

If extra events requiring publicity arise during the month they can be circulated by the editor via one-off e-mails or given to the steward on duty to announce on a Sunday.

Philip Sandiford Editor

UPCOMING SERVICES:

Sun 3 rd Mar, 10.30am	Mrs. Val Imms
Sun 10 th Mar, 10.30am	Rev. Gill Long – MOTHERING SUNDAY inc. Holy Communion
Sun 17 th Mar, 10.30am	Mr. Richard Smith
Maundy Thursday 28 th Mar, 10.30am	Rev. Gill Long – in the church
Good Friday 29 th Mar, 3.00pm	Good Friday Vigil in the church – including stripping of the cross
Sun 24 th Mar, 10.30am	Rev. Gill Long – PARADE SERVICE - PALM SUNDAY
Sun 31 st Mar, 10.30am	Rev. Gill Long – EASTER DAY – Inc. Holy Communion
	Bring a flower to dress the cross
Sun 7 th Apr, 10.30am	Rev. Gill Long – inc. Holy Communion

SAT 9th MARCH, 10.00am – PREPARATION OF POSIES FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

We shall be preparing posies of daffodils on Sat 9th March at 10.00am in the church. These will be presented to all our ladies on this special Sunday. Please let Elaine Bliss or me know if you can help. Could you bring scissors and any foliage you have in the garden for the posies?

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served.

Thank you Barbara Banthorpe

DIARY DATES:

SAT 9th MAR, 10.00am – PREPARING DAFFODIL POSIES IN THE CHURCH for Mothering Sunday.

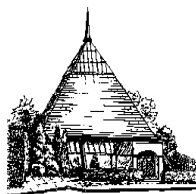
GOOD FRIDAY 29th MAR, 10.00am – B5 WALK OF WITNESS – starting All Saints' Orchard

EASTER DAY – 10.30am SUN 31st MAR – BRING A FLOWER TO DRESS THE CROSS

SUN 7th APR – CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AFTER MORNING SERVICE

SUN 19th MAY – PENTECOST SUNDAY AND CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUN 19th MAY, 6.30pm – DISTRICT ORDINANDS' TESTIMONY SERVICE at WALLINGTON
Please come and support Deacon Marie Poole
Also, let Gill know if you would like a lift



MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY – TUES 19th MAR:

The monthly bible study meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th March at 10.00am in the church.

CIRCUIT SERVICES PLAN MAR-MAY:

Copies of the service plan for March to May 2024.

SUN 7th APR AFTER SERVICE - JOINT CHURCH COUNCIL AND ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The joint Spring Church Council and Annual Church Meeting will be held after church on Sunday April 7th and everyone is warmly invited to attend. Copies of the Agenda Minutes of the Autumn Council Meeting are available at the back of the church.

Best wishes, Linda Lowes, Meeting Secretary

MINISTER'S LETTER – FOR MARCH 2024:

First of all, a grovelling apology for the lack of Pyramid Post in February. Neither Philip nor I were in a position to compile it, and we hope that set of circumstances doesn't repeat itself!

On Easter Sunday little Johnny listened as his Junior Church leader told the class that the lesson would be about the meaning of Easter. "Can anyone tell the Easter story?" she asked. When no-one volunteered to speak, she called on Gary.

"Umm. I don't think I know," Gary mumbled. The teacher reassured him that was OK and moved on to Betty.

"I don't know how to tell it," she responded.

Finally, little Johnny decided to raise his hand. He said he would tell the Easter story. The teacher was pleasantly surprised at his willingness since he was usually the class clown.

"On Easter," said Johnny, "Jesus and his disciples were eating the Jewish Passover at the last supper, but later Jesus was deceived and turned over to the Romans by one of his disciples. He was accused of telling people he was the Messiah and when he confessed it, the Romans made him wear a crown of thorns, took him to be crucified, and nailed him to a cross. They put the nails through his hands and feet. He said, 'It is finished' and died.

He was definitely dead because a soldier put a spear in his side, and it didn't bleed properly. So, they buried him in a nearby cave on Friday which was sealed off by a large rock".

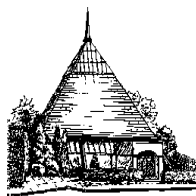
"Very good, Johnny!" the teacher gasped excitedly. "And what else happened that we celebrate at Easter?"

Johnny thought for a moment before continuing. "Now, on Easter Sunday each year, we move the rock aside so Jesus can come out. And if he sees his shadow, then we know there will be six more weeks of winter!"

How would you tell the Easter Story?

According to Scripture, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the centrepiece of our faith. There are many people who believe in Jesus - who believe that he died on the cross for our sins – but who have a hard time believing in the resurrection.

In 1 Corinthians 15:13-14 Paul says, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith".



Ivan Scheier, an American Psychologist, said those who think they are living a Christian life because they try to avoid doing bad things are in effect “slouching through life” and he calls them, ‘The Nothing People’:

They do not lie;
They just neglect to tell the truth.
They do not take,
They simply cannot bring themselves to give...
They will not rock the boat,
But did you ever see them pull an oar?...
They do not hurt you,
They merely will not help you.
They do not hate you,
They merely cannot love you...
They will not burn you,
They'll only fiddle while you burn
They are the nothing people,
The sins-of-omission folk,
The, neither good nor bad.

In his book, “The Christian Alphabet”, Gary Best says, “For God's sake do not profess to believe the amazing story of Christ and then loiter through life as if it did not concern you”.

