

Sunday gatherings at 3pm in the Christian Centre

In addition to our Home Worship Sheets, there will be Gatherings each Sunday afternoon throughout May.

We can meet indoors, though masks must still be worn.

Numbers are limited to ensure social distancing, so if you wish to attend, please contact Sandra Smith on 01296 624759 or email: sandra.smith81@btinternet.com

While we cannot sing indoors, we were able to sing outdoors on Sunday 25th April - and hope to do so again!



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 24th May.

Welcome!

At our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 25th April, two new Council members were appointed:

Merrenna French and Michelle White.

We also elected a new Treasurer:

Ian Critchley.

We are grateful to all of them for their willingness to serve the church in these roles.

Thank you!

We are also grateful to Robin Davies and John Shaw as they conclude their time on Council.

Special thanks are due to John Shaw who has been our Treasurer for many years (both on and off Council).

Thanks to all who continue to support the church and its outreach in many and various ways.

And thanks and praise to our loving God who has sustained us through this past, difficult year.

NEWSLETTER NO. 188

Wendover Free Church May 2021

REFILL OUR LIVES

God, made known in Jesus and present through your Spirit, renew us when we imagine that success in life depends on our efforts alone.

Renew us when we rely on wordy, worthy consultations rather than listening to your voice.

Renew us when we speak only of your past experience and fail to see new ways and places where you would have us go.

God, made known in Jesus and present through your Spirit, rescue us, renew us and re-fill our lives with love today.

Ian Fosten
URC Prayer Handbook 2016



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US ALL!

Sunday 23rd May marks Pentecost, celebrating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church.

MISSION PRAYERS FOR MAY

christian
aid
week

10-16 MAY

A woman sings a deep, joyful tune. Her song lifts the spirits of the other women on the farm. This is Florence. She's courageous, kind and a survivor. A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. She had to walk for hours on a dangerous journey to collect water.

Florence could easily have been defeated. But she is a fighter, and she shows the women in her farming group that they can be fighters too. Next to her farm, she is proud to show us something remarkable – a dam, full of fresh water. It's thanks to **Christian Aid Week** donations like yours that Florence and her community have built this water dam, with the help of Christian Aid partner ADSE, just a short walk away from her village.



With this dam, Florence can grow tomatoes, onions, papayas and chillies on her farm. Her children can eat nutritious vegetables. It's her source of life and joy.

Florence also uses the water from the dam to keep honey bees. She sells the rich, golden honey for cash at the market. Now, she is reaping a good life for herself and her family.

The dam gives Florence strength to withstand even the most unpredictable weather. It's a reliable water source, whether she faces long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Florence is generous, and she knows other people are struggling to cope without a reliable water source. 'There is a village nearby – they don't have an earth dam. They travel for a long way to come to this water point. They are suffering.'

Your generosity this Christian Aid Week could help another community build a dam. Many more people will have the water they need to sustain their families.

Please give via the website <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week> or call 020 7523 2269 to donate by telephone.

ECO CHURCH

AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thursday 22nd of April was Earth Day. Not necessarily something we hear or know about, but apparently it is big in the U.S. It is a day to celebrate and honour the gift of the beautiful creation we live on. As Christians we know that the natural world, the sky, animals, plants, is all a reflection of God's glory. How we treat this creation is a mirror for how we embody God's love. St Francis treated even animals and plants as spiritual beings worthy of being loved. He said they give glory to God just by being who they are!

Jesus tells us to love God and love our neighbour. I believe that caring for the environment is important on two counts. Firstly, because it is God's creation and through it God is revealing his presence and love for us. Secondly because, by caring for the environment, we show love to our neighbours. What we do this side of the earth makes a

difference on the other side. In other words, our actions here have consequences for people, our neighbours, on the other side of the planet.

At our AGM I briefly talked about EcoChurch which is an initiative that could help us as individuals and as a church to think about these issues. I would encourage you, if you are able, to have a look at the website (ecochurch.arocha.org.uk) and sign up if you are interested.



Wendover Free Church is on there so once you have registered you should be able to find us.

I hope we can set up a small group to think and pray about our impact as individuals and as church on the planet and other people. If you are interested in this, or would like more information, please do let me know.

Grace and peace to you all, **Remco**