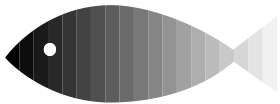




The Methodist Church

Falmouth & Gwennap Circuit (12/3)



The *fish* is an ancient Christian symbol; the letters of the Greek word for fish stand for **Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour**

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Members & Friends
Falmouth & Gwennap Circuit

Tuesday August 4th 2020

Dear Friends,

Re: Pastoral Letter: Gently does it!

Greetings and love to you all!

Emerging Like a Butterfly

I love the picture of the butterfly emerging from the chrysalis stage, after having been a grub! Out emerges the beautiful butterfly, resplendent in all the glory nature gives it!

Here's a picture for us to aspire to, as we emerge out of lockdown.

Such a picture invokes risks: coming out of the chrysalis is very risky for the butterfly, yet (s)he does it. We are aware of the risks of emerging out of lockdown, yet tentatively we are doing it bit by bit.

Such a picture invokes renewal: the butterfly is so different from what came before, there's a complete transformation and renewal. Aware or not aware, we too are being renewed and transformed over this whole Covid-19 saga. Tentatively we are beginning to emerge and make our first steps. There's still a long way to run, and we are yet to see where God is leading us, or what the final picture will look like.

Such a picture invokes challenge: emerging means establishing a new-normal, which will be unfamiliar, and beyond our comfort zones! Undoubtedly a challenge, which we each face in our own good time.

Such a picture invokes caution: gently does it! We are all emerging at our own speeds; this is a good thing, for if we go at the correct speed we are more likely in the long term to align with God's speed.

Our Approach

We have consulted with local churches, Local Preachers, and Worship Leaders, with view to a printed *Circuit Plan for the September to November quarter*. After saying what's involved on re-starting face to face worship (risk assessments, social distancing, face coverings, cleaning requirements, no singing, etc) we've asked local churches to say what they are happy to be doing over the Plan period. Some will go for a monthly pattern, others, being not quite ready, will not reopen yet, others for more frequent worship.

You will see all the opportunities listed in the Plan. Use the Plan to decide where you may wish to go to – it does not have to be your own chapel!! Life is still tentative, so over the Plan period things will change: there may be additional opportunities for face to face worship, and other activities. Look out for announcements!

Over time things will grow clearer, and as we emerge we will see the renewal that God is bringing.

We begin face to face worship all together, whilst social distanced, at:-

Gwennap Pit on Sun Aug 23rd at 3pm with an open air Circuit Service. Come if you can.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Col 3:15)

May God bless you,

Robbie

Rev Robert (Robbie) Bowen Superintendent Minister

Some Additional Points...

In the meantime:-

- ▶ ‘Worship at Home’ online services and reflections will continue.
- ▶ Zoom Circuit Prayer Meeting continues, Thursdays, 4pm; joining details contact Robbie or Mandy Jenkin.
- ▶ St Day Methodist Church will open for private prayer on a drop-in basis, 2-4pm on Sundays (After carefully completing a Risk Assessment, Checklist, and Plan in accordance with guidelines. St Day’s experience will help to inform other churches as they move towards opening in due course).
- ▶ Please continue to support your local church financially, and in prayer.
- ▶ Please pray for Church Stewards prayerfully planning ahead (in discussion with their Minister)
- ▶ Please pray for the CLT, and for our Ministers, Local Preachers & Worship Leaders as we put together the Sept-Nov Preaching Plan (some of whom are vulnerable because of health/age, and may not be able to serve in the way they did previously).

Coming Up:- New Online Bible Study Group, Tues, 2pm, beginning Aug 11th.

Aims:-

- ▶ To explore how people define and experience racism.
- ▶ To consider how prejudice has changed in our lifetime.
- ▶ To explore the origins of Christianity as a people of inclusion in a society of exclusion.
- ▶ To re-read familiar racial encounters in scripture to help us engage with contemporary issues of racial privilege, prejudice, and unrecognised bias.

More details: Contact Jane (See below).

Zoom joining details:-

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79692564618?pwd=RENwZDVydWxlVFRXeXgxSExDWnM2UT09>

Meeting ID: **796 9256 4618**

Passcode: **9vZ48Q** (Need help with Zoom? Contact your minister/pastor)

Contact Details

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|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
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| ▶ Deacon Jane Mills | 01326 211361 | itsjanemills@gmail.com |) <i>phone for</i> |
| ▶ Rev Andrew Mumford | 07557 569520 | andrew.mumford@methodist.org.uk |) <i>a chat at</i> |
| ▶ Pastor Jenny Lockwood | 01209 213657 | jenny.lockwood@btinternet.com |) <i>any time.</i> |
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