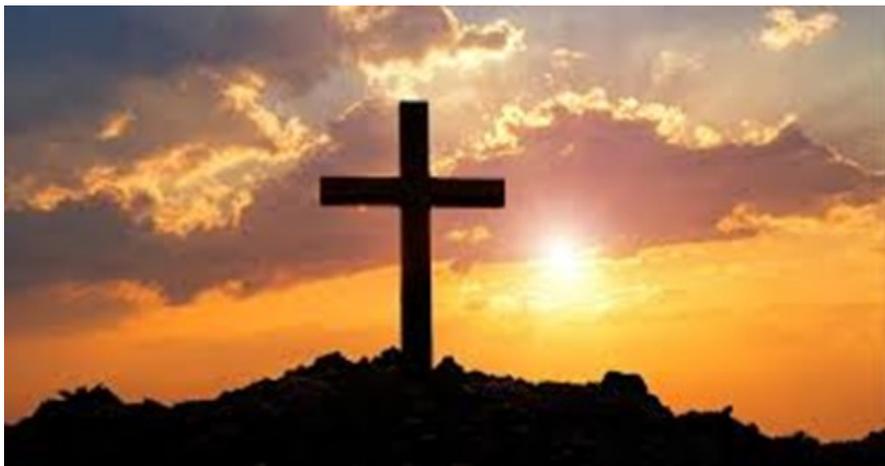


St Andrew's Newsletter



April 2021

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Prayer Fellowship



The March meeting of the Prayer Fellowship was led by Richard Foot using the theme 'Do not believe in those who give false information. Believe in Christ'. We began with a reading from the letters of John containing this instruction. We are well aware these days of false information or 'fake news' that is prevalent in various media in many parts of the world. So believing in Christ, we

followed his example and prayed for situations and people in the news around the world. Nearer home we prayed for church members and others we know who were bereaved, ill in body or mind and for so many who are anxious or lonely in the current pandemic situation. We particularly thought of pupils, students and those teaching them and all the support staff in schools as they prepared for fully reopening schools and higher education.

The next meeting is to be held on **Tuesday 6th April** at 10.30 again by Zoom. For this meeting in Easter week the leader will be Rev Malcolm Braddy who has chosen the theme '**Resurrection Joy**'. You are very welcome to join us on Zoom or to connect by phone. Otherwise you may wish to pray alongside us at home.

Enid

February 2021 Offerings

Standing Orders	£ 1947.00
Cash & cheques	£ <u>449.00</u>
Total	£ 2396.00

Pat

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2: 5)

This comes from a Bible passage to consider carefully in Holy Week, Good Friday and then on through the Easter Season. St Paul was writing to the Christians at Philippi, telling them to behave towards one another in the way that Jesus behaved. We should live in the way that Jesus lived. God has seen how Jesus humbled himself, even to the shame of dying on a cross, and therefore God has raised Jesus to the point where every person on earth and in heaven can honour him as God.

Over the last year we have become accustomed to seeing graphs about coronavirus on the news. Some of us have the heart-wrenching feeling of knowing that a friend or a loved one (or sadly several) make up the “spike” on the graph. All of us look for and pray for a downward trend and for the excess deaths to be eliminated.

Science, medicine, painstaking care, public policy, communities and individuals have to work together to achieve this, and we are not there yet. We have to keep special measures and everyone recognises this is getting tougher as time goes on.

Imagine, though, what Paul writes to the Philippians here, as a graph on a page. The axis from bottom to top of the page is power and authority. The axis across from left to right is time. Our graph starts at a point up on the left side because Jesus is God. The line sweeps down as he becomes a human, and even touches the bottom as Jesus dies on the cross. After this, though, the line rises steeply again, as God endorses what Jesus has done, and gives him acclaim in heaven, so that all can regard Jesus as Lord God. The line you imagine on the graph might be something like a tick or a deep V. (Think of a tick as God saying Yes, or a V for God’s victory.)

