

Daily readings:

Sunday 1 August

Monday 2 August
Tuesday 3 August
Wednesday 4 August
Thursday 5 August
Friday 6 August
Saturday 7 August

John 6:24-35

Philippians 1:1-11
Philippians 1:12-18a
Philippians 1:18b-30
Philippians 2:1-11
Luke 9:28-36
Philippians 2:12-18

Psalm 78

Psalm 33:1-12
Psalm 33:13-22
Psalm 39
Psalm 40:1-10
Psalm 47
Psalm 42

Sunday 8 August

Monday 9 August
Tuesday 10 August
Wednesday 11 August
Thursday 12 August
Friday 13 August
Saturday 14 August

John 6:35, 41-51

Philippians 2:19-29
Philippians 3:1-11
Philippians 3:12-16
Philippians 3:17 – 4:3
Philippians 4:4-4-13
Philippians 4:15-23

Psalm 34

Psalm 36:5-12
Psalm 37:1-11
Psalm 37:12-29
Psalm 37:30-40
Psalm 38:1-18
Psalm 38:9-22

Sunday 15 August

Monday 16 August
Tuesday 17 August
Wednesday 18 August
Thursday 19 August
Friday 20 August
Saturday 21 August

John 6:51-58

Galatians 4:4-7
Colossians 1:1-14
Colossians 1:15-20
Colossians 1:21-23
Colossians 1:24-29
Colossians 2:1-7

Psalm 111

Psalm 45
Psalm 43
Psalm 44:1-8
Psalm 46
Psalm 47
Psalm 48

Sunday 22 August

Monday 23 August
Tuesday 24 August
Wednesday 25 August
Thursday 26 August
Friday 27 August
Saturday 28 August

John 6:56-69

Colossians 2:8-15
Luke 22:24-30
Colossians 2:16-23
Colossians 3:1-17
Colossians 3:18 – 4:1
Colossians 4:2-6

Psalm 84

Psalm 50:1-15
Psalm 145
Psalm 51
Psalm 53
Psalm 54
Psalm 56

Sunday 29 August

Monday 30 August
Tuesday 31 August
Wednesday 1 September
Thursday 2 September
Friday 3 September
Saturday 4 September

Mark 7:1-23

Matthew 14:1-8
Joshua 1:1-11
Joshua 2:1-24
Joshua 3:1-17
Joshua 4:1 – 5:1
Joshua 5:13 – 6:20

Psalm 15

Psalm 126
Psalm 55:1-8
Psalm 55:16-22
Psalm 50:1-6
Psalm 57:1-3, 7-11
Psalm 61

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(During the time of the coronavirus the office is closed to visitors—please do not post urgent items for the time being. Donations by cheque will be collected regularly.)

Goodrington Methodist Church

Together

August 2021 issue



Dear Friends

The end is nigh!

We normally associate those words with a gloomy looking man wearing sandwich-boards. However, as we end July and move into August, we do so in hope that restrictions relating to the Covid-19 virus are coming to an end. I want to thank all those who have worked really hard to make our churches Covid-safe and also to thank members who have complied with the regulations, which have been very unwelcome but perhaps more necessary than we realise. We move into a new chapter not of regulations but of common sense. Restrictions on communal worship were lifted from 19 July. Whilst this is good news, some people may still be wary about attending and mixing with others not in their household. Therefore, we ask that you check before sitting near to anyone that they are happy for you to do so. Please leave a vacant seat between yourself and another person not in your household as a matter of courtesy. We will continue to ventilate the church and provide hand sanitizer when you enter. Although wearing a mask or face covering is no longer a legal requirement, they are still advised in 'crowded indoor areas' and we would suggest that you continue to wear one whilst moving around the building. The Methodist Church guidance advises that it would be wise to continue with the NHS Test and Trace system. We will therefore be asking for those attending worship to sign in when they arrive or to scan the QR code if they have the NHS app on their phone.

