



Lent Rise Matters – the info sheet for

Lent Rise Methodist Church

Sunday 10th March we welcome Kathy Rickman at 10:30am Mothering Sunday service. It is always lovely to have Kathy with us. Come and Be Blessed to take the Blessing out to others – something that was heard at Daffodil Day last weekend.

Sunday 17th March 10:30am we welcome Barnabas Palfrey who is a new, but experienced member of the Local Preacher team. Barnabas plans to be with us today so there will be a chance to chat to him over coffee.

6:00pm Passion Sunday Circuit Service at High Street



Additional Services around the Circuit for Easter 2024

Holy Week Tuesday 26th March

Zoom service 6 pm Phillips

Holy Week Zoom Events: [ttp://bit.ly/ZoomHolyWeek](http://bit.ly/ZoomHolyWeek)

Cookham Rise 7.30 pm Davidson

Wednesday 27th March

Zoom service 6 pm Phillips

Maundy Thursday 28th March Hampshire Ave 6 pm Davidson

High Street 6 pm Phillips HC

St Marks Crescent 12 noon Chipandambira Agape

Windsor 7.30 pm Davidson HC

Good Friday 29th March

Ledgers Road 3 pm Davidson HC

St Andrew's 11 am LA

Windsor 10.30 am Davidson

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, 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.

Fifth Sunday fellowship lunch

On Sunday 24th March, as a time of fellowship and friendship, we hope to be sharing lunch together here after the 10:30 service. Everyone is welcome – even if you are not able to attend the service.

There is a plan to hold these lunches each month that has 5 Sundays in it 😊, the next being June 30th. Let us know what you think.

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 15th March. We are looking at "Spiritual Needs" and the group has found the sessions informative, and 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.

Friday 1st March World Day of Prayer – 2:00pm saw at least fifty people from Churches all over the area come together for this service created by the women of Palestine. It was a very moving service and some copies are available at the back of the Church. The stories shared of the lives of women in Palestine and the Reflection opened my eyes.

Saturday 2nd March a group of thirty seven from across the Circuit took a coach trip to the Daffodil day service at Methodist Central Hall. We had a lovely time of friendship and fellowship travelling together, and together with fellow Christians raising the roof at Central Hall. We will go again next year and encourage anyone who couldn't come this year to join us.

Dates for your diary

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;
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.

Alive to tell the story

Calling any singers and performers out there ... there is a Circuit Service planned for 23rd June at Windsor at which there will be a performance called Alive to tell the story by Susie Hare. Any singers and actors are welcome to come along to rehearsals on alternate Wednesday evening in Windsor Church between 6pm and 7pm - the next being on Wednesday 13th March, and be part of this service. Please contact Rev Vicci in the first instance

Sunday 30th June – Leeds – Deacon Margaret Chipandambira has been accepted for Ordination, and her Ordination will be on Sunday 30th June at Conference. The Circuit is looking at the possibility of arranging a coach to go up and support Margaret. Please speak to a Steward if you would like to know more.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week Ahead

Monday 11th March - Thank you Lord, for you are a God of abundant blessings, - Thank you for all you have given to me. - I pause for a moment to return something of those blessings to you and to your service. - Lord, put my life to use in building a world of justice, joy and peace, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Tuesday 12th March - On this day in 1989 Tim Berners-Lee submitted his proposal for an information management system, which eventually became the world wide web, the internet. Today, we pray for all who work in digital spaces – all who are responsible for making social media, websites and other digital tools safe for all who use them. May sense and safety reign over capitalism and exploitation in key decision making, we pray.

Wednesday 13th March - Loving Jesus, you take my confusing tangle of thoughts, worries and questions You take the feeling that overwhelm which can sometimes come with experiencing and witnessing so much sorrow, discomfort, conflict and need.

Thursday 14th March - Justice-seeking God, today we pray for peace. It can seem difficult to know how to pray for peace when we know there is still much violence and conflict in our world, but we bring all that to you today, knowing that the world is not 'as you would have it.' - Come, Prince of Peace, come to a broken world in need, we pray. - Amen.

Friday 15th March - Today, the Ides of March, marks the day that in 44BC, Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of senators in Rome. We know that political violence and intimidation continues today in many places around the world and you may choose to pray for safety for officials to do their duty in peace and with justice. You may even wish to look up recent outbreaks of civil unrest around the world and pray specifically for the countries and places affected.

Saturday 16th March - Hear the invitation to be still this Saturday. To hold a moment of quiet and reflect on the week just gone, to 'check in' with yourself and how you are doing, and to listen to the still small voice of God. - Perhaps try to position yourself where you can see a tree or bush or some flowers, and just hold the stillness as you watch and pray. - Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Vicci's thought for the week

Friends

At the Stanley Spencer Gallery this week, we were looking at the picture entitled "Consider the Lilies." In it, Christ is kneeling down, looking with immense concentration at some daisies, his hands on the ground almost embracing the patch of earth and plants that he is looking at. Spencer painted it in the style of an earlier work where he had observed his daughter as a toddler examining the garden with similar concentration, interest, and love.

We could of course see this imagery as quite frightening. The idea that a large and powerful toddler is paying acute attention to us and might at any moment decide that they were no longer interested, or that it would be amusing to squash, pick, or stamp on us is an awful thought, and it is how the Greeks saw their pantheon of gods who interfered in or ignored the lives of the world's people on a whim.

The God of the Christians is very different. Wanting to fully understand humanity, he came down to live among us, not to take, to play or to despoil, but to give. He fed, healed, restored and ultimately died for our salvation – the long-term healing of our souls - in an act that prepared us for eternity. As the last verse of "Away in a manger" says "bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there." The long-term healing of our souls is indeed what prepares us for heaven.

You may feel it is slightly odd of me to be speaking in terms of Christmas carols in these weeks where we are rapidly moving through Lent to Easter. But we would not have Easter had we not had Christmas, and Christmas would not have mattered if we had not had Easter – the two are inextricably linked. This week too, we have Mothering Sunday, a day when those in service returned to their Mother Church before going back to the families they worked for. It is perhaps an appropriate time to be thinking of Mary, the archetypal mother.

There is something wonderfully comforting about Stanley Spencer's picture. Something that suggests that God intimately knows and cares for us, keeping us safe from anything that might come galloping across the lawn, loving us and wanting to understand us better, as we want to understand him. May this Lent continue to strengthen that desire in you.

God bless, Vicci

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 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