

NEWS ON

THE Park



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**Burn Park
Methodist Church**

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Burn Park Road, Sunderland, SR2 7JH
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Rev. Rosemary Nash

From the Minister's Study

Dear Friends,

It has been a rough couple of weeks. There have been times, this Lent when I really haven't wanted to listen to the news. Uncertainty around our place in Europe has been unsettling, and continues to be so. Floods have devastated already fragile communities in struggling countries. Natural disasters have stood shoulder to shoulder with the darkness of humanity as New Zealand mourns the loss of so many people killed in the terror attack.

As I have been preparing once again to enter Holy Week and journey through the cross to Easter Day, I have been struck by how, for many people, death and resurrection are not just theological notions, but lived realities. I have been reminded just how much our world needs to hear words of hope in what seems hopeless, times.

My musings were confirmed when I came across a report which suggested that Easter is becoming the new Christmas. Apparently, increasing numbers of people are now sending Easter cards, buying and exchanging Easter gifts, and, while seeming to reject notions of resurrection or God, seem happy to worship a bunny rabbit with eggs in a basket. As they say, it's a funny old world.

*Christians celebrate Easter as the day the promise of Christmas became surprisingly real: that **the light** that has come into the world cannot be extinguished even by death or violence or destruction. Yet, as I am preparing to walk with Jesus and his friends through Holy Week to death and resurrection, I cannot help reflect that **the light**, has looked pretty dim in a world where life can be turned upside down in an instant – but maybe that's the point!*

Easter is an invitation to face the darkness, to stare into the empty tomb to where death is supposed to be an end, and is the opposite of escapism or fantasy. Resurrection does not deny the power of destruction or evil; rather, it looks it in the eye and goes beyond it to new life. If Christmas represents – as one songwriter put it – “earth surprised by heaven”, then Easter surprises us with the whispered hint that there is more to life than death, and more to death than destruction.

Jesus met his bewildered friends in their abject darkness, met them where they were. On that very first Easter morning they were surprised to find that their future was open, that they could be free even when oppressed. I pray that on Easter morning 2019, the Risen Jesus will meet us and any who are waiting in the darkness and speak to us once again words of hope and promise. Death does NOT have the final word. That is what Christians call hope.

God bless,

Rosemary X

April May



**The season of Easter approaches fast,
We remember the death of our Lord,
But the Good Friday story is not the end,
He rose up again, defeating the grave.
Now we can know His life everlasting,
Our debt He has paid, from our sins we are saved.**

Suzy Wake

Time for Reflection

From the blog of The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela Youngson and the Vice-President, Bala Gnanapragasam:

Holiness is for all – not a speciality for a few.

In the beginning...

‘God declared, “It is good.” Holy, wholesome, perfect, fit for purpose, sorted – approved of. All of creation is holy because it was made by God and approved by God. Even wasps are imprinted with God’s kite mark of approval!!

OFSTED rating ‘Good’ quickly became ‘not good enough’. I’d rather be excellent than ‘good’ but that’s to do with my ego, rather than a relationship of trust in which I accept that with God I will always be good enough and that is enough.

In our creation myth - Holiness in the ‘Garden’ was a connectedness and openness with God and with creation – the arrival of shame moved Eve and Adam from a childlike, naïve state, to a state of hiddenness – of not wanting God to know where they were and what they were truly like.

Nakedness is a metaphor, rather than being a state of undress, it is a state of being entirely seen and understood. The covering with leaves is a metaphor for covering up, not being honest, not wanting to be perceived.

Later...

The burning bush – holy ground. Take off your shoes – sacred space. Moses encounters God’s holiness as a powerful and frightening thing – yet it was not destructive. The bush was not destroyed by God’s presence, rather it enabled God’s presence to be perceived – a sacramental offering. A living sign of God’s power and glory, yet one which did not disturb or destroy that which it had created. We are reminded of God’s promise to Noah to never again destroy the earth.

In Jordan (when Bala and I visited with All We Can) – removing shoes to go into any home – yes the practicality of cleanliness but also, the home is a sacred space – a space where people do not need to cover themselves (well their feet at least), where vulnerability is okay. Also – keeping your shoes on might be a sign that you are intending to make a run for it, that you are turning down the hospitality of the other.

