

Norton Methodist Church
North Avenue, Letchworth Garden City
www.nortonmethodist.org

We offer greetings and a warm welcome from Norton. What we are offering here is a summary of our general customs and practices in worship.

General information

Congregation

Our congregation usually numbers 22 adults aged 29 and 40-80+ and 1 child aged 9 and 1 child aged 10 and 4 young people aged 11-14.

Jr. Church

The children/young people go to Jr. Church when the service is a regular service. They stay for the entire service when it is an Informal or All-Age-Worship. During a regular service, the children/young people will leave within 10 minutes of the start of the service to go into Jr. Church. A very short address within the first 10 minutes of the service allows us time to share some worship together. The exception to this is when a Trembaths service follows our service and November to December when Jr. Church is preparing for the Christmas service. Jr. Church will leave the main service after 5 minutes usually after the first hymn and prayer or right after the special observance. During the summer holidays there is no Jr. Church. The main teaching resource is Roots Children and Young People.

Music

Music books available are Hymns and Psalms, Complete Mission Praise, Spring Harvest 2004-05 and 2008-09. We do not know most of Mission Praise and only learned two songs from the Spring Harvest music books. However we enjoy learning upbeat and contemporary melodies that are easy to learn. The Preacher/Minister would need to take the lead in teaching us and prefer being taught verse per verse, then to sing it through. We do request that we have only one new hymn/song to learn during our service. Also available are a CD and tape player via the sound box.

Projector

All our hymns are projected on the screen however; a few still like to have books therefore the hymn number and book will need to be announced. Pictures are used on the screen throughout the service that reflect the readings, hymns and season. They also are used to move on from one element of worship to another. Words can also be added to the screen such call to worship or congregational responses. On the rare occasion, if there is not a projectionist available, only the hymnbooks MP and HP will be available for the service.

Readers

There are readers who are willing to read Bible passages, prayers, poems, drama or dramatic readings. We are flexible in regards to the version of the Bible read out but most of the congregation has the Good News or NIV. If you would like another version read, a copy of the passages e-mailed or posted in advanced would be much appreciated. Some of our young people also are willing to read in Informal or AAW service.

Worship area and other information

The chairs face the pulpit during regular worship. The Preacher/Minister can choose to either use the lectern or the pulpit. For an Informal and AAW service the chairs face west and the lectern is used. We have 2 clip-on microphones and two hand held as well as two microphones at the pulpit. The notices are usually read out before the service. The senior steward or steward on duty will contact the Preacher/Minister Thursday evening for hymns and readings. It would be much appreciated if an order of service were available by Thursday for the projectionist and organist/pianist either by e-mail or to the senior steward. We now have a collection box, which is in the foyer and is brought in before the service. The box is then brought forward during the appropriate time for the offertory blessing. We also have a prayer book for church and community prayer concerns to be used during the prayers of intercessions. The steward will hand the book to the minister/preacher/worship team before the service in the vestry.

Outreach and Mission

We are in the process of developing ways to reach out to the local community and those who use the community centre. With help from the circuit and the district we have employed a Community Outreach worker. Also we are heavily involved in overseas mission supporting Udobo School in South Africa.

Services

Regular worship

This is the bulk of our worship; traditional style with well-known and new hymns and a message that both encourages and challenges the congregation on a personal/corporate level.

Trembaths

A 30-minute service for Methodist Homes Trembaths takes place on the 1st Sunday (unless planned differently – see circuit plan). Hymns and Psalms are used.

Informal Service (*Inf*)

This service enables our children/young people and the congregation to enjoy worship together. We enjoy drama and dramatic readings, up-beat hymns, learning new hymns, discussion as a congregation or split up then give feedback to the congregation, full and engaging participation of the entire congregation. This is a thought provoking service that enables the entire congregation to think and respond. The worship should help us to connect, experience and know God in a different way. Many alternative styles of worship can be used for an informal worship.

All Age Worship

On some occasions we invite our Girl Guide Rainbows aged 5-7 and their families to our services. An AAW that is engaging, visual, active, fast paced, has lively well-known hymns/songs and incorporates participation of all ages is most welcome.

Special Observations

Christmas

The first 5 minutes of the service we observe the Advent season by lighting Advent candles, reading a prayer and singing different verses appropriate for the Advent week from The Holy and the Ivy.

Easter

The first 5 minutes of the service we observe the Lenten season by adding various objects to the cross that reflect Jesus' journey to the cross. During this observation there is a short hymn, a reading, a congregational response, and another short hymn.

Contacts

The main contact for Norton is the Senior Steward. Please refer to the circuit plan for phone numbers.

E-mail Addresses

Senior Steward: Audrey Blatch audreyblatch@yahoo.co.uk

Projectionist: Shirley Hassall nortonmcc@hotmail.co.uk

Organist/pianist: Graham Albone graham@albonemd.fsnet.co.uk

We at Norton appreciate the hard work Preachers/Ministers/Worship Team do in planning and taking a service. We thank you and most of all we give thanks to God for calling you to preach and help us to explore His Word and enabling his people to come closer to Him. God Bless, Norton Congregation