



CMC Covid-19 Newsletter No. 9

Winter/Spring 2021

Hello friend,

Welcome to the latest edition of our COVID-19 Newsletter and we hope and pray that you are faring well. This is a particularly poignant time as it marks the anniversary of the first lockdown, but with Spring seemingly to be just around the corner, hopefully the bulbs we distributed in the Autumn are showing signs of life and will burst into flower, a sign of the beauty of God's creation. In this edition we have news and messages from members of our congregation including our regular allotment update, reports of Christmas past, news from Messy Church and an introduction to a parrot, but a large proportion of this Newsletter contains the responses from the questionnaire we sent out in January. COVID-19 has offered us all an opportunity to reflect and consider how life at CMC is now, during the pandemic, and might be over the coming years. We are grateful to all the respondents for taking the time to complete the questionnaire and for their varied considerations and comments.

We are still unsure how and when Church will be opening over the coming months and with the Easter period approaching, we are glad to tell you about an "Easter-Walk" open to all in the grounds of the Church, with ten stations describing the journey to Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Christ. This is a multimedia activity with artwork, links to videos, hymns and musical pieces. For those of you who are still isolating, shielding or unable to get to the Church, we will be sending the details of the journey out by email with paper copies for those without access to the internet; and you should all be receiving a Palm Cross with a "road-map" of the Easter stations prior to Palm Sunday.

As we've said in the previous newsletters, if you are a pastoral visitor and can't keep up with, or have concerns about, those in your group, or don't have a pastoral visitor available, or in fact think that we may be able to help in some way, please do get in touch with The Stewards or the Minister(s).

With love and best wishes,

The Stewards

Visit our Easter walk in the grounds of CMC

Here is an example of one of the 10 stations which will be in the grounds surrounding the Church this Easter. Each station is centered around a different part of the Easter Story and might be a useful way to help prepare for the events of Holy Week, but could also be a good opportunity for outreach to passers-by or people you may know who do not necessarily attend a Church. We are grateful for all those who contributed, especially for Ivor sharing his art-work. More information will be distributed, with a Palm Cross, the week before Easter.



Station 7

Peter denies Christ

Peter followed behind at a distance when the soldiers came to take Jesus away. He waited in the courtyard outside the high priest's house. He sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. Someone said, "You were also with Jesus of Nazareth," but Peter denied it. Two more times that night Peter said he didn't know Jesus.

Then the cock crowed, and Peter remembered that Jesus had said, "Before the cock crows you will disown me three times." Peter went outside and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26: 69 – 75



Use these links to hear "Have mercy on me" from St Matthew's Passion by JS Bach:



<https://youtu.be/nZb7FcP84CM>

February 14th, 2021

Dear All,

I hope this finds you well and continuing to cope with the Coronavirus restrictions we are under. As we prepare to enter Lent I am aware that it was during Lent last year that all this began for us in the UK. It's been a long time! I write to update you on our position regarding the reopening of Churches for Worship. At our last Circuit Leadership Team meeting we gave careful consideration to the current situation in Wales. We felt it would help if we were proactive rather than reactive to changes in restrictions, etc, so that we have a clear plan for the next month or so. This, we hope, will give our people a measure of certainty in these very challenging times. We have made the decision to continue with online worship for the month of March. In making this decision we have taken the following into account:

- Wales is currently in Tier 4 level restrictions which acknowledges there is still the potential for high rates of transmission of coronavirus and its variants. The First Minister will announce any changes to restrictions on February 19th, but it seems unlikely that there will be any major relaxing of rules as first attempts are made to get children back to school.
- The vaccine roll out in Wales is going extremely well and many of our older members have now been vaccinated. However, it has been made clear that the current scope of the vaccination programme does not allow for increased mixing and decreased restrictions. It would be so sad if we were to add to the potential transmission rates when we are so close to things being safer.
- We are aware that the NHS, in particular hospitals, are still under strain from the second wave of the virus over Christmas and into the new year. As part of the wider community it is important, as churches, we do our part to avoid even greater strain on the NHS. We are conscious, of course, that not everyone from our churches can access online worship or other activities and we are trying to reach as many as possible through a variety of other methods.