May Paul’s re-telling of Jesus’ story be in our minds through this month, not just as we follow the events of Easter in Church. Paul urges us to be like Christ in the way of humble service.

Since March 2020 we have already given up much of what we previously regarded as normal in life – freely mixing with loved

ones and friends, travelling, haircuts, shopping and sport. We have even stopped worshipping God together, expressing ourselves in song, fellowship and hospitality. As a people we have been humbled. Most of us, not just Christians, have taken the constraints on our freedom with good grace, with ingenious adaptation and generous reaching out to others whose circumstances seem worse than our own.

After 12 months of denying our interests because there is a greater good, we probably feel quite near to the bottom of that curve on the graph. Beyond Spring, we are ready for Summer and all its new possibilities. Christians are like everyone else in this.

However, if we are to follow in the way of Christ, we have a responsibility to keep to the path of humility and self-restraint. None of us can know the full picture which would help us to make our own decisions. We must pray for those who lead us, that they will take advice from a wide range of people and act with wisdom and compassion. Meanwhile each of us can continue doing what we can, in our daily work, by voluntary effort, as good neighbours and in contributing to Church life.

Although we face more than another month away from our Church building there is much to do in furthering God's mission in the city centre. We can keep reminding ourselves that Jesus is Lord. The tick, the V shape is already there, written with God's purest love. That is the message of Easter. It is good news to remember in times like this.

Sometimes we can't see that very clearly. Ask only for vision and strength to live this day, trusting in God's greater purposes. Reach out to those around us, to love our neighbours in the way that Jesus loves. And when we need to, call out to Jesus who has suffered before us and bears the scars in heaven.

Because there is good news for all time and for every place, in Jesus, by his life and death and resurrection, I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Helen

Philippians 2:5 - 11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Bible Study - All Welcome

Dates: Tuesday 6th April and 20th April

Time: 19.30

Each session is led by Rev Dr Israel Selvanayagam, and stands alone (not a formal course). Please enquire with Israel if you wish to attend, to be given the special Zoom codes.

St Andrew's Easter Services

Thursday 1st April (Maundy Thursday)

20.15 Service of Tenebrae (Shadows) Passion Readings and Candles – with St Nicholas and led by Rev Rosie and Rev Helen (**on Zoom**)

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday)

10.30 Service of Passion readings, pictures and hymns (**on Zoom**)

Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday)

8.00 Rev Helen Caine Holy Communion (**IN CHURCH**)

10.30 Celebration service and Love Feast Rev Helen Caine (**On Zoom**)



Holy Week Services at St Nicholas 2021



28th March Palm Sunday

10.30 Churchyard

Mon 29th - Sat 3rd April

6.30 Sunrise Prayer (Zoom)

Mon 29th - Wed 31st

19.30 Evening Prayer (Zoom)

1st April Maundy Thursday

18.30 Meal with Holy Communion under the Yew Tree

20.15 Tenebrae Service led by Rev Rosie and Rev
Helen (Zoom)

2nd April Good Friday

14.15 In the Churchyard. At the foot of the Cross led by
Rev Helen and Rev Diane

4th April Easter Sunday

In the Churchyard 10.30 All Age Worship

CHURCH SERVICES

All services are on Zoom (Except 8.00am Easter Sunday) and will use the same Zoom ID, which can be obtained by email from Rev Helen Caine by sending an email, or making a phone call, as you can join the Zoom itself by ordinary phone without a computer or Wi-Fi. Please see page 12 for further details on Zoom services.

