

# EVESHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICES

25.2.24 LENT 2

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** Rev Audrey Simpson  
**6pm Sunday Evening Fellowship** with Rev Audrey Simpson. We will be following the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of "Touching the earth lightly". Anyone can use this material, including the daily Lenten practice. Please ask Audrey or Margaret Fuller for the materials.

## SERVICES THIS WEEK

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> March 10.30 am** Michael Hardstaffe

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> March 12 noon World Day of Prayer Service** at the Baptist Church (see Notice below)

**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> March 10.30 am** Rev Audrey Simpson HC (Gluten free bread for all)

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** This year's service takes place at 12 noon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at the new Baptist Church on Offenham Road (turn right just before the roundabout and follow the road round) and will be followed by a Soup lunch. The service has been written by the people of Palestine so is particularly pertinent at this time. PLEASE do come and join us. If you would like a lift, please contact Sheila Weary. There is also a service at the Cleeve Prior Church at 2pm, where local school children will also be taking part.

**THE FLOWERS** this week were given by Norma Gresty.

**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*

**DEMENTIA AWARENESS TRAINING.** On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February there is to be an open meeting at 2pm in the Welcome Area. All are welcome to come and learn more about becoming a Dementia Friend, refresh our understanding or just to hear more. Many businesses in Evesham are now classified as dementia friendly and there will be tips on how we can support and help. You do not need to book a place but if you hope to come, please let me know so I can give the speaker an estimate of numbers. Thank you. *Deacon Don Pritchard*

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

**CHURCH FLOWERS** Reluctantly, after about 20 years, I think I need to stop being the 'Flower Person', my mobility is, I think, unlikely to improve much now. I have been supported valiantly by Margaret V for some time for which I am deeply grateful. It is not a formal appointment so I wonder if there is anyone who would be interested to take it on. I would always be willing to help as far as I could and being car-less. As you know it does not involve arranging the flowers every week; I have a very short list of people who may help if the donor is not able to do their own, or there is a gap in the Rota. A volunteer would be most welcome, please.

*Sheila Himsworth*

**LENT PROJECT** suggestion from the Eco group: Last year we asked you to make donations towards Toilet twinning in Lent and you enabled EMC to "purchase" 5 toilets/toilet blocks. A magnificent effort. This Lent the Eco Group is suggesting that we make donations for the Vale Landscape Heritage Trust which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Gary Farmer from the Trust will be talking about the Trust and its work on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March @ 10.30am**. Please come to hear him and think about whether you could sponsor a tree (£30), tree stake (£5), tree ties (£1.30) or a piece of fruit or leaf for 30p. **Lent started on 14<sup>th</sup> February**, so start saving each time you eat a piece of fruit. The tree is in the Welcome Area for all to see. Donation boxes are in the Welcome Area. If you prefer to make a bank donation, details will be in the notices next week.

*Margaret Fuller, Tracey Lamb, Jean Pritchard & Christine Weaver.*

**SPRING CLEAN UP** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March, at each communion service, there will be the opportunity for us to contribute to the Benevolent Fund. Sarah Collerton [sfrith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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** will be available next Sunday 25th February. 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** The response to the tablet blister collection has been amazing but this has come with its own problem!! SUPERDRUG do not want bulk deliveries and I cannot go each week. If you are an occasional visitor to either Cheltenham or Worcester and could take a carrier bagful with you each time I would be very pleased to hear from you. If no help, then I shall have to consider stopping the collection which would be a great shame. Please speak to me if you can help.  
*Sheila Weary*

**CHURCH WEBSITE** To help us prepare for worship, readings and hymns for each Sunday morning will now be posted on the website as soon as available. It's easy to find. From the 'Services' box on the Home page click on the Service title (usually Sunday Morning Worship) to see details. 'Thrive' and the Weekly Notices will continue to be posted as normal.

PS There are more lovely photos in the 'Signs of Spring' album. Please keep them coming - we have no lambs yet!

*Steve Barritt*

### **LENT COURSE @ ALL SAINTS 7pm**

**26th Feb TEACH** To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

**4th March TEND** To respond to human need by loving service.

**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.

### **CONFESSIONS OF A TV GARDENER**

**David Domoney**

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March @ 7pm @St. Andrews Methodist Church  
Tea/Coffee and cake to be served from 6pm (included in the ticket price of £10 for adults, £3 for children. Proceeds to St Andrews Church Development Fund. For tickets email:  
[Tickets.standrewswr1@gmail.com](mailto:Tickets.standrewswr1@gmail.com).

### **TEMPORARY MINISTERIAL COVER**

Pastoral matters – contact Don at [jdpritch@btinternet.com](mailto:jdpritch@btinternet.com) or 01386 832815.

Outside Groups/Refugees please contact David at [davidhaslam558@btinternet.com](mailto:davidhaslam558@btinternet.com) or 07963 254828.

Worship, communications and the circuit contact Audrey at [revaes@gmail.com](mailto:revaes@gmail.com) or 07891 701066.

**NOTICES** should be sent by 12 noon on Thursday to BOTH [etpritchard51@gmail.com](mailto:etpritchard51@gmail.com) and [smandsw@gmx.com](mailto:smandsw@gmx.com)