May I take the opportunity, again, to say thank you to the many stewards, pastoral visitors and members who are keeping in touch with others who may feel isolated during these times. The CLT will review the situation around the middle of March to see whether it is possible for any changes to be made as we move into Spring. Thank you for your patience, support and work in keeping our congregations together.

Yours in Christ, Cathy



A special Lenten fast

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.

Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.

Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.

Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.

Give up worrying: take up trust in God.

Give up complaining: value what you have.

Give up stress: take up prayer.

Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.

Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.

Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.

Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.

Give up words: fill yourself with silence and listen to others.

Kindly submitted by a neighbour of Anne T

I know that, even during this time of lockdown, we've all kept busy in various ways. I've enjoyed having time for lots of walking (even in the recent cold weather!), at times phoning some of you as I walk! I've also appreciated seeing many of you on your doorsteps and catching up with all that's happening – the celebrations of birthdays and good news, and the struggles of ill health and loneliness – it's a blessing and a privilege to share.

And, while we've not been able to meet together in our church building, it's not been a silent, inactive place. Here's proof of that with what our own Derek French has been busy doing. He's spent many hours there painting - along the corridors, around the toilets, in the bungalow, tidying up the fire doors, etc, and I'm sure we'll all be able to appreciate all his hard work when we can finally get back in there. But the real bonus is how much Derek has appreciated doing the work, occupying his time and spending time being in the church building and giving this 'offering' to God and to all of us – and we are equally grateful to Derek – a definite 'win/win' situation!

There's also been the opportunity to welcome one or two people into our church community. In particular we've been introduced to Behrooz via a Methodist minister in Hamburg. Behrooz, who originates from Iran, works in a lab at hospital and enjoys spending spare time in his allotment. In addition we've been introduced (on Zoom) to his flatmate – a beautiful and very sociable African grey



parrot by the name of 'Lucky'. Behrooz has joined the morning worship from Cathays several times as well as taking part in the course of the 'Methodist Way Of Life' which has been going on for the past few Monday evenings. We're very glad to welcome Behrooz and hope that we'll soon be able to meet in person... and maybe even meet Lucky too!

We're also glad to know that Sophie Thomas is back in Cardiff, having completed her degree in Performing Arts at the University of Gloucestershire. She's currently working as a teaching assistant at Rumney Primary School and thoroughly enjoying it, although looking forward to getting back to seeing the children back in person rather than 'on screen'

Once again it's lovely to welcome Sophie and we'll hope to see her soon.



I wonder what the rest of us are up to, and if we've had the opportunity to 'meet', or be re-acquainted with new people. As is said, "God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform" – what 'wonders' is God performing in your life? ...and don't forget to share them.

Helen x

Thank You for the years we've shared

The end of an era and the beginning of.....something else?

Autumn 1988 and I came to the Cardiff (quite radical; 'cos till then anything above the Tamar was 'up North to me) anyway, I came to the Cardiff Circuit to an appointment based at St Mellons to plant a new Church; after five years I was moved to serve in the Splott area for three years followed by an appointment in Cornwall often amongst the farming community which suited me just fine. Before I knew what was happening I found myself serving for some years in Wiltshire and then back to Cardiff as my oldest son was here which is why in 1988 I began work at St Mellons. Retirement hovered after Wiltshire but then Peter persuaded me to help him and so the years have passed and now my home is at Ton Cottage where there's a welcome for any one of you at any time (well, more or less!)

I want to thank you all for the love that we have shared and the fun we have often had amidst the ordinary, general ups and down of family life - that's what we are isn't it? God's family? What a privilege! It's taken me a long time to remember names but my apologies - I do try hard. I have now retired from the Church Council at CMC as I feel that I have nothing more to offer in that way, but I'm sure that whatever God's plan for me is it won't be quite the same as previously.

So now I leave all you special people - that's what you are 'cos God says so. As you continue to serve him my prayer is that you will be filled with his strength and covered with his love. Oh, and by the way - I'm not running away! Blessings on each one of you.

