



Newsletter April 2016



*Tell of that glorious Easter morn;
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.*

*Edward Joseph Burns
Singing the Faith 418 verse 4*

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A Message from our Minister



Eaten all the Easter Eggs yet? Still got some left?! That's self control! Having said that, I've known people to still have Easter eggs left by Christmas! Not chocoholics obviously.

But perhaps something of Easter *should* be still be around at Christmas. Why? Because Easter is too quickly

forgotten. Whereas Christmas gifts might last, Easter gifts are generally gone pretty quickly.

In the Bible, the season of Easter is filled with exciting mysterious and challenging appearances of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. Marks of his brutal crucifixion and death were reported to be still visible, but otherwise he seemed to be not very easy to recognise. In that time, hundreds of people encountered Jesus alive. Some doubted what they saw, others worshipped him and others received a new calling. Many felt themselves forgiven for deserting Jesus when he was arrested. Many were commissioned to new work. People began to believe that Jesus Christ was alive. But few could grasp what it meant at the time.

Charles Wesley's "All you that seek the Lord who died" contains the lines:

The Lord of life is risen indeed,
to death delivered in your stead;
his rise proclaims your sins forgiven,
and shows the living way to heaven.

Writing 1700 years after that first Easter, Wesley explains what those disciples struggled to articulate at first. But those early appearances of Jesus Christ alive after death changed the world.

As life continues to be filled with exciting, mysterious and challenging things, may those Bible records of Jesus' appearances change *our* world.

Graham



Church Family News

We continue to remember Mary Abbott in our prayers and pray that she feels comfortable and is being well looked after in the nursing home in Bedford. We ask that God will give her his peace.

We remember all those of our Church Family who are in need of our prayers and ask God's blessing on each one.



Church Flowers in April

We thank those who have agreed to donate flowers to enhance our worship this month.

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 3rd April | Amy Kay |
| 10th April | Maryan Pateman |
| 17th April | Margaret Olney |
| 24th April | Sabina Ofori-Quaah |



Church Anniversary Weekend
Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November

with
Rev. Tony Pick and
Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

Saturday – A Looking Forward Day

Morning and afternoon sessions
including worship and discussion
and a soup and roll lunch
Creche available.

6.00 pm Meal and Games evening
Planning for this day is in the early stages.
Look out for more details later.

Sunday

10.30 am Worship led by Rev. Tony Pick
and Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

6.00 pm Worship led by
Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights

PLEASE BOOK THESE DATES NOW.

Please pray for the planning for this weekend, and that through the weekend God will guide us and teach us the way He wants us to go forward in faith.

1st Flitwick Boys' Brigade



Well the past month has been a busy one!

Starting at the end of February when 3 Anchor Boys and 7 Juniors attended the Battalion 10 Pin bowling Competition with over 60 other boys from across the area! Our AB team finished 10th and the TWO Junior teams 8th and 10th. Early March saw the Company Section take part in the Battalion Table Tennis – finishing 3rd. Then the Juniors were back in action at the Bible Competition, where they performed a mime of David and Goliath, one lad read from Ephesians 6 v10-20 and then the team answered questions on the 4 passages set. They finished 4th on the evening but we are still holding on to our 2nd place overall, not bad for a very young Junior Section. Anchor Boys are currently 3rd and Company Section - about 4th or 5th – their results on the battalion website are in need of updating!

Back at Flitwick we enrolled 4 new Anchor Boys and as a result they have won a recruitment reward of a trip to McDonalds. They have been looking at the Easter Story over the past few weeks, making palm leaves and Mothering Sunday Gifts. Juniors have had a disrupted month as most boys were missing at least one week due to school residentials – but their time has been spent preparing for the Bible Competition, and playing Unihoc. Anchor Boys and Juniors finished with a Messy BB at Easter with a variety of craft a retelling of the Easter Story and then refreshments including hot cross buns. Company section have been practising Table Tennis and also learning about First Aid. We had planned to spend an evening on Top Team – a national competition that we complete at our own base – but we needed all 4 boys there and 2 weeks running one lad was missing!

Speaking of National Competitions other local companies have been very successful this year - 2nd Bedford have won the National BB Chess Competition and are in the finals of Masterteam (Quiz) and

Badminton – which involve travelling to Scotland and Northern Ireland. 1st Kempston have made the Table Tennis Final also in NI. I know 2nd Bedford and possibly Kempston too are looking for financial support – if anyone would like to donate please let me know and I will pass on details.

Inspired by this local success and being very aware that our facilities at the church are somewhat lacking for Sports Practice we held a sports evening at Redborne School Sports Hall, where a variety of sports were practised - so who knows in a few years time God willing we might make a national final too! Well a BB captain can dream!

