



Easter 2021

Greetings

Well, I suppose that when we first went into lockdown in March 2020, none of us expected to still be in it over a year later.. And what a difficult and challenging year it has been.

On the occasions when the rules have been relaxed, what a joy it has been to be able to visit our beautiful chapel again and to share in fellowship one with another. Of course, as we have not all been vaccinated so far, not everyone feels confident enough to attend services and, indeed, we have not yet restarted all of our regular meetings and activities. But we are now having a Sunday service each week and it has been so encouraging to see the number of attendees slowly creeping up again week by week.

To that end it should be acknowledged that we have been able to re-open, in no small part, due to the efforts of a number of people who have done so much to keep things ticking over during the last year. Liz has done sterling work keeping the preachers booked. Chris has been keeping everyone up-to-date with news from the Connexion, various maintenance works have gone on (including replacing the boiler), Judie has made sure that there have been flowers on the altar for each service, Alison and Anne did their usual great work at Christmas (along with all those who “do a window”), Lester organised the prayer meeting. New tech-

nology was introduced to allow us to have music in our services even though we couldn't sing or play. I am sure there is plenty more besides. So much has gone on, so much to be thankful for.

So we may not be able to meet as often as we would like, but our place of worship remains open and is a beacon of hope for a brighter future. As we now reach Easter, we pray that you will have a blessed time and that we will be able to meet soon. Until then, stay safe and place your faith in Him, who is able to keep you and guard you.

May God bless you.

James

Inside this issue

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Greetings | 1 |
| Visiting Preachers | 2 |
| What's On | 2 |
| Prayer Requests | 2 |
| Focus | 3 |
| Special Events | 4 |
| Additional Notices | 4 |
| The Final Word | 4-5 |

Special points of interest:

- *Trust & Obey*
- *Walking Day update*
- *Money saving plans*
- *A Springtime meditation*

Visiting Preachers

For the time being we will continue to have only one service per week, usually alternating between evening and morning from one week to the next (but please note that this pattern changes for Easter). The service planned are:

April

4th am —Lester Atherton

**11th pm — James Tobi-
asen**

**18th am — David Lawrin-
son**

25th pm — David Okell

May

2nd am —Ray Peers

9th pm—Ken McDermott

**16th am—Dorothy
Kendrick**

**23rd pm—Christine Or-
merod**

30th am—Lester Atherton

June

6th pm—David Lawrinson

13th am—Ray Peers

20th pm—David Okell

**27th am—James Tobi-
asen**

**Morning services start
at 10.45, evening ser-
vices at 6.00.**

**Please note that there is
no Good Friday Service
this year.**

What's On

Of course for the time being most of our mid-week meetings or activities are on hold but that could potentially change quite quickly if the government 'Roadmap' is accelerated so, here just as a reminder, is a list of our usual mid-week and additional gatherings but with a reminder (again) that all but one of these are inactive at the moment:

Prayer Meeting & Bible

Study—Wednesday evening 7.30 onwards with the Bible Study starting at approximately 8.15. We will resume the prayer meetings from Wednesday 14th April but it will be a prayer meeting only, no Bible Study for the time being.

Boomerang (for school-age kids) & crèche (for little ones)—Runs

as part of the Sunday morning service from 10.45 onwards till approximately 12 noon.

Women's Auxiliary—The WA usually meet every other week on Thursdays at 2.30pm.

Men's Fellowship—The meeting is usually held on the third Tuesday of each month, 7.30pm.

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are requested for the various members of our congregation and wider community who are ill and infirm, suffering loss and bereavement, or struggling

with hardship at the moment.

A reminder too that the charities and groups that we support — Warrington Food Bank, Barna-

bus, NorthEast HelpLink, Warrington Youth For Christ and its work at our local high school—all need our ongoing prayerful and financial support.

For me, one of the benefits arising from the difficulties of the last year, has been that I have spent all of my working time at home. Instead of travelling to customer sites and being away for a few days each week, instead of visiting my company offices in London, Germany and Barcelona, every single bit of work that I have done has been in my own house. We often hear about the wonders of modern technology but I think the last year has shown us just how wondrous that can be. I have meetings more or less every day of the week with colleagues in Australia, China, Brazil, India, Denmark, France.. and I can see them all face-to-face and hear them as clearly as if they were in the room with me. It is truly remarkable.

But work aside, being at home every night has also meant that I have been able to do things at home that otherwise I might not always find the time to do. And one of the areas that has really benefitted from that is the garden. From about the middle of last summer I started to prepare some work on a number of parts of the garden which were either completely derelict, overgrown or badly neglected.

Being able to spend more time on it has meant that now, at the beginning of

Spring, although it might look a bit of a mess and there is still plenty of work to do, the garden feels like it is in better shape than at any time since we moved in five years ago. A border I prepared and planted last Autumn is now beginning to show colourful flowers, a thicket of dense bushes that had begun to block a pathway has been cut back and is now sending out green shoots, a patch of ground where some flowering shrubs were crowding each other out has been tidied up and the shrubs relocated so that they have more breathing space. Weeds have been dug up, borders have been mulched, roses and fruit-trees have been pruned, the woodland area at the back has been tidied up so that all of the dead wood is cleared, the first steps in tidying up the vegetable patch are now under way. The work is endless but I hope that the effort of the last few months will pay off with a more productive and attractive garden and one that is more welcoming and healthy for both wildlife and people.

