

Message from our Minister, Rev James Patterson

Are you ready?

This has been the question ringing out in the manse over the last couple of weeks as Angela and I have been preparing services, a question that we would be encouraging our congregations with. But 'ready for what?' I hear you ask.... Lent.

As you read this, Lent will have just started and Ash Wednesday will have been and gone. So rather than 'Are you ready?' perhaps I should be asking you all 'What are you doing this Lent?'

I encourage you to take this opportunity that the Church calendar offers to grow closer to God in some way. Like the Israelites before him, who journeyed for 40 years in the wilderness before they reached the Promised Land, Jesus enters the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights before proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Through long days of prayer and fasting, Jesus resisted temptation and received afresh the grace of his heavenly Father.

Lent has been used ever since as a way to cultivate our relationships to God, through prayer, almsgiving and fasting, as we prepare to share once more in the joyful mysteries of Easter.

I will be using Lent this year to pray more, the spiritual practice I want to get better at. Perhaps you could do the same, or read the Bible more, or look at the 40acts, www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts a generosity challenge for the Lenten period. However you approach Lent, I pray that it will be an opportunity for you to grow closer to God and a reminder of God's redeeming love for you and for the whole world.

Every blessing,

James



Online Lent Bible Studies

These started in February with Romans 5:12-19, and continue on the following dates:

- NO SESSION – 3 March
- 7.30pm, 10 March – Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
- 7.30pm, 17 March – Romans 5:1-11
- 7.30pm, 24 March – Romans 8:6-11

Fortnightly online Bible studies based on the Lectionary for the previous Sunday will restart in April. Please email stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk for the link.



Services for the next quarter at Prestwood Methodist Church

Date	Preacher	Service
01 March	Rev James Patterson	Morning service
08 March	Rev James Patterson via video	Local arrangement with video sermon
15 March	Rev James Patterson	Holy Communion - Mothering Sunday
22 March	Stewards	Local arrangement - World Mission Fund
29 March	Rev Adam Wells	Palm Sunday@ Chesham Methodist Church
03 April	10.30 Joint service	Good Friday @ Prestwood Village Hall
05 April	Rev James Patterson	Holy Communion - Easter Day
12 April	Ann Beasley	Morning service
19 April	Rev James Patterson	Morning service
26 April	Pam Sitford	Morning service
03 May	Rev James Patterson	Morning service
10 May	Rev John Swarbrick	Holy Communion
17 May	Josephine Prior	Morning service
24 May	11am, Stewards	Local arrangement
24 May	3pm, Ecumenical service	At Buryfield, Great Missenden
31 May	Rev James Patterson	Circuit service at PMC

Services in **bold** are **NOT** at PMC. Services at 11am unless otherwise stated.

A copy of the circuit plan is on the [Amersham circuit website](#) and on the church noticeboard. This includes other services around the circuit.

Lent Bible study dates are on page 1, and our fortnightly Bible Study will resume after Easter. If you don't have the link contact Rev James or one of the stewards (see Whos Who on page 5).

Church Lunch

The families of two of the friends we have lost from our congregation have made donations, specifically for the congregation to spend on something social. We've discussed this at Church Council and Stewards meetings, and in memory of Peggy and Julie, we are holding a church lunch after the service on Sunday 19 April. Please hold the date, and let Bridget or Sandie know if you are coming (and if you're bringing anyone else) by 1 April. Also let us know of any dietary requirements.



In memory of Peggy Barrett

The family of Peggy Barrett have been in touch to say that they are delighted the donations to Alzheimer's Research in her memory amount to nearly £1,000 and they wished to say thank you to those at PMC who contributed.

I wish

An alternative Passion story, by Jean Colegrave

I saw him. Everyone said the King is coming, but it wasn't. It was that man Jesus, you know, the one who everyone goes out to hear. There was some story of 5000 people being fed at once, but I didn't believe it. I mean two loaves and five fish could hardly feed five people, let alone 5000. Anyway, I followed along with the crowd. Some people even threw their coats down for the donkey to plod over. I ask you, a king on a donkey?



The next thing I heard about him was he'd been arrested. One of his men cut the ear off one of the high priest slaves. Poor man. Then they marched that man Jesus off to Annas the high priest who passed him on to Caiaphas, who passed him on to Pilate the governor. I suppose they didn't know what to do with him.

You know that bloke Peter, the one who is always with him? Well, even he said he didn't know him. Scared he'd get the same treatment I expect. So Pilate goes back in his palace and talks to Jesus and then pops out again and asks everyone in the crowd - all agog for something to happen - do they want Jesus freed? But they all wanted Barabbas. You know that bandit they arrested?

Poor Pilate couldn't get the crowd to change its mind so he handed him over to the Roman soldiers. They had a cross already for him. Some bloke called Simon was made to help him carry it. Poor chap had to struggle along with it to Golgotha.

Pictures from KimDcon @Pixabay



The soldiers were laughing at Jesus and beating him up, and they nailed him on the cross and stuck it up with two others. I began to feel quite sorry for him, even though I joined in with the crowd to watch.

It was very odd, quite eerie really. Suddenly at



dinner time it came over all dark and lasted ages, about three hours. We all stood around waiting for him and the other two blokes to die. Then he suddenly shouted out something about putting his spirit in his father's hands, and then his head dropped forward. And he was dead.