As ever the Boys and staff are experiencing life in all its Christian Fullness.

God Bless and thank you for your continued support.

*Angela Brydon
Company Captain*



The Need Project



Thank you to all those who support The Need Project with your gifts of food for those in need. Your gifts are gratefully received by the organisers of the project, which helps people in need in Central Bedfordshire, including Flitwick.

Please make sure the items you place in the basket are well within the 'use by' date. Also, please note that the organisers are unable to accept home made items such as home-made jam, as they have to comply with rules regarding what they can distribute.



Christian Aid



It seems very hard to believe that Christian Aid Week is just around the corner again. This year, Christian Aid Week begins on Sunday 15th May.

Jesus calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves. And, as he explains in the parable of the Good Samaritan, our neighbours aren't just the people who live near to us. Every one of us is a neighbour, loved by God and to be loved by his followers.

In recent years, parts of our country have experienced serious flooding to homes and we know how devastating this must be. For families living in single room, corrugated-iron shacks on the low-lying islands in the Brahmaputra River in Bangladesh, floods are a terrifying part of everyday life. Christian Aid have begun to provide a Home Safety Package costing £250 which will flood-proof a home, raising it up 6-8ft on an earth plinth so that there is a safe place to rebuild. It will also enable the person to buy a goat, seeds and a wormery to help produce compost.. Christian Aid wants to extend this project to help more of the two million people living in such conditions. You can read more about people who need this help at <http://www.caweek.org/story>.

So, in May, we will be taking a deep breath, putting on a smile and going door-to-door to collect money to help our global neighbours who are living in poverty. Last year more than 20,000 churches united for Christian Aid Week and together we raised an amazing £11m. The 22 adult collectors from Flitwick Methodist Church plus a number of girls from Girls' Brigade raised a record amount of £2064.48. I do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to help again this year with the collection. Please speak to me if you are new to our church or have not been moved to help before but would like to know more about collecting.

This year, Christian Aid week will not be starting with the usual evening service at one of the Ampthill or Flitwick churches. Instead

it will be a part of the Churches Together Pentecost celebration and service at Flitwick Millenium Park at 2.30 pm on Sunday 15th May. Rev Graham Claydon-Knights will lead the service at 3.15 pm and Andy Godfrey, CA's Regional Coordinator will be the speaker. Look out for further details in the coming weeks.

Ann Blair

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### Women's Pleasant Hour

At the Women's Pleasant Hour on 9th March we each made a spring flower table arrangement under Beryl's guidance. Beryl made an arrangement first and gave us some tips about how to make our arrangements pleasing to the eye. We thank Beryl for coming to our meeting and sharing her flower arranging skills with us.



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Christ is alive! Let Christians sing

This is a hymn which reminds us that Christ is alive and is with us and working in the world today. I am always interested in hymn writers and the origin of hymns, but until recently I was unaware of how this hymn came to be written.

This is Brian Wren's explanation of why he wrote this hymn, as quoted on the Singing the Faith Plus website:

"Ten days after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. [4th April 1968] the congregation I served as minister, Hockley and Hawkwell Congregational (now United Reformed) Church, Essex, met to celebrate Easter. I tried to express an Easter hope out of that terrible event, in words which could be more widely applied, and wrote 'Christ is alive!' because our available hymns spoke of Easter as a glorious event long ago, far away, and high above."

Verse 3 (slightly altered from verse 4 in Hymns and Psalms) reflects the origin of the hymn:

In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Brian Wren has revised the words of the hymns a number of times and the verse that we now have as verse 4 in Singing the Faith was added in 1993.

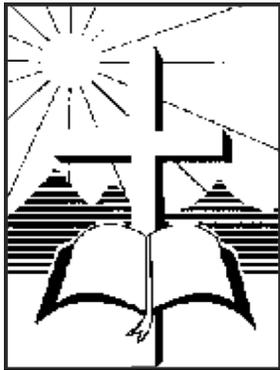
Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

If you have access to both Hymns and Psalms and Singing the Faith it is interesting to look at the changes that have been made to the hymn between its publication in Hymns and Psalms in 1983 (HP 190) and Singing the Faith in 2011 (StF 297).

Janet Watts

Prayer Leaflet

April 2016



*All heaven declares
the glory of the risen Lord;
who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
Forever he will be
the lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee
and worship him alone.*

*Noel and Tricia Richards
Singing the Faith 293 verse 1*

Prayer Suggestions for April

*May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.*

*May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.*

*Singing the Faith 411 verse 1 Spanish traditional
Translated by Alvin Schutmaat*



This month I have arranged the prayer suggestions in a different way, using a word for each day starting with different letters of the alphabet.

