

Thursday 19th March 2026

Dear Friends

In my old age, it seems I've become a man of habit. I start each day at the same time, have pretty much the same thing for breakfast and aim to be at my desk for roughly the same time. After that, anything can and usually does happen! When I get to my desk, I catch up on the world and read an online paper - which can make for a lot of prayer and sadness.

As we enter the most important week in the year, the paper is full of war and despair, hurt and pain, as the leaders of two of the most powerful countries in the world wage wars on innocent children while a third leader using economic weapons of starvation and deprivation against yet more children. Our world seems sad...painful and explicitly against the Word of God.

Holy Week is a time in the church calendar where we see something different on each day. But perhaps the one that seems to be most relevant today in the world we live in is Friday. Here we see the sadness of family and friends as they watch the Man they know as Messiah taken beyond pain as they execute the Man they loved.

It seems those with power in this world have never learnt. 2,000 years later they still see causing sadness and pain on innocent people as quite natural - collateral damage in conflicts that have nothing to do with them. It's quite natural to think we can do nothing about this - when actually we have a weapon more powerful than anything the armies of this world possess. We have prayer. After Easter we are joining with Christians over the world to pray for the world, as prayer is the answer to all the sadness and pain we read in the papers. So, this Easter, please pray - remembering our motto verse for the year.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:6 – 7

Let's pray that the peace of God which transcends all understanding will be seen in our world this Easter.

Every blessing

Keith

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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 on minister@earlsfieldbaptist.org.uk.

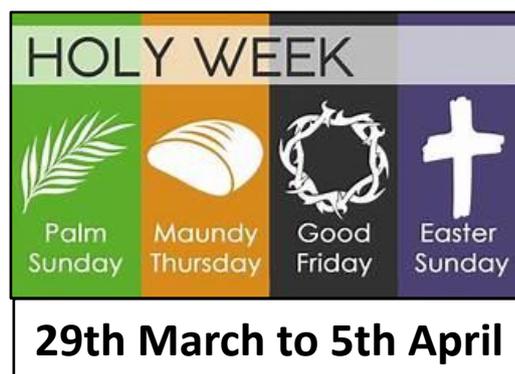


As you know, Lent started on Wednesday 18th February. Traditionally a time when we give up something, Keith encouraged us to do something extra during Lent – additional Bible reading, additional prayer, additional acts of kindness etc. How are you getting on with this?

HOLY WEEK MEETINGS AND SERVICES

Ben Williams will be leading our worship on **Palm Sunday, 29th March**. Please keep Ben in your prayers as he prepares for this service.

Every day during Holy Week this year, we will be meeting as a church in different ways and for different reasons.



From **Monday, 30th March to Maundy Thursday, 2nd April**, we will be meeting on Zoom (same joining instructions as those we use for Sunday services) to hear the story of this most extraordinary time using the book “Women of Holy Week” by Paula Gooder.

Each evening, we will hear from a different character who experienced the events of the week leading up to the death of Jesus. On **Maundy Thursday 2nd April**, our time together will include communion so, as we will be in our own homes, please come prepared by having your bread and wine ready if you wish to join in this special meal.

Good Friday (3rd April) this year sees four of the churches in Earlsfield gather in our own building (EBC) to share fellowship together **at 10.00 am** and our time together will culminate with a **walk of witness** that will see us join with churches and Christians from all over our part of SW18 to show the community the importance of this day. If you can join for some or all of this event, please do. Please note that our Church will remain open until 3.00 pm for a quiet time for personal prayer and reflection.

On **Easter Saturday**, we will be giving out small Easter eggs to anyone who comes by - each with a short message explaining the importance of Easter - and then on **Easter Sunday**, we will be celebrating the Baptisms of a number of people who have come to faith.

Please try to make the whole week a priority, joining in as many meetings and services as you are able to, as we go through the emotions of this year's **Holy Week**.

