

EVESHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

10.3.24 LENT 4

Ministers: Rev Chris Collins

Rev Sam McBratney (see below)

WELCOME to our service of Worship today, whether you are regular, new or visiting. Please stay for a drink afterwards so we may share fellowship.

SERVICES TODAY 10.30 am Mrs Anne Yelland
6pm Sunday Evening Fellowship in the Welcome Area.
We will be looking at the 4th session from "Touching the earth lightly" with Revd. Audrey. We'd love it if you could join us.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Fri March 15th 10.30 am Revd Audrey Simpson

Sun 17th 10.30 am Deacon Don Pritchard

THE FLOWERS this week were given by Sheila Himsworth in memory of Frank.

CAR PARK CLOSED

The car park will be closed on Wednesday 13th March to allow for the rest of the work on the car park trees to be completed

ACTION FOR CHILDREN BOXES It is time to empty boxes again, please bring your box in and leave in the vestry for me to pick up. Thank you all for your giving.
Joyce

THE CHOIR has started preparing for Easter on Friday afternoons at 3pm All are welcome to join us. *Dirk and Philip*

LENT PROJECT: This Lent the Eco Group is suggesting that each time we eat a piece of fruit we make a donation for the Vale Landscape Heritage Trust which is celebrating

its 20th anniversary this year. The Trust now owns 320 acres of landscape heritage, including meadows at Fladbury, the Littletons and on banks of the Avon at Wick and Lower Moor, orchards at Hipton Hill and Naunton Beauchamp and a new orchard has been planted at Stocken Orchard near Pershore. We are suggesting donations of £30 to sponsor a tree, £5 for a tree stake, £1.30 for tree ties or 30p for a piece of fruit or leaf. The Sunday Club have made a lovely cut out of a tree in the Welcome Area and you can place a picture of your donated item on it. Donation boxes are also in the Welcome Area or you can make a bank donation to EMC Disaster Fund with Lent Project as the reference. (Please check with Sarah Collerton or Margaret Fuller for the bank details). Thank you.

You may like to sign up for the **Big Plastic Count, 11-17 March @ thebigplasticcount.com**. You are being asked to count household plastic waste by making a tally of plastic waste before throwing it away or putting it in the recycling. You can sign up online and receive a how-to-guide either online or in the post. At the end of the week, just submit your results (simples). *Margaret Fuller, Tracey Lamb, Jean Pritchard & Christine Weaver.*

SPRING CLEAN UP Saturday 16th March, 10.30am-12 noon. Please join us for our Spring church grounds tidy up. Now the trees have been pruned, it is time for us to cut back and clear some of the lower vegetation around the church car park. Please bring appropriate tools. Refreshments provided.

BENEVOLENT FUND It used to be the practice at most Methodist Churches to put a second 'offering plate' out at communion services for a retiring collection. These collections, which were in addition to the congregation's weekly freewill offering, made up the Benevolent Fund. Relatively small gifts of money were made from this fund to people within the church community at times of financial need. The suggestion to restart a Benevolent Fund at

Evesham came to the Church Council from the Refugee Support Group. The Council agreed to the suggestion. From 3rd March, at each communion service, there will be the opportunity for us to contribute to the Benevolent Fund. Sarah Collerton sfrith@hotmail.co.uk will keep account of the funds which will be administered at the discretion of the Communion Stewards and the Minister to people within our congregation as needs arise. *Rev Audrey*

MINUTES of CHURCH COUNCIL 6.2.24 have been circulated to its members.. If anyone else would like to see a copy, please contact Sheila Weary.

THE MARCH CHURCH MAGAZINE is available today. Please pick up your copy and preferably contribute at least £1.00 towards the cost in the red cash box. It's a new-look magazine with 12 out of 24 pages in colour. Email, pdf version will be available a week later. Enjoy.
Eric Jones

TABLET BLISTERS - GOOD NEWS Thanks to Joyce Davey, I have found that Merstow Green Vets have a box for recycling tablet blisters. Much more convenient so ...keep collecting!!
Sheila Weary

LENT COURSE @ ALL SAINTS 7pm

11th March TRANSFORM To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.

18th March TREASURE To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

TEMPORARY MINISTERIAL COVER

Pastoral matters – contact Don at jdpritch@btinternet.com or 01386 832815.

Outside Groups/Refugees please contact David at davidhaslam558@btinternet.com or 07963 254828.

Worship, communications and the circuit contact Audrey at revaes@gmail.com or 07891 701066.

THERE IS ROOM...which you may recall was the theme of the Methodist Advent services in 2022... It was also (more or less) the title of the scheme for housing Ukrainians who fled to the UK, and the movement which aims to provide accommodation for refugees from elsewhere too. In our area Evesham Vale Welcome Refugees and EMC are looking for homes who may be able to put up for 6 to 12 weeks refugees who have been given the right to remain here, have then been evicted from their hotel or dispersal accommodation and told to fend for themselves, sometimes at less than 4 weeks notice. Is there 'Room for Refugees'? We are working on this with Wychavon Council, who will provide advice and expertise on the suitability of properties and deal with safeguarding issues for all parties (some of the refugees may be our own Iranian members), and will look for permanent homes. The refugees receive subsistence funds for food and clothing until they find accommodation and then Universal Credit kicks in. Do speak to Don or Jean Pritchard, or David Haslam if you wish to learn more.

NEW New on the website this week: 2 Lent-themed reflections, a prayer and 3 new 'signs of spring.' This week's THRIVE sheet has also been posted, details of Sunday's service will appear as soon as available. To see the new content go to ["What's New"](#). *Steve Barritt*

EVESHAM SANCTUARY CENTRE

There is to be an official opening of the Sanctuary Centre in the Riverside Shopping Centre on Friday March 22nd, 3 pm, with tea, probably cake and who knows what else? Do

come and support Evesham Vale Welcomes Refugees, after all, we helped them to choose the name

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UNDERSTANDING PALESTINE With a case study of Hebron on the West Bank Questions & Discussion at Evesham Methodist Church, Wednesday April 17th, 7.30 to 9 pm.

Ian Cave, a Quaker from Oxfordshire, was an EAPPI volunteer in the West Bank city of Hebron from January to April 2023. He will share his experience with pictures, take questions and then engage in a wider discussion about the current situation in Palestine and how it has arisen. EAPPI is the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Israel/Palestine, sponsored by the World Council of Churches and run by the Quakers in the UK; there will be an opportunity to take literature and contribute to EAPPI at the end. This is a key topic in our JPIT work, please mark the date and spread the news. *David Haslam*

SPONSOR FOR UKRAINIAN FAMILY NEEDED. A friend is praying for someone to offer hospitality to her sister and her 2 children. They have had to leave their homes twice as they were destroyed by bombs. If you think you might be able to help, please speak to Margaret Fuller. Thank you.

NOTICES should be sent by 12 noon on Thursday to BOTH etpritchard51@gmail.com and smansdsw@gmx.com