

What does it feel like to be part of a 24/7 event?

Last year my prayer time started at 3.30am with a text from Rachel, who had preceded me in prayer, to check I was awake. The time flew by and I was a little upset to end at 5am. The prayer time was strengthened with the feeling of one body praying together as I knew that Helen was going to take over from me at 5am. I really enjoyed the quiet time, I'm not good with quiet but I felt compelled to stay obediently quiet. I chose 3.30am as I am awful at concentrating in solitary prayer for even 10 minutes, but the only thing I should have been doing at 3.30am was sleeping so it really helped me concentrate and removed the distraction of everyday life. My prayer time was concentrated around ideas from Acts and the differences between the church in Acts 1 and Acts 2 and how the waiting in the upper room resonated with the Church in lockdown.

**Prayer Requests** - Our Prayer Group has received the following prayer requests during the past week.

For Eileen in Kings Mill Hospital and for her subsequent operation.

For Geoff.

For Edward at home recovering from his seizure.

For Brian who had a trip to A&E.

For Joan's friend Pat in hospital after a heart attack, recovering waiting tests.

For Janet Gratton in hospital following a stroke.

For Margaret (Marehay) increasingly feeling poorly.

Church Stewards: Elaine, Pat, Brian, Chris, David, Paul, Scott.

Church Secretary: Scott      Church Treasurer: Sarah.

To submit information or receive this newsletter by email please contact:

scott.handbury@talktalk.net or 01773 513591.

Our website: [www.ripleymethodist.co.uk](http://www.ripleymethodist.co.uk)

Circuit website: [www.mid-derbyshire-methodist.org.uk](http://www.mid-derbyshire-methodist.org.uk)

## **RIPLEY METHODIST CHURCH**

### **Mid-Derbyshire Methodist Circuit**

#### **Minister: Rev Kate Strange**

### **Sunday 9th May**

Hello everyone.

The newsletter is different this week. I have received quite a lot of information to pass on, especially about the Circuit 24/7 Virtual Prayer event, which starts this Thursday 13th May. So there was no room for a Bible Study this week.

I've also included our church roles that need filling. Please see the details inside.

As you know, we're planning to open for worship from Pentecost Sunday 23rd May. That's only two weeks away!

Details will be in the newsletter next Sunday.

If you feel that you need support to return to church please contact Karen - 07894 312498.

### **Prayer Group**

If you would like our prayer group to pray for any person or situation please contact 01773 512367.

Also if you would like to join the prayer group on WhatsApp.

### **11.00am Prayer Stop**

At 11 o'clock each day let us pray for each other, our friends, our families, our church and all those we know need prayer.

### **Ripley Worship**

Paul has worship videos on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXjjQ483ocbZn2g0RcQvAYQ/>

His latest video goes live at midnight on Saturday.

**Virtual Circuit 24/7 Prayer Room** - The Virtual 24/7 Prayer Room will be open from 7.00pm this Thursday 13th May until 7.00pm on 20th May.

The first hour will be a Circuit Prayer Event via Zoom.

After that, individuals, groups or whole congregations are invited to pray in one-hour slots.

Please email Judith (midderbyshirecircuit@gmail.com) for the Zoom link for the first hour.

You can book your own slots by clicking on the following link.

If you don't have internet and would like to join in. Please give me (Scott) a call and I will book your time slot for you.

[24-7 Prayer International - Sign-Up](#)

If you would like to know about resources to help with prayer, contact me (Scott) and I will forward the details on email.

**Help with Church Roles** - You may remember that in a previous newsletter I listed church roles that needed an owner. The roles below still need someone to take them on. Please could you prayerfully consider whether you could help? Thank you and please contact Elaine if you can.

**Safeguarding Rep:** Attending Safeguarding meetings. Knowing the Safeguarding process. Keeping records of safeguarding training.

**GDPR Rep:** Attending data protection meetings. Knowing the data protection rules. Keeping records.

**Plan Secretary:** We are going to try for a while without a Plan Secretary. This means that the Circuit will decide which preachers come to us. If this maybe doesn't work for us then we will need someone to arrange and bid for preachers as necessary.

**Door Stewards Rota:** Updating as necessary.

**Chairs Rota:** Updating as necessary. Also someone or ideally a couple to join this rota for setting out the chairs in church, usually on either a Friday afternoon or Saturday.

**Food Hygiene Certificate Level 2** - Rev Julian Penfold will be running a Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering course for a maximum of 11 people - 5 or 6 people in each of two sessions. The course is 2 hours long and will be run on Monday 28th June from 10.00am to 12.00 noon and on Tuesday 29th June from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Shirland Park Farm. The cost is £15 per person which includes all handouts and the certificate. Book with Julian at jokpenfold@aol.com.

**24/7 Prayer Testimonies** - Roanna Pilsbury has sent the following about the 24/7 prayer event:

I really want to encourage each congregation to be part of this event. We all know that the circuit will be going through many changes over the next year and no matter your view of what is about to happen, we will all be going through it together. It would be great if we could therefore come together as a body of Christ, stretched across Derbyshire, to pray into this situation and for Thy Kingdom to Come here in this county as we commit to be God's hands and feet.

Praying is part of my daily life, why should I join the 24/7 event? Praying is part of Christian life so it might seem odd to set a specific time in advance to pray. But a 24/7 prayer event is a way of coming together as one community, one body united in common purpose. By signing up we can see as a group how we are accountable to each other to continue the chain of prayer. Thy Kingdom Come is a worldwide event and the perfect moment to come together as one unit amongst the larger Christian community.

At Matlock Methodist and United Reformed Church we took part in a 24-hour prayer event last year. This was a way we could do something together during lockdown for the greater Christian mission. From the comfort of our home the church family could work together by drawing together in prayer.