

# Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:  
Rev. John Richey

New Series No. 122



Easter/April 2018

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 never 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

### **Good likeness**

Some children were asked: 'What do you think of Jesus?'  
'Jesus,' said one little boy, 'is the best photograph God ever had taken.'

## **Diary and Notice board - April 2018**

**BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP** will meet on **Monday 9th April** at the Church at 2.30pm (Pre-school holiday) and on **Monday 30th April** at 3 Green Street, Hazlemere. All are welcome to come along; it is a very worthwhile and enjoyable afternoon. The tea and cakes are good as well!

**SATURDAY, 14th April at 12.00 noon. A 'VERY LATE LENT LUNCH'** is being held in place of the usual coffee morning. Our lunch in March was postponed due to snow. Soup and puddings will be on the menu with no set charge, but donations to CAP (Christians Against Poverty)

### **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

Principally, though not exclusively, for the appointment of Church Stewards and to be held after the service on 15th April.

### **BIBLE MONTH IN JUNE**

Last year the CofE initiated Bible Month as a time when services and other activities could be linked to a themed study of a Bible Book. This year our Circuit has accepted the invitation of the Methodist Church of GB to get involved and the month will focus on the Book of Jonah. We are not yet sure what is involved and how our Church can participate, but Geraldine and Peter plan to attend a meeting in May when we shall learn more.

## **Billy Graham**

I thought the newspapers did a fair job in paying tribute to Dr Graham after his death. I will just give you something in Billy's own words: "Someone asked me recently if I didn't think God was unfair, allowing me to have Parkinson's and other medical problems when I have tried to serve Him faithfully. I replied that I did not see it that way at all. Suffering is part of the human condition, and it comes to us all. The key is how we react to it, either turning away from God in anger and bitterness or growing closer to Him in trust and confidence."

# **HIGH WYCOMBE METHODIST CIRCUIT NEWS**

## **Circuit Meeting—13th March 2018**

Duncan Booth from The Avenue Methodist Church has been appointed to the team of Circuit Stewards.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday, 20th May—A Circuit Service in the evening of our 50th anniversary Sunday at Marlow Methodist Church. Margaret Newman will be recognised as a fully accredited Local Preacher and The Easter Offering will be dedicated.

Sunday, 15th July—Farewell Service for Rev John and Ruth Richey and Rev Ken and Joanne Kingston. Venue TBA.

Friday, 31st August— Welcome Service at 7.00pm at The Avenue Methodist Church for our new minister Rev Vida Foday and our new Circuit Deacon, Richard Goldstraw. The preacher will be Rev Helen Cameron, the Northampton District Chair.

The last Sunday service at Naphill Methodist Church will be on 1st July with a celebratory Songs of Praise and tea on Saturday 7th July. All welcome.

The next opportunity for Safeguarding Training will be on Saturday 5th May from 9.30am until noon. This is a refresher course for church stewards, pastoral visitors and all others who attended Foundation Training 5 years ago.

The HW Methodist is joining the national initiative to study the Book of Jonah in June. Expect at least some of the preaching to be from Jonah and think of ways you can support this study in other ways in June.

One strange thing announced at the meeting is that church newsletters are legally defined as publications and the law requires that copies be deposited in The British Library. I will have to be more careful about what I include in future!

The next Circuit Meeting will be on Thursday 5th July at Stokenchurch Methodist Church.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL— 28th February 2018**

**The Church Council unanimously agreed to renew the reappointment of Chris Oxby and Geraldine Nelson as worship leaders for another 3 years. Three-yearly renewal is a requirement of the Methodist Church.**

The plans announced for our 50th Anniversary service at Pentecost (20th May) are to hold a celebratory lunch after the morning service. Since the meeting the suggestion has been made that we could do more. But doing more requires volunteers and commitment. If you have ideas, or would like to volunteer to do something, please speak to Rosemary, Geraldine, Chris Oxby or Peter.

The next phase of window replacement was approved and includes the vestry window and the two windows in the lounge. The church council gave permission to extend the contract to include the kitchen window if the existing window is found to be the source of water penetration into the kitchen.

