

Upper Caldecote Methodist Church

Notice Sheet for April 2021

Sunday 4th April - Easter Day

10.30 am	Preacher	Rev Lorna Valentine
	Church Steward	Jon Payne
	Readers	Lesley and Alan
	Welcome Steward	Kim Curtis
	Flowers	Sandra Payne

Sunday 11th April – Informal worship

3.00 pm	Leader	Paul Cooper
	Church Steward	Paul Cooper
	Readers	Sandra and Jon
	Welcome Steward	Kim Curtis
	Flowers	Joan Curtis

Sunday 18th April

Mission Group worship on Zoom at 10.30 am.

Sunday 25th April

10.30 am	Preacher	Janet Watts
	Church Steward	Paul Cooper
	Readers	Jan and Paul
	Welcome Steward	Kim Curtis
	Flowers	Jean Cordy

NOTICES

**Sunday 18th April at 10.30 am – Please Zoom service led by members of the Mission Group
Therefore the church will not be open.**

Notes from the vestry.

Well at last I can impart some wonderful news. We will be open for worship from Easter Day for the foreseeable future, and what a great occasion that will be. I realise we'll still have to sit two metres apart and wear masks, but the worst thing for me will be not being able to sing. Christ the Lord is Risen today, we'll do well to keep quiet, the temptation will be great.

It's wonderful to hear that the number of Coronavirus cases is decreasing and with it the number of deaths. It's also gratifying to hear that the vaccination programme is going ahead full steam and full-time professionals and volunteers are working alongside each other to ensure this happens. It's been a mammoth task and I'm sure that our God has had his hand in each and every act of kindness, love, and compassion.

Of course, our church, even though the doors have been closed, has been keeping a watching brief on what's happening, and has taken the opportunity to keep in touch with the community, either by posting information through doors or using the internet, Facebook, emails and yes, even the telephone. Of course, we've been so grateful for being able to worship online using the Zoom platform and we must thank our minister, the Rev Lorna Valentine and Mark her husband, for providing this most weeks. Many others have taken part as well. Another thing where God's hand has been apparent.

I close by hoping that as you read this you can think, yes, we will be in church on Easter Day and shearing played, Christ the Lord is risen today. We thank God that this is now going to happen.

God bless.

Paul

Farewell but not Goodbye.

Most will know by now that I have decided to resign from the post of Senior Church Steward and all associated posts within Upper Caldecote Methodist Church as from 1st May 2021. There are a few reasons for this but first and foremost I feel that God is calling me to concentrate more and give more to my leading of worship, thus I can give more of my time to North Bedfordshire Circuit.

The post of Senior Church Steward will now pass to Jon Payne but only in part. Various folk have volunteered to be stewards so this will help greatly, especially on a Sunday. The Church Newsletter, and the monthly article to Northill Parish News will be handled by June Blanchard, also our Facebook page and we're incredibly grateful for the expertise that she will bring.

I will still be around to help at lunches and other events in the church calendar throughout the year so I would reassure some worried folk, that I'm not leaving altogether.

In closing may I thank all those who've helped me in my time as an office holder at Upper Caldecote and have made helpful suggestions which made life a little easier, may God continue to bless you.

God bless.

Paul

Hope' and a Happy Easter

Reflection from Rev. Lorna

The first Sunday of April is Easter Day. Hooray! A day that after dark times and death, brings hope and new life.

I always think it's easy for us to miss just how unexpected this hope and new life felt to those who experienced it. We approach the story of Lent knowing the outcome of Easter. We know that Jesus will not remain in the darkness of the garden tomb. We know that he is risen. We know that the disciples are in for a surprising time of resurrection appearances where Jesus offers words of peace, shows them the scars of crucifixion and even sits down to eat with them. We know there will be chocolate eggs and celebration!!

The story we often hear after Easter that sticks in my mind though is about two disciples leaving Jerusalem after Jesus' death. They're walking along a road that leads to Emmaus feeling pretty miserable. A stranger starts to walk with them who seems oblivious to what's happened. They share their story with him and we feel their disappointment as they say they had hoped for something different.

Imagine their surprise then when at the end of the story, they realise they weren't wrong to have hope, that the stranger is Jesus and he is alive! It gives them new life too and they go around telling everyone about it.

I think it's fair to say we've had some disappointing and probably even miserable times over the past year. There may well have been things we hoped for that didn't or felt as if they didn't happen. Yet the story of Easter is a story of finding new hope, new life, new beginnings. My hope this Easter then is that, even if it comes in ways we don't expect, we can all find our own new hope, new life and new beginnings. Happy Easter.

God of hope, we give thanks for the Easter story of hope and new life. Help us to recognise the signs of hope in our own lives and communities. May we enable hope to thrive in those places by the power of the risen Christ. Amen.

Every blessing, Lorna

Special Notices

Sunday 4th April - Easter Sunday Worship – Please note due to Covid regulations the Lenten Cross will already be decorated.

East Anglian Air Ambulance – Used postage stamps – Would you please collect and give them to Sandra Payne as they will help to raise funds for this very worthwhile charity. Also, it seems a good time to remind you that we are still collecting unwanted foreign currency for the same charity.

Circuit Website – Just to make everyone aware the Circuit does have its own website www.northbedsmethodist.org.uk and Upper Caldecote Methodist Church also has its own page. Have a look as it provides lots of information on future events and gives an insight into what's happening Circuit wide.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 9th May at 3.00 pm

Monday 14th June at 7.30 pm

T@3 led by Pat and Keith Lilley

Circuit meeting (Reps only) Zoom if required.