Sunday 28th March

10.30 Rev Helen Caine

Thursday 1st April (Maundy Thursday)

20.15 Service of Prayer and Reflection with friends from St Nicholas

Friday 2nd April (Good Friday)

10.30 Service of Passion readings, pictures and hymns

Sunday 4th April (Easter Sunday)

8.00 Rev Helen Caine Communion IN CHURCH

10.30 Rev Helen Caine ON ZOOM

Sunday 11th April

10.30 Philile Mbatha

18.00 Café Church Pastor Thomas Guenther and German friends, with Robert Lewin-Jones

Sunday 18th April

10.30 Rev Helen Caine followed by Annual Church meeting on Zoom

Sunday 25th April

10.30 Rev Dr Israel Selvanayagam

Sunday 2nd May

10.30 Rev Mary Austin with a Love Feast

Welcome Wednesday – sadly cannot resume this month.



The Methodist Church

Birmingham District

Probably the last service will be held on 18th April, with a Racial Justice theme. The team who have worked so hard to put this together, will be working on a new project, to offer worship to people who do not otherwise have contact with churches, using new and fresh language and ideas. Those members of the District who have joined in the District Services are encouraged to look out for online worship from their Circuit – and there are recorded services on YouTube from Droitwich every week, as well as most weeks from Bromyard Road/Ombersley Road. Malvern Churches, like St Andrew's, put their morning zoom services on YouTube in the afternoons.

Easter – where does the name come from?

In most languages, the name of the festival of the resurrection of Christ is derived from the Greek word 'Pascha', from the Hebrew 'Pesach', meaning 'Passover' (for example 'Paques' in French). In English, we have the term 'paschal lamb', but we don't have a word for the season derived from this root. In Germanic languages (and English) the name of the season is of a different origin. So where does it come from?

Well, let's start with some places it *doesn't* come from.

- Easter Ross (and Wester Ross) are parts of the old county of Ross & Cromarty in northern Scotland. The name is concerned with a geographical direction, not a time of year.
- Easter Island, famous for its remoteness and its maori (statues), was so named because it was first visited by Europeans (an expedition led by the Dutchman Jacob Roggeveen) on Easter Sunday 1722. The indigenous people currently call it Rapa Nui, although this name may be of fairly recent origin (post European contact).
- Good Easter and High Easter are villages in Essex, and their names are derived from an Old English word for a sheepfold.

So where does our word 'Easter' come from?

Apparently Eostre (or Ostara) was a west Germanic spring goddess, and Bede writes that the month of April was named for her. Pre-Christian pagans celebrated spring (or at least the vernal equinox) at this time of year, and the name of the celebrations was carried over into the Christian calendar, in the same way that the Christmas season is sometimes referred to as 'yuletide'.

Spring is a season of new life, and Easter celebrates the restoration of life, so Easter eggs and chicks follow on from this.

The Easter bunny is a much more recent invention. Originally a hare, it is first recorded among the early Lutherans in Germany, and was supposed to deliver Easter eggs to children who had been good (but not to those who hadn't). Another link to Christmas, and Santa's 'naughty list'.

Still, it doesn't matter what we call the festival: the important thing is what we remember at this time.

Pete

Diary dates via Zoom

All meetings are via Zoom. If you can't access this, you can join by phone – ordinary landline, local charges apply. All Zoom links will be provided to relevant people, and for open meetings, please speak to Rev Helen Caine. All these meetings are by Zoom.

Saturday Coffee Every Week

10.30 – 12.30 ON THE SAME ZOOM ID AND PASSWORD EVERY WEEK – please ask Helen Caine for the details.

