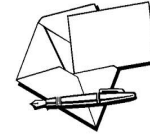


Newsletter



St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch
May 2025

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends

Many years ago when I first became interested in the Church I was worried by the differences in the resurrection accounts.

In some gospels the women at the tomb just see angels, whilst in others they meet the risen Christ. In some the disciples meet Jesus that evening in Jerusalem in others they are told to return to Galilee to meet him.

Writing to the church in Corinth less than 20 years after the events and some 10 years before the first gospel was written, Paul doesn't mention the women, but does say that Jesus appeared to the apostles and then some 500 of his followers. In the book of Acts and later church history we read how rejection, persecution and martyrdom was often the fate of these early believers. I really can't think they would have endured that for what they knew to be a dodgy and made up story.

If we were writing about an event from many years ago I think we would all stress different things and some details would get a bit jumbled together. Back in the 1980's I went off on a motorbike riding around Europe, yet in all my memories I'm riding on the left hand side of the road....!

It must also have been difficult to talk about the resurrection because the disciples had no similar experiences and words. Jesus had invited people to touch him, he ate with them,

Cont. overleaf

Cont.,

but he could walk through walls, appear and disappear at will.

Resurrection is essentially mystery and beyond comprehension.

If the resurrection was a delusion or wishful thinking I think the church would have made sure the stories were the same, it's the variety and the struggle to find adequate language that for me nowadays makes them authentic.

The risen Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with his followers and many Christians both today and over the centuries have spoken of the feeling that they were not alone and that Jesus was with them.

Perhaps when we look back over our lives we can see how we have been supported, guided, strengthened in times of joy and sorrow.

So my belief in the Easter story is based on three things, the Bible, the experience of the Church and my own life experiences. In that sense faith is like a three legged stool stable on uneven surfaces! A stool is not an ornament but something to sit on and faith has consequences. The apostles took the Jesus story all over the ancient world, Peter went to Rome, Thomas to India, Paul to the Greek cities, but whilst I don't think we need to grab our passports and become missionaries, we do though need to think about our priorities and lifestyle.

The big issues of the world may be beyond us, but we can speak of hope, we can try to be loving, kind, generous and compassionate, we can support and encourage those who may be in a position to do greater good.

Cont.,

We have the three legged stool of Bible, Church and our experiences, but we can't just sit back comfortably when the world around is a mess.

So what then is there that is "ours to say and to do"?

Rev. John Chesworth

Preachers for May

May 4th—L.A.

May 11th—Churches Together Service for Christian Aid at St. Alkmunds. THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE AT ST. JOHNS

May 18th—L.A. Rev. George Ravenscroft

May 25th—Rev. Jon Chesworth H.C.

Stewards Letter

Early in April I started to give the garden a good tidy. I didn't really get much done in the garden this time last year because of the very wet and cold spring we had. I'm also these days put off by the kneeling. It certainly isn't as easy as it used to be. It was hard work but I enjoyed it and more so because of the 2 robins hopping around and keeping me company. As I sat on the bench enjoying a well earned cup of coffee after my labours I was watching one of them perched on the back fence. Then the other one came to join it and they appeared to be kissing. Then I realised that the second one was feeding the first. The plump one was the parent of the little thin one.

I have continued to tidy the garden, accompanied by the robins, during April. One day I noticed that the robins couldn't quite get at the half coconut feeder I'd put in the tree so I moved it to another branch where they can access it more easily.

Now that the weather has grown warmer we are sitting more in the garden and the robins are still visiting us.

This morning the little robin was just at the edge of the lawn pecking at something. He pulled out a worm and flew off with it in his beak. He can find his own worms now.

I find it very peaceful in the garden and I certainly feel closer to God there.

I hope you enjoy your garden in May.

God's Garden

The Lord God planted a garden
In the first white days of the world,
And he set there an angel warden
In a garment of light unfurled.

So near to the peace of Heaven,
That the hawk might nest with the wren,
For there in the cool of the even
God walked with the first of men.

And I dream that these garden-closes
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod
And their lilies and bowers of roses,
Were laid by the hand of God.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth, -
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.

For He broke it for us in a garden
Under the olive-trees
Where the angel of strength was warden
And the soul of the world found ease.

Dorothy Frances Gurney



Christian Aid Coffee Morning in the Market Hall

Friday 16th May 9.30am-12noon

Tea/Coffee/ Raffle

Proceeds to Christian Aid

Tea & Coffee for May

May 4th—Chris & Elaine

May 11th NO SERVICE AT ST.JOHNS

May 18th—Hazel & Mike

May 25th—Elizabeth & Pete



If the date you have been allocated doesn't suit please arrange to "swop" with someone.

Thank you - Hazel.

Stewards Rota for May

May 4th—Andrew

May 11th—Churches Together joint service at St. Alkmunds

May 18th—Dot

May 25th—Mike

June 1st—Hazel

Sound for May

4th Andrew

11th Churches Together joint service at St. Alkmunds

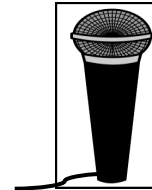
18th Sarah

25th Andrew

If the allocated date doesn't suit please arrange a swop.

We need new volunteers to do sound. Training will be given.

