



# Sinfin Moor Church

*A Local Ecumenical Partnership serving Sinfin Moor and Stenson*

## November Newsletter

*(Published on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020)*

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### Welcome and Introduction from the Editor

There is probably very little doubt in most of our minds that we will be subject to the arrangements we have in Church on Sunday mornings for some time come. It is important that you follow the signs and instructions especially the one-way system we have. There is no doubt that some will occasionally forget and it is very easily done (as I have myself and been suitably admonished) so please, if you see it happen, just gently remind them. We are all in this together, so let's see it through together.

Leading our **All Saints Day Communion Service** today is **Rev'd Eileen Bangay** who is a 'retired' Anglican Minister who normally worships here with us. She will be assisted with the Communion by **Julie Froggatt** who is one of the Church Stewards. Our readings today are Matthew 5 v 1 - 12 and 1 John 3 v 1 - 3 and are to be read by **Gill Priestley**.

The Communion will be brought to your seats just as we did last time. Please keep the Communion cups after you have consumed the wine, they will be collected after the Service has finished. If you do not want to receive Communion, please decline when approached.

**This Newsletter was printed earlier than normal to allow time to elapse for them to stand and be safe for you to handle and read.**

**You must take your copy home with you.**

### Contact is important

The clocks have gone back and already it is doom and gloom! A virus to contend with and now the prospect of bad weather and long dark days. For some this will be a very difficult time of the year, with so many social activities now no longer taking place.

The good news is that we are all in this together..... can I ask you all please to keep in touch with each other, just a quick phone call once a week to make sure that all is ok. You should all have a Pastoral contact and if you are unsure who your contact is please phone either Gill Priestley or Melanie Sant and they can tell you who your contact is.

Your Church Stewards are also always available if you need any help, or just need a chat, please talk to each other so that the days don't drag, boredom and depression can be a terrible thing.

Thank you

**Melanie Sant**

## The Message by Nathan Sant

Hello from Zimbabwe

As I write this I am sitting overlooking my garden. It's another baking hot day, the birds are in the trees singing, the grass is soft and green, and Lily, Ella and the dogs are playing and having fun. It's a wonderful sight to watch.

Why is it a wonderful sight? I hear you ask. Well, because just only a month ago our garden was not nice a nice place to be in, it was all dried out! There were no leaves on the trees, the grass was a really horrible yellowy brown colour, it even crunched under your feet, and there weren't many birds sitting in our trees. This was all because of winter! You see Zimbabwean winters are very, very dry and when you couple that with only one day of municipal water every couple of weeks, the result is that you have a very sorry looking garden.

That can be a little bit like us though can't it? We go through seasons both physically and spiritually. Some seasons in life, we are in the lush green grasses of a summer garden where everything is going well, and life is good. But at other times, we find ourselves in the dried out crunchy grasses of winter where life is tough, and there seems nothing but challenges coming one after the other, and all we are doing is trying to get through, waiting for the warm summer rains to come again. I guess if we used the UK winter as an illustration, then everything looks bare, lifeless and cold desperately waiting the warm summer sun to come, and thaw everything out. Either way, winter is not a fun place to be for us, even when God leads us into that season!

However, although this season seems harsh and tough, it actually does us a lot of good. It allows God to prune off all of the dead wood that is in our lives. All of those things that don't do us any good; Anger, lying, grumpiness, hatred, envy, vanity, jealousy, bad friendships and I'm sure the list could go on and on. It allows God to create space for bigger and better growth.

With the pruning analogy I am reminded by of the passage in John 15 v 1-2

***I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.***

God doesn't take off the deadwood just to cause us pain and suffering, that is **NOT** who He is. He does it so that we can produce **MORE** fruit! All because He loves us. The dead wood is nothing but a hindrance to us and our growth. In order for us to produce bigger and better fruit in our lives, we have to be pruned on a regular basis.

How do we know if what good fruit looks like? Well Galatians 5 v 22-23 shows us:

***But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!***

These are the fruits that we should be growing in our lives as Christians. This is what we were designed for, and the things that we should strive for with all of our might.

