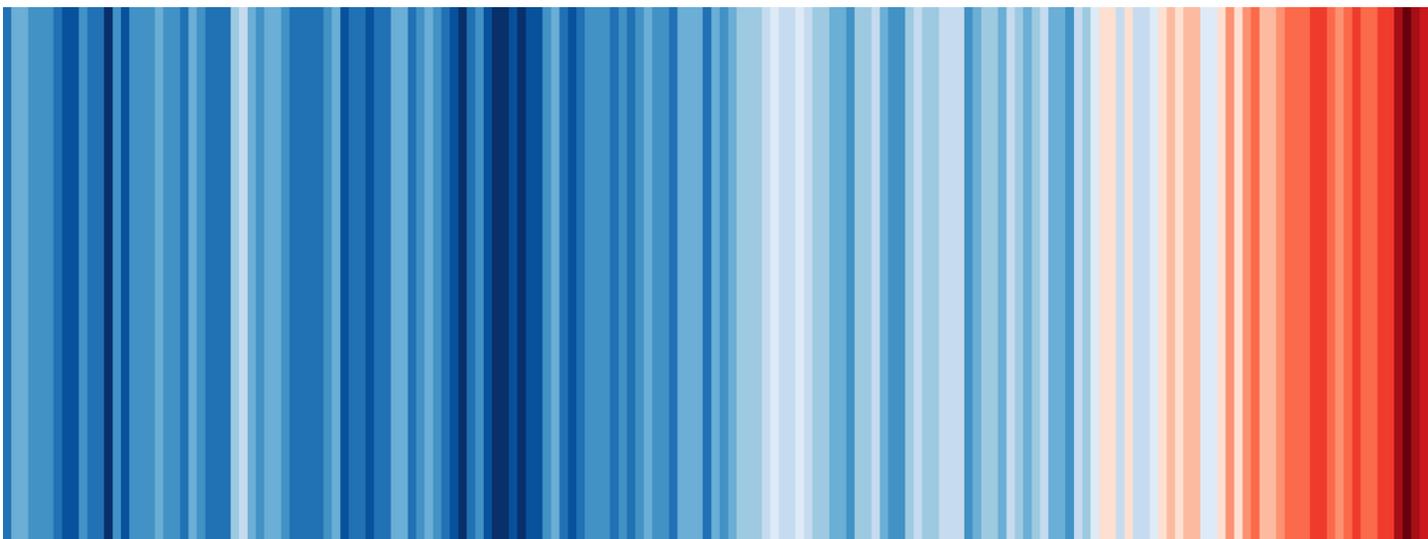




**Kempston East  
Methodist  
Church  
e-Newsletter  
Issue 57  
April 18<sup>th</sup>  
2021**

Minister: Rev Michael Giles  
[Michaelgiles2017@gmail.com](mailto:Michaelgiles2017@gmail.com)  
01234 930882

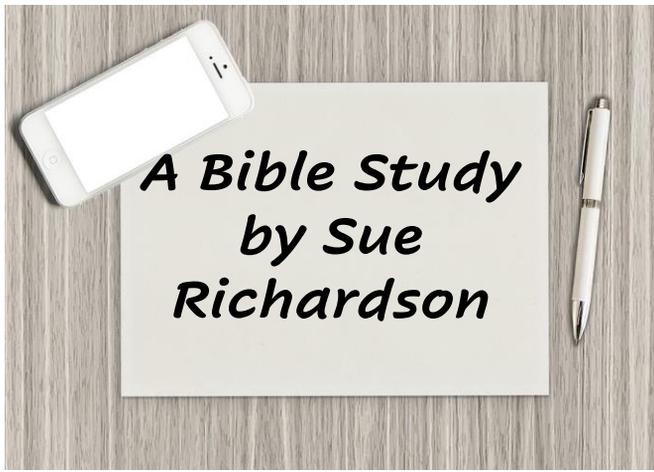
## **World Earth Day – April 22<sup>nd</sup>**



1860                      1890                      1920                      1950                      1980                      2010

These are 'Warming Stripes' depicting annual mean global temperatures between 1850-2018, (from World Meteorological Organisation data) and compiled by climate scientist Ed Hawkins from Reading University.

