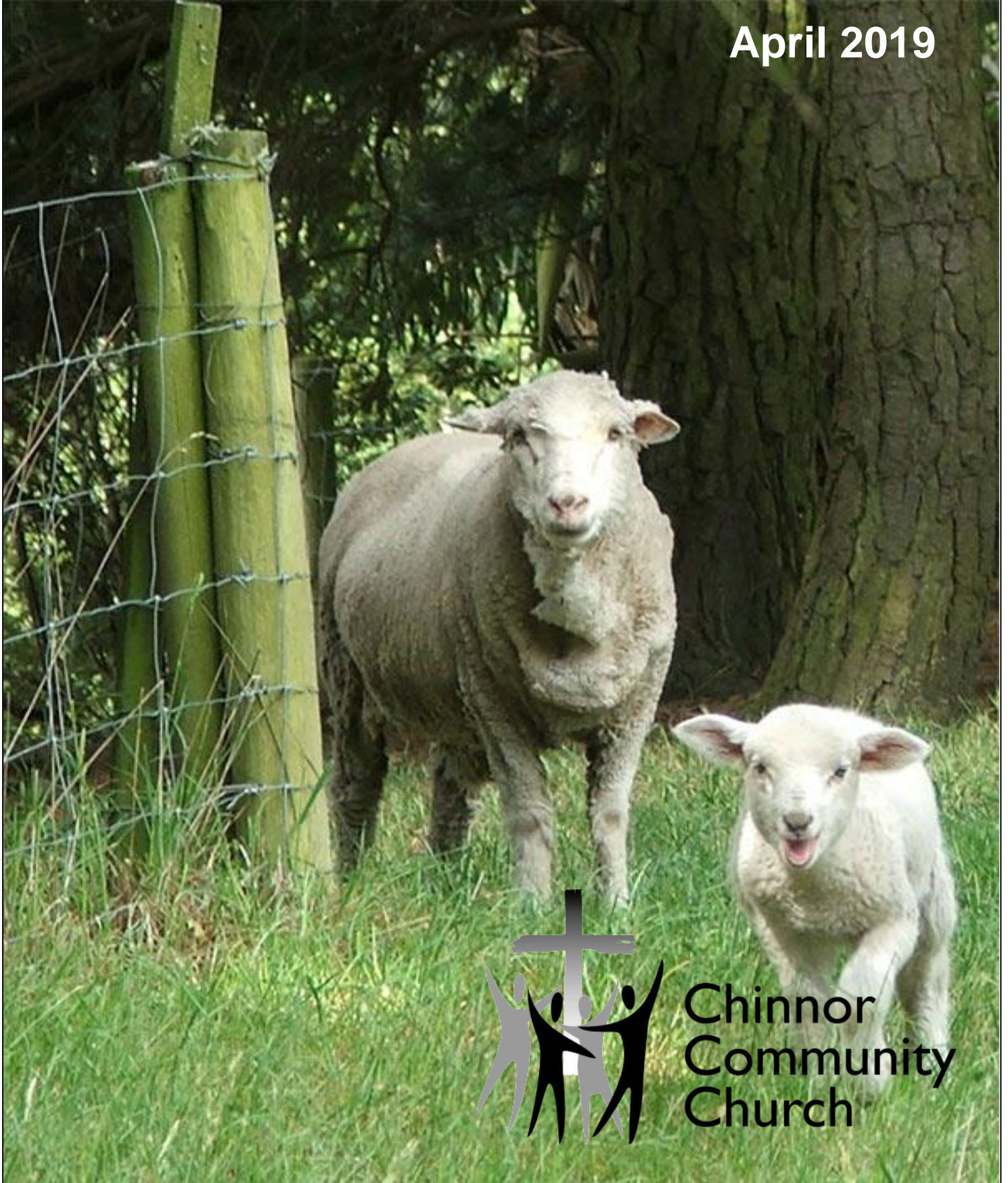


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April 2019



Chinnor  
Community  
Church

# How to Pray

Do you know how to pray? Are you praying as God intends you to pray? Are your prayers powerful and effective? Do things happen when you pray?

These may seem like strange questions for those of us who believe in Jesus but believing in Jesus and learning how to pray aren't the same thing.

Jesus' disciples believed and they asked him how they should pray (Luke 11:1).

Why wouldn't we ask that question also?

Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. Do we need his teaching too?

If we're praying according to life-less human tradition, what are we hoping for?

If we're praying as Jesus teaches us to pray, what should we expect?

Join us in a month of prayer at CCC throughout April. 'How to Pray' meetings will happen on various days and times each week throughout the month of April, so just find a day and time that you can join us. Each meeting will begin in God's word, learning how to pray according to God's word, and then praying that way. Join us for 'How to Pray' at CCC throughout April.

**'How to Pray' - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April, 2-3pm**

**'How to Pray' - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 10-11am**

**'How to Pray' - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 7-8am**

**'How to Pray' - Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 7:30-8:30pm**

*Pastor Pete*

# ***Discipling: a key activity for such a time as this***

**Steve Ludlow, March 2019**

In his book 'Discipleship', an Anglican priest called David Watson wrote this:

*'Christians in the West have largely neglected what it means to be a disciple of Christ. The vast majority of western Christians are church-members, pew-fillers, hymn-singers, sermon-tasters, bible-readers, even born-again believers or spirit-filled charismatics, but not true disciples of Jesus. If we were willing to learn the meaning of true discipleship and actually to become disciples, the church in the west would be transformed, and the resultant impact on society would be staggering. This is no idle claim. It happened in the first century.'*

The topic of discipleship is a big and important one, perhaps even more important today than when David Watson wrote his book back in the 1980s. I would encourage you to read David's book if you want to explore the topic in more depth, but here we will focus on what it means to be disciplined and to disciple others, hence the title of 'discipling'.