Hospitality as a sign of holiness – the women’s food co-op in Irbid in Jordan. We visited during Ramadan and so the women we visited were fasting, however this did not stop them offering hospitality to those of us visiting. Refugees who had had to leave everything behind were willing to share with us. This was sacred ground – in the sharing God was fully present.

Buzz... Share stories of places that you think of as sacred – holy ground. What was it about the place that made it feel like that?

And...

Mount Sinai - Moses enters the presence of God and lives- moreover, he shines with God's holiness when he comes down the mountain - and he delivers the ten commandments. Holiness becomes codified. It moves from being about a relationship of openness, vulnerability and deep knowledge of 'the other', to a way of living designed to not anger the 'other', the source of holiness. A line is drawn between the creator and the created and all actions become defined as either holy or unholy. What food can be eaten, what fabrics to wear, what crops can be planted, when work can be done, how women should be treated during their menstrual cycle and following childbirth - and so on and so on and so on. Actions become defined as wrong or right based on a code of separation from God. Inevitably actions outside the code result in the need for punishment or some correcting - so holiness becomes about rituals, sacrifice, penance and punishment and God is no longer central to the story, rather the focus becomes the cultic practices that define a particular people who see themselves as having a special relationship with God and want to do all they can to maintain that relationship. It also leads to the exclusion of those perceived to be a threat to that relationship - because they are 'unclean' - so the shepherds that were sent by angels to visit the Christ child would be deemed unholy, their work taking them away from the cultic practices that would allow them back into the life of the 'holy'. Again, excluding people because they do not fit into a particular code, a set of rules defined by one group, is not confined to the Bible - again and again in human history we have seen the tragedy that enfolds when any group is defined as 'other'.

This codification of holiness is not limited to the people of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness. We can see it in the monastic traditions, in strict Christian societies such as the Amish, the Brethren, even dare I say, the Methodists! At its extreme such codification leads to horrors such as the Spanish Inquisition or the Holocaust - the rules become everything and anyone who lives by any other code than that of the powerbase becomes anathema. All this is a long way from the garden - a long way from a holiness that recognises each person as being created in God's image and being considered by God as 'good'.

Buzzwhat other examples of holiness can you see in the Old Testament? Which appeal to you and which do you find problematic?

Priestly holiness

As Israel became established and settled in her identity, she structured her community by allocating certain people as priests. The men of the Levite tribe would take on the mantle of priesthood and only they could enter the holiest of holies. Holiness now became the business of a small group, with special knowledge, handed down from generation to generation. Holiness becomes now a thing of secrecy.

I remember a friend telling me how when he was a child he would sneak into the balcony at his church during communion to watch what was going on. Hopefully today, as we welcome children at the Lord's table, that would not happen - we do not have secret ceremonies where only the inner circle or the chosen, or those clever enough, old enough, holy enough are allowed to join in.

Of course, we do order our activities and certain people are authorised by the church to undertake certain ministries and activities but none of this is in secret, nor does it depend on being born into the right family. The minister is no more or less holy than anyone else.

Holiness in the New Testament

The incarnation, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ takes us to a very different understanding of holiness than that of a codification of what is 'allowed' and what is not 'allowed'.

Paul has to get quite shirty with the early churches because time and time again they try to put back in place codes which divide their communities into the deserving and undeserving (just like we do with those who are poor today). The issues over circumcision and what can or cannot be eaten are perfect examples of missing the point that Christ demonstrates that holiness is about an inner relationship with God that bears righteous fruit, rather than about our actions being able to make us righteous.

The need for penances, for sacrifice is done away with - not in my view because Jesus substituted himself for me and carried my sins on the cross (though I know there are those who would put it in those terms and it is one of a number of understandings of atonement that hold an honourable place in our tradition) but because Jesus restored holiness to being about an open, honest relationship with God, in which nothing needs to be covered up, nothing should be hidden away and shame is not a part of God's intention for creation. Our moral basis for any action or inaction stems from our relationship with God, with each other and with the whole of creation. No longer is it a list of rules that dictates what is holy and that which is not. To be holy is to be like God and we can see the pattern that we might model ourselves on in Jesus. To be holy is to love those that the world finds unloveable, to raise up the downtrodden, to comfort the broken-hearted, to work for the release of captives...

