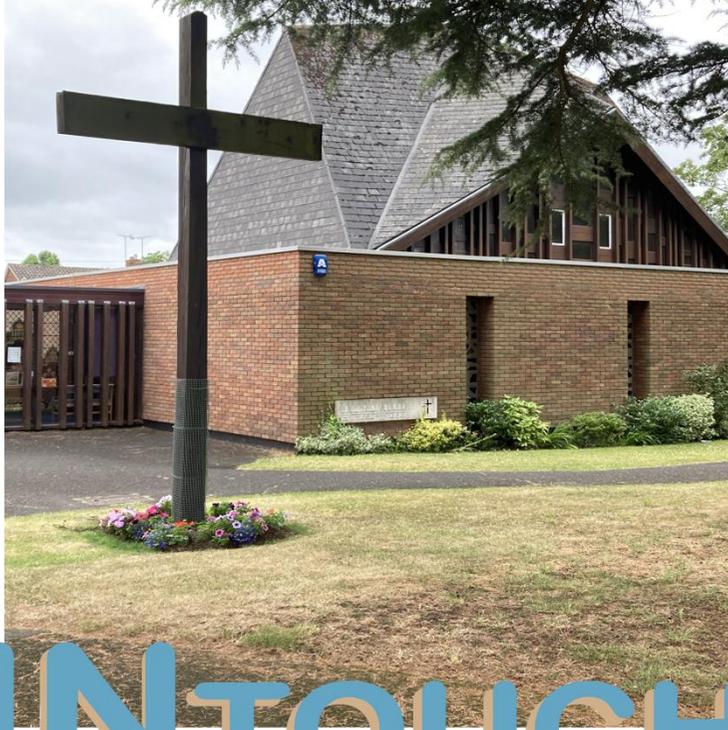


# Kingswinford



## INTOUCH

Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way  
It is like a light that guides me.

~ Psalm 119:105

Methodist Church  
April 2025

Issue No.42

## April 2025 – Greetings

I love walking and for much of my life I had a friend who had walked every peak in the Lake District and delighted in inviting others to discover the beauty of this place. In later life he suffered from a degenerative disorder which stopped him walking but we would still drive to high places to find wonderful views.



Lent is often referred to as a time of pilgrimage and rather like walking – it offers us time to listen and pray, to take time out, to reflect, to adjust, to be present in the moment and connect to God. Rev Michael has encouraged those that are able to share in a Lent week pilgrimage and the outgoing District Chair is engaging in a prayerful pilgrimage across the district – visiting parts of the Vale of Stour in late March.

The question we could ask is, why pilgrimage? Historically, pilgrimage has been defined as a journey to a sacred place, taken for a religious reason but today many people of no faith take pilgrimages as they search for something deeper in life.

Pilgrimages therefore often have a clear direction and involve dedicated time away from daily routines which allows for self-reflection and contemplation on one's life and goals. Somewhere along the way it is common that this experience can also provide a sense of connection to something larger than oneself, offering renewed perspective. And many pilgrimages involve travelling with others, which can provide a supportive community and opportunities for meaningful conversation.

I know that for many of you a physical pilgrimage may not be easy or possible. But perhaps our Lent 'pilgrimage' can play its part of offering us all the chance to pause and make space for God.

Proverbs Ch 3 v 5 and 6 says: *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'*

May your Lent journey be a walk, physical or spiritual – into the light of the Lord.. **May God bless you. Rev Alan**

## From the Editor....



Melanie and James have recently watched a pilgrimage on television through part of Spain (you probably know of it) and frequently watch other programmes involving travelling/wandering - all of which involve conversation, prayer, reflection and eating local foods.

Whilst I'm a television addict, I tend to fall asleep, however, if someone were willing to guide me, I would love to walk any of the following: Pembrokeshire Coastal Path, The Pennine Way, Coast to Coast or maybe a walk of their choice – preferably not The West Highland Way though as I've already done it. Otherwise, I intend to join Rev Michael on the Holy Week Walk on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April. [See later in the magazine for details]

You may find the above self-centred, but it was easier to write about my wants than the topic of Judas in The Garden of Gethsemane from last night's Bible Study. You should have been there – WOW!

