

Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Dear Friends

Milo the Marvelous Mongrel is our church dog. He is at the best of times a little quirky. He scares easily, doesn't like strangers - in fact, it takes about a year for him to feel in slightly safe with anyone not Karen or me. This phenomenon even applies to weather conditions.

We first noticed this walking in our beloved Kintyre when the wind blew through a small woodland, making them sway quite dramatically. Milo hid behind my legs! Among his other foibles - he doesn't like it when I spend time on Zoom, or when I play my guitar (though that one could be put down to him having great taste in music) - he will dive under the seats of any train or bus we take him on.

He is also a little un-doggy! He likes to play hide and seek (yes, I've been known to hide behind trees on Wandsworth Common and whistle for him to find me) but will not, simply refuses to chase a ball. It's not like we haven't tried to change his behaviour... we have taken balls to beaches and balls to parks and thrown them time and time again. He usually gets excited for the first one but then loses interest the moment he gets the ball. We cannot change his behaviour!

The thing is, it would do Milo a lot of good to chase the ball! He would be exercised a lot more, and it would really help with his training. Also, it's embarrassing to throw a ball then have to go and retrieve it yourself while the dog stands there watching you.

Now that Easter has come and gone, we are returning to the Epistles of the Apostle John - taking up where we left off in 1 John 3:7-10. I've entitled each sermon in this series that will take us to the end of July 'REAL' as when you sit and read the Letters in their entirety, you soon discover that John is describing and explaining what it is to be a REAL Disciple of Jesus; John is explaining that a Disciple of Jesus learns and changes their behaviour because it is good for them. He doesn't put an age on this or say when we will reach a level of Discipleship that is complete, just that we all need to keep changing to be more and more like Jesus as we will only benefit from choosing the change.

Can I encourage you to read these letters straight through as the author intended? And if having done this you come to the same realisation as I have, make a decision to do as the letters say - to become Real with Christ.

Every Blessing

Keith

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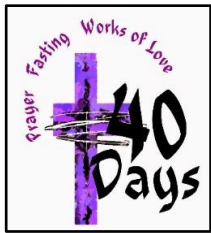
Mrs Julie Davis

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PASTORAL CARE AND VISITS

If you would like to have a chat with our Minister, Rev Keith Parr, or would like him to visit you, please speak to him after the Sunday service, call him on 07999 027803 or email him at Minister@earlsfieldbaptist.org.uk.



LENT AND EASTER 2025

Thanks to Keith for leading our Lent studies on Sundays and during our Small Group discussions that followed each week. Thanks to all who took part in the re-enactment of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



Those who joined the daily Holy Week Zoom reflections led by Keith and Karen found them to be challenging and thought-provoking culminating in sharing Communion on Maundy Thursday and joining with St Andrew's congregation on Good Friday.

And then the celebrations of Resurrection Sunday – who would have thought that plastic ducks could be used to explain how the first disciples and those who witnessed all that happened in Jerusalem spread the Good News to every corner of the world?!

Thanks to all who contributed to any part of our Lent and Easter services whether it be cleaning and tidying our Sanctuary, doing the wonderful flower arrangements, preparing and taking part in services, doing the IT, playing music (including the live band!) or if you attended some or all of the services (be it your 1st visit or 1000th) – we have been truly blessed over these past weeks.

Now we have to be ready to welcome any new people who come through our doors, particularly if they are responding to the outreach of ducks!

As always, Keith's reflections and sermon notes are available if you want them to read in the quiet of your own home.



SUNDAY SERVICES

Please be encouraged to come to Church on Sunday mornings so that you can physically meet others in our Church Family. Morning services continue to be available on Zoom if you are unable to attend in person. Here are the joining instructions (the same details are used for the Small Group on Monday evenings):

- **Join Zoom Meeting from computer or device**
 - <https://zoom.us/j/98894345143?pwd=eUdkNWJFakl2Q044V1JBZEdrMFh1dz09>
 - Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143
 - Passcode: 769098

**“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”**

- **Dial in from landline phone – standard rates apply**
 - 020 8080 6591 or 020 8080 6592
 - Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143 followed by #
 - Participant number: this can be bypassed with #
 - Passcode: 769098 followed by #



SUNDAY MORNINGS - 11.15 AM TO NOON

A lively time of learning for all children and young people from 5 years of age in the foyer. Hard to believe but **BLAST!** celebrates its **1st Birthday** in May! Happy Birthday to all!

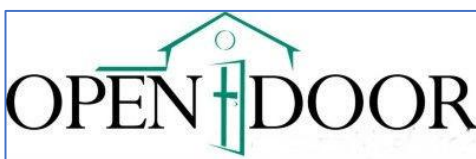


MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
4th May, 1st June etc.

Usual format is a time of meditation and a time to talk with each other and to listen. We would love to see you from 6.30pm for about an hour. Everyone welcome.

PRAYER TEXTING

Prayer is such an important part of our Christian life. Please also join the Prayer Texting Group. Just text **07579 796157** – no name needed – and your number will be added to the distribution list. You can also phone this number from your landline and leave a message for prayer.



WHEN OUR DOORS ARE OPEN, PEOPLE COME IN!

We continue to open our Church whenever we can at various times during the week for an hour or so. Please drop in for a cuppa and a chat or to spend a quiet time with our Lord. Open to all.

