

Dear Friends,

Here is the weekly message to you all. As ever you can keep in touch through the church websites

- www.hayesmethodistchurch.co.uk,
- www.hemc.org.uk,
- www.northhillingtonmethodistchurch.org

and Facebook:

- facebook.com/hayesmethodistchurch
- facebook.com/hayesendmethodistchurch
- facebook.com/northhillingtonmethodistchurch

And don't forget that each church also has a WhatsApp group. Let me know if you want more details. But you are always able to contact me directly - my phone number and email address are below.

Take care, stay safe
and God bless

Rev Ken

The Revd Ken Kingston
Minister - Hayes, Hayes End and North Hillington Methodist Churches
Tel: 020 8756 0567 Email: ken.kingston@methodist.org.uk

What's in a welcome? (Matthew 10:40-42)

Here's the link for the YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJ1Y92ROmBQ&t>

And here it is for you to read

What's one of the first things you do when you welcome someone into your home? The odds are that it will be to offer them a drink. And if you know anything about me, it is likely that the drink I'll ask for is a glass of water. But whether it is water, tea or coffee, or something else, it is quite easy for us. We can turn a tap, fill a kettle, flick a switch and so on.

But rewind 2,000 years to the time of Jesus, and it would have taken a lot more effort. Water, for instance, wouldn't have been from a tap. It would probably have been drawn from a well and then carried to your house.

Whether you are offering hospitality today or were providing a welcome centuries ago, three things are needed:

- **Empathy** – putting yourself in the place of the person being welcomed. So, what can you do for them? Are they thirsty? Do they need a drink?
- **Initiative** – If you are going to find out whether the person being welcomed needs something, then you need to take the initiative. And ask them.
- And thirdly – it takes **effort**. If they need a drink or something else then we need to get it for them.

In this passage from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is coming to the end of the instructions he is giving his disciples before he sends them out on mission. (Unlike Luke's Gospel where we hear what happened to

the disciples, Matthew doesn't tell us a thing. Some people suggest that is because it is more a description of the Church's own mission and ministry, rather directions to Jesus' first followers.)

Our mission requires those same three things: empathy, initiative and effort. Whatever we say, whatever we do and however we do it, we need empathy, initiative and effort. And we stand in the line of disciples going back to Jesus, and to Jesus himself.

Think about what God through Jesus has done. Very briefly: out of love God had compassion for us and wanted us to be in a relationship with him (empathy). God came to us - Jesus was born and lived as one of us (God took the initiative). Jesus spent his life, teaching, healing, loving, forgiving and restoring us. A life that took and cost his life (so it took effort). (When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, John's Gospel speaks about Jesus being the living water and that everyone who drinks of the water that Jesus gives them will never be thirsty again.)

Loving others and sharing God's love places us in and with Jesus. And that is something of what Jesus was talking about at the start for the passage, when he said that when followers of Jesus are welcomed it is as if Jesus is welcomed and in turn the Father who sent him. (Matthew repeats this (chapter 25) when Jesus says this if someone is thirsty and you give them something to drink, then it is as if you are giving Jesus himself a drink.) The bounds of relationship grow stronger and we are again welcomed into God's loving and inclusive family.

And just a final thought ... we also need to be reminded that we are sometimes called to be a blessing to others, not in what we do but in what is done for us. By allowing others to care for us, by being gracious in receiving hospitality and kindness from others, God comes closer to the giver and the welcomer.

Be generous in your welcoming, be gracious in your hospitality as you both give and receive.

A prayer

God, you welcome us in and draw us to yourself,
so send us out to share that welcome with others.
Surprise us as we find you in everyone we meet
as we go about our daily lives this coming week.

And another prayer

Loving God, when we come to you joyfully:
thank you for welcoming us into your presence.

Loving God, when we bring you our problems:
thank you for welcoming us into your presence.

Loving God, even when we have done what we should not have done:
thank you for welcoming us into your presence.

Loving God, when we come to you for guidance:
thank you for welcoming us into your presence.

Loving God, when we come to you singing songs of praise:
thank you for welcoming us into your presence.

Loving God, when we come to you in silence:
thank you for welcoming us into your presence.

However, whenever and wherever we come to you:
thank you for welcoming us into your presence.

(from Roots)

Sunday on the BBC

8.10am **Sunday Service** Radio 4 (93.5FM)

Looking to the future hopefully, with John Bell of the Iona Community. (After Charles Wesley, John Bell is the writer of the most hymns in the Methodist hymn book *Singing the Faith*.)

11:45am **Sunday Morning Stories** BBC1

Kate Bottley looks at what happens when we strive to be the best we can be, sharing stories of people who are making a real difference in their communities, including artists of different faiths who are finding common ground.

1.15pm **Songs of Praise** BBC1

A collection of faith stories from people in Northern Ireland, such as a Christian geologist at the spectacular Giant's Causeway and a former professional footballer called to the priesthood.

Methodist Sunday Services on the Web

- Contemporary worship from Swan Bank Methodist Church: [youtube.com/user/SwanBank](https://www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank)
- Worship from Westminster Central Hall, London: [youtube.com/user/MCHWevents/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/MCHWevents/videos)
- Worship from Wesley's Chapel, London (also has daily prayer at 10.00am and 12.45pm): www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA
- *Sthie [at home]*– from the Isle of Man, a different style of worship taking place at home: [youtube.com/andyfishburne](https://www.youtube.com/andyfishburne)

When we will the church building reopen for worship?

Many will have heard the news this week that the government has said that churches can reopen for worship from 4 July. However, the Bishop of London said, this change in guidance is permissive, not prescriptive (ie 'may', not 'must'). This means we do not have to open from 4 July.

We are now waiting for further advice both from the government and the Methodist Church about what we can and cannot do, and what procedures we will have to follow before and when we reopen.

The minsters and circuit stewards have therefore agreed that worship will not resume in our church buildings until August at the earliest.

I, like you, cannot wait until we return. But again like you, I will have to be patient. Because I want to make sure we can worship together safely, as this expresses our love for God and for one another.

Readings for Sunday 5 July

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30; Romans 7:15-25