

Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist
Church



Minister:
Rev. Vida Foday

New Series No. 133



Easter—April, 2019

*Christ
is
Risen!*

A minister once rented a room of an atheist farmer. He waited for the appropriate time to share the good news of Jesus with him. Finally, early one morning the opportunity came when the farmer asked the minister to accompany him to the chicken house. There, on one of the nests sat a hen with a brood of little ones peeping out from under her wings. "Touch her, Minister," the farmer said. As the minister put his hand on the hen he found that she was cold and dead. "Look at that wound on her head," the farmer continued, "A weasel has sucked all the blood from her body, and she never once moved for fear that the animal would harm her chicks."

“Oh,” said the minister, “that was just like Jesus Christ. He endured all the suffering on the cross. He could have saved His own life but He would not, because if He had moved we would have been lost!” The Holy Spirit applied the simple words to the farmer's heart, and soon he put his faith in the One who on Calvary chose to save us, rather than to spare Himself! The Cross speaks to us of the total picture – our Lord's atoning death to pay the price for our sins, as well as His glorious resurrection to deliver us from the power of death.

We shall soon (in the third week of April 2019), be celebrating Good Friday and Easter. As we look forward through these final weeks of Lent to those important days on our Christian Calendar, let us keep our eyes focused on the Cross and the Good News of the Resurrection.

Easter is a day of joy and victory! God was satisfied, and He demonstrated it by raising Jesus from the grave. It is the resurrection that gives meaning to the Cross. Had Jesus atoned for all but one in Calvary, He would still be in the tomb. His resurrection is the assurance that the work is finished.

As Christians and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us seize the least opportunity to share the good news of Easter with everyone we meet. It may not be easy at times, but we trust the Holy Spirit to empower, strengthen and guide us in this.

King of Glory! Soul of bliss!

Alleluia!

Everlasting life is this,

Thee to know, thy power to prove,

Thus to sing, and thus to love:

Charles Wesley (1707-88) (StF 298 v5)

Wish you all a Happy Easter!

With Love and Every Blessing!

Vida

Diary and Notice Board - March, 2019

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP:

Monday, 1st at Geraldine's home (**54 Coppice Farm Road**)

Monday, 15th April - The meeting will be held in the **Church Lounge**

Monday, 29th April - **Meeting at Rosemary's home - 3 Green Street, Hazlemere**

All starting at 2.30 pm and all are very welcome to come along for a 'taster' (the refreshments are good as well!).

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY:

Meeting on 11th and 25th April @ 3.45 pm in the Church Lounge, continuing to study Nehemiah.

COFFEE MORNING:

Saturday, 13th April @ 10.00 am - This will include a quiz led **by Ann Dickenson**.

MAUNDY THURSDAY:

18th April at 7.00 pm - Supper and Holy Communion—all welcome

WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION:

Celebration Service—see page 4

LENT LUNCHESES—THE TWO REMAINING

These start at 12 noon and end at 2pm. Best to arrive within 15 minutes of the start.

30th March—The Avenue

6th April—Cryers Hill

BIBLE MONTH

This year's Bible Month will work through the New Testament letter to the Colossians and will take place on the first four weeks in June (including our church anniversary on 16th June when our invited preacher will be Peter Green). Vida, Geraldine, Rosemary and Peter recently attended a training session in preparation for Bible Month.

INVITATION FROM WYCOMBE HOMELESS CONNECTION

Dear All,

We would be delighted if you could attend our Celebration Service this year, which will take place at 7:30PM on the 10TH OF APRIL at ALL SAINTS PARISH CHURCH, HIGH WYCOMBE. We will be celebrating the work of WHC, including those we were able to help and all the support we received, as well as remembering those who passed away. We are also very much looking forward to hearing Rev Joanna Gallant speak on the theme of 'celebrating hope'.

Parking on Priory Avenue and the Greenway is free of charge after 6pm.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support of our work, and please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is ever anything we can do for you.