As I write ...

The sun glistens on the raindrops on the window pane - we've just had a shower. The sunlight is extreme in its brilliance and if I skew my neck round far enough I can see a beautiful rainbow arching the world. That's what set me thinking and then writing. It's a wonderful world even though there's so much sadness. Apart from its natural beauty what makes the world a wonderful place is its people, God's people - and what makes life worthwhile is serving one another (whoever) in love, an extension of the love God has for us. Isn't it great too that we've been made with free hearts and minds? The freedom to choose! The one thing God cannot do is to take away our freedom, for that is how he has chosen to make us, and often our humanness lets us down as we make the wrong choices, choices which have repercussions and end up in strife, whether in our nuclear families, our work, our city, or our nation. Each choice rests firmly on our own shoulders. Stop and think on your choices for a few moments. Choices - all made for love - but love of or for what? Jesus simply said, 'Love one another.'

Gloria



Knitting blankets for the charity Sands

Sands is the leading stillbirth and neonatal death charity in the UK. Sands exists to reduce the number of babies dying and to ensure that anyone affected by the death of a baby receives the best possible care and support for as long as they need it.

Sands provides bereavement support services both nationally through its Freephone helpline, mobile app, online community and resources, and locally through a UK-wide network of around 100 regional support groups.

Sands works in partnership with health care professionals, trusts and health boards and offers a range of training programmes and bereavement care resources to ensure that every bereaved parent and family receives the best possible care wherever they are in the UK.

Sands promotes and funds research to better understand the causes of baby deaths and save babies' lives. The charity also raises awareness of baby loss and works with governments, key influencers and other stakeholders to make reducing the number of babies dying a priority nationally and locally.

Over the past 40 years, Sands has grown into a national charity with a powerful vision, to create a world where fewer babies die, shared by dedicated volunteers, fundraisers, members, donors, healthcare professionals, partners, staff and bereaved parents and families.

One of the practical ways that the charity helps these parents is to provide an 'Always Loved, Never Forgotten Memory Box' that contains items of memorabilia, including a small, white blanket. The white blankets are a very special part of the box as each is handmade.

The pattern is very simple and can be knitted with or without the lace edging. They can be 20, 22 or 24 inches square.

If you would prefer to crochet the blanket, I can send you the pattern.

If you are not a knitter or crocheter then you can still help by donating white double knitting wool.

If you feel that you can help in any way I would be very pleased to hear from you. My email address is: helenwyn.smith@btinternet.com

If you are intending to make a blanket with the lace edging, then please knit the basic blanket no larger than a 20 inch square.

Easy Baby Blanket with Lace Option

This lace border makes the easy blanket very special but we are happy for you to knit to the basic pattern. (You can use any white wool and needles to suit, to give a soft drape). The basic pattern knit to approx a 24" square. It will always come square.

BASIC BLANKET

200gm of Double Knit Wool and size 8 (UK) needles.

Cast on 1 stitch

Next row:- Make the one stitch into two stitches.

Next row:- Knit 1, into the next stitch make another, 3 stitches on needle.

Continue to knit, ALWAYS knit the first stitch and into the 2nd stitch make another. Only increase this way at the BEGINNING of a row.

Continue until you have almost come to the end of the 100gm ball.

Knit 1 row plain.

Next row:- Knit 1, Knit 2 together, Knit to end of row.

Continue this way, always knit the 1st stitch then decrease into the next stitch by knitting 2 together until 1 stitch remains. You should now have a neat square.

LACE EDGING Using Double Knit and size 8 (UK) needles Cast on 8 stitches

Row 1 (Wrong side) Slip 1, Knit 1, (Yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice, Yarn fwd, Knit 2 (9 sts)

Rows 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10. Slip 1 Knit to the end.

Row 3. Slip 1, knit 2 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd Knit 1 (10 sts)

Row 5. Slip 1, knt 3 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd Knit 2 (11 sts)

Row 7. Slip 1, knit 4 (yarn fwd knit 2 tog) twice. Yarn fwd Knit 2 (12 sts)

Row 9. Cast off 4 sts. Knit to the end (8 sts) These 10 rows form the pattern.

