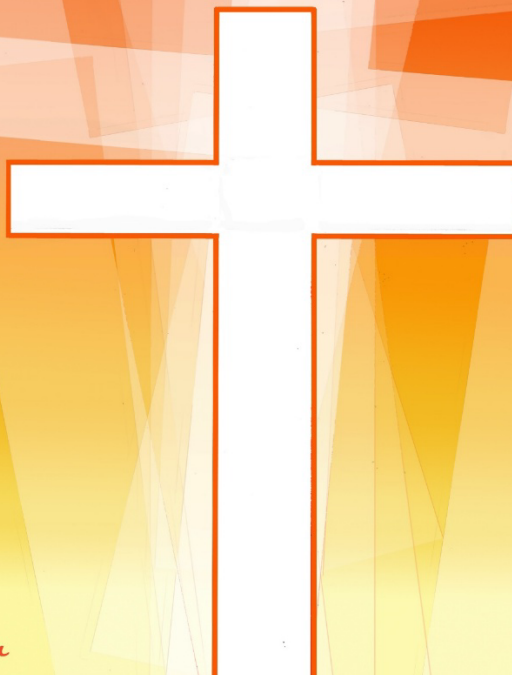




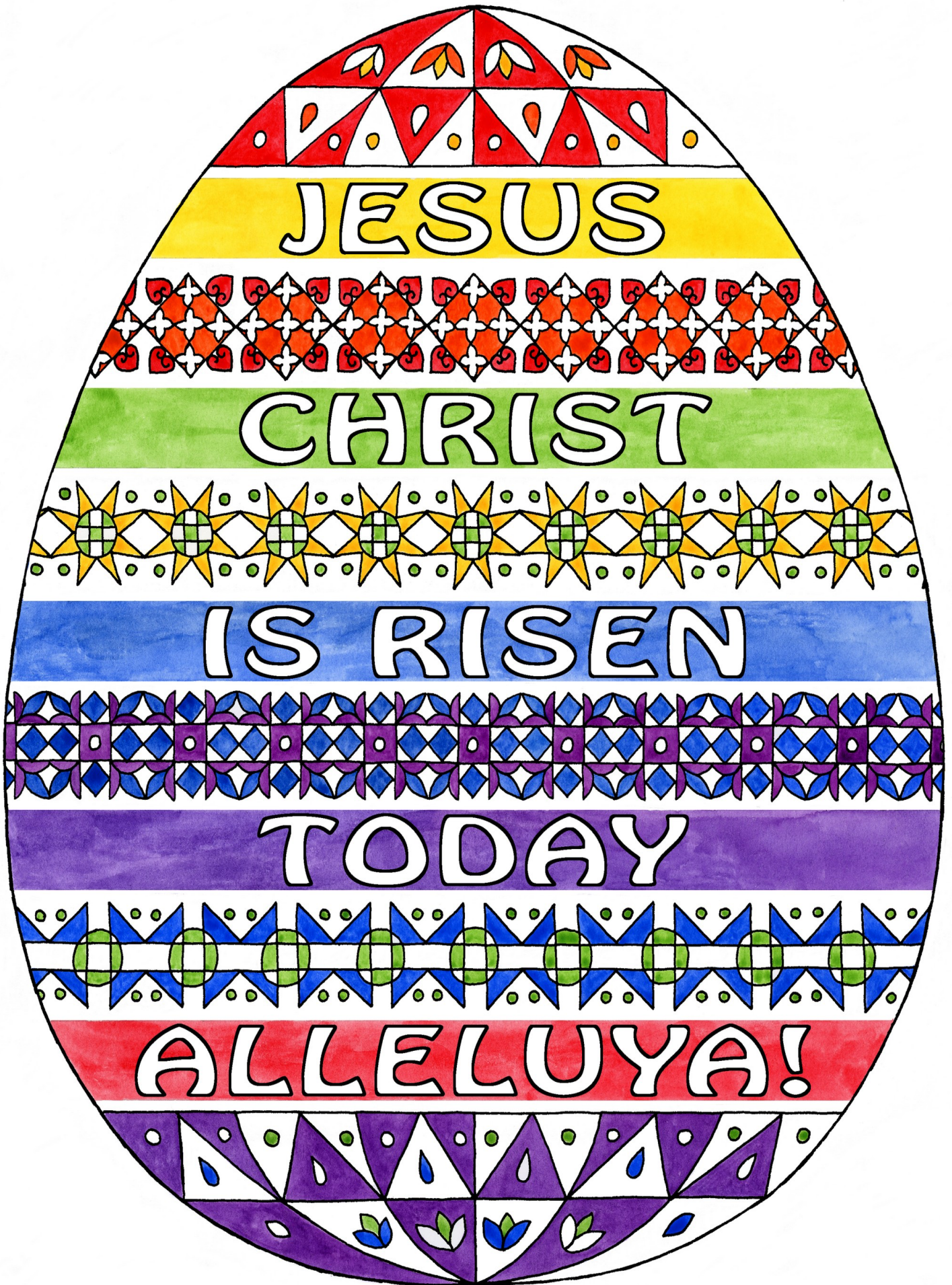
Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News – 20 April to 4 May 2025