With the best of wishes,

James Boulton
Chief Executive Officer
Wycombe Homeless Connection
james.boulton@wyhoc.org.uk

CIRCUIT MEETING

Now the make-up of the Circuit staff has been confirmed from Sept this year, we can look forward to restructuring the Circuit ready for the next Connexional year has been agreed by the Circuit Meeting and so, from Sept 2019, the Circuit will comprise three sections as follows:
Revd Vida Foday with pastoral charge of Cryers Hill, Downley, Holmer Green and Tylers Green.

Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson with pastoral charge of Wesley and The Avenue

Revd Nick Thompson with pastoral charge of Flackwell Heath, Marlow

and Marlow Bottom

Deacon Richard Goldstraw will continue with his Diaconal duties

Editor: Very few people will know the answers, but it is fun to find them out...

EASTER TRIVIA QUIZ

What was the largest ever Easter egg hunt?

The most-ever entrants for an egg hunt competition was 12,773. It was The Fabergé Big Egg Hunt, as part of World Record London, in London, UK in April 2012.

What was the largest-ever decorated Easter egg?

This was built in March 2008, by Freeport in Alcochete, Portugal. It measured 14.79 m (48 ft 6 in) long and 8.40 m (27 ft 6 in) in diameter.

What was the largest ever chocolate Easter egg?

It was made in Tosca (Italy) and weighed 7,200 kg (15,873 lbs 4.48 oz). It had a circumference of 19.6 m (64 ft 3.65 in) at its widest point. It was exhibited in a shopping centre in Cortenuova, Italy, in April 2011.

What was the largest ever Easter egg tree?

This was set by Zoo Rostock GmbH, Rostock, Germany, who decorated a tree with 76,596 painted hens' eggs in April 2007.

What about the most expensive hot cross bun?

This was baked in 1829 in Stepney, London, UK. It was bought by Bill Foster (UK) for £155 at the Antiques for Everyone show at the NEC in Birmingham, West Midlands, UK, in April 2000. Hot cross buns were originally made to hang in the kitchen to ward off evil spirits.

What was the biggest-ever (real) Easter bunny?

So far, the longest rabbit was Darius, a Flemish giant rabbit owned by Annette Edwards (UK). It was 4 ft 3 in (129 cm) long when measured for A newspaper article in April 2010.

The Rev Dr Herbert McGonigle considers a hymn Charles Wesley's great hymn for Easter: Christ the Lord is risen today!

Jesus's death on the cross, and His resurrection on Easter morning are both part of the redemption story. Paul links them in this way: 'He was delivered for our offences [the Cross] and raised again [the Resurrection] for our justification' (Romans 4:25). Charles Wesley does likewise in his glorious Easter anthem.

Christ the Lord is risen today!
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your songs and triumph high
Sing, ye heavens, thou earth reply.

Charles wrote the hymn in 1739, a year after his Pentecost Sunday evangelical conversion, and the year in which he began his open-air preaching. Like all his hymns that followed in the next four decades, this hymn is full of New Testament references and allusions. A great stone was rolled into the opening of the grave where Jesus was laid, and as Matthew records, the Jewish authorities 'made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting a guard' (27:66). But all to no purpose! Christ, the Lord of Life, could not be imprisoned by death!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids Him rise
Christ hath opened Paradise!

The NT teaches that Christ's resurrection was the Father's seal of approval on His obedient life and atoning death. His resurrection was the proof that He was indeed Jesus Christ the Lord, as Paul argues in Romans 1:4. 'Declared to be the Son of God ...by the resurrection from the dead.' Charles Wesley works these great salvation truths into his verses. 'Love's redeeming work is done.' 'Once He died our souls to save.' 'Lives again our glorious King.' 'Where, O death, is now thy sting?' 'Second life we all receive.' In our Heavenly Adam live.' As our

Lord promised His disciples long ago – and still promises us; ‘Because I live, you will also live’ (John 14:19).

