



**Kempston East
Methodist
Church
Newsletter
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Minister:

Rev Michael Giles (Michaelgiles2017@gmail.com)

01234 930882



Earth Day – April 22nd

www.kempstoneastmethodist.org

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy & Joshua

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The '*shema*' (Hebrew: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: '*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*' (Deuteronomy. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the New Testament e.g. Jesus's temptations (Deuteronomy. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says to Joshua: '*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.*' (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua (*'The Lord saves'*) is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Hebrews 4:1–11).

Are you getting your garden ready for summer?

With Earth Day tomorrow (April 22nd) you may be thinking of having a clearout. If you have any items of home or garden furniture which you no longer need and are in good condition, why not donate items to a local charity or reuse organisation, or give items away using websites such as Bedford Freegle or Freecycle? Garden waste or other unwanted items from the home or garden which cannot be rehomed can be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Barkers Lane.



Do you have space for a home composter? Home composting is an easy way to reduce the amount of waste thrown into your black lidded bin. By turning your food waste (garden waste and more) into compost for your garden it provides an environmentally friendly way to help plants to grow in the garden.

Speed cameras and Moses

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
(1 Timothy 2:2)

It is not often you get Moses and the local police popping up in the same sermon. I was thinking about the Bible passage that has Moses' second attempt at the Ten Commandments, one of God's greatest gifts to the world.

God had given Moses the laws, but he broke them in disgust when he found the people were behaving so badly. God asked him up to the mountain again and then gave him a second set. "Keep taking the tablets"!

I was walking in my village and wondered why the traffic was driving so peacefully and slowly. When I got to the lay-by to catch a bus into town, I saw the explanation. There was a police van fitted with a speed camera. The cars were driving slowly, well within the 30mph limit. I nearly went up to the officer to thank them, and to ask if they could come every day.

It was a good illustration for the sermon I was preparing.

We do not want to get caught ourselves! We expect everyone else to obey the law, but often find exceptions when we are late or have an important errand. We repeatedly make mistakes but have a loving and gracious God.

As Christians we should be good drivers, and in my case a good pedestrian and road user.

We should take an interest in local affairs and find out how parish and town councils deal with these issues. We should pray for people in authority and the police-officer who spent a long Saturday morning looking at slow traffic!

By David Pickup (a solicitor)



'Glorious the song when God's the theme': Allegri's *Miserere*

In the 1980s thanks to Godfrey Smith, a columnist for The Sunday Times, there was a series of letters about particular pieces of music that have the TQ – the Tingle Quotient. As we listen, the music sends a shiver of excitement up and down the spine and opens out for us a new world of beauty and wonder.

The letters started with a novelist writing about his travels across the Sahara. In moments of desolation and loneliness he would think of music that meant the most to him and which he thought he might never hear again. Then a schoolmaster in Rochester wrote of a production of 'Romeo and Juliet' where the funeral scene virtually brought the house down. Juliet entered a darkened school hall, lit only by glimmering candles with music sung that brought the audience to tears.

For both novelist and schoolmaster, the work that had that TQ factor was Allegri's *Miserere*. It provided consolation in the cold desert nights, and it created the impact in that production of Shakespeare's play. Other readers supplied their list of TQ music, and always the *Miserere* was in the top five. I suspect that this music strikes the TQ for many of you as well.

Why is it, I wonder? We can provide an answer by talking of the contrast between the plainsong sung by the men's voices and the responses from the choir that lead to that small group of solo voices where the treble or soprano reaches a high C and comes down the scale to the cadence. We can point to the intriguing history of this work for the setting by Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) was the exclusive possession of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. To copy the music was a crime punishable by excommunication.

In spite of this, a 14-year-old Mozart heard the piece in 1770 and wrote it down from memory, paying another visit to verify some of the notes he had copied down. The Emperor, Leopold 1, the king of Portugal, persuaded the Pope to grant him a copy. When it was performed in his own imperial chapel, he was disappointed. He even thought the Pope had palmed him off with an inferior work. Then he realised that the beauty and magic of the music lay in its being sung in the Sistine Chapel where the plainsong and the high C cadences could ring out among the pillars and arches of that great building.

