

The Link

CHANDLER'S FORD Methodist Church

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March 2024

<https://www.cfmethodist.church/>

CCL 30794

Staff Team

Rev Ruth Fry Minister – Day off Friday
ruth.fry@methodist.org.uk (01962 882 828)

Jane Padley Pastoral Assistant – day off Monday
cfmc_jane@hotmail.co.uk (023 8026 6180)

Keith Cole Caretaker

Glenn Stephens Property Manager
property@cfmethodist.church (07753 167 098)

Ellie Carter Youth Worker – day off Monday
ellie@cfmethodist.church (07708 501 191)

Weekly notices by noon on Wednesday – also ***The Link***
richardwright@outlook.com (07905 115 140)

Katrina Neale Church Centre Manager
katrina@cfmethodist.church (023 8026 0128)

Room Booking bookings@cfmethodist.church

Sonia Craig Circuit Administrator
weradmin@wermethodist.onmicrosoft.com

We have accounts on the following social media channels
(you can just search for Chandler's Ford Methodist Church):

Facebook – @ChFordMethodist

X – @ChFordMethodist

Instagram – @Chandlers_ford_methodist

We post different things on each so if you use any of the above,
please “like” or “follow” as appropriate and most importantly
then “share” or “retweet” our posts so we can reach others
and increase our online congregation.

For activities for Children and Young People,
see the **CFMC Youth and Children's Work Facebook** page.

For Boys' and Girls' Brigades, adult activities and *The Link*
see our website: <http://cfmethodist.church/>

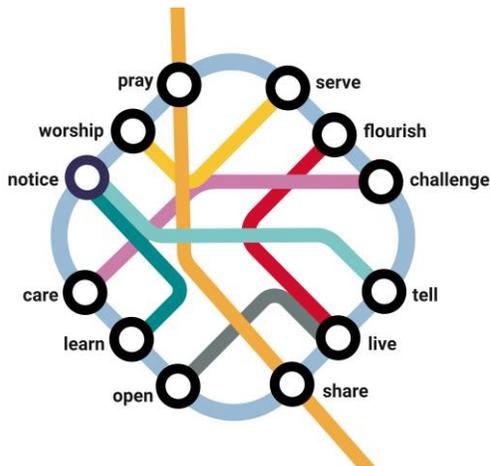


From our Minister

Rev Ruth Fry

Dear friends,

I write this month to share with you details about the series of All Age Services we have launched to help us all reflect on the Methodist Way of Life. The map for the journey of following Jesus with a Methodist emphasis has been produced for us by the Mission and Evangelism team and is printed below:



It looks a bit like a train map, and it's divided up into the four categories of Our Calling – Worship, Service, Learning and Caring and Evangelism.

I wonder which of the above stations you might call your home station?

I think for me it would have to be 'tell'. I guess that's because I'm a chatterbox, I'm an extrovert by personality and I love telling people all sorts of things including about what it's like to follow Jesus. Yours might be different to mine though and that's just

fine. Each of us will have our home station, the aspect of Our Calling which we find comes most naturally to us. God, however, has a habit of pushing us out of our comfort zone. God challenges us to move away from our home station and to stop at the other stations on the map too. The map applies just as much to us as a church as it does to us as individuals.

Which stations do we find it the most challenging to stop at I wonder?

As we explore the map together over the coming months we will be moving from station to station and thinking more deeply about our calling to follow Jesus. As we move from station to station on the map my prayer is that we will grow in faith both as individuals and as a church.

Every blessing, *Ruth*

Holy Week Meditations and Easter

Holy Week Meditations will take place in the Prayer Corner of the Church on **Monday – Wednesday, 25th – 27th March**. They will start at 8 pm and include readings, music, prayers and silence. We aim to provide a time that will help you move from Palm Sunday towards Good Friday and beyond. Please feel free to join us for some or all of them – Anne Heath.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

At 9 am on **Easter Sunday 31st March**, Barbara Hillier will lead a short act of worship in the Prayer Corner. Please join in worshipping our risen Lord, before enjoying your delicious breakfast.

