

## March Newsletter 2024

The United Benefice of St Giles, Killamarsh and St Matthew's,  
Renishaw

### March Sunday Services

To be Christ in Church and Community

Date	Time	Church	Service
3rd Lent 3	10am	St Giles  St Matthew's	<b>Service of the Word</b>  Holy Communion
10th Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	10am	St Giles  St Matthew's	Holy Communion  <b>Service of the Word</b>
17th Lent 5 Passiontide begins	10am	St Giles  St Matthew's	Holy Communion  Holy Communion
24th Holy Week begins Palm Sunday	10am	St Giles  St Matthew's	Holy Communion  Holy Communion
31st Easter Day Alleluia Christ is risen!	10am	St Giles  St Matthew's	Holy Communion  Holy Communion

As pilgrims on life's journey we come together to spiritually walk through the final stages of Jesus' life upon this bruised, fractured and battered world. We journey with him following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through to his agonising betrayal and subsequent torturous murder on Good Friday. Let each one of us observe this very poignant Holy Week.

### Services in Holy Week

25 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	Monday of Holy Week	St Giles	Stations of the Cross
26 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	Tuesday of Holy Week	St Matthew's	Prayers for Healing
27 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	Wednesday of Holy Week	St Giles	Service of Compline
28 <sup>th</sup> March 7pm	Maundy Thursday	St Giles	Holy Communion
		St Matthew's	Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> March 11am	Good Friday	St Giles and Killamarsh Methodists	Walk of Witness at 11am meeting at St Giles Church
2pm		St Matthew's	Hour at the Cross

### **Mothering Sunday**

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods – our human mothers – all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' – as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were

also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families – which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day. *Parish Pump*

### **Holy Week and Easter**

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving from to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to

His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, *'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'*. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested. *Parish Pump*

### **Good Friday**

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So – what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the

crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God''* (1 Peter 3:18). *Parish Pump*

### Easter

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 30 AD or Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise

calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25<sup>th</sup> April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter. *Parish Pump*

### **A celebration of thankfulness**

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February, at the beginning of the church service, Ann and Tony Ward were presented with gifts as a token of their long service (18 years !!!!!!!) dealing with financial matters appertaining to St Giles Church. We thank them for their dedication and meticulous record- keeping from which Gift Aid has been claimed. Thank you so much Ann and Tony for all that you have done and for all that you continue to do.



### **Killamarsh Healthy Communities Activities held in St Giles Church Hall**

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February between 1pm-3pm a lady called Jackie helped 12 people to produce little fabric houses sewn using different stitches. This was the first time I had sewn for many, many years!!!! At times the participants were so engrossed you could literally hear a pin drop.



*Above photo courtesy of Richard Godley*

## Exploring Prayer group



As we journey through Lent and approach Easter we are moving towards a time of transition in the life of our two churches as Revd Helen and Revd Michael prepare for their retirement in May and our United Benefice moves into Vacancy. From our own experience we know that times of change can bring questions, uncertainty and sometimes trepidation, however, we also know that such occasions are often opportunities for exploration, new growth and learning. In the background of our path towards Easter, the global picture is one of conflict, upheaval, the movement of peoples and fears of escalating tensions and threats within the existing world order. It is a complex, perplexing and often fearful time. During such periods, as we know from reading the Bible, Christians have found themselves drawn towards God in prayer. Following this prompting, we discover that prayer is the place in which God draws us to Himself so that our relationship with Him may be widened and deepened.

Over the course of six weeks after Easter we will be meeting as a group in St Matthew's community room to follow together the 'Exploring Prayer' series with The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. The group will begin with a short time of prayer followed by a brief video talk, then some questions for the group to discuss. After closing with prayer, we will spend time together in fellowship over tea/coffee and biscuits. There are five sessions covering different aspects of prayer, with the final session in week 6 looking at ways in which we can travel further in our exploration. Everyone is welcome and don't worry if you can't make it to every session, just drop in when you are able to.

**Exploring Prayer group begins Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 1-2pm followed by refreshments and runs weekly until Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Photo by [Priscilla Du Preez CA](#) on [Unsplash](#)



## Update from Fr Georges in Madagascar

Dear Reverend Canon Helen and Fr Michael GUEST  
All our friends at St Gile's church Killamarsh.  
All our friends at St Matthew's church Renishaw.  
Fri 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Dear friends.

This is an update and also a sort of **LENT APPEAL** from Fr Georges and Eveline in Antananarivo .

Our new e-mail address is : [revgeorana@gmail.com](mailto:revgeorana@gmail.com)

Here we are already in the LENT 2024 !

We always remember you all in our prayers during this Lent. Also, we hope that you do so for us.

Thank you very much indeed.

**TO FAST ?**

***".....Is it not sharing your food with the hungry .taking the homeless poor into your house.***

***Clothing the naked when you meet them. And never evading a duty to your kinsfolk ? "Isaiah58:7***

At this moment we have **a good rain** !We all hope that the crops will be good !We have enough water !So,we are on manage 02 new fish pools (fish farming ).We will need to provide 1000 small fishes to start...

