

*Services for April*

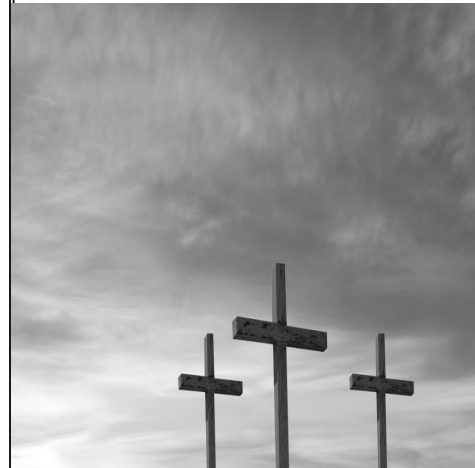
6<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mr Ken Harris  
13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mr John Bush  
20<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Rt Rev Dr Andrew Shergold  
Easter Day  
27<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Rev Mr H Moon  
Holy Communion

*Services for May*

4<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mr Steve Kemp  
11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Rev Mrs R Williams  
18<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Miss Jane Knight  
25<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Mr Pete Honeyball  
Holy Communion

*Princes Risborough  
Methodist Church*

*'The Messenger'  
April / May 2025  
Easter / Pentecost*



*This magazine comes to you with the  
good wishes of the Church*

**Princes Risborough Methodist Church  
Wycombe Road  
Princes Risborough  
Buckinghamshire**

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Tel: 07432 992358**

**Superintendent Minister: Rev Mr Richard Atkinson  
Tel: 01296 339889**

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Tel: 01844 343188  
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**Interim Editors: Mr Neville Trout / Ms Vicky Spires**

**Material for the June/ July double edition Messenger  
to the editors, by Sunday 11th May at the latest, please.**

***This Church is proud to be a member of ‘Churches Together in  
Risborough’ associated with The Baptist Church, Elim Church,  
St. Dunstan’s Church, St. Mary’s Church, St John’s, Kimble  
Free Church and St. Teresa’s Roman Catholic Church.***

***Rotas for May 2025***

	<b>Duty Steward</b>	<b>Welcoming Stewards</b>	<b>Bible Readers</b>	<b>Tea/coffee</b>
4th	Miss M Dore	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mr & Mrs V Baker	Mrs S Wilson
11th	Mr M Pullen	Mrs M Stevens & Mrs B Oates	Mrs M Stevens & Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Mrs F McMullan
18th	Mr N Marriner-Kyle	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Ms V Spires
25th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs M Stevens

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Grass Cutting</b>
3/4	Mrs F McMullan	Mrs B Hudson	Mr G Hudson
10/11		Mrs F McMullan	Mr C McMullan
17/18 YDA	Mrs D Robbins	Mrs D Pullen	Mr M Pullen
24/25	Ms V Spires	Mrs M Stevens	Mr D Stevens
31/1		Miss P Scott	Mr J Needham

If unavailable, please arrange an exchange or replacement, notify the steward, and amend the porch and vestry lists. If you would like to be involved as a welcoming steward or Bible reader, or any other rota please speak to Joe Needham (07507 416421) or one of the other Stewards.

Those who kindly provide flowers, please leave the wrappings in the vestry so that the stewards have something to wrap the flowers in when they distribute them after the service.

**Rest Day—** Rev. Heegon Moon’s ‘day off’ is revised to Monday from Friday; please try to respect this whenever possible.

## *Rotas for April 2025*

	<b>Duty Steward</b>	<b>Welcoming Stewards</b>	<b>Bible Readers</b>	<b>Tea/coffee</b>
6th	Miss M Dore	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Mrs T Shephard & Ms V Spires	Mrs F McMullan
13th	Mr M Pullen	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mr & Mrs G Hudson	Mrs M Stevens
20 <sup>th</sup>	Mr J Needham	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Mr & Mrs N Trout	Ms P Scott
27th	Mrs J Gerrard	Mr J Drake & Mrs F McMullan	Mr J Drake & Ms Y Ayoola	Ms Y Ayoola

<b>Weekend</b>	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Grass Cutting</b>
5/6	Mrs M Tomkins	Miss P Scott	Mr J Needham
12/13	Mrs M Stevens	Mrs K Trout	Mr B McCleery
19/20	Tues Fellowship	Mrs N Baker	Mr K Smith
26/27	Mrs S Wilson	Miss M Dore	Mr N Trout

### **Volunteers Wanted**

If any of you can help with taking a turn as a Welcoming Steward (being there to greet people as they arrive for church, give out hymn books, etc as required and to take the offertory forward during the service) it would be much appreciated. The more help we have the fewer occasions that each person does it – note that it does require those involved to arrive at church about 30 minutes before the service starts.

