



# REJOICE!

The newsletter of your local community church  
Ardeen Road United Reformed Church Doncaster

Number  
6

APRIL 2025



**Minister:**

Rev. Matt Stone  
07354 842542

[matt.stone@cantab.net](mailto:matt.stone@cantab.net)

**Secretary:**

Mrs. V. Morrison  
01302 530109

[valmorrison7@btinternet.com](mailto:valmorrison7@btinternet.com)

## Sunday Worship

**11.00 am**

**Everyone welcome**

**Or join us on zoom**

**ID 842 5287 1784**

**Passcode 033482**

<http://ardeenroadurc.org.uk>

Churches Together in Intake & Wheatley Hills



Monday 7 April, 10-11.30am,  
Ardeen Road United Reformed  
Church, Doncaster

Thursday 29 May, 10-11.30am,  
Flintwood Methodist Church

Thursday 24 July, 10-11.30am,  
Ardeen Road United Reformed  
Church, Doncaster

Thursday 28 August, 10-11.30am,  
Flintwood Methodist Church

All families are welcome to  
join us for free crafts, a Bible  
story and celebration, and  
refreshments.



## **PLEASE NOTE**

Due to the editor being away from mid to late May the next issue of “Rejoice” will be a double issue covering the months of May and June.

## From Our Minister

Dear friends,

This month we celebrate Easter, and not long after Jesus' resurrection, we read these verses in Luke 24 about two disciples who didn't yet believe that Jesus was alive:



*“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him... As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’”*

I've often wondered why the two disciples on the road didn't recognise the risen Jesus on their walk to Emmaus. What does it mean that “their eyes were kept from recognizing him”? Was the sun in their eyes? Did Jesus look different? Did the Holy Spirit somehow blind them to Jesus? Whatever the answer, it's a beautiful moment when Jesus breaks the bread and their eyes are opened. They realised the significance of their hearts burning as Jesus opened the scriptures to them.

I wonder: Have you had a moment like those first disciples, when your eyes were first opened to see the risen Jesus? For me, as for the disciples on the road, it was a journey. I grew up in a Christian home, attending what is now The Cornerstone URC in Southend, and I'm so grateful to all those who loved, taught and encouraged me to discover more about Jesus. I grew in knowledge about Jesus, but it wasn't until my teenage years that my eyes were truly opened, that I encountered the risen Jesus. That revelation happened partly through the Bible: I was convicted of the Bible's truth, and of Jesus being who he said he was - mostly by studying the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus had fulfilled. I don't remember

an exact moment, but at some point I had crossed the line into believing, and I received the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brought Jesus alive so that I no longer just knew about him, but knew him personally in my heart and in my life.

We're all different. Your journey won't be my journey, or that of the two disciples on the road. And, this side of heaven, the journey is never over. Jesus continues to reveal himself to us – in creation, in the scriptures, in bread and wine, in church family, and through the Spirit – but also in surprising places. Where might you encounter Jesus this week?

Happy Easter!

Matt

(Please note that Matt is on annual leave from 21-26 April)

### **An Easter Prayer**

*Risen Lord Jesus,  
We praise you that you are alive, and that you long to meet with us.  
We thank you for the ways you have met with us in the past.  
Forgive us for the times we have been oblivious to your presence,  
and open our eyes afresh today, that we may  
know you more clearly, love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.*

*(written by Matt for the URC's Daily Devotions, and including lines by St  
Richard of Chichester)*

---

### **LENT LUNCHES**

We have been joining with Churches' Together in Intake and Wheatley Hills for lent lunches again this year. The final one is:  
Thurs 3 April, 12-1.30pm – Ardeen Road URC, Doncaster  
All are welcome to join us for a soup lunch and Bible-based discussion.



### **SINGING GROUP**

Everyone welcome to come along and join in learning new hymns and songs.  
See Pat or Maureen for this months date

## **WORSHIP LEADERS DURING THIS MONTH**

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am	Martin Johnson
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am	Rev. Matt Stone
		<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am	Sue Pickering
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	11.00am	Val Morrison

---

### **Holy Week Services**

Sun 13th April, 11am – Palm Sunday Worship, led by Matt

Mon 14th April 1-2.30pm – Mini Easter Retreat at church

Wed 16th April 1-2pm – Easter Readings and Hymns at Sandalwood Day Centre (All are welcome to come and join the singing)

Thurs 17th April 7-8pm – Maundy Thursday Communion Service, led by Matt

Fri 18th April 11am – Passion4Doncaster Walk and Service, starting at CAST

Fri 18th April 3pm – Good Friday 'An Hour at the Cross' Service at Flintwood Methodist Church

Sun 20th April 11am – Easter Communion, led by Sue

---

### **CRAFT CLUB**

Forthcoming dates for the Craft Club Meetings

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July

### **NO MEETING IN AUGUST**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November

The December meeting will be replaced by the Carolathon.