Continue in pattern until it is long enough to fit all around. Sew onto the blanket.

Please send the finished blankets to: Carolyn Bray, C/o Sands Memory Boxes, 2 King Street, Kirton, Boston, Lincolnshire PE20 1HX. Any queries? Please call Julie Baker on 0203 598 1921



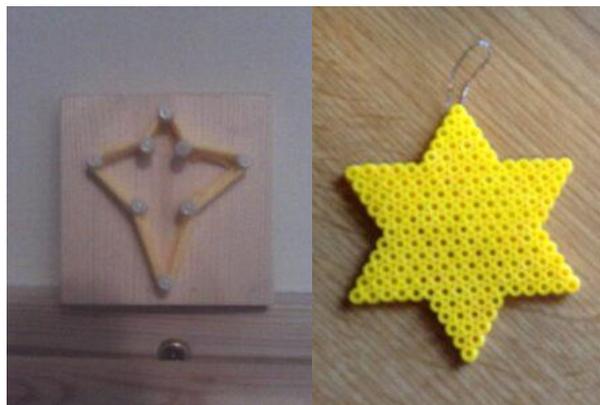
January  meeting



Theme - Epiphany

The Wisemen followed a star to find baby Jesus.

Here are stars that we created using different art and craft materials -



The Wisemen brought gifts for baby Jesus -

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

We each showed a Christmas present that we really liked.

They included -

Liverpool training kit; football kit bag, dinosaur teeth; baking set;

paint your own dolls; Karaoke set; bracelet; headphone set;

shirt; slippers; socks; selection box; flower seeds



Albert and Dylan joined us and performed -

'A birthday without presents'

They reminded us that Jesus doesn't want a present from us. All He wants is us to give Him our hearts and live our lives for Him.

We ended with a prayer -

Dear God,

Thank you that you wanted both rich and poor to see baby Jesus.

Thank you that as we think about Epiphany,

we are reminded that every person is important to you.

Please help us to use all the gifts that you have given to us.

Thank you for all the good things that you give.

Amen


February zoom meeting



Theme - Temptation

We looked at the story of how Jesus was tempted,
in the desert but did not sin.

Izzy read a poem - The Voice

There is a voice inside of you
That whispers all day long,
"I feel that this is right for me,
I know that this is wrong."
No teacher, preacher, parent, friend
Or wise man can decide
What's right for you - just listen to
The voice that speaks inside

Amelie read a poem - Three Choices

For any one problem
Three choices are clear - -
Make it worse.
Make it better.
Leave it the same.

Again and again
We are faced with
These three.
Learning to live
Is like playing a game.



Albert, Dylan and Mr. Jones joined us and performed - 'Standing up for what is right'

They reminded us to always do the right thing.

We played a game together - What will you do? scenarios

Q - Your mum made only enough cupcakes for your brother's birthday party.

She tells the family not to eat any. You really want a cupcake, so you decide to take one.

Mum notices a cup cake is gone. What will you do?

Our Answers - 'blame someone else'; 'make another one';

'tell the truth'; 'say daddy ate it'

Q - Pretend you're playing with another child who is younger than you. That child has a toy you want to play with. You could just take the toy if you wanted to.

You could switch it with the toy you have.

The other child might cry, but maybe you won't get in trouble if you pretend you didn't do anything.

No one is looking now. What will you do?

Our Answers - 'Run away'; 'wouldn't take it in the first place'; 'would play together'

We ended with a prayer -

Dear God,

Thank you for helping Jesus to overcome the temptations that were put in his way.

Please help us to be strong like Jesus was.

Amen.

Ground works at CMC

Before



During



After



Allotment update

Not much news at the allotment now, the freezing weather didn't help the overwinter broad beans, in fact they looked a bit dead!! Although over the last few days they seem to be recovering.

I still go over every morning to feed Lottie, during this cold weather we are feeding her in the greenhouse, its warmer in there for her and she has a comfy bed if she wants to use it.