John Wesley Rediscovered

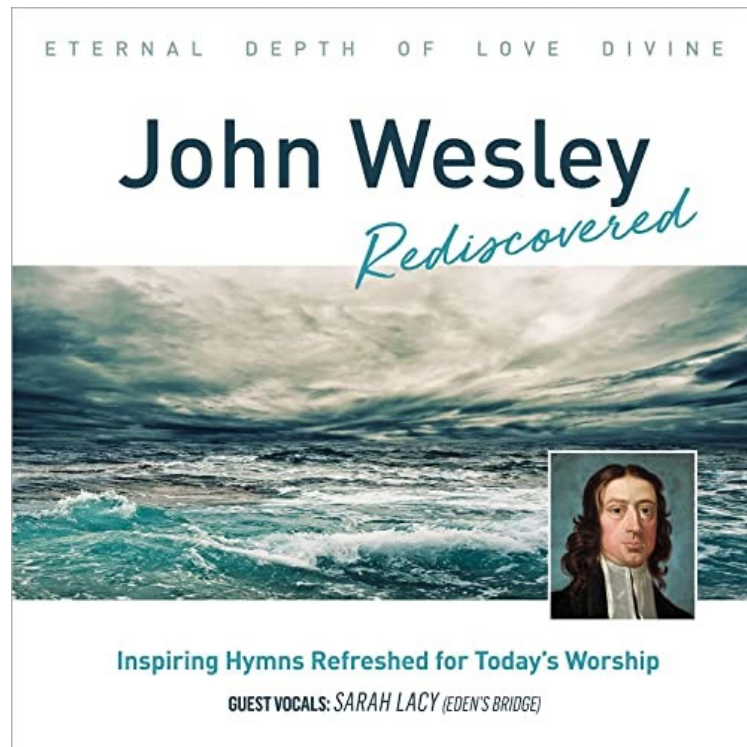
At the beginning of the lockdown last year I set myself the task of doing a project on John Wesley's hymns. Later, in the quest to find some sing-able tunes, I was in touch with Christopher Norton in Canada and, as a result of our email correspondence, his wife, Wendy Beardall-Norton, wrote 20 new tunes to the traditional texts I had selected. I wrote a short introduction to John Wesley's translation of the German Hymns (REDEMPTION FOUND) and this and the music book (ETERNAL DEPTH) with the 20 new tunes are now available. Recordings of the tunes are also available (search JOHN WESLEY REDISCOVERED) on YouTube, iTunes, Spotify and other digital platforms. If you don't have access to these but have a CD player we can probably get the tunes for you (please ask through the circuit office). As I am the 'executive producer' (grand name isn't it?) of the project, I am able to get the books at a discounted price for people I know personally. A friend told me that she thought 'Redemption Found' would be very academic and too difficult for her but was actually finding it easy to read and very enjoyable. I do get a small royalty on sales of 'Redemption Found' but have no financial interest in 'Eternal Depth' (the tune book) or in

the recordings 'John Wesley Rediscovered'. An Anglican colleague commented warmly, 'There is a real need for modern sounding music with words that instruct in faith.' That was exactly my aim. You can order any of these through the circuit office but please order by 31 August (please do not send any money). If you would like something more quickly for some reason, please let us know when you order:

John M. Haley: *Redemption Found – Praising God with John Wesley: An introduction to John Wesley's Translation of German Hymns* (£15.99)

***Eternal Depth – 20 John Wesley Hymns with new melodies by Wendy Edwards Beardall-Norton* (£21.99)**

***John Wesley Rediscovered – an album of 20 hymns to new melodies* (£7.99)**



Moving to the future

Thursday 22 July was the 42nd anniversary of my starting out as a Methodist preacher. I conducted an evening service at Millbrook in south-east Cornwall with about 35 people attending. My text was, 'Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world' (John 1:29). The following year I entered Wesley College, Bristol and after three years there and two years as a probationer minister in London, I was ordained at Worcester as part of the Birmingham Conference of the Methodist Church in 1985.

At the end of last month, once again, the Methodist Conference met in Birmingham, partly in person and partly by Zoom. The report that I have opposed at every stage, *God in Love Unites Us*, was overwhelmingly adopted. The report affirmed God's blessing on both cohabitation and same-sex marriage at every level of the church. The Conference has amended its standing orders to include two definitions of marriage – one between a man and a woman and the other between two people. This is described as 'living with contradictory convictions'. Although it is contended that these definitions are in parallel they are really an infusion (that is they are not like two cups, one of tea and one of coffee but a mixture of the two).

Each year ministers (spring) and local preachers (autumn) are required to affirm they continue to believe and preach 'our doctrines'. Interestingly, the doctrinal standards of the Methodist Church are not exhaustive but doctrine is often thought to be contained in the authorised services and hymns as well. The Faith and Order Committee of the Methodist Conference was at pains to say that the changes to our standing orders do not represent changes to 'our doctrines' but I find that unconvincing. It seems to me that the church has made significant changes and, by implication, said something about its view of the Bible.

My invitation to the Torbay Methodist Circuit expires in August 2022. I have decided not to seek a further extension but to leave next year and have my last service on 24 July 2022. The circuit will look for a new minister through the stationing process and is in good time for that. I shall have to talk with the District Chair about my planned response to the annual inquiry that will take place at the Ministerial Synod on 23 March 2022. If I find myself unable to answer the questions about our doctrines and discipline positively I shall lose my status as a Methodist minister and as a preacher (something which I have held since 1980). It is not the way I anticipated bringing my ministry to a close but, of course, I did not foresee such changes.

Colleagues and friends have described me as 'very Methodist'. It is sad for me that the Methodist Church of my younger years has all but gone. The holiness teaching has gone, the colleges have gone, and something of the spirit I remember has gone. Even the Methodist hymns that I cherish have become unfashionable. I appreciate that not everyone will feel like me. Some will be rejoicing at the changes and others will continue much as before. Nevertheless, there will also be some others who do think and feel like me who will not just carry on as before but need to be guided into a new chapter.

God bless you all

John

**John Haley
Minister**

Many of the groups will now be on their summer break. For further information about midweek groups please contact the group leader or the circuit office.