Friday 1st

Let us show God the **adoration** he deserves.

Saturday 2nd

Ask a **blessing** on those you love.

Sunday 3rd

Let us **confess** our sins to God.

Monday 4th

Thank God that we can cast our **cares** on him.

Tuesday 5th

Pray that God will help us to be true **disciples** of Jesus.

Wednesday 6th

May we follow the **example** of Jesus.

Thursday 7th

Thank God that we can have **eternal** life if we believe in him.

Friday 8th

Let us rejoice that God **forgives** us. Pray that God will help us to **forgive** others.

Saturday 9th

Thank God that we can come to him as our **Father**.

Sunday 10th

May the **grace** of God be with us.

Monday 11th

May the **joy** Jesus gives his disciples be ours.

Tuesday 12th Let us recognise Jesus as the **King** we follow.
 Wednesday 13th May we make Jesus the **Lord** of our lives.
 Thursday 14th Thank God for his **love** and ask him to help us to show **love** to others.
 Friday 15th May we recognise and revere the **majesty** of God.
 Saturday 16th Ask God to give us spiritual **nourishment** through his word.
 Sunday 17th Pray that God will teach us to be **obedient** to him.
 Monday 18th May the **peace** of God be with us.
 Tuesday 19th Ask God to teach us what we should **pray** for.
 Wednesday 20th Thank God for the **promises** he gives us.
 Thursday 21st Ask God to help us in our **quiet** times to come closer to him.
 Friday 22nd Pray that God will help us to **remember** all that he has done for us.
 Saturday 23rd Ask God to help us to use the **spiritual** gifts that he has give us
 Sunday 24th Pray for those **seeking** a closer relationship with God.
 Monday 25th Ask God to help us to deal with the **temptations** that we have to do wrong.
 Tuesday 26th May we **trust** God in all circumstances of life.
 Wednesday 27th Ask God to give us a greater **understanding** of his will for us.
 Thursday 28th May we bring our **worship** to God in our daily lives as well as at church on Sundays.
 Friday 29th Bring to God those whose **work** you appreciate.
 Saturday 30th Pray that God will help us to **witness** for him.

Services in April

Please remember those leading our worship in your prayers, especially during the week prior to the service.

3rd April	10.30 am	Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights (All Age Holiday Club Service)
	6.00 pm	Thea Lee
10th April	10.30 am	Rev. Kath Pawlett (Holy Communion)
	6.00 pm	Circuit Service at Kempston East
17th April	10.30 am	Helen Boshier (Guild Service)
	6.00 pm	Hazel Hitch
24th April	10.30 am	Keith Lilley (Café Church)
	5.00 pm	Tea and Circuit Youth Service (following the Easter Egg Hunt)



Monday 18th April from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm.
 All families welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Donations welcome to cover costs.

Contact Rev. Graham Claydon-Knights for further details.

Next Messy Church dates:

16th May

20th June at the Millennium Park (at church if wet)

23rd July Messy Breakfast 9.00 am - 10.30 pm

Easter Offering

Thank you to those of you who have already returned your Easter gift for the World Mission Fund in the envelope given out on Palm Sunday. If you do not have an envelope there are still some available in the foyer.

The Circuit Easter Offering Dedication Service is on Thursday 25th May at 2.30 pm at Priory Methodist Church, Bedford.

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*Prayer Morning*

Please note that the date of our next prayer morning is Saturday 4th June. This is another opportunity to spend some time in prayer in the quietness of the church. There will be prayer stations to focus our prayers and the theme will be the Holy Spirit. Look out for more details in next month's newsletter.

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Notice Boards

Please don't forget to keep an eye on the notice boards in the foyer. There are posters for some of the events mentioned in this newsletter as well as other posters which may be of interest to you.

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*Circuit Prayer Meeting*

The next Circuit prayer meeting will be held on Monday 25th April at Willington at 10.30am. All will be very welcome.

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Flitwick Singers present
An Evening with Pam Rhodes

Friday 13th May at 7.30 pm
at Amptill Methodist Church
Pam Rhodes will be hosting an evening
of your favourite hymns
Tickets £7.50

Raising funds for local charities
Contact 01525 753686 or 07906 509950
or email flitwicksingers@gmail.com

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*Clophill News*

**Tea and Chat**  
Every Wednesday 10.30 am to 12 noon

**Spring Fair**  
Saturday 9th April 11.00 am – 2.00 pm  
Various stalls, Refreshments  
Free entry

**Messy Church**  
Saturday 16th April  
4 pm to 6 pm  
All age activities, worship and a meal for all the family.  
Donations welcome to cover the cost.  
Children to be accompanied by an adult.