Lawrence Hutchinson, once a Methodist, has asked to become one again and to become a member of our church. The Church Council was thrilled to hear this and unanimously approved Lawrence's request. Lawrence first visited here for Charlotte Stevens' baptism and has become a familiar figure—when he has the car—his wife is a church organist and some weeks her need of the car is greater! The service in which he will be welcomed into membership will be on Sunday 27th May.

There is to be a Circuit Covenant Service when we shall gather at John Hampden School. Since the Church Council the date has been set for Sunday 9th September.

The Circuit Assessment will remain the same as we are paying in the current year— £15,680 pa. The Circuit Assessment is our contribution to staffing and other costs at Circuit, District and Connexional level.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th May at 7.30pm

## Easter Eggs

Though a great success commercially  
We ask (if maybe controversially)  
Are the lessons of the lectionary  
Really found in such confectionary?

*By Nigel Beeton*

*Editor: Canon David Winter welcomes Easter.*

### The return of hope

This month starts with Easter, which is a lovely thought. Whatever else, Easter speaks of new life, of fresh starts and the return of hope.

The whole traditional story is about darkness defeated by a light which can never be extinguished. That's why, in our hemisphere, Easter seems to fit in well with the changing season. Fresh flowers in the graveyard match the Easter hymns inside the church: *The Lord of life is risen today/ Bring flowers of song to strew his way*'.

It's a strange fact that all through the long history of mankind, despite the evidence of our eyes, people have stubbornly refused to believe that death is the end. They buried their dead with food and implements they would need in the next life, whatever name they gave it – Valhalla, the Elysian Fields, Abraham's Bosom or Nirvana. Jesus called it 'the kingdom of heaven' or 'eternal life'. The very idea of heaven is beyond our comprehension, because we can't image a life not lived in our familiar dimensions of space, time and physicality. But God lives beyond time and space, and Jesus said He is 'Spirit'.

It's good that there are some things to believe in which we cannot possibly understand now. Although one day, St Paul said, we shall. Until then we trust, and Easter hymns and flowers are signs of the annual return of hope.

## **Easter Agapé**

Our founder, John Wesley was constantly being asked for Holy Communion but maintained the position of the early church, still current, that only ordained ministers could administer the sacraments, and there was not enough of them to go round!. And so Wesley brought back the ancient Agapé or Love Feast Service, which has some similarities with a Holy Communion Service and can be led by those who are not ordained. Our Easter Sunday service will be an Agapé celebration.

## **Stranger than Fiction**

### **Working too hard? An odd way to find out**

Do you wonder if you are working too hard? There is a simple way to find out: how cold is your nose?

Scientists have recently discovered that when people focus hard on demanding mental tasks, their nervous system diverts blood flow into the brain, and extremities like the nose suffer first. In tests using thermal imaging cameras, it was discovered that those feeling mentally overwhelmed had a nose temperature that had dropped by about one degree centigrade. The research was carried out by doctors from the Bioengineering Research Group at Nottingham University.

So, if the old adage of ‘cold hands, warm heart’ is true, perhaps we could add another: ‘cold nose, warm brain’.

## **Evening Services**

On Sundays evenings in April there are services at Holmer Green Methodist Church in Earl Howe Road starting at 6.00pm. All invited.

1st Rev Singa Vinipola (Easter Sunday)

8th Peter Green

15th Beryl Taylor

22nd Rev Singa Vinipola

29th Rev John Richey

## How passion flowers got their name

Why is the passion flower known as the passion flower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens is not native to the UK, but comes from South America. It was first discovered by Spanish missionaries working there, centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

He decided that the five petals and five sepals could represent the ten disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona could be seen as Jesus' crown of thorns. The stigma could be seen as the cross or nails, and the five stamens could be seen as the number of wounds Jesus received.

*Editor: This review is courtesy of 'Parish Pump'*

## The Freedom of Years – ageing in perspective

By Harriet and Donald Mowat, BRF, £8.99

Here is a Christian perspective on ageing, developed within the UK's health and social care services over the past 40 years.