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim
your risen life and fill us
with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father



Paul Judson



Church Activities 20 April to 4 May - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 20 6:00 am	Sunrise Service	Rev Shirley Tupper Near to the Bluebird Cafe
10:30 Afterwards	Easter Morning Celebration Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 22 14:30 -16:00	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout
Wednesday 23 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 24 19:15 – 21:00	Holiday Club Meeting	Everyone who would like to help is invited to attend.
Sunday 27 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 29 14:30 – 16:00	Afternoon House Group	Trish Aze
Wednesday 30 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 2 May 17:30 – 19:00	Young Explorers and Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Sunday 4 May 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Worship Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Phil Gilbert

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

Notices:

- A reminder that the Church Office is not currently open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Our new Church Secretary is Paul Gilbert and can be contacted on the church number 01903 503679.
- 24th April, 19:15 - planning meeting for the Holiday Club. Please come along if you would like to help at Holiday Club. Thank you to all those who have already volunteered.
- In June, we will be starting a monthly Youth Club which will meet on Saturdays 17:30 to 19:00. We will be inviting speakers such as those who have worked in other countries as Mission workers, youth workers, etc to come and talk to the young people. If you would like to come and speak to our young people or you are able to help us in some other way such as serving refreshments, helping with craft, games then please let Karen know. This will be run on a much smaller scale than Friday nights with the

older children and faith building plus confidence building will be central. Further details will be given in the May newsletter.

- The next edition of Fellowship News will be the 4 May. Fellowship Bulletins will be used to communicate anything urgent.
- On Saturday 21st June Marion will be taking part in the Night to Remember walk to raise funds for St Barnabas House, our local hospice. If you would like to sponsor Marion please speak to her, or there is a sponsor sheet available. Alternatively you can go to <https://stbarnabashospice.enthuse.com/pf/fbc-young-at-heart>

Dates for your Diary:

- July 6th - Pop in Social at the Glebelands hosted by Ferring Baptist Church. 2 to 4:30 - everyone welcome.
- August 5th – 8th Holiday Club - further details soon.

Smile:

Why Easter

A Sunday School teacher had been explaining why Easter should matter to us and wanted to make sure her group understood. So she asked, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

Thoughts:

- "The very first Easter taught us this: that life never ends and love never dies."
- "Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal and new life."
- "Easter is a time of new beginnings, a reminder that each day is a chance to renew our faith in the goodness of life."

BMS Birthdays:

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

To all those in the fellowship blessed with an April and May birthday including:


27th Ron Pavier
29th Christine Anderson

3rd May Lawrence Kenward

Road to Emmaus:



With special thanks to Mary Tout for this interesting letter.


letter from ...  **Cleopas**

Greetings Samuel,

Road to Emmaus

When we last met together, we were discussing the fact that I was a follower of the Rabbi Jesus, and you were anticipating a crisis. Well, you no doubt heard that the crisis ended with the trial and crucifixion of our dear Jesus, which devastated us all.

