

Hartlip

Methodist Church
& Retreat Centre

Date: 16th April 2021

Dear All

As you are probably aware, the spread of Coronavirus has affected all church services and has led to the cancellations and postponements of a number of events in the Circuit. So, it is with great sadness that we have decided to postpone the 200th Anniversary celebration until **13th June 2021**. Obviously our greatest concern was the health and well being of our members and community, the invited preachers and of course our guests.

Surprisingly, as we were preparing for this year's anniversary we discovered that, whilst the church was founded and building commenced in 1820, historical records showed that worship services never began until 1821. Indeed, the 100th Anniversary took place in June 1921. So, it still feels somewhat appropriate to celebrate our 200th Anniversary in 2021. The good news is that the Rev Michaela Youngson, Ex-President of the Methodist Conference has agreed to lead the celebrations and dedicate our new stained-glass window in the Porch.

Alongside this, we will be inviting a variety of significant preachers, who are connected to the life of this church and the Methodist Connexion as a whole, to lead worship and preach through the months of May to July 2021. The hope is that those who had been invited previously will be able to join us again.

On Saturday 12th June 2021, we will plan again to host a Community open day at the Chapel and Retreat Centre. On Monday 14th June we will be inviting Hartlip Endowed Primary School to the church to celebrate the history and ministry of the Chapel.

I very much look forward to joining with you all next summer in our celebrations. In the meantime our thoughts and prayers are with all people on the front line, those who are unwell and those around the world who have lost loved ones.

Finally, In these difficult times please keep safe and look after yourselves.

Kind Regards

RJ Selmes

Rev Robin Selmes