

## Circuit Pastoral Newsletter from Rev'd Liz Harris, August 2021

### Hello friends!

It's my turn to write the monthly Circuit Pastoral Letter, which will hopefully reach everyone in our congregations, and others in our communities.

Greetings from all of the Circuit Leadership Team.

Across the Circuit, we are now meeting together for Sunday services more frequently, and beginning to plan local prayer meetings, bible study groups, activities and events. This requires vision, pastoral sensitivity, and prayerful planning – we must take care to avoid simply falling back into our old patterns, as we seek the wisdom to discern where God is leading us. I therefore encourage you to pray together locally, to think carefully about the needs of your congregation and community. This is an opportunity to do new things, to let go of some things which have run their course, to work in partnership with others, and to be bold for the kingdom of God!



Jesus got into the boat, and his disciples followed him. A gale arose on the lake, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him up, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, you of little faith?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. They were amazed, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?' (Matthew 8, verse 23-27)

I wonder how you might be feeling about all this? Perhaps you have concerns about returning to gathered worship, or about the changes that we are experiencing. Perhaps you are anxious about your chapel's membership or attendance numbers, about meeting your chapel's financial commitments, about what the future may hold.

Many of us share these same anxieties and concerns. So, on July 31<sup>st</sup> we have a Circuit event called 'Crunch Time'. This is a drop-in event from 10am-2pm, to be held at Stithians

Methodist Church. Please come and share your concerns and ideas here, as we look to God and seek his vision and guidance together. We are called to worship God with our whole being, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. This is an opportunity to move forward together, discerning God's will for our chapels and Circuit, and to support each other in love as we do so.

In our walk of discipleship, we are often faced with hurdles and challenges, and God uses these to build our faith, to prompt us to action, to shape us to become more and more like Christ. The challenges we

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalm 46 verse 1-3)

currently face together may seem big and even frightening, but God calls us to trust in him, not to fear – he is with us in the storm. We look to God, knowing that nothing is impossible for him. We seek his guidance in our worship and in sharing the good news with others, as we discern the future of our local congregations and Circuit. Let us not be timid in our decision-making. Let us not be fearful in our next steps. God is doing a new thing, and he calls us to join him!

## Coming up:

- **Circuit Prayer Meeting** – Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Stithians
- **Crunch Time** – Saturday July 31<sup>st</sup>, 10am-2pm at Stithians
- **The Big Sing** (Revive Summer Sunshine Praise & BBQ) – Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Stithians
- **Open Churches Day** – Saturday September 4<sup>th</sup>: What is your church planning?

*Prayer - Compassionate and ever-present God, thank you for being with us always.  
As we look to the future, we continue to pray for a sense of holy calm.  
Move the focus of our sight away from the storm, and towards Jesus.  
Give us wisdom as we discern the way forward in our Circuit, and in our local congregations.  
Give us compassion for our neighbours, strength to support each other, and faith to trust in you. May we continue to know your presence and your peace, today and always.  
We pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, Amen.*

## Some things to consider in your prayers & ongoing discussions in the weeks to come:

- ✓ What is the mission of my local congregation?
- ✓ Do we share the good news of Jesus with our community? How might we do that better?
- ✓ We are part of a Circuit; we are not independent churches. How can we support and encourage each other better?
- ✓ How might I personally engage with the life of the wider Circuit?
- ✓ What new things might my local church explore or begin?
- ✓ What old things might my local church let go of – activities or traditions that no longer work?
- ✓ How can my local church work in partnership with other local churches?
- ✓ How can I contribute – with my time, my finance, my encouragement, my prayer?

If you would like some form of contact or pastoral support, please contact one of the Ministers, Church Stewards, or your local Pastoral Team. We are here for you.

We do try to keep in touch with everyone, but occasionally we need a little reminder!

## Additional information, helpful advice and resources

- ✓ **F&G Circuit YouTube Channel** - here you'll find our online Worship at Home Services & Wednesday Worship. The videos are also now available on DVD for those who are not online; please contact Chris Trewern if you would like to access these. (We can also loan you a DVD player if required).  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSZkv-Db2MFXsQEzhra0azw>
- ✓ **F&G Circuit Facebook page** – here you'll find news about life throughout our Circuit.  
<https://www.facebook.com/Falmouth-and-Gwennap-Methodist-Circuit-126416989738/>
- ✓ **F&G Circuit website** here you'll find links and information about our Circuit. <https://www.fandgmc.org.uk>
- ✓ **The Methodist Church in Britain** - here you can find helpful information and resources, including updates about how the Methodist Church in Britain is responding to Covid 19. <https://www.methodist.org.uk>

## Contact Details

Please feel free to contact us as required:

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