

Worship at Central	
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Morning Worship at 10:30am Rev Paul Davis - Holy Communion 
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Rev Jane Wild
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am Ms Rebecca Ainsworth
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Rev Jane Wild
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday Service 10am followed by the city Walk of Witness from 10:45 outside 'Debenhams'
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day Worship at 10:30am Rev Janet Clasper - Holy Communion 
Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>No Lunchtime Worship today</b>
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship at 10:30am Mr Harry Duckett
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lunchtime Worship at 1pm Mrs Carolyn Hothersall
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Morning Worship at 10:30am Mr David Evans

### The Lords Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

**Amen**

*Times of worship are for keeping in touch with God, not your social network. So please, be considerate and switch your phone to silent! Thankyou!*



Stewards: Ruth Millward-Hopkins, Julia Blackett, Sue Burgess and Roberta Malone

Safeguarding Officers: Sarah O'Halloran & Geoff Tyson

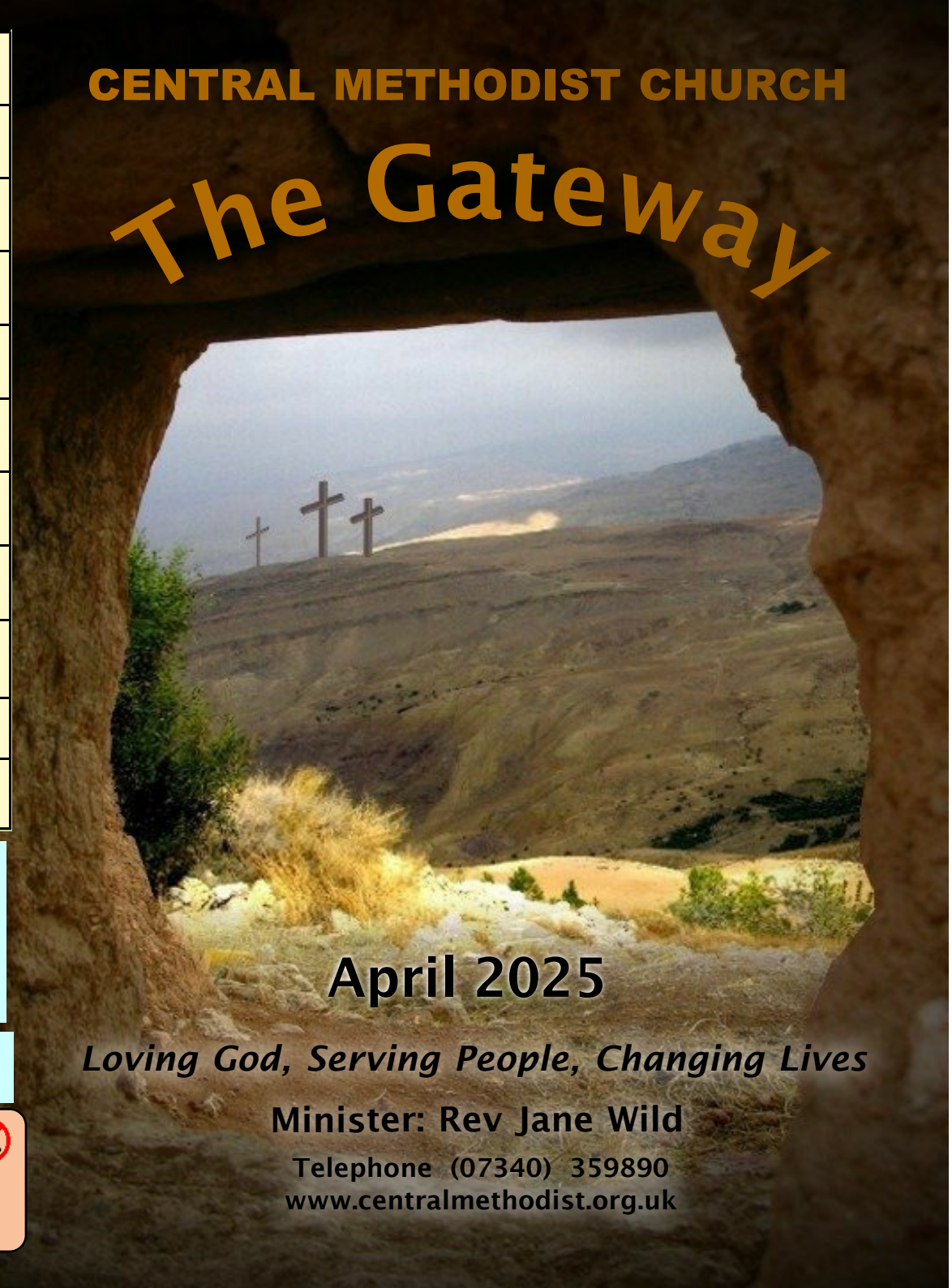
Coffee Shop Tel (01772) 881851

WiFi Password Ezekiel37



**CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH**

**The Gateway**



**April 2025**

*Loving God, Serving People, Changing Lives*

**Minister: Rev Jane Wild**

Telephone (07340) 359890

[www.centralmethodist.org.uk](http://www.centralmethodist.org.uk)

# Central's Diary Dates....

Holy Week lunchtime reflections Wed 16<sup>th</sup> April 1pm



**Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April:**  
7pm Tenebre Service at Fulwood Methodist or  
6:30pm at Penwortham Bridge or  
6:30pm at Trinity Gregson Lane

**Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 10am service**  
**Easter Day Service with Holy Communion 10:30am**



**GOOD FRIDAY**

## The Good Friday Walk of Witness

This will start at the old Debenhams building in Fishergate, Preston at 11:15 am and process up Fishergate to the Flag Market, ending in a short service.

## Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

to celebrate our Lord's resurrection.

Meet at Beacon Fell car park at 5:30 am to walk to the summit for 5:45 am sunrise. All are welcome.

Refreshments afterwards in the car park bring a mug!



## Bible Readings for Holy Week 13-20 April

- Palm Sunday Matthew 21, 6-9
- Monday Matthew 21, 12-13
- Tuesday Matthew 24, 42-44
- Wednesday Luke 22, 2-6
- Maundy Thursday Mark 14, 22-26
- Good Friday Mark 15, 25-26
- Saturday Luke 23, 55-56
- Easter Day Mark 16, 2-6



## Prayers

If you would like to leave the name of someone who needs Prayer, please add their name to the prayer book as you come in on Sunday morning.



You can also leave a prayer on our prayer tree.



Please note for those going to Glenthorne - please would you pay the remainder of the balance by the end of April, if not already!- Thankyou

## Bible sales rocket among Gen Z

Gen Z are once again proving that they are a generation open to faith, as Bible sales soar among their demographic.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) has noted an 87% increase in purchases of the Bible between 2019 and 2024. Nielsen Book Data records a jump from £2.69 million to £5.02 million spent on copies in the last five years. A spokeswoman for Nielsen Book Data said: "Spending on religious books in total last year measured £25.2 million, up 3 per cent year-on-year."

A survey in January 2025 indicates that a quarter of Gen X (born between 1965 and 1980) identify as atheist – but this falls to 13% amongst Gen Z (born in the late 1990s and early 2000s).

Mark Woods, of the Bible Society, told The Times that some of the sales came from "young people buying the Bible themselves, or parents buying for their children," whilst another portion come from "churches buying it for their youth group or their local school". He added: "Either way, there's a very clear increase in demand. This seems to arise from a perception that the Bible has something important to say to young people, and from a desire to make it accessible to them."

Premierchristian.news



The Zoom meeting ID and pass code for Sunday Worship at Central are: Meeting ID: 992 4189 3207 Passcode: 453840



	6 <sup>th</sup> April	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
Today the flowers have been given by...	Sue Burgess	Sarah and Steve O'Halloran in memory of Dawn and Alicia	Angela Parker	Sue Burgess

**Change your thoughts, and change your life**

**'You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!'**

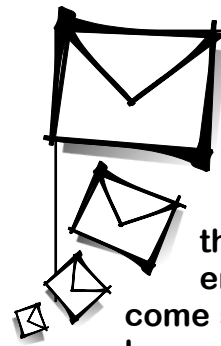
**Isaiah 26:3 NLT**



Your thoughts create your feelings, and your feelings dictate your approach to life. So by changing the way you think, you can change how you feel and how you approach life. Unlike the world, which teaches you to empty your mind to achieve peace, God's way is to fill your mind with fresh, powerful, redeeming thoughts. 'You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!' It's not just about trying to blot out bad thoughts with your willpower.

If a wrong, bad, or negative thought is lodged in your mind today and you can't seem to shake it, stop trying! That won't erase it from your mind. That's like cutting a weed off at ground level rather than uprooting it; it will just grow again. What you need to do is replace that wrong destructive thought with a thought that's from God. That's the only way to deal with wrong thoughts and begin the healing process.

The apostle Paul writes: 'Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honourable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise... Then the God of peace will be with you' (Philippians 4:8-9 NLT). Are you concerned about your health? 'Fix' your mind on this Scripture: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses' (Matthew 8:17 NKJV). Are you concerned about the future? 'Fix' your mind on this promise: 'And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed' (Deuteronomy 31:8 NKJV).  
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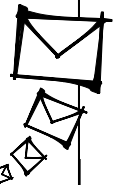
Dear friends,

The world is getting smaller! We often hear this phrase and recognise that, actually, the world is the same size, but communication, travel and a general awareness of much more of the world has become so much easier. Most of us, even if we may never have visited these places, know so much more about countries in the southern hemisphere or across the major oceans. We recognise images of famous buildings or geographical landmarks. We are able to access information easily through the internet, linking the whole world in an instant. News spreads quickly and reporters are quickly on scene bringing us the latest updates from around the globe.

It's increasingly difficult to imagine what life was like back in Biblical times, when word of mouth was often the only means of communication, and travel was limited to the distance most people could walk. Yet news did travel. As Jesus made his journeys around Palestine, crowds gathered because they had heard about his teachings, sick people were brought to him in the hope of being healed, and the opposing authorities plotted his downfall.

