

## Message from our Minister, Rev James Patterson

As I write this, the sun is shining and it feels lovely and warm outside, and the newness of life blossoming around about us is so striking as Spring continues. Apparently though the weather tomorrow is showers and thunderstorms... It really seems up and down; and what an illustration for the Easter season that is.

During this Eastertide, the lectionary gospel readings have been full of these ups and downs, and newness of life is present in all of them. The disciples have fled from Jesus at the time of his arrest and are found in the immediate aftermath, locked in a room together fearful of the same being repeated to them, only for Jesus to then appear to them. Then Thomas, not present when Jesus first appears to them, is then left with his life transformed when Jesus appears again to them. We see Mary Magdalene going to the tomb in her grief, then being transformed by the encounter with the Gardener who speaks her name; and also Peter, who had denied knowing Jesus three times, to then encounter the risen Jesus at breakfast on a beach and be asked three times by him "Do you love me?".

In those initial 40 days after the resurrection, grief turned to hope, despair turned to joy, questions brought answers (and yet more questions). Come Ascension they experience Jesus going back to the Father and the angels saying to them "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?" (Acts 1:11). They have work to do, as Jesus has been saying, but only once the Holy Spirit comes 10 days later to empower them in their ministries.

What a time they have all been through; so many ups and downs, and what a reflection for us today. We all go through ups and downs, and especially at the moment in the world and in our lives, you don't me to tell you that. Sometimes it can be hard to see or even know God is present through them, yet one thing is clear through all the aforementioned encounters of the risen Christ.....he was there! Though we might not see him, he is there. In fact, a tag line from the Methodist Church's Pride resources could help here in being reassured of God's presence through ups and downs, 'Where there is love, there is God.' I find this profound, and I pray that it brings some kind of reassurance for you as you journey onwards experiencing the love of God in us, around us and through us.



James

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### Online Bible Studies

We meet for a regular Bible study online on alternate Tuesdays at 7pm. Contact Rev James for login details (or check your weekly email). Dates for the next quarter are:

- 2, 16 June
- 14, 28 July
- 18 August

In September there may be a special series for Bible Month based on Philippians. Dates to be confirmed.

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## Services for the next quarter at Prestwood Methodist Church

Date	Preacher	Service
07 June	Rev James Patterson	Holy Communion
<b>14 June</b>	<b>Circuit service at Little Chalfont Methodist Church</b>	
21 June	Rev Adam Wells	Morning service
28 June	Rev James Patterson via video	Local arrangement with video sermon
05 July	Rev James Patterson	Holy Communion
12 July	Ann Beasley	Morning service
19 July	Pam Sitford	Morning service
26 July	Rev James Patterson	Morning service
02 August	Pam Sitford	Morning service
09 August	Stewards	Local arrangement
16 August	Rev Adam Wells	Holy Communion
23 August	Rev James Patterson	Morning service
<b>30 August</b>	<b>Circuit service at Chesham Methodist Church</b>	
4 October	Advanced notice of our Harvest service followed by a Harvest Lunch	

Please note where services are not at PMC (in **bold** above).

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

## 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:	Sandie Wheatley
	Bridget Appleby
Church Council Secretary; Pastoral Secretary	Tina Hillas
Flowers	Jean Colgrave
Friendship club, Organ	Mary Spooner
Communion stewards:	Sandie Wheatley
	David Hillas
Treasurer:	John Deakin
Hall bookings, Property Steward:	Malcolm Appleby
Gift Aid Secretary:	Joyce Griffiths
Safeguarding. Weekly notices and Open Door:	Bridget Appleby

## Friendship Club

The Friendship Club meets at the Prestwood Methodist Church on the third Wednesday most months. Tea is served from 2.00pm, with a talk or other activity around 2.15pm. The afternoon finishes around 3.15pm Transport can be arranged. This gathering is open to men and women of any age (although tends to attract people who are retired). Help with teas and setting up the chairs is always welcome. Please contact Mary Spooner for details (see Who's who on page 2). Future events are:



- 17 June The Chiltern Singers
- 15 July Summer Garden Party – ask Mary for the address.
- 19 August "Prestwood on Sea." This is the only event where you need to book. It runs from 11.30am to around 3.15pm, and costs £5 which includes lunch and entertainment.

Mary Spooner

## The Redwood Tree

### A prayerful poem from Mary Spooner

Deep in a Californian Park, with branches stretching high  
A Redwood tree with rugged bark stood tall against the sky  
Adapted to the forest glade the tree for years had stood  
Giving protection in its shade to wildlife in the wood.