The *Miserere*, or Psalm 51 is the heart-felt cry of the Church for mercy. As one of the penitential psalms, it is a very personal expression of sorrow for sin and a moving appeal to God for mercy and restoration.

In Allegri's setting that high C is reached as the individual acknowledges his sin, and again as he cries for mercy and finally as he proclaims that his tongue will sing of God's grace and righteousness. A single voice in the music scales the heights of heaven to represent all of us as we turn to God with that same awareness of sin, that same plea for mercy, and that same affirmation that we will then turn to God with thanksgiving and the offering of a humble and contrite heart. And so with the psalmist and with Allegri, we can pray 'Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness.'

Earth Day – April 22nd

EARTHDAY.ORG is the global force behind Earth Day, which activates one billion people around the world every April 22nd to advocate for the health of our planet. Its founders created and organized the very first Earth Day on [April 22, 1970](#). Since then, EARTHDAY.ORG has mobilized over 1 billion people annually on Earth Day to protect the planet. EARTHDAY.ORG's mission is to diversify, educate, and activate the environmental movement worldwide. EARTHDAY.ORG works with more than 150,000 partners in nearly 192 countries to build environmental democracy. This year it is focusing on improving climate education in schools worldwide, not as a one-off class but as an integrated topic that features in many classes, from art to maths to science to languages.

Business and industry from across the planet are calling for a climate crisis literate workforce and, as we face a shortage of workers for critically important green jobs, it is climate education that offers the solution. Each green job brings us closer to managing the climate crisis we have created by giving young people the knowledge and skills needed to fill those green collar jobs.

“We know that the workers of the future need to be fully educated on the climate and it's a growing ask from big and small businesses alike,” said Bryce Coon, [Director of Climate Education at EARTHDAY.ORG](#). “Whether it is manufacturing, engineering, farming, communication, banking and so on, being climate educated is increasingly a necessity.”

Climate education gives children access to age-appropriate information as well as the time to process their emotional responses because it is also a tool for dealing with growing climate anxiety.

“As we collectively face the growing climate crisis, we know children are struggling with their mental health,” said Kathleen Rogers, President of EARTHDAY.ORG. “So, it is critical that we talk to them about what is actually happening to the planet and what better way to make that happen and ensure it is based on facts, than in the classroom?” Climate education gives them age-appropriate information as well as the time to process their emotional responses.

Climate education also gives students the knowledge to make planet friendly decisions and flex their Green Muscle Memory, so they instinctively make the right choices, such as rejecting single use plastics, using less energy and lowering their carbon footprint.

[Learn more at EARTHDAY.ORG.](#)

It's not a day, it's a movement.



Our Church Family



Please remember in your prayers:

- Rosemary H
- Bimla and Anwar
- Marion F
- Valerie
- Henry and Hannah

This Week at Kempston East

Tuesday April 23 rd	10.30am	Bible Study Group meet in the New School Hall
	2.00pm	Tibbs Dementia meets in the New School Hall
Wednesday April 24 th	11.30am-1.30pm	Open House in the Beginners Room
	2.30pm	Guild meets in the New School Hall with a Devotional led by Liz Little
Friday April 26 ^h	9.30am	Parents and Toddlers meet in the Halls
Saturday April 27 th	4.30pm	Soup Kitchen in the Old School Hall

Wootton Bible Study Group

The Wednesday Lent group have decided that they would like to continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of the month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th April at 7.30pm at the home of Rosemary and Stuart Simms in Wootton and we shall be using the Bible Society's Romans course. New members welcome, though if we get many more we will need a living room extension!

At Kempston West

Craft and Cuppa will be held on Tuesday **23rd. April 2024** at **2.00pm**. meeting in the community room at the St. Johns Homes, Bedford Road, Kempston. All are welcome - just come along, learn new crafts or just bring your own.

WORSHIP AT EAST

Our 10.30am Sunday morning service this week will be led by Rev Michael Giles and will include the Baptism of Sarah and Rui's son, Lake William Jorge.