Happy Easter and God Bless  
Richard.

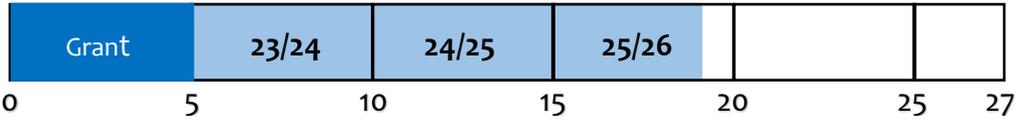
**Deadline for the next magazine is 16<sup>th</sup> April  
Please put this in your diary!**

**The production of the May Magazine will be on a tight  
timescale and it is unlikely that we will be able to  
accommodate late contributions**

# Boiler Fund-Raising



£Thousands



## Rock Choir Concert

On March 15<sup>th</sup> we were treated to a super concert by the Rock Choir that rehearses in our building. It was a brilliant evening and we are very grateful to the Choir for entertaining us and enabling us to raise over £1,000 for the Boiler Fund.

## Dates for your diary

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2025 – Voices in Harmony Concert

Entitled ‘Summer Voices – The Sequel’, this concert will start at 7pm. Tickets are £8 and available from Ann Jackson ([annielacala@live.co.uk](mailto:annielacala@live.co.uk) or 07964 368854). These include tea/coffee and cake refreshments at the end of the concert.



There are no other dates in the diary for fund-raising events... So now is the time to be thinking about any ideas for fund-raising events for the later summer or autumn. If you have any thoughts why not get in contact with the Stewards to liaise about dates and church availability. It would be good not to lose the momentum we have built up over the last couple of years...

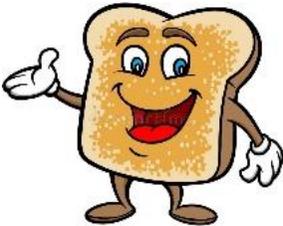
# Things To Note This Easter!



## Palm Sunday – 13<sup>th</sup> April

If you are attending the service on Palm Sunday (13<sup>th</sup> April) please could you consider bringing along an item of clothing to be donated to

Provision House – ideally a coat or jacket or top of some form, but anything is fine. Please don't worry if you can't, but if you can bring something, please keep your item with you when you arrive on the 13<sup>th</sup> – all will be made clear during the service!



## Easter Sunday Breakfast

Stuart will be providing breakfast after the 8am Easter Morning Service. Watch out for the sign up sheet that will appear in the Link soon or email [breakfast@ashfam.co.uk](mailto:breakfast@ashfam.co.uk) if you are interested in partaking!

## Easter Sunday 10.30am Service

As is tradition, there will be an opportunity to bring flowers to add to the Lenten Cross at the 10.30am service on Easter Day. Please **KEEP your flowers with you** when you arrive for the service and then bring them up to put on the cross **during the opening hymn**. It would be lovely to have many people sharing in this wonderful activity even if it means that it takes a little longer.



[NB Details of other Easter services can be found on the main Services page near the end of this magazine]

## Mothering Sunday Bulbs

If you were at worship at Kingswinford on Mothering Sunday you would have received a little bag of Ranunculus bulbs.

These are your planting instructions!

- Soak the “claws” in plain water for 3 – 12 hours prior to planting
- Plant them directly into a sunny, sheltered border or patio container between April – June
- Plant the “claws” facing downwards, approximately 10 – 15cm deep, and water-in
- After planting, keep the soil around your Ranunculus plants hydrated but not soggy, and maintain regular watering throughout the growing season whenever the soil is dry.
- Deadhead or cut flowers for indoor displays regularly to encourage further flowering.