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# Simon the Magician: Gifts and Power

**Read: Acts 8:9-24**

## **Reflect:**

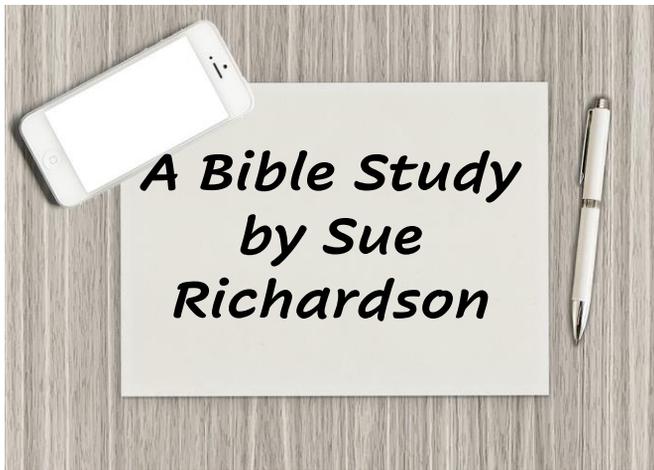
- How do we feel about magic in the 21st century?
- Have we ever sought to acquire or buy something because of its 'magical' properties? (Things that promise to revolutionise our life or appearance!)
- Has someone lost status or respect in our eyes because of the way they have sought power or influence?
- How does a gift to us compare with a purchase we make ourselves? What are our feelings in response to a gift made to us?
- How does 'gifting' work, or could it work, in our economy?

## **Think:**

This passage has given us a word in English: 'simony', the payment of money for spiritual wellbeing. Occasionally, commentators have described Simon as a pagan, without faith and offering money for it. Perhaps we should approach the story more subtly, paying attention to its setting and the understandings of the times.

Philip is preaching in Samaria, a land with negative connotations for Jews, although the faith of both peoples was very similar. So, Simon was most probably a believer in Yahweh. His practice of 'magic' does not automatically make him suspect. In pre-scientific times, 'magic' was a way in which ordinary people could make sense of the world around them which they often struggled to understand. Magic was ritual, helping to mediate the everyday with the supernatural, and would also include acts that, in difficult circumstances, produced relief or resolution. We are not talking about witchcraft as Simon's practice.

He was probably a healer of ailments of mind and body, a finder of lost things, and through attentive listening, an adviser to people about their lives. He must have been skilled, people are amazed. He has earned the appellation 'great'. When Philip comes preaching Jesus, Simon does not oppose him; indeed, he gets baptised like many others. We may envisage this adding another string to his bow, another line to his CV.



However, just as he has gained status through his work, he assumes that Jesus' message comes with an equivalence: the extra benefit of membership, something more than baptism, the exercise of power, and he expects to pay for it. Does he think that this will increase the value of healing amongst those who need it? Does he imagine he can create a monopoly of power? He really doesn't understand the nature of gift. Do we?

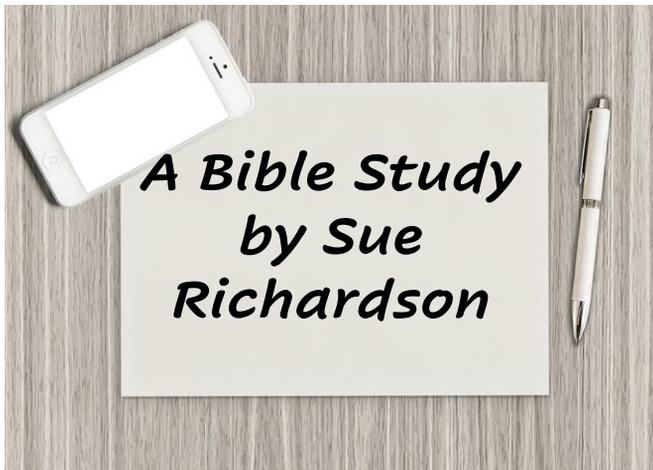
### **Listen:**

We are often told that if you receive without making any contribution or any obvious effort, you will not value that which is given. This is offered as a criticism of aid, or of our welfare support system and its benefits. We are encouraged to believe that there is a virtue in being able or willing to pay for something, and that this is evidence of character.

