

Unity

The Newsletter of Ealing Green Church

Ealing Green Church, The Green, Ealing, London W5 5QT



April 2023

Ealing Green Church (Methodist & United Reformed)

Minister: the Rev Susan Male

07939 150194 ~ susan.d.male@googlemail.com

Church Office: egcadministrator@btconnect.com /
020 8810 0136

Open Tuesday – Friday 10am ~ 5pm

Website: www.ealinggreenchurch.com

Contributions to Unity: unitymagazine@hotmail.com

Superintendent	Rev Rachel Bending	07986 461787
Church Secretary	Position Vacant	
Church Secretariat	Position Vacant	
Choir Leader	Fleur Hatherall	020 8248 6774
Organist	Fleur Hatherall	020 8248 6774
Communion Steward	Nora Masih	
Unity Magazine	Lee Horwich	020 8567 2851
Unity Distributor	Helen Harper	
Ecumenical Officer	Position Vacant	
Bible Reading Rota	Church Office	020 8810 0136

~ Groups ~

Afternoon Bible Study: first Thursday monthly at 1.30pm

Monday Fellowship: 2nd & 4th Mondays monthly at 1.45pm

Choir Practice: before and after the service each Sunday

Full details can be found in the weekly notice sheet

~ You are welcome to come to any meeting ~

April 2023

Welcome to April's Unity newsletter.

This issue's contents are listed below. Thank-you all for your contributions throughout the year.

**Closing date for contributions for May's issue is
April 16th. Thanks!**

Contents:	Page	
News of the Church Family		5
Letters and emails		7
Services for Easter		8
From the Methodist News (1) The Budget		9
The Herbert Protocol		12
From the Methodist News (2) Voter ID		13
Easter – some other facts		15
A couple of other things for April		18
Lend with Care		19
Two Poems and a thought for April		21
Collection Point: Methodist Women in Britain		22
Church Rotas		24

Front page: Spring is finally here, witness the blossom in the centre of Acton. That said, April showers . . .!

If you have a picture (preferably in jpeg format) you would like to feature on the front of the newsletter, please let me know.

Thanks,
Lee

One of the most tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are dreaming of some magical rose garden on the horizon – instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today.

Dale Carnegie

From Sue

Sue is on leave

Church meeting and mission meeting rescheduled to April 2nd at 12 noon, after church – finishing at 1.30pm latest

Dear All

I decided not to hold the mission day on Saturday 11th March. It seems many people would be away. The day was going to incorporate our church meeting, so I would like to reschedule the meeting for 12 noon on Sunday 2nd April. It will necessarily finish by 1.30pm at the latest since I will have to lead worship at 2pm at Pitshanger.

Please put the date in your diaries.

Apologies to Helen – but also thanks that she was prepared to provide lunch.

Thanks

Sue

Reflecting Together on Holy Communion

Outstanding sessions of these continuing study group meetings are:

Session 6 Holy Communion and anticipation

Sunday 23rd April 6pm at Kingsdown, or
Monday 24th April at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 7 Holy Communion, mission and justice

Sunday 21st May 6pm at Kingsdown, or
Monday 22nd May at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 8 Holy Communion and invitation to the feast

Sunday 25th June 6pm at Kingsdown, or
Monday 26th June at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

Session 9 Holy Communion across the Christian denominations

Sunday 2nd July 6pm at Kingsdown, or
Monday 3rd July at 11.15 am at Ealing Green

It would help me to know if you intend participating in these - either regularly or sometimes. If you need a Zoom version in order to participate please be in touch.

Sue

News of the Church Family

JEAN ROSE has had some falls in the last few weeks and felt generally unwell. However she is now improving and is feeling better in herself, helped by a happy Mothering Sunday, when she was spoiled by her family when they came to visit her! She is hoping to join us in Church for Easter Sunday celebrations.

BARBARA HAWKINS is recovering back home again and looking forward to the time when she is more mobile and able to resume her activities once again.

DAVID GROVES is starting to settle in at his care home but unfortunately at present it is closed due to Covid, so he is unable to have visitors.

HELEN and BOB WORMALD have both been poorly, but are now recovering. As Helen says 'We're from the North, we're toughies!'

