

Yn Agglish Haasilagh ayns Mannin

The Methodist Church
in the Isle of Man



Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

Revd David Shirtliff

16 Cronk Cullyn,
Colby,
Isle of Man, IM9 4NQ

Tel: 01624 621968
Email: david.shirtliff@manx.net

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To the Methodist People of the Isle of Man

Dear friends,

As I sit and type this letter I'm profoundly grateful for a number of things. One is technology and the ways in which it is enabling people to stay connected, be that the humble telephone or a computer App that I hadn't even heard of last week. The App meant the Circuit Staff could meet this morning in a very effective way, each in their own home. A second is the ways in which people are rallying round to help out others. I've been moved by many stories this week that range from simple helpfulness to great sacrifice. Small acts of kindness and thoughtfulness really do make such a difference. The third is the news coming out of China which demonstrates that there is a way through this crisis if we remain focused and disciplined. I wonder what you're grateful for today?

I'd like to use this letter to flag up a number of things...

At Your Service on Manx Radio – Sunday 9.30 a.m.

Judith Ley is launching a new format of Sunday programme this week on Manx Radio. Called 'At Your Service' it will be a half-hour long service of worship and over the weeks will have contributions from all the Island's Christian traditions. It starts at 9.30 a.m. We're very excited about this, because it's a brilliant way to help people worship and feel connected, especially those who don't have access to the internet. Please do tune in and support this. Manx Radio have been so helpful in their willingness to change the schedule, and if you like what you hear send a note telling them so.

Regular giving

The spread of the Covid-19 virus is first and foremost a medical emergency, but we're also acutely aware of the effect that it's having on so many areas of our lives. For churches one of the ways it impacts us is that when we don't meet on a Sunday we don't take an offering and so that regular stream of income is removed. Yet our church treasurers still have bills to pay! There are several ways you could help out your church's treasurer that you might like to consider. One would be to set up a standing order for your weekly giving. Another would be to send a cheque, or ask for your church's bank details so you can make a transfer. If you can help your local church out in one of these ways it would be much appreciated; I'm sure your treasurer would love to hear from you.

As the Methodist Church in the Isle of Man
we are called to love and serve in response to God's love in Jesus.
www.methodist.org.im

Time for Testimony

If you have access to the internet you'll know that we're building a set of resources on our Youtube channel (search for Isle of Man Methodist Church). Suse Fishburne recently posted something of her testimony of God's guidance and I know that many people have loved hearing her tell her story. We'd like to expand on this as a way of encouraging others. Do *you* have a testimony that you'd like to share? If so have a word with your minister and we can work out the details of recording it and getting it onto the site.

And finally...

I love the ways in which people are supporting one another through this strange time; we are still the church even if we're not physically meeting together. As a staff team we're wanting to do all we can to resource and encourage you, and that includes printed material as well as the online resources. If you don't have access to the internet but would like a copy of our weekly service sheet, or (brand new next week) daily devotional then just contact your minister who would love to help out.

To close, a few words of blessing that came my way from Westminster Central Hall:

May the Lord comfort us in sorrow, calm us when anxious, befriend us when lonely, embolden us when afraid, guide us with the light of his presence and protect us with the golden wings of his love. Amen.

Every blessing,

David

Rev David Shirtliff
Acting Circuit Superintendent