We are also a society that understands marketing. Every day we are offered miracles large and small that, if we purchase, will smooth our difficulties, aid our daily tasks, solve problems we weren't even aware of and, perhaps most ambiguously, ensure physical beauty, calmness of mind, greater status or influence, if we purchase.

We are torn between gift and product. Simon sees the miracles of healing as the product in this story; they bring public acclaim and notice, but they are rooted in a gift, which is the Holy Spirit. Simon wanted the product but he could not understand it within a gift freely given, because it also had to be freely accepted and this was not a framework within which he lived.

Yet gifting is not a simple act. It occurs within and creates relationship, and not one that is only one-way, for gifting brings with it an expectation of reciprocity. "What goes around, comes around" we say. Indigenous people see a gift as something to be passed on and eventually returned to the giver, albeit in a different form. Gift actually creates more obligation than transaction, the paying of a price, after which the product is yours and you are free to do what you like with it.



“Some things cannot be bought and sold and retain their essence”, like dignity, respect, inclusion, participation, security, love. (*Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, page 27). In creating systems of welfare that seek these things for all, we are building a social system and an economy that binds people together in mutual expectation. We want support for people at specific times of hardship in life, but as a society we are locked into a way of thinking that expects some contribution or the gift element must be minimal. As we face, post Covid-19, unprecedented challenges to people’s livelihoods, we must explore better ways to create an economy that binds people into systems of mutual care. A Citizen’s Income is proposed, giving an income at a certain level to everyone, regardless of status or contribution, but because all can receive it, critics see it as getting something for nothing. The Holy Spirit looked like this to Simon. How could it have value without a market price? Buying and selling turns people into winners and losers; the magic of gift is that everyone wins.

### **Act:**

- Join a Basic Income Group in your area or through your trade union. Details from [www.citizensincome.org](http://www.citizensincome.org)
- Campaign for more generous benefit support for people with disabilities, people without jobs, people seeking sanctuary, and all struggling with our welfare system

### **Pray:**

Generous Lord, Your earth speaks of abundance, but we speak only of scarcity. Your mercy knows no boundaries, but we create distinctions, entitlements and rationing. You took a gift and fed 5,000, but we echo your disciple Philip in costing the whole exercise. You forgive our desire to have more, our clutching at possessions, our withdrawal of grace and invite us to consider the paradox of giving. Show us abundance, break down the barriers we build, encourage us to dare to give more and to let more go. May your Spirit be the limitless gift we need of life and hope in our measured world. Amen

*This is published under a Creative Commons Licence CC-BY-NC-ND by Church Action on Poverty, and can be downloaded from [www.church-poverty.org.uk/bible](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/bible)*

# Arts and Entertainment Sunday

Last Sunday (April 11<sup>th</sup>) was Arts and Entertainment Sunday linked to the organisation Christians in Entertainment. Sorry it's late in telling you about this but it's something I've only just found out about. In many ways, last Sunday was an appropriate day to have Arts and Entertainment Sunday as this was also the day of the BAFTA Awards Ceremony in a somewhat empty Royal Albert Hall.



Sadly, that's how it's been for over a year now. Apart from occasional experiments in socially distanced performances in theatres and both free and paid-for online performances, theatres, concert halls, festivals and nightclubs have all been closed. Performers have been doing their best to keep going with solo performances from home on YouTube and Facebook. None of this has been possible for backstage, front of house and administrative staff in entertainment venues and they have either been furloughed or, worse, been made redundant.

Even though the Government roadmap suggests that these venues may begin to open up slowly (and with restrictions) over the coming months, all in the entertainment industry (whether they're the people we see or those we don't) need our prayers. The organisation Christians in Entertainment produced a short video prayer for all of these people with contributions from people you'll recognise and from people you won't. You can watch this prayer and make it your own on YouTube at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySkIAoKr9B8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySkIAoKr9B8).



## Pray through May for young people

A new poll has found a rise in spiritual openness among young people during the pandemic. More than two in five 18 to 34-year-olds in the UK have prayed more often since the start of the pandemic and one in three have read the Bible more often. More than one in four have tried out church online. Maybe they wouldn't have gone to

the church at the end of the road but felt they could do it on their laptop, phone or iPad.'