**Dear friends , during this LENT if someone of you will be able to support us to achieve this good project , we will be very happy. ..It is very kind of you to think of us at this special time !**

Also,we continue to plant lots of fruit trees : Coffee trees,avocados tres,litchi trees ...

Please remember us in your prayers! Truly we are the needy friends (We need more support )

**Please,have a look at those some pictures.**

Much Regards.

Fr Georges and Eveline.

All the Congregation Antananarivo MADAGASCAR





*Above photos courtesy of Fr Georges*



## **KILLAMARSH METHODIST CHURCH - ALL ARE WELCOME**

Our mission is to show God's love by serving our community and to grow in fellowship by sharing the gift of food.

We meet each Sunday at 10 am at the church on Sheffield Road. We'd love to see you for engaging, thoughtful worship incorporating songs and prayer.

You'll always receive a warm welcome...and cake! Children are always a joy.

Our garden is open to everyone to sit in contemplation and quiet conversation

Our website address: <https://www.killamarshmethodistchurch.co.uk>.

Our regular community activities include:

- Weekly Thursday Coffee Morning
- Weekly Friday Morning Café
- Monthly Walking Group (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month)
- Monthly Sunday Lunch (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month)
- Monthly Book Club (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday morning each month)
- Monthly Craft Group (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday afternoon each month)

Our building is also used by other groups for various exercise classes, a baby group, Slimming World, singing lessons and other ad hoc church and community activities throughout the year.

In the spirit of Warm, Welcome Spaces the Thursday Coffee Morning, the Friday Cafe and the Sunday Lunch are all offered freely by church members and others in the village.

We support various charities during the year, from donations given at the Sunday Lunch and other activities as well as from our Church Members.

We have worked with St Giles over the many years on activities such as sharing the Good Friday Walk of Witness, supporting Father Georges' Harvest Appeal with donations to support his many different farming initiatives, donating a tree at the Festival of Trees, and supporting the Discover Easter initiative. There are also two people from the Methodist Church who currently serve as governors at St Giles Church of England School offering their expertise and time.

2024-2025 will be another year of change for us when Revd Mike Jones leaves us. The Sheffield Circuit of the Methodist Church will announce who our new minister will be later in 2024.

### **Watch and Pray- Wisdom and hope for Lent and Life**

This course is a Church of England Course promoted by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The introduction states, "*Watch and Pray* encourages us to draw close to Jesus and to each other as we journey together through times of difficulty and uncertainty. It urges us to learn from the wisdom of Black Spirituality, especially the practice of 'tarrying'- waiting on God- as a community."

This course is being run at St Matthew's Community Room from 1pm

February 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

If you have never attended a course before, if you feel a little apprehensive or nervous, then please put aside any fears or anxieties and come along and literally give it a go. You will be amazed at what insights you will gain as we are gently led through each session. If you would like to know more then please speak to Revd Helen, Revd Michael or Ben. We shall look forward to seeing you there.

### **The Light by Ann Ward**

When your world is full of darkness

There's a light that shows the way

To a better brighter future

And it's with us every day.

It's full of hope and gladness

And calms a troubled mind

It walks the way of life with us

It's the Saviour of mankind.

The World Day of Prayer was held at St Peter and St Paul at Eckington on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 2pm.

### **Discover Easter**

Discover Easter will be held at St Giles Church Hall on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March between 2pm and 4pm. Come along to learn all about The Easter Story in a fun, interactive way. Come and make an Easter garden, find out what happened during Holy Week and lots, lots more.

This event will also be run during St Matt's Coffee morning on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

As part of St Matthew's Mission Action Plan for 2024 parents, staff and governors at Renishaw Primary School will receive a small booklet entitled 'The Easter Journey' which tells the last week in the life of Jesus. Thank you to Helen Ramsden for organising this very important initiative on behalf of St Matthew's Church.

### **Warm Space at St Giles Church Hall**

This initiative has been running now for over one year. I have asked a variety of different people what they think of the Warm Space initiative on Tuesday afternoons. I interviewed a cross section of people on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Here are some responses.

**Tracey:** It is a bit of a respite for me as I care for my husband. It is good to chat to different people and have different conversations. I also enjoy the live entertainment and company. The volunteers are always helpful and friendly. The refreshments are great.

**Bob:** I have made a lot of good friends. I have been given a lot of encouragement and confidence to sing and play my guitar (BOBBYG).

**Christine:** I like to come down and have my lunch before opening the shop. I like to meet people and have a chat with them.

**Shelley:** It gets me out of the house and I get to meet new people as I have only lived in Killamarsh for two years.

**Julie:** I look forward to home baked refreshments including coffee and walnut cake and scones. I have made some new good friends and have also met up with people I haven't seen for a long time.