Some of us also do the Bible Readings, but there is no obligation to do those as well if you don't want to. If you are able to help, please let me know so that I can include you on the rota in future months.

*Joe Needham*

## *From the Manse ...*

Dear Friends, as you read this, Lent nears its end, leading us into Holy Week and Easter. This period in particular is the core of Christian faith, guiding believers through a deep journey of reflection, sacrifice, and renewal.



For years, I dreamt of spending Lent, Holy Week, and Easter in Jerusalem. During the Lenten season in 1993, that dream came true. I'll never forget the excitement of first visiting Jerusalem, when I spent a year in Israel. I travelled from Nazareth to Jerusalem in a shared taxi called a "Sherut"—a five-hour ride with five mission team members from Switzerland, America, Australia, Britain, and Holland. Jerusalem is a city cherished by three major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Some say the city has as many as 70 names. In Hebrew, Yerushalayim translates to "City of Peace" or "Vision of Peace." In Arabic, the city is called Al-Quds, meaning "The Holy City." For Christians, it's called the "City of David." All three faiths call it holy and claim to follow a God of peace. You'd expect it to be the most peaceful and holy place on earth.

But when we arrived, peace was nowhere to be found. Instead, we saw soldiers, police, and automatic weapons—a city heavy with tension, violence, and chaos. It made me think: no wonder Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the holy one, was born there.

Much like the period of Lent, today's world is shadowed by war, conflict, climate change, food shortages, and international political unrest, leaving us with uncertainty and fear for the future. Yet, Easter offers a promise of hope and transformation. It calls us to work together for a renewed world—where peace rules, nature flourishes, the hungry are fed, the imprisoned are set free, and justice prevails for all.

For us, the journey doesn't stop on Easter Sunday. Christ's resurrection urges us to live as witnesses of His love, shining the light of faith into our everyday lives. Through Him, we're offered a new life—free from sin and filled with grace. Let's celebrate this gift with family and community, rejoicing in the hope it brings.

May this season change our hearts and inspire us to live as true followers of the Risen Lord. Blessings

**Heegon**

## Tuesday Fellowship

Our February meeting was our AGM chaired by Rev. Heegon Moon when we reviewed the last year and looked forward to the coming year. Donations were made to The Church, Kidney Research UK, British Red Cross support for Gaza, Action for Children & Princes Risborough Lighthouse.

Our meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> April at 2.00pm will be led by David Robbins.

The speaker at our meeting on 20th May at 2.00pm will be Chris Leach from The Commonwealth Graves Foundation.

All are very welcome to join us at these meetings.

*Pam Scott*

## SALT Group

The SALT group (Sharing And Learning Together) will be meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7.30pm with Bible Study beginning at approx. 8pm. The first 2 of these meetings will be at the home of Fran McMullan, and the meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the home of Fay Shephard, and we will be continuing our study of Women of the Old Testament. Even if you have not been before you are welcome to join us, each study is 'self-contained' so attendance at every meeting is not essential.

*Joe Needham*

## Table Top Games

We meet every **Friday** between 10.00am to around 12.00 noon, to play Scrabble, Upwords, and Rummikub, to name but a few. The attendance fee is £2.00 and refreshments will be served.

*Sue Wilson*

## Ladies' coffee

All Ladies are welcome to come for Coffee and/or lunch at Haddenham Garden Centre arriving 10:30am on Saturday 12th April.

Please reply to Vicky Spires, vixspireslane@gmail.com or 07786 901454.