Holiness is not a state of 'otherness' or being so heavenly that we are of no earthly use - rather it is, like Christ, to be so connected with the world and with God that we cannot see the separation between the two - we are caught up in God and therefore cannot fail to respond to the needs of a broken world. In holiness there is wholeness, connectedness and wisdom - above all in holiness, there is love. In loving 'the other' whoever that might be we are more fully able to be the 'good' creation which God approves of.

Such a connection with God leads to a oneness with our neighbours, which develops empathy and in this there is hope for transformation.

Buzz... Can you share examples of empathy and hope in the Bible or your own experience?



10 SECOND SERMONS:

Right is right, even if everyone is against it;
and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.

William Penn

Poetry Corner

You are Special

*You are more special than a sunrise
Or a mountain smooth with snow,
You're more special than
the most important secret you could know.*

*You're more special than the winning goal
In the last minute of the match;
More wonderful than a winning serve,
Or a fielder's diving catch.*

*You're more fantastic than a musical
That makes the whole world sing;
More special than a chocolate cake
With double chocolate icing.*

*You're more important than the last panda
Or gorilla left on earth,
Than an eagle or a peacock;
Just see how much you're worth!*

*You are more beautiful than emeralds
More wonderful than gold,
You're more special than
The most exciting story ever told.*

*You're not an accident or a burden,
Or a terrible mistake,
You're special, you're original,
You're the best thing God could make.*

Chris Bambrough

Future Plans for Burn Park Methodist Church

Following a directive from the Conference of the Methodist Church 18 months ago, every church in the Connexion was asked to prepare either a "Growing for growth" or an "End of life plan." This was a both a response to the falling membership numbers and a recognition that something positive needs to be done. As was reported at the time **"If we want to see the Methodist Church continue into the future then action needs to be taken, to do nothing is simply not an option."**

At the meeting of our Spring Church Council last year we recognised that our church here at Burn Park was in a fragile situation financially, numerically and spiritually. It felt as though we were moving towards an "End of life" plan. However, it became clear that we were not quite ready to give in and felt that God still had work for us to do. It was agreed that we would take a year to see if things could be turned around. I am pleased to say that at our Spring Church Council meeting this year, the news was very encouraging. By the grace of God, the building is now being used much more. We have welcomed two churches into our building and offer them hospitality every week. New groups have found their home with us, and our new work with Asylum Seekers and Refugees is growing every week. Established groups such as the Lunch club, Park Productions and the Sunday evening drop in continue to provide much needed service, support and friendship. We are becoming known as a place of welcome, and hospitality to all - Praise God!

We are in a much healthier financial position, thanks to the increased bookings and ongoing generosity of our members. So, all in all, there is much to be positive about as the community side of our church is clearly growing.

At this point I would like to say a BIG THANK you to those who open up for groups, who make tea and wonderful lunches. Those who quietly listen and offer practical support to some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Thank you to those who have offered encouragement and prayerful wisdom who believe that God is working in and through us.

Now we look to the future as I share with you the very brave and bold decision that the Church Council has taken.

As we began to talk about ways we can grow as a church, it was felt that the we need to somehow re-ignite our passion for God. A lengthy discussion about Sunday worship led us to the following conclusions:

- Whilst some enjoy the typical hymn/preaching service there is a desire for a different experience of worship.
- There is a reluctance to invite people to come to Sunday worship in its current form.

- Sundays are not the best day to invite people as for many it is their only family day.
- When inviting people to come and worship with us, consistency and relevance in the worship is vital.
- We want to know how other churches “do it” and that maybe we need to experience other forms of worship to learn from them.
- If we are not enthusiastic about coming together for worship, how do we expect others to be.
- FINALLY, it is time to be brave and bold and try something different. And here it is:

The Church Council agreed that for 12 weeks, beginning after Easter, we would move to a Monday evening for our regular time of worship. This will begin on Monday 29th April at 6:30 p.m.

We will meet in the hall and begin by sharing a meal together. We will then move into a time of worship and fellowship which will include discussion and conversation and give us the opportunity to go back to basics. In the hope that by the grace of God we will become passionate Methodists once more. Our hope is that friends from the Mustard Seed and Deeper life church will feel able to come and join us, as well as others.

