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'Please do come along to our next Poetry Please session on Friday 4th March at 10.30am. Our theme for March will be 'Occupations'.

Poems about hobbies and pastimes will be perfect too! Everyone is very welcome!



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EASTER EGGS

As Easter approaches, I am once again collecting Easter eggs which will be donated to Aylesbury Women's Aid for the women, children and teenagers who are currently staying there.

Any chocolatey treats will be welcome; please would you let me have your donations by Sunday 10 April latest.
Thank you. **Sandra Smith**



ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Please send in news and details of special celebrations to Christine Wright candgxwright@msn.com
01296 624084
by Monday 28th March.

LOOK OUT FOR...!

Our revised **Church Directory** is available at church . To get a digital copy, to receive one by post or hand-delivered, ask Christine (contact details in box on the left).

Lent begins on Wednesday 2nd March. Ideas to observe Lent are available now in a Churches Together handout.

This year the Lent course will be based on the book 'The Way of the Franciscans: A Prayer Journey Through Lent'. If you would like a copy of the book (£7.64) please contact Remco.

NEWSLETTER NO. 198

Wendover Free Church
March 2022

church.worship.service

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Have you heard of the "What3Words" app & website? This is a service that has given every 3m square in the world a unique three word address. It promises to be more accurate than addresses because it is possible to direct people to the entrance rather than just the building. It could also be used direct emergency services to find people in distress on mountains or forests where post codes don't work.

There are three words in our language that I struggle with. They are perfectly good words, words that come from the Christian traditions, but they have been used so much that they don't mean what they are supposed to any more. The first one is 'church'. When lockdown happened and the government told us we can't meet everyone said that the church is closed. What a load of nonsense.

The church cannot be closed because the church is the people of God. Not a building, not a gathering at a particular time, but the people of God. Jesus didn't come to build buildings, he came to create communities of disciples who became known as the church.



The second one is 'worship'. Worship is not just what we do together on a Sunday morning. Worship is our response to the amazing love God has shown us. So, if we only worship for the one hour on Sunday morning, we

have a very narrow view of God's love for us. Worship is our every day, every hour and every minute response to the love of God for us. It is how we live and move and have our being.

The third one is 'service'. For some service rightly means helping others, caring for them, serving them coffee or other things they need.

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church.worship.service
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Yet, 'service' is also the word we use to describe our time together on a Sunday morning. In a way again it is right, but it isn't a service you receive, it is a service you give.

Of course, we don't do animal sacrifices, thankfully, but we can learn from them way the people of Israel gathered to worship and serve their God. They brought something to offer with them. And that is what the worship service is for. For you to bring something to offer to God.

So for us it isn't an animal, but it could be a song, or a poem, or a reading, or an insight, or a financial offering.

Three words that don't actually mark a place on the map. But, they are words that are important to us and to our faith. Good to think about and get right. And a wonderful reminder of the love God has shown us and our response to it. Let us be **church**, and



worship God in all we do as offer **service** to him and our neighbours.

With every blessing, **Remco**

MISSION PRAYERS FOR MARCH

'ACTION FOR CHILDREN' protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support. Their mission is to campaign to bring lasting improvements to young lives.

With increased hardship for many families, Action for Children is currently urging the government to do more to help the most vulnerable children and families.



A cost-of-living crisis is putting immense strains of households, especially those with children. We pray that action will be taken to bring relief to those in need.

'God of mercy, we pray that Action for Children will be empowered by the Holy Spirit as it continues to campaign for families in need. We give thanks for the work being done to make voices heard that would otherwise be ignored. Amen.'

www.actionforchildren.org.uk/

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH?

Tuesday 1st: I am **Launch of Lent Course** (pancakes at 12.30pm)

Wednesdays 2nd: 16th & 30th 10am-12 noon **Craft Group**

Thursday 3rd: 2.30-4.30pm **Flower Arranging Group**

Friday 4th: 10.30am **Poetry Please**

Sunday 13th: 3.30-5.30pm **Messy Church** (Booking essential)

Saturday 19th: 10.30am **Book Club**

Every Sunday: 10.45am **Morning Worship**

Every Tuesday: 11.30 **Lent Course** followed by soup lunch

& 1-3pm: **Communi-tea Friends Café** starting with soup lunch

Every Wednesday: **Lent Course study** at 21 Manor Road or phone

0208 080 6592, (Meeting ID 840 1613 1066, password 105461).

CONGRATULATIONS!

Colin & Ursula Coles' grand-daughter, Megan Griffin, has won an international art prize - the Global Students Prize 2022 presented by the Sovereign Art Foundation. The painting, entitled 'Vexation', was created as part of Megan's A-Level art portfolio when she was 17, and features her mum, Amanda. On her huge win, she said: 'It feels incredible to have won the Sovereign and I'm still a little bit in disbelief. She added: 'I also need to say a really big thank you to my mum, not just for being an amazing mum, but also for letting me take hundreds of photos of her pulling the strangest of faces for my painting.'



When describing her painting at the time of submission, Megan said: The theme of vulnerability is especially relevant today; we are currently living through an historical moment when nothing is secure, and nothing is certain. Both anger and despair are understandable responses to our increased sense of vulnerability, but we must remember that with this fragility also comes strength; perhaps even joyous acceptance.'