

NOTICES & NEWS

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Worship in Church and Online Preachers and readings for Sunday 27th April

Acts 5: 27-32;
 Psalm 23:
 Revelations 5: 11-14;
 John 20:19-31

Worship in Church: 10.30am

*(Junior Church sessions are on the 2nd &
 4th Sunday each month at 10.30am:*

Apr 27th Local Arrangement
 May 4th Russell Buley
 May 11th Rev John McNeill HC
 May 18th Karen Burrige

Flowers in church this week have
 been kindly provided by
 Mrs D Godden

Weekly Programme

Monday:

Badminton Club 9.30-11.30am
Carers Coffee Morning 10.30-11.30am
 (3rd Mon)
Friendship Club (2nd Mon) 2.30pm
BB&GA Anchors/Juniors 5.30-8.15pm
 (termtime)
Welcome Cafe (termtime) 5.30-8.15pm
Monday Makers 7.30-9.30pm

Tuesday:

JellyTotz 10-11.30am
 Parents & Toddlers (termtime)
Men's Social (2nd Tue) 10-12noon
The Chosen Study Group 2-4pm
 (in the lounge)
Step"n"Style (termtime) 4-8.30pm

Wednesday:

Welcome Cafe 10-12noon
Welcome Garden 10-12noon
Supastrikers(termtime) 1.30-2.15pm

Thursday:

Welcome Cafe 10 - 12noon
Craft Group 10 - 12noon
BB&GA Company 7-10.00pm
 (termtime)

Friday:

Friday Lunch Club 2nd&4th Fri

Saturday:

Welcome Cafe 10-12noon
 (1st & 3rd of month)

Foodbank – The collection crate is
 available in the church entrance every
 week.

Church & PFA Events 2024

May 17th Saturday - Plant Sale 10.30am
 May 31st Jumble Sale – PFA
 June 29th Strawberry Fayre – BB&GA
 July 12th Model Railway Exhibition

Easter – He is Risen



The stone was rolled
 back on the tomb and
 our Sunday Service
 was a time of
 Celebration. A full
 church was led by Rev
 John as we adorned the
 cross with flowers and
 took Holy Communion
 together. The red cross
 on the field was
 replaced with white
 and a crown of flowers.



Easter Quest Family Fun

Thank you very much to everyone who helped to organise and run the Family Fun event last Wednesday (16th). You all made it the success that it was, with 30 children and 21 adults having fun playing games, making crafts and dancing. We finished off with the Easter story told through Easter eggs, singing and a prayer in church, followed by sharing a meal of hot dogs and Easter nests. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate the good news of Easter with so many families. We hope to hold another event in the summer.



Rev John - Easter Message

Dear Friends,

There was once a local schoolmaster who was both a very fine man and one of the best church workers in his Welsh district. But he got himself into a very sad condition and had given up all his church work. He just about managed to keep himself going in his school. But as for church life and activity, he became more or less useless.

“What was the matter with him?” someone asked. “Well,” they said, “he has got into some kind of depressed condition. He complains of headaches and pains in his stomach and so on.” The famous medical minister Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones (MLJ) was sent for. So after tea, the man came to see MLJ. MLJ asked him, “Now tell me, what the trouble is?” “Well,” he said, “I get these headaches. I am never free from them. I wake up with one in the morning, and I cannot sleep too well either.” He added that he also suffered from gastric pains and so on.

“Tell me,” MLJ continued, “how long have you been like this?” “Oh,” he said, “it has been going on for years, as a matter of fact since the War [WW1].” “I’m interested to hear more,” MLJ said. “How did it begin?” He replied, “Well, when the War broke out, I volunteered very early on and joined the Navy. Eventually I was transferred to a submarine, which was sent to the Dardanelles. One afternoon we were engaged in action. We were submerged in the sea, and we were all engaged in our duties when suddenly there was a most terrible thud and our submarine shook. We had been hit by a mine, and down we sank to the bottom of the sea. Since then I have never been the same man.” “Well,” MLJ asked most interested, “please tell me the rest of your story.” “There is really nothing more to say. I am just telling you that is how I have been ever since that happened to me.”

“But my friend,” MLJ said, “I really would be interested to know the remainder of the story.” “But I have told you the whole story.” This went on for some considerable time. MLJ said again, “Now I really would like to know the whole story so let us start again at the beginning.” So he told MLJ how he had joined the Navy, was posted to the Mediterranean, and everything was alright until the afternoon they were engaged in the action, the sudden thud and the shaking. “Down we went to the bottom of the Mediterranean. And I have been like this ever since.” Again MLJ said, “Tell me the rest of the story.” And he took him over it step-by-step. We came to that dramatic afternoon: the thud, the shaking of the submarine. “Down we went to the bottom of the Mediterranean.” “Go on!” exclaimed MLJ. “There is nothing more to say.” “My friend,” MLJ then said, “are you still at the bottom of the ocean? If that is so that is your whole trouble. In your mind you are stuck in the past. Why did you not tell me that somehow or other you came back to the surface, that presumably someone on another ship saw you, got hold of you, and got you on board their ship, that you were treated and eventually brought back to England and put into a hospital?” It was then MLJ got all the facts out of him. MLJ said, “Why did you not tell me all that before? You stopped at the bottom of the ocean.”

As I heard this story as a child, as I was reminded of like those two on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13ff). Evidently, they had built their hopes on false premises and subsequently got their minds so dammed up they couldn’t see the wood for the trees. And yet Jesus even as a stranger drew near to them, and walked alongside them. He reasoned with them through the scriptures explaining to them the Messiah must die and rise again. This brought them a long way emotionally speaking, from being “at the bottom

of the ocean”, to being quickened in their spirits such that a mysterious hope began to rise in their hearts, even changing the sad countenance of their faces. But that hope was not fully realised. The sun had yet to fully rise with healing in its wings.

Perhaps it was the moment when the stranger blessed the supper; perhaps it was the moment when he broke the bread and passed it to them. Whatever, the truth now glowed before their very eyes for the stranger revealed himself: it was Jesus! And the moment that he manifested himself, he was gone. But that made no difference. The truth had been eternally burnt upon their hearts. Christ had arisen from the dead! I could imagine tears of joy running down their weary-worn faces. The sadness that filled their hearts when they left Jerusalem was turned to joy (v.41), and although Jesus was soon to ascend physically to heaven, we are told that their joy remained full (vs.51, 52). The Psalmist was surely right, “Weeping shall endure for a night but joy comes in the morning (Ps. 30:5)”.

As for the man in the earlier story, by grasping the cause of his problem and the truth of Christ’s resurrection (his by identification with Christ’s), he was restored to a healthy mind and resumed his duties in the church and within a year had applied for ordination in the Church in Wales. (A true story!)

Easter blessings, John



‘The Supper at Emmaus’ (1629) by Rembrandt

Safeguard Training

The next **Creating Safer Space Foundation Training Course** for all Church Volunteers is being held via Zoom on Thursday 26th June 2025 from 6.30 – 9pm. This is for all volunteers who missed the training in February.

All Church Volunteers who have never attended a Methodist Church Safeguarding Training Course or who have not attended any Safeguarding Training within the last 5 years, are invited to attend the Foundation Training Course.

To book a space, please email safeguarding@glosccircuit.co.uk and the Zoom meeting invitation will be sent to you nearer the time. Debbie Long will also arrange for the latest Creating Space training handbook to be provided.