We recognise that meeting on a Monday evening, may for some, present something of a challenge. So, if anyone needs a lift, we will do everything we can to ensure that whoever wants to come, can.

You may be wondering what to do with your Sunday mornings. Why not see it as a sabbatical? We would like to encourage you to either, join our Methodist brothers and sisters other churches in the circuit or really step outside your comfort zone and attend a different church and see what it is like. **BUT** then to come on the Monday and share that experience with everyone.

We realise that this is going to be a challenging time, and it may make us feel uncomfortable. However, it will also be a time when new possibilities and opportunities could come our way. To do nothing and let our church membership decline to the point where we have to close, is not an option. It is time to be brave and to be bold.

So please come and join us.

*May our Lord, take us and lead us into a new future
with hearts renewed and courage restored.*

God Bless,

Rev. Rosemary Nash.

On behalf of the Church Council.

Prayer Time

Holy Week.

Are you ready for Holy Week, or are you thinking more about the “spring break” than the passion of Jesus?

Many of us are approaching it feeling unprepared and exhausted after the months of darkness and bad weather. But perhaps this isn't such a bad way to enter Holy Week – tired and unprepared, hungry for a new beginning, eager for the light to shine in the darkness. Even if you feel you haven't quite lived up to the penitential season of Lent, it's not too late to begin walking toward resurrection morning.

Here are eight prayers to take you through Holy Week. There's one for each day, beginning with Palm Sunday, and each of them is based on one of traditional Scripture readings given to that day in church lectionaries.



Matthew 21:1-11; Psa 118:1-2, 19-29

Lord God, I give you thanks, for you are good, and your mercy is endless. Here I stand, at the start of this Holy week, this week in which your Church remembers Jesus' passion and death, and I am distracted by many things. Turn my eyes now to the One who comes in your name, the One who opens the gates of righteousness, the One who answers when we call. I bless you, Lord, for shining your light upon me, and for sending Your Son to us, in human frailty. To walk the road we walk. Open my eyes that I may see Him coming, and may praise Him with a pure heart. And may walk in the way of His suffering, and share also in His resurrection. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Monday: *Matthew 21:10-17; John 12:1-8*

Lord God, six days before His death, Your Son sat with Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead, and ate dinner with His friends. Once again, Your gospel tells us, Martha served, and Mary knelt at Jesus' feet to anoint them with costly perfume. The disciple who



was about to betray Him said that it was a waste. He didn't care about the poor, really – he just wanted to fill his own pockets and make Mary feel ashamed. Lord God, often we cannot discern what is best: when to pour out costly perfume for Your sake, even if the world thinks it a waste. When to be busy serving, or when to rest at Your Son's feet and learn. Give us ears to hear You and eyes to see. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Tuesday: Matthew 26:36-46; Hebrews 5:7-9

Lord God, the message of the cross is difficult to take. How can death give way to life? How can weakness be strength? Yet Your word says that Jesus, being God, took on human flesh and suffered the worst kind of death. How can this be? This message is indeed

difficult to take. But Your foolishness is wiser than our wisdom. Your weakness is greater than our strength. Help us to know that none of us can boast before You. It is only in Christ Jesus that we can boast. In His name, we ask You to help our unbelief. That we may love You, and walk in the way Jesus taught us. In His name,

Amen.

Wednesday: Matthew 26:27-56; 1 Corinthians 1:18

Lord God, we tremble to think that it was one of Jesus' own friends who betrayed Him. One who sat by Him, who broke bread with Him. Give us strength, we pray, to walk faithfully with Jesus, even when the road we walk is rocky, even when the message of the cross seems like foolishness and even when we feel betrayed. You, Lord, are always faithful. We stumble, we become lost, but You are steady and sure. Give us the grace to endure our troubles, and reveal to us the glory of Your kingdom, through Your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit.



Amen.