We send our love and sympathy to **ANTONYA, BERTIE KLOETGEN & Family** on the death of **Antonya's step father HARIS** in Paris. They attended a Mass held for him in Paris and have just returned from the funeral which was in Greece.

GILL and COLIN'S son ,STEPHEN has had a heart attack and spent a few days in critical care where he received excellent care. He is now back home recovering and adjusting to an unfamiliar worldview.

As well as praying for all those mentioned above, we pray for anyone in our Church Family who may be struggling at the moment, for any reason. We pray they may be aware of God's presence with them and receive His comfort and strength for the days ahead.

Gill Hatherall

News of ex members of EGC:-

ELIAS LAICHENA rang Hector recently. He was in good spirits and sends his greetings to all at Ealing Green Church from Kenya, where he now lives.

Congratulations to grandparents **PETER & ROSA CHADBURN**. Rosa's daughter, **MARTA** and her partner **MICHAEL**, had baby **KAI** on 20th March. Both Mum and Kai are doing well. Congratulations Marta and Michael!

Gill Hatherall

Unity

There's a lot in this month's newsletter and I have taken full advantage of The Methodist News and In-touch, the Circuit magazine, to bring a few items to your attention.

The Methodist News is hardly a radical publication, but there are a couple of things that could be considered worthwhile bringing to the attention of church members. The first one is the government's recent budget, which has implications far wider than was initially considered. I have reproduced the Methodist News' comment on page 9 and hope you find it illuminating.

The second article, on page 13, is about voting. This is not directly relevant to us for this year's round of council elections, but will be important for next year's and subsequent elections. It aims to solve a problem that doesn't exist and is highly party political, but it also affects, as you will see, disabled and older people. It is flagging up something that we should all take note of for the future of our democracy. The ability, and indeed the responsibility, to vote is something precious and one which we deprecate at our peril.

The Herbert Protocol is something that has been developed in response to the growing concern about mental health and especially, dementia. There is a fuller explanation of what that is and how it is applied on page 12.

At last, after the winter, the clocks have gone back and we can look forward to whatever plans we had for the future. I am not someone who takes things happening tomorrow or next week/year for granted. John Lennon famously said that life happens while you are planning the future – and we all know what happened to him. That said you have to have some plans or else what do you do?

I am a reluctant TV viewer, but was recently persuaded to watch a Channel 4 series of five programmes entitled The Piano. I know that recommending TV programmes isn't something I usually do, but seeing how a musical instrument has helped such a diverse range of people express themselves, including the eventual winner, is testament to the human spirit and something almost, if not actually, spiritual. If you haven't seen it and have the time, you could do a lot worse.

Enough of that. I hope you enjoy April, Easter and the promise that it offers. God bless you



Letters and emails

From Marian

A big thank you to the church family for your prayers for myself and my family.

Paul's knee is progressing according to plan. He is stoic and exercises regularly.

He has had so much surgery since he was 9 years old and takes all the operations in his stride!

Despite some teething troubles, Jonny is settling in to his flat.

Things have been very difficult for him over the past twelve months and I pray that he can now start to rebuild his life

Kind regards

Marian



From Sarah

The Service at Ealing Green on April 23rd will be led by the Rev Mohammad

Eghtedarian from Christian Aid. He will be coming with his colleague Kate Ormerod.

This will be an opportunity to see and hear what Christian Aid is presently doing and to ask the Reverend and his colleague any questions you might have.

Please make it if you can.

Sarah Hunter

Church Office Manager, Data Protection Lead, Safeguarding Support

For every person who has ever lived there has come, at last, a spring he will never see. Glory then in the springs that are yours.

Pam Brown

Services for Easter

Palm Sunday 2nd April

11:00 am at Ealing Green Church
Cafe Church followed by Church Meeting

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7.30 pm at Kingsdown Methodist Church, Northfields Ave

Good Friday 7th April

09:30 am at Ealing Green Church, before joining Walk of Witness to Christ Church arriving there at 10 15am

EASTER SUNDAY -9th April

Easter Celebration including Holy Communion

Decoration of the Easter Cross

During the morning service on Easter Sunday, we plan to revive our tradition of transforming the bare wooden cross to one of colour and beauty.

