

# Newsletter

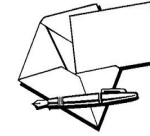


St. John's Methodist Church  
Whitchurch  
April 2023

## Message from the Manse

April 2023

Hello friends,



The beginning of April, this year, also marks the beginning of Holy Week, the culmination of the previous five weeks of preparation that is Lent. During Holy Week we re-enact the highs and lows of the key events in the last days of the life of Jesus. We ride into Jerusalem on a donkey whilst the crowds gather and wave their palm branches and shout Hosanna. We gather around the Passover table as Jesus washes the feet of his disciples and shares with them the very first bread and wine. We sit and wait with Jesus in the garden as he prays to his Father one last time. Then we gather at the foot of the cross to watch as Jesus is put to death once and for all. On Holy Saturday we wait- as Jesus' disciples waited for the chance to serve the body of Jesus in the tomb, we wait. Then early on Easter morning before it is quite light, we gather and witness the empty tomb and celebrate our encounter with the risen Christ.

Each of these acts takes us deeper into the story and experience of Jesus and His disciples and each time we rehearse it we learn and experience something new. It also stands in somewhat stark contrast with the Easter celebrated by the world. As with Christmas where we wait for Christmas day to celebrate, and endure 6 weeks of Lent before we eat an easter egg. The rest of society seem to have Christmas celebrations from the beginning of November and the eggs on sale from Boxing Day. I have learnt from bitter experience that waiting until Easter to buy your Easter eggs and chocolate means that you are more than likely to be limited in your choice- being left with only the most weird and wonderful and frankly disgusting combinations to choose from. And of course, by Easter Monday it is all gone, and the shelves will be full of something else- this year probably coronation flags and union jack decorated cakes.

*Cont. overleaf*

*Cont.,*

This can make those of us who keep Easter in this way feel disconnected from the culture in which we live. This disconnection is an increasingly familiar feeling. There have always been generational divides, but the fast-ever-changing technological world can make these divides seem deeper and wider. I recently watched the first Mission Impossible movie with William, filmed in 1996 – William was surprised it wasn't in black and white!

At the time of release, I remember that we marvelled at the amazing technology, watches that could take a phone call, ear buds that fitted in your ears with no wires, phones that could track someone's every movement. Imagine that! Well- I don't need to as I use all of those things every day now. What was pure fantasy just a few years ago has become my everyday reality.

When we feel disconnected from the culture around us it can be tempting to lock ourselves into our bubble and reject the changes, by doing this, though we risk pushing away connection and people, but also God too. As society changes we have to hold firm to what is true and important but keep ourselves open to the opportunities for connection, to seek for what is real and can enrich our lives. We have to remember that God is still as much active today as he was in years gone by, and he might be showing and revealing to us more about what his kingdom looks like and how we need to change and be more willing to adapt as seek to serve and worship God in our world today.

Wishing you a lovely Easter when it comes,

With blessings Rev. Donna

## Stewards Letter

If like me you spend most of your working time outside it seems the long, dark damp days of winter can drag along for ever. Progress can be slow especially when dry and frost-free days are the only times you can make any headway with your work. But as we enter April we feel the tide turning once again, and how it lifts our spirits.

Let's not forget however that we are still in the midst of a cost of living crisis and for so many having access to everyday essentials is becoming increasingly difficult.

As Christians we are of course encouraged to read The Bible, and a great favourite passage of mine can be found in Matthew 7 when Jesus talks about 'True Wisdom'.

*'...do not be anxious about your life, what you should eat or what you should drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than them? '*

The passage goes on to say that God knows our wants and needs, and if we ask for them, then they will be ours:

*'...therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well'.*

Words are easy I know, but maybe the next time you go shopping you can think about putting something in the foodbank crate before you leave, or maybe call on that neighbour you haven't seen for some time, because it is in our giving that we truly receive.

**Andrew Fawcett**

### **All the Dates for April**

Sunday 2nd: Palm Sunday Service: Mike Valentine (Whitchurch 10K run road closures)

Zoom Service at 4pm

Monday 3rd: MORE Plus on a Monday 12-4pm Soup from 12 noon. Clothing Hub open.

Thursday 6th: Maundy Thursday Service 8pm at St. Georges.

Drawing Group 10-12.30

Friday 7th: Good Friday Walk of Witness meet at Tesco at 11.30 am

Sunday 9th: Easter Day Service Rev. Donna (HC)

Thursday 13th: Drawing Group 10-12.30

Sunday 16th: Rev. Robin Fox

Monday 17th: BBT 9.30-11.30

MORE Plus on a Monday 12-4pm Soup from 12 noon. Clothing Hub open.

Thursday 20th: Ladies Coffee at Jones's 2pm

Drawing Group 10-12.30

*Cont.,*

*Cont.,*

Sunday 23rd: L/A. Avril Bradfield

Monday 24th: BBT 9.30-11.30

MORE Plus on a Monday 12-4pm Soup from 12 noon. Clothing Hub open.