Maundy Thursday: John 13:1-17; 34-35

Lord God, You sent Your Son into the world, and before His hour had come, He washed His disciples' feet. You had given all things into His hands. He had come from You, and was going to You, and what did He do? He knelt down on the floor, and washed His friends' feet. He was their teacher

and their Lord, yet He washed their feet. Lord God, help us learn from His example; help us to do as He has done for us. The world will know we are His disciples if we love one another. Strengthen our hands and our wills for love and for service. Keep before our eyes the image of Your Son, who, being God, became a Servant for our sake. All glory be to Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Good Friday: John 18:1-40; 19:1-42; Isaiah 52:13-15; 53:1-12; Hebrews 10:16-25; Psa 22

Lord God, Jesus cried out to You on the cross, "Why have you forsaken me?" You seemed so far from His cry and from His distress. Those who stood at the foot of the cross wondered where You were, as they saw Jesus mocked and shamed and killed. Where were You then? Lord God, we, too, ask where You are, when there is trouble and suffering and death, and we cry out to You for help. Be near to us, and save us so that we may praise You for Your



deliverance. Lord God, We wait, on Friday, for the resurrection of Sunday and sometimes our lives seem a succession of Fridays and we cannot see what is "Good." Teach us to call Your name as Jesus did. Make us to trust in You like little children. In Jesus' name,

Amen.



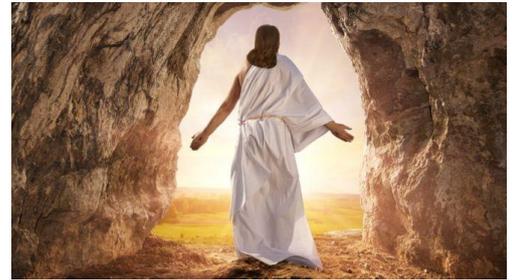
Holy Saturday: Matthew 17:1-6; Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Lord God, on the Sabbath, Jesus rested. He was in the grave. He had finished His work. To most people's eyes, it looked as if it were all over. He was dead and buried. But only as a seed dies when it is planted in the earth, not to decay, but to spring to new life. Teach us to take refuge in You when we are afraid, teach us that death is not our end, teach us to hope always in You and in the resurrection, the making of all things new. Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Easter Sunday: Matthew 28; Revelation 5:11-14; Psa 118:1-2, 14-24

Lord God, You loved this world so much, that You gave Your one and only Son, that we might be called Your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, everyday. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for Your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell Your good news to the world. All for Your glory do we pray, Lord,



Amen.



Pause for Thought ..

Empathy

When you plant lettuce, if it does not grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look for reasons it is not doing well. It may need fertilizer, or more water, or less sun. You never blame the lettuce. Yet, if we have problems with our friends or family, we blame the other person. But if we know how to take care of them, they will grow well, like the lettuce. Blaming has no positive effect at all, nor does trying to persuade using reason and argument. No blame, no reasoning, no argument, just understanding. If you understand, and you show that you understand, you can love, and the situation will change.



Letter to Mary

17th March 2019

Hi Everyone,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you all enjoyed a Happy New Year. After Christmas Day and Night we settled down to have some quiet time to recuperate. We've been up to the Wheatsheaf Pub a few times, but the weather is still cold and not gardening weather. In fact I haven't wanted to do our own garden at home yet. I'll have to start soon because the spring flowers are coming out. We watched Monty Don on Gardeners World and that was great for spurring you on to get started with the work.



My cousin Fiona and her husband Derek became grandparents on 2nd February; a baby girl named Evie Grace. Her Dad is Callum, who used to come to our parties, pantos and shows when he was younger, with his Mam and Dad and his younger brother Kurtis. The boys are grown up now and help at Clare's pub from time to time (usually when it is really busy).

Business at the pub is picking up again with the change in the weather and the lengthening days. We can't stay too long on our visits as we need to get 2 buses to get home which takes over an hour.

Clare has changed her wedding date to September 28th this year. They realised that the original reception venue had not been updated as promised when the booking was made and needed to be cancelled. The original date in August would have been during their busiest time at the pub and they don't have enough experienced staff to leave the place too long. So changing the date made sense. We went a few weeks ago and bought her wedding dress. She was on cloud 9 when she came back, knowing it was all wrapped up in a proper bag ready to hang up somewhere to keep it secret until nearer the wedding day.

