**Wrenbury & Nantwich Mission Area Methodist Churches** 

**Newsletter No 52 2 April 2021**

This is the week in the church calendar when so much happens, when it’s important to journey through the week and its events and not just go from the hosannas of Palm Sunday to the resurrection of Easter Sunday.

This is likely to be a “bumper edition” including a short act of worship for Good Friday and the following Sunday 11th to give us a short break from producing and distributing the newsletter for a week, so please hang on to this week’s for a little longer than normal.

One of my favourite “Holy Week” songs is the Servant King written by Kendrick in 1984 for “Spring Harvest” (which I happened to attend), specifically for the theme they were focusing on: “The Servant King” which in it’s self is contrary. The words can be a great focus for reflection during Holy Week:

From heaven you came helpless babe,  
Entered our world, your glory veiled  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give Your life that we might live.

***This is our God, The Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to The Servant King.***

There in the garden of tears  
My heavy load he chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn  
'Yet not My will but Yours, ' He said.

Come, see His hands and His feet:  
The scars that speak of sacrifice,  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve, And in our lives enthrone him, Each other’s needs to prefer, For it is Christ we’re serving.

At the beginning of this Holy Week, there feels a mood change, the hours of daylight are increasing, the sun is shining, an optimism as lockdown restrictions begin to be eased and more people receiving the vaccine. Some of us are beginning to plan journeys to visit family and friends, even a holiday.

Holy Week is the week Jesus prepares for his final journey to the cross, knowing that it will entail great pain and cost. He wants to spend time with those close to him. It was at Simon’s house in Bethany that a woman approached him carrying an alabaster jar, filled with expensive perfume. The woman poured it over Jesus’ head whilst he was eating. She was chastised by those present for being so wasteful, when the oil could have been sold and money given to the poor. Her extravagant generosity was her sacrificial offering to God. Doesn’t God deserve the very best from us, not just our leftovers? On Maundy Thursday we remember how Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, that we now remember to be his “Last Supper “

The words above remind us that our very lives should be a daily offering, not just one hour on a Sunday, or the money we put on the collection plate. Our words, actions, time and resources should be given as a daily offering to serve others.

Sharing food and breaking bread was an important part of Jesus’ ministry, providing a relaxed, natural way to share, learn and worship together as friends and strangers gathered around tables. I know eating together is something many people are longing for. I’m sure there will be many picnics over the next few weeks in gardens and outdoor spaces.

I wonder how many of us have planned a meal knowing it will be the last time we will see someone. Perhaps family or friends moving away or someone at the end of life. There must be a whole realm of emotions happening from deep sadness, to anger to thankfulness for the opportunity. I wonder how Jesus felt, making small talk over the meal, knowing that he would be betrayed by a “friend”.

Death isn’t something we can avoid. We’ve all been touched by it at some point. We can’t make a pact with God that if we believe in him we’ll have an easy life, with no pain or suffering. Grief is painful and real, something that must be lived with and marked. Last week we were encouraged to remember all the lives lost to Covid on the first year anniversary. Mourners need spaces and places to mark the passing of their loved ones.

In the garden of Gethsemane (which means crushed olives - crushed olives produce oil that heals) Jesus prepared himself and his followers for what lay ahead: his passing. “His heart with sorrow was torn”. All those who have lost loved ones may still feel torn and angry, and cheated that they have not been able to mark their passing appropriately, and still struggling to find ways to mark their passing with meaning in the current circumstances.

In this week Jesus was betrayed and denied by his close followers. When he asked his close friends to stay with him to pray, they fell asleep. Have there been times you have been let down by family/friends/church in your hour of need? It’s inevitable: we’re all human and fall short of the mark, we make mistakes.

We’re reminded of the scars of sacrifice that Jesus bore. To sacrifice is to surrender something of value as a means of gaining something. Good Friday marks God’s ultimate sacrifice for us, the giving of his beloved son to die so that we may have a relationship with our Heavenly Father. We’re mindful of the sacrifices many have made in this pandemic year - scarred hands through the constant sanitising of the hands of front line workers, parents and teachers trying to home school, time in isolation or away from family to keep others safe, delivery drivers and shop staff keeping shelves stacked for our benefit…..

