



BARNARD CASTLE AND TEESDALE

METHODIST CIRCUIT

APRIL 2021

WHAT'S ON and NEWS ITEMS

Message from Rev Graham

There is something so special about Easter. The solemnity of Good Friday, the anticipation of Holy Saturday, then the joy of an Easter morning service, with fellow disciples of Jesus, celebrating the Risen Son.

On that first Easter, in her shock and emotion, Mary clung to Jesus, elated at His presence and never wanting Him to leave. But He explained that He must return to His Father. There are those times, on holidays, in quiet walks, or meeting up with old friends, when we never want it to end, the time has just flown by and all too soon we must be parted.

The disciples must have experienced that very same feeling, there was so much more they had to ask, to share and to talk about. The time, however, could not be now. Peter, James and John may have been familiar with these emotions, having been on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus, wanting to put up shelters and freeze the moment. Now they had the same desire.

As Jesus walked with the disciples through the dust of the roads, as Mary clung to Jesus on that first resurrection morn, as Thomas fell at His feet in worship, Jesus didn't want them to be parted and, by the mystery of the nature of the Triune Godhead, Jesus never would. Jesus said "I must return to my Father and I will send another comforter, the Holy Spirit."

Jesus never promised a painless and trouble-free life, but before His ascension he reassured them: "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

May this Easter season be a time or blessing, a time of trusting that Jesus is with us. A time of praying with the hymn writer in seasons of joy, worry or even sorrow:

Be with me when no other friend

The mystery of my heart can share;

And be Thou known, when fears transcend,

By Thy best name of Comforter.

A.Vine - H&P 308

Happy Easter.

Grace and peace to you all.

Graham

STAINDROP

The worshipping community at Staindrop are not meeting in the church at present, but they are having *Telephone Services* by telephone conferencing. These have proved very popular and will continue until the Coronavirus situation changes. Contact the stewards for details.

BARNARD CASTLE and THE PATHWAY

Sunday morning services are taking place from Easter onwards, but there is no singing, and no refreshments afterwards. Hand sanitisation materials are available at the door, and tracing details are collected on entry. Social Distancing regulations are in force and there will be stewards and marshals on duty to help.

OUR CALLING

Worship

Learning and Caring

Service

Evangelism



Ministers' contact numbers:

Rev Tim Boocock - 07926 584858
Rev Graham Cutler - 01833 638272
Rev John Howard - 01833 640823
Rev Alan Coustick - 01833 908604
Rev Richard Hunter - 01833 630315

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

The 2021 EASTER OFFERING service cannot physically take place because of safeguarding requirements, but a service is available on CD or via the internet. Details were sent out by email in March, but contact Debs or your local MWiB rep if you need further information.

Lectionary Readings for April 2021

Date	Sunday	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Gospel
1st April	Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14	116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
2nd April	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12	22	Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16, 5:7-9	John 18:1 - 19:42
3rd April	Holy Saturday	Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24	31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8	Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42
4th April	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
11th April	2nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:32-35	133	1 John 1:1 - 2:2:2	John 20:13-31
18th April	3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 3:12-19	4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
25th April	4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:5-12	23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

Praise and Prayer Points



4th April is Easter and we celebrate our Lord and Saviour's glorious resurrection when he overcame the powers of death. Alleluia!

Pray for all those recently bereaved and those who are unwell.

Give thanks for all those who work hard to maintain our buildings, and pray for them.

Pray for the Barnard Castle & Teesdale and Darlington circuit leadership teams as they continue to progress the work of forming a new circuit.

Pray for all those suffering from the effects of the many recent wars, conflicts and man-made and natural disasters around the world and other acts of violence.

Pray for the work of the Food Banks and for those who need them.

Pray for all those involved in the Coronavirus pandemic - those suffering, those working to relieve suffering and to help in other ways, and those whose lives are disrupted by it.

Pray for all those working to maintain safety in our places of worship as they start to reopen.

Pray for our Mission Partners from the UK in various parts of the world during the current crisis, feeling very isolated, but committed to their presence with the people they serve.

Give thanks for all those whose work is helping us keep in touch by Zoom meetings, telephone services and other means of communication, and for those who phone up to make sure we are well.

CIRCUIT WEBSITE www.teesdalemethodists.co.uk

The next issue of What's On/Praise Points will be for May. Please email items to bctmc1317@gmail.com or send to your contact person by 14th May.