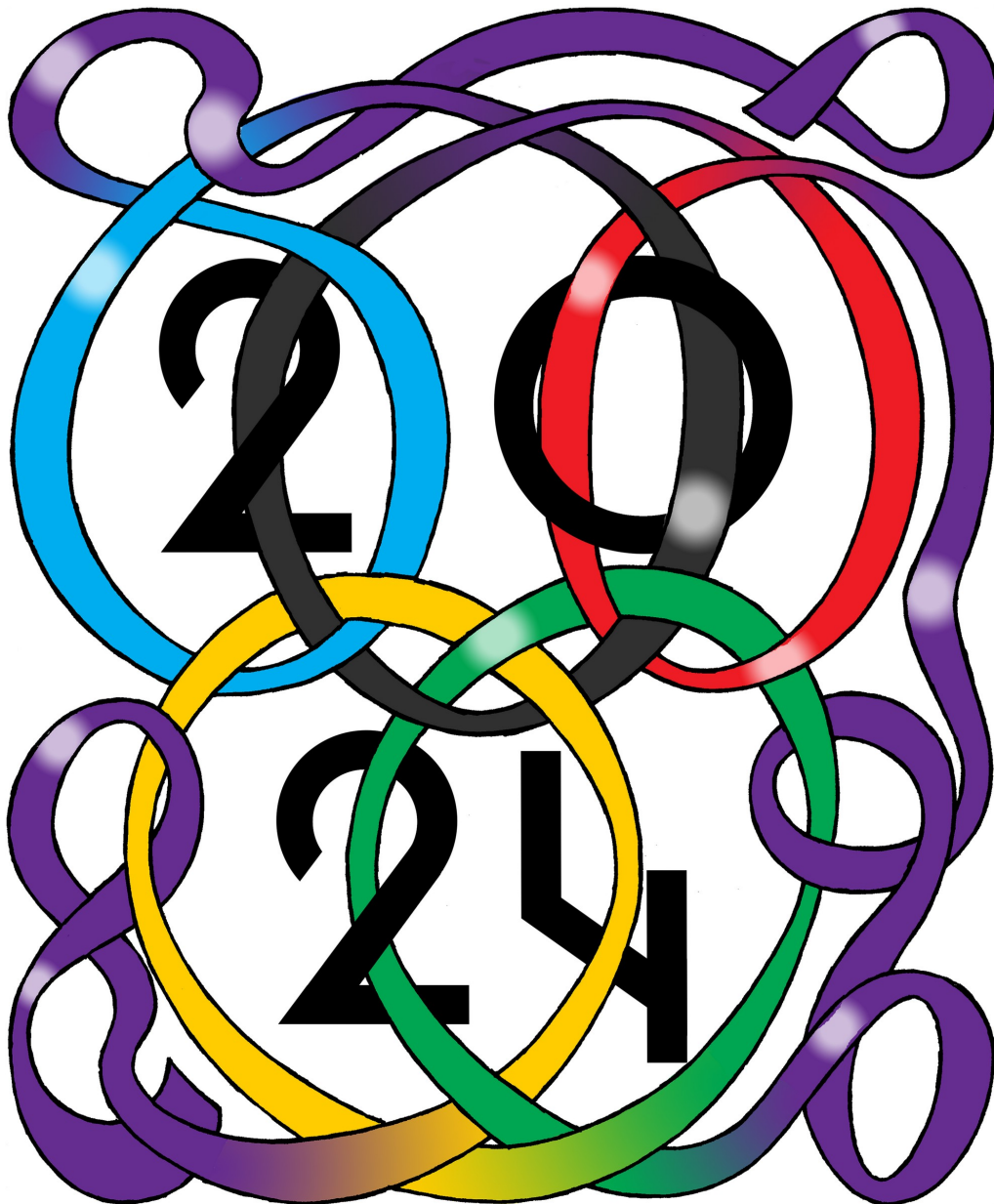


CONTACT

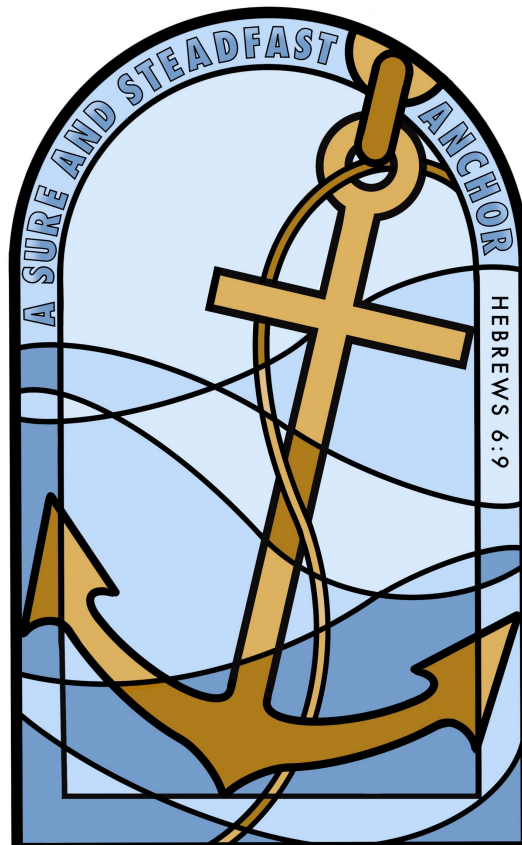


Magazine of Erdington Methodist Church
Station Road - July / August 2024

GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM IN ERDINGTON, THROUGH WORSHIP,
PRAYER, ACTION AND FRIENDSHIP

Contents

The Olympic Games	3
Common Cause 2024 - update	5
Safeguarding at Erdington Methodist	8
Don't go far!	8
Reminiscences on D-Day	9
Historical Connections	11
Tragic Accident	12
Sky at night	12
Wordsearch clues for Sea Sunday	13
Wordsearch	14
General Election expressions and terms	15
When Radio encounters the Bible	16
Staying power	16
Remembering the faith of Eric Liddell	17
Demand for foodbanks increases	19
Worship - July / August 2024	20



The Olympic Games

July sees the start of the Olympic Games in Paris. In describing the Christian life as a marathon race, the writer of Hebrews (12:1-2) challenges us to finish well.

'throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles' (1)

As in a normal race, we have to get rid of any burdens that weigh us down (eg possessions, worries, what others think of us) and besetting sins (wrong habits or attitudes). We can cast our burdens on the Lord (Ps 55:22) and be assured of His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

'run with perseverance the race marked out for us' (1)

The Christian life is like a marathon not a sprint race, which calls for endurance. The course is marked out for us, as we all have a unique race to run, with its opportunities and difficulties. God knows our path and will provide all that we need to complete the race.

'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith' (2)

The runner keeps their focus on the finishing line and avoids all distractions. Our focus is on Jesus, who has run the race before us ('author'), but is the one who can show us how to finish well ('perfecter').