Even in the cold weather she is waiting for me, coming down the path to meet me, it's amazing the trust she has that I will turn up.

My fellow allotment friend feeds her in the evening so you can imagine she's the best fed cat around.

I am looking forward to the Spring when we can start sowing and planting again in the warmth.

Jenny

Christmas Activities 2020



Working on Christmas Day; a day in the life of a NHS nurse

Just another day, 6am in the morning, dark and cold, mask on I enter the Hospital by the side door, no one around except a couple of porters and a cleaner. Arriving on the Neonatal Unit I change into my uniform and wish the tired night staff a Happy Christmas. The routine is the same, handover from the night staff, cleaning, restocking, drug rounds, babies are fed in the Nursery and closely monitored in ITU, their stockings hanging on their cots and incubators waiting for Mums and Dads to visit and open them. Not really just another day, its Christmas Day on NICU, made as special as possible under the circumstances.

One of my colleagues has decorated a trolley and mid-morning we all have a glass of fruit juice or Bubbly Schloer. Lunch time arrives and everyone has chipped in and a couple of the staff have cooked and prepared a lovely Christmas lunch, wow what a spread, roast turkey and all the trimmings, even heated in the Microwave was delicious, even the babies behaved so that everyone had an interrupted break, always a bonus! Staff made quick phone calls to family and Facetimed their children. Later in the afternoon when it was still calm the 'on call' Consultant appears with some Carol sheets and we form an impromptu Choir and sing for the parents, very special. Visiting is different this year, one parent at a time at the bedside, no siblings, sadly even I can't break the rules today! Soon the 12hr shift comes to an end and the night staff appear to take over, we hand over our tiny charges and go home to our Family and Friends for our own celebrations, maybe a day later than everyone else but just as special.

Happy New Year everyone

Sue Tester



The 2021 CMC questionnaire

The basis of conducting the questionnaire was an attempt to establish how the CMC congregation felt about their relationship with the Church, how they felt the pandemic was being managed within the Church and how they envisaged future worship. At the beginning of January 2021, we posted 29 paper questionnaires and emailed to 85 email addresses and have received 13 paper questionnaires and 25 electronic responses. It is difficult to gauge the response rate from the email circulation as, amongst other things, sometimes more than one person shares the email address (and hence the response might be joint), email addresses may not be up to date, or they might get lost in the ether; the paper questionnaire response is reasonable for this type of approach. Results are identified, and presented, through themes; respondents might have said numerous comments, hence the aggregate figures for an individual question might be more than the number of completed questionnaires received and some questionnaires were only partially completed.

1 What have you missed most about going to Cyncoed Methodist Church?

- 29 respondents stated they missed the fellowship and worship aspect of attending Church
- 12 missed the company of others and meeting friends
- 10 specifically said they missed the hymns and music

Comments:

Being together – collective worship, fellowship and singing

Attending Communion in Church

The music and singing before, during and after “The Sacred Hour”

The feeling of collective worship, of seeing people who are part of my faith family

The sense of being in God’s House and the company

Communal worship and the unfolding of the Scriptures in their explanation in the sermons

Seeing everyone and having a chat over coffee. Fellowship.

Not meeting with Church friends and having church’s atmosphere to reflect on life, including pandemic.

Having the dedicated time set aside to be still, silent, reflect and worship

The regular service and routine of attending, the focus and prayer, the fellowship

2 What would you have liked us to do, or have done better, since the Church building was closed in March 2020

- 25 respondents felt that the best was being done or nothing else could be done in the circumstances
- 3 felt that the church should have opened earlier, or for small numbers and a limited time
- 1 felt there should have been more interaction between the church leaders and congregation
- 2 felt there should be zoom services from CMC
- 1 felt there should be circuit led services rather than individual churches running services
- 1 felt there should be more contact by phone
- 1 one stated they were not sure

Comments:

The leaders and stewards in CMC have made an admirable effort at keeping the congregation informed and encouraging them.