The Resurrection of Christ, viewed as a historical fact, is only part of the NT teaching. His conquest of death He now shares with all His people. Christians are the people of the Resurrection! We are now ‘made alive with Christ;’ ‘raised up with Him,’ and already seated ‘in heavenly places’ (Ephesians 1:4-6). And Charles Wesley takes up this great theme of how believers share in their Lord’s resurrection power.

Risen with Him we upward move
Still we seek the things above ...

Soar we now where Christ hath led
Following our exalted Head.

Made like Him, like Him we rise
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Christ has conquered hell! Death has lost its sting! The grave is spoiled! What a Saviour! What a gospel! What a glorious hope!

Why we are turning to soap bars

It’s official: we are buying more soap bars these days. And that is a good thing.

It is all a part of the major consumer backlash against unnecessary plastic waste. More and more of us want eco-friendly versions of our everyday needs. Thus, we have ‘bags for life’, loose fruit and veg, and now – bars of soap.

Liquid soaps took off in the 1990s and was marketed as more hygienic than barred soap. But since then, numerous scientific studies have found this to be myth. And in the meantime, hundreds of millions of plastic bottles full of soap have been used once – and thrown into the environment.

Whereas with a bar of soap, once it is gone, it is really gone.

The data on soap sales was researched by Kantar Worldpanel.

God in the Sciences— The Beauty of Good Friday

By Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, and writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air, we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when human sinfulness resulted in the Son of God being executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day nearly 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough. When people come to understand what creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

This article is extracted (with permission) from [New Life: Reflections for Lent](#), edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).

GOING AND COMING

Sunday 21st July at 3.00pm has been set Singa's farewell service. Details later.

Revd Georgina Bondzi-Simpson has been appointed as Probationer minister to serve in this Circuit from Sept 2019. Her welcome service has been fixed for the afternoon of Sun 25th Aug. at Wesley Methodist Church. Our Chair of the District, Revd Helen Cameron will be preaching.

Thought  for the month

Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear; not the Jews, for envy; but the Father, for love!

Octavious Winslow



They could have either a procession of crosses, or a donkey. But not both.

R.N.
parish
pump

Christian upbringing

After the baptism of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wants us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you and Mum."

Easter prayer of thanks

Gracious, loving Father,

Thank you for the wonderful reality of Jesus' resurrection on that first Easter Day.

Thank you that, because Jesus is alive, life has meaning and purpose.

When we don't understand why some things happen, when life is difficult, when we are struggling through pain and loss, help us to know your risen presence and love in our lives.

Help us to choose to trust you.

Help us always to be thankful for your amazing Easter gift of life and hope.

In Jesus name,

Amen.

And finally...

Church notice

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Cusworth to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. Vida Foday* - 📞 562788 (Vida's day off is Friday)

Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson* and Chris Oxby*

Senior Church Steward/LP : 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

*** 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 15th April for the for the April edition, either on paper or emailed to psredkite@googlemail.com or 📞 815256

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 If you are unable to do your turn, <u>please arrange cover!</u>
7th April	Local Arrangement	Geraldine Nelson	Christine Stevens & Jenny Crayford
14th	To be notified	Chris Oxby	Angela Davis & Chris Oxby
Thurs 18th	7.00 pm Maundy Thursday Supper and Holy Communion—Rev Angela Singleton	Rosemary Newman	
21st	Easter Celebration with Holy Communion—Rev Vida Foday	Toyin Akinwale	Christine Stevens
28th	Peter Stevens	Martin Hellewell	Margaret Hallam & Rosemary Newman

Please pray for

Please continue to pray for Chris and the Hallam family. Please pray for Michael Britton, one of our local preachers and his wife Christine, both very unwell. Please also pray for Mike Gilbert of our Marlow Bottom Church whose wife Joan's recent death was very unexpected.