



Looking to the future in faith

The Weekly Link

7th to 14th April 2024



www.almondburymethodist.org.uk

*We extend a warm welcome to visitors and anyone worshipping with us for the first time
Please join us for coffee which will be served in the Wesley Centre after the Service*

Sunday 7th April

10.30 a.m. Morning Worship led by Linda Bettany

Join us in Church or via Zoom (contact Andy Pollitt ☎ 07947 341022 if in difficulty)
Meeting ID 977 0049 9660

Hymns : 152 - This is the day
636 - O love that wilt not let me go
313 - Thine be the glory
712 - Put peace into each other's hands
611 - Brother, sister let me serve you

Readings: 1 John 1 vv 1-2:2 read by Valerie Stansfield
John 20 vv 19-31 read by Malcolm Prewett

Flower distribution - Gill and Terry Mitchell

Prayer for the week

Let us gather with hearts united,
drawn together by the bonds of faith and the spirit of unity.

For the early believers sought to be of one heart and mind,
sharing all they had, creating a harmonious melody of love.

May our worship be a reflection of this fellowship and unity -
where all things are held in common

Let us worship in unity, offering our hearts, minds, bodies,
souls, and possessions,
knowing that in our shared devotion
we encounter the presence of the risen Christ.
One body, one family gathered in love.
Amen

This week's activities

Sunday 7th April

10.30 Morning worship led by Linda Bettany

8.00pm Church Fellowship and Study Group Contact John Rushton on wj.rushton@gmail.com or Richard Oldroyd ☎ 517163. Everyone is welcome. Come and join us!

Monday 8th April

10.30am Monday Luncheon Club to 1.30pm Arrive from 10.30am, but there is no set time. We provide an excellent meal at reasonable cost. Any of our congregation and friends are welcome. If you have a disability and need transport, we can arrange it.

1.30 p.m. CRAFTandCHAT – new members always welcome

7.30 p.m. Table Tennis

Tuesday 9th April

Open House - 10.15am onwards All warmly welcomed for excellent food and good company. Coffee available from 10.30am onwards and lunches served from 12 noon

Thursday 10th April

1.30 p.m. Almondbury TOTS
to for babies, toddlers and their carers
3.00 p.m.

Sunday 14th April 10.30 a.m. Morning worship led by Mrs Sandra McSweeney

Regular Activities this month (April)

Wild Church	Sundays	9.30am	7 th
Morning worship	Sundays	10.30am	7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th
Church Fellowship and Study Group	Sundays	8.00pm	7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th
Lunch Club	Mondays	10.30am	8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th
CRAFTandCHAT	Mondays	1.30pm	8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th
Table Tennis	Mondays	7.30pm	8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th
Open House	Tuesdays	from 10.30am	9 th , 23 rd
Zumba Gold	Wednesdays	7.00pm	3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th ,
Zumba Gold	Thursdays	9.45am	4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th
Midweek Communion service	Thursdays	12noon	18 th
TOTS	Thursdays	1.30pm	11 th , 18 th , 25 th ,

Circuit Walk

The next Circuit walk on Tuesday 9th April is from Almondbury, meet at the Wesley Centre for the walk to commence [at 10.30 a.m.](#)

The walk will be about 1& 1/2 hours at a very easy pace returning to the Wesley Centre for a picnic lunch (bring your own) with a drink of tea being provided. To conclude there will be Bingo Quizzes with fabulous prizes.

All welcome, enquiries to Andrew Kirby 304470.

The Minister's Letter

Ten years ago, in the season of Easter, I had the privilege along with Suva, my wife and Elizabeth, my daughter, to go on a week's retreat to Macedonia and visit Orthodox churches and Monasteries to learn from them another part of the story of the Christian faith.

It was an experience that introduced me to new ways of worship and expressing faith that have stayed with me ever since.