Services

MARCH

- Friday 1st** 1:30 pm Dovetail Group in Meeting Room 1
- Sunday 3rd** 9:30 am Breakfast Church – Ellie Carter
11 am Sunday Worship – Rev Ruth Fry
- Thursday 7th** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Rev Peter Rayson
- Sunday 10th** 9:30 am Holy Communion – Rev John Archer
11 am Sunday Worship – Rev John Archer
- Thursday 14th** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Pam Madders
- Sunday 17th** 11 am Sunday Worship
– Rev Ruth Fry and Ellie Carter
6:30 pm Evening Service with Holy Communion
– Rev Ruth Fry
- Thursday 21st** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Graham Hepburn
- Sunday 24th** 11 am Sunday Worship – Rev Ruth Fry
- 25th – 27th** 8 pm Holy Week Meditations (*see page 4*)
- Thursday 28th** 7 pm Maundy Communion with light supper
– Rev Ruth Fry (*no Midweek Service today*)
- Friday 29th** 10:30 am Good Friday Service – Rev Ruth Fry
- Sunday 31st** 9 am Easter Prayers – Barbara Hillier
(*see page 4*)
11 am Easter Worship with Holy Communion
– Rev Bryan Coates

APRIL

- Thursday 4th** 10:30 am Midweek Service – Rev Bob Powell

MARCH

- Friday 1st** 1:30 pm Dovetail Group in Meeting Room 1
7:30 pm World Day of Prayer Service
at Colden Common
- Saturday 2nd** 6 pm BB Concert with Puppets (*see page 20*)
- Saturday 9th** 12 noon Peter Pan Easter Fete in the Church Hall
(*see page 7*)
- Monday 11th** So what should we do about climate change?
(Last in series of Creation Mondays webinars)
- Friday 15th** 1:30 pm Dovetail Group in Meeting Room 1
- Thursday 21st** 2:30 pm Good News Group in Meeting Room 1
- Saturday 23rd** 9:30 am Who Let The Dads Out in the Hall
10 am Easter Coffee Morning at St. Andrew's,
Eastleigh with Prayer Labyrinth for all the family
- Tuesday 26th** 7 pm Men's Supper Club in the Dovetail Centre
– Playing for you: Our Boys' Brigade Band
- Wednesday 27th** Deadline for the April edition of *The Link*

APRIL

- Friday 5th** 1:30 pm Dovetail Group in Meeting Room 1

<p>Dovetail Café Monday to Friday 9:30 am (Saturday 10 am) until 12 noon</p>

- Every Tuesday** 2:30 pm Women's Fellowship (*page 15*)
- Every Wednesday** 1:45 pm Dovetots in the Church Hall
- Every Friday** 3:30 pm Kids Club in the Dovetail Centre



Message Board

The next edition of *The Link* will be for April 2024.
Send items by **Wednesday 27th March 2024** to:
Richard Wright (richardwright@outlook.com)

This Easter **Ellie**, our Youth Worker, is marrying her man **Dan**. Please pray for them and their families as they prepare for their Wedding at Romsey Methodist Church on Easter Monday. God bless you both as you start your married lives together.

Peter Pan Easter Fete is in the Church Hall on **Saturday 9th March** from 12 noon to 3 pm. There will be a Bouncy Castle, Raffle, Games, Craft Stalls, Tombola and Refreshments. Please come along and support them.

Action for Children collection boxes. Thank you to all our Box Collectors who raised £865.22 during 2023 for the essential work of *Action for Children*. This is a fantastic amount considering how little change people have in their pocket. If you would like a collecting box, please talk to Pat Chambers (8026 5683) or Vera Life (8026 5813).

Easter Songs of Praise at **Cadnam Methodist Church** on **Sunday 31st March** at 6:30 pm, celebrating Easter in word and song. Come and share as we sing much loved Easter hymns and hear the resurrection accounts from all four gospels.

The Funeral Service for **Terry Vincent** is on **Thursday 7th March** at 1 pm in the Church, followed by a reception in the Dovetail Centre. All are welcome to attend.

Your regular giving to CFMC

Chris Goodhead, Treasurer (023 8025 2405)
chrisgoodhead@btinternet.com

It is a fact of life that the costs of running a church as large as ours continue to rise, albeit at a slower rate hopefully as inflation starts to fall. Whilst we are doing our best to reduce these costs where we can they are still rising overall.

