

EASTER SERVICES 2019

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 19th 10.30am
Service of Meditation

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 21st 11.00am
Pastor

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 21st 6.30pm
Pastor

All Welcome

Praise be to God

As we gather together on Good Friday and Easter Sunday as the local church meeting at Westerham Hill, let us make the most of the opportunity of this weekend and consider the following responses to our Father God's gracious provision for our salvation:

1. Meditation. As we remember Christ's death for us, the righteous for the unrighteous and the tremendous cost of bearing our sins in his body on the tree of Calvary. We shall by God's grace let the scriptures speak afresh to us and as we break bread together we will look to the Spirit of God to raise our hearts and minds heavenwards that by faith we may feed upon our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Confession. As we acknowledge our own sin and failure before a Holy God, we will do so knowing that there is nothing good in us that will ever merit God's love and grace, but we can and will trust in Christ's saving work on our behalf.
3. Thanksgiving. With heartfelt gratitude we will sing and pray and share our experience of the joy of forgiveness and new life in Christ. With the hymn writer we will want to say:
*Now thank we all our God, With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things have done, In whom this world rejoices.*
4. Rejoicing. With all of God's people everywhere, we will joyfully sing and shout our praise and adoration to the Triune God as we proclaim the message of a risen and exalted Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God now on the throne. We marvel at Christ's glorious victory over sin and death and we look forward to that day when he returns in visible triumph.
5. Studying. As we have found in the book of Hebrews which says much about Christ's Priesthood in the order of Melchizedek, there are some things which are a little harder to grasp, but we believe that the hard work is worth it and we will find great help and encouragement from these deep truths.
6. Telling. We believe this Easter message is for everyone to hear and we are keen that everybody will feel free and welcome to visit us on any Sunday.
7. Giving. This Easter all our offerings will go via Barnabas Trust to help the people of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe who have been so hard hit by the recent cyclone.

We trust and pray that you will be able to join us and share in these ways to the glory of Almighty God.

Kevin Tibble

Secretary's notes

We do hope that you might be able to join us for our Easter Services. We commend to you most especially the service on Good Friday morning at 10.30am. This is a service of Meditation followed by Communion and will be taken by our Pastor. Services on Easter Sunday will be at 11.00am and 6.30pm, these again will be taken by our Pastor.

Special dates for your diary

Monday June 10th 7.30pm for 8.00pm at St Nicholas, Sevenoaks SASRA AGM when the speaker will be Brigadier Rob Thomson CBE DSO. He is the son of a former Rector of St Nicholas. Scripture Reader Meg Atkinson will also be taking part.

This will be the beginning of our week of outreach.

Sunday June 16th 6.30pm will be our Hymns for a Summer Evening.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

This will end our week of outreach.

Please note, the time this year is back to **6.30pm**

Tuesday June 25th 7.45pm Graham Chewter from the Trinitarian Bible Society will be coming to tell us more about the work of TBS.

We hope you will be able to come.

Personalia

We again have much to thank God for, this we do with grateful hearts. Many in the fellowship have battled with chemotherapy, long ceaseless visits to hospital and ongoing frailty. We thank God for answered prayer, for sustaining power and protection. We pray that soon they will feel very much better.

The funeral was held here at the Chapel on Thursday February 7th of Pam Whiting. Pam came to worship here on many occasions over the years, it was always good to see her. We continue to remember her family in Prayer.

MBC



On Sunday April 7th at approximately 12.15pm, aged 98, our beloved friend Cissie Entwistle passed away. Cissie was in Tupwood Gate nursing home where she had been for coming up to three years. The care she experienced at Tupwood was exceptional, we her church visitors were always made very welcome (indeed we were plied with kindness and tea) when we visited her. To the staff we say ("Thank You") for all you did and your care. Cissie is now in the presence of her Lord.

What can we say about Cissie? She was truly unique! She joined the small fellowship here in 1973 and quickly found her way into everyone's heart. She was a writer of poetry or maybe you could call it verse, I am no expert (but I know those verses were written from the heart and touched the hearts of the readers.)