But after the pain, the sorrow, the sacrifice we look forward to Easter Sunday, which brings the promise of hope. That death is not the end, that because of Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice we have the promise of eternal life, but there is a cost of getting to that place.

God has a call on each of our lives, for our daily offering of worship and service. Do we know what that means? Do we know God’s call on our lives?

As Jesus was facing his most challenging time preparing himself, his friends and followers for his death, he teaches us that we must love one another and love God. We belong together, we need one another to be in fellowship and community.

I pray that as you journey to the cross you will experience the joy and hope of the resurrection to come.

**Every Blessing, *Deacon Jill***



**Maundy Thursday** 1st April

**3.0Opm Communion Service**

in chapel, led by Rev Malcolm Lorimer

*For those isolating extended communion and a service can be brought to your home for you to receive the elements later in the afternoon / evening.*

If you would like extended communion to be delivered, please contact Jen Bourne or

Deacon Jill 618872

**For the following acts of worship you will need to use your own Bible:**

**printing every passage in full as usual would make the newsletter impossibly long.**

**Good Friday – 2nd April**

**Opening Prayer**

Holy God, as we come to worship you, help us to remember that, though apart, we belong to your church, your people, your world, we are not alone. Draw us together by your Spirit as we worship. Amen.

**Hymn*:* My song is love unknown**

**(StF 277)**

My song is love unknown,

my Saviour's love to me,

love to the loveless shown,

that they might lovely be.

O who am I, that for my sake

my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne

salvation to bestow;

but they made strange, and none

the longed-for Christ would know.

But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,

who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way

and his sweet praises sing;

resounding all the day

hosannas to their King.

Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,

and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done?

What makes this rage and spite?

He made the lame to run,

he gave the blind their sight.

Sweet injuries! Yet they at these

themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have

my dear Lord made away;

a murderer they save,

the Prince of Life they slay.

Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,

that he his foes from thence might free.

In life no house, no home,

my Lord on earth might have;

in death, no friendly tomb

but what a stranger gave.

What may I say? Heaven was his home;

but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing

no story so divine:

never was love, dear King,

never was grief like thine!

This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise

I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (c. 1624-1683)

**Let us pray together:**

Almighty God,

your Son Jesus Christ

endured the cross for our sake.

Remove from us all coldness and cowardice of heart, and give us courage

to take up our cross and follow him;

through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Methodist Worship Book, *Collect for Good Friday,* p.538)

**Today’s Gospel Reading:**

**John 18:1 - 19:42**

***(You may wish to read this passage from John’s Gospel all at once or throughout the day as you reflect on the events of Good Friday).***

**Time to Reflect** –

**Jesus is condemned to death**

*Imagine yourself in the midst of the crowd beginning to shout for Jesus’ crucifixion as you read and reflect:*

“Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord…” That had been the cry of the crowd as he entered Jerusalem, celebrating, triumphal, excited, hopeful. How could so much change in so little time? (The crowd shouts “*Crucify him*.”)

Yet some whispered that Jesus had known and even said that he would be put to death. Arrested in a garden, beaten, blind-folded, brought before the religious authorities and all the might of the Roman Empire. He stood before Pilate, who asked what crime he had committed. Had his crime been loving too much? Or healing the sick? Or telling stories that changed people’s lives? Had his crime been welcoming the stranger or eating with the unpopular? Or was it his criticism of the established order? His popularity? Annoying the religious authorities? Threatening the status quo? *(“Crucify him.”)*

“Why, what evil has he done?” – the question on Pilate’s lips that none could answer. How could these things be punishable by agonising nails through flesh, robbing him of all humanity, to face the death of a criminal? And yet the cry began to be heard… *(“Crucify him.”).*

What had Jesus done that was deserving of death? Nothing. *(“Crucify him.”)*

Yet Barabbas, a murderer, a criminal, a dangerous man, goes free? *(“Crucify him.”).*

I wonder what our place in that crowd would have been? *(“Crucify him.”)*

Would we have shouted crucify him along with them? Would we have been drawn into the hype, the frenzy, the fear? Looking for a scapegoat, someone to blame? Would we have been frightened of speaking against this injustice? (“*Crucify him*.”)

