



***AN OPEN DOOR***  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**OF**  
**WEST DERBYSHIRE URC**  
**COLDWELL STREET, WIRKSWORTH**  
***April 2018***



Minister : Revd Camilla Veitch  
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Dear friends,

You may have noticed that Easter this year falls on April Fool's Day. This seems very appropriate as laughter must be one of the best gifts from God to us and is worth celebrating. It's a bit like the resurrection – a good laugh can raise our spirits and help us to celebrate the gift of life.

There is scientific evidence of the healing benefits that laughter can bring and I have heard of hospitals that use humour as therapy for their patients. But I don't think we need science to tell us that laughter can be good for us – we already know this from experience. Sometimes when I'm

feeling grumpy (yes, it does happen 😊) a timely comment from someone that helps me to laugh at myself – in a kind way – is just the medicine that the doctor ordered.

I recently discovered that in some church traditions the Sunday after Easter is called “Laughter Sunday” or “Holy Humour Sunday”. The idea is that one Sunday of the year is set aside as a celebration of the divine gift of laughter and joy.

In 15th Century Bavaria, churches would celebrate the Sunday after Easter as Risus Paschalis, literally ‘the Easter laugh’. Priests would deliberately include funny stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell amusing stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead.

So let us thank God for humour and laughter and the healing power they contain – and share good jokes.

Now, I’m not very good at telling or remembering jokes, but here are a few to start with:

Q: Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A: Samson, because he brought the house down.

Q: Who was the greatest female investor in the Bible?

A: Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet.

Q: Who was the first tennis player in the bible?

A: Joseph... he served in Pharaoh's court.

Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A. It's Christmas, Eve!

Can you do better?! *God bless, Camilla*

### **THE CHURCH AND CHURCH FAMILY**

A number of our friends have been poorly over the past month. Please pray for all who are ill, lonely and housebound and visit whenever possible.

### **Baptism of Ella Lemon 4<sup>th</sup> March**

What a wonderful and joyful occasion we all celebrated on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March – the Baptism of Ella Lemon. Surrounded by family and friends Ella was immersed in the baptistry and Camilla welcomed her as a full member of our Christian Faith. What a special moment that was. A lovely “bring and share” lunch held in the Glenorchy Centre gave us all a chance to realise how fortunate we are as members of the West Derbyshire URC to be able to celebrate such an occasion together.

*Jill Brown.*

## **Mothering Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

Our morning worship opened with a quiz based around “Mothers”. This proved immensely competitive by the two teams, and after much laughter the final score was a draw.

The first reading was from Numbers 21 and the second from John 3. They both spoke of snakes and healing. At first they didn't seem to be significant, but then we heard of the similarities, where Jesus was lifted on to the cross for our healing and salvation, and as we look up at the cross we too can be healed and made whole.

God's love is often likened to the love of a Mother, always giving, sharing and loving all those who have supported and sustained us unconditionally. After Communion everyone was given a posy of bright yellow daffodils by the Sunday Explorers. This highlighted the light and love I felt as I left for home.

*Joyce Brown*

## **Games Evening 11<sup>th</sup> March**

A successful games evening for young people was held in the Glenorchy Centre and a further games evening is planned for Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April (6-8pm). Young people aged 11-18 are warmly invited to come along.

## **Coffee Morning 17<sup>th</sup> March**

We do thank Eva and Joyce for organising the Annual Coffee Morning when in addition to serving teas and coffee there was a wide variety of stalls. The weather wasn't particularly kind to us but this didn't dampen our spirits and those supporting us. Everyone who attended the event had a very enjoyable time, either browsing the goods on offer or sharing fellowship over a cuppa – there was lots of laughter which is very heart warming. These events are an important part of our church outreach whilst raising much needed funds.

*Mike Weaver*

## **And a big thank you from Joyce**

Once again Wirksworth was in the grips of winter, and the town was deserted. Nevertheless all the helpers tuned up including Pat from Ashbourne and Laura from Buxton!!! I am so grateful for the faithful support I received, for donations beforehand and for those who ventured out. God bless you. £580 was raised for church funds.

## **Palm Sunday - 25<sup>th</sup> March**



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility riding on a young donkey, not in triumph riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm branches into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject the Messiah, and put Him to death.

Amanda Linney led our Palm Sunday Service with Carole, Camilla and Tom providing the music. Following the first hymn Amanda spoke on "Atonement" after which Palm Crosses were distributed in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. Pat read the lesson from Mark 14 verses 1-11 on which Amanda based her thought provoking message. At the close of the service the Sunday Explorers posed five questions on how Easter was celebrated in other countries and we shared Pax cakes as a sign of peace. These were made by Amanda to a traditional recipe and were enjoyed by all at the close of the service.

*Carole Powlson*

### **Wirksworth Book Festival - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> April**

The Wirksworth Book Festival brings a whole host of activities in the town and on the Saturday (10 to 2pm) and Sunday (11 to 3pm) the URC will be open for coffee and cakes together with a book stall. If you have any novels / books in good condition Joyce will be pleased to receive them. This is a new venture for us and we do hope that along with visitors to the town our members and friends will be able to call in on the day to give support.

### **Fellowship Meeting**

The April Fellowship Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at the home of Jenny and Brian Heeley and it will be led by Amanda Linney. If you require transport please tell Brian. The Church Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm.

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WIRKSWORTH AND DISTRICT**

The Lent Groups this year were very successful and well attended. Thanks to the clergy who in turn presented each week so ably. Thanks also to the makers of the remarkable film "Notes on Blindness" which proved so stimulating. If you didn't see it, ask to borrow the DVD. By the time you read this we will have shared our Good Friday service and (those who got up early) the sun rise service on Easter Day. CTWD meets again on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend. We shall be working together again during Christian Aid Week, which begins with a service at Wellspring on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm. We shall be looking for helpers with the door to door collection. See Tom if you can help.