Cissie loved the little Chapel that she worshipped in and in due time she became the editor of our Church Newsletter and made it her own cajoling members to, as she would say, "*Put something in it please*" with that winning smile

And they did (how could we not or would we dare refuse?)

Her home was open to all her many friends not just from this fellowship. Her garden was a source of joy until the time came and she was unable to attend to it the way she wanted and her beloved family stepped in.

Her faith was all in all to her. Always her prayers at the weekly prayer meeting were very special, she just talked to her Father in heaven. When we went to visit her she always said at the end "*Can we pray now?*")

One of her favourite hymns was "*O Lord My God*".

Cissie was a very special person, a delight to know, a dear friend. (Mind you if she was not happy about something or she thought it was not right she would soon let you know).

We thank God for every remembrance of her, the joy she brought to this little Chapel and for her faithful witness to the Lord she served.

Cissie's sister Norah passed away last year, Cissie was devoted to her as she was to all her family. To her son Richard and his family in Denmark and her niece Jan and nephew John who cared for her so devotedly and their children we send our love and prayers "*Thanking you from our hearts*" for allowing us to continue to be part of Cissie's last journey home.

MBC

*Then sings my soul my Saviour God to thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

Dates for your Diary 2019

11am

6.30pm

Apr 21 st	Pastor	Easter	Pastor
Apr 28 th	Peter Dunn		Peter Dunn
May 5 th	Pastor		Pastor
May 12 th	Andrew Wilson	RELEASE	Colin Appleton
May 19 th	Pastor	Home Mission	Pastor
May 26 th	Brig I Dobbie		Brig I Dobbie
June 2 nd	Trainee/Stratford		Pastor
June 9 th	Trainee/Stratford		TBC
June 16 th	Pastor		<i>Hymn Evening</i>
June 23 rd	Trainee/Stratford		Pastor
June 30 th	Trainee/Stratford		Henderson Osbourne
Jul 7 th	Pastor		Pastor
Jul 14 th	Peter Dunn		Peter Dunn
Jul 21 st	Pastor		Pastor
Jul 28 th	Bill McCubbin		Bill McCubbin
Aug 4 th	Henderson Osbourne		Henderson Osbourne
Aug 11 th	TBC		TBC
Aug 18 th	Colin Appleton		TBC
Aug 25 th	Brig I Dobbie		Brig I Dobbie
Sep 1 st	Pastor		Pastor
Sep 8 th	London City Mission		TBC
Sep 15 th	Pastor		Pastor
Sep 22 nd	TBC		TBC
Sep 29 th	TBC		TBC
Oct 6 th	Pastor <i>Harvest & 132nd Church Anniv</i> Pastor		



Overview of 2019

Good Friday April 19th 10.30am **Pastor**

Service of meditation

Monday June 10th 7.30pm for 8.00pm

SASRA AGM St Nicholas, Sevenoaks,

This week events are proposed for a mission week including:-
a fellowship meal ending with communion, a Ladies afternoon tea
and a Men's breakfast, culminating with our Hymn evening:-

Sunday June 16th 6.30pm

Hymns for a summer evening
Refreshments will be served after the service.

Tuesday 25th 7.45pm

Graham Chewter from the Trinitarian Bible Society

Sunday Oct 6th 11.00am & 6.30pm **Pastor**

Harvest 132nd Church Anniversary

Tuesday Oct 8th 7.30pm **Brig I Dobbie**

Harvest

Refreshments after the service



Missionary News

As we come together to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, we give thanks to God for His many blessings. For prayers answered and for our Pastor and visiting preachers faithful teaching from the bible week by week.

We continue to pray for those countries where it is not possible to preach God's word, or even to meet in His name. May God's people be sustained and upheld, given courage and strength through His grace and love.

In March several of us attended a meeting at Otford Evangelical Church. The speaker was from the Barnabus Society. It was good to hear more concerning their work with persecuted Christians in many different countries and to share fellowship with members of another local church.

Latest prayer leaflets for the Societies that we support are displayed on the notice board in the hall. Do feel free to take them home and return them when finished.

Recently I sent off two packets of postage stamps. When I received acknowledgement it stated that £17,500 had been raised for BMS from the sale of the stamps etc in the last year.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our missionary work. May God continue to bless our giving.