We'd all been shouting for him to be crucified. Some people even spat at him. Then when it happened, things changed. Even the army bloke said he was a good man. We all drifted off home. I think we all felt guilty. I know I did. Some man called Joseph took his body away.

It's strange. I don't feel easy about what happened. I feel he was a good man and we all got carried away. Crowd fever, I suppose. But I got talking to people as we came back, all subdued and sort of empty. They were telling me they'd heard him talk. One man said he'd been there when they'd shared a kid's lunch. And people remembered him making people walk and see. I wish I'd seen all that. I wish I'd heard him speak. I wish I hadn't shouted for his death.

I wish I'd known him.

Social events

We have two regular groups meeting at Prestwood Methodist Church (PMC) on Wednesdays. Both are open to everyone, of any gender. No booking required – just come along, or let one of the stewards know if you'd like to help.

Further afield, Amersham High Street Methodist Church (AMC) run regular social events:

Craft and laugh @ PMC

This new group met in January and February, with a dozen people attending. As well as knitting and crochet, Lego and puzzles were completed, tea was drunk and cakes eaten. See photo on back page.

And some people came just to chat.

We continue to meet on 2nd Wednesday at 2pm on

11 March

8 April

13 May



Friendship Club @ PMC

Future events are on 3rd Wednesday at 2pm on:

18 March - Air Ambulance Service

15 April - Judy Weaver: Sailing the Pacific

20 May - tbc

Friendship Club includes tea, a talk or other activity, and finishes around 3.15pm. Transport can be arranged

Fun and Friendship @ AMC

Last Friday of the month at 2.30pm

27 March - Tom Way, wildlife photographer:
'Tooth, Claw and Mane'.

24 April - Tracy Elrington: Recycling and Waste.

29 May - Joy Murphy: Karibuni Children Charity



Ploughmans lunches @ AMC

Start at 12 noon on:

Monday 16 March

Monday 18 May

Who's who at Prestwood Methodist Church

Please feel free to contact us about any relevant matters.

Minister:	Rev James Patterson
Superintendent Minister:	Rev Adam Wells
Stewards:	Mary Spooner
	Sandie Wheatley
	Bridget Appleby
Weekly prayer group; Church Council Secretary; Pastoral Secretary	Tina Hillas
Friendship club:	Mary Spooner
Communion stewards:	Sandie Wheatley
	David Hillas
Treasurer:	John Deakin
Hall bookings, Property Steward:	Malcolm Appleby
Craft and Laugh	
Gift Aid Secretary:	Joyce Griffiths
Safeguarding. Open Door and Weekly notices:	Bridget Appleby

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday falls in this quarter, so here's a prayer from the Revd Michaela Youngson, Assistant Secretary of Conference.

Creator God,
 We thank you for your love which shapes us and helps us to grow.
 On Mothering Sunday we give thanks for women who have been examples of
 self-giving love,
 who have given time, wisdom and care to the nurture of children, their own or
 others.



We pray for those who find this a difficult day, who do not have happy memories of their own
 mothers, those who grieve for their mothers or for their children, and those who long to be mothers
 but cannot be.

We remember mothers in the Bible, giving thanks for the tenacity of Sarah, the generosity of Hannah
 and the courage of Mary.

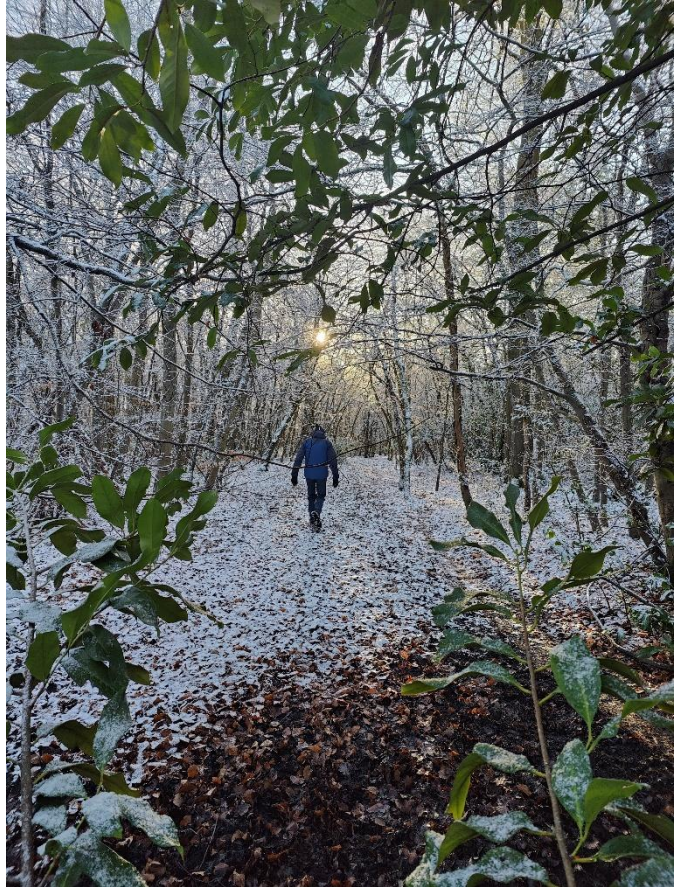
May your Spirit continue to shape us, heal us and guide us today.

Amen.

The last quarter in photos



December – our Christmas tree at PMC



January brought snow

February our second Craft & Laugh



Please send items for the Summer Open Door by 30 April to stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk or see Bridget if you have something you can't email. See Who's who above for other contact details.