Wednesdays

19.30 Prayer time until 20.00 All welcome. Please check with Helen for this Zoom ID as it will change some weeks.

Tuesday 6th April

10.30 Prayer Fellowship led by Rev Malcolm Braddy with the theme 'Resurrection Joy' See page 3 for details.

Sunday 18th April

Annual Church meeting on Zoom after the worship

Saturday 24th April

Representative synod on Zoom

Tuesday 27th April

19.30 for 19.45 Circuit JPIT Meeting on Zoom



**FREE phone lines for prayers
and news from the Methodist
Church**

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to news: 0808 281 2478

**Content is updated weekly on Thursday
afternoon**

**Listen to a pastoral message from the
President and Vice President of
Conference: 0808 281 2695**

Content updated every Monday



ST ANDREW'S SERVICES ON ZOOM

Now that (thanks to Carolyn and Hannah) we are able to record and post the recordings on Facebook and YouTube, it means that the services can potentially reach more people. Some people have been telling their friends, so don't hesitate to do the same. It is being recognised that it is much easier for a person to take a quick look in on a Church service online than it is to walk into a church building. At St Andrew's we know that difficulty, but now we do have something to offer. The attendance has been a high proportion of those who would have attended Church in person. From 23rd May we shall be returning to worship in Church (unless prevented by Covid legislation) and look forward to welcoming people back into the building for gathered worship, albeit with some restrictions in place. If it is technically possible these services will be available on YouTube and Facebook afterwards.

