



# Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News - 31 March to 30 April 2024

*He is Risen!*



DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM

Rejoice in the Resurrection of

*Jesus Christ*

Raise a Hallelujah!

## ***Welcome from Reverend Robin Brenchley***



Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! What a week it has been.

On Thursday evening we had a fellowship tea of bread and soup at the church, during which we broke bread together and afterwards shared 'the Cup of the New Covenant' in much the same way as the disciples originally did, that first Easter. To help re-create the atmosphere of that upper room, we turned out the lights and lit some candles.

Then on Good Friday, we gathered in church for a very different type of service to our normal Sunday services. Starting in silence, we then heard various parts of the story of Jesus' crucifixion, each accompanied by an 'account' from one of the people that were there, of what they thought on that first Good Friday.

We then left without having sung any songs. Good Friday doesn't seem to be a day for singing.

And so here I sit on Saturday morning looking forward to our dawn, or should I say, 'sun-rise' service tomorrow as we start our celebrations of the Risen Sun of God with a joint service with St. Andrew's Parish Church, before meeting at our normal time of 10.30am for our Easter Celebration.

So, let me leave you with this Easter thought; no matter how dark your Friday may be, Sunday is on the way!  
Happy Easter!

## ***Thought for this month:***

Martin Luther said, "Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in the books alone, but in every leaf in springtime". He also said, "The entire plan for the future has its key in the resurrection".

A sunrise is God's way of saying "Let's start again" Todd Stocker

## ***Church Notices:***

- Robin will be away on Study Leave from 2 to 9 April 2024

# Christ is Risen . . . . He is risen indeed!

Phil Jump reflects on the political consequences of Jesus' life alongside our response as Christians to the possibility of electioneering that awaits this year.

This traditional Easter greeting will resound through many churches on Easter Sunday. It captures the excitement of the first disciples as they began to realise that Jesus, whose death they had witnessed, true to his promise had risen again.



[Jesus typography/Megan Isaacson: [Creationswap](#)]

But the greeting is more than a celebration of an historical event.

Those with an eye for detail will notice that it communicates in the present tense; it is a declaration of Christ's identity in the here and now; an affirmation that those who gather in his name today, encounter the living Jesus. The events of the first Easter morning have implications for every generation of Christian believers.

I remember some time ago being on a pre-Easter retreat with a group of church leaders. One of our conversations centred on how our various traditions tend to place emphasis on different parts of the Lent and Easter narrative.

Some spoke of the importance of Good Friday, valuing the image of a God who could experience the depth of human suffering. Others emphasised Easter Day with its powerful declaration of Christ's victory over death itself. Some spoke of the practice of foot-washing, based on the events of Maundy Thursday, and its intense expression of mutual fellowship and servanthood; some from the Orthodox tradition shared their experience of spending Holy Saturday in silence and darkness, reflecting on Christ being contained by the tomb.

After a while, one of our number announced "the most important day for me is Bank Holiday Monday!" The room filled with laughter, assuming it was simply a quip – the words of a busy minister who was looking forward to a well-earned rest after a heavy schedule of services and celebrations. But as the laughter died down, he qualified his comment with a profound observation

**“because what really matters is not how we remember the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus, but how we then live the rest of our lives in the light of them.”**

John’s Gospel records a miraculous encounter between Jesus and his disciples on the evening of Easter day. Jesus announces “As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you”. This commission does not simply place the message of Christ at the heart of our Christian discipleship, but roots our response to it, in his life and death. We are sent, just as Jesus was sent – our engagement with the world is to be modelled, inspired and informed by his engagement with the world.

Jesus was to be found in conversation and debate with teachers of the law; locked in controversy about work-life balance and the use of the Sabbath, declarations about oppression, justice and equality; he was eventually crucified with the politically volatile notice above his head “this is the King of the Jews”.

And with the scars of execution on his hands and his sides, breathing the power of his Spirit into his bewildered disciples, Jesus declared – “in the same way, I am now sending you.” The commission to his followers, is to declare that same Gospel, with all of its political and economic consequences, with a renewed authority and confidence because Jesus has engaged with and overcome the principalities and powers that were mustered against him.

The resurrection of Jesus points us to a life beyond this world, but resurrection only makes sense if it is preceded by death. Christ could not declare his victory over death, if he had not first subjected himself to it – and his death on a cross was the earthly climax of a ministry that confronted, challenged and engaged with the political narratives of his day.

“In the same way,” he declares “I now send you”. We are called to engage with this world, to apply our Gospel truths and vision of God’s Kingdom to the issues before us.