To help us to achieve this, you are invited to bring a flower to decorate the cross. It would be helpful if the stem is cut quite short. Thank you.

Gill Hatherall

Church Flowers....Appeal for donors and/or arrangers

You are invited to remember any special anniversary, birthday or occasion for family or friends, by donating money for flowers on a Sunday of your choice. If you would like to give the flowers on a specific Sunday, please let me know ASAP.

You do not need to arrange the flowers as well, if you do not wish to, but if you could be persuaded to 'give it a go', that would be wonderful....it can be a simple arrangement....just a bunch of flowers is fine. The Flower Fund relies on your monetary support for floral decoration, Sunday by Sunday, to enhance our worship.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gill Hatherall

From The Methodist News (1): 16th March 2023

A response to the 2023 Spring budget

What is the Budget's purpose?

If that question was asked of either frontbench, after some equivocating the main answer given would be – to create economic growth.

The urgent questions are what growth do we want, what is its environmental impact and who will benefit from it? During a time of rising destitution in the UK and an environmental crisis we need the huge spending power of the state to focus on these issues. This year's budget followed the familiar consensus of wanting growth – any growth.

For example, the most expensive single item announced today, costing around £9bn a year is 100% tax relief on corporate investments. The hope is that businesses will invest in IT, plant and machinery and then grow. This may work although a 125% tax relief (effectively a subsidy) did not do a great deal. The relief however is not contingent on those investments being sustainable or the jobs created offering decent pay and conditions. The £9bn is being spent hoping for growth – any growth.

Changes to the benefit system

There are big changes to benefits underway, some very welcome and some extremely worrying.

The most immediate change is that people claiming Universal Credit who are working and need help to afford childcare, will get a more realistic amount to cover the costs as well as have the money paid upfront. Previously the Department of Work and Pensions who administer Universal Credit had required claimants to submit receipts and wait for at least a month to be reimbursed. For families on low incomes that often meant getting into debt to afford the first month's childcare. This change costs relatively little but will make a huge difference.

The Chancellor announced the introduction of a programme to

support disabled people prepare for and find work. The details are not yet known but the most important aspect is that it will be voluntary. If people don't find it helpful, they don't have to take part. Previous schemes have been mandatory, and we have seen people forced to do things they found useless and even damaging or have their benefits stopped. A scheme that offers people more choices and trusts them to make decisions for themselves is a step in the direction of a benefit systems that treats people with dignity.

Universal Credit was introduced 10 years ago and is still 2 years away from being fully rolled out but core aspects of how it affects disabled people are to be changed. The Work Capability Assessment is used to determine both how much benefit a person can receive and the sort of tasks they can be directed to do or be punished with a sanction that stops their benefits.

The Assessment was always flawed – in Glasgow the assessment centre gained the nick-name “Lourdes” as no matter how sick you went in you were miraculously found to be well and fit for work. The WCA has been the subject of numerous scandals and injustices, so it is good it is going. However, there is no word as to what replaces it. There is both hope and trepidation as the next steps are unveiled. The key will be if disabled people are genuinely included in the next steps of the design process or if the pathway is already set.

Benefit Sanctions

Benefit sanctions are punishments given to people claiming benefits who are judged not to be complying with the instructions given to them by the jobcentre. In reality over 95% are given out for people missing or being late for jobcentre appointment. The fines usually remove a person's standard living allowance for a month but the duration can vary from 2 weeks to 6 months.

Since the pandemic the rate of sanctions on Universal Credit has doubled. It is therefore surprising that the chancellor announced, “So sanctions will be applied more rigorously to those who fail to meet strict work-search requirements or choose not to take up a reasonable job offer”. He also expanded the group of low-paid workers who are exposed to sanctions regimes

It is certain that sanctions drive Foodbank use, cause hardship and

harm, especially to people with sickness or disability. The justification given by government for them is that they help to move people into work. The DWP has never produced any evidence that the severe regime in the UK achieves this aim. Other research suggests the exact opposite.

