



# Wealdstone Methodist Church

## News for week beginning 26 July 2020 *the seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Minister: The Revd. John Swarbrick, officially until 31 August but he is now on leave.

Senior Steward: Helen Riley, 8427 6086.

Church e-mail address [wealdstonechurch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wealdstonechurch@yahoo.co.uk)

Church Council Secretary: David Milne 8954 7248 [themilnes@sky.com](mailto:themilnes@sky.com)

Church Development Worker: Kath Harrison 07816 294783 [wmc.kath@gmail.com](mailto:wmc.kath@gmail.com)

Church Halls: 8861 0913.

Church Web Site: [www.wmclr.org.uk](http://www.wmclr.org.uk)

 [@WealdstoneMC](https://twitter.com/WealdstoneMC)

 [WealdstoneMethodist](https://www.facebook.com/WealdstoneMethodist)

## We Worship at Home

### ***Lectionary Readings for this Week:***

1 Kings 3: 5-12, Romans 8: 26-39, Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

### **Alternative forms of Worship**

**TV:** *Sunday* 1.15pm, BBC 1, Songs of Praise

**Online:** *Sunday*

*The Methodist Church web site, [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk) has links for prayer and worship resources that we can use at home.*

*Central Hall Westminster:* Live service at 11.00am. Click [here](#) or go to the new website <https://mchw.live>.

*Wesley's Chapel:* Live services at 9.45am and 11.00am. Click [here](#)

### **Sunday Morning Worship and Chat on Zoom**

We will be meeting on Zoom again this week at 10.00am on Sunday for a short act of worship. This week Helen Schoon will be leading our prayers and giving a short reflection on the Bible reading. We hope as many of you as possible will join us on the link below.

Click [here](#) or log on to Zoom using Meeting ID: 880 3622 3175 and password wmcservice.

To join by ordinary telephone, call 020 3481 5240, 020 3481 5237 or 020 3051 2874. When connected you will be asked to key in the Meeting ID number, 880 3622 3175 followed by #. If it asks for a caller ID just press # again and then enter the password 698552.

## A Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you today for those who reveal your nature to us and encourage us to walk more closely with you. We pray for your continuing wisdom, with the discernment to know your will, as we move into new circumstances in our church and our country. Amen

## Zoom House Group

The next Zoom House Group will be on Tuesday 28 July at 7.00pm. This week Bronwyn Milne will be leading our discussion on the theme of *Justice*. If you would like to join in please email Helen on [whelen.riley@ntlworld.com](mailto:whelen.riley@ntlworld.com) by Monday at the latest and she will send you the invitation and other meeting information.

## Friendship Café

The Online Friendship Café takes place on Wednesdays from 1.00pm to 3.00pm via *Zoom*. To join the conversation click [here](#).

From 10.00 to at least 11.00am on Wednesdays, Kath Harrison and Colin Archer will be sitting outside the Locket Hall to chat to passers-by. You are welcome to join them.

## Traidcraft

You can order *Traidcraft* products online at [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) or buy the usual goods from the church stock. Please phone or e-mail Kath Harrison to order

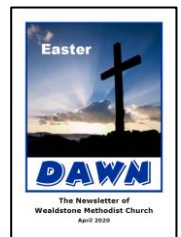
## DEC Coronavirus Appeal

The *Disasters Emergency Committee* have launched an appeal to help refugees and displaced people who have little access to medical care, clean water or enough food, Millions of lives are at stake as Covid-19 hits refugee camps and war-torn countries like Yemen, Syria and South Sudan. To donate, please go to

[www.dec.org.uk/appeal/coronavirus-appeal](http://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/coronavirus-appeal)

## Dawn

We have not been producing *Dawn*, the church magazine, during the lockdown. Assuming church reopens in September, the editors think *Dawn* could return with the October edition on Sunday 27 September. It might be slightly slimmer than normal unless, of course, you send us lots of interesting news and stories (eg *What I did during Lockdown*.) Please send your stories to David or Bronwyn Milne ([themilnes@sky.com](mailto:themilnes@sky.com)) by Sunday 13 September.

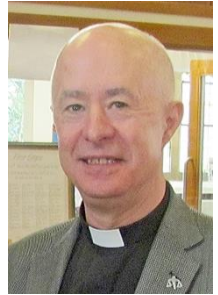


## A Farewell Letter from John

*Dear friends,*

Methodism has some quaint phrases to describe various aspects of Church life, none quainter than the one it uses to describe its retired ministers: we become “supernumerary”. The Chambers Dictionary definition of the word “supernumerary” is “over and above the stated, usual, normal or necessary number”. It gets worse; it can also mean “an actor without a speaking part”. In retirement I shall do my best to be neither surplus to requirements nor voiceless. After the longest appointment in my ministry, and the longest time I have ever lived in one place, I shall be stationed at the West London Mission at Hinde Street from September. I have explained to the Superintendent that I am happy to take occasional preaching appointments, but that he will have to arrange these with care, holding the draft Plan in one hand and the Transport for London forward schedule of weekend engineering works in the other, so that I can actually make the journey from Northwood Hills to Bond Street on a Sunday morning. All of which is a roundabout way of saying that ministry is a lifelong commitment rather than a secular career and it continues in different ways. There will of course be more time to pursue other interests and enthusiasms as well, and to see family and friends more frequently.

It has been an honour to serve as minister at Wealdstone over the past fourteen years. I want to thank you all for your extraordinarily generous farewell gift. I was very touched by your kindness. But as I “sit down” — to use another of those quaint phrases — I want you to welcome Stephen Poole as your new minister. He will need the same love, support and encouragement that you have shown to me. I am well aware that he will be taking up this appointment at a time when churches are cautiously emerging from the coronavirus lockdown and having to re-examine the ways in which they respond to God’s call to be his people in the church and the world, discover new ways of living and loving as disciples of Jesus Christ, and tune into the Holy Spirit’s encouragement to explore new possibilities for worship, mission and service. There will be radical ideas to consider and tough decisions to make. May God bless you all in the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



*Yours ever,  
John*

## **When can we come back to Church?**

The Coronavirus lockdown has now been going on for four months. We are all wondering when we will be able to get back to normal. The government has announced that churches may open again but those who go must observe social distancing and there are heavy restrictions on what may be done during a service (eg no singing!)

The Church Council has asked a small group to consider a plan for how to gradually and safely re-open the church for Sunday services and mid-week activities. This group started work on 17 July. Once the plan is prepared it will need to be approved by the Church Council, which will be done by e-mail vote.

After taking into account the likely needs of all church users, the group decided that the church should aim to reopen in September. That is the start of a new Methodist year and also the time when we welcome the Revd Stephen Poole as our new minister. Little will take place in August, although the Friendship Café has a small outdoor gathering in Locket Road.

Before these things can happen we have to complete mandatory "Risk Assessments" for both the safety of the buildings and the way church activities will be carried out. Under the current legislation, when you come to services you will be able to sit next to your own family members but must keep "1 metre plus" apart from others. The chairs have already been rearranged to help with this. We must keep a record of who is attending (for "Track and Trace" if needed) and there will be no singing or after church coffee. Of course, by September, these rules might have changed and we do hope we can be very much closer to normal in time for Christmas.