The other side of the equation of course is our income, the mainstay of which is the faithful and regular giving by members of the church family. Sadly, our regular standing order giving has dropped by 4.4% in the 5 months to January 2024 compared to the same period last year.

In the past we have sometimes used the annual Gift Day in part to fill this gap between regular income and expenditure. The plan this year is to use the Gift Day to raise funds for the “30 Years On” project, which helps meet our mission to care for creation and live in a way that draws others to Jesus in the future. It does mean, however, that we are likely to be running at a deficit this year and it could be substantial.

Could I gently ask therefore, if you haven’t reviewed your regular giving recently, that you give this some careful and prayerful consideration. Might you be able to increase what you lovingly give to support the work of Chandler’s Ford Methodist Church?

I recognise this is a balancing act, and I want to:

- a) Say a huge thank you to everyone who gives regularly, at whatever level, to the Church – on behalf of the whole Church Family;
- b) and recognise the amazing work going on for *30 Years On*, which is of course a major focus at the moment,

including the fundraising activities and generous donations.

Standing orders can of course simply be changed by instructing your bank. However please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to talk about your regular giving or indeed any aspect of the Church finances. Thank you.

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

Beth Roberts (bethmroberts21@gmail.com)

MARCH

3rd Breakfast team
10th Good News Group
17th Merryman team
24th Oakmount Group
31st Merryman team

APRIL

7th Breakfast team
14th Bailey/Curtis team
21st Good News Group
28th Oakmount Group

Would you like to join the Sunday Coffee Rota? The job is not very onerous – 2/3 people to serve coffee before the 11 am Service and 2/3 people to serve afterwards. Please feel free to contact Beth Roberts to discuss what is involved.

Fryern Funtasia – Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

Caroline Husain

The Church is holding its annual plant sale again at the **Fryern Funtasia** on Bank Holiday **Monday 6th May**, 12 noon to 4:30 pm.

We are doing the refreshments at the **Funtasia** again, so we will be needing cakes – but we would prefer to have them fresh on the day before if possible. We will also need lots of helpers and servers on the day, so please see me if you can help in any way. This is a major fund-raising event for the Church and it's fun to be there!

Property and Resources Action Team

Tim Padley

After serving CFMC for many years, **Shaun Fletcher** retired as our Property Manager just before Christmas. **Glenn Stephens** has joined us as the new Property Manager and has already made valuable contributions to the fabric of the Church. There have also been some changes so that responsibilities are shared more evenly:

- ◆ **Bryan Coates** has agreed to lead to the Thirty Years steering group and will act as our point of contact with the Southampton District and our project consultants. Other members of the steering group are Ruth Fry, Barbara Lowe, David Jenkins, Nigel Fenwick and Tim Padley.
- ◆ **Tim Padley** has joined the Resources Action Team as Deputy Chair.
- ◆ **Alice Wrighton** has stood down as Chair of Resources Action Team. We owe Alice huge thanks for guiding this team for several difficult years, including 2021-and-all-that and the preliminary stages of the *Thirty Years On* project. This role remains vacant for now.

Lettings: The current level of bookings is very encouraging, reflecting the hard work of Katrina, Keith, and the team of Event Stewards, with new bookings coming in. Our building is reaching capacity with every room in use on some occasions which causes knock-on issues with car parking.

Heating: Thirty Years On includes significant changes to the way the building is insulated and heated as we reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. In the short term, our existing gas

boilers and pumps have caused us several issues recently. Please be assured that short-term remedies are being made to keep us warm until the long-term changes are made. In this, we are indebted to a small band of stalwarts (Keith, Anne, Alex and Bill) who manage the boilers day by day.

Quinquennial report: Among Circuit Council's responsibilities is a periodic audit of the churches and manses. To this end, the latest quinquennial report and subsequent fire safety assessment has identified several issues to address. Some arise from legislative changes which we now need to adhere to, others are more straightforward than others. Glenn and a subgroup of the Resources Action Team are planning how to remedy these.

Solar panels: Ken Richardson is working through the stats from the 'Victron Controller' which configures the electricity supply (Grid, solar panels, batteries) and consumption (demand, batteries, supply to Grid) to correlate these with the various utility statements.