In May, Youth for Christ are hosting a month of prayer for young people, called Pray Through May. Click [here](#) to find out more about YFC's Pray Through May and about National Prayer Day on 30 April (which will include a contribution from Canon J. John).

# Love Libraries



As part of Step 2 on the Roadmap to Freedom, the Bedford Central and Kempston Libraries opened last Monday (April 12<sup>th</sup>). The library in Wootton will offer a [Select and Collect](#) service from the library entrance for some hours from Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April until they reopen on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The [Mobile Library](#) will be on the road from the 13th April and will also deliver a Select and Collect service.

The libraries have been rearranged to allow social distancing and there is a one-way system in place. There is a limit on the number of people who can be in the library at any one time, so you may be asked to queue. To ensure the safe use of the library, a reduced range of stock will be accessible and not all services will be available. Once you've chosen your books you can borrow them using the self-service machines.

The number of PCs in use has also been reduced to allow social distancing. Customers will be able to book one 45-minute session per day. You can book a session using the online booking form: <https://bedford.imil.uk/>

If you can't visit the library, don't worry about any items you have on loan as they've been renewed until the 17<sup>th</sup> May or later. As the libraries reopen, the Select and Collect service will reduce. Staff selected bundles won't be available from most libraries but you can still request titles for free using Arena or the Bedford Borough Libraries app and pick them up from the collection shelves when they're ready.

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## Weekly COVID-19 Cases in Bedford Borough

In the week up to April 11<sup>th</sup> there were 40 new cases of Covid-19 reported in Bedford Borough, up from 32 in the previous week. This equates to 23.1 new cases per 100,000 population compared with 18.5 new cases per 100,000 population in the previous seven days. All the new cases were spread across most age groups under 69, with more males than females. One death from Covid-19 was reported in the Borough in the seven days to April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All the council wards in Kempston and Wootton had less than 3 new cases each.

# Memories by Brian Cook



*After articles from Peter P and the late Sylvia Turner of their memories of Kempston of old, we are indebted to Jenny for sending us an article that the late Brian Cook wrote at the time of Kempston East's Centenary in 2004.*

Kempston East Methodist Church has played a large part in the lives of many people over the last 100 years, both spiritually and socially.

My earliest recollections go back to the 1940s when I attended Sunday School which had an approximate membership of 240 young people. Mr George Carter was the Sunday School Superintendent and assisting him the appropriate number of teachers. Among the names I remember were Mr Bernard Riddy, Mr Luddington, Mr Clark, Mr Ted Curtis, Mr C V Ibbett, Miss Clara Faulkner, Mrs Doris Stock (née Roberts) and Mr Brian Stock.

At the age of sixteen some of us went on to become teachers under the guidance of Doris and Brian.

Youth Club was next and there were great times. Meeting on a Saturday evening between 6pm and 10pm – how times have changed. Doris and Brian were our leaders, followed by Keith Beddall and Derek Rooks. There were 120 members in the New School Hall playing table tennis, snooker, darts and board games during the first half of the evening.

These activities were followed by refreshments and a short epilogue at about 8 o'clock after which there were various activities such as Barn Dance, debates and musical evenings.

Easter was a busy time when we cycled to Kempston Woods to pick primroses for the ladies of the Church to decorate the pulpit. I can't remember many of the boys picking primroses: they were more interested in watching the girls!

Easter Monday we all went on a cycle ride taking a packed lunch, cycling 60 to 70 miles after which we would open the Youth Club and play games – the exuberance of youth!



At Christmas we had a party, all sitting down to a meal , the boys in white shirts and bow ties and the girls of course in their very best. Once again, the ladies of the Church came up trumps preparing a meal and waiting upon us; Mrs Kemp, Mrs Stock, Mrs Coates and Mrs Roberts were some of the people I remember carrying out this great work! The atmosphere was wonderful as we danced and played games in the decorated New School Hall.

In those days it was a rule that you attended Church to be a member of the Youth Club and most Sunday evenings there would be, on average, four rows of young people at the back of the Church. After Church we went to members' homes for coffee and discussion, known as a 'squash' if memory serves me correct. On occasions, it was a squash, as the name implies, for us all to get in.