THE FLOWER FUND

The Flower Fund is used to provide flowers in our Sanctuary. Sometimes with help from others, Benita produces beautiful arrangements. If you would like to make a donation to the Flower Fund to provide flowers for our regular services or for a special occasion, please speak to Benita.



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RENDEZVOUS

**NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY 1ST MAY
1.00 PM – 2.30 PM**

Another successful meeting was held at the beginning of April when we were pleased to welcome back the ladies from St Andrews who had been to our March meeting, and we also welcomed a new member from our church.

We started our meeting with Keith sharing his Easter message. Normally we end our meetings with our 'Biblical part' but, as Keith had to be somewhere else at our usual finishing time, we didn't want to take the chance of Keith not having time to join us.

This month we played bingo, where everyone was a winner, winning an Easter treat of some kind. Beatrice was the caller and Angie was her glamorous assistant. We also had a couple of quizzes on the tables for people to do. As it was April, known for its showers, there was a picture quiz which had lots of different umbrellas which you had to name. I can hear you say an umbrella is an umbrella which keeps the rain off. Well, I could name a couple of them, a golf umbrella and cocktail brollies. There were more about 10 in total. The other quiz was a word search with everything relating to Easter.

Our next meeting will be on 1st May where we will celebrate our 2nd birthday and VE Day. If anyone has any memories or stories that they wish to share, we would love to hear them. Everyone is warmly invited to come along to our meetings - 1.00 pm until 2.30 pm - when we will welcome our usual members and, perhaps, some new ones!

With best wishes,

Dawn and the team



MONDAYS

7.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Zoom joining details are sent out by email each Monday.

- <https://zoom.us/j/98894345143?pwd=eUdkNWJFakl2Q044V1JBZEdrMFh1dz09>
- Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143
- Passcode: 769098

TUESDAYS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THIS ZOOM CALL

Currently the **Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group** meets at the **Lockdown Bakehouse** at **11.00 am** and choose a coffee shop to go to – please come along to join them for an hour or so. The **Manse House Group** meets on **Tuesdays** at **6.00 pm** at 27 Ellerton Road, SW18 3NG. Discussions on any subject or topic that arises. It's relaxed and informal and open to all. If you struggle to get up the hill, please let us know and we will happily run an EBC taxi service (particularly after the meeting to get you home safely.)

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Our next **Men's Koinonia (or Fellowship)** is on **Saturday 10th May**. From 8.30 am, we meet in the **Lockdown Bakehouse** (old Barclays Bank building, corner of Garratt Lane/Summerly Street) for coffee, bacon butties and lots of Jesus. So, if you are a bloke and fancy joining us we would love to see you.



PATHFINDER DOGS – Partnering blind people to independence
<https://www.pathfinderdogs.org/fundraising/recycling>
 Please save your plastic bottle tops and used postage stamps for this charity. Place them in separate bags and drop them into the tub in the Church foyer. Lesley sends them to the charity and has recently received a letter of thanks as set out below.

SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025

ALL AGE COMMUNION SERVICE AT 11.00 AM

Our morning service on the third Sunday of the month will include Communion and is an opportunity for **all members of our Family – young and old – to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord**. Bread and wine will be served to those in Church. If you are joining by Zoom, please have your bread and wine ready at home.



CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING

SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025

The next Church Members Meeting will be on **Sunday 18th May** after the morning service.

This will be our Annual General Meeting when we approve the 2024 Report and Financial Statements for submission to the Charity Commission.

Please make every effort to attend.

Non Members are welcome to attend but are not able to vote or take part in the meeting.



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MISSION FOCUS: MAY 2025

“CHRISTIAN AID”

ALL AGE COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025

Christian Aid, now in its 80th year, and its supporters will be fundraising once again during **Christian Aid Week (11th-17th May)**. EBC has been supporting Christian Aid for many, many years. Times have changed and gone are the days when we used to put envelopes through every door in the local area to raise money for CA. With **7 days to make a difference**, every gift, act and prayer counts. From the CA website:

Dying crops means food stops

In Guatemala, the climate crisis is killing Amelia's precious crops. She relies on the land to feed her eight-year-old son, Lázaro, and four-year-old daughter, Yakelin.

Amelia says: **'I worry about what my children will eat.'**

A river passes through Amelia's farm, but deadly heatwaves are causing it to run dangerously low. Both communities and crops stand to lose life-giving water.

The cruel injustice is that Indigenous communities like Amelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most. As their farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical: **'With high heat, there is little we can do but adapt.'**

Amelia's hopeful that she can combat extreme weather by changing the way she farms. With the support of specialist training from our partner, Congcoop, Amelia's planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertiliser.

Amelia's also a leader in her community, sharing her knowledge with other households, so that one day, no family will worry about their children going without food. This is the unstoppable power of Amelia's hope in action.

Will you demonstrate the unstoppable power of hope and help fund vital tools and training, so farmers like Amelia can push back against the climate crisis and beat hunger?

- £6 could pay for the seed trays that kickstart a plant nursery at someone's home.
- £10 could pay for the pruning scissors that mean a farmer can care for their cacao trees.
- £20 could buy two pounds of climate resilient seeds that diversify a family's crop.

Find out more about the campaign at caweek.org or take a look at the Mission Focus notice board in the Church foyer. If you would like to make a gift to Christian Aid, please use the CA envelopes in the pews. If you give your regular offering to EBC by bank transfer, the reference for your gift should be "May Comm – CA". Thank you.

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