Contact 07920568861

*Shefford Coffee Morning*

*Saturday 2nd April  
10 am to 12 noon*

In aid of the "Raising the Roof" appeal for the Church Hall.

You are invited to enjoy coffee, tea, cakes and a chat.  
There will also be a raffle, bric a brac and other stalls.

Tea Towels and Calico Bags available at £5 each

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Sax's Cool Spring Concert

Priory Methodist Church

Saturday 30th April at 7.30 pm
Entrance £5

Light refreshments in the interval

In aid of the Zimbabwe Victims' Support Fund

Please see the notice on the notice board.

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*An Evening with Charles Timberlake*

Pianist and Composer

Saturday 30th April at 7.30 pm

Westoning Parish Church

Be moved...be calmed...be inspired...be uplifted

Tickets £10, including wine and nibbles

Contact 01525 714064

Limited parking in Church Road.

*A Charity Murder Mystery Evening*

'Murder at the Wedding'

in aid of the Stroke Association

Saturday 14th May 6.45 pm for 7.00 pm

Lidlington Village Hall

Tickets £15 to include a 3 course meal  
from Sonia 01525 404170  
or Mobena 01525 403232

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Farewell Coffee Morning

Jane and Peter Whymark

are moving to Cheshire, hopefully on 15th April.

They would like to take the opportunity to say goodbye

to as many people as possible,

so you are all cordially invited to a coffee morning at

Kempston East Methodist Church

on Saturday 9th April

from 10.30-12.00.

Any proceeds to be given to the

Kempston East Charities Account.

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*The Upper Room*

at Ampthill Methodist Church on alternate Thursdays

Dates in April – 14th and 28th

Coffee or tea and cakes from 10.00 am.

Light lunches from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Proceeds after expenses for local charities.

All are welcome.  
*Smalls for All*

Smalls for all is a charity that was set up to help children and women in African countries by donating underwear to those who are unable to afford these basic items.

The following is taken from the Smalls for All website:  
www.smallsforall.org.

*Not only is it a health and hygiene problem for many poor African communities, as women often only own one pair of tattered pants or have none at all, but underwear is also seen as a status symbol and offers a degree of security. Women who can afford underwear tend to be seen as having someone who cares for them – a husband, brother or father. They are not on their own so they are not seen as vulnerable.*

*Today, Smalls for All and our supporters help to collect and distribute underwear, both new pants and new or gently worn bras, to women and children in Africa who need it most. We help those living in orphanages or IDP camps, as well as those suffering from medical conditions like fistula. We are continuing to work with other local charitable organisations in Africa to ensure we provide help in a practical and sustainable way.*

A collection of bras and pants is being made at the library (where I volunteer) at Bedford Hospital. This is what is needed:

- New ladies' pants size 8 – 16
- New children's pants age 3 – 15
- New or 'gently-worn' bras
- Well worn bras that can be recycled in the UK to raise funds.

If you would like to help please pass your donations to me and I will take them to the hospital for collection.

See also the poster on the notice board.

*Janet Watts*

*News from Paraguay*

25th February 2016

So it is still a bit cool over there, but then I suppose it is still winter. I hope it warms up shortly so you are able to get back out into the conservatory and then into the garden.

Here today started foggy but it soon burnt off into a nice warm and sunny day. It is now a little cooler and less humid than it has been. The rain finally turned up on Monday afternoon and when it did arrive there was rather more than we needed but once it had all been mopped up and the ground had dried a little, things were looking much better. With a bit of luck that will mean that the real heat of summer is over and it will be warm and sunny for a while before winter arrives.

I had a day out yesterday. The music festival has been cancelled, logistical problems they claim. Of course getting the ticket refunded was not a straight forward thing. I had to go and find the promoters head office in Asuncion. I left my motorbike at the petrol station in Piribebuy and caught the bus from there. That meant I was able to have breakfast before leaving and head out at a more sensible time. Once I had found the place, getting a refund was pretty straightforward and there were a few other people doing the same thing. I then had lunch, a short walk round the shopping centre before getting the bus back to Piribebuy and collecting my bike. So most of the day spent on buses!

You have had half term - and here, finally this week, the schools have gone back. They won't do any studying this week as the teachers always get the children cleaning and sweeping the schools for the first few days. However Ramona went back to collect at the end of last week and appeared with her first bit of homework to look up on Tuesday.