Shirley

And they crucified Him.

Matt 27:35

Consider afresh the cross-work of Christ today.

The sin that needed it!

The love that ordained it!

The malice that wrought it!

The patience that endured it!

All are beyond our utmost thoughts.

Pete Smith

*Oh, teach me what it meaneth
That cross uplifted high,
With one-the Man of sorrows;
Condemned to bleed and die!*

Lucy Ann Bennet

ABOU BEN ADHEM

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold:-
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the Presence in the room he said
"What writest thou?"-The vision raised its head,
And with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered "The names of those who love the Lord."
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerily still, and said "I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

James Leigh Hunt

This was a poem we had to learn when I was at junior
School for our morning assembly

Sheila Bray



Wadey, Clifford. Spiritual Revival

H. E. Walter.

Paperback; 155 pages

At times God may speak with greater force than we expect. He did so to 300 men over the weekend, Swanwick conference September 1981, which this report covers. Do we have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches? If so, proceed with care, because through this account of His ways you could find that He speaks to you first. Spiritual Revival for others, yes, but am I ready to face it myself? How near do you want revival to come?

The following are the introductory thoughts of Clifford Wadey in his book, reporting on the Addresses and Discussions at the conference

The Lord God, we know, is unchanging. How then do we apply the enduring principles of His will to an ever changing situation when, to a degree, experience can quickly become outdated? The answer lies in a faith continually renewed. God is consistently 'longsuffering ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance' (2 Peter 3:9) whether 'cultured' or 'primitive', educated or illiterate, from East or West, of whatever political or moral persuasion, and He is forever responding to the needs of men in all manner of situations in all their local diversity. To those first century 'partakers of the heavenly calling' who had undergone more changes than most, and some unique changes at that, the matching assurance was given, 'Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever' (Hebrews 13:8). Yet was not His coming into the world the root cause of those changes? The Christ of yesterday, when we felt so certain, perhaps too certain, is the same today when we feel so bewildered, and will be the same tomorrow and beyond with all its unknown. An awareness of His constancy is vital in the developments which overtake us in the world, in the church and even in ourselves. When rules of tradition which once seemed so promising and reliable breakdown through obsolescence, there is no substitute for knowing God, 'our help in ages past, our hope for years to come'. We betray the past and deface the revered memory of those 'who have spoken unto us the word of God' when we fail to move in step with the unchanging Christ they served in their generation. Our best tribute to the memory of our leaders of yester-year, 'whose faith follow', is to apply the Scriptures with no less zeal to our times than they did to theirs.

The Unbelief of the Jews

John 10:30-33

After Jesus told the Jews that He and God, His Father, are one they picked up stones to stone him. Jesus asked them which miracle he had performed made them want to stone him. They replied "We are not stoning you for any of these, but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

How wrong the Jews that were talking to Jesus were and mankind always seems to get things backwards. Jesus was in every way a man but He never became God. He was God that became a man. In actual fact He became who he never was, yet He never stopped being who He always was and He will never stop being what He became.

He made Himself a man so that He might make us like Himself.

Predestined to be conformed to His image.

Let us praise the Lord for such a Saviour!

*I shall be like Him, I shall be like Him
In His beauty shine,
I shall be like Him wondrously like Him,
Jesus my Saviour divine.*

W A Spencer

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God....

James 1:5

In our stress filled world many people look in the wrong place for help. Some of God's creatures illustrate this point . A buzzard placed in a small cage becomes a prisoner as it needs at least a ten foot run to take flight. A bat cannot take off from level ground, it will shuffle around until it finds a ledge from which it will throw itself into the air. A bee put in a jar will stay there until it dies not looking upwards to see the open top but staying low to its doom.

Many people today grope around looking for release from their circumstances unwilling to look upwards for help. Our instruction book is the Bible the correct source for all of life's answers.

*Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key, that shall unclasp and set me free.*

Clara H Scott

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah.... Luke1:5

In the reign of Herod the times were dreadful. A tyrant and monster was on the throne. He was a murderer even of his own sons. He was proud, cruel, horrible and detestable in every way, but there was also a priest, a servant. He was humble, virtuous, godly and faithful.