Addressing profound and critical questions – What is ageing for? Is old age included in the purposes of God? What does 'successful' ageing look like? – the authors offer wise, informed suggestions. 'In accepting our own ageing,' they say, 'we start the journey towards ageing well, and can thus help others to age well.'

'We would argue that the successful ager, in every age, is he/she who manages to navigate a way through the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, both external and internal, and to find a balance that offers freedom and choice, rather than imprisonment and prescription. This is greatly aided by embarking consciously and purposefully on a journey of the soul or spirit, which at its core addresses meaning and purpose.'

## But who do you say I am?

A teacher, a good man, a story teller  
All of these things people will say,  
A prophet who spoke of heavenly things  
But upsetting the religious men of His day?

He healed so many, raised the dead  
Easy to see how these tales would grow,  
Walking on water, stilling the storm?  
These are just stories of long ago!

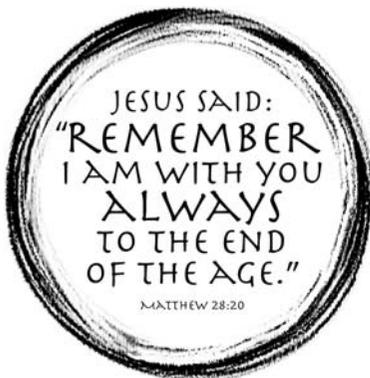
He loved little children, was friend of the sinner,  
So many kindnesses He would do,  
And then He said He was one with the Father,  
Delusions of grandeur, this could not be true.

He said He would die and rise again,  
He said He had come to seek the lost,  
He'd come from the Glory and was going home,  
This sounds like a mad man – or else He is God!

*By Megan Carter*

Welcome Steward to newcomer at church door: Good morning. How far down do you wish to sit?'

Baffled newcomer: 'Well, all the way, of course.'



## Easter season 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*



### And finally...

A preacher, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the preacher asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," the reply came, "I didn't need one then."

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Minister:** Rev. John Richey\* - 📞 526747

**Worship Leaders:** Geraldine Nelson and Chris Oxby

**Senior Church Steward:** Peter Stevens\*— 📞 815256

**Church Stewards:**

Toyin Akinwale— 📞 817792

Martin Hellewell— 📞 816168

Geraldine Nelson\* – 📞 815631

Chris Oxby\* – 📞 814982

**Church Treasurer :** Geraldine Nelson - 📞 815631

**Church Council Secretary:** Sue Horley Sue.horley1@gmail.com

**Room Bookings:** Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

**Pastoral & First Steps:** Christine Stevens - 📞 815256

**Property :** Peter Stevens— 📞 815256

**\* Members of the Church Leadership Team**

## Church Premises

Please mention anything requiring maintenance or attention to any of the Property Stewards: Peter and Christine Stevens, Martin Hellewell or Rosemary Newman.

## Good-News Desk

Items for the next Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by the 15th April for the May edition, either on paper or emailed to

psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞 815256

**MAY EDITION AVAILABLE ON 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

**Note:** Some items in Good-News Desk are included by subscription to Parish Pump—the resource site for Church Newsletters.



## SERVICES DIARY - SERVICES AT 10.45 a.m. unless otherwise stated.

Date	Preacher/Service Details	Vestry Steward	Welcome Stewards <small>If you are unable to do your turn, please arrange cover!</small>
1st April EASTER	Agapé Service led by Peter Stevens	Chris Oxby	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
8th	Linda Lovell	Toyin Akinwale	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
15th	Rev John Richey—Holy Communion	Martin Helewell	Christine Stevens
22nd	Rev Singa Vinipola	Geraldine Nelson	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman
29th	Local Arrangement	Geraldine Nelson	Christine Stevens

### PRAY

Please pray for the members of Naphill Methodist Church as they prepare for closure and also for the Circuit Leadership Team as they plan for how the building can best be used by church and community.