We are also surrounded by a ‘great cloud of witnesses’ (1).

These are God’s people, both past and present, who are cheering us on!

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the 400 metres semi-finals. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore, and he fell to the ground in pain. However, his father ran on to the track to support him in completing the race. Let’s not forget that whatever we face, God is there beside to enable us to finish the race!

Canon Paul Hardingham - Parish Pump



Common Cause 2024 - update

Home Leone – Building new, sustainable villages and communities in Sierra Leone

Following the Table Top Sale at Kingstanding Methodist Church on 15th June our total has now risen to £245.81. Thank you to those who supported the event and donated items to sell.

Upcoming events to continue our support include a Garden Party during the afternoon of Saturday 17th August. This will be between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm at Jan's home (please ask Jan or a Steward for the address) Donations will be welcome towards your refreshments.

A date has yet to be confirmed for a Quiz night as well as a date for a Christmas event So, watch this space for further details. If you have your own ideas for fundraising then come and have a chat about it.

More information about the projects undertaken in Freetown, Sierra Leone by 'Homeleone'.

(Taken from their website 'homeleone.org')

History of Education in Sierra Leone

In 2013 the average class size in Sierra Leone was 82 students and it was not uncommon to see classes as large as 100 or more! There were 1.33 million primary school children, and only 16,000 solid classrooms standing in the country. While there's been some progress, numbers remain similar and the need for quality teachers and schools remains overwhelming.