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## Ladies Friendship Group

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays</b> 2.15pm in the <i>Church Parlour</i>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays</b> <i>lunch out somewhere</i>
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Contact *Joyce* on 01384 295122 for more details

**10<sup>th</sup> April**

**David Barclay – comedian**

**\*\*\* Open to everyone – not just Ladies! \*\*\***

**8<sup>th</sup> May**

**More Antiques – David Towner**

**All welcome – no minimum (or maximum) age limit!**

## Second and THIRD Saturday Prayers

### April 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

*We will meet as usual on April 12<sup>th</sup>; however, this Easter marks a rare occasion when both the Eastern and Western churches celebrate the resurrection on the same day, presenting a perfect opportunity to pray in a “different” way for the community we serve. Therefore, on Easter Saturday (19<sup>th</sup> April), we will hold a Prayer Walk—perhaps a stroll or an amble—around the local community. It would be wonderful if as many people, as possible could join us in this venture. We will meet in the parlour at 9:00 am to briefly pray before walking the streets nearest to the church, stopping along the way to pray for the community we serve. The walk will be flat and will take no more than 45 minutes to an hour, including the stops for prayer. If you prefer not to walk, then there would also be the opportunity to remain in the parlour and pray for those walking.*

You can also join by praying with the Prayer Chain by receiving requests via WhatsApp or email. If you or someone you know requires prayer, then please send requests to Melanie – contact details on the last page.

## Feed My Sheep

The next Feed My Sheep meal will be on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**. The Feed My Sheep meals are for those who would otherwise normally eat alone on a Sunday. They are completely free.



If you would like to attend the next meal or any meals in the future (they happen once a month, normally on the first Sunday) please contact Megan (details on the back page).

# Kingswinford Methodist Church

## Playgroup

(Pre-Nursery Group)

- **Pre-Nursery Group for children aged 2-3yrs.** Helping prepare the children for the big step to School Nursery.
- **Competitive Fees: Free places for eligible 2- & 3-year-olds**
- **Opening Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 9.15 – 11.45 am (Term Time Only) All children attend all 3 sessions.
- **Registered with OFSTED** – Working toward EYFS
- Emphasis on **Learning Through Play**
- **Long established**
- **Qualified Staff: Secure Environment + LOTS OF FUN!!!**

For more Information:

**Email:** [kfordplaygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:kfordplaygroup@hotmail.com)

## Coffee and Craft



Come with your craft project (or not!) and  
enjoy a coffee (or tea!) and natter.

Saturdays 5th April & 10th May

10:30 – 12:00

## Core Bible Exploration – April 2025

We meet at 7.30 pm on Monday evenings in the parlour (lifts are always available). We are always glad to welcome new faces.

**This group is for everyone – whether you read the Bible daily and can quote multiple verses or whether you pick the Bible up rarely and are not sure what the names of all the books are!**

**This year, we are using Love, Death, and Resurrection, the New Testament in a new format that begins with Luke-Acts to tell the story of Jesus, his church, and the world he came to save. During Lent, we will be supporting our studies with material written by John Birch entitled: The Final Week.**

Week	Theme	Key Bible Passage
March 31st	Trials	Mark 3:53-65 Matthew 27:11-31
April 7th	Disowned but not forgotten Crucified	Mark 14:66-72 Matthew 27:32-61

**Core Bible will take a break after April 7<sup>th</sup> – restarting on May 12<sup>th</sup> (to allow for the early Spring Bank Holiday). More details of our studies during May and June will appear in the May edition of INTouch.**



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Dorothy Pearson's funeral will take place at Kingswinford on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**. The service in church will be at 2.45pm – followed by a committal at Gornal Cermatorium and then refreshments back at church.

## Holy Week Walk – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April



There will be one walk this year – led by Rev Michael Payne - a full Circuit Walk. However, there is an option for a slower walk from Brierley Hill to Kingswinford (via Amblecote Wordsley) as more time has been allowed for this part of the journey. ***The day will end with a***

***short service at Kingswinford at 6.30pm to which all are welcome (whether you have walked or not!)***

All times are approximate but would aim to leave on time from each church. At each church there will be a 20 minute stop for prayer and ‘rest’ (and hopefully refreshments!)