Thirty Years On Project: Barbara Lowe, Barbara Ackroyd, Diane Pugh and Jenny Bunyan from Dovetail Café have formed a group to co-ordinate fund-raising. New initiatives (Saturday morning bacon rolls, scarves) are proving popular. As reported elsewhere, Phase 1 of the internal fund-raising for £40k has been successfully reached which is a fantastic result. Phase 2 for an additional £40k starts soon. The Steering Group are working with the architect to finalise the plans, costings and timelines for the accessibility elements of the project. Heating considerations are being revisited to find a solution that matches potential funding and projected expenditure. A Grants Team is taking guidance and preparing grant applications with Hampshire County and Eastleigh Borough Councils, among others.

So, as always, a lot of work going on, some of it more visible than others. On the morning of **Saturday 30th March** there will be an opportunity to tidy the paths and outside areas (and perhaps a well-earned bacon roll) ready for Easter Sunday. If you can't wait until then, Alex Mould would love to hear from you.

Reflections Services at Canada Common

Peter Castle

The following half-hour Communion Services will take place at Canada Common ex. Methodist Chapel on the last Thursday of each month at 1 pm. The Services will be led by Local Lay Pastor for Landford, Wellow and Canada Common area, Peter Castle. This is an interdenominational Service, so all are welcome.

Thursday 28th March: Reflections on Celebration. It will be one year since the Chapel reopened for this Service. Therefore, after the Service, sandwiches, cake and refreshments are available. Please come and join the celebration.

Thursday 25th April: Reflections on the Ascension.

Thursday 30th May: Reflections on The Trinity.

3Generate 2024

Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

Volunteering for 3Generate 2024 has opened. This year we need to grow the team by 25% and want to encourage everyone in churches to consider getting involved. There is a whole range of ways you can get involved, from supporting children and young people in the venues to admin support at the event, and from helping with set-up and pack-down to stewarding during the

weekend. 3Generate takes place 4th-6th October. See <https://www.methodist.org.uk/3Genvols/> for details.

Coffee on the Common

Peter Castle

The Joint Churches Together in Wellow intend to support the *Coffee on the Common* held at the ex. Methodist Chapel at Canada Common. This event takes place on the Thursday mornings from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm, every Thursday during July and August.

The cake and refreshments are free, but donations are accepted for the outreach and upkeep of the Chapel. This year we will be splitting the monies between the Chapel and the work of the *Wellow Men's Shed* charity.

We require volunteers to help at the Chapel and also to provide some of the cakes. Contact Peter Castle if you are interested in helping and would like to know more.

Methodist Women in Britain

Joyce Powell (Church rep. to Circuit MWiB team)

Circuit News

As reported last month Chandlers Ford Methodist Church raised a wonderful amount for the charity *Naomi House and Jack's Place*, but this Circuit-wide project continues until September. So, the next event is 'From One Act to Another' on the evening of **Saturday 4th May** at Romsey Methodist Church. If you can sing, recite, play an instrument, even tell a few jokes, we would love to hear from you. Please don't be shy! The MWiB team want a varied fun evening suitable for all ages. There will, of course, be

tasty refreshments. We had a lovely card, full of grateful thanks, from Naomi House (displayed in the Dovetail) so let's see what more we can do.

District News

The District is to hold a day, again at Romsey Church, on **Thursday 11th July**. It will be based on the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church theme of "Rooted and Grounded in Love". Put the date in your diary now and we will give more details nearer the time.

Connexional Conference at Swanwick

The details are in last month's *Link* but there are still bursaries available. The booking closes on Monday 18th March. Don't forget you can register and watch the main sessions online. See the MWiB web site.

The **Easter Offering** is a Connexional MWiB gift to the whole church. All the money raised is given straight to the ***World Mission Fund*** which supports over 100 Partner Churches and organisations across the world. Last year the Easter Offering raised £190,000 and everyone is thanked for contributing to God's mission in this way.

The theme this year is, "Let Justice Roll". This is based on the words of the prophet Amos, "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream". Our **Circuit Dedication Service**, which will explore these words for today's world and encourage us to be more passionate about justice, is on **Sunday 21st April** at 6:30 pm at Romsey, so our Evening Service that day will be at Romsey.

Aid Ukraine 2024 Easter appeal

The hospital in Kremenchuk, a city in Ukraine, has asked for donations of **toiletries and hygiene products** for its patients. The items that the hospital are asking you to donate are toothpaste and toothbrushes, men's disposable razors and soap bars.