Please speak to Mike if you can help



All the Dates for May and beyond

May

May 2nd —First Midday Concert at St. John's

May 5th—No BBT

May 9th—NO CONCERT THIS WEEK

May 11th—Churches Together Christian Aid Service at
St. Alkmunds (Start of Christian Aid Week)

May 16th—Second Midday Concert at St. John's

May 18th—Next Zoom service

May 23rd—Third Midday Concert at St. John's

May 23rd—Deadline for June Newsletter

May 26th—No BBT

May 30th—Last Midday Concert at St. John's

June

June 7th—Jumble Sale

October

October 4th—Blackberry Fair Day: Textile Exhibition & Recycled
Fashion Show at St. John's

Regular Activities

BBT—Mondays in temtime 9.30– 11.30 am.

MORE—Mondays 12-4pm & Thursdays 1-4pm

Zoom Service

The next Zoom service will be on Sunday 18th May at 4pm.

Please ask Avril for the link.

Methodist Women in Britain

The envelopes for the Easter Offering of the Methodist Women in Britain are available. The money donated goes towards the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The envelopes can be placed in the collection bags and there will be a service to dedicate the offerings on 12th May.



Christian Aid Lent Lunches

Thank you to everyone who helped or supported our 5 Lent Lunches held at the Watergate Centre this year. A total of £641 was raised compared with £854 last year as the final Lent Lunch was cancelled due to the funeral of a supporter who will be sadly missed.

BBT@St Johns



Monday from 9.30-11.30am in term time



Please join us for coffee chat craft songs & stories

Bumps Babies and Toddlers continues to provide a friendly welcome to children and their families and new children are coming along each week. They enjoy craft, toys and toast with singing, stories and prayers and will be celebrating VE Day in May. If you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to someone on the rota..

There will be no BBT on 5th May or 26th May as these are Bank Holidays.

	Leader	Open- ing up	General & Craft	Kitchen
5th May	Bank Holiday			
12th May	Kathryn	Mike	Brenda & Elaine	Hazel
19th May	Kathryn	Briony	Dot & Chris	Sarah
26th May	Bank Holiday			
2nd June	Kathryn	Mike	Dot & Chris	Elaine

If you would like to help or just want to come and say hello, please speak to someone on the rota.



Taxi

For anyone requiring a lift to church please contact either Pete Shingler or Hazel and if they are able to one of them will bring you to church.

June Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by Friday 23rd May

Christian Aid Week 11th-17th May



Christian Aid Week is 11th-17th May this year

In Guatemala, heatwaves and extreme weather are destroying Aurelia's farm. She says "Climate Change is killing our crops and this is our food." Indigenous communities like Aurelia's have done the least to cause the Climate Crisis, yet they endure it's impact the most.

Gifts will help fund vital tools and training so farmers can support their community to escape hunger.

Events for Christian Aid Week

Sunday 11th May 10.30am

Churches Together in Whitchurch Christian Aid service at St Alkmunds.

There will be envelopes at St Johns for your gifts

Friday 16th May 10am to 12

Coffee Morning in the Market Hall

Street Collection on the High Street

We hope you will join us for these events. If you would like to help, please let us know

Thank you for your support.

Brenda & Briony

Fundraising Update

We started the year once again with a Jumble Sale on the first of February. We had a queue at the door and it was a very successful event. The community really seem to enjoy our Jumble Sales.

Our second event was afternoon tea and a singalong on the first of March. We all enjoyed delicious sandwiches and cakes followed by a singalong with Maurice on the piano and some poems and stories from Bob.

Last week, on the 26th April, we once again hosted the Whitchurch Town Band in Concert. They sounded wonderful in our lovely church, the brass instruments gleamed, the stained glass windows shone and the atmosphere was wonderful. Well done to the Band, Peter Williams, and all concerned.

On Friday 2nd May we begin our Friday Midday May Concerts. Don't miss them, there are more details on the poster in this newsletter.

Looking ahead we are planning a jumble sale early in June (date to be confirmed), and our Strawberry Fayre in early July.

Saturday 4th October will be Blackberry Fair Day and this year the Recycled Sewing Bee are planning a Textile Exhibition and Recycled Fashion Show. In November we'll have our Quiz & Fish & Chip Supper and the Christmas Fayre in December will conclude our Fundraising Year.

Rev. Donna is planning a Beetle Drive when she returns from sabbatical so look out for that!

Dot Charlesworth



The Drawing Room Group

We meet every Thursday morning at St. John's Methodist Church
10am to 12.30pm.

If you already enjoy drawing or if you want to learn please come
and join us. Materials are provided if you have none.

Just come and try it the first session is free!

It's the best couple of hours of the week according to Mark, one of
our members.

Contact me for more information.

Bob Charlesworth



St. John's Methodist Church

Whitchurch

Present a series of FREE Midday Concerts in May

As follows:

Friday 2nd May: Musicmakers: Trio with Francis Biseker on Flute, Elaine Gollins on Oboe and Christopher Jones on Piano.

Friday 9th May: No CONCERT ON FRIDAY 9TH MAY - please support the concert at St. Alkmunds Church

Friday 16th May: Music & Stories with Bill Webb followed by Whitchurch Junior Academy Children's Choir.

Friday 23rd May: The Tither Recorder Ensemble followed by the Trigelows - Helen, Rachel & Vic.

Friday 30th May: Whitchurch Singers: Singing popular songs from the 60's and 70's plus a monologue by Graham Turner, a piano solo by Maurice Posniak and a solo from Stephen Price.

Following the concert your donations will be gratefully accepted and a ploughman's lunch will be served in the guild room.



Cantate

“Take me home, Country Roads”

SPRING CONCERT

At Brown Knowl Methodist Church, CH3 9HT

Saturday 17th May at 2pm

Tickets £10.00 or pay on the door (including refreshments)

Contact: Wendy or Brenda

Proceeds to the church

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

May Angelou



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