

THE GREEN SOCK



NEWS FROM THE SHROPSHIRE AND MARCHES METHODIST CIRCUIT

July 2019

District Pilgrimage

The Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District's Courageous Pilgrimage hosted in May by the Shropshire and Marches Circuit saw the pilgrims form an occasional community (with people joining them on route and participating for some or all of the remaining journey,) walking approximately nine miles each day. Led by District Chair Revd. Rachel Parkinson and Ian Mason, the group set out on May 24th and spent nights at Church Stretton, Stiperstones, Bishop's Castle, Clun and Craven Arms. The pilgrimage culminated with Holy Communion and supper at Ludlow Methodist Church where the pilgrims spent their last night together. Reviewing the pilgrimage Revd. Parkinson commented, "I had an idea of what it would be like, it was nothing like the idea, but it was brilliant. It was one of the best things I've done in ministry, the depth of the community we formed, the quality of the conversations we had on the road... and I'm just ever so grateful to those churches in the Circuit that gave us hospitality and such a welcome." She added that the courage of the pilgrimage more than anything else was the overnight sharing of intimate space with other people. Such was the success of the pilgrimage that another is planned for the not too distant future.



Courageous Pilgrimage - District Chair Revd. Rachel Parkinson with pilgrims including Ann and Phillip Purcell



Return with supper ingredients fit for a pilgrim

On Ascension Day (May 30th) the Courageous pilgrims handed over to another group of pilgrims who were embracing the great outdoors for Thy Kingdom Come's eleven days of prayer. A Community Breakfast in Ludlow Market Square, prepared by Hands Together Ludlow, was shared with local residents who were given the opportunity to learn about Thy Kingdom Come and the importance of prayer. Following prayers of thanksgiving and blessings the pilgrimage began, with the group heading along the Shropshire Way into the hills.



Community Breakfast in Ludlow Market Square

With contributions from Andrea Sheppick and Revd. Kim Stillwell



More Thy Kingdom Come Stories

Thy Kingdom Come in Wem

In Wem we have a small but active committee representing the congregations from the Parish Church, St. Peter's and St. Paul's, the Roman Catholic Church, the Quaker meeting and the Methodist Church. Since the Thy Kingdom Come initiative started, we have marked this week. Previously members of the St. Peter's and St. Paul's congregation have taken the lead. This year we decided to keep things simple. On Thursday evening, (June 6th) we gathered in the lounge of the Methodist Church to hold a time of quiet, reflective prayer. There were twenty-four people there representing all four congregations. Terry Hobday, the leader of the local Quaker community led us into a period of quiet reflection, or as the Quakers would say, "centred us down". She introduced the theme highlighting the need for all of us to think carefully over the concerns we share for our local communities and the wider community throughout the world. This was followed by quiet reflection and prayer.

The Revd. Nick Heron, Rector in Wem, led us through the Anglican service of Compline, -the short service that can be held at the ending of the day. He advised us that whatever we do we need to "just pray" in whatever way we feel we can. After the quiet came the chatter as we talked together. Brian Mason, a retired Local Preacher accused me of having little faith because I put out only one circle of chairs in the lounge. In the end we just managed to fit everyone in!

Sue Mathews



A TKC Prayer Walk was led by members of Weobley Chapel

"On 2nd June our whole service at Emmanuel was structured round the theme of Thy Kingdom come." -Ray Finnigan

"At Brockton we based a Messy Church session on the children's map. We also distributed maps to all the children in Rainbow Gang and prayer booklets to all the adults we possibly could!" -Elisabeth Knight

"After our lovely Thy Kingdom Come-based evening prayer at Green Lane Methodist Church in Leominster, led by Revd. Frances Biseker and Revd. Jon Chesworth, we had a spontaneous outburst of song in the church." -A Sheppick
View them singing *Jesus, Remember Me* and *The Lord's Prayer* on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/eLscLRfnluM> and https://youtu.be/Wq8h2Z_HjaA

For Thy Kingdom Come Sunday, Bishop's Castle's congregation viewed a TKC video resource from 2018 in which the Archbishop Justin Welby speaks to Secretary of Methodist Conference Gareth Powell about what praying "Thy kingdom come" means to him. The conversation touches on aspects of John Wesley's life and what his expectations of praying "Thy kingdom come" might have been. Following the screening, the global aspect of praying "Thy kingdom come" was stressed in prayers for a world church not divided by denomination.



A TKC Ascension Day Service was held at Kingsland Chapel

DISTRICT CHAIR'S CONTEMPLATION ON PRAYER

During Thy Kingdom Come Revd. Rachel Parkinson shared her thoughts on prayer, posting on social media her contribution to a series of videos the Methodist Church have commissioned on prayer. "I can share with you that trying to cut glass at the same time as talking coherently about your prayer life is not easy!" she posted.

For her first year as Chair the District theme was "prayer". "That's because I feel that prayer is absolutely essential to discipleship and we don't talk about it (or do it?) enough." You can view the video at https://youtu.be/hFi_hSTlaeQ



Contemplation - Revd Rachel Parkinson



The Central Area MWiB was invited to Church Stretton Methodist Church for the annual Easter Offering Dedication Service. There was a good representation from the area. The theme this year 'Longer Tables, Lower Fences' was inspired by the words, "When you have more than you need, build a longer table, not a higher fence". The service was led by Mrs Ruth Davies with several ladies from Church Stretton involved in prayers, Bible readings and reading of stories of "longer tables" in Britain, South Africa, Bangladesh, Germany and Ethiopia.

The Easter Offering DVD was used effectively to illustrate the work in these countries and the projects supported by the World Mission Fund. We heard stories of people throughout the world who are responding to God's call to radical hospitality and outrageous generosity. In our prayers we asked for the grace and humility to share the abundance of our daily bread with others, to extend our tables and to break down the barriers that so often divide us.

The amount raised through the Easter Offering envelopes in the Central Area was £1031.50. The total amount raised in the Circuit was £3077.12. We are grateful to everyone who gave generously. A women's meeting is not complete without tea and cake and this was graciously served by the Church Stretton ladies.



Dilys Jones

Are you called to be Ordained? Or do you know someone who you think God is calling? Methodist publishing have produced some postcards to help unpack the conversation. Available at [Methodist publishing.org.uk](http://Methodistpublishing.org.uk)





WYSON METHODIST CHAPEL
CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY
SUNDAY 7th July 2019

Anniversary Service – 6pm
 Led by the former president of the Methodist Conference
Dr Revd Neil Richardson
 Following by strawberries and cream tea

Please come and join us!!!!