## **Make disciples**

The great commission from Jesus in Matt 28 makes our responsibility clear:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

(Matt 28:18-20 NIV)

Note we are told to *make disciples*, not simply evangelise. When preparing for a sermon on this topic it struck me that I have some understanding of what it means to be a disciple but I haven't really thought about what it means for *me to disciple others* or for *me to be disciplined by others*, ie what the *process of discipling* looks like beyond the formulae of programmes like Alpha.

We all know that when someone first comes to know the Lord that they need to understand more about the Lord, to get to know him better and who they are in Jesus. Because of that we rightly run programmes like

Alpha or Freedom in Christ, but I believe that short-term programmes like that cannot be a replacement for the sort of long-term personal discipling that we see in the bible. No programme can compare with the way that Jesus shared his life with his disciples; the love and care the Apostle Paul showed for Timothy; the way that the great Prophet Elijah worked with his disciple Elisha.

The word disciple is both a noun and a verb. As a noun it means follower, apprentice, a pupil of a teacher. As a verb it means to teach or to train. In the Jewish tradition a person would submit themselves entirely to their Rabbi, and were not to study the scriptures without the interpretation and guidance of their teacher, although they expected that one day they would become teachers themselves after completing their training. However, as disciples of Christ we don't graduate, we are disciples for all of our lives, learning from Jesus, our Master. We are all still on a journey of faith, whether we are 9 or 90.

In the book of Hebrews Apostle Paul describes our Christian life as a race: *....let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.....* (Hebrews 12: 1-2 NIV)

Whether we see our discipleship as a race, a journey or a walk with Christ, there isn't a point where we complete our apprenticeship; but despite the fact the none of us stop being disciples – even the Bishop with a doctorate in theology - Jesus commands us to disciple others. Yes, we become more mature and perhaps more able to help others as we grow as Christians, but with the holy spirits' guidance I believe that we are all able to disciple others. This role isn't just for the evangelist with a particular gift, in fact I suspect that evangelists aren't particularly good at discipling others in the way we are looking at here.

Going back to Jewish tradition, the disciple of a Rabbi would choose his own master and voluntarily join his School, but with Jesus things were the other way round. Simon and Andrew, James and John etc were all called by Jesus. Clearly they had to respond to his call, but they did not seek him out.

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. (John 15:16 NIV)*

## **Discipline**

It's important to remember that we too are chosen by Christ for such a time and place as this. We are placed in a context here and now, so that we can be discipled and we can disciple others. But to grow in our own Christian lives and to help others grow we have to have discipline, a word which we find difficult in today's world, but, as the word itself suggests, it cannot be separated from discipleship. Yes there is freedom and joy, but there is also a cost. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German pastor and theologian said: *'When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die'*. In Bonhoeffer's case that included physical death in a Nazi concentration camp. For us it might not mean that, but if we are truly to be disciples we need to understand the cost of discipleship. If that weren't enough though, we are also called to correct or guide one-another on our journey in Christ. The NIV says we are to 'admonish one another', but the Message presents it much more positively:

*Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way. (Colossians 3:16-17 The Message)*

Discipleship can never be just an individual thing. We are accountable to one-another and to God. We are on this journey together.

Another expression of discipline in the context of discipleship, is a set of practices that are often called 'Spiritual Disciplines'. Richard Foster in his book 'Celebration of Discipline' identifies 12 disciplines divided into three sections. There are what Foster calls the 'inward disciplines': *Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study*. He also describes 'outward disciplines' of *Simplicity, Solitude, Submission, Service*. Finally, he explores the 'corporate disciplines' of *Confession, Worship, Guidance, Celebration*. Think of these things as tools to help us in our spiritual growth, many of which can only be practiced in community, in other words together with other believers (not necessarily just in church). I would strongly

recommend Foster's book if you want to find out more about this aspect of discipleship and how you can use these tools in your own life and to help others on their journey with the Lord.

### **A continuum of discipling**

There are a number of forms of discipling that we can all engage in, both as disciples and disciplers. One way to think about this is as a continuum: a scale of activities that range in intensity and purpose from 'intentional' 1:2:1 discipling sessions; through small groups (such as home groups); to simple acts of encouragement.

I haven't experienced much intentional discipling on a regular basis (either as a giver or a receiver); it's all too easy to let what we call 'life' get in the way and I think I have lost out because of that. One example I can give though is that there are a small number of Christian friends that I don't see enough of – but when we do meet we know each other well enough to ask questions like 'how are things between you and the Lord?' 'how are your 'quiet times' going?' 'What is the Lord saying to you at the moment?'

For this to work well it requires a level of honesty and openness that can sometimes be painful, but it's these rich conversations that can hold us to account and keep us on the path of spiritual growth.

I would say that it is essential for a disciple of Jesus to at least be part of a small group (whatever format that takes). Ad-hoc encouragement that we receive occasionally is helpful but is unlikely by itself to result in real spiritual growth unless you have bags of self-discipline. Lots of valuable things can happen in a church service but that isn't the context for real discipling that challenges and stretches us.