On 10th February we went to the Customs House with my sister Jackie and her husband Dave. We had a meal first and then took our seats to see Collabro (the male singing group from Britain's Got Talent). It was a great show, their voices sounded beautiful and the seats were superb. The lighting was good and synchronised with the music, altogether a really good show. It was their first show on their new tour of smaller venues.

Well, the next show we are on is The Witness and tickets will be out soon. It is on Friday 26th April at 7.15 p.m. and Saturday 27th April at 3.30 p.m.

Our grandchildren are doing great at the moment. Annabel had to pick a ticket out of a bag at school and she won the last place to form a team to build a car. I don't know how big it will be, but they are being instructed by an engineer from Komatsu. She is also improving with her flute practice. Amelia is enjoying her dancing lessons and received a certificate of achievement, she was Star of the Week (see photo). They both enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day (see photo).



Bye for now,

Love

June

xxxx



Celebrations

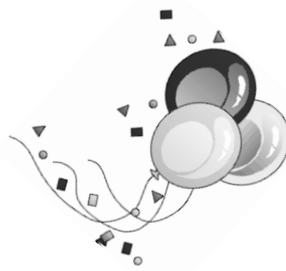
Wedding Anniversaries

April

17th June & Rob Whitfield

May

None known



Birthdays

April

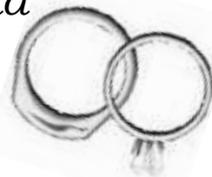
7th Pam Waistall

8th Hugh Bevan

May

6th Clare Whitfield

23rd Katrina Wake



Can we celebrate your special day too? All you have to do is fill in the form and place them in the gold box at the back of the Church; spare forms to fill in are on the side of the box.



Dear Friends,

I would like to thank all those people associated with Burn Park Church who have the League of Light collecting boxes or give a yearly donation to Action for Children for the generous amount collected for 2018 which was £574.59. If anyone wishes to take a box so they can save for the charity on a weekly basis, I have spare boxes available which I will gladly let them have, or, if they wish to give a yearly donation, I will add their name to my list.

Burn Park people also gave £40 on Action for Children Sunday last June in the envelopes given out, then at the Christmas Gift Service, another £170 was donated.

This gives a grand total of £784.59 which was given over the year 2018.

Thank you once again for your generous support of the Methodist Children's Charity which was founded in 1869 by Rev Thomas Stephenson, a Methodist minister who saw the plight of homeless boys in London and offered them a play to stay and be looked after. From this came the family care homes and now the work they do with vulnerable children and families in this country.



With love,

Kathleen Carter

(Action for Children secretary for Burn Park Church)



**If you have integrity, nothing else matters.
If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters.**

Alan Simpson

Fun & Games

A Page for all the family

Resurrection Crossword

The resurrection of
Jesus Christ

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from the Books of Matthew and Mark