The cycle of the seasons in the garden is one that the Bible often speaks about. From the very earliest time, the pattern of the seasons and the fruitfulness of them was set in place. In Genesis 8 v22

we read the famous words “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”.

God sustains all life. It is as true of the spiritual world as it is of the physical, natural world. Hosea writes (ch.10) that Israel is like a “spreading vine” and in verse 12 declares to Israel “Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you”.

Yes, God holds the natural world in His mighty hand but he brings a harvest of fruitfulness and plenty to our spirit too. We see that fully in the glory of the risen Christ at Easter. And that resurrection life, in all its richness and blessing is shared with all of us who name Christ as our Saviour.

As we see the world waking from the dead of Winter to glorious Spring life, it serves as a reminder to us all of the richness of God’s blessing and the new life that he gives us through the loving gift of our heavenly Father to his people: His son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

Special Events

Walking Day—actually this is more of a non-event than a special event in that it has been agreed that for the second year running there will be no Padgate or Warrington Walking Day events. So our walk of witness through our community will be postponed for at least another year..

Easter Services— similarly there will be no Good Friday service this Easter and on Easter Sunday itself there will be a service only in the morning—that will be at 10:4 and the preacher will be Lester Atherton. ..

Men's Sunday— on Sunday 11th April it will

be Men's Sunday and we will have an evening service only (the speaker will be James Tobiasen). Sadly, there will be no Men's Fellowship choir to lead the singing and no supper to follow the evening service but we look forward to welcoming you at both the Easter and Men's Sunday services (and all of the others too!)..

Additional Notices

Monthly Collection—our collection this month will be for one of our chosen charities— Barnabus, Warrington Food bank or the North-East Helplink— whichever is confirmed as our current beneficiary your monetary gifts are very gratefully received and can be placed in the special collection box at the back of chapel.

CDs— since moving to her new care home, Winifred no longer has any need for the CDs, DVDs and Audiobooks that she kept at home. So these are all now in a box at the back of chapel— please take any that you like. They are free to a good home.

Prayer Meeting—just in case you didn't spot it in the 'What's On'

section, then please note that the Prayer meeting will resume, restarting on Wednesday the 14th of April. Please check with Lester for details.

The Final Word

Queasy Does It

A little boy was in church one Easter Sunday with his mother, when he started feeling sick. 'Mummy,' he inquired, 'can we leave now?'

'No,' his mother replied, 'the service isn't over yet.'

'Well, I think I'm going to be sick.' the boy announced.

'Then go out of the front door and around to the back of the church and be sick behind a bush.' said his mum.

After about sixty seconds, the boy returned to his pew, and

sat once again alongside his mother.

'Were you sick?' asked his mum quietly.

'Yes,' the boy replied, feeling a little embarrassed.

'How could you have gone all the way to the back of

the church and back so quickly?' mum demanded.

'I didn't have to go out of the church, Mummy. They have a box next to the door that says, "For the Sick".

The Funeral

Mr. Green peered over his fence and noticed that the neighbour's little boy was in his backyard filling in a hole with a spade. Curious about what the youngster was up to, Mr. Green asked, "What are you doing, Jimmy?"

Tearfully, little Jimmy replied, "My goldfish, Bubbles, died, and I've just buried him."

"That's an awfully large hole for a little goldfish, isn't it?" Mr. Green said.

Patting down the last bit of earth, little Jimmy replied, "I had to make the whole really big because Bubbles is inside your cat!"

Savings

A church elder arrived home one evening after the church business meeting. He was red in the face, hot, out-of-breath but looked pleased with himself.

"What happened to you?"

Why are you in this state?" asked his wife.

"As we were talking about the church finances at the meeting a great new idea came to me. I have to be a better steward of our resources, and the first idea I had was to save some money straightaway" he gasped. "So instead of getting the bus back from church I ran all the way home. So I've already saved us £1.50".

"That wasn't very bright," replied his wife. "Why did you decide to not take the bus? If you'd decided to not take a taxi instead you could have saved £10!"

Trust And Obey—by Angela Yardy

Don't ever leave me, my Jesus, my Lord,
Please always stay by my side.

"My child, I am constantly with you:
Your heart is the place I abide!"

But how will I know that you're with me?
How will I know day to day?

"My child, I don't think you heard me:
I told you, I'm here to stay."

But Jesus, I know I'm a sinner.
My heart isn't worthy of you.

"My child, it's by grace that I live here.
Trusting is all you've to do."

Then Lord, I accept what you're offering;
We'll travel together by day
And at night I will rest in your presence.
Please help me to trust and obey.

All contribution and donations of articles for the Newsletter are very gratefully received

CONTACT DETAILS

RISLEY INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH

Fearnhead Lane
Fearnhead
Warrington
Cheshire
WA2 0BY

Telephone 01925 825956
E-mail risleyimchurch@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter Contact Details

Editor: James Tobiasen
Telephone 0775 281 0092
E-mail postcardcat@gmail.com

Next Newsletter:

There is no fixed date for the next issue currently but the broad target at this point is to publish sometime during the summer.