

Beech Hill Methodist Church Newsletter

385A Dunstable Road, Luton, LU4 8BY
www.beechhillmethodist.co.uk
church@beechhillmethodist.co.uk

Minister
Rev. Margaret Newman
07472 185460



March 2024



Details of Services

March

3rd	10.30am	Peter Baker
Mothering Sunday		
10th	10.30am	Michael Adams
17th	10.30am	Steve Rogers
Palm Sunday		
24th	10.30am	Rev. Margaret Newman - Oakdale join with us for a service including Holy Communion.
Easter Sunday		
31st	10.30am	Geoff Best



On **12th May 2024**, we will be celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the opening of Beech Hill Methodist Church.

Please think about how you would like to celebrate this special occasion. We will be having a special Anniversary Service on 12th. Do you want a celebration meal, some sort of social event during the weekend or have you other ideas? Please let Anne or Richard know. This will be discussed at the Church Council on 27th February.

90



Welcome Space hosts for March.

5th	Lesley & Sue
12th	Joyce & Albert
19th	Sandra & Richard
26th	Anne & Roger

As 'hosts' please bring milk for tea and coffee and ensure that there are biscuits and cakes available (it's a good idea to check on the Sunday before as we don't want to build up a large stock which may go out of date).

Please don't feel that you have to donate everything, speak to Richard if you would like reimbursement.

Please be at the church in time to open up at 1pm prompt. Never open if you are on your own for any reason.

Thank you.

From the Manse

Dear Friends,

As the days lengthen I share with you a springtime prayer.

Creator God,
we thank you for the beauty of your springtime creation,
awakening buds and blooms,
lengthening blue skies and sunshine.
Awaken hope within us.
Renew us.
May we be refreshed with energy and enthusiasm
to see you in the places where we live
and in the people around us.

Redeemer God,
we thank you for your son, Jesus,
for his parables and teaching,
healing and caring,
for his life and resurrection.
Awaken love within us.
Renew us.
May we share your love and care with others.
May we and they come close to you.

Companion God,
we thank you for your Holy Spirit,
for your comfort and guidance,
presence and trust.
Awaken faith within us.
Renew us.
May we share your way and life with others.
May we be a witness to your saving love.

Creator, Redeemer, Companion,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we bring our praise and thanks to you.

(Creator God, by Ruth Bowen in *Spring*, edited by Ruth Burgess)

May you be blessed this month in your continuing journey through Lent to the glory of Easter Day.

Yours in Christ,

Margaret

Youthscape

SATELLITES

We live in a world where faith is often seen as a lifestyle choice for young people; another social option to sit alongside sports practice and a regular squad battle in Call of Duty; another element of our compartmentalised lives. But that isn't all that God is interested in. He doesn't exist to revolve around us, to serve our needs when we ask him. It's designed to be the other way around. We were always meant to be in His orbit. Like satellites.

We have seven key values which underpin our planning. These values help young people to see what it looks like to follow Jesus all year round, and all seven are rooted in the model of Christian discipleship that we find in the Bible.

Three of the values are focussed on us (how we meet with God alone and together and become changed as a result), three are outward-facing (helping us to see the role that God calls us to in building and extending his Kingdom on earth). The final one is kind of a big deal – as we prioritise the presence and power of God himself.

These seven values run through everything we do – they constitute a holistic, practical approach to following Jesus. You can read a bit more about each one in this blog post. Plus they're also discussed in much more detail in Martin Saunders' book *We Are Satellites*.

Youth workers we all know that having time away with our young people is invaluable, and there are so many different ways you can choose to do this!

So here are some things that we think make Satellites a great choice for you and your youth group:

WHY SATELLITES?

1 All year round

Satellites is a five-day event in the Summer to catalyse and support year-round, life-long faith. Everything we do on site is designed to help young people live out their Christian life for the other 360 days of the year.

2 Prayer focused

We are passionately committed to teaching and inspiring young people to pray - together and

alone. Our event centres a safe, replicable approach to prayer and ministry that youth groups can use at home, not just when they're with us at Satellites.

3 Working with youth leaders

As a Youthscape event, we have a unique focus on partnering with youth leaders. We're here to support you and your group. Plus we have a dedicated venue and programme for youth leaders, full of opportunities to learn, meet others and enjoy a well-earned break.

