



The Methodist Church

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News & Pastoral Letter – Bricknell Avenue, Clowes Memorial, and Trinity Methodist Churches.

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Dear friends,

As we enter the month of August, preparations are now being made to reopen our church premises. The three churches that I serve are taking different approaches and I thought it might be helpful to outline them here:

Bricknell Avenue Methodist Church has not yet set a date for restarting Sunday public worship on their premises, although it is likely to be in the early autumn. Bricknell Avenue will be producing a weekly pre-recorded service on video that will be made available online at You Tube and the church Facebook page from Sunday 6th September. It will also be possible to request an audio CD of the service delivered to your home. For further updates please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/BricknellAvenueMethodistChurchHull/> and
<https://www.bricknellmeth.org.uk/>

Clowes Memorial Methodist Church hopes to have their first service of public worship on the premises on Sunday 27th September (10:30 am), which will be a Harvest Celebration, and then continuing to hold morning services on the 4th Sunday of each month. There will also be an evening service on the 2nd Sunday evening of each month held online using Zoom (Meeting ID: 827 1924 5411; Passcode 272587) beginning on 13th September at 6.30 pm. You can contact me if you require further information on how to use Zoom. Clowes will also continue to upload a short message every Sunday morning, available on the church Facebook page, and send a weekly prayer letter by email or in person. For more information please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Clowes-Memorial-Methodist-Church-169902033496025/>

Trinity Methodist Church hopes to have the first service of public worship on their premises on Sunday 6th September (10:30 am) continuing every Sunday after that. There are also plans to have these services recorded and/or live streamed online and put onto You Tube & Facebook. Information about how to access this service over internet will be made available on the church website and the Facebook page at: <https://trinitymethodisthull.com/> and
<https://www.facebook.com/trinitymethodisthull/>

I am also pleased to say that the three churches will continue to hold a Monday evening **online Bible study**, which begins again on Monday 7th September at 7 pm. We will be looking at the 'Holy Habits' found in the Book of Acts and anyone who wishes to join us can do so using Zoom (Meeting ID: 916 4290 6516; Password: Bible). We are also planning to hold a pilot **online Messy Church** that is provisionally set for Wednesday 16th September at 5 pm. Further details of this will be made available

on church websites and/or Facebook pages. Churches in our circuit who will be holding Sunday morning services online throughout August include Anlaby Park, Brough, and Tower Hill Methodist Churches and information on how to access these services can be obtained from me or through the circuit office.

It will also be possible to receive a socially distanced **Extended Communion** in your own home from September. All you have to do is contact me by phone, letter or email and you can have the blessed elements and liturgy sent to you at home.

Please do be aware that all these plans are provisional and based on the successful completion of our risk assessments and action plans. Health and safety measures will be in place at each church venue to manage and mitigate the risks relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will include the requirement to wear face coverings while on the premises, from 8th August until further notice.

Although it might be some time before we can return to the usual patterns that we are accustomed to, I encourage you to consider the many different and practical ways that we can continue to practice our Christian faith as disciples of Jesus. It is also important that we find ways to be hopeful.

In his Letter to the Romans St Paul writes:

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5:1-5

Here St Paul argues that while reconciliation with God is our present reality our hope is that we will one day share in God’s glory too. This hope is built on what God has done for us in Christ, through his life, death and resurrection. This is a hope that does not disappoint, because it is rooted in the unfailing love of God, poured out to us through the Holy Spirit. The God who keeps his promises and covenants to us. Yet, hope is frequently tied up with suffering, because we hope for that which we do not yet have. In affirming this we are not declaring that God desires us to suffer needlessly, but rather it is the expectation that when we take up our cross and follow Christ we share in his sufferings and he shares in ours. Yet while we share in Christ’s suffering we also share in the hope of Christ’s resurrection.

Knowing and affirming all of this we can say that Christ is with us in our sadness, our fears, our anxiety, our pain and distress, our loneliness, in all our sufferings. Christ understands them all; offering us his love as a light shining in a dark place and the hope of his victory on the cross. In these challenging and difficult times, I pray that we might put our hope in Christ; the one who through the Spirit is with us, loves us and saves us.

Thank you for reading this letter and if I can offer any support to you at this time please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

David Speirs

Presbyter in the Hull (Centre & West) Methodist Circuit