



## Lent Rise Matters – the info sheet for

### Lent Rise Methodist Church

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 10:30am is a Local Arrangement**

**6:30pm** we welcome Rev Vicci Davidson to our pulpit for our Ecumenical Service.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 10:30am we may welcome Richard Cattley

3:00pm Easter Offering Service at Hampshire Avenue

#### 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 26<sup>th</sup> April. 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.

#### Dates for your diary

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2:30pm Church Council Meeting. All are welcome to attend**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May Easter Offering Service 3:00pm Hampshire Avenue Church.**

## Rev Vicci's Thought for the week.

Friends

The lectionary for this Sunday morning includes Acts 10:44-48. In the time from Easter to Pentecost, we hear some of the occurrences in the Acts of the Apostles, reminding us what the Holy Spirit did for them and what we are therefore offered. This little short reading is located in a much wider sweep of story that involves Peter being offered a variety of food in a vision and telling God that he cannot eat it because it is unclean, with God telling him that if he tells him it is now clean, then of course he can eat it. Challenged by this thinking, Peter is then faced with the household of the Gentile Cornelius who has felt called by God to ask Peter to come and explain the Gospel to them. Ultimately, this leads to their baptism as they are filled with the Spirit. "While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the gentiles, for they heard the speaking in tongues and extolling God. Peter said: "Can anybody withhold the water for baptising these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

It is always a shock when people who we have declared or felt to be "other" than us turn out to have our gifts. How can that be? How can "they" who grew up in a different country, on a different continent, who wear different clothes or eat different food or have had a different education or have a different accent or sense of humour, how can they have our gifts?

For the Jewish people at the time of Jesus, the knowledge that they were God's chosen people was incredibly significant to their understanding of who they were – their national identity was tied up in it. The idea that started to be developed as the disciples spread out from Jerusalem and told the story to the Samaritans and to the Gentiles, encouraging them to establish churches was potentially frightening to those who had so much invested in the idea that there was one true God, and they had him.

I wonder if we are not sometimes guilty of similar thought patterns, albeit reinterpreted for our own times?

The day we truly wake up to the idea that God does not have favourites is the day everything changes.

God bless, Vicci

### Prayers and Prayer Pointers for the Week Ahead

**Monday 6th May** - Gracious God, I know you have plans for me- plans for me to be a part of your kingdom and an agent of love in the world. - Today, show me how to respond to the invitations I might receive. Help me to be open to the opportunities to share your love. - In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

**Tuesday 7th May** - God who is both good shepherd and almighty Creator, God who is Father and Mother, God who is Spirit and Christ, Three in one, Show me how to walk in your way. Amen.

**Wednesday 8th May** - 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?

**Thursday 9th May** - On this day in 1974, the US judiciary opened a formal impeachment hearing against President Richard Nixon, amidst the Watergate scandal. - Today, we pray for all in leadership: that they might resist the temptations of worldly power, and seek to use their positions and power to suit those they serve, rather than selfish ambitions. Pray for wisdom, and for grace

**Friday 10th May** - Gracious God, show me how to love without borders or restrictions, how to radically live out your calling on my life and your challenge to all of us to live in the way of love. - Show me how to be the kind of shepherd who would always go in search of the one most in need, how to reach out to the lost sheep in my life and community. - Show me how to love as you love, O Christ.

**Saturday 11th May** - Sit silently for ten minutes and let your mind wander. Offer any thoughts and feelings to God.

**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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)

**Just a Song at Twilight** –usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month ..the link remains the same each month..  
<https://zoom.us/j/94770524280?pwd=WkZ5VC9IeldkVWhTdG82c2xFZzB3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 947 7052 4280

Passcode: 642790