



Lent Rise Matters – the info sheet for

Lent Rise Methodist Church

THIS WEEK

Sunday 28th January 10:30am we welcome Rev'd Margaret Dudley.

Sunday 4th February we welcome Liz Totingham 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: 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 2nd 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 1st 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 2nd 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 22nd – 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 18th 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

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 29th January - 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 30th January - Light a candle. Jesus is the light of the world. Pray about the places you experience darkness in your life, that Jesus light might shine there.

Wednesday 31st January - 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.

Thursday 1st February - God of all grace, at the start of this new month, Help me to be open to your calling on my life. Help me to be ready for new beginnings and old traditions, Help me to be a sanctuary to those who I may meet. - Come and make yourself known in my life, Lord God, by your Spirit Amen.

Friday 2nd February - Today is the feast of Candlemas, the conclusion of the Christmas and Epiphany season. It is based on that moment in Luke’s gospel when we hear about the infant Christ being presented at Temple, and traditionally features the blessing of candles for people to use during the rest of the year. - Today is a good day, now you are clear from all the change (and resolutions!) of January, to think about what energy and light you might need for the year ahead. You might like to make a list about how you are going to face the challenges this year brings for you – what practices or resources do you need to make a part of your daily, weekly,

monthly rhythms? - If it helps, have this reflection as a time of conversation with someone you trust. Pray about any thoughts you have during your reflection.

Saturday 3rd February - Look up a hymn or worship song on YouTube and sit and listen: don't do anything else while you listen. - Let your mind, body and soul tune into God through the music in prayer.

Rev'd Vicci's Thought for the week

Friends

It's been a stressful week at the manse, for reasons with which I will not bore you. However, one of my habits when things are stressful is to reach for one of my vintage copies of "The Friendship Book of Francis Gay". There's something that I find very comforting about these terribly old fashioned "thoughts for the day" written by a long-gone Methodist. Today, I pulled down my oldest copy which is from 1950 and read the following story which I found very comforting and which I hope you do too.

Just after the first world war, a Yorkshireman called Eli came back from fighting overseas to his old job in a woollen mill. Twelve months later the mill closed down and Eli was out of work.

The news reached him at noon one Saturday. Being a Methodist local preacher, he was to take a service the following Sunday evening. He intended preaching on the line of a famous hymn: "God Moves in a Mysterious Way".

"It's no good, Annie," he told his wife. "This news has knocked me out. I can't preach tomorrow."

"But you will, lad," said Annie.

Because she insisted, Eli did.

After the service a stranger talked with him, and before ten that Sunday evening, Eli (who knew nothing of the motor trade, then in its infancy) found himself manager of a new garage.

"It's a wise man who does as his wife tells him," Eli maintained; and then: "And God does move in mysterious ways His wonders to perform."

This time of year, when there seem to be so many funerals and weather and health are not supportive of joyful feelings, it's worth remembering that verse that many of you will have memorised at Sunday School: "And we know that God works all things together for good for them that love God and are called according to his purposes."

May you know the truth of that this week as we continue to remember that in all things, however difficult, God is with us in love and sends his Holy Spirit to sit with us to comfort and guide.

God bless, Vicci