*Vicky Spires*

## Diary Dates for April

5th	Guitar concert for Karibuni, St Mary's Beaconsfield, 6.30pm
12th	Ladies' Coffee AM, Haddenham Garden Centre, 10.30am
14th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
15th	Tuesday Fellowship, 2.00pm
18th	Joint Good Friday Service, PR Baptist Church, 10.00am
18th	CTR Good Friday Service, Market Square, 11.00am
20th	Easter Sunrise Service, Whiteleaf, 6.00am
24th	SALT at Fran McMullan's home, 7.30pm for 8.00pm
26th	Men's Group Golf Driving Range, details TBC

## Diary Dates for May

5th	Ladies' Breakfast, St Mary's Hall, 9.00am
8th	SALT at Fran McMullan's home, 7.30pm for 8.00pm
12th	Bereavement Group, Chapter House St Mary's, 3.00pm
20th	Tuesday Fellowship, 2.00pm
22nd	SALT at Fay Sheppard's home, 7.30pm for 8.00pm.

## Forthcoming events

7 June	Church Walk, 2.15pm
24 June	Church Forum, 7.30pm

## Lent Groups

St John's. Thursday evenings : Rev Mr Tony Bundock.  
E-mail: tony.bundock49@gmail.com

Kimble. Tuesdays 7.30pm : Kai Turck. E-mail : kimblefreechurch@gmail.com

St Dunstan's. Tuesdays 7.30pm & Wednesdays 10.30am :Rev Mr Peter Godden.  
E-mail : revpetergodden@outlook.com

## Smile

Barbara Oates was cheered on a dull winter morning by  
Ecclesiastes ch8. v15



*Then I commend mirth, because a man has no better thing under the sun,  
than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his  
labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.*

### Prayer Circle

The Prayer Circle is 'here for you' so if you know of someone who would appreciate our prayers, please contact anyone in the table below.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the Prayer Circle.

Name	Preferred contact	Email/Mobile
Vicky Spires	Email or text but calls in evening	E: vixspireslane@gmail.com M: 07786901454
Anna Rogers	mobile	E: amrogers@talk21.com M: 07496853701
Chris Palmer	Email	E: christinepalmer100@gmail.com M: 07709556785
Maureen Judd	Email	E: maureenj148@gmail.com
Beverley Hudson	Email	E: beverleyshudson@gmail.com M: 07969366625
Neville Trout	Email	E: Kathryn.trout@tiscali.co.uk
Kathryn Trout	Email	E: kathryn.trout@icloud.com M: 07716904157
David Robbins	Email	E: drobbuk@yahoo.co.uk
Judith Gerrard	Email	E: judithgerrard.ww@btinternet.com

*Vicky Spires*

### Weekly Church Notices

Please contact Mrs Maureen Judd by telephone, 01844 617650, or email: maureenj148@gmail.com by noon on Friday with any information to go into the weekly notices.

### Joint Easter Services

This year's joint Good Friday Service will be held at the Baptist Church led by Kai Turck from Little Kimble and starting at 10.00.am This will be followed by a 30 minute CTR service in the market square, starting at 11.00am.

The CTR service on Easter day is on Whiteleaf, starting at 6.00am.

### Men's Group Coffee Morning

Our next coffee morning, run by the men of the church is on 29 March, 10.15am to 12.00 noon. Tell your friends and bring them along for a sociable time. As an added incentive we have a pop up Fairtrade stall courtesy of Rod Thorpe from Chinnor. All welcome.

*Neville Trout*

### Church walk

The first church walk of the summer will be on Saturday 7th June. We usually start at about 2.15pm and finish after about 2hrs /4 miles with tea at church. Please let me know if you want to join us and I will share details / arrange lifts.

*Neville Trout*

### Church Forum

Minutes of the recent Church Forum are on the church notice board

*Pam Scott*

### Ladies' Breakfast

The next Ladies' Breakfast will be held in St Mary's hall at 9 am on Saturday May 3rd. Our speaker will be Penny Dent from Canine Concern, a charity supplying therapy dogs.

All ladies and friends are very welcome. Do let Rose know if you are coming for catering purposes. 01844 274225 or [rosewilliams@btinternet.com](mailto:rosewilliams@btinternet.com)

*Rev Rose Williams*

## Christian Aid week May 11th—May 17th

Christian Aid week is an opportunity to make a difference to the disadvantaged of the world. This year the focus of the week is on raising funds to deliver training so that communities can fight the effects of the climate change crisis. This might include education to farmers to change the way they farm by planting resilient crops, finding ways of conserving water and making fertiliser.