So, as we approach Easter, remember the words of John Wesley: “Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.”

Stay in love with God. That's what makes the difference. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”. John 3:16 (NIV)

Happy Easter!

Gill

FUNDRAISING FOR THE BRITISH LEGION: (THIS HAPPENED LAST WEEK, BUT ANY FURTHER SUPPORT WOULD BE WELCOME!)

Dear Friends,

Just to let you know that 7th Banstead Scouts decided to fundraise for Royal British Legion Industries, and we would really appreciate your support.

The Scouts were taken out blindfolded in the minibus to an unknown destination about 6 miles away on the evening of Friday 23rd February at 8pm, and then they “yomped back” to our Church. Approximate arrival time was between 1 - 2am. They will took part in an overnight (or what was left of it!) Great Tommy Sleepout, out on the front of the Church, under an open gazebo. This was to raise funds for homeless veterans. If you would like to sponsor the youngsters (and Leaders) you can donate either on-line, or in cash (bucket at back of the church).

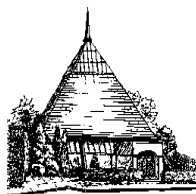
You can donate to 7th Banstead Scouts JustGiving page by entering the address below in your search line:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/7thbansteadgreattommysleepout?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2F7thbansteadgreattommysleepout&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

Minister – Rev. Gill Long - gill.long@bansteadmethodist.org.uk (07955 159 167)

EDITOR: Philip Sandiford. Tel: 07789 280 645 E-mail: philip_sandiford@sky.com.

New contributions to be with the editor 10 days before the end of each month



Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Royal British Legion Industries, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

JustGiving sends your donation straight to Royal British Legion Industries and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

If you are unable to support us through the just giving page, then there also is a sponsor sheet available in the Church that can be used to collect in cash donations.

Thank you for your support!

Janice Barber, Scout Leader

TO ALL OUR CHURCH FAMILY, SCOUTING FAMILY, AND FRIENDS:

I would like to say a very belated thank you for all the messages and the acts of support our family has received during the last six months after the loss of Stuart's father/ Maura's Grandad - Stan, our Uncle Michael, and my Mum/ Maura's Grandma -Margaret.

I am particularly grateful to everyone who was involved in the preparation of the Church for Mums service, and to those who helped me with the organising of both her and my uncles wakes in the church hall.

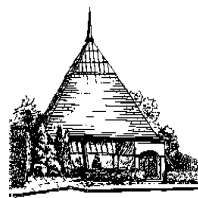
In particular I would like to mention Rose, who did the beautiful flowers, Brian who prepared all the "technical" bits for the service, Maureen who played the organ, Liz who picked up the food order for me, Barbara, Diana, Lucy and their families who made sure everything ran smoothly for the refreshments, and all our other scouting friends who arranged a Guard of Honour for Mums coffin, plus those who helped to set up or clear up afterwards. I would also like to say thank you to June who found me a selection of photos of Mum to help with the photo display. (Sorry if I have left anyone out)

Finally, a huge thank you to our Minister Gill Long for all her hard work in preparing two of the three services that were held, all of which celebrated the lives of three very special people.

Once again, the members of Banstead Methodist Church and 7th Banstead Scout Group have shown what lovely caring people they are, and we are so grateful to you all.

Thank you. *Janice, Maura, and Stuart.*





LATEST NEWS FROM THE BEAVERS:

Dragons and daffodils

Our Beaver colony is full to bursting at the moment. We've even managed to recruit 3 girls, after a couple of years of boys only. Two of the girls are identical twins, so it's a bit of a challenge for us, but they are very patient with us as we try to guess who is who.

This term, we've already worked on our Experiment badge. Amongst other things, we made lava lamps and Skittles rainbows and we inflated balloons with a cocktail of vinegar and baking powder. We followed this with our Cook badge. The children made sandwiches and mini pancakes cooked over tea lights and had great fun with a couple of fondue sets dug out from the back of the cupboard in leaders' kitchens. There was as much chocolate on the Beaver Scouts as there was on the fruit they were supposed to dip in it, but as always, they had lots of fun.

This week we celebrated St David's Day by learning some facts about Wales (as well as the other nations of the UK). We then made dragons from paper cups and learned how to tie a knot around a little posy of daffodils.

Finally, spring seems just around the corner and we have lots of exciting plans for the rest of the term

Tigger

AKA Liz Batten, Beaver Scout Leader





EPSOM FOODBANK UPDATE AS AT 26 FEB – PLEASE LEAVE ITEMS IN BOX AT BACK OF CHURCH:

- RICE (NOT MICROWAVE RICE PLEASE)
- TEA BAGS
- JARS OF INSTANT COFFEE
- UHT MILK (FF AND SS ONLY PLEASE)
- LONGLIFE SPONGE PUDDINGS
- HONEY
- CUSTARD
- SUGAR (500G) BAGS
- PEANUT BUTTER / CHOCOLATE SPREAD
- SHAMPOO
- TOOTHBRUSHES (SINGLES IF POSSIBLE)
- DEODORANT
- CHILDREN'S TOOTHPASTE

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- PLEASE NOTE WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE ALCOHOL, REFRIGERATED OR FROZEN ITEMS

PLEASE, NO MORE OF THESE ITEMS AS WE ARE AT CAPACITY

- DOG FOOD
 - CAT FOOD
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