I do encourage you to try Zoom, and ask for help if you are considering this. Also, you can join by phone – as several people are now doing – and you can hear everything.

If none of these works for you, the audio files will still be available.

All our services are compiled with the intention that they will be recorded. Only those who take part by reading, preaching etc will be seen on the recording, as other people can see but not be seen.

If you want the Zoom numbers or for a link to be sent to you, please contact Helen, or pass on the stewards' contact email (stewards.standrews@gmail.com), and someone will be in touch. We ought not to make these details public.

All our Sunday services can be found after Sunday afternoon on YouTube with one click on the link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5H5o5mgUVbvOO3QRY9Dmqw> or send an email to stewards.standrews@gmail.com to be sent the link.

Helen

OPENING UP THE CHURCH

Under the Government's Road Map the Church is now ready to take bookings for the use of the Hall (capacity 24), the smaller rooms (10 people each) and the Church (50 people). For once we may be glad we have a large venue, which can accommodate people keeping 2 metres apart. The Church has a risk assessment and asks to see the organisation's own risk assessment, and of course they have to take part in the Government's Test and Trace programme.

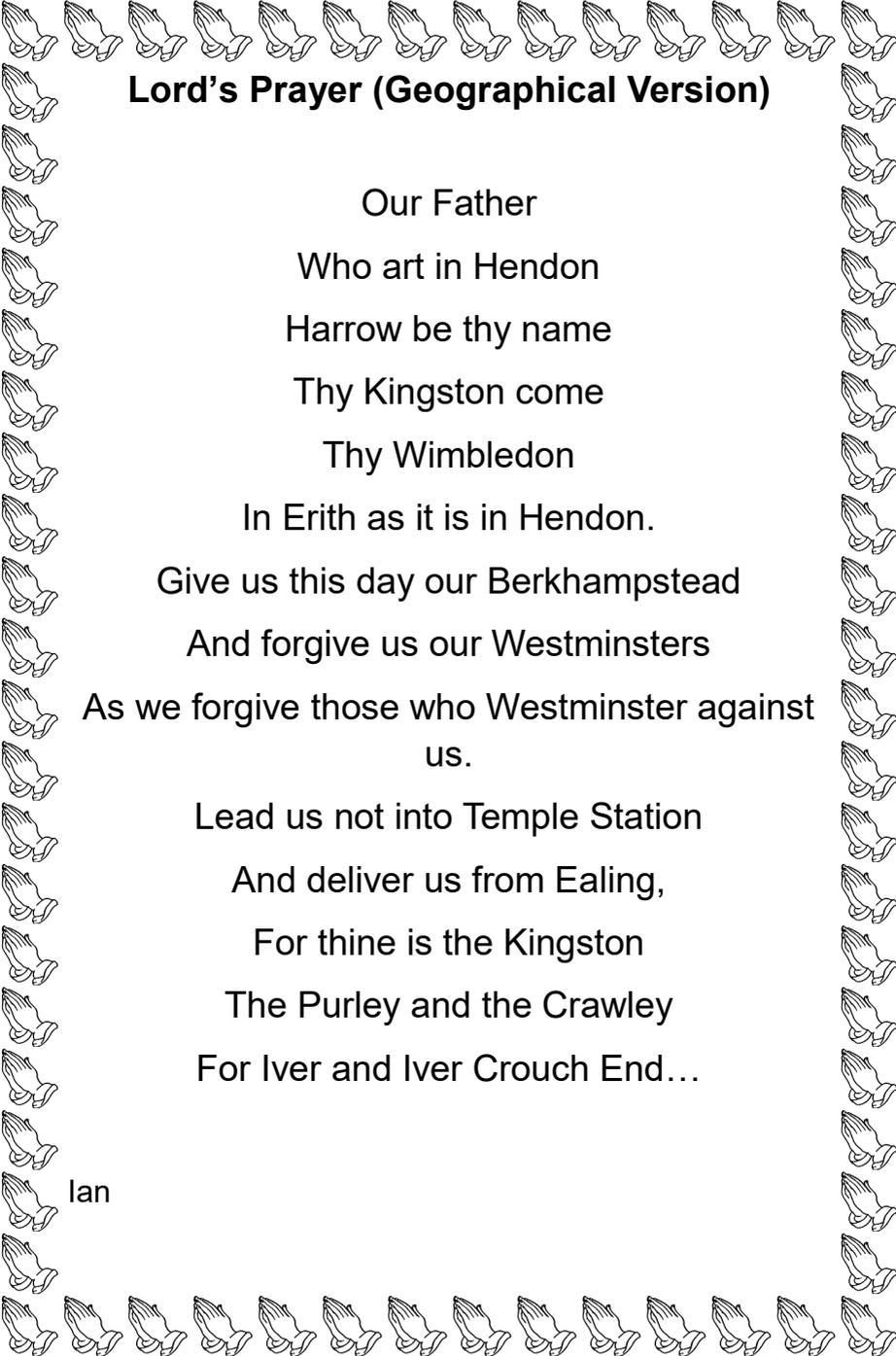
You may use the QR Code at the entrance to the building OR the entrance to the Hall.