Thursday 27th: Drawing Group 10-12.30

Friday 28th: Coffee Morning at the Civic 9.30—12.

Saturday 29th: Sewing Bee 12-4pm.

Sunday 30th:: Brian Acty (H.C.)

Rev. Judy Hunt's last service.

### **Stewards for April**

Sunday 2nd: Andrew Fawcett

Sunday 9th: Dot Charlesworth

Sunday 16th: Mike Nimmo

Sunday 23rd: Dot Charlesworth

Sunday 30th: Avril Bradfield

### **Preachers for April**

April 2nd: Mike Valentine  
Easter Day, April 9th: Rev.. Donna : (H.C.)  
April 16th : Rev. Robin Fox  
April 23rd: Avril Bradfield  
April 30th: Rev. Brian Acty (H.C.)  
May 7th: Rev. Donna



### **TEA AND COFFEE ROTA – APRIL 2023**



APRIL :   2<sup>nd</sup>   Sarah Lunt and Linda Jenkins  
          9<sup>th</sup>    Helen Thompson and Linda Weston  
         16<sup>th</sup>   Hazel and Mike Nimmo  
         23<sup>rd</sup>   Marion and Tony Griffin  
         30<sup>th</sup>   Briony Miles-Hook and Dot Charlesworth

If the dates above are not convenient, please let me know either by email ([hazel@heritagewalk.co.uk](mailto:hazel@heritagewalk.co.uk)) or by telephone (01948 667857) Thank you for agreeing to go on the Tea and Coffee rota . I appreciate that it comes round much quicker than it did in the past as there are fewer of us. I think we need to try and co-opt a few more people onto the Rota so please do try your skills of persuasion!

## *Spicks & Spanners*



Now that we are back in church we are looking for some extra hands.

Contact Mike Nimmo (667857) if you want to join the team.

To get things going again I've scheduled April and May below.

Week Commencing

10<sup>th</sup> April      Nancy Millington & Gwen Reeves

24<sup>th</sup> April      Mike Nimmo & Vic Trigg

8<sup>th</sup> May  
Shingler      Linda Jenkins, Briony Myles-Hook & Elizabeth

22<sup>nd</sup> May      Helen Trigg & Brenda Aumeer

Regards,

Mike



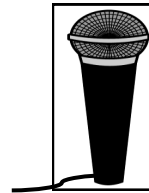
### *Sound*

Now that we are back in church we are looking for at least a couple more operators.

Please contact Mike Nimmo (667857) if you are willing. Training will be given!!

To get things going again I've put together April & May rotas

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> April  | Andrew Fawcett |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April  | Sarah Lunt     |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> April | Brian Acty     |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> April | Mike Nimmo     |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> April | Mike Nimmo     |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> May    | Andrew Fawcett |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> May   | Sarah Lunt     |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> May   | Brian Acty     |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> May   | Mike Nimmo     |



If your date doesn't fit give me a ring to sort it out (Mike Nimmo 667857)

### **MORE Plus**

MORE Plus will continue each week until the end of April then it will be reviewed.

We will not meet on Easter Monday.

Pete Shingler

### **Christian Aid Lent Lunches**

Thank you to everyone who helped or supported our Lent Lunches this year. Unfortunately, the lunch hosted by St Johns had to be cancelled due to the snow but people still made generous donations. We will let you know how much was raised in the May Newsletter when we will also share news about the events that will be taking place for Christian Aid week. *Brenda, Briony & Helen*

Father God,

As we recall the words of the prophet Micah to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God.

Let us seek out our neighbours in distant lands remembering that we are the daughters and sons of the one God.

Let us keep them in our hearts and by prayer and our support help to bring good news to the poor and proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. Amen

## BBT@St Johns



We are keen for more people in church to join our rota of helpers so if you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to Briony.

### BBT Rota for April and May

|            | Leader            | Setting up     | General & Craft | Tea            | Open up |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| 3rd April  | <b>Easter</b>     | <b>Holiday</b> |                 |                |         |
| 10th April | <b>Easter</b>     | <b>Holiday</b> |                 |                |         |
| 17th April | Donna/<br>Kathryn | Mike           | Brenda          | Hazel          | Mike    |
| 24th April | Kathryn           | Avril          | Dot             | Sarah          | Pete    |
| 1st May    | <b>May</b>        | <b>Bank</b>    | <b>Holiday</b>  |                |         |
| 8th May    | <b>Coronation</b> | <b>Bank</b>    | <b>Holiday</b>  |                |         |
| 15th May   | Donna/<br>Kathryn | Briony         | Dot             | Sarah          | Briony  |
| 22nd May   | Kathryn           | Mike           | Brenda          | Hazel          | Mike    |
| 29th May   | <b>Half</b>       | <b>Term</b>    | <b>Bank</b>     | <b>Holiday</b> |         |
| 5th June   | Kathryn           | Briony         | Dot             | Sarah          | Briony  |

## Easter Hope Journey

On Friday 24th March the doors of St Johns opened up to welcome over 60 children from year 4 from Whitchurch Primary School to join us on a journey through the Easter Story. It was so lovely to have the church filled with the voices of children. We had two groups one in the morning and one in the afternoon, with a well deserved break and slice of cake at lunch time.