The DWP does have internal research that it initially promised to publish on the effectiveness of sanctions – but has spent over a year resisting Freedom of Information Request asking for its publication. The information commissioner has ordered the release of the research and if as is expected this report agrees with the consensus that sanctions are ineffective the policy represents hardship to some of the poorest in our society, with no tangible purpose.

The key question is why does the Government believe that jobseekers, who are getting jobs at record rates, need to face large threats in order to seek work? Why does government feel the poorest need to be given instructions backed by threats rather than be trusted to take advice and look for work in their own way? The expansion of the sanctions regime says a lot about the values and beliefs of those who design the regime, and very little about those who are forced to live under it.

Paul Morrison, Policy Advisor, Joint Public Issues Team

The only time I've ever been rendered speechless with fury was when some daft television presenter opened a programme aimed at senior travellers by asking them what sort of holidays were 'suitable' for them.

'Any and all they really want to take' is the short answer.

Elizabeth de Stroumillo

The Herbert Protocol

The Herbert Protocol has been developed for people with dementia at risk of going missing. People with dementia can sometimes start to wander. This might only be into the garden or street for a short time, but sometimes people get lost and go missing.

Carers, family or friends of a vulnerable person, or the person themselves, can fill in a Herbert Protocol form in advance, containing information to help the police if the person goes missing.

It's a national scheme introduced by the police and other agencies. Carers and/or relatives and friends can complete a form in advance including important information e.g. contact numbers, medication needed, previous addresses and workplaces, interests, locations the person was last seen at, also a photo. This helps the police but also relieves the stress of carers who in their anxiety cannot remember the information. Copies of the form can be given to neighbours and friends

Keeping a completed form means you don't have to try to remember the information when you are under stress if someone goes missing. You only need to give it to the police if the person goes missing. The police will ask you extra questions about what happened around the time of the disappearance and what the missing person was wearing.

Care homes must store the form legally in accordance with data protection laws.

Make sure you keep the form up to date if something changes, for example their medication or their daily routine changes.

What to do when someone goes missing

If you discover someone is missing, look for them around the house or home, including any gardens and outbuildings. If you don't find them, call 999 immediately. When you call, say that you have a Herbert Protocol profile available.

If you have an electronic version of the form ask for an email address the form can be emailed directly to the police. If you have a paper copy, have it ready for the police when they arrive. Please let Gill know if you have any questions.

From the Methodist News (2):

Voter ID

The way that we vote is changing. From 4th May 2023, voters will need to show photo at polling stations. We've put together this guidance for church and community leaders, to help you share this information within your community.



ID

Voter ID doesn't replace the need to register to vote – you will still need to register to vote at your current address, if you haven't already.

What is changing?

The UK Government has introduced a legal requirement for voters to present photo ID at a polling station in some elections. This will first apply in the local elections taking place in England on 4th May 2023, and in any election after this.

Who is likely to be impacted?

These groups are more likely to find ID a barrier to voting and may need your support. It is important that we do not let this change disenfranchise anyone.

- Disabled people
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller
- Communities
- Older people
- People experiencing homelessness
- People registered to vote anonymously
- Trans and non-binary people.

Deadlines for May 2023 Elections

Monday 17th April: Register to vote

Tuesday 18th April: Apply for a postal vote

Tuesday 25th April: Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate

Thursday 4th May: Polling Day (remind others to bring ID)

What is an accepted form of ID?

Voters need only one form, in the original version. This could include:

- Passport
- Driving licence
- Blue badge
- Concessionary travel card
- Identity card with PASS mark
- Biometric immigration document

You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you and has the same name.

You can find a full list of other forms at:

electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

What if I don't have ID?

If you or someone in your community doesn't have ID, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. You can:

- Apply online at: **voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk**
- Apply by requesting a paper form from your local council
- Apply in person at your local council (some councils may not offer this)

To apply, you will need to give your:

- Name
- Address
- Date of birth
- National Insurance number
- A photograph (passport style)

Please check if any friends or colleagues might fall into these affected categories and encourage/help them to get registered. Our democracy, for all its faults, is a precious thing and disenfranchising people is potentially a step in the wrong direction. That is not a party political statement. Please let me know if you have any questions. Lee

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps earning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

Henry Ford

Easter – some other facts

I'm assuming that those of you who are reading this newsletter are familiar with Easter, the Easter story and its fundamental place in the Christian religion. So I was looking for something else to report on and came across this. I hope you find some of it of interest.