Because this is organised activity, with its risk assessments we are subject to different requirements to the "Rule of 6".

Places of Worship are also currently subject to different requirements.

Of course there may yet be changes, but in the meantime, anyone interested in booking the Church should contact Christine on bookingsworcester.standrews@gmail.com





Lord's Prayer (Geographical Version)

Our Father

Who art in Hendon

Harrow be thy name

Thy Kingston come

Thy Wimbledon

In Erith as it is in Hendon.

Give us this day our Berkhamstead

And forgive us our Westminster

As we forgive those who Westminster against
us.

Lead us not into Temple Station

And deliver us from Ealing,

For thine is the Kingston

The Purley and the Crawley

For Iver and Iver Crouch End...

Ian

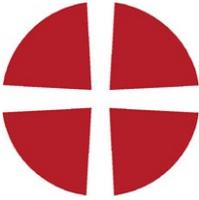
Eileen's bulbs



Ode to the spell checker

Eye have a spelling checker
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight 4 it 2 say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew!

Spotted and submitted by Vanessa



The Methodist Conference

PREPARING FOR THE POSSIBILITY

Birmingham 2021 24th June – 1st July

Please volunteer if you are able for the following roles

Steward

Helpdesk

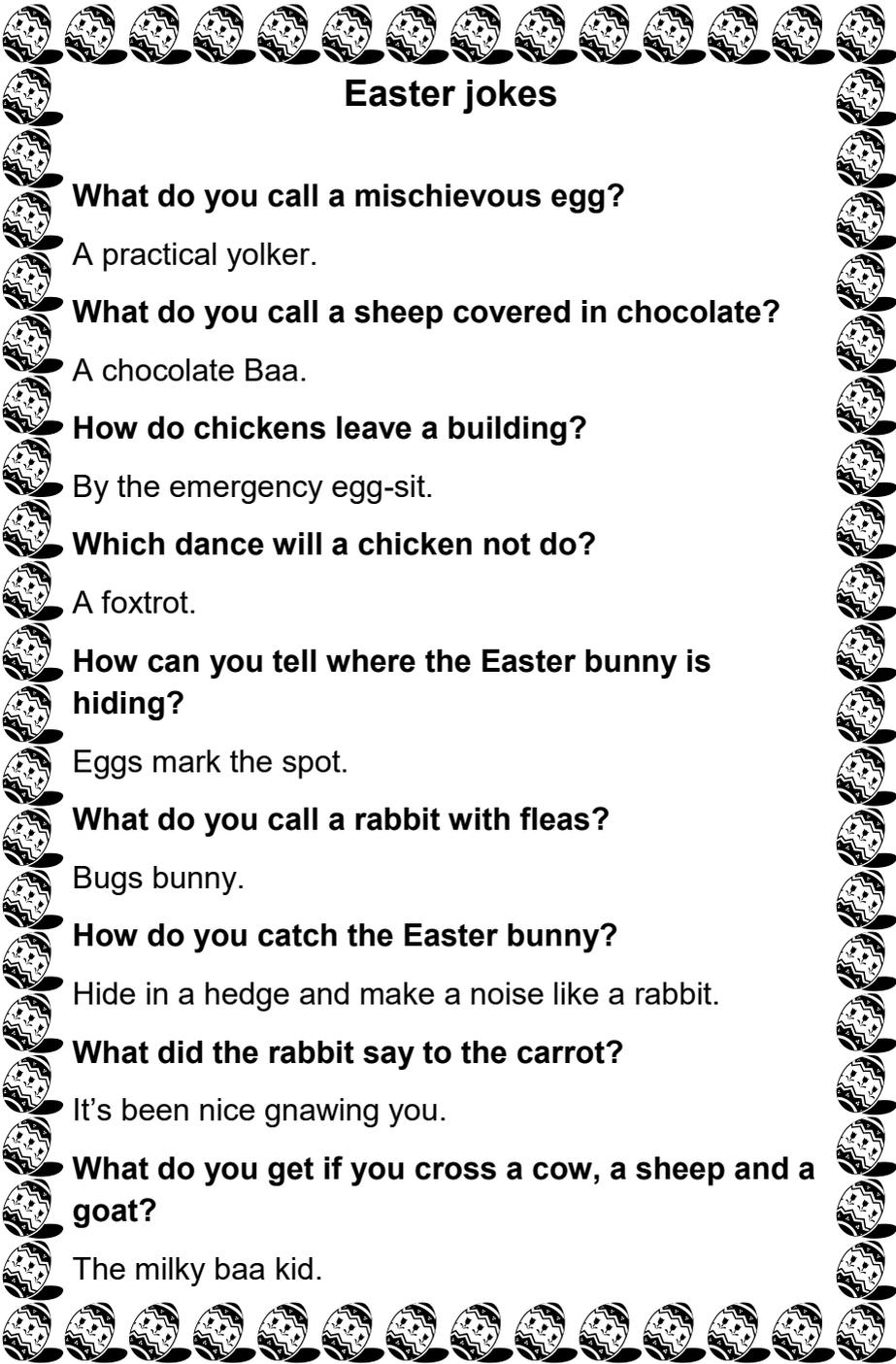
Collation and paper distribution

Creche

Please make initial contact with The District Office

Email office@birminghammethodist.org.uk

PREPARING FOR THE POSSIBILITY
Going forward in Faith ...Keeping Safe



Easter jokes

What do you call a mischievous egg?

A practical yolker.

What do you call a sheep covered in chocolate?

A chocolate Baa.

How do chickens leave a building?

By the emergency egg-sit.

Which dance will a chicken not do?

A foxtrot.

How can you tell where the Easter bunny is hiding?

Eggs mark the spot.

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

Bugs bunny.

How do you catch the Easter bunny?

Hide in a hedge and make a noise like a rabbit.