### **Intentional 1:2:1 Discipling**

Intentional discipling – in depth, planned 1:2:1 sessions - is much closer to the model of discipleship that we see in the bible. If you want to be disciplined in that way then clearly you need to find someone to share with as the first step. After that the following is a simple guide that might help to structure things:

1. **Agree a regular meeting time and place.** Jesus found time to teach his disciples away from the crowds. We have to make time in our busy diaries. It could be over lunch or a coffee.

2. **Plan what you will study/discuss.** We need to avoid it just being a chat about superficial matters or focussing too much on problem solving of immediate issues. I love the story in Luke 24 of the two disciples walking with Jesus after his resurrection. They don't recognise him at first but after he had left them the disciples said: "*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?*" Wow – that was some bible study!
3. **Meet socially outside of the 'discipling session'.** The discipling relationship needs to be based on friendship/love; it's not a counselling session. Jesus lived with his disciples!
4. **Pray for one another.** During and outside of the discipling session. Jesus prayed for his disciples and expected them to pray for him.

Although the biblical model is of a 'master and apprentice', for mature Christians I think discipling can work as a peer relationship because Christ is the primary discipler. With this in mind we can encourage one another, correct one another, and build one another up in love. Those with greater knowledge and experience will often have more input than others, but we genuinely need each other so that we can all grow in Christ.

So to conclude, we were all placed in CCC for such a time as this, to disciple and be disciplined.

If we get this right, to misquote David Watson, the impact on Chinnor will be staggering.

## REFERENCES

Watson, D: *Discipleship*, Hodder and Stoughton 1981

Foster, R: *Celebration of Discipline*, Hodder and Stoughton 1980

Bonhoeffer, D: *The Cost of Discipleship*, first published in German in 1937, New Edition: SCM Classics 2015

### **Picking up the pieces after eight years of conflict in Syria**

**After eight years of fighting, much of Syria has been reduced to piles of rubble – and millions of its people have fled.** Kieren Barnes, Tearfund's Middle East Response Director, was there recently. He saw first-hand the impact the conflict has left: 'I've worked in a number of countries in the midst of conflict. But I've never seen devastation on this scale. 'We would look down streets that, as far as the eye could see, were empty. It was like driving through a ghost town. There was no reassuring glow of street lights in the evening, no lights on in apartments. Yet people are returning to these empty streets and crumbling buildings, determined to pick up the pieces.'

#### **'We had to leave'**

Countless civilians have died as a result of conflict since the civil war began on 15 March 2011. An estimated 11.7 million people require humanitarian assistance. There is an urgent requirement for basic but essential services such as healthcare, and help with the livelihoods people need in order to provide for themselves and their families.

Millions of Syrians have fled their homes, with 5.6 million becoming refugees in neighbouring Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Jordan. Rahel\* is a mother from Western Syria with two young children. 'When the crisis started we didn't want to leave, but things were getting worse,' she explains. 'We said, why are we staying here under all of this panic and there is no work and nothing to do here? I was very scared and I heard that many children were dying, so we decided we had to leave.'

#### **Restoration**

Many families are now wanting to rebuild their homes, businesses and livelihoods. Together with our partners, Tearfund is passionate about helping people reactivate old businesses, or start new ones. In the long term, we want to enable families to lift themselves out of the current crisis. 'We can play a key role in helping people get back on their feet,' says Kieran. 'It's going to be a long journey, but it's a road that Tearfund will be travelling with the people of Syria for as long as it takes.'



## PLEASE PRAY

- Ask God to comfort and heal people like Rahel, who have faced the trauma of war and having to flee their homes.
- Pray for peace to come to this nation, so that its people can live in freedom and safety.
- Thank God for our partners, who are helping meet people's urgent needs, improving access to basic services and supporting people to work towards long term recovery.

### *No Time to Waste*

*By Tearfund's Cheryl Bannatyne, following a trip to Pakistan.*

Passing through a metal door from the dusty street we enter a small courtyard. The concrete floor is swept and washed down – pristine and spotless. Rubina keeps a beautiful home and warmly welcomes us. She's very aware of how important it is to keep things clean. But however much she tries, Rubina and her family are stuck in a waste-strewn, unhygienic slum.

### **Disease and distress**

All around the perimeter of this slum in Pakistan, piles of rubbish grow – breeding grounds for disease. At night, in an attempt to reduce the problem, fires are started but the filthy, toxic smoke drifts over the community. As Rubina talks to us she is gently waving a fan over her eldest son, Javed, who lies on a bed in the courtyard. Having a child with a disability is challenging in any circumstance but the build up of rubbish and the acrid smoke makes it even more difficult. 'He has severe breathing problem[s],' says Rubina. 'He feels pain because of the smoke.' In a month there might be four or five trips to the hospital. The costs of medical care are a huge burden, as is the fear Rubina has for the ongoing health of her children.

### **Waste away**

But change is on the horizon and it couldn't come soon enough for Rubina and her three children. A hopeful smile lights her face. 'A lady came and told us about a project to clean the streets to make them rubbish free. So that there may be no diseases and problems for children.'

Tearfund partner, Pak Mission Society, is setting up a recycling hub on the outskirts of the community. They have employed a number of people from the neighbourhood who collect rubbish door-to-door and take it to the hub to be processed. Now, not only is Rubina's home kept clean, but the streets around it are starting to be freed of rubbish. Rubina is excited about how the recycling initiative could transform her daily life. 'We hope that it will be better for us and our children – and there will be fewer diseases.'

