



# Ainsdale Methodist Church

*Sunday 12th April 2020*



*Prayer for the Week is...*

Almighty God,

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, Your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. Gracious God, We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection. We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today. We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

Amen.

*Lectionary Readings for this Sunday*

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

# Spring Harvest



Spring Harvest is normally a week long Christian held at holiday parks across the UK; an event of Bible teaching, live worship, specialist seminars and workshops. This will be taking place on line this year from Easter Monday, 12th April to Friday 16th April.

It's free to watch the content. You can watch it via the following link - <https://www.youtube.com/user/SpringHarvest>

You can browse the programme via the following link - [https://springharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/1596SH\\_SH\\_Home\\_Programme\\_Final3.pdf](https://springharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/1596SH_SH_Home_Programme_Final3.pdf). There are daily bible studies with the likes of Gavin Claver followed by Malcolm Duncan, both of who I (Patrick) would recommend. There is so much more, including worship with the latest worship songs, children's content, and many seminars on a range of topics. The final celebration at 10.30am on Friday will be a particular highlight with Archbishop Sentamu speaking and worship with Lou Fellingham.

For a "What you need to know" guide follow this link - [https://springharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/1594SH\\_SH-Home\\_Need\\_To\\_Know\\_Sheets\\_V3.pdf](https://springharvest.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/1594SH_SH-Home_Need_To_Know_Sheets_V3.pdf)

More information is available at <https://springharvest.org/spring-harvest-home/>.

I cannot recommend Spring Harvest to you highly enough. Looking at the programme there are some highlights I'm going to tune into, and have it running in the background and have a Christian holiday at home!

Enjoy and be blessed!

## Worship

With Sunday approaching I am reminding us of the services available via the Methodist Church online, as well as some others on TV & Radio. Please see below.

**Wesley's Chapel London** - Sunday 11am

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA)

**Swan Bank Methodist Church, Burslem** - Sundays 10:30

[www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank](http://www.youtube.com/user/SwanBank) and [www.facebook.com/swanbank/](http://www.facebook.com/swanbank/)

**Methodist Central Hall Westminster** - Sundays 11.00

[www.youtube.com/mchwevents](http://www.youtube.com/mchwevents)

**Sthie ('At home')**

To join in a very different worship experience, try Sthie ('At home') from the Isle of Man (see image of Peel Hill, right, by Andy Fishburne). Join in live on Sundays by joining a Facebook group. For details see [www.andyfishburne.com/2020/03/15/sthie-at-home-online-worship/](http://www.andyfishburne.com/2020/03/15/sthie-at-home-online-worship/)

**BBC Local Radio (incl Radio Merseyside)**

At 8.00 am this Sunday, all 39 BBC local radio stations will be joining together for a service for Easter Day.



BBC TV

Britain's Easter Story

Episode 1 BBC2 3.00pm Friday 10th April. Episode 2 BBC1 10.10am Sunday 12th April.

11.00am - Easter Day, Urbi et Orbi - Pope Francis's Easter message and blessing from St Peter's Square in Rome.

11.25am - Easter Day, Sunday Worship

The Very Reverend Kathy Jones leads the Easter Sunday service from Bangor Cathedral in north Wales. The preacher is the Right Reverend Andy John, Bishop of Bangor.

**Welcome** - The Very Rev. Kathy Jones, Dean of Bangor **Hymn** - Jesus Christ Is Risen Today  
**First Reading** - John, Chapter 20, Verses 1-18 Read by Elma Taylor. **Sermon** - The Right Rev. Andy John, Bishop of Bangor. **Hymn** - The Day Of Resurrection. **Second Reading** - Jeremiah, Chapter 31, Verses 1-6 Read by Sam Jones. **Hymn** - We Have A Gospel To Proclaim. **Prayers** - Led by Canon Nathan Jarvis. **The Lord's Prayer**. **Music** - Light After Darkness Sung by Côr Glanaethwy. **The Blessing** - The Right Rev. Andy John, Bishop of Bangor. **Hymn** - Thine Be The Glory.

## *Morning Prayers*

There are two daily offerings of morning prayers through the week as follows.

09:00 Monday-Friday - from Wesley House Cambridge:

[www.facebook.com/wesleycambridge](http://www.facebook.com/wesleycambridge). Resources for following the prayers and readings are available at: [www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/prayer-space/](http://www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/prayer-space/) 10:00 Monday-Friday - from Wesley's Chapel London: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA)

## *Offerings*

Some people have been asking this week what will be happening regarding offerings at this time, so we are repeating the information provided a couple of weeks ago.

Our preference and encouragement is that you set up a Standing Order (but do not make a special trip to your bank branch to do so, do it online) - our bank account details are Name - Ainsdale Methodist Church. Sort Code 16-32-10, and our Bank Account Number is 11147519.

You can make an electronic transfer from your bank account stating your name to the bank account details above.