1. Where did the name “Easter” come from?

The name Easter owes its origin from Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess who symbolizes hare and egg. Eastre is often spelt Eostre, Oestre or Ostara. Ostara is also a northern European name for Astarte, which means “womb”, and is another name for Venus, the goddess of love, passion, and creativity.

2. Why do we paint and decorate eggs for Easter?

The art of painting and decorating eggs is known as “Pysanka”. The brightly coloured eggs are symbolic of spring flowers and the new beginnings previously mentioned.



It is said that King Edward I of England may also have contributed to the tradition of decorating eggs to celebrate Easter. In the 13th century, Edward I ordered 450 eggs to be coloured and decorated with gold-leaf. They were presented as Easter gifts to the rest of the royal household. In Christianity, Easter Eggs are [apparently – I wasn't aware of this – Ed.] coloured red to symbolise the blood of Jesus. Originally, egg dyes were made out of natural items such as onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and juices.

3. Why do we give each other eggs at Easter?

The exchange of eggs for Easter dates back to a springtime custom older than Easter itself! Eggs were given as a symbol of fertility and rebirth (remember in point 1 that Eastre/Ostara means “womb”?). This can be traced back to the Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and the Romans. In Christianity, for the celebration of “Eastertide”, the egg represents the empty tomb of Jesus, from which Jesus was resurrected. [Again – is this just something on a web site or is it actually true – please let me know.] In a nutshell, (or in this case, eggshell) we give each

other eggs as a symbol of joy, rebirth/new life, and new beginnings – basically all things positive, optimistic and happy.

4. Why is there an Easter Bunny? What do bunnies have to do with eggs? Or Easter?

The Easter Bunny originates from paintings of the Anglo Saxon Goddess Eastre, who was always depicted holding a hare. Originally it was the Easter Hare, but this has evolved to be the Easter Bunny, I can only presume because, on the whole, bunnies are a little bit cuter than hares and are more appealing to children?!



5. When were the first chocolate Easter Eggs made?

Chocolate eggs are said to have originated in France and Germany in the early 19th century but here in the UK it was J. S. Fry & Sons Limited who produced the first chocolate egg in 1873. John Cadbury made his first 'French eating Chocolate' in 1842 but it was not until 1875 that the first Cadbury Easter Eggs were made.



6. What is the biggest Easter Egg in the world?

The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever entered the Guinness Book of Records in 2011. It was made in Italy and was a whopping 10.39 metres in height and 7,200 kg in weight. When it was measured at Le Acciaierie Shopping Centre, in Cortenuova, Italy, it was taller than a giraffe and heavier than an elephant!



Never pass a bathroom.
Duke of Edinburgh

7. What is the most expensive Easter Egg ever made?

In 2007, an egg covered in diamonds sold for almost £9 million.

Described as looking like a cross between a Faberge egg and a Damien Hirst skull,



the egg is very special because, every hour, a cockerel made of jewels pops up from the top of the egg, flaps its wings four times, nods its head three times and makes a crowing noise!



8. Eggs for Breakfast?

Every child* in the UK receives an average of 8.8 Easter eggs every year – at least double their recommended calorie intake for a whole week.

9. Sharing isn't caring when it comes to Easter chocolate

Whilst animal-lovers share the greater part of their lives with their furry friends and family they mustn't share their Easter treats with them. Chocolate contains a chemical called 'Theobromine' which is toxic to dogs, cats and horses. The results can be fatal.

10. How do you eat yours?

Studies show that 76% of people eat the ears on chocolate bunnies first, 5% eat the feet first and 4% eat the tail first. 0.1% leave it complete because they simply can't dismember an actual animal.



Experts agree that the best type of computer for your individual needs is one that comes on the market about 2 days after you actually purchase some other computer

Dave Berry

A couple of other things you might want to think about for April:

April Fool's Day 1st Apr 2023

Celebrated all over the world as a morning of jokes and tricks. From national newspapers, websites and TV stations to school children, all sorts of people join in the fun. But don't play a trick after noon - or you are the fool!

