

Rev Tim Perkins  
April 27<sup>th</sup> 2021

***“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement: In this world we are like Jesus.” 1 John 4: 16b-17***

Dear Friends,

Ove 160 people were gathered on Zoom on Saturday morning to take part in the Spring Synod of the Yorkshire West Methodist District. It was great, amongst all the routine business, to hear about two great opportunities for making a real difference in our communities and our world.

Usually, our District would organise a large-scale Pentecost Party as an act of united witness and worship. Last year it was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. This year something different has taken it's place. The District is encouraging us all to take part in a campaign called “Real Love.” It is an idea that has sprung up in the Aire & Calder Circuit, whereby we are encouraged to find small, practical ways in which churches across a circuit may share in offering the love of God to others. This can be something as simple as leaving out a thankyou note for your postie to something larger like organising a community litter-pick.

Deacon Jenny Parnell will be taking a lead on organising how we as a Circuit might respond to the challenge placed before us by our District so keep an eye out for more details over the coming weeks.

We also heard details about a conference that is being organised by the Joint Public Issues Team for Yorkshire on the theme, “Climate Change Emergency: Resources for a Green Church.” This will take place via zoom on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June from 9.30am – 3.00pm. As we approach the Global Climate Summit to be held in Glasgow in the autumn, this conference is a great opportunity for us to engage in some key issues for how we as Christians respond to our climate crisis. I want to encourage as many of you as possible to sign up for this conference and for as many of our churches as possible to commit to working towards eco-church status. For more about the eco-church awards please visit: [Eco Church - An A Rocha UK Project](#)

Could your church celebrate a “Climate Sunday” before September? Resources for one can be found here: [Climate Sunday | Service Resources | Worship | Commit | Speak Up](#) If you have a local arrangement service due on the June to August plan, perhaps this could be ideal material to consider?

To register for the conference please contact Sue Cutting at [sue.cutting1209@gmail.com](mailto:sue.cutting1209@gmail.com)

We are promised: “Inspiring keynote speakers to stimulate your imagination, develop your understanding of the Bible and reinvigorate your worship life. Engaging workshops with pioneers who are already bringing together faith and action for a better world. Topics covered include:

- Biblical Theology for a Green Church
- Climate change as an existential crisis
- Liturgy & Prayer for a Green Church
- COP26: what are we doing to campaign?
- Craftivism for COP26
- The Church as a Prophetic Community

- Green Church and Evangelism
- The God Plot – The city allotment and Green Church

Our Methodist Way of Life encourages us, amongst other things, to commit to: caring for ourselves and those around us, helping people in our communities and beyond, caring for creation and all God's gifts, speaking of the love of God, and sharing our faith with others. The "Real Love" campaign and a concern for our climate and environment are very practical ways in which we can live out our faith. They are ways through which we can express the love of God which warms our hearts.

I am struck by the quotation from 1 John with which I started this letter. It is taken from the Epistle reading set in the lectionary for this week. I am sure I must have read it before numerous times. But a simple, yet profound statement jumped out at me like never before: "In this world we are like Jesus!" How often do you think like that. I have to admit, it is not a thought that regularly crosses my mind. More often we tend to think that, if we're lucky, we might be like Jesus once we have crossed the eternal threshold into life-everlasting. But John is very clear here. If we allow the love of God to live and work within us, then we will become more and more like Jesus. The love of God is a love which cannot be kept to yourself. To stay warm and alive it must be shared. Perhaps these two opportunities might present us with the confidence to do just that and to participate in Jesus' mission of love to the world, which along will bring about renewal and our long-awaited new creation.

Every blessing,

Rev Tim

### **Notice**

This year the Methodist Women in Britain Easter Offering Service is going to be held at a District, rather than Circuit level. The service will take place via Zoom on Wed 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. The theme for this year is "Into all the world". To receive the link for the service please contact Sue Gray at [susan.gray6@icloud.com](mailto:susan.gray6@icloud.com)

If you would like to make a donation to the Easter Offering and have not yet had a chance to do so please contact your local church treasurer.