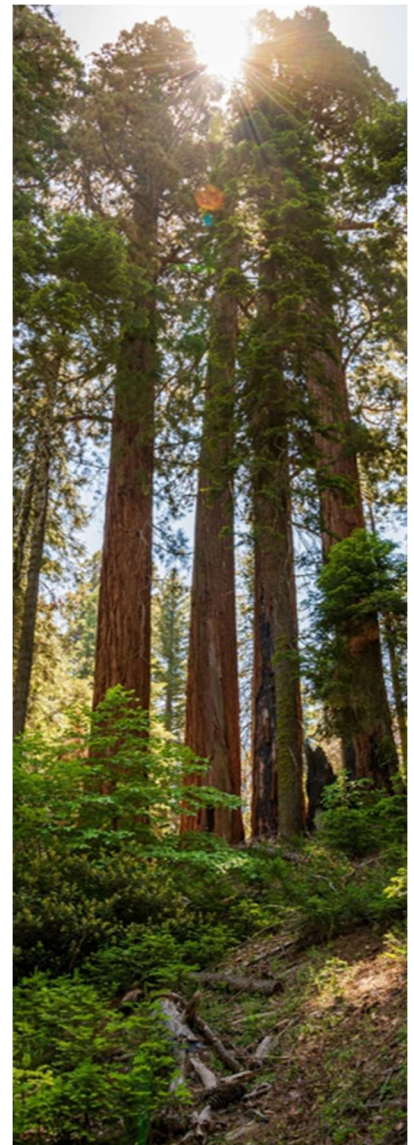
The scorching sun hung in the sky as temperatures soared higher  
The timbers in the wood grew dry and brought the risk of fire.  
Some campers in the forest there used matches in the dark  
And went to sleep, quite unaware of one small glowing spark

The glowing spark fanned by the breeze, was blown a thousand ways  
And flames shot up amid the trees in an infernal blaze.  
The Redwood bark has been designed to burn to finest loam  
A plan in the Creator's mind to give new seeds a home

The cones concealed high in the tree react with heat and burst  
Hundreds of tiny seeds flung free into the Redwood dust.  
The case around the seeds dries up each lying where they drop  
'Till from the ashes they rise up a multiplying crop.

Thus many lessons can be learned which nature will display  
When troubles come and hopes are burned or loved ones pass away.  
For in the ashes of our loss, new seeds of hope are sown  
To rise in faith through Jesus' cross, and make His life our own.

He does not send us trial and storm to beat us with His rod  
But in the fire we see His form and find true faith in God.  
So in the storms you've faced before, or new ones, which you see,  
Reflect awhile and thank Him for the burning Redwood tree.



Mary Spooner

## Events

Prestwood **Methodist** Church



**Bring your favourite craft and share some smiles**

Knitting, crochet, sewing, drawing, puzzles - anything goes.

Relax, laugh, and enjoy good company.

All welcome

- 2pm on 2nd Wednesday
- 10 June, 8 July
  - No meeting in August
  - 9 September

[stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk](mailto:stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk) if you have any questions



*With Light Supper*

**Saturday 20th June**  
**6:30pm for a 7pm start**

*at Chesham Methodist Church*

**Tickets: £12**

*Tickets from Circuit reps*

*Make a team of up to 8 persons  
or let us put you in a team*

*Profits to PACE & World Church*

Harvest lunch – all welcome

**Sunday 4 October, 2026**

Save the date for our  
Prestwood Methodist  
Church Harvest service  
& lunch

Service at 11am,  
Lunch around 12.15pm



## Change your thinking

*This article was one that Margaret Deakin collected and published in Open Door in 2012. Sandie suggested it would be nice to re-print it, as we've had many friends leave and join us since then.*

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, and places they had visited on holiday.

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would describe to his room-mate all the things he could see outside the window. The other man began to live for those one hour periods where his world would be enlivened by the activity and colour of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every colour, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance. As the man by the window described all this in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine this picturesque scene. One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days, weeks and months passed. One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone. Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out of the window besides the bed.

It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased room-mate who had described such wonderful things outside this window. The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She said, 'Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you.'

### Epilogue:

There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. 'Today is a gift, that is why it is called The Present.'



Please send contributions for the Autumn Open Door by 30 July to [stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk](mailto:stewards@prestwoodmethodists.org.uk) or see Bridget if you have something you can't email. See *Who's who* for other contact detail

Photos from the last quarter



Flowers for Mothering Sunday, and Easter day flowers by the empty cross



Our well attended church lunch, to remember our dear friends Peggy and Julie.