Church	Arr	Dep	Distance (miles)	Approx time (minutes)
Kinver	By 8.30	8.45	4.5	90
Wollaston	10.15	10.35	0.7	15
Gigmill	10.50	11.10	0.6	15
New Road	11.25	11.45	1.7	35
United Church Lye	12.20	12.55	1.6	35
Overend	13.30	13.50	1.2	25
Dudley Wood	14.15	14.35	0.7	15
Birch Coppice	14.50	15.10	1.4	30
Brierley Hill	15.40	16.00	2	45
Amblecote Wordsley	16.45	17.10	1.6	40
Kingswinford	17.50			

This is a walk not an amble – looking to average a little under 3 miles per hour over the whole day. Those wishing to do the whole walk are very welcome – but please feel free to join for any number of ‘legs’ of the walk instead. If you are planning to do the whole walk, please let Rev Michael know in advance so transport back to Kinver at the end of the day can be arranged if required. Lunch will be at United Church Lye – please provide your own (which can be transported to Lye from Kinver for you if you wish).

## **Recycling at home and at church:**

A reminder of what you can recycle and what goes where!

(Taken from Dudley Council website)

### **Blue Bag: Paper and cardboard including**

Newspaper and magazines	Junk Mail
Brown corrugated cardboard	Cereal boxes
Telephone directories	Greeting cards
Cardboard egg boxes	Ready meal sleeves

### **Green Bag: Plastic and tin including**

Food trays and fruit punnets	Aerosols
Yoghurt pots and margarine tubs	Biscuit tins
Food and drinks cans	Jam jar lids
Clean aluminium foil	Plastic bottles
Plastic plant pots	

### **Black Box:**

Glass bottles and glass jars

You can also recycle soft plastics like bread bags and biscuit wrappers – anything that has this logo:  
These can be taken to a large superstore or put in the white plastic bin bag at church (next to the recycling bags) and we will take them.



Remember, wearable clothes and shoes can be taken to the charity shop while older shoes can be taken to the Salvation Army shoe bin. (Again we can take the old shoes)

*“The Lord God put the man (Adam) in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.”* Genesis 2:15

# Churches Together Kingswinford

(which includes us!)



## HOT CROSS BUN GIVE AWAY April 12th 10:30-12:30pm Townsend Place, Kingswinford.

The recently re-formed Churches Together Kingswinford have agreed to hold a Hot Cross Bun give away to raise community awareness of Holy Week and the services which will be happening at the various Churches in Kingswinford. This is important on multiple levels...

- it is an opportunity to be generous to the community we serve,
- a chance to begin conversations which might sow seeds which become faith and
- a chance to show the community of Kingswinford that the various Christian fellowship are united in our desire to spread the joyous message of Easter Day.

Ways you can be involved...

**COME AT ANYTIME BETWEEN** 10:30 and 12:30 for as long as you can manage – anything between 5 minutes and 2 hours will be appreciated and share the load – and help give away the hot cross buns and service information.

**DONATE HOT CROSS BUNS** or funds to buy same. Local Supermarkets are donating but if you can't stand/walk then you can still help by donating a packet or three.

**PRAY** - Pray for enough Hot cross buns, pray for willing hands to distribute them, pray for those who receive that they might feel called to worship, pray for Churches Together – may this be the beginning of a spiritual revival in the community we collectively serve.

Join us at the next meeting of the  
Stream Road **Men's Group**...

**When:-** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – 7pm  
**Where:-** Kingswinford Golf  
**What:-** Bucket of balls @ the driving range  
(30 for £3)

Bring a friend and let Richard know  
if you are coming. We'd love to see you there.

May's meeting will be on the 7<sup>th</sup> – details TBC

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# All-Age Service

Sunday 13th April



# Palm Sunday

Worship group leading songs from 10am



Formal start at 10.30am

Rainbows & Brownies Parade Service



# Numbers Quiz – Esme Ashmore

All the answers are numbers!

1.	Murders from series 1-23 of Midsomer Murders?	
2.	Countries in the world starting with the letter O?	
3.	In the novel by Agatha Christie, what time was the train from Paddington?	
4.	Colours that are on the Classic RAL Chart?	
5.	Adele's debut album, released in 2008?	
6.	Clocks that James Thurber wrote about in 1950?	
7.	Counties in England?	
8.	Time on the clock in the song by the Mamas and Papas in 1968?	
9.	Types of Heinz soup?	
10.	Breeding pairs of robins in the UK? (roughly!)	
11.	Actors who have played TV's Doctor Who?	
12.	Blackbirds baked in a pie?	
13.	Species of dung beetle in the world? (roughly)	
14.	Number 1 hits by The Beatles?	
15.	Equatorial diameter of Saturn in miles?	
16.	Number of rings of Jupiter?	
17.	Of the 273,000 words in the Oxford English Dictionary, those obsolete in today's usage?	
18.	Record number of own goals during a UEFA European Championship?	
19.	By 1910, how many telephones were recorded in Graham Alexander Bell's telephone system?	
20.	Monkeys that have been sent to space?	