What did the rabbit say to the carrot?

It's been nice gnawing you.

What do you get if you cross a cow, a sheep and a goat?

The milky baa kid.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE JAMES

Based on his son Paul's tribute at the Thanksgiving Service live-streamed from Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church.

Some people will have read a detailed article in the Worcester News about George's War Service in the Normandy Landings, for which he was eventually awarded the Legion D'honneur. After D Day, having walked (as he later said) half way across Europe, he was wounded near the German border with the Netherlands. When he was released from hospital, after rehabilitation, he was sent to serve in Palestine as part of the peace-keeping force. George was so traumatised by his war service when he was a young man of 19 that he never spoke of it, until 1986 after his first wife Evelyn died, and he poured out the story to Paul. Between 2017 and 2020 he wrote his memoirs, which Paul entitled, "Fanfare for the Common Man".

George was born in December 1924 in Ely, Cambridgeshire, the youngest of four siblings, the son of a wheelwright. He attended March Grammar School (a little ahead of Lionel W!). At 14 he was making cartwheels, then became a messenger boy, and at 18 joined the infantry.

George always has a "quiet gentlemanly manner, with a calmness about him". Paul said he admired that his father never once despised those who abused the privileges for which he had fought. He was a kind, generous, thoughtful, caring man. A real human being. A person of complete integrity, and a sincere Christian, someone from whom goodness shone.

After the War he was articled as a Civil Engineer, and progressed in this field to Highways Engineer, with great determination. He married Evelyn in 1952. George exchanged military for public service. He gave time, attention and skills to Scout Groups, and designed many of their buildings across the county. He was a founder member of Victim Support Worcester, belonged to Round Table and Freemasons.

He long outlived his siblings, and became a solid rock to his nephews, "a hero and an inspiration." He was "a hard act to

follow”, for his son.

He was a good friend to Worcester Circuit and the Methodist Churches, in many ways, using his professional skills, for example designing the Welcome Area at Lansdowne Crescent. He served as a Property Steward at St Andrew’s for many years, and his name is on many documents held in the archives. He is fondly remembered for his many comedy roles with the Lychgate Players.

In 1989 he married Doris at St Andrew’s, and in retirement they moved to Malvern. Together they enjoyed time with their large family, and the garden. Towards the end, George’s strength and determination kept him going, along with the devoted support of Doris.

Two hymns were sung at the service, “Great is thy faithfulness” and “How great Thou art”. Prayers were led by Rev John Morris, Doris’s son. The Last Post was played in full as the coffin was carried from the Church.



St. Andrew's Mission Fund **Reminder**

Dear Friends,

Now it is time to write, as I usually do to appeal for the St. Andrew's Mission Fund.

This was set up some years ago to enable St. Andrew's members to contribute to the various mission funds, by making a single donation. This is intended to avoid the congregation being approached in quick succession by people asking on behalf of various different Methodist causes (although there is agreement to make emergency appeals throughout the year).

The scheme is flexible and you can contribute in different ways.

Either make a donation to the Mission Fund itself, which will then be divided according to the proportions decided by Church Council, which are recommended as:-

All We Can	30%
Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons	10%
Mission in Britain	15%
World Mission of the Methodist Church	30%
MHA	15%

Or you can specify how much you would wish to give to any or all of the funds included in this scheme. The pro-forma attached helps you to allocate money as you wish.

Information about these funds is on the next page and you are encouraged to look at the various websites.

Gift Aid: If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration, we can recover 25p for every £1 which you give, this extra income will be apportioned to the funds according to your wishes.

To contribute to the Fund, please complete the slip on page 28 and send your donation to the Church Treasurer, Pat Lander, making cheques payable to St Andrew's Methodist Church.

Notes on the good causes supported by the Fund.

ALL WE CAN (Methodist relief and development)

All We Can works through partnerships to end the cycle of suffering caused by poverty, inequality and injustice.