4 Innovative & Creative

We embrace creativity as one of the core values of the event, and of Christian discipleship. Young people get to explore how their God-given creativity can enrich and enliven their faith journey, while we commit to constantly developing and iterating our summer event and supporting resources.

5 A place of belonging for all

In a divided world, we prioritise unity, family and welcome. We believe that there's a seat at the table for every young person - and our aim is that no-one will leave Satellites in any doubt of God's love for them.

At our service on 27th February we learnt about Youthscape and 'Satellites' and we are collecting money towards sponsoring a young person to attend the event.

Youthscape is a wonderful organisation and we are so lucky to have it in Luton working with the youth of our town. It is housed in a 115 year old building, Bute Mills, which, itself, has a fascinating history. Youthscape have researched the history of Bute Mills and it can be found on their website. I have included some of the story of the building here.

A STEAM POWERED FLOUR MILL

In 1860 the first railway line came through Luton. Part of the Great Northern Line established in 1858, the Bute Street Station was a branch of the Hatfield-London line connecting Dunstable to Welwyn Garden City. The Midland Railway followed in 1862 with full passenger service to London in operation by 13th July 1868. This meant there were excellent transport links in place for both finished goods and raw materials, enabling buyers and wholesalers to visit the town regularly and easily.

Taking advantage of the excellent transport links, the Browns, a local milling family bought the land and started to develop a mill next to the railway

station so flour could be exported easily. The building was completed in 1911 on Bute Street, constructed to a high standard and in its early life referred to as the 'Great Northern Steam Mill'.

Unlike the windmills and watermills which were common at the time, the Brown family's business boasted innovative technology using a steam-powered mechanism to drive the mill. A huge tank on the roof of the building brought water down to the boilers which made steam and powered huge steel rollers. This milling method was faster and more efficient and subsequently the Brown business continued to flourish. Today, the iron water tank built on a corbelled brick support remains a landmark feature, emblazoned with 'Brown Bros' as a testament to their economic and industrial local legacy.

A HAT FACTORY

Between 1928-1929, Bute Mills – while still owned by the Brown Family – was converted into a hat factory and warehouse. This part conversion was inevitably prompted by the decline of corn milling and is a testament to the adaptability and entrepreneurialism of the Brown Family. It is worth noting however that Luton's straw hat trade peaked way before this time – with the height of manufacture and trade around the mid 1800's, a boom catalysed by the improved railway links and a national demand for plait and straw hats. A further reason for the success and rapid expansion of the industry was the relatively low set-up costs for new businesses and the high returns that might reasonably be expected.

In 1894 it was estimated that English plait cost twice as much as Italian and six times as much as the Chinese. In 1891 Japanese plait had started to arrive in considerable quantities, also at a much cheaper price than English. It was impossible for the English plaiting industry to survive in the face of such competition and prices plummeted. Some plaiters continued to work up until the 1920s and 1930s, fulfilling the very small demand for English plait, mostly for boater making. But the younger generations were not learning the skills and by 1939 the craft had almost totally disappeared after dominating life in the south east midlands for nearly 200 years. A decline which inevitably forced the Brown Family to sell the Mill.

A FERTILISER MANUFACTURER

In the summer of 1939 a fertiliser manufacturing company founded by a Mr Richard Haigh moved

in to Bute Mills. The company was initially called Produx Industries and produced speciality compost mixes for domestic use. Their main product was an ammonium phosphate based devised in Switzerland, called Garotta. It was the popularity of this product which led to the company's rebrand in the 1960s to Garotta Products.

In 1973 Richard Haigh's son (also called Richard) took over the business from his retiring father. He ran the company until he retired, selling the company along with the Garotta trade mark.

By the 1980s the industrial economy had fallen further into decline and Bute Mills was converted for commercial use. The original steam milling machinery was removed in the late 20th century. The building witnessed further internal remodelling including the introduction of staircases and partition walls.

Bute Mills was subsequently resold by Simpsons Estate Agents in 1988.

AN ADVERTISING AGENCY

By 1993, the building was owned by Macdonald Humphrey. A small advertising agency moved in, with just enough staff to set an office in the roof space. Butterfield Morris Bushell, named after its three founders, Chris Morris, Jeff Bushell, and Robert Butterfield. They specialised in marketing and advertising design. They grew rapidly over the next few years, becoming one of the largest advertising agencies in the UK.

