



## Lent Rise Matters – the info sheet for

### Lent Rise Methodist Church

#### THIS WEEK

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February we welcome Liz Tottingham at 10:30am and Rev'd Vicci Davidson at 6:30pm**

#### **A Message from our Minister, Vicci:**

Vicci has been asked to be a part of the Connexional Safeguarding review on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. The section on this on the website is very sparse and we are looking for areas where we can improve the experience for everyone. If you, as an adult, have at any point felt vulnerable by way of sickness, neurological difference, disability, mental health, being at a crisis point in your life, anything really where for a long or short people you have felt yourself to be vulnerable and you are aware of something that happened that was not helpful or didn't happen that would have been helpful and you feel able to either send Vicci a quick message/have a quick chat about it, or contribute to the Safeguarding Review Panel, please can you let Vicci know? Any information shared will be with your permission and strictly anonymous. Please give this some thought as it allows us to play an active part in the development of the safeguarding work.

God bless  
Vicci

#### **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; Keith and Hilary; Marilyn and Bill; Julia; Pat; Angel's family.*

*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.*

#### **This week in Burnham Methodist Church:**

**Monday Club for Senior Citizen's** from Burnham Community Association. For more information call Steve Tindall 07780 665910

**Tuesday LentRisers Toddler Group** offers a warm welcome to parents and carers of children from birth to school age. If you are reading this and would like to get involved in helping the group please contact Pauline.

**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.

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

**Bible Study**, led by Revd Vicci. 10:00am – 12:00pm. Next meeting Friday 16th February. We are looking at "Spiritual Needs" and the group found the first session What are Spiritual Needs interesting, if challenging....something we all need from time to time. The group is open to anyone who has an interest in furthering their personal Faith journey.

### **Dates for your diary**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March World Day of Prayer – 2:00pm.** We are hosting this annual event this year. The theme is Palestine, and we will be decorating the Church and providing refreshments. If anyone (1) has a small olive tree or artificial olive branches they could loan for decoration that would be lovely: (2) has any ideas about typical Palestinian/Middle Eastern food that is easy to prepare please speak to Pauline or Hilary: (3) if you would be available and like to take part in the Service please speak to Pauline.

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 11:00am** is Daffodil Day at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster. Some of you have, I know, been in the past and have shared what a lovely day it is. This year the Circuit are looking to put on a coach to transport as many as would like to go. The cost will be towards coach hire, and will be circulated once we have an idea of numbers. Please let Pauline know ASAP if you are interested in coming.

**Lent Bible Study at the Stanley Spencer Gallery**, led by Revd Vicci Davidson (Methodist minister at Cookham Rise).

Stanley Spencer, well-loved Cookham painter, produced a series of works entitled "Christ in the Wilderness" during the period encompassing the second world war and through to the end of rationing (1939 - 1954). They show Jesus' understanding of his ministry and vocation as well as a love for Creation in a new and vivid way.

This Lent, we will be using Stephen Cottrell's reflections on five of these paintings as we explore what it was like for Christ in the wilderness, and what it means to us to be his disciples today.

The study will be on Tuesdays at 2:30 for an hour and a half running on the following dates;

27th February

5th March

12th March

19th March

26th March - this final study in the series will take place at Cookham Rise Methodist Church, Lower Road, SL6 9HJ as the gallery will be closed for the hanging of a new exhibition.

**Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>** – St Peter’s Church, Burnham are organising a coach trip to Wintershall, The Life of Christ. The greatest story of all time is movingly recreated with authentic detail, outstanding quality sound and music. The Life of Christ is a passion play not to be missed. It is both educational and entertaining, amusing and serious. The cost will be max of £50 which includes a £35 ticket. If you would like to go, please contact Pauline with a £20 deposit by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February to secure a place.

<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-2024>

**We have a Church** website page <https://www.burnhammethodistchurch.com> worth a look if you want to see what’s going on, in our Church and around the Circuit.

**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
2. Search for Burnham Methodist Church
3. 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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)

**Prayer pointers for the coming week from The Vine:** Please let me know if you find these useful. If I get no responses I will not send them 😊

Monday 5th February - Place your hands flat against a wall and push. Pray thanksgivings that God has strength enough for our weakness.

Tuesday 6th February - On this day last year (2023), two earthquakes struck the border of Turkey and Syria, killing around 60,000 people. Work is still going on to repair the damage done, support those affected and improve infrastructure. - Today, you could pray for all involved in vital humanitarian aid work: pray for justice, for funds to reach those in need, for generosity and discernment amongst those who have resources to give.

Wednesday 7th February - Today is celebrated as Independence Day in the Caribbean island of Grenada – and so our prayers are for all people who want a sense of independence in their lives. We pray for those who feel they have no freedom to make the choices they want to make, who feel restricted. - Lord, bring liberation and freedom where it is needed most, we pray.

Thursday 8th February - Read this poem “blessing and rest” by Malcolm Guite. Consider the blessings you have received today. Give thanks for them.

<https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/tag/sabbath>

Friday 9th February - Draw around the shape of your hand. Write on it the things that you’re carrying that feel like burdens. Offer them to God in prayer, remembering that God carries your burdens with you.

Saturday 10th February - God of all grace, as this weekend begins, help me to be someone who is using my time to see your kingdom come, here on earth. Help me to do what is mine to do, and to let go of the tasks, worries and anxieties that are not mine to hold. Amen.

Vicci's Thought for the week:

Friends

Last Sunday I returned to Sunbury Methodist Church where I had been asked to lead worship for their Church Anniversary. This is a bittersweet Sunday to be invited to. On the one hand, I was their minister for seven years and love them very much; on the other hand, I knew that when I walked back into that church after four years there would be people who have moved away and those who have died. There are things that I started that have not continued and new and exciting things that I have not been a part of. This is the nature of the beast for those of us in Circuit ministry.

Sunbury was the largest of the churches that I had responsibility for in my first appointment. You may know (in fact, you should know!) that the 1st of September is the start of the Connexional year and as such, it is the start date of someone's ministry when they are new to the circuit. When the newness is also that one is a probationer it's doubly exciting and nerve-wracking. However, the year that I started, the 1st of September fell on a Sunday. This is always a good thing, because there is an element of having to work out what ministry actually is when we start, and at least on a Sunday, the job is self-explanatory!

I sat in the pulpit on that first Sunday as the steward introduced me to a packed church – all turned out to see what the new minister would be like – and there in front of me on a little metal plaque were the words from John 12:21 where people come to Philip and say, “Sir, we would see Jesus.” I was momentarily overwhelmed with the enormity of the job. Yet this little verse was once on all our pulpits across Methodism: a reminder to local preachers and ordained ministers alike that this is our role – to enable people to worship and in so-doing to catch sight of the Son of God. “Sir, we would see Jesus.”

It is inevitable that this moment which struck me with such awe and determination that I should indeed be up to the task, should come to mind when I reflect on returning to Sunbury. It is not unique to that church, and yet it was there that it first spoke to me in an unforgettable way. I wonder where you were when you first knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that God was speaking to you? It is a question worth reflecting on in this tiny period of time between the ending of the Covenant season and the beginning of Lent. What did God say to you? Did you answer? Or is he still saying it?

God bless, Vicci