They support and strengthen local partners – organisations, churches and emerging initiatives that share their vision and values - to implement effective solutions for people living in some of the world's poorest and least served communities.

They respond to humanitarian crises and engage in advocacy and education to tackle some of the systemic causes of poverty.

The Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons

The Fund provides for the Support of Supernumerary ministers, those becoming supernumerary and their widows and widowers.

To cover major repairs to property and other major expenditure.

Nursing and residential care etc.

It also provides funds to cover acute, emergency financial need and other expenditure to enable ministers to sustain or return to active ministry.

The fund is also available to assist towards top-up for residential care.

Mission in Britain Fund

Mission in Britain is an essential part of the One Mission of the Methodist Church in Britain. It enables Mission Alongside the Poor, Ministering opportunities at Methodist Heritage Sites, Chaplaincy and Sharing the gospel with all ages.

The World Mission Fund

The World Mission Fund supports projects and individuals around the world. These include Mission Appointments, Mission Partners, Fund for Mission in Europe, Scholarship and Leadership Training and grants for World Church Partners.

M.H.A. (Methodist Homes)

M.H.A. is a charity providing care, accommodation and support services for more than 16,000 older people throughout Britain. Their Mission is to improve the quality of life of older people, inspired by Christian concern.

Yours,

Michael Vine, on behalf of the Resources Committee.



To Michael Vine, I enclose my donation as follows:

Either - The St. Andrew's Mission Fund (apportioned by Church Council)

£

OR

All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development Fund) £

Fund for Support of Presbyters and Deacons £

Mission in Britain Fund £

The World Mission Fund £

MHA (Methodist Homes) £

Name (Please print)

Date

(If you have not already signed a Gift Aid Declaration and are willing to do so, please tick here and the Gift Aid Secretary will be asked to contact you.

Spring photos

Daffodil - from the bulbs Helen distributed



Garden in Pershore



Easter hymns quiz

Hymn lines to do with the Easter season – but what is the first line of each hymn? Not all of them are normally associated with Easter

1. And in the garden secretly / and on the cross on high
2. Died he for me, who caused his pain
3. Empty the tomb, for He was free
4. From death he rose; and all his foes shall own his name
5. Go to your cross of wood
6. He bled and died to take away my sin
7. He died that we might be forgiven
8. No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life
9. Paschal lamb, by God appointed
10. Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen
11. Renewed by thy Spirit, redeemed by thy Son
12. Saving, redeeming at measureless cost
13. The cross he bore is life and health
14. The cross stands empty to the sky
15. The scars that speak of sacrifice
16. Then 'Crucify' / is all their breath
17. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone
18. Who yielded his life in atonement for sin
19. With his own blood he bought her
20. Your last and fiercest strife is nigh



PRIVACY AND USE OF PERSONAL DATA

Please be aware that this Newsletter can be distributed far and wide. If your full name appears in this Newsletter you should have given your agreement for your name to be in the public domain. In the meantime, I am using first names.

Helen Caine

“There your heart will be: Essays in Faith and Literature” Gordon Leah

Paperback 242 pages

Published by Newbold Academic Press

Price: £14.50

CHOICE RADIO

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friends, relatives**

or just for yourselves phone/text:-

07999 370772

during my shows –

Tuesdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Wednesdays 10.00am – 12 noon

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Saturdays 10.00am – 12 noon



WHO WE ARE

A gathered Methodist
Congregation in the City Centre.
We extend a warm and
welcoming hand of friendship
and fellowship to all.

HOW TO FIND US

St Andrew's Methodist Church

Pump Street Worcester WR1
2QT

www.standrewsworcester.org.uk

Facebook : St Andrew's Methodist Church Worcester

Minister: Rev. Helen Caine 01905 767025

Please e-mail items for this newsletter to:
standrews50.news@gmail.com

Or pass onto one of the production team: Carolyn
(editor) with support from Vanessa and Jacky.

Deadline for May 2021 issue: April 23rd 2021