YOUTHSCAPE

Youthscape is a Luton-based organisation founded in 1993. The aim was to support young people in the town, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. By 2012, the charity was still based at their offices and drop-in centre next to the Town Hall on Upper George Street but space was tight.

In the autumn of that year, a plan was hatched to find a bigger and better home and Bute Mills was spotted. In light of the building's price tag of more than £1 million, Youthscape started a campaign in January 2013 to raise the necessary funds. The local community rose to the challenge and funds began to pour in, with support from Bedfordshire and UK-wide grant-making Trusts. On New Year's Eve 2013, with just hours to go before the seller's final deadline for purchase ran out, the final funds were raised, the transaction was completed and Youthscape took on the next part of the Bute Mills story.

March Church & Circuit Calendar

1	Fri	
2	Sat	
3	Sun	10.30am: Morning Worship led by Peter Baker.
4	Mon	
5	Tue	10 - 12 noon: Cakes & Company at Aley Green. 1 - 4pm: Welcome Space. 7.30pm - Oakdale Lent Fellowship on Zoom.
6	Wed	
7	Thu	
8	Fri	
9	Sat	
10	Sun	10.30am: Mothering Sunday Morning Worship led by Michael Adams.
11	Mon	
12	Tue	1 - 4pm: Welcome Space. 7.30pm - Oakdale Lent Fellowship on Zoom.
13	Wed	
14	Thu	
15	Fri	
16	Sat	
17	Sun	10.30am: Morning Worship led by Steve Rogers.
18	Mon	
19	Tue	1 - 4pm: Welcome Space. 7.30pm - Oakdale Lent Fellowship on Zoom.
20	Wed	
21	Thu	
22	Fri	
23	Sat	
24	Sun	10.30am: Palm Sunday. Oakdale will join with us for Morning Worship with Holy Communion, led by Rev. Margaret Newman.
25	Mon	
26	Tue	1 - 4pm: Welcome Space. 7.30pm - Oakdale Lent Fellowship on Zoom.
27	Wed	
28	Thu	Maundy Thursday.
29	Fri	9.30am - Good Friday Walk of Witness starting at Beech Hill.
30	Sat	
31	Sun	10.30am: Easter Sunday Morning Worship led by Geoff Best.

Sunday Bible Readings from the Methodist Lectionary

3rd March

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

10th March

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

or for Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-28
Psalm 34:11-20 or Psalm 127:1-4
2 Corinthians 1:3-7 or Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25-27

17th March

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
or Psalm 119:9-16
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

24th March

Entry into Jerusalem
Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

The Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1 – 15:47
or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

31st March

Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43
or Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
or Acts 10:34-43
John 20:1-18
or Mark 16:1-8



Lectionary Bible Readings for Holy Week

Monday 25th March

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tuesday 26th March

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wednesday 27th March

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday 28th March

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday 29th March

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1 – 19:42

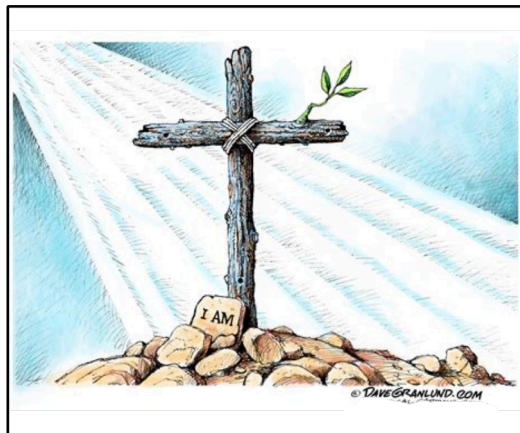
Holy Saturday 30th March

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Well-known Easter hymns, but they have had their words jumbled up. Can you unscramble them?

1. lla oyrlg audl and orouhn
2. lla nveaeh arlsdcee
3. nda acn ti eb
4. eb lstli nda nkwo hatt i ma ogd
5. eb tllsi fro teh erscnepe fo eht rdol
6. earebht no em tabahr fo gdo
7. hrsict het rlod si eisnr ydaot
8. ofmr anehev ouy acme
9. eh si rdol
10. i ecandd ni eht grnnimo
11. i oknw taht ym rdemreee eilsv
12. amke wya, amek awy
13. onrmnig ahs eonkrb
14. deri no, ider no ni mateysj
15. kroc fo gsae
16. eth dol rgdeug srcos
17. heter si a negre illh raf awya
18. tnihe eb teh lgyor
19. eerw ouy heter
20. enwh i rsevu y the dunroswo ocscr

Answers on page 10 (No cheating!)