Welcome To Destiny Grace Academy

Our **vision**... To alleviate poverty through a comprehensive education that empowers students to flourish in and around their community.

Our **mission**... to equip teachers with the engaging techniques, curriculum, and supports needed to provide a first-class, quality education that meets the academic, social-emotional, and spiritual needs of each student.

We **value**... Hard work, perseverance, and team work. Honesty, integrity, and respect for each other and all of God's creation. Optimistic mindset of growth and achievement regardless of circumstance. Communal approach to education that includes family, church, school, and community. Inclusivity and understand the importance of adaption and accessibility. Continuous and respectful communication between all (speaking, listening, feedback). Learning and the ongoing process of how the world works

Destiny Grace Academy was opened on 9 September 2019 by the British High Commissioner



Program Overview & Objectives

- Curriculum aligned to Sierra Leone's Ministry of Education's Teaching & Learning Standards
- 12 of the 27 classrooms are built across a Primary, Junior Secondary schools.
- 360 children aged -4 to 15 attend years nursery to year 9 school age children. The school will grow to year 12 and host over 800, children, hungry to learn.
- Vocational Skills Training are being developed (mechanics, bakery & brick making)
- Adult education (functional literacy & maths skills)
- Our report in June 2022 showed great progress

Funding a classroom and the Operations

We need £14,500 direct cost to build each of the next classrooms to start our Senior Secondary School. This means the classrooms will be ready to host the children as they move up. In addition, we need the toilets, staff room etc and other facilities children, in the developed countries, take for granted. We also need to raise £3,000 per month to cover all the costs of the school at this stage



Safeguarding at Erdington Methodist

This is an 'early warning' to keep the date free!

Saturday, 12th October 2024

Rev Emily will lead a

'Creating Safer Space' Foundation Module Training Course

here at Erdington from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

Who is 'required' to attend?

Church Stewards

Pastoral Contacts

Worship Leaders

Anyone who works with children or young people in the name of the church

Anyone who works with adults who might be vulnerable in the name of the church

Who is 'warmly invited'?

Everybody else!

More details to follow in September

Don't go far!

The minister went to the bank and asked for a statement of his account, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday." Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

Reminiscences on D-Day

In the run up to the celebrations for the 80th Anniversary of D Day I heard a touching little story which I expect some may identify with. On one occasion a son took his father to Normandy on holiday and while they were there, they visited one of the museums in the area. The father seemed to spend an inordinately long time looking at a map of the Normandy area and then suddenly jabbed at the map with his finger in the vicinity of Caen and said, that was where we came down. The son who knew nothing of what his father had done during the war picked up the clue and asked him to explain. Apparently, father had been in the Airborne Division and had landed in a glider with the objective of securing bridges across the Caen canal and the river Orme. With the exception of saying it was not a pleasant experience, the father never said anything else about it and the son was left wondering what else his father had done and been through.

Likewise, I have no idea about my dad's wartime experiences, except he told me he was on stand-by for D-Day and how bored he was for most of the rest of the time. But it reminded me of how little we know about most of the people in our lives. I thought that the poster from Padstow that I put onto the EMCC site says it all.

*If after Church you wait a while
Someone will greet you with a smile.
But if you quickly rise a flee
We'll all seem stiff and cold.
Maybe the one beside you in the pew
Perhaps is just stranger, too.
All here like you have fears and cares*

*All of us need each other's prayers
In fellowship we bid you meet
With us around God's mercy seat.*

But the extent of my ignorance about others was brought home to me a number of years ago now. I remember attending the funeral of Les Sebourne. This was a man, who from all his outward appearance was painfully shy and who would stand by the church hall door almost hopping from one leg to the other whilst he waited for his wife to finish her Sunday morning chatter so that they could go home for lunch. The funeral oration included, as is so often the case an outline of his life and apparently, he had been a senior research chemist with IMI, at one time in Saltley. If I had been bold enough to create an opportunity for chat, who knows where the conversation might have gone.

The effort needed to find out about other people is part of the definition of 'emotional work'. This is a concept that I stumbled upon recently and is defined as 'the work done in an effort to maintain a relationship'. Back in the day, when I had a regular 9 – 5 job I used to call it 'practicing my communication skills'. But however, we define it, learning about the other people in our lives is important. If we don't know about their problems, how can we love them as ourselves?