Whoever is on the throne in our world, be they prime minister, president, pharaoh or prince, God has also His priests, men and women, who faithfully carry out their privilege of worshipping Him joyfully, hopefully and prayerfully. In these times of turmoil and chaos may the Lord find our hearts and our lives prepared and looking to the coming King who will reign forever.

Praise His Name!

Still, my Soul be Still

Still, my soul be still,
And do not fear,
Though winds of change may rage tomorrow.
God is on your side,
No longer dread,
The fires of unexpected sorrow.

Still, my soul be still,
Do not forsake,
The Truth you learned in the beginning .
Wait upon the Lord,
And hope will rise,
As stars appear when day is dimming..

K & K Getty



He Shall Come

“what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch” Mark 13:37

It may be in the evening,
When the work of the day is done,
And you have time to sit in the twilight,
And to watch the sinking sun ;
While the long bright day dies slowly
 Over the sea,
And the hour grows quiet and holy
With thoughts of Me;
While you hear the village children
Passing along the street,
Among these thronging footsteps
May come the sound of My feet ;
Therefore I tell you, watch!
By the light of the evening star,
When the room is growing dusky
 As the clouds afar;
Let the door be on the latch
 In your home,
For it may be through the gloaming,
 I will come.

It may be in the midnight
When 'tis heavy upon the land,
And the black waves lying dumbly
Along the sand;
When the moonless night draws close
And the lights are out in the house,
When the fires burn low and red,
And the watch is ticking loudly
 Beside the bed ;
Though you sleep tired on your couch,
Still your heart must wake and watch
 In the dark room;
For it may be that at midnight
 I will come.

It may be at the cock-crow,
When the night is dying slowly
 In the sky,
And the sea looks calm and holy,
Waiting for the dawn of the golden sun
 Which draweth nigh;

When the mists are on the valleys, shading,
The rivers chill,
And my morning star is fading, fading
Over the hill;
Behold, I say unto you, watch!
Let the door be on the latch In your home,
In the chill before the dawning,
Between the night and morning,
I may come.

It may be in the morning
When the sun is bright and strong,
And the dew is glittering sharply Over the little lawn,
When the waves are laughing loudly Along the shore,
And the little birds are singing sweetly About the door;
With the long day's work before you
You are up with the sun,
And the neighbors come to talk a little
Of all that must be done;
But, remember, that I may be the next To come in at the door,
To call you from your busy work, For evermore.
As you work, your heart must watch,
For the door is on the latch In your room,
And it may be in the morning
I will come.

So I am watching quietly
Every day,
Whenever the sun shines brightly
I rise and say,
Surely it is the shining of His face,
And look unto the gate of His high place
Beyond the sea,
For I know He is coming shortly
To summon me;
And when a shadow falls across the window
Of my room,
Where I am working my appointed task,
I lift my head to watch the door and ask
If He is come!
And the Spirit answers softly
In my home.
"Only a few more shadows,
And He will come".

Submitted by Elisabeth

The Awful Darkness

Why was this good man being accused, what exactly were the accusations?

One of his friends betrayed him to the soldiers for some cash and another, through sheer terror, denied he knew him and the others ran off as the situation got to a point where it was far beyond their control. The mob decided they wanted to release a murderer and replace him with this innocent man.

The man in charge felt distinctly uncomfortable with the way things were turning out and began to feel as though his authority was being brought into question. He was not at all happy with the request of the majority of the baying crowd so he publicly washed his hands of the situation shirked his responsibilities and said “on your heads be it”.

Things moved very quickly on. Why doesn't this man defend himself from all these accusations ? He just stands there! Doesn't he realise how dangerous his situation is. Its getting really nasty now some people are beginning to spit at him, now they've blindfolded him and every now and again one of them is hitting him and making him look ridiculous and vulnerable by asking “who hit you?!”