Our normal live-streaming will also be in action. Details of how to connect into this will be given in Richard's covering email. There will, as usual, be a video recording available on the website and audio CDs for those who normally receive these.

Future Services at Kempston East

Sunday April 28 th	10.30am	Geoff Talbot (including an Agape Love Feast and Café Church)
Sunday May 5 th	10.30am	Chris Fox
Sunday May 12 th	10.30am	Rev Michael Giles (Holy Communion)

EXPLORING WORSHIP Engaging with Scripture

An informal and practical workshop
Led by Stephen Heap and Liz Little

- Those helping to lead Local Worship services
- Worship Leaders and Local Preachers wanting to update their skills
- Anyone considering a call to worship leading
- Anyone else who is interested!

Saturday 27th April
9.30am - 11.30am

Priory Methodist Church MK41 9QJ

This is the fourth of a planned series of workshops;
you can choose those which will be most helpful for
you

To help with planning, please let us know if you intend
to come via

lizlittlebedford@gmail.com 01234 347966

Pentecost Praise

Sunday May 19th
6.00pm - 7.30pm
At Kempston East

Songs, hymns, testimony,
prayer ministry and
worship led by the
Willingtones Band plus others
with Rev Michael Giles and
Keith Lilley



Jazz Praise

I'm sure I was not alone in very much enjoying last Sunday's Jazz Praise led by Mel and Ross Purves with Rosemary and Stuart.

As well as leading us in the hymns, Mel and Ross played a number of instrumental pieces.

You can rewatch them (- or watch them if you weren't able to be with us last Sunday) on the Church's YouTube channel ([Full Services - YouTube](#)) of course. But I jotted down the details that Ross gave us as he spoke, and all three pieces are available on YouTube by the people he mentioned. So, if you're interested, you can also hear them again (played differently but not necessarily better!) here:

'I Repent' by "Fats" Waller and his Rhythm -

<https://youtu.be/dqX6OFgOiGg?si=AdAJJVd0KRtQcZjZ>



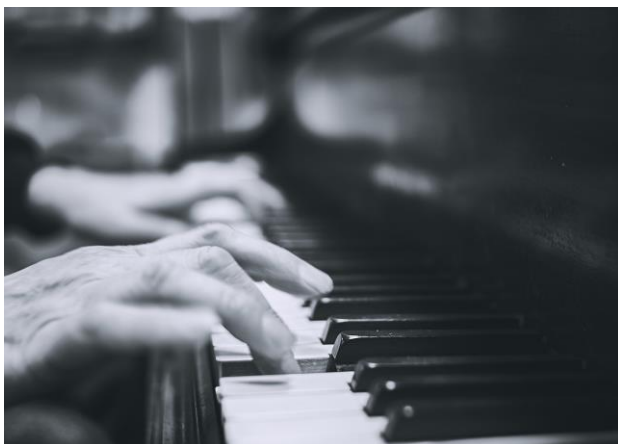
All God's Chillun Got Rhythm' by Bud Powell =

https://youtu.be/f99_Tn5vXh8?si=LrvLbS8cHqrq7xm

Psalm 4 (feat. John Patitucci, Adam Cruz, James Greene & Alex Norris) from Wally Brath's Jazz Psalter =

<https://youtu.be/axC6r-Dyfo4?si=zBc5khQCIUkdEpDG>

Richard Ward



Wootton New Life Methodist Church



MNDA Fundraiser
Saturday 27th April 2024 from
2pm

In memory of Thea Lee


2pm onwards- Tombola, Craft stalls, Nearly New stall
Cakes, Refreshments
Hot food served from 5pm
6pm-9pm Board Game Evening

Wootton New Life Methodist Church- MK43 9DE

Contact Carey for further information:
CareyWNLChurch@outlook.com

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If you have any prayer requests, thanks and, indeed, any other items and news that you would like to go into the weekly newsletter then please email these to Geoff Talbot (geofftal1@outlook.com) as soon as possible and ideally by the previous Wednesday.

If you know of someone who would like to receive this emailed newsletter could you please send their email address to richard.ward4@btinternet.com. Equally, if you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please let Richard Ward know.