## **PLEASE PRAY**

Father God,

Thank you for your loving care for Rubina and her family and many others like her in the slums of Pakistan. Thank you that she has hope for a brighter, cleaner future for her children. Please bless and expand the work being done to establish recycling hubs so that many more might also have this hope.

Amen.

## **EGYPT – NEW HORIZONS**

**Tearfund is due to end its 25-year presence in Egypt at the end of March. However, the inspirational projects that it has helped to found and shape will continue.** Since 1994, in partnership with Egyptian churches and Christian groups, we have been able to achieve a huge amount throughout cities, slums and rural areas:

- Enabling African and Syrian refugees to access health, nutrition and job-creation services.
- Allowing young people to benefit from lending schemes, which empower them to escape poverty.
- Advocacy work, which has allowed men and women with HIV to access services such as basic healthcare.
- Supporting adult literacy work and encouraging girls to complete their primary school education and pursue further learning with a mentor.

‘Before, I would get onto the wrong bus because I couldn’t read the sign. Now I know which bus to take,’

### **Noreen\*, student of literacy course with EpiscoCare.**

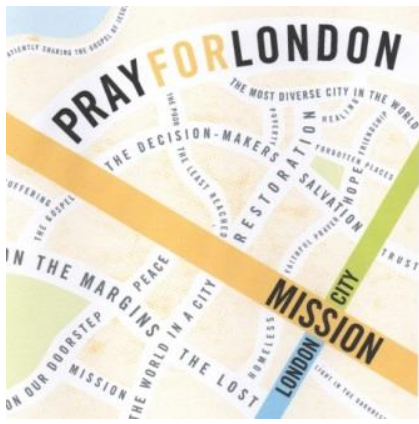
Noreen is just one of over 100,000 men and women who have benefitted from these projects. ‘Economically speaking, Egypt has made great strides, and now has far less extreme poverty,’ says Sarah Newnham, Tearfund’s Head of Eurasia and North Africa. ‘That’s just one of the reasons we felt that the time was right to move on. ‘The church partners we have been working with are more than able to continue this work without our direct input. We’ve been working for five years with them, preparing for this and I believe they are more than ready.’

## **PLEASE PRAY**

Pray for the churches and organisations who will continue this work with refugees, unemployed young people, men and women living with HIV and young girls needing an education.

*\*Names changed to protect identity*

*John Gravett, Tearfund Representative*



# London City Mission

Neil Gillespie and Luke Carson, are two of the King's Cross and Camden Street LCM outreach team, and they regularly meet at a cafe across from HMP Pentonville, along with Jo Davies, a chaplain from Holy Trinity Brompton, and Karis Carson, who's with Caring for Ex-Offenders. The four are part of a team of chaplains and volunteers who run Alpha and a prayer course weekly at prisons. An average of eight prisoners attend these courses. Pray for this work, that it may continue and lead to prisoners to commit to Jesus.

The Bible says, "....., I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25 v36

## **The London City Mission and the Good Old Days**

When a deadly outbreak of cholera swept London in the 1840s, more than two hundred missionaries London City Missionaries stepped out against the tide. They entered London's slums, crossed into the homes of the sick, to bring help, assistance and God's good news. They prayed with suffering families, shared the gospel with them, held their hands as they died.

They risked everything to care for those on the very margins of society.

Over 180 years later, the LCM are still tasked to take the gospel to the least reached very seriously.

*Peter Brown*



## **This month's guide to encourage our partnership in prayer**

**Through April...**

**On a SUNDAY pray for:**

- The people who live near the church
- The High Street, The Avenue, Grafton Orchard, Doveleat, etc
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

**On a MONDAY pray for:**

- The Glynswood Estate
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

**On a TUESDAY pray for:**

- The Mill Lane and Cherry Tree Estates
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

**On a WEDNESDAY pray for:**

- Elderdene, Lower Road, Lower Icknield Way etc
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

**On a THURSDAY pray for:**

- Rectory Meadow area, Golden Hills etc.
- The Kiln Lakes Estate
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

**On a FRIDAY pray for:**

- Station Road, Duck Square, Kiln Lakes, The New Roads
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours
- The doctors surgeries and schools
- The other churches and their leadership teams

**On a SATURDAY pray for:**

- The villages and towns around us
- Those of the fellowship living there and their neighbours

# Owned by Love

*When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ he said, ‘you know that I love you.’ John 21:15*

Imagine one of those days at work where you fail to achieve anything, despite your best efforts. Then, perhaps responding to a sense of guidance from God, everything changes exactly as needed – the inspiration comes, the technical problem is fixed, colleagues co-operate, and you see a way through. Relief comes, energy flows, and into this context Jesus asks you: ‘Do you love me?’ Surely it would be easy to answer in the affirmative to someone who has just met our most immediate need.

This was the question Jesus asked Peter three times, after providing a miraculous catch of fish. Yet, when circumstances are not wonderful and miraculous provision not evident, the question still stands.

What does it mean to love God? Loving someone, we invest time in getting to know them – what they are thinking, what matters to them, their likes and dislikes, their character and motivation. We ponder them, enjoy time with them, talk with them, and listen to them. And the same is true of loving God. This love permeates and changes every aspect of our lives: how we do our work; how we make our decisions; how we organise our time; how we relate to others; how we spend our money or use our possessions. The change is at the most fundamental level – that of ownership. ‘Our’ lives are no longer ‘ours’ – they belong to God and are intimately joined to his.