I wonder how do we respond to the injustices of our world today? When we encounter poverty, discrimination, division, hurt, homelessness, hunger, how do we respond? How will we respond? Will we collude with the crowd or will we speak out in the name of love?

**Take a time to sit quietly***.*

*You may wish to listen to a piece of quiet music or simply be still.*

**A time of prayer**

*In our time of prayer there is an opportunity to bring before God the things on our hearts and minds using the following themes:*

Holy God, we come to you today with our

prayers:

We pray for our world…

We pray for the Church…

We pray for all those striving for justice…

We pray for those suffering with COVID-19

and its effects…

We pray for those grieving the loss of loved

ones…

We pray for those we know and love who

need our prayers…

We offer all our prayers in and through the name of our living Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father ……

**Hymn: Jesus, remember me (StF 777)**

Jesus, remember me

when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me

when you come into your kingdom.

Taize Community

**Closing Prayer**

Holy God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help us to see and know your love for us fully expressed here.

Crucified Christ, we draw near with awe to this holy place of Calvary; here you transformed evil into the victory of love, and violence into the victory of peace. On this painful and mysterious day, accept our thanks for the cost of all you endured, and give us the courage to stay with you until it is finished.

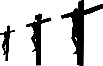
We wait, we watch for the hope that defies despair, the life that defies death, the beginning that defies the end. Amen.

*Original Materials by Rev Miriam Moul*

*All Hymns reproduced under CCLi 155789*



***Broomhall & Sound Chapel***

**Good Friday 2nd April** 

**11am Outdoor Reflections**

led by Rev Andrew Taylor

**7.30pm Zoom Reflections**

led by Rev Andrew Taylor

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82976672769?pwd=aG9pSjMvR3dzaDJaZlFkcnduSmFTZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 7667 2769

Passcode: 366121

***Aston Chapel***

**2.15pm Service** led by

Jenny & David Smith

***Churches Together in Nantwich***

**Good Friday service - 11am.**

YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqs71fls5MndNGLdXYaiS_g> from 11am.

Followed by an opportunity to gather online via Zoom: Topic: Good Friday CTiN

Time: Apr 2, 2021 11:00 AM London

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920146187?pwd=NWtFNUY5azBrUTlVU0xBaVhIeW9DQT09>

**Meeting ID**: 829 2014 6187 **Passcode:** 950024

**Easter Day, 4th April**

**Remember to have your Bible to hand.**

**Opening Prayer**

*In silence, read John 20:1 then pray quietly, with growing confidence:*

After the agony of the cross, Lord Jesus you are here.

After the desolation of the grave, Lord Jesus you are here.

After your triumphant bursting from the tomb, Lord Jesus you are here.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

Christ the Lord is risen today;

Alleluia!

All creation joins to say:

Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high;

Alleluia!

Sing, you heavens; let earth, reply:

Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done,

Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won;

Alleluia!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;

Alleluia!

Christ has burst the gates of hell:

Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King;

Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting?

Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save;

Alleluia!

Where's your victory, boasting grave?

Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led,

Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head;

Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise;

Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies:

Alleluia!

King of Glory! Soul of bliss!

Alleluia!

Everlasting life is this,

Alleluia!

You to know, your power to prove,

Alleluia!

Thus to sing, and thus to love:

Alleluia!

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

**Let us pray together**.

O Lord God, Eternal Creator, you dwell in the hearts of all who worship you today. We praise and thank you for raising Jesus from the dead and setting us free to worship and adore you. To you belongs all the honour!

Jesus Christ, Merciful Saviour, you meet us when we turn to you. On that first Easter morning you rose from the grave to conquer sin and death for ever. To you belongs all the glory!

