

## Minister's Monthly Message - November 2017



Welcome to this month's Minister's Monthly Message.

In this edition you can hear about a number of upcoming events as we head through Autumn towards Christmas.

The autumn season is a strange one in many ways, as a number of events cause us to look back. Whether we are looking back on a summer just gone, or whether its the events of All Souls, All Saints Day, the bonfires of Nov 5th, remembering an historical event, or the season of Remembrance in Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday,

there is much in Autumn that causes us to reflect on what has been. Often we are encouraged not to look back as it quickly leads to an unrealistic nostalgia about the 'good old days', but sometimes looking back can be a real help. Not too long ago I found some of my old journals where I had written about my experiences at the time, prayer requests, battles I was facing, and reading them years after the events was a real faith-building experience, it reminded me of the God who has been faithful to me down the years and therefore who is forever faithful today.

As my family and I come to a pivotal time in our lives and as the Church does the same as it awaits the appointment of the next Minister, its important to take courage from the God who has never let us down in the past, and who holds us securely in the palm of His hand. Ive found Matt Redman's song 'Never Once' a really refreshing reminder of these truths and I share it here in case it may be an encouragement to you.

With love,

Gareth

**just looking...**



A reminder that our four 'Just Looking' evenings commence today (Mon 7th November) from 7:30-8:30pm at LMC. These are stand alone sessions to discuss a topic relating to the Christian faith and ask questions, and great to invite or direct people to who are seeking more experience of the Christian faith.

Comedy Evening - Mark Palmer

Our next comedy night will soon be upon us, at Mickleover Golf Club, Friday 24th November, 7:30pm. These have been brilliant evenings in the past with much fun and laughter and so they are a fantastic opportunity to bring someone along to. There is no preach or hard sell, just a fun evening. Tickets are £6 each or 2 for £10 from the Church Office, Graham Penny or Rob Collinson. We encourage you to bring someone with you if you can!



**Saturday 2nd December**  
**9.30am to 12pm**  
**Littleover Methodist**  
**Church**

**Messy**  
**Christmas**



Messy Christmas will soon be upon us!

Messy Christmas is taking place on Saturday Dec 2nd at 9.30am to 12pm. Bring your friends and family along for a fantastic morning of festive family fun. There will be a nativity play for the whole family to join in and the morning will finish with bacon butties. Help is needed to run the activities. Please sign up at the desk in the foyer or speak to Jackie if you can help.



We have a Church Fellowship Lunch coming up on 3rd December after the morning service. It is a bring and share meal and lists will soon be out with what to bring. This will be a lovely time to enjoy each others company and share fellowship together.

# CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met in October and...

- appointed Lucy Green and Jane Speake to oversee the Prayer Ministry Team
- received the updated Action Plan from the Leadership Team - available to all to see on the noticeboard
- confirmed that there would be two carol services this year to take account of increased demand in recent years 2:30pm and 6:00pm (17th December)
- approved an application for planning permission for a new car-park on the front lawn
- appointed Steve Alcock as Maintenance Team Leader
- received an update on the recruitment process for the new Minister

The Church Council meets in a closed meeting on 21st November to make decisions about staffing and holds its next regular meeting on Dec 6th.

Good News

The logo for LMC (Leeds Methodist Church) is a white circle containing the letters 'LMC' in a stylized font. The letters are white and set against a light blue background.

## Encouraging Maturity

We recently held the thanksgiving for Iris Cheeseman at church on 22nd October. Iris' family and friends wrote to us to tell us how welcome they felt and how impressed they were with all the church does. What a lovely encouragement and good to hear that the welcome at LMC is getting even better!

## Equipping for Ministry

Some Stewards and Staff recently attended the Navigating Change Conference at Swanbank Methodist Church in Stoke. This was an encouraging time where churches and leaders gathered to

be inspired about growing the church and planning for mission. Those who attended came back feeling equipped for the ministry God has called them to at LMC. Praise the Lord!  
Enabling Mission

We had a great time at Church on 5th November toasting marshmallows, warming our hands by the fire pit and lighting sparklers. A good number of folk turned out and about half of those that came were from our Messy Church or Play Ark groups who seemed to have a good time getting to know folk from LMC.

#### November 2017

2nd - Pastoral Contacts Meeting 7:30pm

4th - Messy Church 10am, Mission on Streets 9:15am, Memorial Service for Sumalee 3pm

5th - Morning Worship led by Dave Bell Preacher Rev Gareth Higgs (includes Communion) 10:30am

6th - Just Looking Course 7:30pm

7th - Christmas Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm, Prayer Meeting - 7:45pm

11th - Wedding of Rob Jones & Adele Bownes 1pm

12th - Early Morning Communion led by Rev Gareth Higgs 8:30am, Remembrance Sunday Parade led by Jackie Berry 10:30am, Newcomers Lunch 1pm, Encounter led by Rob Collinson Preacher Rev Gareth Higgs 6pm

13th - Just Looking Course 7:30pm

14th - Christmas Choir Rehearsal 7pm

15th - Stewards Meeting - 7:30pm

19th - Morning Worship led by Jackie Berry Preacher Rev Greg Obong-Oshotse 10:30am, Encounter led by Hilary Disney Preacher Rev Gareth Higgs 6pm

20th - Just Looking Course 7:30pm

21st - Christmas Choir 7pm, Church Council 7pm

24th - Comedy Night at Mickleover Golf Club - 7:30pm

26th - Morning Worship led by Hilary Disney, Preacher Mairi Radcliffe 10:30am, City-wide Prayer at New Life Christian Centre 6:30pm

27th - Just Looking Course - 7:30pm

28th - Christmas Choir 7pm

#### December 2017

2nd - Messy Christmas 9:30am

3rd - Morning Worship including Holy Communion Preacher Rev Gareth Higgs 10:30am, Church Lunch, Carol Singing around the streets

5th - Christmas Choir 7pm, Prayer Meeting 7:45pm

6th - Church Council 7:30pm

9th - Mission on the Streets 10am

10th - Early Morning Communion led by Rev Gareth Higgs 8:30am

Morning Worship led by Rev Gareth Higgs including thanksgiving for Gabriel Kamunge 10:30am , Open Air Carols 6pm

12th - Christmas Choir 7pm, Leadership Team 7:30pm

17th - Morning Worship Preacher Jackie Berry 10:30am, Carol Service 2:30pm & 6pm

22nd Nativi-Tea

24th - Nativity Service led by Mike Williams 10:30am, Christingle led by Jackie Berry 4pm, Midnight Communion led by Rev Gareth Higgs 11:30pm

25th - Christmas Day Celebration Service 10:30am, Christmas Lunch

31st - Morning Worship Preacher Walter Lowndes 10:30am