**Thomas:** comes to Warm Space after the gym. He sees family and acquaintances. He likes sausage rolls. He feels safe here. Those who know Thomas respect his boundaries.

**Wilf:** A warm welcome awaits us with very tasty home-made food.

**Brenda:** Everyone welcomes us here. We have met new people and I can't fault it!

**Irene:** Everybody is nice and friendly and I would only be sat at home falling asleep in my chair.



**Pat:** It is nice to socialise, to get out of the house and to meet different people. I enjoy the food and the company.

**June:** I look forward to coming out as I need help getting out. I enjoy the pleasant company and refreshments.

**Martin:** To meet different people I know here, to get out of the cold in the winter and the rain and to enjoy soup and a bite to eat.

**Margaret H:** Because it is free and we like the company. The food is very good.

**Betty:** It gives me a break. The food and service is very good. Nice, clean environment.

**Anne:** I don't come very often but it is nice when I get here. The food is good with good company.

What of the volunteers?

**Jenny:** I come for the company. I enjoy helping and serving people. Should anyone need help with advice I can signpost them to the relevant organisations.

**Margaret T:** I like to help people. It is a lovely, friendly place and you meet different people. I serve teas, coffees, pot noodles and a variety of soups. All served definitely with a smile!

**Margaret H:** I enjoy baking and getting people's opinions on what is on offer regarding the selection of cakes etc. I like meeting people. There are regulars and new comers.

**Prayer** We thank almighty God for this lovely community of people. We thank Rykneld Homes and Derbyshire County Council who have provided funds for this very worthwhile initiative to thrive. We thank the volunteers for their time and dedication to make Warm Space happen.

### Oscar

Shssssssssssssssssssssss don't speak too loudly you might wake it up. It is a fearsome beast that even holds the Boss captive, I have seen it dragging her around from room to room. I have even heard it upstairs making its infernal noise, a cross between a terrifying scream and what I imagine to be the cry of the banshees.

The first sign of its coming is when it drags the Boss off the settee where I was just getting comfortable, having wriggled and pushed the one the Boss calls “Grumpy” into a corner. The Beast then forces the “Boss into action. Sometimes what comes next is hardly believable! The Boss takes the beast’s belly out and empties it into a bin. Gross! Strangely enough this seems to please the beast and the Boss as both sound somewhat sweeter afterwards. This is my cue to find somewhere to hide, usually behind a chair where it’s dark, but the infernal creature chases me even there with its eyes shining in a horrible heart stopping way. (it has more than two eyes) Weird! Then it’s time for my last evasive action that of jumping on the settee next to the one the Boss calls “Grumpy” but it’s not long before the beast attacks both of us there, putting these words into the Boss’s mouth “Lift your feet up” which I find difficult having four feet but it’s not me it’s “Grumpy” the pair of them are speaking to. Now “Grumpy” complying with the command to lift his feet up accidentally pushes me back onto the floor in the path of the beast. PANIC ensues and I try to escape from the beast by trying to stay one step ahead of it, running from place to place, then just as I am about to give up, the beast, having consumed all the crumbs off the floor, which I was saving for later, decides enough is enough, and returns from whence it came. Then I notice its name and all is made clear. It is SHARK.

### **At Giles Community Charity Shop**

The shop is within St Giles Church Hall. Just look for the wooden bench near the Community Garden and then you will see the entrance to the shop. The shop is open each Monday and Tuesday from 2pm-5pm. All money generated from the shop goes to St Giles Church.

### **St Matthew’s Renishaw Heritage and Crafting Project**

This is held in St Matthew’s Community Room. Activities are free and refreshments are provided. It is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and supported by Rykneld Homes and Renishaw WW1 Group.

12<sup>th</sup> March Nature embroidery

26<sup>th</sup> March Spring Fascinators

9<sup>th</sup> April Hanging Collages

23<sup>rd</sup> April Bath Bombs

**St Giles Church Hall**  
**Killamarsh Healthy Community Activities**

These sessions will shortly be finishing.

Look out for

22<sup>nd</sup> March Seaside memories

12<sup>th</sup> April Chair based exercise

26<sup>th</sup> April TBC

**Hot off the press**

Ben's Licencing Service at Derby Cathedral is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm.  
There will be a coach to Derby Cathedral for all those who wish to support Ben on his very special day.

Coach to leave St Giles Church Hall 10.45 am

Coach to leave St Matthew's Church at 11.am

To arrive at Derby Cathedral for 12 noon.

Service to begin at the cathedral for 2.30pm

There will be ample time to get a coffee from nearby coffee shops or to look around the cathedral. There will be a sheet at each church to book your place.

**The closing date for this will be Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March after which no further seats will be booked as the EXACT seats will be needed to book the coach.**

Please come if you are able.



## **United Benefice Contacts**

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[www.stgiles-killamarsh.org](http://www.stgiles-killamarsh.org)

**To be Christ in Church and Community**