Holy Spirit, Divine Presence, you are the very Breath of Life. We receive the peace of the risen Christ as did those first disciples in the Upper Room. To you belongs all the praise!

*Pause*

O God, the Three-in-One, we confess that our lives have been full of death and hate instead of life and love. Forgive us our sins, and strengthen in us all that is good.

*Pause*

As we receive your assurance of forgiveness, you fill us afresh with love and life, compelling us to pour them out into the lives of others. Amen.

**Today’s Reading - Acts 10: 34-43**

**Today’s Gospel Reading - John 20:1-18**

**Time to Reflect**

Have you heard? Easter’s cancelled – they found the body! So joked my barber to me, with reassuring annual regularity, but always leading on to a surprisingly deep conversation about the impact of Christ’s resurrection on the worldwide church.

Those women first, and then the disciples, had far more world-shattering news to share. Have you heard? Death is cancelled – Jesus is alive again! This time they weren’t joking.

Without question, the resurrection of Jesus was the one event that blew apart all time and space, resetting clocks and calendars, returning us in that early morning garden to a very reset of Creation.

The empty tomb turned timid, fearful disciples into fearless proclaimers of the Gospel. Have you heard? Jesus is alive – and living in your heart!

How does Christ’s resurrection help you to face death today?

“Every Sunday is Easter Sunday”

– why might people say that?

**Take a time to sit quietly.**

**A time of prayer**

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;*

*Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

On this Easter Day, we remember those who have gone before us to glory. May we, like them, inherit your eternal kingdom.

We pray for all who are fearful today: people living alone; people who have endured great trials; people who are scared for each new day. Come among them and breathe your resurrection peace.

We pray for your worldwide church, united today in joyful acclamation of the risen Christ. May we, your church, daily witness to the life of the risen Christ in our own lives through our love for God, self and neighbour.

We pray for the leaders of the world, and for the people they govern. Endue them with wisdom and justice, so that they might govern all people with equity.

Finally we pray for ourselves. In Christ we are indeed more than conquerors. May Alleluia! be our triumphant song today and always. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father ……

**Hymn: Listen to ‘You’re Alive’**

Led like a lamb to the slaughter

In silence and shame,

There on Your back You carried a world

Of violence and pain.

Bleeding, dying, bleeding, dying.

*You're alive, You're alive,*

*You have risen, Alleluia!*

*And the power and the glory is given,*

*Alleluia, Jesus, to You.*

At break of dawn, poor Mary,

Still weeping she came,

When through her grief she heard Your voice

Now speaking her name.

Mary, Master, Mary, Master!

At the right hand of the Father

Now seated on high

You have begun Your eternal reign

Of justice and joy.

Glory, glory, glory, glory.

**A prayer of blessing**

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen us to walk with him in his risen life; and may almighty God bless us, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Original Materials by Stephen Froggatt*

*All Hymns reproduced under CCLi 155789*

Easter

Sunday

***Broomhall & Sound Chapel***

**Easter Sunday** 

**10.30am Outdoor AAW** led by Deacon Jill

**6.30pm Zoom Service** led by Deacon Jill

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82976672769?pwd=aG9pSjMvR3dzaDJaZlFkcnduSmFTZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 7667 2769

Passcode: 366121

***Nantwich***

**10.30am Easter Communion Service**

Covid regulations still apply:

face masks, social distancing, no singing.

*Please phone Margaret Kirkman on 01270 611942 by Friday lunchtime to book.*

It would be helpful if you could bring your own sanitiser or wipes, but they can be provided.

Bring a few flowers to place on the cross

if you wish.

***Aston Chapel* 11 am**

led by Jenny & David Smith

***Baddiley & Ravensmoor*** **11am**

led by Pat Maidment

***Lightwood Green Chapel***

6.30pm Communion

led by Rev Malcom Lorimer

**Sunday 11th April 2021**

**Remember to have your Bible to hand.**

**Call to Worship**

Come with joy to meet our risen Lord Jesus. Come with all creation to praise and glorify

His blessed name.

