



REJOICE!

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

Number
17

APRIL / MAY 2026



Minister:

Rev. Matt Stone
07354 842542

matt.stone@cantab.net

Secretary:

Mrs. V. Morrison
01302 530109

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>



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Monday 30 March, 10am-12 noon

Messy Church Easter Celebration at Ardeen Road URC

Maundy Thursday - 2 April, 7pm

Tenebrae Service at Ardeen Road URC, Doncaster

Good Friday - 3 April

12 .30pm - Walk of Witness starting at Ardeen Road URC
and ending at Flintwood Methodist Church

2pm - An Hour at the Cross at Flintwood Methodist Church

Easter Sunday - 5 April

11am Easter Service at Ardeen Road URC, Doncaster

From Our Minister

For many, the resurrection of Jesus is a stumbling block to faith. Maybe you can identify with Jesus' disciple, Thomas, who said, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25)? Graciously, Jesus allowed Thomas to see and believe. We might not have the same opportunity, but there is a strong case for believing that Jesus really did rise from the dead:



First, all four Gospels record that the tomb was empty. The question then is: are the Gospels reliable? I don't have space here to go into the arguments, but scholars believe the resurrection accounts were written within 15-32 years of the events. Yes, there are slight differences in the Gospel accounts, such as whether there were one or two angels, but if anything these add credibility to the story because if it had been made up, we would expect the Gospel writers to have collaborated and ironed out any differences. It was also shocking at the time to have had the first eyewitnesses as women. Women's low social status in that society meant that their testimony was not counted as evidence in court. If the Gospel writers were fabricating a story, we would expect them to have respectable male eyewitnesses at the tomb first.

Secondly, the apostle Paul records that the tomb was empty. Paul's letters, written less than 20 years later record the amazing event (see 1 Cor. 15:3-6). Paul names eyewitnesses like Cephas and the twelve as if to say "If you don't believe me, go and ask them!" Paul's letters also show us that Christians proclaimed Jesus' bodily resurrection from the very beginning. That meant the tomb must have been empty. No one in Jerusalem would have believed their preaching for a minute if it hadn't been. Arguments such as 'the women must have gone to the wrong tomb', or 'the body was stolen' or that 'the disciples were making it all up' don't take into account the fact that if they were true, the authorities could and would have produced Jesus' rotten corpse to disprove them. Thirdly, the medical evidence would suggest that Jesus' death was not a hoax. Some have suggested that Jesus fainted, or had been given a drug that made him appear to die, and that he had later been revived by

the cold, damp air of the tomb. However, these suggestions ignore the brutality of the Romans and of crucifixion. After unimaginable torture, the Romans confirmed Jesus's death by shoving a spear in his side. We know from modern medicine that clear fluid from the lung and blood would have come out, and this was recorded in John's Gospel. An untrained eye, such as John's, would not have expected to see clear fluid, so it is notable that John records this, and suggests that he was there.

Fourthly, we must not be guilty of 'chronological snobbery'. Some would argue that Jesus' followers were deluded because they wanted to believe that he had been raised. The assumption behind this is a form of what C.S. Lewis calls 'chronological snobbery'. We imagine that we take claims of bodily resurrection with scepticism, but that the ancients would have immediately accepted it. But this is not so – people at the time would have found claims of individual bodily resurrection just as difficult to swallow – as Thomas demonstrates.

Finally, the church itself creates a strong case for Jesus' resurrection. The Christian community suddenly adopted beliefs that were previously unthinkable. They believed that Jesus had a transformed body that could walk through walls yet eat food. They believed that Jesus' resurrection guaranteed our resurrection and brought some of that future new life into our hearts now. Radical new theologies usually take years to develop, and yet faith in the resurrection came into existence almost overnight. We don't see debating among Jesus' followers, we see them telling others what they had seen. The subsequent history of the church is even more difficult to account for. Would any of the apostles have given their lives if it were all a hoax? Would the church have exploded from a group numbering tens, to 3000 on the day of Pentecost, to billions today if it were all based on a lie?

There are so many reasons to believe in Jesus as the resurrected Saviour and King. My prayer is that you will not only believe, but that you would know Him and experience His resurrection life this Easter.

With love, and blessings,

Matt

Please note that Matt is on annual leave from 6-12 April and 16-30 May.



SINGING GROUP

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

Thursday 2 nd April	7.00pm	Rev. Matt Stone HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 5 th April	11.00am	Rod Morrison HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 12 th April	11.00am	Ann Coates
Sunday 19 th April	11.00am	Rev. Matt Stone
Sunday 26 th April	11.00am	Sue Pickering
Sunday 3 rd May	11.00am	Val Morrison
Sunday 10 th May	11.00am	Martin Johnson HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday 17 th May	11.00am	Peter Franklin
Sunday 24 th May	11.00am	Chris Ogley
Sunday 31 st May	11.00am	Rev. Matt Stone

CRAFT CLUB

Forthcoming dates for the Craft Club Meetings are as follows.

Wednesday 8th April

Wednesday 13th May

Wednesday 10th June

Wednesday 8th July

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Wednesday 9th September

Wednesday 14th October

Wednesday 11th November

The December meeting will be replaced by the Carolathon.

All meetings start at 2pm.

I'm going to the local shop for the first time: I've no idea what's in store

Bible Study

Our church Bible Study is an informal group that meets fortnightly to discuss the Bible passages we've looked at on Sunday mornings. We meet on 21st April and 5th May, 1.45-2.45pm. There will be no meeting on 19th May due to holidays.

