8/2020 11am-12pm

Together with AW Parents & Toddlers Group, a letter has now been sent out at the weekend to all 6 families in our list. We welcome them to come and collect a small gift pack as a way of expressing our thoughts and love for them. The next date will be on 4/9/2020 at 10am - 2 pm.

We welcome the offering of money for us to buy masks/wipes/back to school stationary for our community (Mount Pleasant area).

Small group at Manse's garden - 11 August 2020 at 1 pm (not more than 6 households)

The Manse Garden will be open to welcome a small house-group gathering.

The aim is to create **a space** for worship/bible study & fellowship.

We only can welcome people from **6 households at a time**.

The first trial on the 8th August is fully booked now.

If you are interested in future gathering in the Manse, please get in touch with Margaret Kite at 01384 392310 or email Josephine Soon at josephine.soon@methodist.org.uk.

Movie of the month: The War Room

I invite you to watch a movie called 'The War Room'. It is a Christian movie about an elderly lady who really loves God. She wanted to sell her house after her husband died. It is a real story about how God has used this elderly lady to help her property agent to come back to Jesus.

You can watch this through Amazon Prime or from YouTube by clicking on the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RFjN-A-y68>

Fellowship Club: 10th August 2020 at 1pm

This month, we watched a movie at home and shared our thoughts about the movie through 'zoom'.

This month, we are going to talk about the movie - '**War Room**'. We will have a **fun quiz** to help us learn more about God through refreshing our Bible knowledge. We will also **sing** traditional hymns and introduce anew the Christian **story**.

If you would like to join us, **please get in touch with me**.

Join Josephine @ 'Growing Faith' 10/9/2020 at 2pm or 7.30 pm

Do you want to learn more about 'Praying and Crying' to God? Why crying? What is the different between praying and crying? How to cry to God?

30 minutes teaching & 10 minutes practicing ~ All are welcome.

Please contact Revd Josephine Soon and register yourself: 'Growing Faith' 1st lesson: ***Learn to cry!***

Like Peter, who walked on the water (Matthew 14), worship and fellowship through ZOOM or private garden may be a new experience for some of us. One thing we are sure about is that we are not going to lose anything by seeking God and seeking to do things together (for example: watching the same movie and fellowship & worship).

Therefore, we give thanks to God for the new WAY for us to worship and have fellowship, growing together in Him. I hope to meet with you in one of these dates and spaces. Please kindly spread around this information and encourage one another to follow Jesus into this new PATH & WAY.

God Bless, Josephine Soon 5th August 2020

Stick closely together, with fearful & trembling hearts, in this new WAY that God is leading us to the Promise Land.