**Hymn: God is here, as we his people (STF 25)**

God is here! As we his people

meet to offer praise and prayer,

may we find in fuller measure

what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us,

all our varied skills and arts

wait the coming of the Spirit

into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us

of our lifelong need of grace:

here are table, font, and pulpit;

here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching,

here in silence, as in speech,

here, in newness and renewal,

God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome

in the Shepherd's flock and fold,

here as bread and wine are taken,

Christ sustains us, as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant

seek in worship to explore

what it means in daily living

to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,

in an age of change and doubt,

keep us faithful to the gospel,

help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication,

all we have to give, receive:

we, who cannot live without you,

we adore you! We believe!

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)*

**Let us pray together**:

Gracious God, we praise and adore you. For the gift of creation, seen all around us in the beauty of springtime. For flowers, trees in bloom, for new life emerging and warm sunny days. Help us to be stewards of your creation and to help reverse the damage we have done to your beautiful world.

We thank you for the awesome gift of your Son, Jesus, who humbly walked this earth in fully human form and who died to save us. We praise

you for His resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit who walks alongside us and guides and sustains us through our every waking hour. We pray through the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Today’s Reading from the OT - Psalm 133**

**Today’s Gospel Reading - John 20: 19-31**

**Time to Reflect**

Poor Thomas, famously known as ‘doubting Thomas’ from the passage in John’s gospel. It somehow seems a flaw in his character. However, when we remember the events leading up to the crucifixion, Peter denied Jesus and all the disciples deserted him, as Jesus had predicted they would.

In the passage, the disciples were gathered behind locked doors; they were still very afraid of repercussions from the Jewish authorities. It’s also fair to assume at this moment they didn’t know what would happen next, despite the fact that Jesus had told them about his impending death and resurrection.

Another thing we aren’t told (in this gospel, but see Luke 24:11), was whether the disciples believed Mary Magdalene, the first person to see the risen Christ.

Doubt is a very human emotion, we all experience it in our lives, we doubt that we can do things, often feel doubt when we think God is asking us something which takes us out of our comfort zone.

At the time of writing this, we are awaiting an announcement which will describe the road map out of our third lockdown. Our churches are not open, worship is online or in paper form. We have had to do things which take us out of our comfort zones and many times I have had doubt over whether I am able to achieve whatever it is I am asked to do. I have found recording a message on a screen difficult, often having 7 or 8 attempts before being happy with the result.

Doubt need not always be seen as a negative emotion though, because doubt leads to questions, and ultimately to answers to those questions. Thomas doubted that the other disciples had seen Jesus, but when he finally saw Jesus, he didn’t need to touch Jesus to know, he called him “My Lord and my God”, he recognised who Jesus really was – God.

Jesus told the disciples that those who believe without seeing are blessed. For some of us it might happen in a short time, while for others it might take years of questioning and having those questions answered. When we reach the point of belief we can and will, with assurance, recognise and call Jesus “My Lord and my God”.

**Take a time to sit quietly**

**A time of prayer**

We pray for our world, for countries ravaged by war and natural disasters. We pray for those countries struggling with Covid who have little or no vaccine.

We pray for our country, for those making decisions: give them wisdom and courage to act wisely. We pray for those who are on the frontline, who are exhausted from the effects of the pandemic: give them rest.

We pray for the bereaved, especially those who haven’t been able to grieve with or for loved ones. We pray for those still struggling with illness and weariness. We think of those who are anxious and afraid to go out, those who have been isolated for so long and those who are lonely.

We pray for our churches, some open, some still worshipping in other ways: help us to go forward in the way you lead us, not to just return to what we have always done.

We pray for ourselves, that we don’t need a sign to believe in you, that we trust you to supply everything we need in our lives.

Through our risen, redeeming Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father ……

**Hymn: StF 28 Jesus calls us here to meet him**

Jesus calls us here to meet him

as, through word and song and prayer,

we affirm God’s promised presence

where his people live and care.