My dear friend, something amazing happened to me after that which you may not have heard about. We had left the believers in Jerusalem and were returning to Emmaus, broken-hearted, totally disillusioned, and disappointed.

 A stranger joined us on the road who seemed to be the only person who didn't know what had happened. We told him how we were expecting Jesus to rescue the nation of Israel from its Roman rulers and that after he had been killed his body had disappeared from the tomb, despite being closely guarded. Some women said that they had seen him since, but we didn't believe them.

This stranger then started to explain the Scriptures from Moses and the Prophets, which had foretold all this. We were so riveted that when we reached our village we asked him to stay over.

While we were eating he broke the bread and suddenly we recognised who he was - our Jesus! We had been so absorbed in our own grief and disappointment, we couldn't see beyond

our noses. We knew that he was explaining the Scriptures, but now it all fell into place - he was the promised Messiah and it was we who had misunderstood his purpose.

Suddenly, Jesus disappeared and we looked at one another with our mouths open, a look of joyful amazement on our faces. I don't know what the time was, but we jumped up and made our way back to Jerusalem where we found the other disciples and told them our story.

Oh Sam, you may not believe this bit but, here goes; Jesus actually appeared in the room among us and, as we were all in a state of shock, he showed us his hands and feet where he had been nailed to the cross and invited us to touch him!!! He then ate a piece of fish - just to prove a point!

As you may imagine, all this changed us from being downcast and disillusioned to becoming faith-filled and 'on-fire'. But, d'you know Sam, I'm sure this is the just the beginning of something HUGE and exciting, so please do come and join me so that you can be part of it. I know you won't regret it.

See you soon,
Cleopas

Luke 24 v 13-4

From the book "Oasis Moments" by Pauline Latler,
and shared by kind permission of the author.

The ordeal is over; the scars remain

“Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it.” (John 20: 25)

How patient Jesus was, in giving ‘Doubting Thomas’ a second chance! Earlier, the risen Christ had said to His disciples, “Peace be with you!” (Verse 19). And it is only because of those scarred hands that His peace is made available.

There have been many religious leaders in history – but only one had scars as the proof of what He had achieved. It is also evident that - after Christ’s bodily resurrection - the scars were never obliterated. “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe” (verse 27).

The ordeal was over – but the scars remain – for ever. At the end of time - in the future New Creation – our Lord Jesus Christ will still have those scars, when He is affirmed as ‘the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world’ (Revelation 3:8). The apostle Peter himself echoed the timelessness of the Cross of Calvary (1 Peter 1:20). The Cross and Resurrection form the centrepiece of our entire human story.

The scarred hands... It is vital that one and all should receive the lesson that Thomas learned that day: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (verse 29)

For it would not be long before the bodily presence of the Lord would be removed from human sight. From then on, it would be the preaching of the apostolic witnesses that would take Christ’s message to the ends of the world. Thomas himself was going to be despatched to India! Later would see Augustine to Canterbury, Francis sent to Assisi, Patrick to Ireland and Livingstone to Africa.

Today sees the mission of the risen Jesus criss-crossing all over the world – creating the biggest and fastest-growing body of belief ever known.

Be a living exponent of this Easter Gospel yourself. Use it, proclaim it, know it and live it. Then you can identify along with believing Thomas!