As C.S. Lewis explains in *Mere Christianity*, ‘The terrible thing, the almost impossible thing, is to hand over your whole self – all your wishes and precautions – to Christ. But it is far easier than what we are trying to do instead [...] to keep personal happiness as our great aim in life, and yet at the same time try to be “good”. We are all trying to let our mind and heart go their own way – centred on money or pleasure or ambition – and hoping, in spite of this, to behave honestly and chastely and humbly.’

Peter replied to Jesus, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you’ (John 21:16). Filled with the Holy Spirit and motivated by love, Peter shaped history. May that love fuel all we say and do.

*Bev Shepherd, LICC*

# I love running.

Growing up as a kid, if you wanted to get me to go somewhere you simply had to challenge me to a race and I'd be there in a flash. I've found that people's reaction to running is quite similar to reactions to Marmite – people either love it or hate it.

With the London Marathon taking place in April, this time of year is when many people are embarking on marathon training; two members of my family got a place in the ballot and started their training at the start of January. This means embracing early morning runs in the dark (a good head torch is an essential piece of kit), setting aside a good chunk of time for your long run on a Sunday, and making sure you eat enough of the right sort of food and keep hydrated. All in all, running a marathon takes a lot of planning, commitment and hard work.

I'm not surprised that the apostle Paul uses running to help draw out elements of Christians' life of faith. In 1 Corinthians 9:24–25 Paul encourages us to “run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”

I've found that running has been very helpful in teaching me about the importance of discipline, perseverance and hard work in my walk with Christ. The longer I remain as a disciple of Jesus, the more aware I become of my clear need to join in with the tax collector's prayer: “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” My only hope is in the grace and mercy of the God and Father of my Lord Jesus Christ. And yet, this does not mean that I don't need to put any effort into my life of faith. As Dallas Willard writes: “Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action.”

The one and only time I've run the London Marathon, I didn't put in enough training. Low and behold, the final six miles were the most challenging I have ever had to run. I was very close to giving up and dropping out of the race. Paul's analogy with running and the need for “strict training” is because he wants us to finish the race that has been set

before us. What might this strict training look like? I would suggest it's not dissimilar to the discipline required for running a marathon.

A good place to start is to follow the example of the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Jesus, who "while it was still dark...left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35). Something that has made long training runs on a Sunday much easier is doing them with a group of friends. In the same way, our discipleship is not a solitary task; it's important to prioritise meeting together with fellow disciples of Jesus and encouraging one another as we each run the race marked out for us (Hebrews 10:25; 12:1).

As I mentioned, what you eat and drink during marathon training has a big impact. As disciples of Jesus, it's also wise to heed Paul's advice as to what we fill our minds with, to think about whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8).

A few months ago, I ran a half-marathon with a friend who is an incredible runner. He'd agreed to be my pace setter and so I ran the race focused on keeping up with him. This made a huge difference because I knew he was only going to go at a pace I could cope with. It turned out to be one of the best runs I've ever done. The writer of Hebrews reminds us that as we run the race set out for us, to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. As the Spirit shapes us to be more who we were made to be, we can know and trust that the one who we follow is a kind and gracious friend, who will stretch us but will never push us beyond what He knows we can cope with.

*Richard Powney*  
*Evangelical Alliance*



# All the Names of Jesus - Part 3

The following list is of names and titles given specifically to our Lord Jesus. The more we study this list, the more we will understand who Jesus really is. How can we help but love Him?

*All Scriptures are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.*

**JEHOVAH:** (Isaiah 26:4) Trust ye in the LORD forever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

**JESUS:** (Matthew 1:21) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

**JESUS OF NAZARETH:** (Matthew 21:11) And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

**JUDGE OF ISRAEL:** (Micah 5:1) Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.

**THE JUST ONE:** (Acts 7:52) Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

**KING:** (Zechariah 9:9) Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

**KING OF THE AGES:** (1 Timothy 1:17) Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**KING OF THE JEWS:** (Matthew 2:2) Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

**KING OF KINGS:** (1 Timothy 6:15) Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

**KING OF SAINTS:** (Revelation 15:3) And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

**LAWGIVER:** (Isaiah 33:22) For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

**LAMB:** (Revelation 13:8) And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.



**LAMB OF GOD:** (John 1:29) The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**LEADER AND COMMANDER:** (Isaiah 55:4) Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

**THE LIFE:** (John 14:6) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**LIGHT OF THE WORLD:** (John 8:12) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH:** (Revelation 5:5) And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

**LORD OF ALL:** (Acts 10:36) The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

**LORD OF GLORY:** (1 Corinthians 2:8) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**LORD OF LORDS:** (1 Timothy 6:15) Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

**LORD OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS:** (Jeremiah 23:6) In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**MAN OF SORROWS:** (Isaiah 53:3) He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**MEDIATOR:** (1 Timothy 2:5) For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

**MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT:** (Malachi 3:1) Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

**MESSIAH:** (Daniel 9:25) Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. (John 1:41) He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