Peter Farley

Historical Connections

For many years, members of Tuesday Club have, for their summer meeting, shared in a meal at the Blake Barn Inn.

At Burcot Court, where I now live, I recently attended a talk on the history of Sutton pubs and one featured was The Blake Barn. Its history was of particular interest to me, which I wanted to share with readers of Contact.

Wesleyan preachers were active in the midlands from about 1740 attracting many followers, particularly from the working class. One notable preacher was Francis Asbury from Great Barr who was sent to America by Wesley, where he eventually became the first Bishop of the American Episcopal Church. One of band of his followers was Edward Hand of Sutton Coldfield.

In the 1760s, informal meetings were held in the house of Edward Hand. Many of the Wesleyans suffered persecution from gangs and Edward's house was set on fire.

Hand was a self-employed shoemaker and lived in a humble cottage in Sutton Coldfield in 1780's, and was paying an annual rent of fourpence to the Warden and Society of Sutton (the corporation). In 1785 Hand applied for his house to be licensed as a place of worship. Presiding at the Sessions was the Warden Rev. James Hastings who also took the chair at a meeting of the Warden and Society on the following day. The result of this meeting was that Edward Hand was given notice to quit the premises. Hastings, hostile to Methodism, could not refuse the order.

Hand complained to Richard Bisse Riland, a member of the Warden and Society for many years, Hand had received many favours from Riland in past years,

Hand left the district in 1789, perhaps driven out by the hostilities of the authorities, or perhaps to preach in a different Methodist Circuit. His cottage was taken over by John Taylor and rebuilt - this cottage still stands and is now part of The Blake Barn.

Ann Tomes

(With thanks to Sutton Coldfield Local History Group)

Tragic Accident

A truck loaded with thousands of copies of Roget's Thesaurus crashed yesterday losing its entire load.

Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, rattled, paralysed, dazed, bewildered, mixed up, surprised, awed, dumbfounded, nonplussed, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless, and perplexed.

Sky at night

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

Wordsearch clues for Sea Sunday

14th July brings us Sea Sunday, the day when Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck.

To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries. You might wish to support one of these three well-known societies: The Mission to Seafarers (Anglican), The Apostolate of the Sea (Roman Catholic), and The Sailors' Society (inter-denominational).

Some of you will know that I take part in a tech podcast with a friend, Simon. Recently he invited Rev. Andrew Dotchin who is closely connected with the Mission - he is quite a character - ed

July	Give	Shops	Environments
Sea	Thanks	Economy	Piracy
Sunday	Merchant	Afloat	Shipwreck
Remember	Seafarers	Harsh	Hundreds
Pray	Daily	Working	global
Port	Chaplains	Hospitality	Friendship
practical			

Wordsearch

M	S	E	A	D	E	Y	L	I	E	C	O	W	H
R	P	E	L	H	N	Y	C	N	H	N	L	O	T
A	O	L	A	C	I	T	C	A	R	P	H	R	N
T	H	R	B	S	H	I	P	W	R	E	C	K	A
V	S	S	O	R	Y	L	I	A	D	I	Y	I	H
H	E	I	L	U	A	A	Y	A	A	A	P	N	C
C	A	M	G	I	H	T	D	S	D	H	Y	G	R
P	F	F	N	I	U	I	R	N	T	E	S	E	E
A	A	S	S	U	N	P	U	O	E	J	B	C	M
F	R	I	E	N	D	S	H	I	P	M	O	A	A
L	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	S	N
O	R	I	A	S	E	H	H	M	O	V	S	M	N
A	S	H	A	A	D	H	E	M	J	H	I	T	I
T	H	A	N	K	S	R	Y	L	U	J	E	G	R

General Election expressions and terms

Here are words and phrases we use at this time and explanations on how they started.

Parliament – This comes from French meaning a conference or assembly. Dates from around 1300.

Vote – Comes from Latin votum “a vow, wish, promise to a god, solemn pledge, dedication.”

Poll – Again from about 1300, originally meaning a single head, then counting heads, from about 1620s.