Youth Sunday was a red-letter day with a special preacher being invited to lead worship, as was MAYC weekend when we all went by coach to the Albert Hall.

We also performed a one act play around Easter time and a three-act play during autumn which filled the New School Hall on three consecutive nights.



*Rev Dave Martin while National MAYC Secretary*

This leads me to recall the 'full houses' when entertained by the Men's Meeting and the Women's Meeting – local entertainment at its best! Charlie Barker, Dennis Bellamy, Ted Curtis, Alan Parker, Harold White, Bill Turner and others. Mrs Roberts, Mrs Stock, Mrs Curtis, Mrs Turner and Mrs Bellamy were some of the ladies who shared their talents with a responsive audience.

Add to these meetings the warmth and fellowship of the Wesley Guild, Women's Bright Hour, a choir and a cricket team: there was at Kempston East an unrivalled fellowship.

That fellowship, I believe, can still be ours if we put Christ in the centre of all our thoughts and actions. We may not be able to bring back all these experiences of yesteryear because the way of life has changed, not always for the better, but God's love is the same yesterday, today and forever. His love never changes!

A hundred years ago the people of Kempston West were given a vision by God and from that Kempston East was born.

I have recalled a few years of that time and now we have a new vision. That vision has been acted upon, firstly in a practical way by renewing and replacing parts of the Church building.

Now it is time for us, the real Church, the Body of Christ, to be renewed in Him, growing in faith and love, offering our hearts each day to His Holy Spirit, that he may work through us day by day in bringing others to Jesus and growth to the Church.

As parts of the building have been replaced, so too will we. Future generations will take our place and as our forefathers are remembered at this time for that vision given to them all those years ago, may we also be remembered for the vision God has given us, in this year of celebration, by those who follow on.

God Bless us all as we seek to do his will at Kempston East.

Brian Cook

Y A W A E H Y R E Z J K R F P B W H A T S A P P L  
M R P Q Z B T W E E T G N I T E E M H E Y R J N I  
E E L T O F I J N O I T A M R O F N I S I M Q P K  
S T A R A W R R L Z O W P A U J R U X B R W W N E  
S T T G O H U E C N E R E F N O C D G S S A A I E  
A Z F V V S C F M S A M K O T K I T T B P T K D A  
G T O X U T E P O M B C X F D F A K E N E W S E H  
I O R F N J S S A G I U C U U Z D I L D I Y B K U  
N V M D M P J Z H N D L S D Z W P A D E G Q U N U  
G F H M U R O F B C S V U Q L E D W E I U P X I T  
M N Y N T K O O B E C A F Y K Z C C M R J I D L W  
U H L T E S F F X H D W I S D Q Z F X M H N S O I  
P L W Y Z Y O X A R A O U M Q L S E Z R I T A H T  
D M T X O M X T G P C K W O I T I O V R H E C F T  
A B Y V I U B C L M Y P V O J G C E O E V R L C E  
T H R I T O T P A S S W O R D O R D Z G F E G F R  
E V M W T E T U Z G D I N T R L S I F N Y S Q W W  
U P R F E H A S B O X Q D U P B Z V G E I T M Q R  
L I L T N V J M E E O D Y O Q U O V W S N G F V L  
Y C T P V T G S S L M M S K Z P O E E S T O C Q R  
V T S H A R E S C R E E N A M E P R W E E S Z L A  
N U I Y T N E M M O C A J E U V G C G M R R Z O U  
N R W G A I Q R Q C F M A R G A T S N I N K V G C  
U E R X I L X O T H T B K B G O L Q M R E E V I L  
P X P P I V G C Z M U T E K J G O B X N T N A N C

## Wordsearch

This week's wordsearch is in slightly smaller type than usual but I hope that doesn't detract from the challenge of it!

Over the past year we've become more used to social media and video conferencing on things like Zoom to keep in touch, so many of the words in this week's wordsearch may be more familiar to you than they were a year ago.

