

Norton Methodist Church
North Avenue, Letchworth Garden City
nortonmethodistchurch.wordpress.com

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 21 adults aged 33(Down Syndrome Lady who attends Jr. Church) and 40-80+ and 1 child aged 9.

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 leave after 10-15 minutes to go into Jr. Church. A short address allows us time to 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. They then leave the main service after five minutes usually after the first hymn and prayer. The main teaching resource is Roots Children and Young People.

Music

Music books available are Hymns and Psalms, Complete Mission Praise. We do not know most of Mission Praise 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.

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.

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.

Projection of Hymns and Other Material

We are now able to put hymns and other material on the screen once again. It would be appreciated that the projectionist has an order of service and the choice of hymns no later than Thursday evening.

Styles of 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). They use their own Hymn book- please refer to the Senior Steward for advise.

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.

AAW

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.

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

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

Projectionist: Barry Dowson intouch@dowson.eu

We at Norton appreciate the hard work Preachers/Ministers do in planning and taking a service.

We thank you and most of all we give thanks to God for calling you to preach His Word
and enabling his people to come closer to Him.

God Bless, Norton Congregation