



**Christ Church Stocksbridge
Green Moor Methodist Church
Crane Moor Methodist Church**

NEWS LETTER

For Sunday 25th July 2021

Dear Friends,

It feels a bit strange writing the letter this week, in order for it to be ready to be in the post, as last week (in 3 days time !!!) we will have had our first service back in church, but I cannot say anything about it as it has not happened yet !

If I was clever enough, or an aficionado of Doctor Who and the Time Lords, I ought to be able to say something about time, and it being relative to where you are or how fast you are going or but perhaps more simply, what I can say, is that Our Lord of Time will have been, is and will be with us all, wherever and whenever we access not only the service of the 18th July 2021 but at all times and in all places, now and forever, if we acknowledge him as our Lord and Saviour.

So, I pray that you will be able to enjoy worshipping together, whether in church or on line or just with the service sheet, as we have been doing over the last months, on this coming Sunday and that it all went well.

Then of course, the same time issues apply in regard to Monday the 19th July 2021. Another momentous day yet to happen but that we are all having mixed feelings about - not my birthday (though it does apply to that too!) - but the release of the legal enforcement of the lockdown restrictions. I won't go into the arguments as to whether we should or should not but just to say that as Church Officers, we feel that we should take the PM at his word when he says that we should still proceed with caution and that it is our individual responsibility to take care of ourselves and others. Thus, we intend to maintain the need for wearing masks, hand sanitisation and social distancing in church for the next three weeks or so, and at The Meeting Place probably until September, to see how it goes and how people feel as the situation unfolds.

Clearly, the virus has the same issues with time as we have, and so will not be following the Gregorian calendar nor getting into the minutia of what is or is not legally enforceable, so we feel it is prudent to continue to take things cautiously at present. We hope that, even if you feel personally comfortable with ditching the restraints, you will respect our decision and adhere to our precautions whilst in church and on church premises.

In the meantime: Have a good service and a good week - stay safe "Tread softly because you tread on my dreams" - WB Yeats.

Every Blessing. John

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