Coffee Pot

## CCC Coffee Pot and The Chinnor Family Roberts

It was one of the unusual, sunny, spring days in February, and the Chinnor hills were alive with the sound of music; or should I say, the Chilton room in the Village Centre. After the usual hubbub we were introduced to Gail and her three daughters, Natasha, Danielle and Isla. We were fortunate to have the group as Natasha, Danielle and Isla are normally at school. This musical group were here to entertain us in song, and unbeknown to us, we were expected to join in with some audience participation! Gail [mum] was playing the keyboard; Natasha [oldest daughter] played her violin; Danielle [middle daughter] played a big black shiny thing with lots of keys to push\*\*, and finally Isla [youngest daughter] played the Ukulele. There follows just some of the songs we were entertained with, such as Gail and Natasha playing a duet 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square' and 'I Believe'. Danielle gave us a rendering of 'Hooray and up she rises'; 'You've got to pick a pocket or two' plus 'Nellie, the Elephant.' Isla, strumming her Uke with gusto, gave us 'I Wanna be like you' followed by 'Waltzing Matilda' and 'When the Saints go marching in'. These were just a few of the many musical items that we enjoyed during the morning. We, ourselves, were also involved with, foot stomping, hand clapping and vocal cacophony in such songs as 'Waiting for Daisy to give her answer do' whilst others were pending 'Packing up their troubles in an old kitbag' whilst saying 'Goodbye to Piccadilly and trying to find how far it was to Tipperary\*'. We had twenty songs to sing. The group though, not only played for all those twenty they also sang as well, they also had twenty other musical items to entertain us with. Music and song rang out throughout the Village Centre. In all it was a warm, heart rousing and thought provoking morning and Gail, Natasha, Danielle and Isla deserved the applause and standing ovation at the end of the morning.

The epilogue reminded us that the Bible tells us, "It is good to praise the LORD and make music to His name." and that "The LORD our God is with us, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in us, He will quiet us with His love, He will rejoice over us with singing." and that, readers, is good to know.

Ps. \*\*“...a big black shiny thing with lots of keys to push...” turned out to be a clarinet that was nearly as tall as Danielle!

PPS. \*It is 370 miles from Chinnor to Tipperary, ....via the A40.

### **CCC Coffee Pot and Barbara’s People**

Barbara has been providing us with various types of entertainment over the years, ever since Coffee Pot started way back in the last Millennium, but now she has decided to take a rest and become a member. So we thank her for all her preparation and hard work over the years.

For her last quiz, she gave us 20 pictures of people for us to recognise plus a word search if we finished too soon. No chance of that, though. One of the pictures was of the Prince who built the Taj Mahal. Now, what was his name? It’s on the tip of my tongue. Was it Bob the Builder? There was a sepia photograph, taken in the olden days, of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, only if you had that answer it was not the one required. It was in fact Princess Elizabeth and Phillip Mountbatten. OK, so it was the same people but the name changes came at a later date. Very clever. The pictures of Romeo and Juliet were recognisable as were Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton, but some of the others were more difficult. There is Rochester and Jane for instance. Who are they? Mr Darcy and Elizabeth. Were they a couple? We got two points for Charles and Nellie and I think he was a king somewhere in the foggy past and she used to sell oranges on Thame market, but I may be wrong. I have someone’s answer sheet in front of me that mentions a couple called Abelard and Heloise and also with a 2 point score. It looks like Wikipedia is calling me. So thanks for years of challenges Barbara, but, who knows, there may be a comeback by public request.

Her final question was not on the table before us, but her correct answer was from the Bible found in John 3 v16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

*Peter Brown*



I was asked recently if those at CCC that want to be a part of the shoebox appeal, but are unable to buy the items we collect each month for various reasons, could contribute by handing me cash from time to time. My answer was a definite yes! As I'm sure you know by now we are asked that if possible we cover the cost of transporting our boxes around the world by including £5. We've always done this by raising money at the yearly coffee morning we organise, by other donations received and by the profits made by sales at the bookstall.

Last year we were also in the lovely position that we had enough money over to sponsor 165 children on the Greatest Journey Bible course. These children include those like the little boy in Syria who'd been terribly traumatised by war. He was 10 and one day told the teacher leading the course that he didn't love anybody — not even God. He continued coming to the lessons and his teacher continued to pray for him. She saw his heart transformed by the gospel and he gave his heart to Jesus. He even began to share Bible stories with friends at school. When his teacher asked him about his new attitude he told her God has changed me!

There are so many accounts like this. God is really using and blessing this work. By changing lives like that of this little boy and so many like him the Gospel is being made known and folk are coming to the Lord in more than 100 countries around the world every year. I believe we are so blessed by being able to play just a small part in this work. In April we will be collecting toothbrushes and combs for our boxes, just little things, but things that will be received with great joy. They will be told they come with our love, but more importantly they will be told of the even greater love and joy that comes by receiving Jesus as their Saviour.

God bless you all,

Love,

*Pam Dunn x*

# Our CCC

"Rainbow Tots is our mum and toddler group that meets every Tuesday during term time. Most of the time is free play, but we also have a short Bible story and singing half way through the session.

We are thankful for Rainbow Tots and the opportunity to meet so many parents/grandparents/childminders in the village.

Lots of people comment on how welcome they feel, but perhaps you could pray for greater boldness, for us to be able to speak more openly about the Lord and pray for people."

*Sarah Mak*

Thank you so much to all those who supported our pancake celebrations. The grand total for both the events is £631.64 – that's a lot of pancakes!!

The money will go to support a project in the Philippines that is helping fisherman recover from super typhoon Haiyan that destroyed most of their fishing equipment and homes.

It will also help them to find new ways to build stronger houses and use more sustainable fishing methods.

## **Christian Aid Week - dates for your diary**

**11<sup>th</sup> May** Street collection at junction of Church Road and High Street from 10 -12. There will be a refreshment stall in the garden of 3 Keens Lane and musical entertainment.