And God Said No

I asked God to take away my pride,
And God said, "No."
He said it was not for Him to take away,
But for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole,
And God said, "No."
He said her spirit is,
While her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience,
And God said, "No."
He said patience is a by-product of tribulation.
It isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness,
And God said, "No."
He said He gives blessings,
Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain,
And God said, "No."
He said, "Suffering draws you apart from
Worldly cares and brings you closer to Me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow,
And God said, "No."
He said I must grow on my own,
But He will prune me to make it fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me,
and God said, "Yes."
He gave me His only Son, who died for me.
And I will be in Heaven someday
Because....I believe.

I asked God to help me love others
As much as He loves me,
And God said,
"Ah finally, you have the idea."

Claudia Minden Welsz

**P
r
a
y
i
n
g**



**H
a
n
d
s**

Whilst on holiday last year Rev Roy Taylor vicar of St. Francis in San Eugenio, Playa de Las Americas, South Tenerife gave a sermon on Mothering Sunday. Roy explained Mothering Sunday was different to Mother's day because whilst it takes love to be a mother, not all mothers are good.

He illustrated his sermon with the story of Albrecht Durer who painted the picture of the praying hands pictured here. This picture was presented to Roy in the form of a plaque when he was ordained as a curate in York Minster

Albrecht was born in the fifteenth century, near Nuremberg one of eighteen children. Albrecht's father, a goldsmith by profession, worked long hours and took any other paying job he could find in his neighbourhood in order merely to keep food on the table for his family.

Two of the children, Albrecht and Albert were talented artists they both dreamt of pursuing their talent further, but they knew that their father would never be able to afford to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

So the two boys worked out a plan. One would work in the nearby mines and support his brother with his earnings whilst the other would attend the academy. Then when that bother had finished his studies in four years they would swap. Albrecht won the toss of the coin and attended the academy whilst Albert went down into the mines and supported his brother during his studies with his earnings. Planning to swap in four years, either with sales of his artwork or, by labouring in the mines..

Albert went down into the mine and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate success. Albrecht's etchings, woodcuts, and his oils were often far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

After four years the young artist returned to his village, Albrecht was ready to pay for his brother's time at the academy. The Durer family held a festive dinner to celebrate Albrecht's return. After the meal, Albrecht rose to drink a toast to his beloved brother thanking him for his support for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfil his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

Albert rose, and holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! No, brother ... for me it is too late." The bones in every finger had been smashed at least once, and were now suffering from arthritis, the thumbs were bent and twisted, such that it was difficult even to hold the glass toasting his brother, much less a brush.

Albrecht paid homage to his brother for all he had sacrificed and painstakingly sketched his brother's hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward simply calling the drawing "Hands". Roy asked us to look carefully at the picture and note that the crooked thumb and the gnarled hands that could not close due to the abuse the mines had wrought,

The world renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands". Roy gave this story as an example of unconditional love, similar to that given by a mother, and as a reminder to us all that no one ever makes it alone, we all need someone!

George Jevons

Oakdale Lent Fellowship

Oakdale have kindly invited us to join with them for their Lent Fellowships which will be held on Tuesday evenings.

These will be led by different members of Oakdale's congregation on Zoom, using resources from All We Can. In each of the five weeks we will have an opportunity to reflect on a different possible answer to the question **'What is Mine to Do?'**

1. Pray
2. Commit
3. Champion
4. Pledge
5. No-thing

There are online resources that can be downloaded at: www.allwecan.org.uk/resources/lent2024/ and the Zoom link is below:

Topic: Oakdale Lent Fellowships
Time: 07:30 - 8.30 pm.

Every week on Tuesdays.

Feb 27, 2024 07:30 PM
Mar 5, 2024 07:30 PM
Mar 12, 2024 07:30 PM
Mar 19, 2024 07:30 PM
Mar 26, 2024 07:30 PM

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546434687?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546434687?pwd=bVdlbnRSYmxXN2Uva05JekZQOU9XQT09)
[pwd=bVdlbnRSYmxXN2Uva05JekZQOU9XQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83546434687?pwd=bVdlbnRSYmxXN2Uva05JekZQOU9XQT09)

Meeting ID: 835 4643 4687
Passcode: 968358

If you would like the Zoom link emailed to you, please let Richard know.