All are welcome.

WHITBYS FISH & CHIP LUNCH



Pexels free images

**The visits to Whitby's will be on
Monday 13th April and Monday 11th
May at 1pm**

Please sign up on the sheet at the rear of
the church if you intend to be there.

Dorothy

A.V. ROTA

April 5th	Andy	May 3rd	Andy
April 12th	Adam	May 10th	Rod
April 19th	Martin	May 17th	Adam
April 26th	Pat & Dena	May 24th	Andy
		May 31st	Rod



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



COME JOIN US FOR
A CHAIR BASED
EXERCISE CLASS
ARDEEN ROAD CHURCH HALL
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
DONCASTER
11:30 - 12:30PM MONDAYS

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO THIS
GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS WITH
60'S & 70'S MUSIC.

FITNESS FOR ALL ABILITIES & A FRIENDLY

GROUP OF LADIES.

£ 4 PER CLASS



PLEASE CONTACT
DONNA FITZGERALD
ON 07979768717

BIBILICAL PLACES

Find the following names of places named in the bible in the grid below

Aceldama, Antioch, Aram, Ararat, Arimathea, Babel, Bashan, Bethesda, Bethlehem, Cana, Canaan, Capernaum, Eden, Galilee, Gath, Gaza, Gehenna, Gomorrah, Goshen, Horeb, Jericho, Jerusalem, Judea, Judah, Land of Nod, Moab, Nazareth, On, Rabbath Ammon, Shiloh, Shinar, Shittim, Tadmor, Topheth

The unused letter taken in turn will spell out the names of four more places.

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

Contacts

Minister: Rev. Matt Stone 07354 842542 matt.stone@cantab.net

Secretary: Val Morrison 01302 530109 valmorrison7@btinternet.com

Treasurers: Tricia Larder & Rod Morrison

Newsletter: Martin Johnson

Room Hire: Ailsa Johnson

Flowers: Christine Jewison

Property Stewards: Jim Harrison & Martin Johnson

Churches Together in Intake & Wheatley Hills



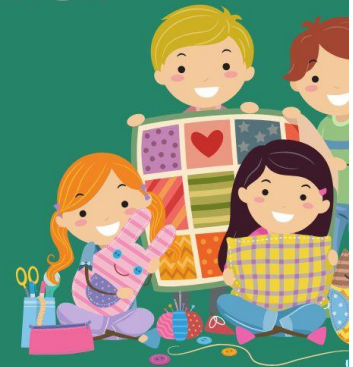
**Monday 30 March, 10-11.30am,
Ardeen Road United Reformed
Church, Doncaster**

**Thursday 28 May, 10-11.30am,
Flintwood Methodist Church**

**Monday 20 July, 10-11.30am,
Flintwood Methodist Church**

**Thursday 20 August, 10-11.30am,
Ardeen Road United Reformed
Church, Doncaster**

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



Are people born with a photographic memory; or does it take time to develop?

I found this item in the Rhuddlan Parish and Community Magazine and just had to share it with you all.

Eye halve a spelling chequer
it came with my pea sea
it plainly marques four my revue
miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
and weight four it two say
weather eye am wrong oar write
it shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
it nose bee fore two long
and eye can put the error rite
it's rarely ever wrong.

Eye have to run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
its letter perfect in its weigh
my chequer told me sew.

Computers have a spell checker built in which show up your spelling mistake until you correct them.

There are those who think they are foolproof – but having read the above poem you and I now know better!

Did you know:

The residents of Churchill in Canada leave their car doors unlocked to offer a safe place for pedestrians who might encounter a polar bear to shelter.

I told my wife her eyebrows were too high – she seemed surprised

April & May diary dates

Newsletter items for the June Issue to Martin by

Sunday 24th May please

Door Steward

April 5 th	Janet Chorlton	May 3 rd	Jean Brookes
April 12 th	Dorothy Keen	May 10 th	David Witham
April 19 th	Dena Hull	May 17 th	Malcolm Stanley
April 26 th	Althea Burwell	May 24 th	Jean Whitaker
		May 31 st	Malcolm Stanley

Vestry Duty

April 5 th	Val Morrison	May 3 rd	Rod Morrison
April 12 th	Rod Morrison	May 10 th	Jim Harrison
April 19 th	Tricia Larder	May 17 th	Christine Jewison
April 26 th	Christine Jewison	May 24 th	Steve Armitage
		May 31 st	Val Morrison

Bible Readers

April 5 th	Linda Ross	May 3 rd	Dena Hull
April 12 th	Christine Jewison	May 10 th	Linda Ross
April 19 th	Alison Shaw	May 17 th	Margaret Dyson
April 26 th	Geoff Shaw	May 24 th	Margaret Dyson
		May 31 st	Jean Brookes

Flower list

April 5 th	Janet Chorlton	May 3 rd	Chris&Laura Harrison
April 12 th	Linda Ross	May 10 th	From the flower fund
April 19 th	Jean Whitaker	May 17 th	Linda Ross
April 26 th	Margaret Dyson	May 24 th	From the flower fund
		May 31 st	From the flower fund

Refreshment Rota

April 5 th	Janet & Steve	May 3 rd	Malcolm & Dena
April 12 th	Dorothy & Malcolm	May 10 th	Pat & Linda
April 19 th	Dena & Pat	May 17 th	Janet & Steve
April 26 th	Steve & Janet	May 24 th	Dorothy & Linda
		May 31 st	Dena & Pat