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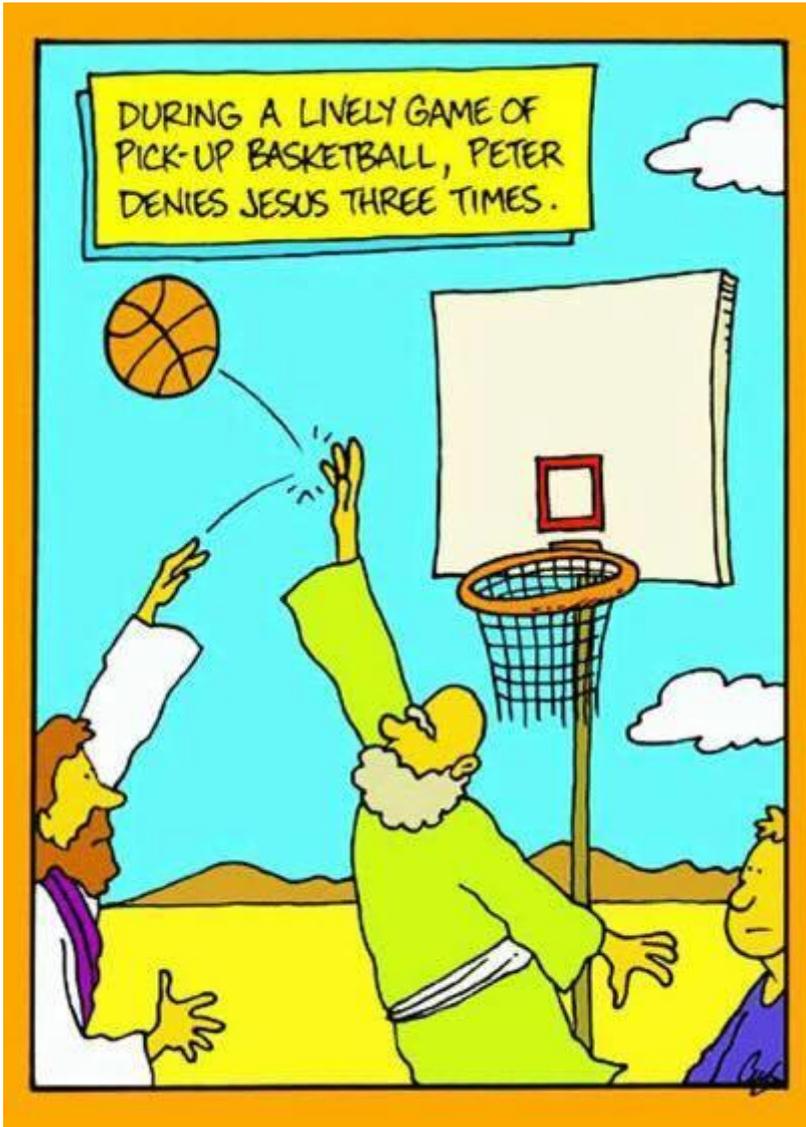
Across

- 1 where they laid Jesus after He died (Matt.27:60)
- 4 the place where Jesus died (Matt.27:33)
- 5 Jesus and two thieves were _____ together (Matt.27:38)
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 The angel said "He is _____ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
- 10 They made Jesus wear a scarlet _____ (Matt.27:28)
- 12 Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver (Matt.27:3)
- 14 Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matt.27:4)
- 15 The 12 companions of Jesus

DOWN

- 2 Jesus shed His _____ for our sins
- 3 Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matt.27:4)
- 5 Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt.27:54)
- 6 Jesus said " My God, My God why hast thou _____ me" (Matt.27:46)
- 7 a title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt.27:17)
- 11 They laid the _____ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt.27:59)
- 12 Jesus wore a "crown of _____"
- 13 our Lord and Saviour

Now for some funnies ...



Jokes about German sausage are the Wurst.



My wife told me I was a fool to build a car out of spaghetti. You should have seen the look on her face when I drove pasta.



If you want a job in the moisturiser industry, the best advice I can give is to apply daily.



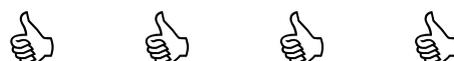
Last night I went to a comedy and philosophy convention. Laughed more than I thought.



Did you know that owls can't breed in the rain? It's too wet to woo.



A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens." "How did you know?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."



Modern excuse for not attending Church:

I was on my way to church and was almost there, when I looked at my mobile phone and it said "NO SERVICE" ... so I turned around and went home.



At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?'

Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'



The Baby in Church: We have all heard a baby crying in church when the minister is speaking, but Father Conroy tells of his experience in his book, "A Mill Town Pastor". He says, "There are two of us preaching in this church at once, and I don't know which of us is giving the better sermon. When a baby cries in church he is telling two things: first, that there are babies in the family, and second, that the mother has come to Mass with her baby. On the whole, I think the baby is preaching the better sermon, and I'll let him get on with it."



Diary Dates

Preachers at Burn Park for April:

April	May
7 th Mr John Gilbert	There will be no Sunday worship during May – instead we will be meeting on Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m.
14 th Mr Bob Howarth	
21 st No Service at Burn Park 10:45 a.m. @ Humbledon Rev Rosemary Nash (<i>Sacrament</i>)	
28 th Mr Jim Kirkland	

Holy Week in our three Churches:

Holy Monday 15th April: 7 p.m.: Ewesley Road: "The Mystery of Love"

Holy Tuesday 16th April: 6 p.m.: Ewesley Road: A service of Prayer and Reflection

Spy Wednesday 17th April: 11 a.m.: Humbledon: a short reflective service followed by coffee

Maundy Thursday 18th April: 6:30 p.m.: Ewesley Road: The Christian Seder meal – booking is essential (contact Rosemary or sign the sheet)

Good Friday 19th April: Burn Park: Prayer Stations 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Service at the Cross: 3 p.m.