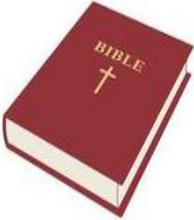
## Film Titles Quiz – Answers

1.	Went away because of flatulence	<b>Gone with the Wind</b>
2.	My girlfriend works in an amusement park	<b>My Fair Lady</b>
3.	There is a twist in this tale	<b>Oliver</b>
4.	An Australian magician	<b>The Wizard of Oz</b>
5.	A wind up fruit	<b>A Clockwork Orange</b>
6.	It's the 'white house' in Spain	<b>Casablanca</b>
7.	Birds of prey go for a challenge	<b>Where Eagles Dare</b>
8.	Pumps blood with courage	<b>Braveheart</b>
9.	Not white or ugly	<b>Black Beauty</b>
10.	A novel of dense forest	<b>Jungle Book</b>
11.	Vocalising when the weather is bad	<b>Singing in the Rain</b>
12.	A high temperature at the weekend	<b>Saturday Night Fever</b>
13.	Would Felix burn his paws here	<b>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</b>
14.	Smallest group make a comment	<b>Minority Report</b>
15.	A rebellion on this chocolate bar	<b>Mutiny on the Bounty</b>
16.	The toilet at an animal park	<b>Zulu</b>
17.	Not the shortest 24 hours	<b>The Longest Day</b>
18.	Abel's brother is a resident	<b>Citizen Kane</b>
19.	Things always go wrong for Fonda's daughter	<b>Calamity Jane</b>
20.	Flaming wagons	<b>Chariots of Fire</b>

# Opportunities to serve.....



## Readers for Services



Derek Siviter would love to hear from you if you would be willing and able to read in our services – especially for evening services (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the month). These are normally readings from the Bible but occasionally they are poems or other reflective pieces.

## Prepping ‘Tech’ for Services

Michele is offering training for anyone who feels brave enough to join the ‘Tech Prep’ team. This involves working in Powerpoint (and/or OpenLP)



to prep the content that we display on our screens for our services. It does not involve typing in lots of stuff – all the words to songs and communion services are already prepped. It is more a job of pulling constituent parts into a complete presentation.

**Haven’t got a computer or Powerpoint? No problem** – access to a computer to support this role is available. The commitment is likely to be just one service a month.



## Production of this Magazine

Michele is offering training in WORD and Publisher for anyone who would like to help to continue to produce this magazine. **Haven’t got a computer or WORD? No problem** - access to a computer to support this role is available.

*If you are keen to engage with any of these opportunities and you don’t know the person named, just speak to any of the Meeters and Greeters at the door or any of the Stewards and they will point you in the right direction.*

## Easter Offering



Easter offering envelopes will be given out on Palm Sunday (April 13<sup>th</sup>) to be given in over the Easter Time.

These will be taken to the dedication service at Kinver on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 2.30pm. All welcome.

This will be added to the other churches and sent as our Circuit contribution to Overseas Mission.

Please give as generously as you can. Any cheques should be made payable to Methodist Church World Mission Fund.

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# Coffee & Cake



# Conversation



# &

# Friendship



10am until 12 noon  
1st and 15th April

Transform  
Trade \_\_\_\_\_

# The Seat – David Walker

The seat – made of pine and lying under an old oak tree on the brow of Downley Hill – faces east and as the morning sun rises the rolling hills of Shropshire can be discerned one by one like a long line of salt cellars. As far as I can remember it has always been there, erected years before I was born and destined to still be there when I've gone.



I have vague memories of being taken to Downley as a toddler during the long, hot summer months and being hoisted on to my dad's shoulders for our climb up the hill before settling down on our special bench for a picnic.