**12<sup>th</sup> May** Christian Aid service in St Andrew's Church 10 am with a guest speaker from Christian Aid –Anwen Homes. Some of you who came to our thank you evening 2 years ago may remember Anwen when she gave an excellent talk on her trip to the Philippines.

**18<sup>th</sup> May** Bumper Christian Aid gift day at Chinnor Methodist Church from 9 am. There will be a photographic exhibition and stories on the work of Christian Aid plus a big breakfast and bread with soup lunch.

# 5 Facts About Lent You Should Know Before Easter

Lent, as many people know, is the 40 day period leading up to Easter. For some it's a time of abstinence, for others it's the lead up to unwrapping chocolate eggs, and of course for many it's now a time to take part in the 40acts Lent generosity challenge from Stewardship!

Here are some facts about Lent that might surprise you:

## **The word Lent has nothing to do with fasting or giving things up**

'Lent' is a shortened version of the Old English word 'lencten', a word which simply means spring (in relation to the season). It is thought to have Germanic roots and seems likely to have been used to describe the season when the days began to lengthen, signifying new life and renewal. Over time, the word Lent came to be linked specifically to the Christian tradition of fasting before Easter, which always coincided with the spring.

## **Lent was originally 36 days long**

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, the day after Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) and lasts for 46 days up until Easter Sunday (although officially the Lent fast is only 40 days long as Sundays aren't included). It wasn't always like this though – in fact, Lent started out as just the six week period (still excluding Sundays) in the lead up to Easter, so the fast was only 36 days long! Lent was extended to 40 days (which is why it begins on Ash Wednesday) to parallel with and help Christians remember the time Christ spent in the wilderness, avoiding temptation at the hands of the Devil, as he prepared for his ministry, death and resurrection.

## **Lent is about fasting and spiritual growth**

Most people know about giving things up for Lent. Some people give up chocolate, sugary drinks, meat, alcohol, cigarettes – even other modern indulgences like videogames or social media in a bid to exercise self-control and spend more time focussing on what is important in life. Lent is traditionally a time of repentance and spiritual renewal, where Christians remember Christ's own preparation in the desert, where he turned his back on the temptation of the devil in order to prepare himself for the mission God had sent him to complete. Hundreds of years ago this manifested in the form that people gave up meat, fish, eggs, wine, oil, butter and other dairy products. While many Christians have moved away from this practice, this is still seen in some Eastern Churches, following a much stricter fast.

## **Lent is also about doing good**

Lent isn't just about remembering Christ's suffering – it's a time in which believers try to be the best Christian they can possibly be. In the early Lent traditions, Almsgiving (the giving of charity to the poor and needy) was another important aspect of the fast. So the principle of doing Lent generously has been around for hundreds of years before the 40acts generosity challenge began! “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy” (1 Corinthians 12:26)

## **Mother's Day is actually a part of Lent**

Lent is the build-up to Easter and Easter is a celebration of Christ's rebirth. What better a thing to celebrate during the fourth Sunday of Lent than mothers? The Sundays of Lent are all joyous occasions for Christians everywhere – here in the UK the fourth of these Sundays is known as Mothering Sunday. Mothering Sunday was originally all about returning to your home (or 'mother') church, and eventually it became a celebration of motherhood. Lent, as mothers around the country are sure to remind you, is all about giving generously!

## **Good Friday is a bit of a strange name**

The term “Good Friday” seems a bit strange at first glance given that it is the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion and burial. Scholars continue to debate the correct origin of the word good; some attribute it as meaning Holy, or Pious, while others argue that it comes from a corruption of 'God Friday'. The Oxford English Dictionary opts for the first – but either definition hints at the significance of the day. Good Friday is certainly the holiest Friday of any given year.

Want to experience a different kind of Lent? Since 2011, a growing community from the UK and across the world have been joining the 40acts generosity challenge run by the Christian charity Stewardship. You can find out more about the challenge here:

<https://40acts.org.uk/about/>

or sign up for lots of extra resources for churches, youth groups and schools here: <https://40acts.org.uk/brief-history-40acts/>

*Stewardship*

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/>

# THE FUN PAGE

## Easter Word Search



Angel  
Empty Tomb  
Jesus  
Messiah  
Salvation

Cross  
Good Friday  
King  
Resurrection  
Sunday

Crown of Thorns  
Holy  
Love  
Risen  
Third Day

Easter  
Hope  
Mary  
Sacrifice

**Last Month The Answer:**

The heavens tell the glory of God. And the skies announce what his hands have made.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## Sunday Services

Café Church 9.00am - 9.45am  
Morning Service 10.45am to 12.15pm

Chinnor Community Church  
High Street, Chinnor, Oxon OX39 4DH

## Rainbow Tots

Tuesdays (Term Time)

9am at CCC

**FN@6 and 7**  
April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Coffee Pot**  
Is not meeting in April

At the Village Centre  
From 10.30am

**Small Groups**  
See group leaders for info

If you have any articles  
for the next Connect they  
need to be in by  
**21 April 2019**