### 2nd March 2016

Some Flitwick news for you! I see that your new leisure centre has opened and very nice it looked in the pictures. When I was over last year it was just looking like one big building site.

There have been a few heavy storms here recently and it is a good bit cooler as autumn is arriving. You should have seen the rain yesterday afternoon, it really did come down and turned the garden into a large lake! So now it is cooler I have been busy clearing all the weeds and long grass that had grown up around the house during summer.

Yesterday evening, after the rain had stopped, Ramona came over with her latest bit of college homework. She had to get information on high blood pressure. That is caused by all the salt everyone puts in their food I told her - yes she said and diabetes. That is caused by the vast amounts of sugar everyone puts in everything I said - yes she said again. So at least she now knows that the local diet is not exactly healthy.

### 11th March 2016

Shame about Dad's eyes. No more driving or morning newspaper to read and puzzles to solve. I wonder if Jack has got his little eyes on the car in your garage! Handy you moved to somewhere with trains and plenty of buses so you can still get around.

The heat of summer has finally gone and it is a good bit cooler now and really quite nice. I have been out in the garden clearing away all the weeds and later this afternoon will start working my way across the bank and get that smartened up as well.

On Thursday I went into Piribebuy. I don't know what came over me but I had a day of sorting things out! Not only did I get the rates for the past couple of years paid but I also got a new battery for my bike. You know I am not one to worry about such minor things, but after six months without my bike having a battery I thought really it was about time I got one. All it now needs is charging up and fitting!

I will continue to keep you up to date with Flitwick news. I had not noticed about Dell Farm in Dunstable closing - but do remember going there when at school and them having a goat on a rope in the front garden!

### 15th March 2016

Yes it would seem the hottest of the summer is now over and it is now low 30s most days which is much better for getting things done.

I am sorry to hear about Mary - do please give her my love if you manage to go and see her.

I have now got the rates paid up to date so no need to worry about that again until at least next year. Also my bike does now have a working battery. I remembered that Colin had a battery charger so I got hold of that to charge it up. Also I had to get a bottle of battery acid to fill it up. That only came in large bottles so I have now got half a bottle of that hanging around.

After a couple of successful gardening days I will have a day off tomorrow and go to Paraguari instead. The bank is now all cleared and smart, just need the last few piles of rubbish taking over to the bonfire area. The bank is now a good bit longer than when you were over here. My next job will be clearing out at the front of the house.

I have been over to Emilica's a few times lately. Emilica is away at the moment working as a child minder in Asuncion - so leaving one child with her Mum behind to look after another! Evangelina is now walking well and off to explore everything. Everything goes straight into the mouth, with, it seems, soil being the current favourite.

As for my book - now it is a bit cooler I have been able to carry on with that again.

### 17th March 2016

I have been looking at your Look East weather and it really did not look too exciting. Here it is nice and sunny, actually the second half

of the week has been hotter, but I think there is some rain coming at some time over the weekend.

The garden is now looking smarter. Next week I will start clearing out the front to tidy that up also. There will be some photos on my next disc. Once that is all done painting is next on the list, so that will be tackled when it is a little cooler without such a hot sun which would be the best time to do that.

Best wishes to you all from somewhere warm and sunny!

Simon.

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You are invited to attend a Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel on the dates mentioned below:



THE CATHEDRAL AND ABBEY CHURCH OF SAINT ALBAN

Wednesday 6th April 2016 at 11a.m.

Preacher: The Reverend David Ronco,
Baptist Minister, Central Baptist Association
The Service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

Wednesday 4th May 2016 at 11a.m.

Preacher: Major Dr. John Read
UK Ecumenical Officer, The Salvation Army (to be confirmed)
The Service is followed by a Fellowship Lunch.

All are Welcome

Contact: Reverend Peter Hudson. 01727 812076
Email: peter.hudson@uwclub.net

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## *The Love of the Father*

A free day event  
for those who want to develop a deeper understanding  
of the Father's love for us.

Saturday 16th April 10.00 am to 3.00 pm  
at The Rufus Centre, Flitwick

Speakers: Steve Cardell and Steve & Cary Matthews  
Introduction from Rev. Nigel Washington

Bring a packed lunch

To book a place email [onejohnthreene@gmail.com](mailto:onejohnthreene@gmail.com)  
or text 07724 186360

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The Newsletter

Thank you very much to those who have contributed to this newsletter. Your contributions are appreciated. Thank you to you all for reading this issue. I hope you have found it interesting.

Please let me have your items for the May newsletter by **Sunday 24th April**. The newsletter will be available on Sunday 1st May.

Janet Watts telephone: 717492 email: janetwatts14@btinternet.com

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