Its a new day and it looks like this man doesn't stand a chance all the different leaders of the people, religious, lawyers, elders and the ruling council have all met together in a hurry to make their plans and have led him away in chains. Pilate was the one person who could help him and he urged him to defend himself but he just keeps quiet, why?. Pilate seems like a weak leader he is giving into the crowd, the man just won't help himself and give something for Pilate to hang his innocence on. So instead he has handed him over to be whipped. So now he is at their mercy dressed in purple and being mocked and jeered, also he has had a terrible crown put on his head, not a gleaming golden one but a rough twisted one made of sharp thorns and in jest they are all calling out to him “Long live the King of the Jews!” Some are even bowing down and others hitting him on the head with a stick.

They have had their fun. The purple robe has been pulled off and he is being led away outside to where they crucify people up on that hill outside the city. Surely this is all wrong, but its all too late now the crowd have got their way and this innocent man is going to die. Someone has been forced to help him carry his cross up the hill, he is so weak from all the beatings and ill treatment he has been put through already.

Its nine o'clock in the morning, he has even refused the drug and wine they offered him. Now they are crucifying him. The soldiers are throwing dice to see who will get his clothes right at the foot of the cross. How can they do that? And they have put a sign over him saying **The King of the Jews.**

Its ever so busy at this crucifixion this morning not only is there that innocent man falsely accused , but there are two more crosses one either side of him with two very definite guilty men being crucified at the same time.

Some people are shouting at the central cross saying “if you are who you say you are come down from the cross you must have the power to do so” and others are just shaking their heads and muttering and denying, that he has any power at all, just look at him. There are even some people criticising the inscription saying it should say that **‘He said He is the King of the Jews’**.

Incredibly the man in the middle is audibly forgiving those who have crucified him! And it seems he is having a conversation with one of the other men on the cross next to him which seems to have been quite profound. Also his mother is here and he is talking to a man she is with making sure he will look after her when he is gone.

Its noon, now the sun has stopped shining, the darkness is intense there is total silence, nobody knows what to do. How long is this darkness going to last? its awful and you can’t understand how its happened right in the middle of the day. It feels as though we are being shielded from seeing something. Even the soldiers monitoring the situation are too scared to move.

Its now three o’clock there was a loud shout just now from the man in the middle saying “My God, my God why have you forsaken me?” and then shortly after another loud shout saying “it is finished”. Now that sounded like a victory cry! The sun has started to give out its light again. The man in the middle has died. A message has come through that the curtain in the Temple separating off holiest place has completely ripped from the top down seemingly on its own!

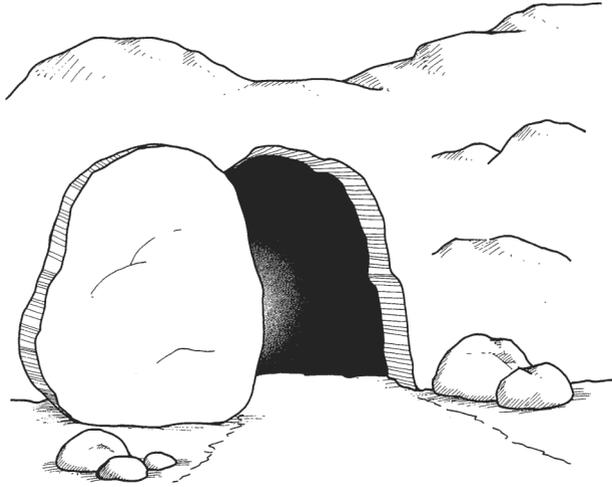
The soldier standing by the cross who had seen all that had happened said “ This man really was the Son of God!” He was left in no doubt and, to be fair, he was the one that was physically closest to all these extraordinary events.

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.

The cross shows how much God loves us. Every human being is sinful, its in our nature. God could not sweep sin under the carpet because he is holy and cannot look on sin so in those three dark hours all of God’s anger against sin was placed on Jesus, he was made sin and God had to forsake him. The awful darkness hid the silent sufferings of Christ from human eyes. It was too awful to witness. He was fighting against the rulers, authorities, powers, spiritual forces of this dark world which we cannot overcome on our own. Jesus won the victory and through Him, and only Him, can we be forgiven.

Hallelujah what a Saviour!

Catherine



Luke 24:1-3 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

5b-8 “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee? The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.” Then they remembered his words.

Acts 3:13-15a The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade, kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Praise be to God!