All the craft club meetings are from 10am – 12 noon.

See Margaret Dyson for details of activities

## Bible Study

Our Bible Study is an informal group that meets fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons from 1.45-2.45pm to explore the Bible passage from the previous Sunday. No prior knowledge is needed, and all are welcome. Here's our plan until the summer break:

Date	Leader	Bible Passage
Tuesday 1st April	Rod	Philippians 4: 10-23
No meeting in Holy week – "Mini retreat" instead on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 1 – 2.30pm		
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Matt	Revelations 6 - 7
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Val	To be confirmed
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Sue	To be confirmed
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Val	To be confirmed
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Matt	"Blessed are the poor in Spirit"
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Val	"Blessed are the meek"
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Rod	"Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness"

---

## WHITBYS FISH & CHIP LUNCH



Pexels free images

**The April visit to Whitby's will be on Monday 7th at 1pm**

Please sign up on the sheet at the rear of the church if you intend to attend

Dorothy

---

# 20 25

For those people into numbers 2025 is a mathematical wonder. It is the first square year since 1936 and the next one will be 2116.

$$45 \times 45 = 2025 \text{ (a perfect square)}$$

$$(1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9)^2 = 2025$$

$$9^2 \times 5^2 = 2025 \text{ (the product of 2 squares)}$$

$$27^2 + 36^2 = 2025 \text{ (the sum of 2 squares)}$$

$$40^2 + 20^2 + 5^2 = 2025 \text{ (the sum of 3 squares)}$$

## Praying for Bangladesh



As part of our Eco-church award, we are encouraged to pray for a specific environmental project abroad. One project we'd encourage you to pray for is the URC's 'Commitment for Life' programme, who are working to bring faith, hope and love in Bangladesh, one of the poorest nations on earth and one that is regularly impacted by flooding and climate change.

### Programme Priorities

Commitment for Life's programmes are focussed on gender justice, climate justice and responding to the needs of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. In 2025, the priorities remain to advocate for marginalised communities, equipping them to be independent agents of change and good governance. The focus is on the empowerment of women and capacity building. We continue to challenge harmful practices. We are equipping girls and women with more opportunities to gain skills and education for better economic independence.



### Case Study

After three months villagers are slowly returning to a village in Satkhira district, south west Bangladesh, following floods in which three people died. During that time, many families have been camping out on embankments beside the busy road. The village is reached from the main road by an uneven and slippery brick path. Carts, pulled by the male villagers, carry goods along the path which looks out over vast areas of water. The shrimp farm ponds are getting back to business with the night watchman's huts occupied. Other areas had been paddy fields but had not yet been

replanted. People wash their shoes and plates in the flood water as there is no access to clean water from the village pump. The school was on higher ground and seemed to have come through with only minor damage. A rickety bamboo bridge leads to the main part of the village. Jowser Ali Sarder's home used to be at the end of the village but that is still completely under water. He used to work as a daily labourer but, at present he is busy building a new home for himself and his wife. His two grown up children live away from this area now. He has not been able to take anything from his old home yet but hopes he will find some things

that are salvageable. "It just kept on raining," he said. With the waters rising to between 2-3 feet he received emergency rations from Shushilan, which were a life saver. The months on the embankment have not been kind to Jowser, with very little food he is painfully thin. As the weeks progress, Sushilan will organise the villagers into a forum and help them with way.

## **A Prayer**

We choose a world of justice, where resources are not hoarded, but equally distributed; in which we work for a world made fit for future generations, caring for one another in peace. We choose, we choose God, for God is justice.

We choose a world of peace, in which people no longer destroy one another, and all are respected for their uniqueness. We choose, we choose God, for God is peace.

We choose a world of love, in which God's love for all is known, where each person is accepted and celebrated, through whom God's purpose for the world is fully revealed. We choose, we choose God, for God is love.

We choose a world of joy, where the joy of God in all creation is fêted, where the goodness within all is gladly known. Where we join creation's song of praise. We choose. We choose God. Amen.

