



The Hayes Sector Methodist Church

**"United in Love & Service
to God's Glory"**

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A community that works together and holds each other up, exhibits the marks of the Kingdom of God!

Congratulations and our thanks to all who participated in the run up to and preparations for the Hayes Carnival. Your efforts and diligence is highly appreciated. The work we do together to profile our church and assist others still seeking, to find their way to God, is indeed the stuff of Kingdom Building.

Far too often people worshipping in different buildings have been robbed of the spirit of unity, togetherness and Kingdom purpose because of the assumption of autonomy. In Christ we're not autonomous creatures who thrive on *beating each other to the punch* but rather, we're a network of interconnected, interdependent and edifying beings that have meaning and gain identity through being together in fellowship, serving together for the good of the Kingdom of God and always seeking to preserve the unity and peace of the body of Christ, the Church. That is why events like the carnival are important as they serve to bring us (the community) together and aid in showing that the goodness and life encouraging spirit of Christ is still very much alive, present to all and available to all who seek Jesus with all their heart and mind!

I pray that we will continue to seek the face of Christ in all that we do, continue to show Christ present in our hearts and lives and live fully for the propagation of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ who keeps us together in His grace.

**Keep the faith & keep the community alive,
with thanks; ♥ Revd. Jongi.**

Stepping out 'of line'... in obedience to Christ our Saviour!

Welcome: *Have you ever considered doing something knowing it would bring the greater good but may/will cause you to incur the wrath of the state? Share your feelings or experience on this.*

Worship: Thank God for all those who walked the way of faith before you. Praise His Holy Name for preparing our way through the faithfulness of all who shared the gospel message with us.

Word: Amos 7: 7 – 15 & Ephesians 1: 3 – 14; (c.f. Mark 6:14-29)

✘ Amaziah accuses Amos of sowing dissension and inciting people against the king through his prophesies. Far from being threatened by this, Amos acknowledges that the authority for his work comes from God, hence he is not willing to “tow the line” of another ‘authority’. *Do you find that often you are forced to compromise your faith/Christian principles in order to fit in with expected norms of behaviour?*

✘ The dangers of simply following convention can be disastrous as experienced by Herod in the Mark reading. John’s death came as a result of Herod being the victim of towing the line where banter, oath & saving face colluded. That is why Paul’s words in Ephesians have to bear greater meaning if our existence is to mean anything: *We were chosen by God before the world began, to be holy and blameless;* thus if we let worldly wisdom dictate our faith journey, we run the risk of missing the blessing of life in abundance that Christ offered (& continues to) freely to us.

✘ Paul is clear: *hearing God’s word comes with responsibility* (see vs.13), one that is lived visibly as Christ’s mark on our behaviour, words & attitudes. This is what Herod lacked even though he marvelled at the words of John the Baptist. *Yet by their faithfulness, Jesus & Amos showed that with faith in God, it is possible.*

Our Witness:

✘ *Seek to be remembered for towing God’s line, not man’s!*

Prayer: In love, passion and full commitment Lord, please help me to pursue the hope you have planted in me and to exhibit all the signs of the Kingdom in word and deed, through Christ Jesus ... mine and the world’s Saviour... Amen!