This year we have followed the journey through Lent from Luke's perspective. Luke, an educated man, was the first to write down the many stories, recollections and testimonies which were shared during and after the time of Jesus. He wrote in a way that these stories could be spread beyond the immediate culture and language, and to reach out to everyone, regardless of their background or beliefs. The Good News about Jesus is for everyone.

As we celebrate Easter, how do we share that great joy? How, in this world of easy communication, do we shout it from the rooftops? How do we reach out to those who might never have had the chance to explore how Jesus can be part



of their lives? In the words of Tom Wright, 'The challenge of praying through the Easter story is the challenge of holding your mind, and your whole life, open to the God who does unexpected things. Life-transforming things you'd never have imagined in your wildest dreams.'

Let's help transform lives and release those wildest dreams. Let's share the message of Jesus our Saviour as far as our world can take it, by whatever means we can. Christ is risen!

Carolyn Hothersall

Our Ministry Team:

Rev Jane Wild, Mrs Carolyn Hothersall, Mrs Sarah O'Halloran  
Mrs Denise Johnson, Mr Darren Arnold

## Origami Girl

Beautiful Artist  
Origami Girl  
Paper Modelist  
Creative Pearl

Graceful Airborne Cranes  
Colourful Flowers  
Flying Paper Cranes  
How You Filled Your Hours

Folded Creations  
Made By Your Fingers  
Paper Perfections  
Memories Linger

A Creative Swirl  
Origami Girl

Mike Singleton

Coffee shop regular Mike Singleton has written a poem inspired by the origami cranes! Thanks Mike!

*This is inspired by the thousand origami cranes in the Olive Coffee Shop which threw me back to when I and someone very close were both in hospital. We talked and chatted daily and she shared the amazing origami cranes that she made while she was there.  
Mike*

## IN THE PRESS.....

### Senior faith leaders unite against 'unjust' child poverty

Senior faith leaders from across the country have joined forces in an urgent call for the government to be 'bold and ambitious' in its forthcoming Child Poverty Strategy.

The call is shared in an open letter to the co-chairs of the Ministerial Child Poverty Taskforce, Bridget Philipson, Secretary of State for Education, and Liz Kendall, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The letter has been signed by 35 faith leaders from all six of the major faith traditions in the UK - Anglican, Jewish, Sikh, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist. Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and the Bishop of Leicester, Rt Rev Martyn Snow are among the signatories. Currently three in every 10 (4.3 million) children in the UK are living in poverty and without further action a further 400,000 are likely to be pulled into poverty by the end of the decade. The Prime Minister promised during the last election that his government would introduce an ambitious plan to lift 'millions' of children out of poverty.

The letter states: "While we come from different faith traditions, we share a belief that working to end poverty should be a hallmark of any decent, compassionate society. We also believe that transformational change is possible. We are hopeful that the Child Poverty Strategy could be a turning point for the communities we serve, and we are ready to work in partnership with people of goodwill across society to ensure that every child has the start in life they deserve. We anticipate your strategy and pray that it will rise to the challenges we face."

The letter highlights the findings from 'Paying the Price', a new report from the Methodist founded charity Action for Children, which sets out a comprehensive range of measures that would lift 1.2 million children out of poverty by 2030. Paul Morrison who is Policy Adviser for the Methodist Church, told Premier that it's vital the two-child limit benefit cap is scrapped: "Just removing that one rule would mean that by the end of the decade, 600,000 children would be removed from poverty. It's an unjust poverty and it should go. There are lots of things that should happen, but any credible strategy has to include that."

Rev Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference, said: "The levels of child poverty we are seeing in communities across the UK cannot be acceptable. With communities trying to pick up the pieces and support families who are struggling, it's time for the government to step up too. We know it is possible to significantly reduce child poverty, and a social security system that enables families to afford the essentials will be a central pillar. The government must demonstrate that tackling poverty is a priority and make ambitious choices. We pray that the government's strategy will rise to the challenges we face." The government's Child Poverty Strategy is set to be published in the Spring. Premierchristian.news

### 90-year-old saves church by raising £30,000 selling sausage rolls

A 90-year-old former RAF driver has helped save St Mary's Church in Market Weston, Suffolk, by raising nearly £30,061 through baking and selling sausage rolls and malt loaf. Gerry Smith, who took up baking at 80 after the passing of his wife, Pamela, a longtime churchwarden, contributed nearly a third of the £100,113 needed to restore the church's collapsing windows.

Other donors included the Alfred Williams Charitable Trust and the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

"The church means everything to me," Smith told the East Anglian Daily Times. "I can't tell you my secret recipes, but what I can tell you is that people absolutely love my baking and it brings me a lot of joy." St Mary's churchwarden, Richard Chatham, praised Smith's dedication, saying he "enjoys the adventure of life" and "wants to give back to the community".

Chatham added that "generosity of spirit" had kept the church alive.

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