Thank you for your offertory contributions towards the work of Beech Hill.

If you Gift Aid your offertory, the best way to give is by standing order directly from your account into the church account. This means that the church does not have to pay any bank charges on the transaction. If you have internet banking this is very easy to set up. If you do not have internet banking, then just keep putting cash into your envelope.

If you do not Gift Aid, then cash is still best.

If you wish to pay your collection by bank transfer or standing order, the church account details are:

Account Name: Beech Hill Methodist Church
Sort code: 40-30-32
Account number: 10561304

Please put your envelope number and/or name in the reference box when you make a payment.

1. All Glory Laud and Honour
2. All Heaven Declares
3. And can it be
4. Be still and know that I am God
5. Be still for the presence of the Lord
6. Breathe on me breath of God
7. Christ the lord is risen today
8. From Heaven you came
9. He is lord
10. I danced in the morning
11. I know that my redeemer lives
12. Make way, make way
13. Morning has broken
14. Ride on, ride on in majesty
15. Rock of ages
16. The old rugged cross
17. There is a green hill far away
18. Thine be the glory
19. Were you there
20. When I survey the wondrous cross

Easter Hymns - Answers.

10

Prayer Page

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

We pray for desert people, who live in a dry, parched land who lack water who travel constantly so that they might live. Give them living water. Let the deserts bloom into flower.

We pray that those who work on climate change may find solutions so that the erosion of soil may be halted or reversed. We pray that water and other vital supplies might not be used as a weapon of war in countries where resources are scarce.

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

We pray for countries where justice seems far away, where human rights are ignored Let us remind those in power that prisoners are not forgotten.

We pray that the dignity of life is respected and remember those who have lost that dignity through age or infirmity or neglect. We pray for situations where the sex of a baby may lead to abandonment, where women are not offered the same opportunities, or are actively demeaned or mutilated. May we act to challenge injustice and seek to affirm your love for all humankind.

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

We pray for those who have no peace - for those who are troubled and torn apart by lack of self esteem for those who torment and victimise the vulnerable.

We pray for men and women affected by violence in the home and for those who live by violence.

We pray for those who are trafficked and for those who organise and profit from selling other humans.

May they learn of your love and somehow come to newness of life even in the midst of despair.

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

Loving Lord let us not stand aside and tolerate lack of basic human resources,

dehumanising practices, or the use of violence to dis-empower your people. Give us strength to act and challenge hatred, and instead bring your justice and mercy.

In your name we humbly ask that we may be a channel for your peace and love.

Amen.

Easter Prayer

This prayer has been written by the Revd Michaela Youngson.

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through.

Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others.

Amen.



Prayers taken from the Methodist Church Website www.methodist.org.uk

International Women's Day Sat 9th March 2024

12 till 5pm, The Hat Factory Arts Centre,
Bute St, Luton, LU2 2EY

We have our annual International Women's Day Event.. With Exhibitors, Service Providers & Speakers, networking/forum of ladies & organisations to look at the future of women in Luton.

Tickets in advance £8 (members £5)

www.ticketsource.co.uk/simplydeezevents

To be involved with exhibitor/speakers please fill our form

www.simplydeezevents.co.uk/exhibitor-forms

linktree.com/simplydeezevents

SIMPLY DEEZ EVENTS

Make an impression on you



DEEZ



VisionZone 2024 Solutions for Low Vision



Would you like to find out more about assistive technology, Support, Services, Groups and much more!

Our Vision Zone events bring together a variety of excellent services and charities covering your local area.

No matter what your sight loss condition we are here for you.

Whether it's just to gain knowledge or hands on experience of new technologies, entry is free to our events, and our friendly staff will greet you with a warm welcome.

Monday 15th April – 10am to 2pm

The Olive Tree Church, 42-46 Blenheim Crescent,

Luton, LU3 1HB

Tuesday 30th April – 10am to 2pm

The Weatherley Centre, Eagle Farm Road, Biggleswade, SG18 8JH



R N I B
See differently



Bedfordshire
Fire and Rescue Service

0800 1456115

www.lowvisionshop.co.uk