As well as providing more immediate financial support, Christian Aid is following up previous campaigns in respect of Fairtrade and G8 cancellation of debt owed by low-income countries with a further campaign.

This Christian Aid Week, Christian Aid is calling on the UK Government to make polluters pay for the climate crisis and to introduce new debt justice laws that could pull millions of people out of poverty. We are told that 25 African countries spend more on debt repayment than education. You are invited to read the text of the petition on the Christian Aid website [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) > appeals and to add your signature.

Together we can play our part in God's work to restore creation and see the flourishing of all people.

*Margaret Stevens / Neville Trout*

## Karibuni Children – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Following the concert held at the Wycombe Swan on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, there are other events planned to help celebrate Karibuni Children's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and help to raise funds for the charity's ongoing work in Kenya.

Classical Guitar Recital – on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup> from 6.30 to 8.30 pm in St Mary's Church, Beaconsfield, HP9 2JW.

Dinner & Dance – on Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> at Moor Hall Chartered Institute of Marketing, Cookham, SL6 9HQ

Charity Golf Day – on Thursday September 11<sup>th</sup> at 13.30 at Sandy Lodge Golf Club, Northwood, HA6 2JD

Full details of all of these can be found on the website at [www.karibuni.org.uk/events](http://www.karibuni.org.uk/events).

## A Prayer from the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia, shared by Rev Rose Williams in a service recently.

O God of many names, lover of all people; we pray for peace in our homes, in our nations and our world; the peace of your will, the peace of our need. So we pray:

For the hungry and the overfed;

*May we have enough.*

For the mourners and the mockers;

*May we laugh together.*

For the victims and the oppressors;

*May we share power wisely.*

For the peacemakers and the warmongers;

*May clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony.*

For the silenced and the propagandists;

*May we speak our own words in truth.*

For the unemployed and the overworked;

*May our impress on the earth be kindly and creative.*

For the troubled and the sleek;

*May we live together as wounded healers.*

For the homeless and the cosseted;

*May our homes be simple, warm and welcoming.*

For the vibrant and the dying;

*May we all die to live.*

May God kindle in us the fire of love to bring us alive and give warmth to the world. **Amen.**

## Bereavement Drop In

This group meets on the second Monday of every month throughout the year offering a warm welcome to anyone struggling with the grief of bereavement. We share together over a cup of tea or coffee, talk about our experiences or just listen. Many find comfort in talking about their loved ones with others who know what they are going through.

We next meet on 14th April and on 12th May in the Chapter House at St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough, at 3.00pm, and everyone is welcome, of any faith or of no faith at all. Please contact Rose Williams on 01844 274225 if you need further details.

*Revd Rose Williams*

## Princes Centre — March Update

The weather has not been too kind recently which has limited some external activities. The clients are looking forward to some more outdoor games, walks and trips. Our gardening group have potted up some vegetable and herb seeds which are being nursed indoors until the better weather comes. One of the clients made a bird house for the garden and others have made some bird food and hung it outside for the birds. We received some lovely roses from the Co-op and the clients enjoyed making their own arrangements to take home.

The staff think up all sorts of activities to help our clients keep as mentally alert and mobile as possible and try to include everyone, whatever their capabilities. Activities include artwork, craft work, making heart-shaped wreaths, and using crisp packets to make blankets for the homeless. Regular activities such as cooking, singing, ball games, bingo etc continue. Quieter activities include story writing and pampering sessions. One group who are interested in current affairs had a visit from our local MP Greg Smith and our chairman Matt, who is a Buckinghamshire Councillor, for a Q & A session and to discuss local issues. The Community Police also visited and gave the clients a talk on how to stay safe and not succumb to being scammed in any way. The Red Cross came and ran a First Aid workshop with the clients.

We have some new volunteers. We are always grateful for volunteers' input and appreciative of the time they give to the Centre. We are pleased that the new roof is finished and the solar panels have been re-installed and the new fascia at the front of the building is looking really attractive.

If you would like to support the Princes Centres in any way or if you or your loved one would like a free taster of what we have to offer, please contact Mags on 01844 345105 or Marina at Bourne End on 01628 527024.

*Maggie Wooster Keyte*



## THANKS

How lovely were the celebrations for the Anniversary of our church, the bonus being for the service to be led by the Chair of District, Rev Sonia Hicks. Worship was both joyful and uplifting, and enhanced by the lovely music group's contributions, accompanied by our faithful organist.

The 'icing on the cake' was the wonderful lunch that followed, organised and masterminded by the catering team along with many contributors. There was such a lovely atmosphere throughout the day. And then, as if by magic, the clearing up was done and the washer up team moved in!

Grateful thanks to all involved with arrangements and the smooth running of events, both to stewards for inviting our leader of worship, and to the audio controller who masterminded the preparation of the visuals and successfully displayed them on the screen! What a wonderful church family!

No names mentioned, but we and you know who you are!!

*Chris Palmer*

## Blessings

We were given a tulip bulb in memory of our friend Jim, who died some 18 months ago, aged 92. Last autumn we planted this in its own pot. Now there is a small green shoot so hopefully soon we will enjoy a colourful tulip!

Jim left us with a Traditional Irish Blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
The rain fall soft upon your fields, and  
Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Gerald and Marian Tomkins*



## CTR : Churches Together in Risborough



At the CTR meeting held on January 21<sup>st</sup>, the decision was made (following a pre-meeting of the clergy that the format for Lent Groups would be similar to last year. Each church would decide what (if anything) they wanted to offer their own members, as the needs of each church were seen to be different. Those that wished to would make information about their Lent course available so that members of other churches could join if they wished. St Dunstan's in Monks Risborough, St John's in Lacey Green and Kimble Free Church have offered information on their Lent studies.

On Good Friday, following our joint service with the Baptist Church and Kimble Free Church (which will be held in the Baptist Church this year at 10am), all churches will gather in the Market Square for the CTR service which begins at 11am. Following feedback from last year, the aim is for this service to last for approx. 30 minutes as most people will have to stand during the service. Early risers on Easter Sunday can attend the short service on Whiteleaf Hill above the Cross at 6am, which I assume will be followed by refreshments in the Whiteleaf Hill Car Park.

It was noted that 2025 is a Year of Jubilee as celebrated in the Catholic Church. It is a year of forgiveness and mercy and a time to reset our relationship with God, one another and all of creation. St Teresa's will be holding a number of talks during the year (the 1<sup>st</sup> was on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>) and further information will be made available when received.

St John's in Lacey Green will be celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the period from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July. Activities planned include 'Beating the Bounds' of the Parish, Songs of Praise, Tours of History and Flower exhibition in the church, Organ Concert with details to come nearer to the time.

Following the departure of a member of staff last year, Wycombe Youth for Christ have had to cut back on the work they were doing with students from Princes Risborough School, but continue to ask for our prayers to support their efforts to recruit more staff and develop their work in all areas around Wycombe.

*Joe Needham*

## 2025 World Day of Prayer.



The World Day of Prayer this year focused on The Cook Islands. A distributed population of under 15,000 people across 15 islands. The Islands became Christian just over 200 years ago. The population is mainly Polynesian from neighbouring islands to the East, English and Maori are spoken. Women hold leadership roles in all aspects of life, however, domestic violence still goes unreported. Adult literacy is 95%, primary and secondary education is free. There are two tertiary establishments, one for the University of the South Pacific and the other for the Cook Island Tertiary Training Institute, and about 80% of the population has participated in tertiary education. Medical and health provision are improving and these islands now have the lowest child mortality rates in the South Pacific with no maternal deaths since 1995.

In our WDoP service we heard the words of 3 women spoken by a member from one of the participating churches: Mii, a girl of 15 years terrified during the COVID pandemic; Vainiu, who struggled with the devaluing of the Maori culture as English/American was considered 'better', and wished to protect her traditional culture; and Dr Dawn, the first female doctor in the Cook Islands paediatric department. She highlighted the improvements but also promoted the need for screening programmes for cancer, work in mental health, teenage pregnancy, care for the elderly and prevention of communicable disease.

The congregation of over 40, gamefully attempted hymns in Maori, as well as English written by Cook Islanders with a theme 'We are wonderfully made by God'.

We were hosted at St Dunstan's, and were grateful for St Dunstan's choir who led our singing, and the organist. We collected about £306 plus gift aid in donations. Hospitality was provided afterwards.

Next year's event will be at St John's, Lacey Green as they celebrate their 200<sup>th</sup> year.

*Vicky Spires*