## Dates for your Diary

- Apr 01 Autism Group 9.00am  
CLT and Trustees Meeting 8pm
- Apr 02 How to Pray 2pm  
Teens Group 7.30pm  
The Bridge 8pm
- Apr 03 Coffee Morning 10-11am  
Daytime Group 1.30pm  
Small Groups
- Apr 04 Prayer for Israel 1.30am  
After School Club 3.15pm
- Apr 07 Cross Walk rehearsal 2.30pm
- Apr 09 The Journey 11am (VC)
- Apr 10 How to Pray 10am
- Apr 11 Prayer for Israel 1.30am
- Apr 13 Coffee at Manor Stores 9.30am
- Apr 15 How to Pray 7am
- Apr 16 The Bridge 8pm
- Apr 17 Daytime Group 1.30pm
- Apr 18 Prayer for Israel 1.30am  
Cross Walk rehearsal 7pm
- Apr 19 Cross Walk 9am  
Refreshments 10.30am  
Meditative Service 11.30am
- Apr 23 The Journey 11am (VC)
- Apr 24 Coffee Morning 10-11am
- Apr 25 Food for Thought 9am  
Prayer for Israel 1.30am  
How to Pray 7.30pm
- Apr 30 Teens Group 7.30pm

See [www.chinnor.org.uk](http://www.chinnor.org.uk) for more info

# More Dates for Your Diary

## And things for you to pray for ...

<b>Call in for Coffee and a Chat</b>	Wednesdays 10am - 11am (Term times)
<b>Ann Absolom of Desiring Truth</b>	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Believers Baptism Service</b>	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Paul Garner at CCC</b>	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> June
09.30 Dinosaurs and the Bible	
12.00 Creation or Evolution does it really matter?	
<b>Men Only - The Gathering</b>	Friday 21 - Sunday 23 June
See Pastor Pete for info	
<b>Silver Harmony</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> August
<b>Dr John Andrews at CCC</b>	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> November

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## HOUSE OF PRAYER

"If we would understand the potential power of our prayers,  
we would be on our knees a hundred times a day and ask Him for  
things that would turn the world upside down"

Brother Andrew

### Prayer for Israel

- Thursdays 1.30pm at 14 Hill Farm Court

**The Bridge** is our mid-week prayer experience group which meets to seek the presence of God and exalt His name. We are focused entirely on seeking the Lord's presence through prayer, worship and prophetic gifting.

- First and Third Tuesdays 8.00 - 9pm in the hall

### How to Pray

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2-3pm
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 10-11am
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 7-8am
- Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 7.30-8.30pm

# CCC Services April 2019

This year's theme: For Such A Time As This ...

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Words from the cross: I Thirst, John 19:28  
- David Morgan

(This service includes communion. For those involved in the worship team and youth work this is available at 10.30am)

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Words from the cross:  
Father into your hands I commend my spirit  
Luke 23:46 - Pastor Pete

## Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Cross Walk 9am at High Street Car Park

Refreshments 10.30am approx. at CCC

Meditative Service 11.30 at CCC

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Easter Sunday

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Words from the cross: It is finished  
John 19: 30 - Pastor Pete  
This is an All Age service

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am  
- Steve Ludlow

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

Cafe Church 9:00-9:45am

Morning Service 10:45am Guest Speaker - Ann Absolom

# Who's Who at



## Chinnor Community Church

### Our Leadership Team:

Pete Walley (Pastor)  
Bruce Crawforth (Elder)  
Will Austin (Christians Together)  
Ann Long (Missions)  
Janine Adams (Evangelical Alliance)  
Sophia Botchway (Treasurer)  
Viv Haywood (Administrator/Premises)

### Our Trustees

Susie Kelsey (Chair)  
Steve Ludlow

### Small Group Leaders:

Ann Long & Janine Adams  
Viv Adams (Daytime)  
Sarah Mak (Food for Thought)  
Jean Sutcliffe (Daytime)  
Barbara Francis  
Viv & John Haywood  
Susie Kelsey  
Steve & Fiona Ludlow  
Jean Sutcliffe & Ian Swaffield

### Youth Work:

#### Sundays:

**Pebbles (Under 5s):** Barbara Francis  
**The Rock (Yrs 2-6):** Anna Chalk  
**Rock Solid (Yrs 7-9):** Jean Sutcliffe  
**Summit (Yrs 10-13):** Zoe Powell

#### Fridays:

**FN@6** 6-7.15pm  
(Yrs 2-6): Gail Roberts / Viv & John Haywood  
**FN@7** 7-9pm  
(Yrs 7-9): Ian & Shane Swaffield

**The Bridge:** Steve Kelsey

**The Journey:** via the Church Office

**Rainbow Tots:** Sarah Mak

**Teens Tuesday Group:** Zoe Powell

**Men's Own:** Peter Hopgood

**CCC Coffee Pot:** Peter Brown

**Ladies Nights:** Kim Hopgood, Sarah Mak,  
Anna Chalk

**Tear Fund Rep:** John Gravett

**Evangelical Alliance Rep:** Janine Adams

**Christian Aid** via the Church Office

**Samaritans Purse** – Pam Dunn

**CCC Bookshop:** Pam Dunn

**Health and Safety:** Bruce Crawforth

**Child Protection:** Jo Wootton &  
Anna Chalk

**Family Worker:** Kim Hopgood  
[familyworkerccc@gmail.com](mailto:familyworkerccc@gmail.com)  
07480334617 (9am - 5pm only)

**Connect Editor:** Barbara Francis  
[b.francis@btinternet.com](mailto:b.francis@btinternet.com)

### Contact Details:

Church Administrator/Premises:  
Viv Haywood 01844 352938  
[chinnorcommunitychurch@gmail.com](mailto:chinnorcommunitychurch@gmail.com)

**CCC Prayer Chain** operates 7 days a week from 9am – 9pm. If you have a prayer need and want it to go onto the chain, contact: Angela Martin on 01844 344945 or Viv Haywood on 01844 355935 or Sheila Gravett on 01844 353138.