There's another thing with winter too, it shows that creation is resilient! We see it every year in our gardens just like mine right now, they have the ability to come alive again after

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even the harshest of winters! If that is just a garden, imagine how much more resilient we are! For goodness sake we are created in the very image of God!

I don't know where you are in your life or indeed what season you are in, but if you are in the winter season know this; that no matter how dark and cold it gets God is working for you and not against you! As well as this you are loved and cherished more than you could ever know! It cost God everything for you, He isn't just going to let you succumb to the pressures and problems of this world! No! My friend you are far too important!

Take a look at you life, what dead wood is there? Maybe it's time to let the master Gardener sort you out!

Believe me, you won't regret it!

**Be Fruitful**

*Nathan*

## *Life's a Tapestry*

*A poem the late Iris Wilcocks who worshipped at the Church*

Life is a tapestry of bright and sombre hue,  
Yellow for the sunny days when life is good and skies are blue,  
White is for the baby-days of innocence and purity,  
Shades of green like fields and trees for childhood and puberty.  
Red for days of wine and roses when everything looks fine,  
Pink for days when happiness threatens to decline,  
Shades of blue for dreary days when life's no longer fair,  
And grey for even duller days when we sink into despair.

But then, amid the picture a silver thread appears,  
And life seems happy once again in the middle years,  
But then, alas, black thread appears as bereavement comes our way,  
And long lonely times stretch out as sorrow dims our day.

Then purple, lilac, violet bring healing to the soul,  
Threads of black that caused us grief blend darkly with the whole,  
And as we view the scene we see a goldthread winding through  
From baby-days to oldest age God's love for me and you.

And as we contemplate the years of sorrow, joy and strife  
We see the finished picture of full and fruitful life.

It's then we see more clearly the golden threads of love,  
And know that God was always watching o'er us from above.

Then as the canvas folds away and life on earth is done,  
And we've said goodbye to this life and new life has begun,  
No tapestry we'll see there for no colour can compare  
With the radiance of God's presence that by His grace we share.

## Newsletter

During the period of lockdown when we were not meeting as a Church congregation, we distributed an electronic version of the Newsletter as a PDF to everyone we knew who had an e-mail address.. The remainder were distributed by hand. Now that we have established our Sunday Morning Services again, we had reverted to the original list for the issue of the electronic version of our Newsletter. If you were receiving one and now you don't, this is the reason.

Of course, if you do want to receive an electronic copy, just drop me an email requesting this and I will add you to the list. My email is [ian.sant@ntlworld.com](mailto:ian.sant@ntlworld.com).

Thanks

Ian Sant

## Church Offering

Some reminders:

1. If you are a regular worshipper at Sinfin Moor Church, and give regularly in our offering, we do have weekly giving envelopes available. If you would like a set, please speak to Margaret Platt or Ian Sant who will be very happy to provide them for you.
2. If you pay income tax and you have not signed up to 'Gift Aid' your offering, please do consider doing so. It costs you nothing more and gives us an extra 25p for every single £1 that you give.
3. You can also give your offering directly from your bank account as quite a few people now do. If you want to consider this, please speak to Ian Sant and he will gladly give you our bank account details.

## Church Internet

We will have changed our internet provider. If you need the new password to use the Church system, please speak to a Steward and they will give this to you.

## Minister Vacancy

Sadly we are still no further forward with filling the vacancy here at SMC. It may be further delayed now that the Archdeacon has announced his retirement at the end of the year, but we cannot be sure of this. Many of the folk that work at Church House are still working from home which just compounds the situation.

It is important that we continue pray earnestly for the situation to be resolved..

## Harvest Donations

As you would expect, the day after we published the October Newsletter, we received a card through the post from the Derby Refugee Advice Centre (DRAC) in response to our Harvest gifts. The card is on the notice board in the middle bay but the contents say:

*"Thank you for your incredibly generous harvest festival gifts. We have already given several bags of food since Sunday (27<sup>th</sup> September) and they really do make a difference, especially in such difficult times."*

### **Our Treasurer Writes:**

Financially we continue to stay financially stable despite the fact that our offering and building hire income is considerably lower than we would expect at this time of year. I suppose it is obvious why this is the case since the numbers attending our Sunday Morning Service are about a third down in numbers attending, and some of our user groups have not restarted.

