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Inclusive Church Sunday /Trinity 7 19/07/26

Welcome

Methley with Mickletown Parish is a **Dog-Friendly** and **Inclusive Church** – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.



Prayers for those who are unwell
Peter, Ann, Sally, David, Michael, Jack, May, John, Steve, Julie, Karen, Joanne. ,

Today's Service 11am



Opening: 651 The Kingdom of God is justice and joy (Hanover)

Gradual: 723 We come as guests invited (Passion Chorale)

Offertory: 50 Be still for the presence

Closing: 404 Let all the world in every corner sing (Luckington)

Service lead: Rev Terry Williams /Charlotte Taylor LLM

Reader: Shirley Wright

Intercessor: Peter Bloodworth

Welcomers: Anita Bywater



Looking ahead in July/August:

Tuesday 21st Holy Communion at St. Margaret's Hall 10am

Tuesday 21st PCC in church 7pm

Sunday 26th Trinity 8 Parish Communion 11am

Tuesday 28th Holy Communion at St. Margaret's Hall 10am

Sunday 2nd All Age Service 11am

Tuesday 28th Holy Communion at St. Margaret's Hall 10am

Sunday 9th Trinity 10 Parish Communion

Methley Parish Prayer



Spirit of God,
move among us here in Methley;
make us one in heart and mind,
make us one in love.
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing; Spirit
of God, fill our lives with your
purpose and love,
Amen.

A Pastoral Letter Following General Synod

Dear Friends,

You may have seen reports about discussions at General Synod in York concerning same-sex relationships. I thought it would be helpful to explain, in simple terms, what happened and what it means.

A motion was brought before Synod asking the Church to **affirm** that there are "no fundamental objections" to faithful, loving and committed same-sex relationships, and that such relationships are entirely compatible with following Jesus Christ. This was NOT a vote about and that this was **not** a vote about introducing same-sex marriage in the Church of England or changing the Church's doctrine on marriage. Instead, it was about whether the Church was willing to recognise and affirm that faithful same-sex relationships can be part of Christian discipleship.

Sadly, the motion was not passed.

For many people, this will simply seem like another Synod debate. For many LGBTQ+ Christians, however, this decision will feel deeply personal. It tells them that, once again, the Church has stopped short of fully affirming their relationships and their place within the life of the Church. As someone who is both your priest and a gay man, I cannot pretend this decision has not affected me. **I am deeply disappointed.**

The vote does not change the Church of England's current teaching. Marriage remains defined by the Church as being between one man and one woman. The Prayers of Love and Faith remain available under the current arrangements, and further work on questions of relationships, sexuality and gender will now continue through a newly established working group.

Some of you will know that this conversation has been going on for many years. There are faithful Christians, clergy and bishops who hold differing convictions, all seeking to follow Christ as they understand the Scriptures and the Church's tradition. While I respect those who have reached different conclusions from my own, I continue to believe that faithful, loving and lifelong same-sex relationships

reflect the same commitment, sacrifice, and grace that we celebrate in any healthy Christian relationship.

I also want to reassure you that nothing changes within our own churches. We remain committed to being churches where everyone is welcomed, loved and valued, regardless of age, ability, background, ethnicity, sexuality or gender identity. At St Oswald's, we are proud to be part of the Inclusive Church movement and Christ Church will be looking into joining this year. We believe that every person is created in the image of God and deserves to know that they are loved beyond measure.

Jesus consistently welcomed those who felt excluded, stood alongside those who had been pushed to the margins, and reminded us that love of God and love of neighbour are at the very heart of the Gospel. That remains the example I want us to follow together.

If this week's news has left you feeling saddened, confused or with questions, please don't carry those feelings alone. Come and talk to me. My door, and more importantly God's door, remains open.

Please continue to pray for our Church, for its leaders, for those who celebrate this decision, for those who are hurting because of it, and for the Holy Spirit to lead us into greater truth, grace and love.

With every blessing,

Revd Terry Williams
Team Vicar

Methley Contacts

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Jill Potts – Safeguarding Lead /

Assistant Churchwarden

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SAVE A LIFE LEARN TODAY



YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

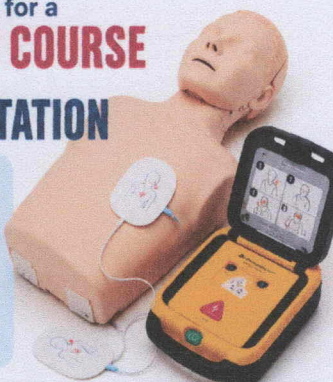
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FREE ONE HOUR COURSE
in
BASIC RESUSCITATION



Learn life-saving skills
including CPR using the
TRAINING MANIKIN



Learn how to use a
DEFIBRILLATOR
with confidence



**ST. OSWALD'S
CHURCH**



**SATURDAY
25TH JULY**



2PM



PLEASE SPEAK WITH STUART
for more information
and to book a place.



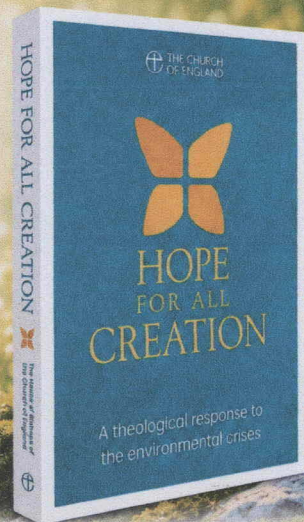
A little time. A few simple skills. A life saved. ❤️

Scan the QR
code or use
the
contactless
machine to
donate
securely.
Thank you for
your support.