Passover 5th Apr to 13th Apr 2023

Passover, or Pesach is one of the most important festivals in the Jewish calendar, commemorating the anniversary of the Exodus from Egyptian slavery.

World Heritage Day 18th Apr 2023

International Day for Monuments and Sites, better known as World Heritage Day, promotes awareness about the diversity of the cultural heritage of humanity.

Eid al-Fitr 21st Apr to 22nd Apr 2023

A religious holiday celebrated by Muslims worldwide that marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan. It is celebrated with prayer and different festivities and foods in different countries.

Earth Day 22nd Apr 2023

Worldwide event to raise awareness of the environmental issues which face the whole of planet Earth. The Earth Day organisation campaigns on environmental issues worldwide and promotes sustainability and reducing pollution.

National Shakespeare Day 23rd Apr 2023

23rd April was both Shakespeare's birthday and date of his death. Celebrations are held in his home town of Stratford-upon-Avon and around the UK.

St. George's Day 23rd Apr 2023

The annual celebration of England's patron saint is not a national holiday here, however it is [apparently – Ed.] celebrated by flying the English flag and by taking part in traditional English activities such as Morris dancing.

lendwithcare

I've been browsing (= searching desperately) through a range of media to see if I could find something that might interest you that has a Christian angle. I came across an article written by Gerald in the Circuit In-touch magazine on this organisation.

I/we have been looking over the years for a charitable, or non-profit organisation that we could contribute to, dealing with microfinance and, **lendwithcare** may just be that organisation, although I would emphasise that other similar organisations are undoubtedly available.

Lendwithcare brings together entrepreneurs in low-income countries with the people that have the power to help them - people like you and us. Run by CARE International UK, one of the world's leading poverty fighting organisations, lendwithcare is a revolutionary way for you to help people to work their way out of poverty with dignity.

Here's how it works:

1) It starts with an idea

From launching a scrap recycling business to diversifying crops and everything in between, entrepreneurs living in low-income countries are bursting with ideas - all they need is a helping hand to get started.



2) The entrepreneur requests a loan

Entrepreneurs approach one of lendwithcare's local development partners for a loan. If their plans to invest in their business show promise, their loan is approved and they'll have the go-ahead to get started.



3) You lend to an entrepreneur

The local partner adds the entrepreneur's profile to the Lendwithcare website where they will join other entrepreneurs from different locations across the globe. You can browse all entrepreneurs available for funding and choose which promising business idea you'd like to support.



4) The entrepreneur's business grows

After an entrepreneur receives their lendwithcare funding, they will get to work starting or growing their small business. We try to keep all entrepreneur profiles updated so you can see how their business is progressing.



5) Your loan is repaid

Entrepreneurs pay back their loans in instalments to local partners, who in turn transfer these repayments to CARE International. We then credit the repayment to your lendwithcare account. It's as simple as that!



6) You decide what happens next

When a loan is repaid, the vast majority of lenders will choose to make more loans, helping more low-income entrepreneurs to turn their hopes for a better future into reality. You can also withdraw the credit if you wish or make a donation to support lendwithcare's operating costs and other important poverty fighting initiatives from CARE International UK.



For more information see the web site at:

<https://lendwithcare.org/>

Lee

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.

Søren Kierkegaard

Two poems and a thought for April

Now that the winter's gone, the earth hath lost
Her snow-white robes, and now no more the frost
Candies the grass, or casts an icy cream
Upon the silver lake or crystal stream;
But the warm sun thaws the benumbed earth,
And makes it tender; gives a sacred birth
To the dead swallow; wakes in hollow tree
The drowsy cuckoo and the humble-bee.
Now do a choir of chirping minstrels bring
In triumph to the world the youthful spring.

Thomas Carew, The Spring, 1630

How many million Aprils came
before I ever knew
how white a cherry bough could be,
a bed of squills, how blue.
And many a dancing April
when life is done with me,
will lift the blue flame of the flower
and the white flame of the tree.
Oh burn me with your beauty then,
oh hurt me tree and flower,
lest in the end death try to take
even this glistening hour...