That said, our outgoing costs are reduced a little, we are not using as much energy as we would normally expect to do.

We continue to pay all our bills on time and we give grateful thanks for our ability to do this without it being a worry. As I have told you in previous reports, some Churches are really struggling to meet together, let alone pay their bills.

A final reminder that at our Church Council Meeting (see below), we are to discuss our giving to good causes. If you have a good cause you think we, as a Church should consider supporting, please let me or any Church Council member know the details before we meet. We cannot promise to support them, but if we don't know about it we cannot consider it.

**Ian Sant**

### **Church Council Meeting**

The members of the Church Council are reminded that we are to have a suitably distanced meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Church starting at 7.30 pm.

### **Church Flowers**

Our thanks to those of you sponsored the flower display in the Church over the past few months, we managed to catch up last month and at the moment, there is no sponsorship planned for November.

### **URC Advent Service**

Just for the record, we have to advise you that the annual South Derbyshire Association of United Reformed Churches (of which we are one of the 12 members) Advent Service which would have been held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November has been cancelled. It was felt that this was the safest thing to do in view of the current situation.

### **Morning Services at SMC**

Here at Sinfin Moor Church, it is the Stewards intention to continue to hold our Morning Service every Sunday whilst ever it is legal for us to do so.

You may be heard that the Nottingham and Derby District have advised that all Methodist Churches in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire should close, but not all those in Derby have done so.

Of course not all of our 'normal' congregation are able to join us for worship because they feel that for them, it is not the right thing to do. It is a decision that we all have to make depending our own circumstances but the Stewards feel we should remain open for those who feel able and want to come to worship

## Sinfin Moor Church Prayers



*"If you remain in Me and My words remain in you , ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. (John 15 v 7)*

*Please pray for (in no particular order of importance):*

- the SMC inter-regnum (vacancy), and the ongoing work to identify a suitable person to provide dynamic ministry to SMC.
- the Church congregation keeping safe, especially those not well, those we know who have upcoming operations and appointments and those awaiting test results.
- ways to keep our relationship with Jesus alive and functional during these unprecedented times.
- the church as a whole that it will find new ways to reach out to those who don't yet know Jesus.
- for the health and wellbeing of all those living on their own.
- new ideas to bring unity between our churches.
- Pat Hartland (Kath Crawford's sister) who continues to recuperate..
- Mark Winstanley (Linda Martin's brother). awaiting his next appointment about further treatment .
- Melvin Worton as he continues to stabilise, and Jacqueline as she supports him.
- Vincent Martin - entering a highly-intensive treatment phase which is consisting of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. and Linda as she supports him.
- Brian Shaw - who is continues to recover after his heart operation, pray for Wendy at this time.
- Philip Brown (Great Nephew of Ellen Treece) is now stable continues to give thanks for his progress.
- Richard Dockray (David & Verity's son) who is at Bible College continuing his studies and his gardening work.
- Nathan, Michelle, Lily and Ella Sant as they continue in their work in Zimbabwe.
- all the groups and organisations who use our building that they will be able to decide when to start meeting again..
- the Monday Morning Prayers, Fellowship and coffee in the Welcome Area now it has resumed.
- the SMC Youth Council when it is able to resume.
- all the churches that have financial problems during this time when worship cannot take place.