Prayer Stations 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Fish & Chips 4:30 p.m.

Film: Jesus Christ Superstar 5:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday 20th April: 9:30 a.m.: Ewesley Road: Prayers at the foot of the Cross

Easter Day Sunday 21st April: Circuit Sunrise Service: 6 a.m. at the lighthouse at Cliff Park, Roker, followed by breakfast at Roker Methodist Church

Easter Day Sunday 21st April: 9 a.m.: Easter breakfast at Burn Park (please sign up with your choice)



Important Dates to note around and about:

Sat 13 Apr: 10 – 11:30 a.m.: Burn Park: Coffee Morning

Thu 18 Apr: 2 p.m.: John Carter's house: Bible Study

Tue – Wed 23 – 24 Apr: St John's College, Durham: Missio Dei in a Digital Age: CODEC's annual symposium

Fri 26 Apr at 7:15 p.m. & Sat 27 Apr at 3:30 p.m.: Burn Park: Park Productions' "The Witness": tickets in advance £5 adults, £3 under 16s or £7 and £5 on the door

Thu 2 May: 7:30 p.m.: Dunstan Family Church: Worship Night with Graham Kendrick: Keep the Banner Flying High!: tickets £12

Wed 15 & Thu 16 May: 7:30 p.m.: Vane Tempest Theatre Group presents a concert: "Home is where the heart is": tickets £6

Thu 16 May: 2 p.m.: John Carter's house: Bible Study

Sat 18 May: 10 – 11:30 a.m.: Burn Park: monthly Coffee Morning

Sat 8 Jun: 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Chester-le-Street Methodist Church: ECG & Thy Kingdom Come Prayer event for all ages – workshops & celebrations

Tue 11 Jun: 10 a.m.: Jesmond URC (NE2 3AE): At the heart on the edge: a day with Sam Wells and guests.

Sat 22 Jun: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Great Lumley Methodist Church, DH3 4JB: Bible Roots: a study day to explore the origins of the Bible – the histories, events and people which gave us the books

Tue 2 – Fri 5 July 2019: Minsteracres Retreat Centre: MWiB Area 3 Event: booking form & information on notice board

*For more details about these and other events,
please see your weekly printed notices or posters on the notice board*



*If you have any notices to be published, or articles for the next magazine,
please contact Suzy Wake*

*at Church, tel: **5226257**, by e-mail on WaSus654@aol.com,
or at 119, Tunstall Rd, by 9 p.m. Thursday.*

BURN PARK CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Burn Park Methodist Church exists to worship God,
and make the Love of Jesus known,
in our welcome, outreach, and care for all.



Minister: Rev. Rosemary Nash: Tel: 0191 5652221

93, Dunelm, SR2 7QX: revnash@hotmail.com

Circuit Safeguarding Officer: Margaret Brown 0191 5285069

brown1792003@yahoo.co.uk

Regional Child Protection Officer: Carolyn Godfrey tel: 07534346374

email ne.methodist.safeguarding@gmail.com

To book rooms for an event, please contact Melvyn Morgan on Tel: 5251930.



Regular Events at this Church:

Sunday

10:30 a.m.	Morning Worship & Sunday Club
11 a.m.	Mustard Seed Church led by Pastor Sunday Raji
1 p.m. - 3 pm	Deeper Life Church Worship
6 p.m.	Churches Together Drop-In for Homeless people

Monday

10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Drop-in Lunch for asylum seekers and others
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Ladybirds (1 st Monday of month)

Tuesday

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch Club
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Park Productions

Wednesday

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Deeper Life Church Bible Study
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Thursday

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Coffee@Burn Park
1 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Stroke Club
2 p.m.	Bible Study (3 rd week of month)
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Beavers, Cubs, & Scouts

Friday

9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Toddlers Group
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Ballet Classes

Saturday

10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Coffee Mornings (3 rd week of month)
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