



Wendover Free Church April 2020

MISSION PRAYERS FOR APRIL

Baptist Home Mission is all about helping Baptist churches and individuals to reach their mission potential and bring the love of God to their communities. It is the Baptist family purse. Each year, our church contributes to this 'purse'. One recipient of Home Mission Funds is Pulborough Brooks Baptist Church, now in its ninth year.

spent the day clearing weeds, removing rubbish and painting over graffiti. It is amazing just what a small group of folk can achieve over the course of a few hours and we had some wonderful conversations with local residents. We followed this up with a community breakfast which comprised of tea, coffee and bacon butties on the green.'

Praise Points:

Give thanks for another wonderful year of blessings; for the impact of Jelly Beans and the opportunity to run parenting courses; for the many positive contacts that were made during the Day of Action.

Prayer:

That we might not only grow spiritually but also numerically and that we might bear much fruit for the gospel. That we will make a positive impact in our community and see people brought to faith in Jesus. That we would know God's will and guidance as we plan outreach activities throughout the year and develop our church vision for 2020.

'The ethos at PBBC is to be an outward looking church that seeks to play its part in building God's Kingdom in Pulborough. We are motivated by our call to show the love of Jesus to our friends and neighbours through our actions as well as words. We try to maintain a high visible presence in the life of the village by selling bread at the monthly village market, running a vibrant parent and toddler group (called Jelly Beans), and engaging in community outreach projects.

'During the summer of 2019 we teamed up with our Community Wardens, Police Youth Liaison Officers and local Housing Association for a Day of Action. We



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Although Poetry Please will not meet in April, we could all look up poems and share them by e-mail or over the phone. Find seasonal poems of all sorts from bunnies and eggs through to more serious poems exploring Christ's passion. The theme is 'Easter.'

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ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please send in news and details of special celebrations to Christine Wright
candgxwright@msn.com
01296 624084
Next month's deadline will be Monday 20th April.



Happy Birthday
to
Lexi White
who will be 11
on Wednesday 8th April



Congratulations
to Noel and Ann Shepherd
who celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on Thursday 16th April.

WHEN ALL IS STRIPPED AWAY...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope and pray that this message finds you well during this time of social isolation and lockdown. When I think about where we are now and how things have changed, a particularly favourite worship song of mine comes to mind: *When the music fades, all is stripped away* by Matt Redman. It talks about coming back to the heart of worship that is all about Jesus and not the thing we've made it. Do listen to it on YouTube if you get the chance.

So suddenly everything has become different, all is stripped away and we are unable to do what we 'normally' do. This could be a source of distress and we could become disheartened, but there are other ways of responding to change like this.

We could use this time to reflect and to pause. We are, after all, in Lent, a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. We have a unique opportunity to take a break from everything we did and re-focus ourselves. Some of the things that kept us busy & away from God have been stripped away, and we can use this time to re-connect with God and with each other because, although we can't gather, we can still stay in touch.

We would have been together a lot during April, remembering Jesus' final days before he was crucified and celebrating the

resurrection on a glorious Easter morning. When Jesus was crucified and his body was laid in an empty tomb, his followers would have felt like everything was stripped away. Their teacher, their master, their anchor and hope and promised Messiah, was killed and gone. What would they do? What *could* they do? Sound familiar? We know how the story continues for the disciples, but we don't know how our story will continue. Let us trust God during this time of isolation and change. Let us listen to God and continue to pray and hope in him who promises to be with us always and is known for keeping his promises.

Please keep in touch with each other - phone, email, connect on social media, write letters (remember what those are?). Encourage each other, support each other, look out for each other. We are in this together and we need each other more than ever to get through this. Things won't go back to how they were, but they could be better. We don't know what it looks like. But we do know that God is with us and he asks us to trust him.

We'll be thinking of ways to remember the events of Easter at home. If you have any thoughts, please do let us know. It would be great to receive feedback. Stay safe and connected.

Grace and peace to you all.

Remco

What's on in April?

Due to the current situation, there are no planned activities until further notice. However, Sunday worship sheets are being distributed and everyone is encouraged to use them on Sunday morning at 10.45am if possible. You can worship with others on <https://www.facebook.com/WendoverFree/> at 10.45 am, using the Sunday worship sheet when Remco and Elly will lead the worship live.

Energy - a thousand suns exploding in the darkness

All creation awakes

Standing in awe at the miracle unfolding

There is hope, there is hope at last

End of despair; look up and see

Risen! Christ is risen. Rejoice!

Christine Wright

NOTICES

Easter Eggs Although we are not meeting for worship at the moment, I am still collecting Easter eggs for Aylesbury Women's Aid. If you would like me to collect your donations (by 5th April at the latest, please) then contact me on 01296 624759 or sandra.smith81@btinternet.com). Thank you. Sandra Smith

Church Directory If you wish to amend your directory entry, please e-mail Christine at candgxwright@msn.com soon or ring her on 01296 624084. We will distribute the new directory during April - one way or another! **Would those who were asked for clarification, please get in contact soon! Thank you.**