RENDEZVOUS

**NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY 2ND APRIL
1.00 PM TO 2.30 PM**

What a lovely day we had for our March meeting - the sun is shining, the blossom on the trees, the birds are singing and I have just driven home. So I thought, while still with a happy head on, I'll have my cup of tea and sit and type this article up while I am still able to enjoy all of these wonders. It certainly gives you a lift and makes you smile, just as when we have our Rendezvous meeting. Seeing people chatting and enjoy themselves, (hopefully they did lol) that is a lift in itself.

This month we have 8 birthdays, two of which were today (5th March), Dave and our own Jean Judd, who we hadn't seen for a while so it was nice that she could join us on her special day. I may have made a rod for my own back so to speak but, if it's someone's birthday on the day we meet, they have a cup cake with a candle to blow out. I hope Jean's wishes come true - she was long in thought lol.

Today, as it was start of spring and Mother's Day this month and also St. David's Day (even though the first time I've ever forgot), we took some daffodils and foliage in for our guests to make a small posey. I know lots of people have flowers at home, but not everyone.

We also had a flower/shrub quiz and an anagram of flowers quiz. There were a couple on there I struggled with. But that wasn't all - we also had some spring pictures to colour if they wished and, for a challenge, a Hidden picture. Colour all the shapes that had a dot in them. I think I will have to try this one for myself to see what the picture is. This would certainly be a good one if you needed a distraction.

Keith did his talk emptying his pockets showing us that we would know him by what the contents were, going through each item one by one with more information, then ended by asking, "at the end of Lent, would we know God as well as He knows us."

Our next meeting will be on Maundy Thursday, 2nd April (no, we won't be washing anyone's feet!).

As we will be celebrating Easter, people can come with an Easter bonnet if they wish. We look forward to seeing everyone on 2nd April – if you haven't been before, please come along – everyone is welcome. We start at 1.00 pm and finish at 2.30 pm.

Dawn and the Team

FLOWER FUND - A message from Benita

Thanks to Shanthi Williams who provided flowers in March in memory of her husband, Richmond.

If you would like to donate money to the flower fund to remember a special person or commemorate a special occasion, please speak to Benita.

MINISTER'S HOLIDAYS

Please note that our Minister will be on annual leave from 25th to 29th March – **Ben Williams** will be leading our worship on Palm Sunday, 29th March. Keith will also be away from 7th to 9th April and from 12th to 15th April – **Louise Gilmartin** will lead our service on Sunday 12th April. Thanks to Ben and Louise for being willing to step forward.



Please note that there will be no Comfort meeting on Easter Sunday, 5th April. The next Comfort meeting will be on 3rd May.



Our Church 'motto' for 2026 is:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4 v6-7”

Let's all try to put the words 'by prayer and petition' into action:

Daily

Please ensure you are signed up for **Prayer Texting**. Prayer is such an important part of our Christian life and those we pray for have said they feel comforted and blessed knowing others are praying for them. To join, 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 mobile or landline and leave a message for prayer.

Weekly

Prayer Walks now take place every Tuesday from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm. The group are working their way around the streets in Earlsfield, walking together and praying as they go. Anyone can come along so please join if you can spare the time.

Monthly

Our next **Monthly Zoom Church Prayer Meeting** is **Wednesday 25th March** starting at **7.30 pm** for about an hour. No need to leave the comfort of your home but this time will bless those who attend and those who are prayed for. You can just listen or you can join in with the prayers if you feel so led. Our April meeting will be on **Wednesday 29th April**.





As part of our Year of Prayer, we are joining the global church with “Thy Kingdom Come”. **This is an ecumenical call to prayer starting at Ascension through to the churches birthday at Pentecost - this year from 14th to 24th May.** The time will see us open the church as often as we can and hosting a day of prayer on **Saturday 23rd May**. Please put these dates in the diary and watch out for more details after Easter. You can find more details of the initiative at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

PREMISES

Our Halls now have new roofs and the solar panels are being installed at the time of going to print. Broken and damaged slates on our Church roof will be repaired to make our building watertight and repairs to plaster work affected by damp will be dried out and repaired.