Cucumber sandwiches cut into triangles, sliced tomatoes, grated cheese and packets of crisps were the order of the day, followed by cake and chocolate, washed down with mugs of grandma's homemade ginger beer.

When I was about eight or nine I would often cycle with my mates the four or so miles to the centre of the little village. Then we'd push our bikes up to the bench, go gambolling down to the bottom and race each other back up; or we'd go fishing for tiddlers in the little stream at the bottom. If it was really hot we'd take our shoes and socks off and paddle for a while in the cool, running water, then buy a cornet or lollipop from the ice-cream van.



Sometimes we would play Cowboys and Indians, some of us using the seat as our fort and repelling attacks from imaginary savages whilst some others rode around the seat, holding their home-made bows and arrows aloft, whooping and yelling at us. The flat piece of grass just above was our football and cricket pitch, depending on the season, and sometimes we'd build a camp fire and sit around it, telling stories to each other until it was time to head for home.

In our teens many of us would walk up Downley Hill and sit on the seat or on the ground around it to chat to each other or show off our latest acquisitions such as the brand new wristwatch which grandma had given us for Christmas or the stylish handbag we'd had for our birthday.



As we got older we would often pair up with a member of the opposite sex, make our way up there and sit down, holding hands, to watch the sun disappear over the horizon or carving our initials inside a heart cut into one of the seat's arms.

Even in our twenties or thirties many of us, married with children, would have a family picnic up there, mom and dad sitting side by side on the seat as the little ones cavorted about for a time before demanding that we join them for a game of cricket or rounders.

Years later my wife and I would often take our grandchildren there and watch them play on the grass as we held hands and searched the skyline for a sparrowhawk hovering above in search of its prey or gazed across the hedgerow for a little robin creeping closer and closer to encourage us to feed him. We'd let the young ones run around a bit and then play I-Spy with them, encouraging them to search for something they could see out there among the hayricks, scarecrows and farming equipment strewn around the surrounding fields.



Now in our old age we still go to our seat now and again to look down the hillside and remember what life used to be life for us, pointing out to each other the town we grew up in, the school we went to, the chapel we worshipped at and the football and cricket pitches which formed such a bit part of our leisure and recreation.

We'll still be coming here for a few more years yet, I hope, and whichever of us lives the longest will, I'm sure, still be doing the same, sitting on our favourite seat, thinking about the times we've had together, gazing into the sky and saying a prayer of thanks for having such a great life, such a devoted spouse and such wonderful children and grandchildren.



And whoever is left will occasionally glance across at the initials we carved on the bench inside a heart-shaped figure...DW loves HM. Decades after we've both gone I'd like to think that sometimes people will spot the carving and just for a few fleeting moments spare a thought for us and say, 'I wonder what they were like?'

# thank you!

## ...FROM World Vision

World Vision was our Coffee morning charity in January. Inspired by their Christian faith, World Vision help all children – of all faiths and none – even in the most dangerous places. They strive to protect God's creation and demonstrate God's love. They fight to make sure every child reaches their God-given potential. We have received a letter of thanks from them for our donation.

**World Vision**



## ...FROM Doris Hill's Family

Doris's family wish to say thank you to all that were able to attend mums funeral, and to Reverend Alan, Jane Artist and Roger Shuttleworth whose help with preparations was much appreciated. We were overwhelmed by the number of people who came to pay their respects and all the kind messages, cards and donations we received. I'm sure mum would have approved. With much love & appreciation, Peter, Jane & Mike X



## ...FROM Megan and the Mission Team

Thank you to everyone who donated money or bought gifts to fill the Mother's Day bags. The bags themselves were beautifully made by Gill Nash, and were taken to Russells Hall maternity unit to be given to mums who have babies on or near March 30th. Thanks too to everyone who has knitted Easter baskets for our Care Home gifts. We have enough for our plans with some spares - if you know of anyone who would appreciate a small Easter gift from the church, please speak to Megan.



In February we collected and donated 93.3kg of food and 4.7kg of non-food – enough to provide 187 meals and 5 toiletry packs. Well done – and grateful thanks from everyone at the Foodbank.

BCFB are encouraging people to think about them throughout Lent – possibly donating more than normal as part of a Lent/Easter offering.