HOPE FOR ALL CREATION

A new teaching
document on
caring for
God's creation.



**FESTIVAL OF
CREATION IN CHRIST**
First Sunday
in September



**GIVING THANKS,
PRAYER & ACTION**
For God's creation
and our future



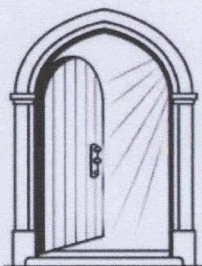
**COMMITMENT TO
NET ZERO CARBON**
Over 6,000 churches
engaged in Eco Church



AS A **GOLD ECO CHURCH**,
ST OSWALD'S, METHLEY IS
PROUD TO CARE FOR
GOD'S CREATION.



Let's continue to pray, act and hope
for all creation. ❤️



LIFE EVENTS *Meeting*

NEED TO BOOK A:



**BAPTISM /
CHRISTENING**



WEDDING



**THANKSGIVING
SERVICE**



**MEMORIAL
SERVICE**



**RENEWAL
OF VOWS**

OR WOULD YOU LIKE
TO SPEAK WITH THE
TEAM VICAR ABOUT
A PASTORAL MATTER?

DROP IN ANYTIME
**2ND & 4TH
THURSDAYS**
6.00PM - 8.00PM

THE VICARAGE
8 CHURCH FARM CLOSE
LOFHOUSE
WF3 3SA



FOR CHRIST CHURCH,
LOFHOUSE
AND ST OSWALD'S,
METHLEY WITH MICKLETOWN



01924 792122



COLLECT

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either Wisdom of Solomon 12:13. 16-19
A reading from the book of Wisdom.

There is not any god besides you, Lord,
whose care is for all people, to whom you
should prove that you have not judged
unjustly; for your strength is the source
of righteousness, and your sovereignty
over all causes you to spare all. For you
show your strength when people doubt
the completeness of your power, and you
rebuke any insolence among those who
know it. Although you are sovereign in
strength, you judge with mildness, and with
great forbearance you govern us; for you
have power to act whenever you choose.
Through such works you have taught your
people that the righteous must be kind,
and you have filled your children with good
hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Or Isaiah 44:6-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last; besides
me there is no god. Who is like me? Let
them proclaim it, let them declare and set
it forth before me. Who has announced
from of old the things to come? Let them
tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be
afraid; have I not told you from of old and
declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there
any god besides me? There is no other
rock; I know not one.

Or Genesis 28:10-19a

PSALM Psalm 86:11-end

R *All nations you have made shall
come and worship you, O Lord.*

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will
walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your
name.
I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all
my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore; **R**

For great is your steadfast love towards
me,
for you have delivered my soul from the
depths of the grave.

O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;
they have not set you before their eyes. **R**

But you, Lord, are gracious and full of
compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and
truth.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.
Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and
be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped and
comforted me. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:12-25

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors,
not to the flesh, to live according to the
flesh – for if you live according to the
flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you
put to death the deeds of the body, you
will live. For all who are led by the Spirit
of God are children of God. For you did
not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back
into fear, but you have received a spirit of
adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it
is that very Spirit bearing witness with our
spirit that we are children of God, and if
children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint
heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with
him so that we may also be glorified with
him. I consider that the sufferings of this
present time are not worth comparing with
the glory about to be revealed to us. For
the creation waits with eager longing for
the revealing of the children of God; for
the creation was subjected to futility, not
of its own will but by the will of the one
who subjected it, in hope that the creation
itself will be set free from its bondage
to decay and will obtain the freedom
of the glory of the children of God. We
know that the whole creation has been
groaning in labour pains until now; and
not only the creation, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan
inwardly while we wait for adoption, the
redemption of our bodies. For in hope we
were saved. Now hope that is seen is not
hope. For who hopes for what is seen?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we
wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.*

Jesus put before the crowd another
parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to someone who sowed good
seed in his field; but while everybody was
asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds
among the wheat, and then went away.
So when the plants came up and bore
grain then the weeds appeared as well.
And the slaves of the householder came
and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow
good seed in your field? Where, then, did
these weeds come from?’ He answered,
‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said
to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and
gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in
gathering the weeds you would uproot
the wheat along with them. Let both of
them grow together until the harvest;
and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,
Collect the weeds first and bind them
in bundles to be burned, but gather the
wheat into my barn.’” Then Jesus left the
crowds and went into the house. And his
disciples approached him, saying, “Explain
to us the parable of the weeds of the
field.” He answered, “The one who sows
the good seed is the Son of Man; the field
is the world, and the good seed are the
children of the kingdom; the weeds are
the children of the evil one and the enemy
who sowed them is the devil; the harvest
is the end of the age, and the reapers are
angels. Just as the weeds are collected
and burned up with fire, so will it be at
the end of the age. The Son of Man will
send his angels, and they will collect out
of his kingdom all causes of sin and all
evildoers, and they will throw them into
the furnace of fire, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the
righteous will shine like the sun in the
kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with
ears listen!”

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and
the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may
live:

may we so receive within ourselves the
power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his
glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.