Sara Teasdale, Blue Squills, 1920

(A squill is – I didn't know – otherwise known as a forest hyacinth)

In April, we cannot see sunflowers in France, so we might say the sunflowers do not exist. But the local farmers have already planted thousands of seeds, and when they look at the bare hills, they may be able to see the sunflowers already. The sunflowers are there. They lack only the conditions of sun, heat, rain and July. Just because we cannot see them does not mean that they do not exist.

Thich Nhat Hanh

Collection Point



Methodist Women in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) is a self-financing volunteer-run charity within the Methodist Church in Britain.

WORLD CHURCH FOCUS

The principal aim of the women's movement in the Methodist Church, established in the 1850s, was to train, equip, and finance the sending of women missionaries overseas, and this remains one of the principle aims of Methodist Women in Britain. MWiB continues to support today's Mission Partners with pastoral, practical and prayer support.

Working closely with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, the British Methodist Church's Global Relationships team, and other partner organisations, MWiB maintains links with women in our 65 Partner Churches around the world, joining with them in prayer and worship in shared events and resources, meeting with them for fellowship and encounter in overseas and exchange visits, and working with them to raise awareness and campaign on a variety of social justice issues.

As part of the World Federation's Europe: Britain and Ireland Area, we relate particularly closely with Methodist Women in Ireland, and with the Europe: Continental Area, jointly organising Area events and enjoying exchange visits between our annual residential conferences.

RESOURCING AND ENABLING

Methodist Women in Britain is self-financed, primarily through donations, which enables us to fund the running of the movement, to underwrite our activities, events and resources, and to offer various gifts, grants and bursaries.

Occasionally MWiB receives generous legacies, and these often

enable us to undertake a specific piece of work, where possible linked to the interests of the benefactor.

OUR AIMS

Our aims are three-fold:

1. ~ to bring women together, encouraging one another to know Christ and to make him known, as Methodist women and as part of the wider Church in the world;
2. ~ to encourage, resource and train women members of the Methodist Church, equipping them to participate more fully in the wider church and in society;
3. ~ to connect women in Britain with women overseas, working in partnership with others to raise awareness of and act upon issues of social justice around the world.

We do this by:

- ~ providing fellowship and training events, including the annual residential conference, pilgrimage opportunities, and one-day events;
- ~ producing print and online resources and publications, for worship and spiritual growth, and for advocating and providing information on issues of social concern;
- ~ highlighting areas of need and raising funds or providing other goods or services to support partners and agencies working to alleviate poverty and injustice.

Whenever possible MWiB seeks to work in partnership with other organisations whose work is in line with our own aims and purposes, and we are currently working particularly closely with All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development), Touchstone, Methodist Heritage, and twelve baskets.

The aims and activities of Methodist Women in Britain are summed up in our mission statement:

For women, for justice, for Christ

Please give generously - Thank you and God bless you

Church Rotas April

Date April	Time	Preacher	Bible Steward	Prayers	Reader	Set-up	Welcome	Coffee
2 nd	11:00	Sue – Café Church	Louise	Jane	Louise & Fleur	Jean	Gill & Linda	Helen
7 th	09:30	Good Friday Morning Service						
9 th *	11:00	Rev. Keith Stephenson	Chrissy		Chrissy & Colin	Chrissy	Gill & Colin	Joan
16 th	11:00	Sue	Jane	Fiona	Jane & Helen	Jane	Gill & Linda	Yvonne
23 rd **	11:00	Rev. Mohammed Eghtedarian	Helen	Glynis	Helen & Gordon	Joan	Joan & Glynis	Jean
30 th	11:00	Rev. Ajay Singh	Antonya	Colin	Antonya & Ela	Antonya	Joan & Gill	Helen

Notes: *9th April – Holy Communion for Easter

**23rd - Rev. Eghtedarian is from Christian Aid

Two elderly women are in a restaurant and one of 'em says, 'Boy the food in this place is really terrible. The other one says, 'Yeah, I know, and such small portions.'
Well, that's essentially how I feel about life. Full of loneliness and misery and suffering . . . and it's over much too soon.

Woody Allen