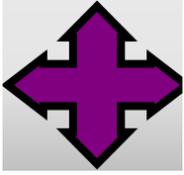
### **Women's World Day of Prayer 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

The service, prepared by the women of Suriname was held in St Mary's Church. The four churches in Wirksworth were involved with speakers, a music group and with making refreshments with a recipe from the country. It was unfortunate that the weather was extremely cold and snowy for that week – however 25 were able to attend when the service was shortened slightly. The service was entitled 'All God's Creation is very good'. Suriname is a country with incredible Flora and Fauna, where people from different ethnicities and faith live in peace with each other. Seven people represented these different ethnicities and read short descriptions of why they arrived in Suriname and what they now did for a living.

The next part of the service was based around Genesis and the first five days of the Creation – parts were read out and objects such as a candle, water, fruit, were brought and unwrapped and put on a display table, all the wrappings being thrown onto the floor. We all reflected upon these words and objects. The rubbish was picked up and put into appropriate recycling bins. We then

reflected on words from Psalm 8 and wrote what we felt we could do to be good stewards of God's world. We prayed for the world and asked specially to take better care of it and each other. We ended with the hymn 'In the name of Jesus'. Some people even stayed for a warm drink and coconut macaroons. *Sue Fay*

### Crossways Show



With the intriguing (and challenging) title of 'Otherwise Engaged', the annual show from Crossways will be held at Wellspring on Friday and **Saturday 13th and 14th April** at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Jenny and David Taylor.

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

The Cross and the Empty Tomb are the two sides of Easter. It's tempting to see the joyful Alleluias of Easter Day as cancelling out the sadness of Good Friday. But Jesus' self-sacrifice was a victory and his resurrection the confirmation. This was a lesson that the grieving followers of Jesus had to learn. The women went to the tomb in distress. They came away amazed but afraid! **Read Mark's Gospel chapter 16, verses 1 to 8.**

- Verses 1 to 4 "Who will roll away the stone?" The women were being practical. They didn't go just to mourn. They had a job to do. They were not put off by the difficulty. God can surprise us and transform simple tasks.
- Verses 5 & 6 "Don't be alarmed!" What would alarm them most? Was it the young man in white, the empty tomb or the idea of "resurrection"? The whole experience must have been confusing. To pretend it is simple for us is to belittle the wonder of Easter Day.
- Verses 7 & 8 "Go and give this message..." The news is that this is not the end, but only the beginning. The women were silent because they were afraid. Are we afraid to speak out? How can we best tell this "Good News"?

*Brian Heeley*

#### **SERVICES**

**1<sup>st</sup> April at 10am** Revd C Veitch – **Easter Sunday (Holy Communion)**  
**8<sup>th</sup> April at 10am** Revd D Kellington  
**15<sup>th</sup> April at 10am** Revd C Veitch  
**22<sup>nd</sup> April at 10am** Mr C Jolly  
**29<sup>th</sup> April at 10am** Revd C Veitch  
**Vestry Duty: Mike Weaver** **Porch Duty: Jenny/David Taylor**

#### **Regular Events at West Derbyshire URC**

**Mon. 7-9pm – Table Tennis in the Glenorchy Centre.**

**Tues. 9.30am – Morning Prayers**

**Fri. 9 – 11am - Toast and Tea at the URC.**

#### **Other Events at the URC**

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> - Coffee/Cake/Books at the URC.**

**Tues. 10<sup>TH</sup> April at 7.30pm - Fellowship Meeting.**

**Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm – Music Concert at the URC.**

**Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> April 6-7.30pm – Games Event in the Glenorchy Centre.**

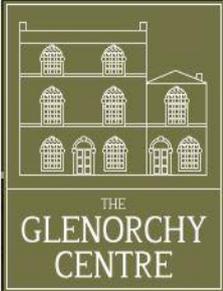
**Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm – Church Meeting.**

#### **Other Events in Town.**

Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> April at 11am - Communion Service at Waltham House.  
 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm – Crossways Show at Wellspring.  
 Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 3pm – Civic Service at St Mary’s Church.  
 Tues. 24<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30pm - Be Still Gathering.  
 Thurs. 26<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm - Easy Meal at Wellspring.  
 Thurs. 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm CTWD Mtg in the Glenorchy Centre.

<u>Flowers in Church</u>	<u>Church cleaning week beginning</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> April Mrs A Clamp	2 <sup>nd</sup> April
8 <sup>th</sup> April	9 <sup>th</sup> April Mrs E Vallance/Mrs J Brown
15 <sup>th</sup> April Mrs M Stone	16 <sup>th</sup> April Jenny & Brian Heeley
22 <sup>nd</sup> April Mrs P Rose	23 <sup>rd</sup> April Mrs D Hodgkinson
29 <sup>th</sup> April Mrs B Lomas	30 <sup>th</sup> April Mrs C Powlson

If you have any news for the May newsletter please let Carole have it by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April.  
 Thank you.

	<p><b>AFFORDABLE SELF-CATERING ACCOMMODATION          FOR UP TO 26 PEOPLE</b></p> <p>Ideal for families or small groups.          Well equipped kitchen, dining area. Large Hall and          4 bedrooms.</p> <p>Email <a href="mailto:secretary@glenorchycentre.org.uk">secretary@glenorchycentre.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.glenorchycentre.org.uk">www.glenorchycentre.org.uk</a>          Coldwell Street, Wirksworth DE4 4FB Tel. 0162 824323</p>
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Website : [www.westderbyshireurc.co.uk](http://www.westderbyshireurc.co.uk)  
*Our church website is kept up-to-date with all relevant information and  
 you are invited to look at it.*