The early Church Fathers invite us to consider several aspects of the Eighth Day that can enrich our spiritual lives. It symbolizes the day of Christ's resurrection, the day when grace conquered sin and death. It is an embracing of fresh beginnings. They invite Christians to see every Sunday as a day of new beginnings, filled with opportunities for spiritual renewal, growth, and transformation. It is a reminder of the centrality of Christ's resurrection in our faith and followers of Jesus are invited to find rest and peace in the hope that the resurrection brings, cultivating a radical hope that transcends the limits of time, space, and even death, sustaining through difficult times.

This hope is to shape our daily lives by inspiring us to live with purpose, passion, and perseverance. A call to radiate and receive the light of Christ in our interactions with others and in our engagement as part of a world that is always becoming.

Living in the Eighth Day, Christians are called to reflect God's love, grace, and truth integrating the reality of grace into our

daily lives. This integration might involve a daily practice of gratitude and humility, offering grace to others, loving as we have been loved. The spiritual disciplines such as prayer, meditation, and study, can help us stay connected to the source of grace and grow in our understanding of it.

The importance for me of the Eighth Day is its emphasis on the continuous nature of our spiritual journey, marked by ongoing conversion and renewal. The process of living in the light of grace is not a singular event, but rather a series of renewals that unfold throughout our lives, requiring patience and trust. It is not a private event either it is something that all humanity is engaged with at some level. This is seen in the Eastern Orthodox understanding of the Easter story where the focus is on the releasing of Adam and Eve from the land of the dead. Adam and Eve, the symbol humanity, gives hope and challenge to us all that death is not the end. This is not just the individual experience but for all of God's creation.

In practical terms, living in the Eighth Day involves both resting in God's care and actively participating in our spiritual growth. It's a balance between surrendering to God's guidance and taking intentional steps towards our ongoing conversion and renewal.

It is a lifelong journey and so wherever we are in our journey with God, I hope the concept of the Eighth Day will be food for your journey. May it provide moments of renewal, surprise, and delight.

Happy Easter

Peter

Mount Zion Methodist Church, Upper Brockholes Yorkshire West Methodist District



This April marks 250 years since John Wesley first preached at Mount Zion. The Chapel stands at Upper Brockholes, in beautiful surroundings on the edge of Ogden Moor in Yorkshire. Visitors often comment on the fact that the building looks as if it has come straight out of one of the Bronte sisters' novels, which is not surprising as the Bronte family started life in nearby Thornton and it's possible to walk across Ogden Moor to Howarth.

Mount Zion may look idyllic in the sunshine, with its dramatic backdrop of moorland, however Wesley's initial impression of the original 1773

chapel's location, was not altogether favourable. He stated in his journal that 'I rode to the chapel, standing alone in a dreary waste. But, although it was a cold and stormy day, the people flocked from all quarters' and the 'house afforded hospitality and shelter for man and beast'.

Regular worship at Mount Zion ceased in 2014, when it was designated as a heritage chapel. However, services still take place at least six times a year to mark key points in the Christian calendar and to celebrate important events such as the 250th Anniversary of Wesley preaching at Mount Zion, which will be marked this year on **Sunday, 21 April**, with a special service celebrating Mount Zion's continuing presence in the local community. The celebration will be led by Reverend Kathie Heathcote and District Chair Kerry Tankard, with an address from Methodist Vice-President, Kerry Scarlett.

SMASH Food Share Local food bank every Friday 9.30 am - 12 noon at St Michael & St Helen's Church, Fleminghouse Lane, Almondbury. A box is available in the Church foyer for anyone who would like to donate. Items regularly needed are tinned and packeted goods, rice, biscuits, cereals, children's treats, cordials to dilute, long life milk, jam, peanut butter, tinned rice pudding, tinned mackerel/sardines, washing powder/liquid, home cleaning products, toiletries and toilet rolls.

THIS WEEK'S SHORTAGES! Tins of Tuna, packets of pasta, pasta sauces.

Welcome Centre Please also remember the work of the Welcome Centre. Donations of food and toiletries can be made at the collection points in local supermarkets.

Notices for next week to the Revd Philip Barnett (☎ 01484 522954 or email philip-barnett@sky.com) by 6.00 pm Thursday 11th April please.