



ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

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Sunday 7 August 2022

Morning service 10.30 am Andrew Maxwell (Bishop's Cleeve)

Followed by coffee/tea in the hall

Live-stream link for the 10.30 am service at end of these notices.

6.30 pm NO SERVICE AT ST MARK'S OR ON ZOOM

Notices

Tuesday 9 August 10.00 am – 12 noon Coffee morning. All welcome.

Next Sunday 14 August 10.30 am Rev Rachel Leather. Holy Communion. Climate Sunday.

14 August 6.30 pm This will be an on-line (Zoom) Holy Communion service led by Rachel. Details in the July/August Messenger and also at the end of these notices. Bear in mind, if you would like to take part, you will need to provide your own bread and non-alcoholic juice of the grape.

Advance notices

Tuesday 16 August 7.30 pm at church An informal meeting for all door stewards to discuss inclusive church. Refreshments will be provided.

Monday 22 August 8.00 pm Planning meeting at church for the next All Age Worship service, which will be our harvest service on Sunday 25 September. All welcome. If you can't make the meeting but would like to contribute, please let Rachel know.

Café Church 31 July Last Sunday the Café Church led by Rev Mark Hutchinson from the Unitarian Church was recorded. If you would like to watch it, click this link: <https://youtu.be/xQMCy-MBdGo>

Live-stream link for Sunday 7 August 10.30 am: <https://youtu.be/OuJPMOhE9po>

See page 2 for more information about online communion.

Extract from the letter from Rachel which appeared in the July/August Messenger

Dear friends

Holy Communion, in Methodist theology, is considered a 'means of grace'. In short, we believe we meet the risen Christ in this holy act, strengthening our relationships with both God and one another. We don't impose any conditions upon those wishing to participate. Whilst some of my theology of communion might differ from that of Roman Catholics, most ministers I know are in full agreement with Pope Francis when he said he has never denied anyone communion.

The pandemic has raised questions about how we come together as a community of faith in worship, especially online worship. At St Mark's we have experimented with online worship, and agreed that some of our evening Zoom services should continue, as will our live-streaming of morning worship from our building. We are aware that online worship means those who are unable to join in person, for a variety of reasons, are able to be included. Last year's Methodist Conference adopted a period of discernment over the next couple of years in which ministers are now permitted to preside over online communion.

The Faith & Order Committee produced a report to Conference which can be found here: [f-and-o-conducting-services-of-holy-communion-online-0921.pdf \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/f-and-o-conducting-services-of-holy-communion-online-0921.pdf) and have helpfully produced guidance on this, which can be found here: [Conference 2021 Agenda Volume 2 \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk/conference-2021-agenda-volume-2) (please contact me if you would like a paper copy, although be aware the report is a 29-page report, whereas the guidance is only 4 pages). When joining online it is important we are all participating 'live' and not watching a recording of a communion service. Holy Communion is something we do as a community together at the same time. This means that the Zoom Communion service will not be recorded and therefore it will not be available to watch later.

At St Mark's we agreed to have our very first online communion service on Zoom on **Sunday 14 August at 6.30pm**, and this has been authorised by our Deputy Superintendent Michelle Ireland. For those who would like to participate, there are some practical issues to be aware of. Obviously, I will not be able to provide the bread and wine, so this will need to be organised in advance by those at home. Whilst the bread can be any bread, as part of our Standing Orders (the rules we follow as Methodists) the wine must be non-alcoholic and should be juice of the grape.

Any remaining bread and the wine that has been set out for the service should be *reverently consumed, or otherwise reverently disposed of, at the end of the service*. Methodist advice is to consume whatever is remaining rather than throwing it away, but some may interpret this as putting bread out for the birds or pouring remaining wine onto the garden. It is not considered 'reverent' to put bread in the bin or pour wine down the sink.

We will reflect on online communion at our next Worship Consultation meeting (**Monday 12 September 7.30pm** at St Mark's and open to everyone). Rachel.