**Please remember to let Ian Sant know of any updates to these prayer requests.**



**Normal Weekly Meetings (Contact details below):**

Monday	10.00 am - 12.30 pm	Prayer, Fellowship and Coffee Morning.
	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
Tuesday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	6.30 - 8.00 pm	Cubs
	8.30 - 9.30 pm	Footlights Stage School Adult Fun Tap
Wednesday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Sinfin Moor Church Friendship Club
	6.00 - 7.30 pm	Brownies (Term Time)
	7.00 - 9.00 pm	Guides (Term time)
Thursday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	1.15 - 2.45 pm	Parent and Toddler Group (Term time)
	5.30 - 6.45 pm	Beavers (Term time)
	7.15 - 8.45 pm	Scouts (Term time)
Friday	1.00 - 5.00 pm	Asian Men Meeting
	7.00 - 8.00 pm	Footlights Stage School - Ballet
Saturday	9.00 am - 3.00 pm	Footlights Stage School (various classes)

**Contact Details**

**Asian Men** Mr Pabla ( 07845 891442)  
**Over 60's Group** Monday to Friday from 1.00 ~ 5.00 pm.

**Footlights Stage School** Faye Elliott ( 07779 665181)  
 Anne George ( 01332 721108)

Various types of dancing classes, for all ages and abilities in the Middle and Back Bays, all day on Saturday and on Tuesday/Friday evenings. See the bottom of previous page for further details.

**SMC Friendship Club** Eirlys Smith ( TBA)  
 Wednesday afternoon in the Middle Bay from 2.00 ~ 4.00 pm

**Brownies** Helen Chesshire ( 07763 852278)  
 Wednesday in the Back Bay from 6.00 ~ 7.30 pm

**Guides** Amanda Jenkins ( 01332 754770)  
 Meet on Wednesday in the Middle Bay from 7.00 ~ 9.00 pm

**Parent and Toddler Group** Sarah Liddle ( 07468 423807)  
 Thursday in the Back and Middle Bays from 1.15 ~ 2.45 pm

**Scouts** Matt Baker E-mail [Scouts119Derby@outlook.com](mailto:Scouts119Derby@outlook.com)  
 Thursday in the Back Bay from 7.15 ~ 8.45 pm

**Cubs (Nelson Pack)** Sam Reynolds E-mail [Cubs119Derby@outlook.com](mailto:Cubs119Derby@outlook.com)  
 Tuesday in the Back Bay from 6.30 ~ 8.00 pm

**Beavers** Lesley Holmes (01332 768581)  
 Thursday in the Back Bay from 5.30 ~ 6.45 pm

**Livewell** Kellie Townes (01332 641254 or [livewell@derby.gov.uk](mailto:livewell@derby.gov.uk))  
 Monday in the Back Bay from 5.00 ~ 7.00 pm.

Free support with losing weight and healthy lifestyle changes for those register with a Derby City GP practice.

**Please advise the Editor if there are any changes.**

## CHURCH MINISTER AND CONTACT DETAILS 2020/21

<b>Minister*</b>	Vacancy	
<b>Secretary*</b>	Julie Froggatt	722222
<b>Stewards*</b>	Julie Froggatt Margaret Platt Ian Sant	Amanda Jenkins Wendy Roe Melanie Sant
<b>Church Council</b>	John Archer Eve Dudden Ivan Vickerstaff	Colin Attenborough Vincent Martin Melvin Worton
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Julie Froggatt	722222
<b>Room Bookings</b>	Melanie Sant	721927
<b>Webmaster</b>	Vincent Martin	728295
<b>Welcome Centre Manager</b>	Wendy Roe	762664
<b>Prayer Co-Ordinator</b>	Rev'd Eileen Bangay (Acting)	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Ian Sant	721927 (ian.sant@ntlworld.com)

- denotes members of the Church Council along with the Treasurer.

Just to cheer you up, we thought we would share these with you. They are Christian one-liners. Not sure how long we can keep this section going, so if you want to help, please keep a look out for more. You may have seen some of these before

Smile Smile Smile Smile

When parking on the north side of the Church, please remember to park on an angel.

Jean will be leading a weight-management series on Wednesday nights. She's used the program herself and has been growing like crazy.

Hymn of Response:  
Crown Him with many Cows.

The concert held in the Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due the Minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Childcare provided with reservations.

The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys singing to join the choir.

The service will close with Little Drops of Water. One of our ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.

Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High".