

A Methodist Way of Life.

The Methodist Church has started to promote **A Methodist Way of Life**. But why do we need it, and why now?

For many years the Methodist people have struggled to clearly identify what makes them any different to other Church traditions in the UK. What is the Methodist 'unique selling point'? In many ways **A Methodist Way of Life** may not seem particularly unique. At the same time it rekindles some of our traditions from the time of the Wesley brothers as it encourages us to make time to discuss the questions on the Commitment Cards with others. The emphasis being gently put, is that we need to rediscover the importance of supporting each other in our Way of Life, and in particular in these commitments.

When challenged to support each other in these commitments forming some kind of Holy Huddle might spring to mind. Yet it is more about mutual accountability. There are times when we all struggle with the four areas of Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism. Or, one of these four might become very strong and overpower the other three. **A Methodist Way of Life** encourages us to ensure that we balance these four areas. They are not there to give us a guilt trip about what we have not done, or as a measuring stick to ask how much of this or that have we done. Rather they are there to encourage us to move forward in our discipleship of Jesus Christ.

During these days of Lockdown, **A Methodist Way of Life** becomes even more vital. Perhaps you, like me, have discovered that we can easily become tired even though we haven't been as busy as usual or the days appear to float by. **A Methodist Way of Life** is there to remind us of the things we can do. We can pledge ourselves to worship daily. We can pledge ourselves to learn more of God, whether that be through reading the Bible or by noticing the activity of God within us and within those around us. We can pledge ourselves to be in touch with at least one other person regularly and so seek to reduce in small ways the loneliness that abounds at the moment. And of course, as we notice God all around us, then we can start to grow in confidence about talking of God to those we know within and beyond the fellowship of All Saints Methodist Church.

A Methodist Way of Life is a big challenge for all of us, but at the same time, it is also a small and incremental challenge. It is a way of recognising that we are

people of faith, a living faith that is a real, practical, an everyday faith and not an isolated activity kept behind closed doors. Rather one that we celebrate and share with each other.

So I wonder, who could you ask to support you in this life of faith and belief in God? What kind of adventure begins as we support each other in this way? Are we prepared to risk **A Methodist Way of Life** and see how God fills us and transforms us?

A Methodist Way of Life is there to encourage us on our way with God. May God bless us by it and may we be a blessing within and beyond God's church for the transformation of the world!

Every blessing



Rev Ian Griffiths



Deacon Selina Nisbett

A Methodist Way of Life

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

Worship

- We will pray daily.
- We will worship with others regularly.
- We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

Learning and Caring

- We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- We will learn more about our faith.
- We will practise hospitality and generosity.

Service

- We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- We will challenge injustice.

Evangelism

- We will speak of the love of God.
- We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- We will share our faith with others.

**May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church,
for the transformation of the world.**

A Methodist Way of Life

A Methodist Way of Life encourages us to grow together.
Make time to discuss these questions regularly with others.

Worship

- What is the pattern of your prayer life?
- How easy or hard do you find it to pray?
- What has spoken to you recently in worship or in the Bible?
- When, lately, have you felt close to God or distant from God?

Learning and Caring

- How have you practised generosity since we last met?
- How have you shown hospitality to others recently?
- How are you caring for yourself?
- How and what are you learning now?

Service

- How are you seeking to serve others in your communities and beyond? What has helped or hindered you in your service of others?
- How are you caring for God's creation?
- How are you using God's gifts (including your financial resources)?
- What issues of injustice are you currently concerned about? What are you doing in response?

Evangelism

- When was the last time you were able to talk about God?
- What opportunities to share your faith have there been since we last met?
- How have you responded to opportunities to share your faith?
- Is there anyone you might invite to consider Christian faith?

How can we support each other in our Way of Life commitments?