

Yn Agglish Haasilagh ayns Mannin

The Methodist Church
in the Isle of Man



Twinned with the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone

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To the Methodist People of the Isle of Man.

Dear friends,

Along with this letter you will have received, Manx Methodists at Service Together (MMAST) sheets for the 27th of December and 6th of January (The Covenant Service). These sheets have a dual purpose. If you are connecting with the recorded services on our YouTube channel at www.methodist.org.im they will help you to follow the service. If you are not able to do this they act as a stand-alone resource to assist you in your devotions. New versions of MMAST are added each Sunday and can be accessed at any time. I am grateful to all those who are doing the work necessary to make this possible.

You will hopefully receive this before Christmas as the first Sunday falls in the Christmas break when there will be no post.

We will be in the midst of the Christmas celebrations, with a freedom not experienced elsewhere. Even so there will be many amongst us who are separated from family and loved ones and we should be on the lookout for those who are lonely or sad at this time.

We find ourselves in strange times but the phrase "This too shall pass..." variously attributed to Abraham Lincoln, and much older eastern mystics, has a truth about it which is echoed in the gospels. Matthew 6:34. "Do not worry about tomorrow..." speaks to us of the truth that God provides what we need for this day and the rest must be left in his hands.

As the Methodist Church in the Isle of Man
we are called to love and serve in response to God's love in Jesus and help others
to enter into a relationship with him.

www.methodist.org.im

The Covenant Service, also included in this mailing, speaks of the beginning of a new year in which many things, both good and bad, will come our way but one thing we can be sure of and put our trust in, is the truth that God will be with us.

I pray that you will find truth and blessing in the message of Christmas and know the presence of Christ in the coming year, whatever it may hold for us all.

Best of all is God is with us,
God will hold and never fail.
Keep that truth when storms are raging,
God remains though faith is frail.

Best of all is God is with us,
life goes on and needs are met,
God is strongest in our weakness.
Love renews, will not forget.

Best of all is God is with us,
hearts are challenged, strangely warmed,
faith is deepened, courage strengthened,
grace received and hope reformed.

Best of all is God is with us,
in our joy and through our pain,
till that final acclamation :
'life is Christ, and death is gain.'

Best of all is God is with us
as we scale eternal heights,
love grows stronger, undiminished ;
earth grows dim by heaven's lights.

Andrew Pratt (*b.* 1948)
Based on John Wesley's final words.

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God Bless.



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