



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

Sunday 21st April we welcome Rev Vicci Davidson to our pulpit for a Service of Holy Communion.

Next Sunday 28th April we welcome Kathy Rickman to our pulpit at 10:30am

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.

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 will be Friday 26th April. We are looking at "Spiritual Needs" and the group has found the sessions informative, and challengingsomething 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

Tuesday 23rd April 7:30pm Sounds of Swing at Cookham Rise Church. Tickets are £10 each, available on the door.

Sunday 12th May Easter Offering Service 3:00pm Hampshire Avenue Church.

Rev Vicci's Thought for the week.

Friends

I love the gardener in the story of that first resurrection Sunday. Now, I know what you are thinking: "Vicci, there is no gardener! The gardener was Mary's mistake. She saw Jesus and thought he was the gardener." But let's think about that. Mary had been spending considerable time with Jesus who often stayed with her and her brother and sister in Bethany. She knew what he looked like.

When Jesus came out of the tomb, he cannot have been wearing anything. His clothes had been divided among the soldiers and the cloak his mother had woven him was gambled for in a game of dice. The grave clothes which he had been wrapped in were left behind in the grave. Jesus must have come out of the tomb naked. Who did he meet? Well, we know there would have been a gardener around or Mary wouldn't have assumed the gardener had taken his body. She wouldn't have assumed that Jesus was the gardener. She would have said, "Wow, you're a gardener. That's unexpected!" There was a gardener, it just wasn't the person that Mary met.

My suggestion is however, that he was the person that Jesus met. Arriving naked from the tomb, walking in the garden as the first man and woman walked in the garden of Eden, "a second Adam to the fight and to the rescue came" as the old hymn has it. Jesus met the gardener who must have said to him something like this: "Mate, you can't wander around here like that. What are you thinking? It's not decent!" Whatever Jesus said to him in response I don't know, but it must surely have elicited the offer of the gardener's spare gardening outfit. Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener because that was how he was dressed.

As I said, I love the gardener in the story of that first resurrection Sunday. If I wonder if I too would have fallen asleep on Maundy Thursday while Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, I hope that I would have offered him something to wear when he rejoiced before God in his resurrection. We rarely get to be Jesus to the people in our lives. Even when we try to reflect his light, we often get it wrong. Alas, we are all too human! Yet perhaps on the good days, we too can be the gardener, and offer comfort and dignity to those who are coming through difficult times.

God bless, Vicci

Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week Ahead

Monday 22nd April The Methodist Church in Britain is partners with the church in Taiwan (a partnership managed by the Global Relationships Team), and they have requested prayer for The Asian Women's Resource Centre for Culture and Theology in light of the recent earthquake in the region. The Centre itself has not been affected by the earthquake, but they invite us to join them in prayer for all who have, and in their work with those who have been injured or bereaved, and with the recovery and rebuilding work that must be done.

Tuesday 23rd April - Look at your hands, perhaps hold them open before you for a moment. - How have you used your hands today? Has it been to make the world a better place, or not? - How could you use your hands for the rest of this day, and this week, to plant seeds of hope - literal or metaphorical? - Pray for the courage to be involved in life-giving wherever you can.

Wednesday 24th April Later this year it is the World Methodist Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden. The first of a series of letters about the Conference has just been released here:

https://issuu.com/wmcouncil/docs/april_2024_ffl_pdf You may wish to use the materials in the letter for prayer, and consider whether you could be in Gothenburg, or mark the dates for future prayer points. As an option to travel with a group, All We Can is running a pilgrimage to Gothenburg, find out more here: <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/event/worldmethodistconference>

Thursday 25th April - Gracious God, today I pray for all those who work in medicine and medical care. For ambulance drivers, doctors, nurses, other hospital staff, for people working on research and in labs, for administrators and medics everywhere. As they seek to heal, to mend, to care for, and relieve suffering, May they know something of your grace in their lives, Amen.

Friday 26th April - Seek stillness today. As often as you can, and for as long as you can, try to hold moments of silent prayer. Do not try to say any words, or hear anything in particular. Just hold the stillness. If it helps you to focus on your breathing, or a particular mantra, do that, otherwise, just still your mind and be present. - Be still and know that I am God.

Saturday 27th April God of all grace and wisdom, Show me what is mine to do this day - help me to see clearly where it is my place to step forward, and where it is appropriate for me to step back. Teach me to follow in your footsteps as a Good Shepherd in my family, community and world. Amen.

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

Just a Song at Twilight -usually the 2nd Sunday of the month ..the link remains the same each month.. <https://zoom.us/j/94770524280?pwd=WkZ5VC9IeldkVVhTdG82c2xkZzB3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 947 7052 4280

Passcode: 642790