---

BLOG	MESSAGING	TWEET
BREAKOUTROOMS	MESSENGER	TWITTER
CHATBOT	MISINFORMATION	UNMUTE
COMMENT	MUTE	UPDATE
CONFERENCE	PASSWORD	VIDEO
FACEBOOK	PICTURE	WHATSAPP
FAKENEWS	PINTEREST	YOUTUBE
FORUM	PLATFORM	ZOOM
GROUP	SECURITY	
INSTAGRAM	SHARESCREEN	
INTERNET	SNAPCHAT	
LIKE	SUBSCRIBE	
LINKEDIN	TEAMS	
LOGIN	THREAD	
MEETING	TIKTOK	



# Our Church Family



Please remember in your prayers:

- Les and Rosemary R
- Jenny C
- Barbara, her family and Peter's family following the death of Peter this week
- Paul and Linda C following the death of Paul's mother, Phyllis, this week

## Phyllis Chambers

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Phyllis Chambers (a member at Kempston West) died peacefully on Sunday evening 11<sup>th</sup> April. Phyl who was 107 years old in March, had been well cared for by the staff at St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger and visited regularly by the family.

In your prayers please remember her sons Paul and Brian together with daughters-in-law Linda and Gill and family.



## 300,000 Steps in May

Last week I included a piece about Christian Aid's fundraising project for Christian Aid Week (Month) this May. This was to do

300,000 steps during May either individually or as a team. Sue and Richard have stepped up to the plate and decided to do this. Sue has set up a Just Giving account which will route donations directly to Christian Aid. If you would like to support them (and, of course, Christian Aid) in their endeavour you can do so at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sue-richard32>

# Arrangements for the Funerals of Peter Tipping and Phyllis Chambers

## Peter Tipping

Peter's funeral will be on Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm. This will be the first funeral for over a year to be held at Kempston East. Government regulations restrict the number of people allowed at the funeral to a maximum of 30 – and these will all be by invitation. The funeral service will, though, be livestreamed on Zoom to enable a much greater number of people to join. The Zoom login details will be sent in Richard's email closer to the date (and will also be sent by Barbara to those friends and family of Peter who will not be able to attend in person). Further details will be in the next couple of editions of the newsletter.

## Phyllis Chambers

Phyllis's Funeral Service, which will be at Norse Road Crematorium Bedford, will be on Thursday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10.45am. You will be able to watch the service via the live online webcast. Access details are:

Website: <https://www.obitus.com/>

Username: biki8522

Password: 389713

Donations to Sue Ryder St John's Hospice may be made in memory of Phyllis and a page will allow you, your family and friends to leave personalised tributes in memory of Phyllis. To use this facility please visit <http://www.abbott-funerals.co.uk/> and visit the Online Donations page. In the **Love2Donate** section there is a '**click here to donate**' button to access the donation page. You will then be asked to enter **Phyllis Chambers's** name in order to gain access to their unique tribute page.

## Church Flowers

Due to the current restrictions which keep the church sealed after cleaning, no flowers will be provided in the church at present although bunches will still be delivered to those in need. It is hoped that after the next easing of restrictions on 17 May it will be possible to have people putting flowers in the church once again.



# WORSHIP

This Sunday, our service will be led by Tim Banks. It will be good to welcome Tim back to preach in his 'mother' church again, having grown up and worshipped at Kempston East for many years. Like the past two Sundays, the service will take place live in the Church at 10.30am. See Newsletter 55 (April 4<sup>th</sup>) for full details of the requirements for this in terms of Covid risk assessment.

We appreciate that not everyone will feel able to yet join with others in church but will still wish to worship with them. So that no-one feels left out, the service will be streamed live through Zoom. If you wish to join the service in this way then just login to Zoom as you have been doing for the past few months. Dom will put a recording of the service on the church website later on Sunday.

Full login details are included in Richard's covering email. You can login in by clicking on the link there on a laptop, desktop computer, tablet or smartphone. Or you can dial in from your landline to listen to (but not see) the service.

As before, Dom will put a recording of the service on the church website. This does take a bit of time to do, so please allow for that and, perhaps, wait until Sunday evening to connect in to that.

On BBC1 at 10.30am the Rev Kate Bottley continues to share inspirational stories rooted in faith, hope and spirituality in a new series of 'Sunday Morning Stories'.

In Songs of Praise returns at 1.15pm on BBC1 and the schedules say that Katherine Jenkins will talk to the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, about the role of Christianity after lockdown, and comedian Frank Skinner reflects on his relationship with God. However, it is possible that the programme that should have been shown last Sunday with Aled Jones at Newstead Abbey could be shown instead.