The electricians will hopefully complete their work in the Church over the coming weeks. As you know, we also had a gas leak on the church boiler and have encountered problems finding someone to repair this. We have booked a local company to come in during w/c 23rd March so the heating will hopefully be on in Church over Easter (if necessary). We hope you didn't get too cold at our Sunday services.

We have received quotes for new carpets in the Church and will get these laid once the building works have been completed. Please keep all the contractors in your prayers that they will remain safe and the work will all go to plan.

SUNDAYS!

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
- **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

Sunday School for 5-11 yr olds with various activities including craftwork, learning songs and listening to Bible stories each week.



DON'T FORGET! For 2026, the clocks go forward one hour on **Sunday 29th March at 1am**, and this marks the official beginning of British Summer Time (BST).



We would love our Small Groups to become Big Groups - why not join one?

MONDAYS EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THIS ZOOM CALL

- 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
- **No meetings on 30th March (Holy Week meeting as mentioned earlier in this newsletter), 6th April (Easter Monday) or 13th April (Minister's holiday).**

TUESDAYS

The **Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group** meets at the **Lockdown Bakehouse** at **11.00 am** Everyone welcome - please come along to join us for an hour or so.

Prayer Walk is also on Tuesdays – meet at the Church at 1.00 pm.

These groups may make their own arrangements to meet whilst Keith is away.

There won't be a **Men's Koinonia (or Fellowship)** in April. The next meeting will be at 8.30 am on **Saturday 9th May**. We meet in the **Lockdown Bakehouse** for coffee, bacon butties and lots of Jesus. So, if you are a bloke and fancy joining us, we would love to see you.



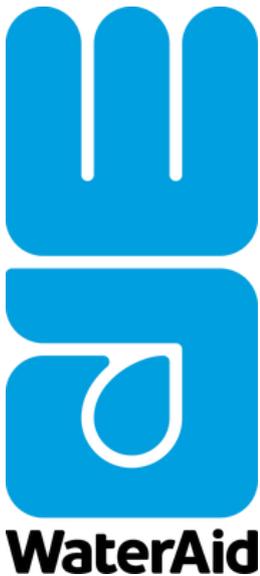


SUNDAY 17TH APRIL 2026

ALL AGE COMMUNION SERVICE AT 11.00 AM

Our morning service on the third Sunday of the month will include Communion. This 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.

MISSION FOCUS: APRIL 2026 – “WATER AID”



April's Mission Focus will be “Water Aid”. We know this is a charity close to the hearts of many in our congregation.

Water Aid's vision is of a world where everyone, everywhere has clean water, decent toilets, and good hygiene.

But global progress towards that vision is shamefully slow:

- 696 million people – almost one in ten – don't have clean water close to home.
- 1.5 billion people – almost one in five – don't have a decent toilet of their own.
- 1.7 billion people – one in five – can't wash their hands with soap at home.
- More than 1,000 children under five die every day due to diseases caused by unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Unless there is a monumental shift in ambition and approach, the global promise made in the Sustainable Development Goals for everyone, everywhere to have access to safe and lasting water and sanitation and basic hygiene by 2030 will not be fulfilled for many decades to come.

That's why, in Water Aid's strategy to 2032, it will transform its ambitions, partnerships and approaches to help bring an end to the water, sanitation and hygiene crisis, forever. For everyone. No excuses.

if you would like to make a financial gift towards Water Aid's work, please place your money in one of the Communion offering envelopes in the pews. If your usual weekly or monthly offering is made via bank transfer, you can make a Communion offering in the same way. Transfer your gift to the Church account – please add the reference “April Comm – WA”. Thank you.

WHEN OUR DOORS RE 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. If you would like to help, please have a word with Karen or Doreen.

PHOTOS OF OUR NEW ROOF

Hot off the press! Our halls now have new insulated roofs and the solar panels were delivered on 20th March. They will be installed over the coming week and repairs to broken slates on our Church roof will be undertaken this week too.



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4 v6-7