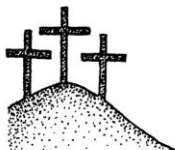


NAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH

Chapel Lane



April
2018

April 2018

Mondays 9.30am – 10.30am Pilates (not 2nd/9th)
Tuesdays 9.15am – 10.13am Pilates
10.30am – 11.30am “
Fridays 9.30am – 10.30 am Pilates
Tuesday 10th 9.am Silent Prayer
Thursday 12th 10.30 am – 12 noon CAMEO Club
Wed 11th/25th 9.30am – 11.30 am Strings Music Group

Sat 14th 12 noon – 2pm Lent Lunch at Tylers Green Methodist Church

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Wednesday Fellowship takes place at 2.15pm. All are welcome to the weekly meetings.

“The Wednesday Fellowship will resume on 7th. March after the winter break. All will be very welcome.”

Thanks, God bless.

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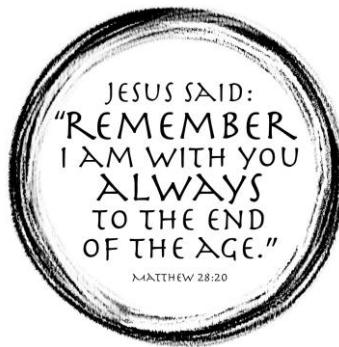
Thanks, God bless

NAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



April 2018

Sunday 1 st	9.30 am Service at the RAF church, Walters Ash <i>Easter Day</i>
Sunday 8 th	10.30 am Rev John Richey <i>Holy Communion</i>
Sunday 15 th	10.30 am Rev Angela Singleton
Sunday 22 nd	10.30 am Nigel Sweet
Sunday 29 th	10.30 am Rev Greg Hargrove





Letter from our Minister for April

Dear Friend,

Alleluia Christ has risen, he's risen indeed, Alleluia!

As you read this, you may well have attended a Church service to celebrate the joy and miracle of the risen Christ. Every year the Easter celebration serves as a reminder that God refuses to leave the dead forever dead. Faith in the empty tomb serves to remind us that God will ever allow death to have the last word. Yes, Jesus suffered a violent death, he was buried, however the Father has no intention of letting Jesus rest in peace!

Furthermore, God's graciousness extends to you and me and we can all participate in Christ's resurrection on the 'last day.' Jesus' last day was his physical death, but does our last day need always be about physical death before we can be raised with Christ?

If so, then I have a niggling question about faith in the resurrection as often understood – such as: 'what happens in the in-between times? Can't you, me, and all having faith in Christ, be raised today, within one's lifetime? Is death only a fate we meet at the end of life, or is death something we see within the midst of life?

The German theologian Jurgen. Moltmann said in an Easter sermon: *'Death is an evil power in life's very midst. It is the economic death of the person we allow to starve; the political death of the people who are oppressed; the social death of the handicapped; the noisy death that strikes through bombs and torture, and the soundless death of the apathetic soul.'*

Easter is a challenge for us is to understand the history of human suffering in the light of Jesus' resurrection. We are to understand Easter as being God's protest against today's violence and suffering as being inevitable. To accept such a litany is to empty the power of cross. A resurrected faith will always protest against the finality of violence and suffering in whatever form and will also educate us to see as God's sees and acts. God sees and acts through men and women who risk their lives by protesting against the mindless violence inflicted on humanity. God sees and acts in the midst of hopelessness, as tired nurses hug poorly people back from death. God sees and acts in the caring person who looks out, concerned for their neighbour not seen in days...

Easter is God's way of revealing to the world that God is not distant and remote but works within our human experience, especially within those raised in Christ. So, Easter must never be 'celebrated' in isolation from the cries of human suffering that exists within individuals, communities and the world. My prayer for us all this Easter is that we discover the sacred within ourselves, by which, in death and in the midst of life, we'll truly be risen with Christ. Alleluia!

Easter Blessings

John



Prayer for faith and freedom

Almighty God,

Lord of life, we thank you for the life and death of Jesus. Most of all we thank you for His resurrection which changed the world and made it possible for us to know you as our loving, gracious Father.

Lord, when we feel locked in, imprisoned by fears and circumstances, help us to remember that locked doors mean nothing to you. You can set us free. You can help us. You give strength for today and tomorrow. You give us new life as your children, through faith in Jesus.

May we open our hearts to your help today; to receive from you the peace and power that we need - and then to share it.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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Plastic Challenge not just for Lent

Those who gave up chocolate for Lent can now enjoy their Mars bars or flakes. The Lent Plastic Challenge created by the CofE's Environment Programme was given considerable coverage by the media, but giving up plastic just for Lent is really not on - we need to change our lifestyles and reduce the amount of plastic we use throughout the whole year.

The challenge's guide for each day is easily adaptable to use every day. This is something everyone can use and know it really can make a difference. Only one percent of the plastic in our oceans floats. Pictures of uninhabited islands which should be idyllic show huge amounts of plastic on their beaches. We can all do our bit to make the Lent challenge last the year round. Visit: http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Plastic_Free_Lent.pdf



Bonhoeffer and the Nazis

The renowned German theologian and anti-Nazi Dietrich Bonhoeffer was arrested by the Gestapo 75 years ago this month, on 5th April 1943, at the age of 37. He was executed in April 1945.