## **Forthcoming Services from Kempston East**

Sunday April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Anwar Masih
Sunday May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pat Lilley
Sunday May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Kath Pawlett

Unless anything changes in the meantime in terms of Government restrictions, all of these services will be in the church and also live-streamed on Zoom

WORSHIP AT  
HOME  
SUNDAY  
APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>  
2021



This short act of worship has been prepared for you so you can spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

**Opening Prayer**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Come Lord Jesus; bring assurance of your presence right where I am, here and now.

**Hymn:** Jesus is King and I will extol him (Singing the Faith 327)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words

or listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6WnLnaQUes>

Jesus is King  
and I will extol him,  
give him the glory,  
and honour his name;  
he reigns on high,  
enthroned in the heavens --  
Word of the Father,  
exalted for us.

We have a hope  
that is steadfast and certain,  
gone through the curtain  
and touching the throne;  
we have a priest  
who is there interceding,  
pouring his grace  
on our lives day by day.

We come to him,  
our Priest and Apostle,  
clothed in his glory  
and bearing his name,  
laying our lives  
with gladness before him --  
filled with his Spirit  
we worship the King:

O Holy One,  
our hearts do adore you;  
thrilled with your goodness  
we give you our praise!  
Angels in light  
with worship surround him,  
Jesus, our Saviour,  
for ever the same.

*Wendy Churchill*

**Let us pray together**

Lord God, as we continue to celebrate the season of Easter with all the joy and hope it brings, we give you our thanks and praise.  
As we are experiencing springtime and the resurrection of nature after the dark chill of winter, we give you our thanks and praise.

As we reflect on the faithfulness of your immeasurable, eternal love for all, we give you our thanks and praise.

Forgive us, Lord;

if we have lost the wonder and delight of the Easter good news.

when we do not have real regard for your creation and live selfishly.

for those times when we neglect to respond to your care for us, by our inaction.

*(We bring to God, those things which we are sorry for)*

Jesus' words assure us of this love. "My child, your sins are forgiven." Amen.

## **Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48**

### **Time to Reflect**

I'm sure we all remember "I don't believe it!" the catchphrase of Victor Meldrew, in the 1990's sitcom "One Foot in the Grave." It's a phrase we can almost hear going round Jesus' followers in our Gospel reading today. They were frightened and incredulous, which are normal reactions when the boundaries of our experience and knowledge are challenged. We don't always accept and believe what we see and are told. (I think there are still those who believe the moon landing in 1969 was a hoax!!) After Jesus had given them physical proof that he was indeed alive, he went on to link their knowledge of scripture with their current experiences, explaining this was part of God's greater plan and they were part of it. His teaching expanded their thinking, preparing them for the start of their journey from the familiar into a new future, which involved risk, anxiety and uncertainty.

Generations of Christians have wrestled with the question of the best way to live following the teaching of Jesus in their own time and situations. Over the last year our daily life has not been normal, and many have been trying to hold on to what they know and find what God may be saying to us in our time. As we are emerging from the coronavirus restrictions, we are aware that much has changed within people's hearts and minds, and we are trying to process how to move forward as the people of God.

There are parallels here with this event in Luke's gospel; both situations are extraordinary and isolating, with an uncertain future on many fronts, and in both instances, Christ's followers are called to witness to what he reveals of God's love. So, now in these uncertain and unsettling times as we claim, "I do believe it!", we face the question of how we share the gospel in our new and different circumstances. May God send us His vision and wisdom.

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

We pray for our world, for the environment and people. That all who have any power or influence will work with integrity and wisdom, and seek to bring healing to our planet, and peace and justice to all people.

We pray for the church; for those who are persecuted and suffer for their faith; for those who have experienced hurt instead of healing; for those who are wondering and doubtful. Lord bring your revelation and transformation.

We pray for family, friends and neighbours who are living through difficult times, particularly those who are struggling with bereavement, isolation and loneliness, exacerbated by lockdowns.

*(We call them to mind and bring them to God)*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

**Hymn:** In Christ Alone (Singing the Faith 351)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words. Listen to it here or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCeSOY5tisI>

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
he is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and  
storm.