I feel that Kofi, Helen, the stewards and all others with leadership roles at this time have worked particularly hard

There is little that could have been done due to the restrictions.

I don't think you could have done anything better than you have done as there is plenty of communication etc., for people on the internet. People who do not have access to the internet may be feeling more isolated from the church.

Nothing. You have been brilliant. We really appreciate all your efforts to keep the membership informed and involved...at distance

I can't see what else could have been arranged, although it would have been good to have more zoom services provided by the circuit, reducing the burden on individual churches to do this and encourage shared worshipping

Much more interaction – possible in spite of Covid!

I would have liked to have zoom services which reflected Cyncoed Church

I don't feel you could have done any better than keep everyone safe.

Can the Church Council Meeting who took the decision to close the Church for Worship, against the wishes of the Minister, look back and say that their decision was correct, and

that the unknown damage to Cyncoed Methodist Church, that will have occurred to the membership, finance and the building, was worth it. The decision to close the Church in the early days of the Virus was taken based on information that was misconstrued. The Church took the easy option to do nothing.

3 Have you found the CMC Covid Newsletters helpful and should they continue? Which parts do you find most interesting and which parts less interesting?

- 34 respondents stated they found the newsletters and should continue
- 23 stated they like to hear what other members of the congregation were up to
- 1 felt it was only good for young families
- 1 felt it was marginally helpful

Comments:

I have found them helpful and would like them to continue. I think they have achieved a good balance between the serious and the light-hearted. It is also good to include photos that enhance members hobbies and activities

The have been excellent and make people feel connected. All of the content has been valuable and appreciated. I think the photos are lovely when we can't see people face to face seeing the children's activities is particularly special. Please continue.

Newsletter brilliant idea and looked forward to very much.

I do enjoy having the newsletter as they keep me in touch with the Church, it's members and activities.

I like reading them and look forward to it.

I have found the newsletters very good, very interesting to hear how other people are coping with the pandemic. They are something to look forward to.

Enjoyed newsletter very much – read more than once! I even read the children's section.

Yes the newsletters have ben helpful and encouraging, enabling us to see what other people have been doing in order to cope and live through the difficult times during the last year

Yes, most helpful. Interesting item from Kofi about harvest time in Ghana – concluding with “we will reap the harvest of freedom if we persist”

Marginally helpful. Yes, I think they are better than not having contact at all

4 Did you find the distribution of the bulbs and candles and the Church video posted on YouTube helpful?

- 29 liked the ideas of bulb, candle or video distribution
- 2 did not feel it useful

Comments:

The bulb and candle were very welcome – helping us to focus on a brighter future

Loved the bulbs and candles. Brilliant ideas.

Valuable way of unifying the congregation. We can't be together but activities provided a unifying and shared experience. I found them moving and invaluable

Yes. Watching the bulb grow gives something to look forward to.

A lovely thought – pity I missed the lighting!

Yes to all three, a lovely idea. Made me think re: Christmas and what 2021 might be like.

Wonderful – the bulbs and candles symbolised togetherness and hope and the video was extremely powerful, emotional and beautifully put together

Those were good ideas, the distribution of the bulbs and candles. The lighting of the candles helped us unite as a church family, although lighting them separately, making us feel united

Not really

It was a good idea, but better if distributed by the Pastoral visitors where possible. They were put through the letter box with no word of greeting. Video not watched

5 Are there any other (including multi-media) projects you think we could be doing?

- 18 stated they could not think of any ideas
- 2 suggested outdoor activities
- 1 suggested monthly letter with readings and worship suggestions
- 1 suggested zoom services from CMC
- 1 suggested zoom “get togethers”
- 1 suggested more circuit focussed initiatives
- 1 suggested information on daily readings

Comments:

I can't think of any, at the moment, at this difficult time

Your workload is already heavy enough

I feel you are trying very hard to maintain a connection with the congregation with visits, telephone calls and Zoom meetings

No, under such a difficult time as we have experienced I feel the church has done very well.

Not that I can think of

Maybe set up in the labyrinth style which we've used previously, but much shorter, and intermingle music and song and creativity, ending with Communion – much longer than usual! Only when we're once more free to mix together!