Praise the God who keeps his promise;

praise the Son who calls us friends;

praise the Spirit who, among us,

to our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him

Word of life and Lord of all,

sharer of our flesh and frailness,

saving all who fail or fall.

Tell his holy human story;

tell his tales that all may hear;

tell the world that Christ in glory

came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,

vastly different though we are;

creed and colour, class and gender

neither limit nor debar.

Join the hand of friend and stranger;

join the hands of age and youth;

join the faithful and the doubter

in their common search for truth.

**A prayer of blessing**

Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters, and may God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you love with faithfulness. May God’s grace be eternally upon all who love our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen (**Ephesians 6: 23-24**)

*All Hymns reproduced under CCLi 155789*

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**Sunday 11th April**

***Broomhall & Sound Chapel***

10.30am Zoom

Led by Mrs Pat Maidment

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82976672769?pwd=aG9pSjMvR3dzaDJaZlFkcnduSmFTZz09>

Meeting ID: 829 7667 2769

Passcode: 366121

***Nantwich* 10.30 am**

Please book and expect to observe covid

precautions as above.

***Aston Chapel* 11am**

Morning worship in chapel

led by Jenny and David Smith.

Covid restrictions apply – no singing,

& wear a face mask.

***Lightwood Green* 6.30 pm**

Telephone conference service

It’s very easy to join : ring 0330 336 0036

Then enter PIN 571297

**Lest I forget Gethsemane**

**Lest I forget thine agony,**

**Lest I forget thy love for me,**

**Lead me to Calvary.**

**“If Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe … But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death …”**

St. Paul – 1 Corinthians 15: 14, 20

**PRAYER and CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

Please hold in prayer Rev. Robin Fox, whose partner passed away unexpectedly last week. Also others you know to have been recently bereaved; or anxious about their own health or loved ones; or feeling particularly isolated or depressed. May they all know God’s peace, hope and strength in these difficult days.

Geoff Mace thanks those who have sent cards and good wishes while he was in hospital and recuperating.

There are many suggestions for prayer in the services above.

Remember to be an answer to your own prayers where possible, by expressing God’s love through your care and concern.

**Jenny and Sue’s Walk-All-Over-Cancer**

**Members of Broomhall & Sound chapel**

Sue & Jenny have completed their “Walk-All-Over -Cancer Challenge”, walking at least 10,000 steps every day in March

**Thank you to everyone who has generously supported them, enabling them to raise a magnificent £2,500 to date.**

Their Just Giving site is:-

[**https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jenny-and-susans-walk-all-over-cancer-fundraising-page-440**](https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/jenny-and-susans-walk-all-over-cancer-fundraising-page-440) *Sue Sullivan*

**MWiB Easter Offering**

You may still have last year’s envelopes at church or at home. If you do, we’ll gladly receive them this year.

As many of us will be unable to gather in church again this year you are invited to send your donations for World Mission in any envelope (clearly marked Easter Offering)

via Deacon Jill at the manse

34 Wellington Rd (please put envelopes through letterbox of internal door)

or Give on line direct:

[www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/mcfworldmission/donate)

Thank you

**Nantwich FoodBank** …

… thank all who supported their ‘Drop-Off’ last

weekend, when 1,900 kilos of supplies were donated. It has been a tough year and a considerable challenge still lies ahead, so please continue to help as you are able.

**Lectionary Readings**

Mon 5 April Revelation1: 12-18 Psalm 135

Tue 5 April Luke 24: 1-12 Psalm 136

Wed 6 April Matt 28: 16-20 Psalm 114

Thur 7 April 1 Corinth 15: 20-28 Psalm 117

Fri 8 April Acts 3: 11-16 Psalm 66

Sat 10 April John 11: 17-44 Psalm 145

Sun 11 April John 20: 19-31 Psalm 133

Mon 12 April Romans 1: 1-7 Psalm 115

Tue 13 April Romans 1: 16-25 Psalm 116

Wed 14 April Romans 2: 1-11 Psalm 117

Thur 15 April Romans 3: 21-30 Psalm 118 1-4

Fri 16 April Romans 4: 1-8 Psalm 118 5-8

Sat 17 April Romans 4: 13-25 Psalm 118 19-29

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It doesn’t feel entirely appropriate to follow such a serious message as the Resurrection with anything light-hearted, but Easter is a season of joy; we all have a long weekend in which to reflect on both our faith and the vagaries of human life; and some of us are missing extra keenly the company we would have been keeping in former normal times, and need a little uplift.