What heights of love, what depths of  
peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings  
cease!

My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! -- who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
scorned by the ones he came to save:  
till on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied  
for every sin on him was laid;  
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain;  
then bursting forth in glorious Day  
up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory,  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine --  
bought with the precious blood of  
Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
can ever pluck me from his hand;  
till he returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

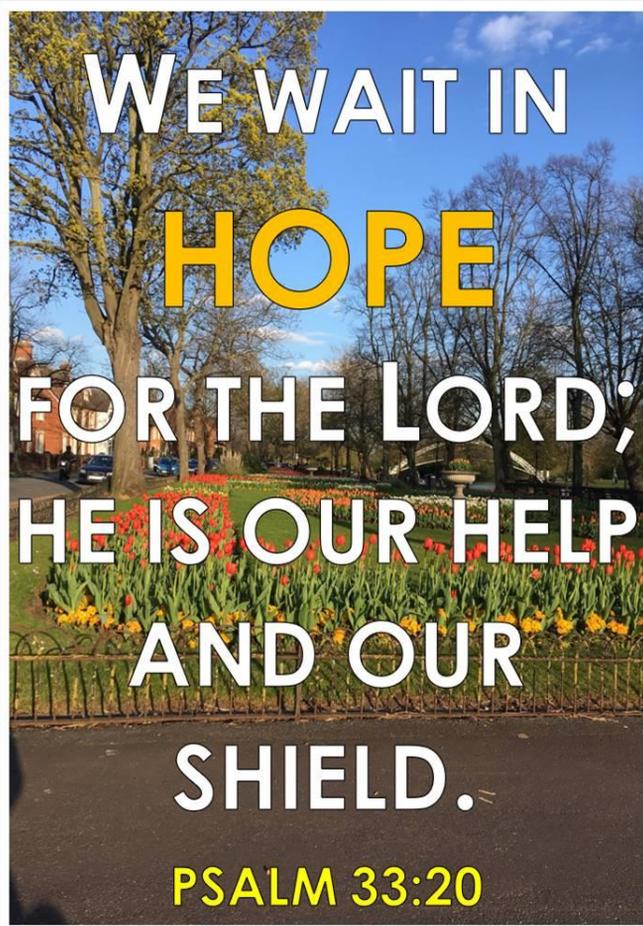
*Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine on you.

Original Materials by Revd Maree Farrimond  
Hymns reproduced under CCLi 1144191 and CCLi 5467

## Next week's poster from Richard



### Do you enjoy quizzes?

Most Tuesday evenings over the course of the pandemic a group of us has met by Zoom to have a friendly quiz. This is not a closed shop and anyone is welcome to join us. The quiz begins at 7.30pm on Tuesday and usually lasts about an hour. Richard will attach the login details to his email so that new members can join us – you will be very welcome.

## Challenges of Online Worship

Over the past few months we've had to worship together online by Zoom and, I have to say, on behalf of all of us who've been operating this that, at times, it has been challenging. Screen sharing (by which we can show videos, play hymns and songs, use PowerPoint) doesn't always work as planned, wifi signals drop out at the most inconvenient times. All of these pale into insignificance with the challenges that some churches have faced in putting their worship online.

Challenges like the worship band's drummer who had to fight off a falling tree during a song –

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=alzCp1ZGDUl&t=34s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alzCp1ZGDUl&t=34s)

Challenges like keeping a straight face like the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral had to whilst a cat disappeared under his robes during his outdoor sermon –

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4uEtZ6487M&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4uEtZ6487M&t=1s)

And just because you can augment your video image doesn't mean you should do as a priest in Salerno found out during Mass when he appeared with a space helmet and a Blues Brothers getup –

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5HhUDDgoZA&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5HhUDDgoZA&t=1s)

If you have any prayer requests, thanks, how you're passing the time, feelgood items and, indeed, any other items and news that you would like to go into this newsletter then please email these to [geofftal@btinternet.com](mailto:geofftal@btinternet.com), ideally by Wednesday each week. As you can see, unlike the printed newsletter, there's no restriction on space and we can even slot last minute things in up till Friday evening.

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](mailto:richard.ward4@btinternet.com). Equally, if you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please let Richard Ward know.