They would also welcome Easter Egg donations to make sure that the children in the families that they support have a small treat at this time.

### **There are normally the following shortages:**

Long Life Milk (1l Cartons)	Squash/cordial
Long Life Fruit Juice (1l Cartons)	Instant noodles
Tinned fruit (in juice)	Nappies
Tinned vegetarian meals (chilli, pasta, etc)	Baby wipes
Packet mash potato	Shampoo
Tinned fish	Roll-on deodorant
Tinned soup	Toilet rolls
Pasta sauce/cooking sauces	Shower gel
Breakfast cereal	Washing up liquid

**\*\*\*\*\* BCFB are very short of strong carrier bags \*\*\*\*\***

They cannot accept out of date food or food items containing alcohol.

### **How to donate financially**

**Website** - donate on the website [www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk)

**Bank transfer** - Sortcode: 40-11-55, Account No: 30116548

**Mobile phone** - You can text **BCFOODBANK** to **70085** to donate £5.

# Circuit News

## Circuit Ramblers – 10am - Walks of approximately 1 hour



**Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>** – Roman Road, Stourbridge

**Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>** – Hurcott

Suggested £1 donation for the Paul Ackrill Fund charity

Contact: Margaret Stevens (07986 566134) for more details

## Action for Children Fundraising

Flower arranging demonstration from Flowers by Andrew, Thursday 10th April 7.30pm at Amblecote Wordsley Methodist Church. Tickets £5 which includes light refreshments. Your church representative (Jane Artist) has details and tickets, or you can pay on the door.



## Circuit Holy Week Walk

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – see full page ad elsewhere in the magazine for full details.

## Thanks for the Memories –

### Music and Singing for our Wellbeing

The circuit is delighted to announce the launch of Monthly afternoon singing of favourite songs from the past and from the musicals. This will be at Amblecote Wordsley Methodist beginning on Sunday 30th March and 27th April with tea from 3.30 and singing from 4-5pm. All are welcome.



## Redundant Keys

Have a rummage in your house drawers for any redundant keys and let Anita Payne have them for Twiddle Mats/Cuffs for people with dementia.

## Shine Church

Luke Denley, the new **Circuit Mission and New Communities Enabler** is meeting anyone who would like to be involved with Shine church going forward. Shine church is the Circuit's offering to Lifted Spirits (a community group hosted at Brierley Hill that offers support to families with children who have special needs). At Shine Church occasional services are offered including crafts and food, enabling up to 25 children with special needs and their families to come together for an act of worship at Brierley Hill Methodist Church. **If anyone from the circuit would like to be involved, please email [vosmance@outlook.com](mailto:vosmance@outlook.com) or ring 07460 795378.** The next service for Shine Church will be held on the 15th April 10:00-11:30.



**Circuit Concert - Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> - 7pm  
at SMC - New Road**  
**Come and join a scratch choir to sing 'Solomon  
the Peaceful King'**

Rev Alan and the team invite you to attend, enjoy, sing / contribute to a circuit wide concert... Churches / groups are invited to offer an item or two of entertainment! **PLUS, WHY not join the circuit scratch choir** (you don't need to read music but there are parts learn if you do!) to learn and sing the centre piece of the concert: 'Solomon the Peaceful King' by John Pantry. Rehearsals will be on **Sundays 4, 11 & 18 May from 3-5pm at New Road.** Let's make something special together – free entry but an offering in aid of Ukraine. **Please contact Rev Alan direct to let him know church offerings and if you will join the choir...**

([alan.combes@methodist.org.uk](mailto:alan.combes@methodist.org.uk) or 01384 823146)

There are 12 differences between these two pictures of Mary and friends finding the stone rolled away from Jesus's tomb. Can you find them all?