More zoom services from Cyncoed

Just more circuit based initiatives

For those people unable to access YouTube or email, a monthly forecast (by letter obviously) of services' content i.e., readings and suggestions of themes to think about could be helpful

Coffee get together, bringing your own coffee and chair at side of the church or in the Play Group area. Open Air Service in Car Park. Zoom quizzes. Puzzles on-line with answers later

6 What is the best way the Church can provide opportunities for you to Worship during this time?

- 18 stated that internet worshipping was working adequately
- 2 liked worshipping with TV,
- 3 managed their own way
- 1 noted options were limited
- 2 noted it was difficult for those not on line
- 1 felt the circuit should take a stronger lead in organising joint services
- 1 suggested CMC only zoom services
- 1 wanted the church opened

Comments:

The online services have been mostly good, the hymns sung with just the guitar not so good. Thanks when the hymns from Songs of Praise were broadcast, made such a difference

The weekly services and readings are covering it very well, for the time being

I am now housebound (health problems) therefore watch services that are on TV.

I think plenty of variety has been made available via Zoom, YouTube and hard copies but what has been "missing" is that which is not possible at this time – meeting together

More communication to the circuit as a whole church family in these testing times. Promoting events and worship to Cardiff Methodist Church, rather than as things happening in other churches. We should come together and be stronger for being a larger body of God's people, with more human resources and talents to help with the challenges that covid has brought.

Important to remember that there are some folk who don't find it easy to use the internet. The Zoom services have been acceptable but not easy for families. Encourage those unable to link in currently, to set up for themselves a special corner somewhere in the house and use as a sacred place for worship times.

Very difficult for me to say.

Obviously YouTube is available to some of us but those unable to access that are at a disadvantage. The alternative for those people is to encourage them to watch BBC Services.

Cyncoed to have it's own zoom service rather than U tube service so that we could worship together.

We can be perfectly able to find ways and means to worship through the media and in our own personal ways.

7 Have you been able to worship during this time? Can you give examples of where you went or what you watched or listened to?

- 22 stated they watched TV and radio broadcasts
- 19 utilised internet-based services - either YouTube or Zoom
- 4 had attended various Churches physically
- 1 worshipped their own way at home

Comments:

Listened to Sunday R4 8.10am Service, S4C Decrau Canu 11am, BBC1 Wales 12.25 Songs of Praise

Watched our Circuit ones. Carol Service great. Been to Newcastle and London Central Hall. Enjoyed some of the BBC services.

I listen on the radio and watch all I can on the TV, the services and hymn singing that's on and join in!

I have not been anywhere, but have tuned in to services on the radio.

Not by physically going to a Church. I like to watch Sunday Worship and Songs of Praise on TV but unfortunately Sunday Worship does not seem to be televised every week.

Television and radio – I dislike computers.

I have watched most services from our circuit via YouTube, and similarly from Trinity Church Gosforth (Peter Hollwell). Also BBC Services from time to time.

I have found engagement with worship difficult without being together physically, though have found most helpful the Zoom services on offer, and some of the messages of the YouTube services

I have attended a service at Cyncoed

I feel that I have been able to worship in my own way at home

8 How do you feel about sharing worship with other Churches?

- 25 said they would be happy worshipping with other churches
- 1 would be happy to worship with other churches, provided it was based at CMC
- 5 were not sure
- 4 said they would not want to share worship with other churches

Comments:

I think that is a very good idea.

I think that might happen in time as I fear that our numbers will have reduced over the last year and the age of the congregation is definitely going up. I include myself in that statement of course!

I don't mind sharing with other churches, so long as it was local

Good idea

I love this idea. I think we should leave behind the label of "other churches", the idea of segmented churches in the Cardiff Methodist circuit and think of ourselves as Cardiff Methodist Church. We don't need unhelpful barriers and isolated congregations that are gradually reducing in size. We need to be strong alongside one another

Yes I would be happy to do that

Fine, the sooner the better. We need to meet and share with other churches and other Christians so much more than we are doing now. Each individual church is progressively getting smaller in size as congregations dwindle, and when will we decide how many people make a congregation before "costs" outweigh "benefits" – theologically and financially?