If you would like to pay by cheque, please send to our Treasurer, Jane Maude, 80 Easedale Drive, Southport PR8 3TS . Do not make a special journey to a post box nor request anyone else to do so on your behalf whilst the current guidance is in place regarding staying at home.

If you normally pay via the envelope scheme, unless you are using one of the options above, please continue to fill your envelopes and save them until such time as we are able to return to Church.

Thank you for your concern in this regard.



## *Easter Reflection*

Matthew gives an account of a time when the disciples were in a boat on Lake Galilee, in chapter 14: 22-32 - Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat was already a considerable distance from the land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

Lent this year, for many of us, has been the most difficult one we have ever experienced. We are being buffeted by the strong winds and waves of the corona virus lockdown and the concerns for ourselves and for friends, families and our Church family. Jesus spent forty days and nights in the wilderness, battling against the temptations from the Devil. Some of you are having to cope on your own and the rest of us with one or (at the most three or four) others. We too are open to temptation to become anxious, worried or in despair. We can learn from Jesus' and Peter's experience. Jesus responded to the devil's attacks with scripture, the 'sword of the Spirit'. We have our Bibles and the time to read them. When Peter kept his eyes on Jesus he stayed above the waves, the wind and waves didn't subside but Peter was able to stay above them! It was only when Peter took his eyes off Jesus (to look at what was going on around him) that he began to sink. If we take our eyes off the risen Jesus, to focus on the crisis, we too will be in danger of sinking. When Peter cried out to Jesus, the Lord reached out his hand and caught him. If we feel we are sinking we are able to cry out to Jesus in prayer and he will save us, as he did with Peter. When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. This crisis will end and we will come out victorious at the end. Lent finishes with the resurrection of Jesus and we celebrate that on Easter Sunday (or today, depending on when you read this). Remember the risen Jesus is with us always, 24/7. He is only a prayer away and keep your eyes on HIM!

Have a very happy Easter.

Colin Fyles



# Patrick's Page

Dear Friends

A big thank you to Colin Fyles, Local Preacher, for our Easter Reflection. From me, a few items by way of update.

It has now been confirmed that the Methodist Conference will not meet in Telford in June. Furthermore, as the majority of District Synods have been unable to meet, the report and decisions concerning God in Love Unites Us are postponed until the 2021 Conference. District Synods will consider the God in Love Unites Us resolutions at their Autumn gatherings. The Officers of the Conference are working out how the Conference can be convened to enable it to exercise its necessary annual ecclesial responsibilities and conduct any essential business.

Ainsdale Lunch & Leisure have now suspended all their activities including their meals on wheels service. This was a difficult decision for their Trustees to make. Their decision was taken in order to protect the health of their employees (its hard to maintain social distancing in a kitchen leading to many other takeaway services also closing), and also to protect the finances of the charity, in order that they can reopen as soon as guidance allows. The reserves of the charity would have been wiped out if they had maintained the meals on wheels services through to the end of June. Their employees have been furloughed with the benefit of the 80% government slurry payment and the charity paying the 20% top up. As a Church, we are supporting ALL as an expression of our calling as a Church to Christian service, by being a good neighbour to people in need. When ALL decided to close their service provision to all but Meals on Wheels, we reduced their rent by 50% from 16 March to 30th April. We have now also reduced their rent to zero for May and June, unless they can open earlier. ALL checked the provision their Meals on Wheels clients received to ensure they were provided for, and some are now receiving a volunteer personal shopper service.

Some people have been concerned for the employees of the churches and Circuit at this time. The position of the Methodist Church is that we want to witness a model of what it means to be responsible employers and responsible citizens. We are therefore starting from the point that we should not be looking to lay off staff unless or until that becomes absolutely necessary and not to do so to draw on state aid unless or until our own resources have been depleted. We will therefore be drawing on our reserves. Ministers are not employees and cannot be furloughed, and are classed as Key Workers under the definition of the Government.

Remember, God's Church is open, it is just the buildings that are closed.

God bless

Patrick

## Section Office

Minister: Rev. Patrick Evans  
[patrick.evans@methodist.org.uk](mailto:patrick.evans@methodist.org.uk)

07813 211501  
If you would like to talk with  
the Minister about any  
matter, please contact  
Patrick directly on number  
above.