Born to a distinguished family in Breslau, now part of Poland, Bonhoeffer was strongly influenced by time in the United States, where he was associated with a church in Harlem and formed a lifelong love for African-American spirituals. It was here that he began to see things from the perspective of those who suffer oppression.

Offered a parish post in Berlin in late 1933, he refused it in protest at the nationalist policy, and accepted a two-year appointment as a pastor of two German-speaking Protestant churches in London, aiming to obtain support for the Confessing Church in Germany, which resisted the Nazis and aimed to preserve traditional beliefs. His success was limited.

During the war Bonhoeffer was harassed by the Nazi authorities and forbidden to speak in public, to print or to publish. He joined the Abwehr, and under cover of this served as a courier for the German resistance movement, trying to gain support for it abroad. He was ignored by the UK government.

Bonhoeffer's famous quotations include:

'In a world where success is the measure and justification of all things the figure of Him who was sentenced and crucified remains a stranger and is at best the object of pity. . . . The figure of the Crucified invalidates all thought that takes success for its standard.'

'The Church is the Church only when it exists for others . . . not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.'

'The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.'

His Letters and Papers from Prison and Cost of Discipleship have become landmark books

% ^ % ^ % ^

Smile ☺ ☺ ☺

Phonecall

In the days before World War 2, phone calls cost two pence. 'Can you lend me tuppence to ring a friend?' a widely disliked MP once asked Winston Churchill. The great man scoured his pockets. 'Here's four pence,' he said. 'Ring them all.'

☺

What do you do if you see a spaceman? You park your car in it, man.

☺

'The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never know if they are genuine.' - St Paul.

% ^ % ^ % ^

The truth about 'text neck'

Text neck is the condition where you damage your neck by leaning over your phone for extended periods of time. Some experts have warned of an 'epidemic' of text neck on the way.

Nonsense. So says the results of an extensive study, published in the

European Spine Journal. It concludes: 'Text neck isn't an epidemic - it isn't even a thing. The mechanics of looking at a phone are no different to reading a book, which we've done for centuries with few alarms.' After all, the study points out, the ancient Greeks did not suffer from 'scroll neck', nor the folk in the 1950s from 'newspaper neck'.



What is God like?

Christians believe that the planet on which we live is not here by accident. The progress of the universe from a particle of matter to a human being living in the vast expanses of space was brought about by the plan of God.

The Bible describes God as:

Everywhere

God doesn't live in a particular place, separate from his creation, but is everywhere in it.

Absolutely powerful

Even though the world has evil things in it, God can and will bring about justice.

Knowing everything

When you pray, it is to a God who understands every thought.

Beyond space and time

God is eternal and doesn't rely on anything else in order to exist.

Good

Even when circumstances look terrible, goodness will have the upper hand.

Holy

God is set apart in awesome perfection, but He is also utterly loving.

Utterly loving

Although you would expect God to be unapproachable because of His holiness, He is immensely tender toward human beings. Knowing Him is an entirely wonderful experience, bringing a sense of being loved, blessed and sustained through life.

Way above gender and language

However you try to describe God (including using the words he or she), the truth is even greater.

One

There is only one God, although He can be encountered in three different ways - Father, Son and Spirit.

You can find answers to questions like this about Christianity at www.christianity.org.uk. Christianity.org.uk is the website of the Christian Enquiry Agency, an agency of Churches Together in England.



April	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
<u>Steward</u>	---	Joy	Margaret	Janice	Joy
<u>Welcome</u>	---	<i>Volunteers needed!</i>			
<u>Flowers</u>	---	Sheila	Isobel	Moira	Joy
Transport	---	Janet	Roy	Roy	John

Transport: *please phone on Saturday if possible, or **before 9.15 am** on Sunday*

Phone numbers: John Jones-564469, Roy Slocombe-564955, Ruth Isaac-564066, Janet Judge-563186, Moira Lewis 562817

(NB If you are unable to fulfill your planned duty, please arrange for someone to take your place).



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01494 526747

CONTACT STEWARD: **MISS MARGARET BRACEY,**
199, MAIN ROAD, NAPHILL, BUCKS.
01494 563337

STEWARD: **MRS JOY PEMBERTON: 01494 562918**

STEWARD: **MRS JANICE SLOCOMBE: 01494 564955**

STEWARD: **MRS MOIRA LEWIS: 01494 562817**
Art Classes Mrs Joy Pemberton 01494 562918.
Welcome Rota Mrs Joy Pemberton
Flower rota “ “ “
Church Council Mr Roy Slocombe: 01494 564955
Newsletter Editor Mrs Moira Lewis : 01494 562817
e-mail: moirajlewis@hotmail.com

Treasurer and
Gift Aid Sec Mr Roy Slocombe
Wednesday Mrs Betty Jones tel: 01494 564469
Fellowship

Network Secretary Margaret Bracey: 01494 563337
Communion Betty and John Jones: - tel: 564469

Stewards
Church web address:
<http://www.highwycombemethodist.org.uk/naphill.php>

To find out more about Christianity visit: www.christianity.org.uk



christianity.org.uk