



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 –
A short service for our community

Circuit Services

Just a Song at Twilight – 2nd Sunday of the month – Learn more
about a member of the Church team.

<https://zoom.us/j/94770524280?pwd=WkZ5VC9leldkVVhTdG82c2xFZzB3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 947 7052 4280 Passcode: 642790

Minister: Rev Vicci Davidson Tel: 01753 511421

minister@burnhammethodistchurch.com

For general questions: info@burnhammethodistchurch.com

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Services in the coming weeks:

Sunday 8th December 10:30am Deacon Margaret Chipandambira

6:00pm Circuit Carol Service at St Marks, with Thames Valley Voices

Sunday 15th December 10.30am Rev'd Vicci Davidson- Carol Service

Prayer Cards

If you would like to ask for prayer for a specific person or event, please complete a prayer card, to be found on the table at the entrance to the Church.



Please hold in your prayers: Jo, Andrew and Peter Webb, Joanne Prior; Ed; George, Liz and family; Marilyn and Bill; Julia; Pat; Angel's sister Edna, Freddy

If you are new here today and would like to keep in touch please look out for one of our yellow Welcome Cards, enter your details and hand the card to a Steward.

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This week in Burnham Methodist Church:

Monday Club for Senior Citizen's from Burnham Community Association.

Wednesday The Meeting Place from The Well@Lent Rise from 9:30am – 12midday. A place for all ages to come and simply be, with coffee or tea, cake and a special warm welcome. A member of Citizen's Advice Bureau attends the Meeting Place on the second Wednesday of each month between 9:30 and 12:30. No appointment is necessary but messaging or calling Terry (07450004863 or 01753648759) a few days in advance is helpful.

Thursday CAMEO lunch club for Senior Citizen's from 12:00midday. For more information or to book please speak to Jo Webb.

Friday 10:00am Bible Study led by Rev'd Vicci next meeting will be in January. Date to be confirmed.

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

Sunday 2nd December ‘Posada’ is on its way around Burnham. For us, the ‘Posada’ is a basket containing figures of the Holy Family, an Advent Candle, a book with the Christmas Story in, a camera and a notebook in which to record the adventures. If you would like to entertain the family in your home this Christmas to share the story with younger family members or neighbours please contact Pauline for available dates.

Friday 20th December – well in advance so you can invite family and friends – Cod ‘n’ Carols. Sign up sheets are in the Church or you can sign up at Monday Club, The Meeting Place or CAMEO. Bookings are a bit slow this year...if you are planning or would like to book please sign up as soon as possible.

Sunday 22nd December 4:30pm Christingle Service here. There will be no 10:30am service at Burnham. We will be preparing the Christingles on Friday 20th afternoon, alongside setting up for Cod’n’Carols. Please come along and help if you are free. when I hear back from the other Stewards.

The Circuit led Pantomime – tickets @ £10 per head. THIS HAS NOW BEEN MOVED TO MARCH – look out for further details.

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Rev’d Vicci’s Thought for the Week **Friends**

During Covid there were very few blessings. However, for me, one of them was the invitation to regular Zoom calls with a group of girls with whom I had been at boarding school in the early 80’s. The end of Covid meant that we zoomed less, but two of our number work abroad and when they come to the UK, we all get together for a bit of a celebratory chin-wag. And we tell stories. One of my friends has this wonderful thing she does where if someone arrives in the middle of someone telling a story, and we all get up and say “Hello” and hug etc, when the newcomer has sat down she says (for example) “Vicci was just telling us a story about... Go on Vicci, what happened next?” It’s a very affirming way of being.

I was thinking about this today because of the stories that we are currently exploring in the Cookham Rise Bible Study on the Women in Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus. We have an extraordinary story to tell in the story of the birth of Jesus, and the rest - wonderful, marvellous stories. It occurred to me today that for the first time in hundreds of years in this country, these stories are not known. Sometimes they are not known well, sometimes they are not known at all. I was at some training for delivery of specialist R.E. in schools the other week and discovered that schools really want us to tell it as we see it, to say “I am a Christian and this is what we believe.” To do that sensitively, recognising that other people believe other things, but to give an authentic account of our faith. It amuses me somewhat that I am now a Kitemarked deliverer of the Christian account in schools, but I have the confidence to know what they want and am now on the specialist website as someone who is trained to deliver it. What they want to hear are the stories of our faith.

Are you a storyteller I wonder? If you are, this is a good time to be telling the Christian story. It saddens me when good Christians say “Yes, well, it’s not all about this shopping and eating excess you know,” without saying what it is about. All those twinkling lights are there because “the light shone in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” All those gifts are there to remember that farm workers and foreigners both came and gave what they could, and so can we.

Enjoy Advent and all the stories it has to offer.

God bless, Vicci

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 9th December - God of all grace, Thank you for the gift of this day. May I use this moment, this space, this day, as if it were a gift from you. May I see the opportunities to share your love with those around me. Thank you for your love from me. Show me how to love you and how to express that love in the way I live my life. Amen.

Tuesday 10th December - Look up a hymn or worship song on YouTube and sit and listen (you could use the one from this Sunday’s worship, above, or look for your own). - Don’t do anything else while your listen. Let your hands fall to your sides or rest in your lap. Let your mind, body and soul tune into God through the music in prayer.

Wednesday 11th December - Light a candle. - Jesus, you are the light of the world. - Today, pray about the places you experience darkness in your life, that Jesus light might shine divine light into those spaces and places.

Thursday 12th December - On this day in 2015, the Paris Agreement was signed – a landmark moment in the global effort to combat the climate crisis. 9 years later, we have just finished COP 29, and there is still much work to do: politically, practically and in terms of imagination. - Today our prayers are for the planet, and for all of us, that we can take the radical action required to change the story, to help us save our planet from ourselves. And for courage for you to be able to do what is in your power to change.

Friday 13th December - Christmas is a time of much gift-giving and gift-buying. Whether you are buying lots of gifts this year, or just choosing out a few things for a few people, use today to make your gift-giving a prayerful process. If you are wrapping gifts today, or buying something new, take a moment to pray for the person you are buying or wrapping for. Or, if you are one of those really organised people, go to the cupboard where the gifts are stored and hold one or two in your hands and pray for the people you will give them to. - Try to move away from a way of thinking about presents as an exchange, and more as a means of grace, as you pray.

Saturday 14th December - On this day in 1918, the first general election in which women were allowed to vote took place in the UK. Since then, we have continued to make progress on gender equality, but we are not there yet. And there are a number of other areas where we still need to address social inequalities and treatment of people. - Today we pray for all who have been discriminated against, and all who are working to tackle injustice. Show us how to play our part in creating a safer, kinder way of building society.

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