The Revd Phil Jump is Regional Minister Team Leader of the North Western Baptist Association. [obtained from the Baptist Union]



**Church Activities 31 March to 30 April - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated**

<b>31 March</b> 6:00 am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Dawn Service on the Beach – Joint with St Andrews	Rev Robin Brenchley, Rev Shirley Tupper
10:30 am	FBC Morning Service*	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 2</b> 2.30 pm	Afternoon Home Group Ferring Baptist Church	Leader: Deanna Clark
7:15 pm start	Evening Home Group 7 Glen Gardens, Ferring	Host: Lyn Jenkins Leader: Marion Brenchley
<b>Wednesday 3</b> 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
<b>Friday 5</b> 5:30 pm	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
<b>Sunday 7</b> 10:30 am Afterwards	<b>Morning Service and Communion*</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Philip Cook
<b>Tuesday 9</b> 2:30 pm	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout Everyone welcome
<b>Wednesday 10</b> 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
<b>Thursday 11</b> 2:00 pm	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
<b>Friday 12</b> 5:30 pm	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
<b>Sunday 14</b> 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 16</b> 2.30 pm	Afternoon Home Group Ferring Baptist Church	Leader: Deanna Clark
7:15 pm start	Evening Home Group 7 Glen Gardens, Ferring	Leader: Marion Brenchley Host: Lyn Jenkins
<b>Wednesday 17</b> 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
<b>Friday 19</b> 5:30 pm	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
<b>Saturday 20</b> 9:00 am	<b>Men's Breakfast at the Henty Arms</b>	Gordon Rickwood
<b>Sunday 21</b> 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Service Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
6.30 pm	<b>Evening Communion</b>	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 23</b> 2:30 pm	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout

<b>Wednesday 24</b> 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
<b>Thursday 25</b> 2:00 pm	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
<b>Friday 26</b> 5:30 pm	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
<b>Sunday 28</b> 10:30 am	Morning Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 30</b> 2.30 pm	Afternoon Home Group Ferring Baptist Church	Leader: Deanna Clark
<b>7:15 pm start</b>	Evening Home Group 7 Glen Gardens, Ferring	Leader: Marion Brenchley Host: Lyn Jenkins

*\*Young persons' activities are available - please ask for details on arrival. All leaders are DBS cleared in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy*

**BMS April Birthdays:**

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Brian Mepham - 10th**

**Julie Appleton - 11th**

**Helen Pierpoint - 19th**

**Ron Pavier - 27th**

**And a very**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**to Hilary Kitchen - 5<sup>th</sup> April**

**enjoy your special day**

**With love from everyone xx**

### ***O Lord we Give Thanks:***

- For the lovely area that we live and worship in
- For our Church family and fellowship time
- For the musicians that make our Worship time so good every Sunday
- For Robin, Marion, the Deacons and Ministry leaders for their leadership, spiritual and pastoral care
- For our Youth Club which is attracting more young people and providing a safe area for our Young People to have fun, learn about you and while also enabling their families to get to know the Church

### ***Prayer Pointers:***

- We pray for all those in need in our world especially those caught up in war, conflict, living in captivity, persecution and those living in poverty
- We pray for our Royal Family especially our King and the Princess of Wales as they recover from surgery and have further treatment as required. Pray for healing for them and for the Other Members of the Royal Family as they cover extra duties:
- Loving Saviour we bring to you our whole Church family asking for your peace, your grace, your healing and encouragement;
- We especially pray for comfort and healing for:
  - Wendy Fogg;
  - Jurg Klemenz;
  - Norma on the recent loss of her sister Audrey;
  - Cliff and Maureen Warden;
  - John Wigley
  - Kelly and Simon Stuart;
  - Our lovely cleaner Chris:
- We continue to pray for Judy Cook as she leads the staff and children at Hope Home
- We pray for the continuing safety for Jaco and Corrina Loenen (with Pioneer and MAF) – they have now returned to Australia;
- Pray that our Church will be successful in our assistance to Worthing Soup Kitchen food parcels/pantry;
- Pray for the Friday Evening Youth Group that they continue to grow in the local community and help to support the families/community.
- Pray that we start to receive children in Church on a Sunday.

### ***Food Donations required for Worthing Soup Kitchen (WSK) Food Parcels and Pantry***

***A huge thank you to all those who gave donations last week - our biggest week yet and so many Easter Eggs and chocolates for the children.***

***The Charity is delighted that we are supporting them and say thank you to our congregation. The Soup Kitchen is very much in demand as people who are found rooms for the night have no cooking facilities and food parcels are required.***

***Crate for Donations can be found in the Church entrance.***



Dear God,  
Thank you for the gift of a new day.  
As we open our eyes to this new morning,  
we ask that you be with us and guide us throughout the day ahead.  
Help us to start the day with a positive attitude and a grateful heart.  
Please bless and protect us, our family, and all those who are dear to us.  
We ask that you watch over us and keep us safe from harm.  
Help us to make wise choices and to treat others with kindness and compassion.  
Please give us the strength to face any challenges that may come our way today, and the courage  
to do what is right.  
May we be filled with your love and grace, and may we be a blessing to others in all that we do.  
Thank you for your love and faithfulness to us.  
We pray that you will be with us always,  
and that we will continue to grow in our faith and trust in you.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

{Joyce Meyer and recently shared by Marion Brenchley}

### **Contacts:**

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(Church office is usually open Tues and Thurs 10:00 am -12:00 noon)

Emails: [minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk)

OR contact Maureen Warden at [secretary@ferringbaptist.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ferringbaptist.org.uk)

Website: [www.ferringbaptist.org.uk](http://www.ferringbaptist.org.uk)

YouTube/Facebook: Ferring Baptist Church

**Note from Karen (Editor):**

Editing the Fellowship News is a privilege and one which to truly reflect our fellowship will benefit from your contributions and dates for the diary etc so please send to [Karen1.parsons@uwclub.net](mailto:Karen1.parsons@uwclub.net) by Wednesday each week.

***The information contained in this newsletter is the latest at the time of pressing send***