



Lent Rise Matters – the info sheet for Lent Rise Methodist Church



Sunday Services:

Every Sunday 10:30am

Third Sunday Holy Communion 10:30am Rev Vicci Davidson

First Sunday Evening Worship 6:30pm Rev Vicci Davidson

Wednesday Morning:

Last Wednesday each month 11:00am Rev'd Vicci Davidson

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A short service for our community

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Methodist Church. The Service at Burnham will be followed by refreshments to which all are invited to stay.

Friday 10:00am Bible Study led by Rev'd Vicci next meeting will be on Friday 28th February

And for the Youth of the Circuit

Geese – because questions need answers!! Every second Friday from 6pm at Windsor Church age 12 – 18.

Call Sophie on 079048605 for more details and get involved, “as we ignite a passion for peace and justice. Join in tough conversations, paving the way for a brighter more inclusive future.....sparking change one conversation at a time”..... (wish this had been around when I was that age 😊)

Dates for your diary

Friday 28th February 6:30pm Community Dinner supporting Lighthouse Burnham. Lighthouse Burnham are hosting a 3 course dinner at Burnham Park Hall. Tickets are available from Terry Gamble: tjgamble321@gmail.com for a donation of £20 per person. All ages are welcome.

The Circuit led Pantomime – This is now scheduled for 9th March at Burnham Church. Tickets will be available soon.

Rev'd Vicci's Thought for the Week – Rev Vicci is out of town this week and our Thought comes from Alan Crowle, one of our Local Preachers

Friends, We know so little about Christians in the Middle East. There is a silence about the Christians who live and worship there. Reading Revelations 8 v 1 'when he opened the seventh seal there was silence in heaven for about half an hour'.

The origins of the Christian communities in the Middle East are rooted in the birth and first development of Christianity in the old cities of Jerusalem, Antioch, and Damascus. Several million Christians continue to live in the Middle East at the beginning of the twenty-first century; most are scattered in Egypt (3.5 million), Jordan (150,000), Israel (105,000), the Palestinian territories (76,000), Syria (950,000), Lebanon (1.35 million), Iraq (615,000), Turkey (115,000), and Iran (150,000). Although their numbers have declined considerably in modern times, these communities represent an autochthonous Christian presence whose origins date further back

than the birth and spread of Islam in the Middle East. Most Middle Eastern Christians are Arabs or, to a lesser extent, belong to such long-established groups as the Assyrians or the Armenians.

Middle Eastern Christianity is characterized by a plurality of churches, bearing witness to the rich cultural and religious life and the historical evolution of the Christian communities of the early centuries. In the nineteenth century, due in part to the increasing political and economic presence of the European states in the Middle East, many more Protestant and Latin missionaries arrived. The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem was restored in 1847, and at the same time Eastern Protestant communities were formed. After twenty centuries of historical evolution, the Eastern churches have been divided into four great families.

The various churches have their own institutions, including eparchies, community councils, various kinds of pastoral structures, ecclesiastical courts, and schools (in countries where confessional schools are allowed). One church's institutions often extend into the geographical regions of the other churches. The desires of individual churches to maintain their own identities and liturgical traditions has not prevented ecumenical activities, which led to the formation of the Council of the Churches of the Middle East (CCME) in 1974. All Middle Eastern Christian churches participate in the CCME, which helps to promote a more unified approach to the problems and issues facing Middle Eastern Christians. The prospect of ecumenism, even if it is sometimes difficult to achieve in concrete terms, is one of the few remaining sources of renewed energy for the Arab and Eastern churches in the long term.

Iran's Christian minority numbers are mostly ethnic Armenians and Assyrians, who follow Armenian Orthodox and Assyrian Church of the East Christianity respectively. There are at least 600 churches serving the nation's Christian adherents. In spite of the fact that every country in the Middle East has at least a small number of worshippers of Christ and in spite of the fact that the vast majority of native Christians are Arabic speakers themselves, Christians in the Middle East are often isolated.

Prayer: O Lord our God, who brought your people into a good land, and sends showers of blessing that the earth shall yield its increase; flourish within us your gift of faith that, in our worship, our churches, our communities, and our lives, we may honour and renew your creation and join in obedience with the wind and the waters, the wilderness and the desert, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, and all created things to give glory and praise to the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

God bless,
Alan Crowle

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 17th February - Go outdoors and find something natural: a stone, leaf, flower, or something else. Consider the ways God has made this thing and then reflect on how you too are wonderfully made by God. What does this mean to you?

Tuesday 18th February - Open your Bible at the Psalms and read one as a prayer to God. What resonates with you? Consider in what ways these old words feel new to you and offer them to God

Wednesday 19th February - Come, Holy God, into the difficult and painful parts of my life, my story. Come, shine your light of love, healing and hope into the places I experience as difficult, painful, hateful and desperate. Come, by your grace, I pray. Amen.

Thursday 20th February - Look up a hymn or worship song on YouTube or in a hymn book and sit and listen or read the words aloud: don't do anything else while your listen. Let your mind, body and soul tune into God through the music in prayer.

Friday 21st February - Think about how God is at work in the lives of everyone. You can see God shining out from all people. Remember this with the next person you speak to, and give thanks for the glimpses of God you see in them.

Saturday 22nd February - Today, you could share your prayers for those involved in education and teaching – give thanks for their wisdom, grace and energy, pray for courage and generosity as they teach you, or those close to you.

Many of us are shopping online these days and the Church has signed up to a site through which some of our most loved retailers will give us a donation every time we shop.

Sign up and help us raise funds by:

1. Visit the link below Search for Burnham Methodist Church
2. Your favourite brands will donate when you shop with them. This includes Booking.com; ebay; M&S; Curry's; TUI; BT and John Lewis

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause