

Come into the Garden....

I think this was the title of a song (well before my time) "Come into the garden Maud". I really do love my garden at Belmont Road and it never fails to surprise me. Last Summer I thought I had dug all my tulip bulbs up and placed them in paper bags to be planted in pots later for a controlled show, neat tulips in nice rows of terracotta pots.

Only I discovered beautiful clumps of yellow tulips coming through in the beds of last year. They should not be there but I am not complaining -- it really is a lovely thing to gaze at on a grey damp morning.

Garden stories are central to our faith, if we want to discover more about our creator God we need to immerse ourselves in the story of the garden of creation. The creative Spirit at work from the beginning of time, a God who creates from nothing. It is in a Garden, the olive press, Gethsemane, that we discover the true humanity of God made flesh. And in an Easter garden at the break of a new day we discover the risen Christ with this message of new life and new hope.

I love the work of the garden designer Capability Brown, who starts with an almost blank canvas on which he creates a new and beautiful landscape, planting trees, moving earth, forming hills and shaping water. The mind and hands of a great creator. I am looking forward to creating in my garden this year. I am taming the wilderness at the top of the garden, hoping to plant a wildflower meadow. I'm no Capability Brown but I dream of what could be: space where I can gaze on the beauty that points to the hand of the creator.

I invite you to **Come into my garden!** I will be holding my Annual Manse Garden Party on Saturday 7th July. Pop in anytime between 10:00am and 4pm. Put the date in your diary. More details to follow.

Enjoy the gardens you visit this Spring – Let God take you by surprise.

Richard

Hello all!

It has been an egg-citing month as we have celebrated Easter together! Here's a quick run down of what has been going on...

On Palm Sunday, we had a parade service at Bushey and Oxhey that was attended by the local Beavers and Cubs. They shared stories about what activities they had been doing over the last few months and the palm tree leaves made by their hand prints decorated the church.

On Easter Sunday during breakfast church at St. Andrews, we worked together to create prayer flowers and fingerprint bees, reminding us to share the good news of Easter with everyone. At Bushey and Oxhey, our collective prayers decorated the wooden cross with flowers. In case you weren't able to make it on the day, I've included a couple of pictures this month for you to see! (Sorry, not in colour, Ed)

We held an Easter Trail event for toddlers, where they visited 6 stations exploring different elements of the Easter story. With around 20 children attending, this was a lively event as they went to each station, collected an egg and did an activity. Lots of crafts were made, including palm leaf hands, play-dough last suppers, Easter egg prayers, decorated biscuits and tissue paper crosses. This was followed by a short retelling of the Easter story and singing. A big thank you to all who were involved for their time and help!



Messy Church also explored Easter this month, and there were lots of activities themed around eggs and new life. This included making parachutes for eggs (luckily, they were hard-boiled!), decorating egg-shaped biscuits and a classic egg and spoon race. A bright group collage of the empty tomb was also made.

Next month, we will be thinking about the ascension and great commission. This will be held on the 2nd Sunday, 13th May at 3:00 – 5:30pm, so spread the word and we hope to see you there!

I look forward to updating you again next month!

Blessings, *Nicola*





Easter Offering



Thank you for all your contributions to this year's appeal which focused in particular on people who work in areas of current conflict like Israel/Palestine or those still living with damage from former conflict such as Sri Lanka and Japan

The total collected was £400 including Gift Aid . This amount was raised through donations in the Easter Offering Envelopes, and the Maundy Thursday supper.

Mary Beckett



Prayer Network

If there is someone that you would like us to pray for, please contact any of the people below.



We just need a name. God knows the rest!

**Pam Conquest
01923 466514**

**Kay Barker
01923 234966**

**Karen Wheeler
01923 802061**

**Dorothy Steele
01923 447584**

**Sheila Billings
01923 254622**

Seen in some church notices:

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals

Christian Aid Week



13th-19th May 2018

“Together we’re stronger than storms”

- Marcelin raised his three daughters in Haiti, facing down unimaginable natural disasters.
- They’re not just survivors. They’re fighters, but they’re only so strong. They need you in their corner.
- Help them build a home that can weather any storm, so they won’t have to fight any more



House to House Collection

- **Collectors are the life blood of Christian Aid Week—it couldn’t happen without them. Did you know that 70% of money raised for Christian Aid Week comes from house-to-house collections**

-so there will of course be the usual house to house collections. In spite of people’s reluctance to do collecting and preference for events to raise money by other means, **house to house collections raise more money for Christian Aid than any other means.**

- It’s not just the money - **It’s letting people know that Christians are ‘out there’ doing something.**

- Pat Waterman will be out collecting with others during the week and would love more people to join her. If you find the idea of collecting by yourself daunting, doing it in a group can be fun and supportive.

- ***Volunteers are needed please.***

- If you can help **individually or with others** please talk to Pat, or to Marian Jordan

**This year's Annual Church Meeting is on 6th May.
After the morning service.
Everyone is invited to attend**

Reports from the various church committees and organisations are available in a booklet in the Meeting Point so that you can read them before the meeting.

There are also nomination forms available for members of the congregation to serve on Church Council and for Church Stewards. More stewards makes the allocation of duties easier as they can be spread further.

Church Council members need to be nominated and elected **each year** whether they are already on Church Council or not.



**St Andrews Annual Christian Aid
Coffee Morning and Market**

Everyone is invited to visit St Andrew's on Bushey Heath for their Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Market on 12th May from 10.00am to 12.30pm.

There will be plants, cakes, Bric-a-brac etc for sale and the usual raffle.

They would also be very pleased to receive any of the above that might raise some money for Christian Aid.



May Messy Church is on 13th, 3.00pm –5.30pm
At Bushey & Oxhey Methodist Church

“Go into all the world.....”

Activities include walking on big feet, expanding circles, biscuits, bracelets, make a mountain.....

There are activities for children and adults together.

Children can bring their Mums and/or Dads, grandparents, uncles and aunts **to share** the activities, worship and a meal.

This is a joint initiative of Bushey & Oxhey Methodist and St Matthews Parish Churches

Contact: Marian Jordan 0208 386 9504
Or Debbie Lim 07545556126



A very warm welcome to Chalk Hill Pre-school which started in our Main Hall after the Easter Holidays.

The Pre-school will be open Monday to Friday 9am—4pm during school term time. Any enquiries to: Jessica Breakwell

Email: Jessica.breakwell@btinternet.com
phone: 07826684774

FAMILY News

It's good to see **Karen Wheeler** again after her back operation. We wish her a continuing good recovery.

Two of our Circuit ministers have been in the wars recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with **Rachel Hawkins** of Berkhamsted LEP who has had a recent leg operation and is recovering well and Ruth **Reynolds-Tyson** who is due to have an operation. Our prayers are also with the rest of the ministerial team who are under even more pressure at this time.

Sadly, we have just heard that Ted Miles has died after over 100 years of very active life. Our prayers are with Marion, his daughter, and the rest of his family. The funeral will be at Bushey & Oxhey at 1.45 on Monday 14th May

We also remember those of our Church community who are no longer able to meet with us: Kay Barker **Margaret Barnes**, **Angela Kidd**, and **Jill Thornton**.



**All are invited to a
Bread and home made soup
lunch
on**

**Tuesday 15th May
between 12.30-1.45 pm in the Meeting Point**

**Bushey & Oxhey Methodist Church
King Edward Road
All proceeds to Christian Aid**

A black and white illustration of a scroll with a prayer for Pentecost. The scroll is unrolled in the center, with the ends rolled up at the top and bottom corners. The text is centered on the scroll.

A Prayer for Pentecost

Dear Lord

Why do I seek darkness and cold
when the fire of your spirit offers so much?

Your fire brings cleansing -
Burning up the dross of broken promises and sin.

Your fire brings light -
To illuminate the way.

Your fire brings heat -
To warm the coldness of my soul.

Your fire brings energy -
To charge me afresh with living power.

Your fire brings purpose -
To follow the path of life,
And find fulfilment in you.

Why then do I seek darkness?

Lord, give me this day the wisdom, and sense,
To offer myself again to the fire of your spirit.

In your name,
Amen

Peter Fox, Local Preacher, Tavistock
in Methodist Prayer Handbook 2008-9

Church Diary - May 2018

Wed 2nd 10.00 am Art Workshop
11.00am Free Church Service in the Lady Chapel of
St Albans Abbey (see p. 6)

Sun 6th 11.00am Morning Worship with Holy Communion
Revd. Richard Lowson, followed by the Annual
Church Meeting

Sat 12th 10.00 am St Andrews Christian Aid Market (See p. 5)

Sun 13th 11.00am Morning Worship: Local Worship Team
3.00pm Messy Church

13th-19th Christian Aid Week House to House Collection all week

Tues 15th 12.30 pm Soup Lunch for Christian Aid (see p. 8)

Wed 16th Jordans' Housegroup 56 Pinner Road

Sun 20th 9.30 am United Morning Worship for Pentecost at
St Andrews Bushey Heath. Mrs Sheila Billings
Speak to a Steward or car driver if you need picking up.

Sun 27th 11.00am Trinity Sunday Morning Worship:
Mrs Sheila Billings

Tues 29th 8.00pm Jordans' Housegroup 153 Hillcroft Crescent

(For dates and venues of other Housegroups please contact the
numbers opposite)



Dates for the future

Thursday 7th June 8.00pm Pastoral Committee

Sat 23rd June The Alban Pilgrimage

REGULAR EVENTS

Sun. 11.00am Morning Worship

There is a children's corner in the church. All young children are invited to make use of this during the service. There is usually a story and activity available outside during part of the service for children over the age of 3..

3.00pm Messy Church: 2nd Sunday in each month

Mon. 4.45 to 6.00pm BEAVERS (6-8yrs)
6.30 to 8.00pm CUBS (8-10yrs)
8.00 to 10.00pm NOMADS' House group (see below)

Wed. 10am -12.30 Art Workshop
8.00 to 10.00pm JORDANS' House group (see below)

Thur. 7.00 to 10.00pm BECKETT'S/MONKS House group (see below)

Fri. 7.30 to 9.15pm SCOUTS (10-14yrs)

Daily 10.00am to 12.00 Boffees coffee shop

Housegroups meet approximately fortnightly. Please contact one of the following – Pam Conquest for NOMADS W466514 (Mondays)
Chris Jordan 020 8386 9504 (Wednesdays) Marion Monks 020 89507151 or Leslie Beckett W245117 (Thursdays)

CONTRIBUTIONS: The Editor welcomes articles from all who wish to express an opinion. ☎ 020 8386 9504 e-mail :curlyjordan@hotmail.com

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the stance or opinion of Bushey and Oxhey Methodist Church.

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Cub Scout Leader	Mr. Paul Hulin	W 266753
Scout Leader	Mr. Paul Sturgess	W 461243
Group Admin.	Mr. Barry Hulin	W 233981
Art Workshop	Mrs Gloria Breeze	W 228933
Boffees Coffee Shop	Mrs Mary Rees	020 8950 3846
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THE LINK: A monthly journal of all aspects of church life at
Bushey and Oxhey Methodist Church

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All items for inclusion should be with the Editor for the **14th day
of the previous month please.** Thanks.

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