I've got mixed feelings about this

Yes, but sharing in our Premises

Not at all keen

9 Where do you think the Church, and it's congregation, will be in six months time?

- 20 stated hopefully back in CMC
- 7 not sure
- 7 not optimistic about sharing worship in this timeframe

Comments:

Hope we will have some form of worship – as a congregation – and in the familiar surroundings of our Church

Vaccination will have taken place for most. It will be summer and church will open as others do hopefully

Passage of time changes thoughts and views on what to do. I think for some it will proved difficult to return to how it was.

We would hope it will be open but I'm not very optimistic

God alone knows

So much depends upon the congregation. We need an awakening of God's Spirit, a longing within to light the spark. It's not important as to timing – now in a "Zoom-time" or some time later

Please God we'll be able to meet and share worship with singing and music!

I do hope WITH ALL MY HEART that we will all be together once again. I am so looking forward to that day when we will WORSHIP as one, and I do feel that will happen again.

I know where I'd like to be, but I'm not sure how we go about getting there. Maybe this time of Covid will provide the catalyst for things to change and the seed for growth for Methodists in Cardiff.

I think many will be desperate to get back to the previous "normal" form of worship, but I am concerned that for some their desire/habit of worship will have been lost. I think we'll be needing to consider more than ever how God is leading and the future of what we're doing.

10 Free text box for other comments about the future of Church and how we should manage in the interim

Various comments received, including these themes:

Grateful to the people involved in the maintenance and care of the building and it's people

Trying to cater for all age groups can prove hard. The old ones are not keen to change types of worship! Think there should be a variety of worship to interest all ages!

Tolerance is a must for all of us! Please try to encourage everyone to work together and be tolerant and care or we will cease to function!

I look forward to recommencement of the Thursday morning Holy Communion. If social distancing is a problem, why cannot this and the services be moved to our large sports hall?

Ephesians 4, 17-18 We all have different gifts at CMC, there are many. God has gifted each of us so how will we respond? We are a community of believers who need instruction and nourishment and support from others so that God can work His will

through us. REMEMBER: Jesus' last instructions to the disciples Matthew 29:19 Go! And make disciples. It's up to us. Essentially a prayer group.

Thank you for all letters. Stay safe everyone.

Action required. A A Programme of Christian Youth Work needed for the Church. In the history of our Cyncoed Church, every time a successful youth programme has existed, the Church has expanded. We owe it to the community to organise a safe place for activity to the young people. **B.** A Church Band/Musical group formed by announcing to the Church/Community/Students for Christian musicians interested. **C.** Positive Steps taken to discuss with Churches such as "Highfields" to join us. As soon as the 1st Ministers announces that Churches can open then we should. If the Stewards do not agree, then they should consider their position, as Stewards are appointed the run the Church and keep it open, not to close it

I think we will all need to work together to make it happen in the best way we can!

Much efforts have been made to ensure that our church family feel united albeit at a distance. I feel this has strengthened rather than weakened to congregation at Cyncoed. Therefore a BIG thank you and continue with the good work

The way forward provides big questions and I think this period is highlighting the need of the church to reach out in new ways to the community and strengthen its part. We need to be clearer in who we are and what we're about, and strengthen our faith

I think it's time for us to come together as followers of Jesus rather than lots of churches with decreasing congregations, offering support to each other, sharing resources and building relationships, developing and strengthening our own faiths in order for us to reach out, showing God's love for everyone

I would hope that as the different Tiers/Levels ease then the church would have the support of the Church Council to gradually introduce face to face worship, that members feel are safe for them

Thank you for all you've done

Thank you for all your hard work, keep it up

I am full of admiration at the way the church has responded and reacted to the current and developing situation and used social media and other ways to engage and connect with their congregation. To be honest I have felt even more connected to the church, my faith and the congregation during this past year. Thank you for all you do x