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Some people make Easter as hectic as Christmas. To make it easier, change the ‘t’ to an ‘i’ !

*“Easter is about far more than chocolates”, said the Archbishop of Cadbury.*

I was invited to a seminar on Reincarnation. I thought, “Why not? You only live once.”

Topical for a short while only …

Before that ship blocked the Suez Canal, was permission Ever Given ?

*I would hate to see the Egyptian people’s dentistry bill after the major route canal work done this past week!*

Breaking news: Huge fat ball just removed from the Suet Canal !

*These Suez Canal jokes don’t float my boat.*

No more jokes about the Suez Canal – that boat has sailed!

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Last weekend I put my clock forward but it fell off the mantelpiece and broke.

*Spare a thought for the men at Stonehenge having to move those massive rocks round 30 degrees.*

The hour we lost when the clocks went forward was when I planned to write a book on “1001 excuses for everyday use”.

*I was watching a ‘+1’ TV channel when we went forward an hour. Anyone know what day we’re on?*

I’m glad summer is approaching – it’s my favourite season and I think it’s on a Wednesday this year.

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**It’s time to sort out the garden** ...

*I called in a landscape gardener, but he said he couldn’t help because the garden is portrait.*

The next one asked if I wanted decking. I got in first and punched him hard.

*I had to turf him out, the cheeky sod.*

That leaves me quite for lawn.

**As for the house** …

I found that my handyman had not tackled nos. 2, 4, 6 or 8 on my list.

He said, “I’m just an odd job man, you see.”

**Now we can be out and about again** …

*I once had a really long tennis match against an Estate Agent. Every time the umpire called ‘let’, he dashed off with some keys.*

I was annoyed to find that my brand new golf shoes had a hole in one.

*I must resist the urge to frolic in the fields with those adorable baby lambs. I worry I might have a gambolling addiction.*

I would like to know how many eggs have been laid by birds in local hedgerows, but I could only give a nestimate.

*I can’t identify the fascinating range of spiders in my garden. I’ll see what help is on the Web.*

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**I try to look after my health**.

*The dentist told me I needed braces. I wasn’t too keen but I must admit my trousers don’t slip now.*

I’ve been awake almost all night trying to remember if I have amnesia or insomnia.

*I finally fell asleep reading some old magazines. In the morning I woke up with back issues.*

Seven years ago I resolved to take up jogging. The fact that I haven’t started yet has become a running joke in my family.

*Unfortunately, I fell and banged my head. I think I must have got double vision, because I’m sure I just watched “The Four Ronnies”.*

I accidentally knocked over a customer in Domino’s Pizza … or it could have been 3 or 4.

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**I really need to find a new job**.

*I used to be a chiropractor, but I rubbed people up the wrong way.*

I’m interested in opening an indoor climbing centre, but I need someone to give me a leg up.

*The bouncy castle market has been badly hit by inflation*.

If any jeweller needs an assistant, perhaps he would give me a ring.

*I have experience with children: I used to be one.*

The local council needs someone to remove all the chewing gum that’s discarded all over the place, but that would be hard to get off the ground.

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**Advancing our education** …

*We were probably all taught that Henry VIII’s wives were ‘divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived’. But I can absolutely assure you that none of them is still alive.*

The outcome for the Titanic would have been very different if it had struck a Cos.

*Science teachers should have told us not to trust atoms, because they make up everything.*

And time has taught us that the adult version of the children’s song “Heads and shoulders, knees and toes” is “Wallet, glasses, keys and phone”.

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**To return to absolute seriousness** …

“In your presence is fullness of joy.”

“I have come that you might have life in all its abundance.”

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.”