Going to the country – A phrase from end of 18th Century, meaning to call for a General Election and test the mood in the country.

Canvass – This originally meant to sift things in a sheet, and then to examine items carefully, then “solicit votes or test support before an election” (1550s).

Hustings – From about 1720, it means a temporary platform from which, previous to the Ballot Act of 1872, the nomination of candidates for Parliament was made, and on which these stood while addressing the electors.

Ballot – From late 16th Century, meaning a box in which balls or pebbles are put to indicate votes.

Mondeo man – After the Ford Mondeo, a family car, popularised by a phrase used at a party conference in 1996, though the vehicle mentioned was actually a Ford Sierra. It means the average voter who wants to better themselves and their families.

Swingometer – Do you remember when television graphics were simple? This was a device consisting of a dial with a movable pointer, used to demonstrate (on television) how a likely or observable ‘swing’ should influence the outcome of an election. From 1965.

From the Parish Pump Website

When Radio encounters the Bible

A dramatist employed to write stories from the Bible in radio form was astonished at the end of a broadcast to hear the announcer say, ‘Will Cain kill Abel? Tune in at the same time tomorrow and find out!’ – Albert R Perkins, Vogue Magazine 1943

Staying power

Hospital patients’ comment about the new minister: “He can stay longer in an hour than most people do in a week.”

Remembering the faith of Eric Liddell

The 2024 Paris Olympics (26 July – 11 August) will soon be here. It was 100 years ago this summer, also at the Paris Olympics, that a young science student at Edinburgh University, Eric Liddell, ran an astonishing race that caught the imagination of millions worldwide.



Liddell had been born in China in 1902, to Scottish missionaries there. Early on, he had made a deep commitment to Jesus Christ, and sensed he was being called to spend his life in serving others. But Liddell was also an outstanding sportsman, playing rugby for Scotland before settling on athletics.

When he was chosen for the Paris Olympics, he expected to run his preferred 100m. But then came the news that the race would be run on a Sunday, and Liddell refused. Quickly, he trained for the 200m and 400m. He took bronze at the 200m, but no one expected much from him at the 400m. Instead, he won, and even broke the world record in the process.

After the Olympics, Liddell felt God calling him to his life's work. He went back to China, to teach in a Christian college. As the Second World War loomed, he sent his wife and children home, but stayed on himself. By 1943 Liddell was confined to a brutal prison camp, where he shone among the fellow prisoners – encouraging them, teaching Bible classes, and praying for both his fellow inmates and the prison wardens. Deeply malnourished, his health

failed and in 1945, just months before the war ended, he died, aged only 43.

In 1981 his story was made into the Oscar-winning film Chariots of Fire.

From the Parish Pump Website



Demand for foodbanks increases

The demand for emergency food parcels distributed by the Trussel Trust's foodbank network has nearly doubled in five years, with a record amount being handed out over the past 12 months alone.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 3.1 million food parcels were given out; 65 per cent of which went to families with children.

Now the chief executive of the Trussell Trust, Emma Revie, has called on political leaders to set out policies that ensure that foodbank use will become obsolete in the UK.

She urges: "We must not let foodbanks become the new norm. A supportive social-security system is the bedrock on which we end hunger for good. Building on this, we need much more effective employment and financial support for parents, carers and disabled people. And action to ensure everyone can have the security we all need to access opportunities and have hope for the future."

Families with children and working-age adults are among the most frequent users of foodbanks, but there has been a 27-per cent increase in the number of pensioners needing emergency food in the past year.



Worship - July/August 2024

All worship at 10.30 am unless indicated otherwise

July

7th - LOCAL ARRANGEMENT

14th - Glynn Constantine

Deacon Rachel & Rev Freddie leaving service at Stockland
Green Church - 5.00 pm

21st - LOCAL ARRANGEMENT

28th - HOLY COMMUNION - Rev Sue Smith

August

4th - Jean Youdell

11th - HOLY COMMUNION - Rev Emily Young

18th - LOCAL ARRANGEMENT

25th - Pauline Hall

*Please hand any items for the September CONTACT to me - Nick Riley
by 21st August 2024 at the latest please, or alternatively email me:
spligosh@icloud.com with the words 'CONTACT MAG' in the title.*