*Text and photo taken from Commitment for Life articles - <https://urc.org.uk/your-church/church-local-and-global/commitment-for-life/bangladesh/>*

---



### **A.V. ROTA**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> - Pat & Dena      April 20<sup>th</sup> - Andy**  
**April 13<sup>th</sup> - Rod              April 27<sup>th</sup> - Alison**

---

Which type of dog does a magician own ..... An alabracadabrador

Which dog sits in a corner everytime the doorbell rings ..... a boxer.

Which type of dog did Dracula own ..... a bloodhound



## WhatsApp Prayers

If anyone would like to join the **WhatsApp prayer group**, please let me know by phone or e-mail (both given in this newsletter). I will need your number please.

If you have a phone capable of receiving messages but not WhatsApp, please let me know so we can send out texts instead.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

God Bless *Val*

---

## FROM THE FLOWER SECRETARY



So, Springtime is here at last. I wonder what the summer will have in store for us this year - more rain or extraordinary heat? However let's not get too far ahead. I just love the Springtime when it seems that God is calling his creation out of its winter sleep and making it alive again. My late husband, John, and I used to always take a short break in the

Yorkshire Dales at this time of the year simply to absorb ourselves in God's wonderful creation and give thanks for it.

...and I'm hoping for a fresh selection of flowers in Asda now that the warmer weather is approaching, and more British flowers may be available. I apologise for the flowers in church being a bit "samey" in recent weeks but short of travelling to out-lying villages, I have no other choice. Thanks to those who have contributed so generously to the flower fund. God bless you all.

Christine Jewison.

---

## Mini Retreat

In December, we had a Mini Advent Retreat to help us reflect on the Christmas story. On Monday 14th April, from 1-2.30pm, we're having a Mini Easter Retreat. All are welcome to join us at church for some led prayer and Bible input, a time for personal reflection, and some closing worship.

---

## ROCK ON

The grid below contains the following geology related words.

Agate, Bedrock, Biotite, Blue John, Boulder clay, Chalk, Chimney, Cornish clay, Cretaceous, Dome, Era, Granite, Graphite, Hyalite, Ice age, Igneous, Ironstone, Jurassic, Kimberlite, Layer, Limburgite, Malachite, Metamorphous, Mica, Nappe, Needle, Obsidian, Onyx, Ore, Pumice, Quartz, Sedimentary rock, Sink, Talcum, Tektite, Volcanic.

The unused letters taken in turn will spell out the name of a rock band.

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

---

### Contacts

**Minister:** Rev. Matt Stone 01709 373355 / 07354 842542

[matt.stone@cantab.net](mailto:matt.stone@cantab.net)

**Secretary:** Val Morrison 01302 530109 [valmorrison7@btinternet.com](mailto:valmorrison7@btinternet.com)

**Treasurers:** Tricia Larder & Rod Morrison

**Newsletter:** Martin Johnson

**Room Hire:** Ailsa Johnson

**Flowers:** Christine Jewison

**Property Stewards:** Jim Harrison & Martin Johnson



ARDEEN ROAD  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
DONCASTER

# CHAIR *-a-cise*

A Chair Support Exercise Group -  
standing or sitting.

Breathing, joints and muscle improvement.  
Led by a qualified instructor.

*£3 per session.*

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**11.30am-12.30pm**



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT  
YOUR MUCH NEEDED  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
FOOD BANK IN THE BASKET  
AT THE REAR OF THE  
CHURCH.

# *April diary dates*

Newsletter items for the May / June Issue to Martin by

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April please

### Door Steward

- 6<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Keen
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dena Hull
- 20<sup>th</sup> Althea Burwell
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jean Brookes

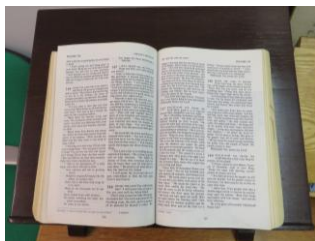


### Vestry Duty

- 6<sup>th</sup> Steve Armitage
- 13<sup>th</sup> Tricia Larder
- 20<sup>th</sup> Rod Morrison
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jim Harrison



### Bible Readers



- 6<sup>th</sup> Ailsa Johnson
- 13<sup>th</sup> Linda Ross
- 20<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dyson
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jean Brookes

- 6<sup>th</sup> From the flower fund
- 13<sup>th</sup> Margaret Dyson
- 20<sup>th</sup> Jean Whitaker
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dee Limbu

### Flower list



### Refreshment Rota



- 6<sup>th</sup> Janet Chorlton & Steve Armitage
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dorothy Keen & Malcolm Stanley
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dena Hull & Dorothy Keen
- 27<sup>th</sup> Steve Armitage & Dena Hull