The children were invited to take part in various activities. They learnt all about Maundy Thursday and shared hot cross buns and blackcurrant juice as we remembered Jesus' last supper with his friends; they met Mary who spoke to them about how she was feeling seeing her son, Jesus, die on the cross and the memories she has; the children wrote some prayers and got the opportunity to look at different crosses from around the world and take part in some crafts; and there was the usual singing and dancing in the pews. The highlight was getting to meet some real life chicks, and taking home some chocolate eggs to remind them of the stone that covered the entrance of the tomb.

The school have reported back to us that the children have talked a lot about their visit; saying,

*"thank you so much for inviting us to the Easter Hope Journey, it was a wonderful experience for the children!"*

It is hoped that we will have more involvement with the school in the future. Well done to Kathryn, Rev Donna and all those who volunteered their time to join in.



## **Holiday**

Bob and I went to the Norfolk coast last week for a weeks holiday. We went to Hunstanton and the cliffs were amazing. They have stripes of different coloured rock which really stand out. We found out that they are a site of special scientific interest for their geology and it's one of the most important sites of geological interest in the UK. We really enjoyed the week and it was so nice to be beside the sea again.

On the way to the coast we called on Sheila and Jim Walwyn and enjoyed tea and cake with them and Sheila's sister Sandra. They both looked very well and seem settled now in their lovely bungalow. They both asked to be remembered to all their good friends at St. John's. On the Thursday Jim and Sheila came to Hunstanton and we enjoyed the best fish and chips in Norfolk (Jim had looked it up!). Then they came to visit our caravan and enjoyed more tea and cake.

It was great to see our old friends again and catch up.

Dot Charlesworth

## Posies



Thank you to everyone who helped with the posies for Mothering Sunday. They were greatly appreciated.

## **Englesea Brook Chapel**

"On Sunday 2 April at 3:00pm, Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum celebrate the beginning of the Open Season at Englesea Brook with a service reflecting on the Bourne 250 Commemorations as well as introducing the theme for this year 'The Politics of Faith' and our new 'Just Women' exhibition. Led by Revd Helen Kirk, there will be light refreshments served afterwards."



### **Good Friday Walk of Witness**

The Good Friday Walk of Witness will start at Tesco at 11.30am and proceed through to the Bullring and on up the High Street to St. Alkmund's Church. We stop at the Bullring and on the High Street opposite the Civic and there are readings and hymns at each stop. If you haven't walked with us before you are very welcome to come along this year. It's a lovely way of sharing our faith with other Whitchurch churches and showing the town what Good Friday really means.

Dot Charlesworth

### **New Artwork at St John's**

We have a new artwork at St. John's created by myself and BBT. The children made the leaves for the tree by doing handprints, helped by Mums, Grandmas and helpers. They also painted butterflies, birds, flowers and worms to enhance the picture. We have called it the tree of life and it now hangs on the wall, and brightens up, the green carpeted area. Please have a closer look as you pass through.

We also had some cards printed from this picture and they are now on sale at Refill Your Boots on the High Street, hopefully they will soon be on sale at the library too. We also plan to sell them at future fundraising events.

The proceeds will be divided between St. John's and Whitchurch Foodbank.

Dot Charlesworth

### **Fundraising update from Sue and Dot**

Our next fundraising event will be a Coffee Morning at the Civic Centre on Friday 28th April from 9.30am to 12.

Please speak to Sue or Dot if you're available to help on that day. We will need donations of raffle prizes, unwanted gifts and small items for tombola and donations of cakes on the day please.

We also have plans to hold a Summer Fair with strawberry teas in the summer, hopefully in June, but the date is still to be

### **Flower in the Crannied Wall**

Flower in the crannied wall,  
I pluck you out of the crannies,  
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,  
Little flower– but if I could understand  
What you are, root and all, and all in all,  
I should know what God and man is.

*Alfred, Lord Tennyson.*



## **TAXI SERVICE – APRIL 2023**

|                              |                |                              |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April | Peter Shingler |                              |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April        | Mike Nimmo     |                              |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> April       | Peter Shingler |                              |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> April       | To be arranged | Details will be on Pews News |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> April       | Hazel Nimmo    |                              |

### **May Newsletter**

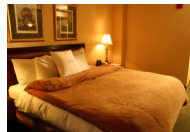
Please let Vic Trigg have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 21st April.

## **SPLISH SPLASH**

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***“people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget how you made them feel.”***

***Maya Angelou***

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