Prayer Pointers:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill the Church with His presence and guidance;
- We pray for our World, that these wars and destruction that we see around us will cease and that peace talks will bring a lasting settlement. We know that you are the Prince of Peace;
- We pray for all those who have lost loved ones or been severely affected by war;
- We pray for our Prime Minister and his Government, for wisdom and right direction, that their decisions will be made for the good of the many. We pray for Christians in high authority, that their Godly influence will be felt and acted upon;
- We pray for our King and Queen that they will increasingly know how much you love them as they serve our country;
- We pray for our King as he navigates his journey with treatment for cancer. We pray that his health is restored;
- We thank you for our growing congregation and we pray that you will cast your protection around all Church members and attendees;
- 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:
 - Deanna's family and friends, especially her children Janet and Jay
 - Brenda Elliott
 - Norma and Mike as they settle into married life together
 - Val & Ron Boot and family
 - Mary Brenchley
 - Robin and Marion and family as they mourn Robin's mother Pat
 - Karen Parsons and her brother Steve on the passing of their mum Betty
 - Chris and Wendy Fogg
 - H Kitchen
 - Pat May (Pauline's sister)
 - Sylvia Mepham's sister Maggie Downing
 - Sheila Palmer
 - Janet Stuart (Simon's mum)
 - Kelly and Simon Stuart
 - Cliff and Maureen Warden
- We pray that you will be with the many Missionaries in the World to protect them as they bring the basic supplies - food, medical supplies, and shelter to people;
- We pray for Open Doors, Mission Aviation Fellowship etc to bring your Gospel of Hope and Healing in difficult places;
- We pray for Judy Cook in Thailand and all of the staff and children at Hope Home;

- We pray for the continuing safety for Jaco and Corrina Loenen (with Pioneer and MAF) in Australia;
- We pray that our Church will be successful in our assistance to Worthing Soup Kitchen food parcels/community pantry;
- We pray for all the Church activities and meetings taking place here - Dabblers, Bible studies, Afternoon Housegroup, Youth Group, Sunday Explorers, for those organising it and that the village continue to enjoy the activities, get to know you and that we provide the answers that they are searching for.

Prayer for April 2025:

Living Lord Jesus, We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts.

For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!"

Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations. Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah! By Daphne Kitching

WSK Update:

Thank you very much for your food donations - it really does make a difference to how much the WSK are able to help those more vulnerable in our community.

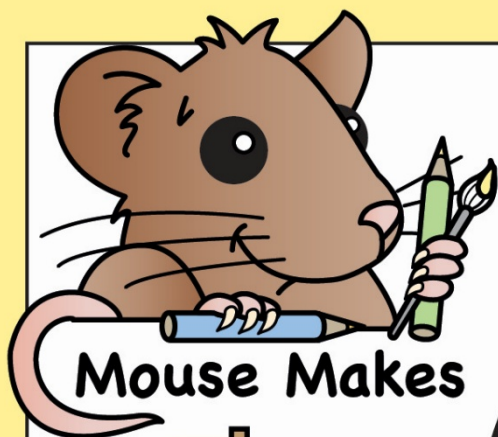
The following items would be appreciated:

- Tins of Ham, Tuna, Spam etc;
- Tinned Meals such as Spaghetti Bolognese, Meatballs, Pies;
- Tea;
- Coffee;
- Sugar;
- Jams and spreads etc for sandwiches;
- Jars of Sauce;
- Pasta;
- Rice;
- Squash;
- Long Life Milk;
- Cereals;
- Biscuits;
- Snacks;
- Boxes of washing powder (they divide the box up);
- Toiletries.

WSK have opened a new shop at 147 Montague Street – please drop any non-food donations into there. The food pantry is not moving.

Thank you very much.

Karen



Mouse Makes



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and **21:1-14**

R E D E E M E R
E A S T E R P I
S A V I O U R S
U L T I M J A E
R I E D E L I N
R V J E S U S S
E E W B S P E P
C C L O I S S N
T H O S A N N A
I R R O H Y E U
O I D N P P W S
N S G O T E L L
K T A F O A I O
I Y O G J C F R
N U J O Y E E B
G O O D N E W S



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE
GO TELL • EASTER



An after-Easter prayer:

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies
Within a hallowed sphere
Don't praise Him only in your churches
In Easter hymn and prayer...

Keep Him beside you through
The business of ordinary days,
In the common place encounters
Along the humdrum ways.

Our Master told us very simply
What He would have us do....
He taught: "Love one another
Even as I love you."

By Elsie Campbell

Fellowship News Contacts:

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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 by Wednesday each week.