Outreach Worker: Sally Eyes  
[sally.eyes@southportmethodist.org.uk](mailto:sally.eyes@southportmethodist.org.uk)  
07767 159684  
[www.ainsdalemethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.ainsdalemethodistchurch.org.uk)

Administrator: Lucy Lloyd-Disley  
[lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk](mailto:lucy@southportmethodist.org.uk)  
07484 608675 Mon-Thurs 9.30-1.30



**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

This short act of **Easter worship** has been produced for you at this time when we are unable to attend church. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

**Call to Worship:** Christ is risen, he is risen  
indeed alleluia!

**Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen today (Singing the Faith 298)**

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to this version by Maddy Prior & the Carnival Band here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdL4j8NKmUg>

**1 Christ the Lord is risen today;  
Alleluia!  
All creation joins to say:  
Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high;  
Alleluia!  
Sing, you heavens;let earth, reply:  
Alleluia!**

**2 Love's redeeming work is done,  
Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won;  
Alleluia!  
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Alleluia!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell:  
Alleluia!**

**3 Lives again our glorious King;  
Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting?  
Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save;  
Alleluia!  
Where's your victory, boasting grave?  
Alleluia!**

**4 Soar we now where Christ has led,  
Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head;  
Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise;  
Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies:  
Alleluia!**

**5 King of Glory! Soul of bliss!  
Alleluia!  
Everlasting life is this,  
Alleluia!  
You to know, your power to prove,  
Alleluia!  
Thus to sing, and thus to love:  
Alleluia!**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)  
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 298

Let us pray together

**Resurrection God, you offer life overcoming death, love overcoming emptiness, light overcoming darkness.**

**I give you thanks for the hundred small and powerful ways I experience resurrection every day.**

**Thank you for Jesus, who shows us how to live as a resurrection people, living defiant and in resistance to death.**

**For those times when I have failed to challenge the things of death, the political systems, relationships, selfish desires, I'm sorry.**

**For those times when I have failed to resist death and ignored your call to live the life I am gifted, I'm sorry.**

**I trust that you forgive me, I hear your forgiveness intertwined with your call to me to live the life I am gifted, and I trust that you are merciful in all ways. Amen.**

**Read Today's Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18**

### **Time to Reflect**

Take a moment to think about:

The Easter story is one that is familiar to us, we know it so well but how do we live it? How do we live as resurrection, Easter Day people, the whole year round?

We are surrounded by death, and we are called to live as resurrection, Easter day people in the midst of death, how is that possible? How do we do that?

Easter isn't just "happy". Easter is much more powerful than happiness. Easter isn't safe. Saying 'Alleluia' isn't a passing pleasantry. Easter is the big shout of protest to all that is death. Easter is a defiant act against all that has tried to suppress life.

Easter is black Americans chanting "I can't breathe" whilst those with white privilege often become deaf. Still they chant attempting to dispel death. That is Easter, it's angry.

Easter is a young journalist from Northern Ireland, shot dead by terrorists but whose message of inclusion for the LGBTQI+ community continues to echo after her death. That is Easter, it is passionate.

Easter is the force of climate change protestors, trying to alert us all to the climate catastrophe about to happen, being arrested in their pursuit of the truth. That is Easter, it recognises truth. Truth is life.

Easter is the welcome we offer refugees who leave behind their home, fleeing violence and conflict for the increasing hatred and far right politic of the west. That is Easter, it is the love of welcome.

Easter is throwing off the grave clothes of death, not in a pretty delicate fashion but with power, with force, with strength. Easter is life beyond the things of death amidst the things of death.

It's Easter, it is triumphant, it is victorious, it is persistent, it is angry, passionate, truth, life and love.

While I was ill, I claimed a phrase as my own and it was 'live the life you are gifted'. By that I mean, whatever life you have - really live it,

So at Easter we talk about life winning over death, light over darkness, hope over despair. I invite you to really think about that life that you have been gifted, with whatever limitations you might have, and really embrace it, really live it. Resurrection is living the life you are gifted in the face of death.

We experience resurrection in a hundred small and powerful ways every day. And it all begins when we commit ourselves to live the life we are gifted as a form of strong resistance to death.

To live the life we are gifted as resurrection people, as an act of radical resistance to death.

Take a time to sit quietly and listen to this **Taize chant: Bless the Lord My Soul**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IC2XWBxktk>

### **A time of prayer**

Resurrection God I bring before you now my hopes, desires, needs and concerns and I trust that you hear me and help me.

For your church, a people of resurrection; frightened, weary, hopeful – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.

For your world, a people and creation; frightened, weary, determined – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.

For your vulnerable ones, the sick, the grieving, the isolated; frightened, weary, loved – may we all know your love empowering us to live the life we are gifted.

I especially want to pray for .....

Resurrection God,  
These are my prayers, our hopes, concerns, desires and needs and I trust that you hear me and will help me, help me to be your hands, your feet, your voice in all those situations and with all those people who need to know your gift of life. Amen.

*Our Father .....*

### **Hymn: Thine be the Glory Singing the Faith 313**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPjTfw4a2ZE>

**1 Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay:**

**Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.**

**2 Lo, Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth,  
death hath lost its sting:**

**3 No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of Life;  
life is naught without thee:  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above:**

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)  
translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)  
Reproduced from Singing the Faith Electronic Words Edition, number 313

### **A prayer of blessing**

May you know life rising from the death,  
May you know hope rising from the pain,  
May you know light rising from the darkness,  
May you know and live love,  
May you know and live the life you are gifted.  
Amen

Songs Reproduced under CCLI 1144191

Original Materials by Charity Hamilton