# Rotas

## Foodbank

<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Sue & Brian Bracher	<b>27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Melanie Walters
<b>13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	John Mearman	<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Paula Durrant
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Rod Worthington	<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Jackie Cliff

*Jackie Cliff would always be happy to hear from anyone else who would like to join the Foodbank Rota*

## After service coffee/tea

<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Bob & Edna Drake, Paula Durrant
<b>13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	David & Diane Jones, Celia Miskin
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Into the Light, Jean Whitehouse
<b>27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Jocelyn Arch, Jane Stokes, Esther Homer
<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	David & Diane Jones, Celia Miskin
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Jocelyn Arch, Jane Stokes, Esther Homer

*Diane Jones would always be happy to hear from anyone else who would like to join the after service coffee/tea rota*

## Meet & Greet

<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Ann Mearman, Carol Pearson, Jocelyn Arch
<b>13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Sue Wilson, Sylvia Allaway, Margaret Shuttleworth
<b>20<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Colin & Jennifer Russ, Paula Durrant
<b>27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Edna & Bob Drake, Sue Wilson
<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Ann Mearman, Carol Pearson, Betty Payne
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Diane & Iain Robertson, Margaret Shuttleworth

*Jane Artist would always be happy to hear from anyone else who would like to join the Meet & Greet team*

## Tea Towel Washing

<b>April</b>	Jackie Cliff
<b>May</b>	Paula Durrant

*The Tea Towel washing rota for 2025 is currently complete and on the wall in the kitchen! Thank you to all those who have agreed to serve in this way.*

## April Services

	10:30 am	6:00 pm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Andrew Sankey Holy Communion	
13 <sup>th</sup>	All-age Team All-age worship <b>ItL leading worship from 10am</b>	<b>Circuit Palm Praise</b>
20 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Alan Combes Easter Holy Communion	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Rider Plus KYC activities in the Hall <b>ItL leading worship from 10am</b>	Rev Michael Payne Holy Communion

**13<sup>th</sup> April**

**Circuit Palm Praise – 6pm**

**Stourbridge Methodist Church – New Road**

**Refreshments from 5pm**

***Maundy Thursday – 7pm – Rev Alan Combes***

***Good Friday – 10am – Rev Alan Combes***

***Easter Sunday (additional) - 8am – Rev Alan Combes***

## May Services

	10:30 am	6:00 pm
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Peter Bradley Holy Communion	
11 <sup>th</sup>	All-age Team All-age worship <b>ItL leading worship from 10am</b>	

## Let's end with a Loff.....



On Palm Sunday a five-year old boy had a sore throat and stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked them what they were.

"People held them over Jesus's head as He walked by," his father said.

"Wouldn't you know it," the boy fumed. "The one Sunday I don't go and Jesus shows up!"

## Church Activities & Contacts

**Bible Study** – Mondays @ 7.30pm – In the worship space

Contact: Melanie - 07852 251581 or [walters.m.j@me.com](mailto:walters.m.j@me.com)

**Coffee & Conversation** – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 10am to 12 noon - Hall

Contact: Melanie - 07852 251581 or [walters.m.j@me.com](mailto:walters.m.j@me.com)

**Coffee & Craft** – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays 10.30am to 12 noon – Red Room

Contact: Diane ([diane.robertson@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:diane.robertson@blueyonder.co.uk))

or Jackie ([jackie.cliff@btinternet.com](mailto:jackie.cliff@btinternet.com))

**Feed my Sheep** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays 1pm – Hall

Contact: Megan - 07904 502365 or [megan@ashfam.co.uk](mailto:megan@ashfam.co.uk)

**Into the Light** – Some Fridays @6.30pm – Church

Contact: John - 07811 412355 or [jmearman@hotmail.com](mailto:jmearman@hotmail.com)

**KYC (Young Church)** – Sunday mornings – 10.30am – Church/Hall

Contact: Megan - 07904 502365 or [megan@ashfam.co.uk](mailto:megan@ashfam.co.uk)

**Ladies Friendship Group** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays @2.15pm – Parlour

(plus 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays lunch out) Contact: Joyce - 01384 295122

**Men's Group** – Usually 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays in the evening

Contact: Richard - [richardwalters964@icloud.com](mailto:richardwalters964@icloud.com)

**Playgroup** – Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays – 9.15am to 11.45am

Contact: Vicky - [kfordplaygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:kfordplaygroup@hotmail.com)

**Prayers** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays @ 9am – Parlour or on Zoom

Contact: Melanie - 07852 251581 or [walters.m.j@me.com](mailto:walters.m.j@me.com)

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