Budget own brands in Tesco, Asda and Sainsbury's really are excellent value – if you buy a tube of budget toothpaste (around 50p) and a bar of soap (around 30p), you'll still have change from £1!

Aid Ukraine Direct has drop off points at: Winchester Road Co-op, Chandler's Ford Library, our Church and St Francis Church, Valley Park. Please leave your donations at any of these drop off points. The appeal ends on Sunday 7th April. Your donations will be packed and despatched in May – the 23rd trip, taking aid to Ukraine.



Women's Fellowship

Penny Criswick

6/2 Myanmar was our topic today and **Dr. Brooks** our speaker. Many of us could recollect where it is on the globe more easily when we were reminded that parts of it are still called Burma. Dr. Brooks began with a reference to the deposed Prime Minister, Aung San Suu Kyi, who remains under house arrest by the ruling military junta and is currently the longest serving political prisoner ever.

Dr. Brooks showed us slides of the beautifully carved ancient temples made of teak, hand painting in a ceramics factory, market scenes and much more – gradually building up a picture

and at the same time commenting on what lies behind the places the tourists see. We all felt a great deal better informed about Myanmar by the end of the afternoon.

13/2 Our speaker today was **Ann Davis**, and her subject Antarctica. Clearly Ann is an intrepid traveller – for this region is not for the faint hearted, with temperatures of minus 30 and less to be reckoned with. The first-hand details of travelling to this region were fascinating – as are the efforts necessary to conserve the unique environment. Ann told us how twelve countries worked collaboratively to ensure that there would never be any military action in the region, and that scientific research and knowledge would be a collaborative effort. On a more personal note, we heard how the crew of their Antarctic vessel were required to vacuum clean all the layers of fleece each traveller needed to wear, in order to prevent the arrival of foreign seeds from tourist clothing. The safety precautions and restrictions on numbers allowed to go out onto the ice together, all helped to conjure the atmosphere of going on the trip.

Ann also showed us slides with an assortment of beautiful icescapes, and birds and animals of the region. Her detailed knowledge ensured that we all felt like well-educated armchair travellers by the end of her talk.

20/2 **Peggy Marten** was here today for an afternoon of poetry, and her particular specialism is Pam Ayres. Laced with personnel anecdotes and childhood memories, Peggy has an entertaining way of quoting this particular bard. Her taste is shared by many of our members and like all “proper poetry”, Pam’s verses have stood the test of time and are well worth revisiting. It was an amusing and nostalgic afternoon, also with a nod towards Pam’s more recent offerings.

We meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 pm in the Dovetail Centre:

- March 5th** Claire Gradidge – Local Crime Fiction
12th Shanna Dymond – New Forest Wildlife Park
19th Easter Service
April 9th Restart after Easter break



30 Years On fund-raising

Barbara Lowe

While celebrating the achievement of our first milestone – that of having raised £40,000 by 21st January, we know that there is long way to go! Barbara Ackroyd, Diane Pugh and Barbara Lowe are co-ordinating fund-raising events to ensure that dates don't clash. Please come to us with your ideas – whether for big events or relatively small activities!

We know that fund raising is already going on – for example **Cake Sales** and **Saturday bacon baps**, but we need to up the pace and plan ahead. Do put the following dates in your diaries!

Events in March

Saturday 2nd March at 6 pm. Boys' Brigade Concert with the Hand in Hand Puppets. Donations in aid of the *30 Years On* fund.

Thursday 7th March Thursday 8 – 10 pm refreshments in aid of *30 Years On* for Otterbourne Brass rehearsals – 3 bands are coming that evening. Please liaise with Katrina if you can help and/or offer cake.

Prayers

Ruth Hall

God loves you and watches over you
from His heaven 24/7

When you are happy, He shares your joy
even in your deepest dark despair He will be there
He will always be there

When you pray, you don't have to kneel
just talk to God tell Him how you feel
If you are alone, say it out loud
say it in your heart if you're in a crowd

On land or sea or in the air God won't care
He'll hear a prayer from anywhere.
He is always there

When your prayer is answered maybe not the way you thought it
would
have faith in God He's always working for your good
When your troubles are far behind
and once again you have peace of mind
Give thanks to God then say a prayer for the rest of mankind.