

# Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

## Newsletter

Issue 2021

April 2024

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### Thought for the month

Hello April

New month, new beginning,  
New mindset, new focus, new start,  
New intentions, new results.

**Our mission is to provide an open, welcoming and accepting, living place of Christian worship and service in our community, in which we seek to serve and follow Jesus Christ.**

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



Adoption is a wonderful thing. It enables those who aren't able to have children, to share in a special relationship with a child, enabling both parents and child to flourish. For those who already have children and still adopt, it again enables that child to flourish and be part of a loving, sustaining, family unit. Many wonderful relationships and families are created through the process of adoption.

The Bible also talks about adoption, us being adopted into God's family. Romans 8:14-16 says; *'All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own [children]. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old slavish attitude of fear—you have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, "Father, my Father". The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God. Think what that means. If we are his children we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well!'* [J.B. Phillips Translation, in brackets mine]

At the time this part of scripture was written, this had real significance. The pervading Roman culture was very hedonistic; devoted to the pursuit of pleasure. The most important thing in life was to enjoy yourself. Consequently, marriages were often not monogamous, and fathers did not know if they were the father of their children. Therefore, a Roman father would adopt a son to be his heir. So being adopted became more important than being an actual son!

Therefore, when the Bible tells us we have been adopted into God's family, it actually gives us a very high status, as we too become heirs, and inherit all the riches of heaven.

So, no matter your up bring or family set up, you have been adopted and are loved by God. As 1 John 3:1 says; '*See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*' [NIVUK]

So, no matter what life throws at us, no matter our personal circumstances, we are children of God, and are dearly loved.

As number 72 in our Singing the Faith hymnbook says;

*Father God, I wonder  
how I managed to exist  
without the knowledge  
of your parenthood  
and your loving care.  
But now I am your child,  
I am adopted in your family,  
and I can never be alone  
'cause, Father, God,  
you're there beside me.*

[Ian Smale]

[CCL No. 15506]

May God richly bless you.

*Pastor Steve*

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## Sunday Services April 2024

7th	11.00 a.m.	Phil Gladman and Mike Spaul
14th	11.00a.m.	Rev Brenda Gutberlet - including Holy Communion
21st	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Steve Mayo - Parade Service
28th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. John Annim

## Other April dates for your diary

1st	Easter Monday/April Fool's Day
6th	Coffee morning at 10.00 a.m. - Mike & Sue - with hot cross buns
11th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome.
20th	Coffee Morning at 10.00 a.m. - Anthea and Jan
25th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - All are welcome

Advance Notice:

Saturday 4th May Coffee Morning and Plant Sale 10.00 a.m. to mid-day - see poster for more information

Sunday 5th May at 12.30 p.m. will be the Annual Church Meeting after service, all are welcome to attend.

## Point of Contact

Below is shown details of the Sunday Stewards, Communion Stewards, Musician, Flower Rota and coffee/tea stewards relevant for this month.

### **Sunday 7th April**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Sue & Mike Spaul

Coffee/tea stewards a.m. Sue Spaul & Ann Kendall

### **Sunday 14th April**

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards Neeltje Charles & Dawn Howard

Flowers - Marion Hammond in memory of Vic - arranged by Marion

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

### **Sunday 21st April**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

Musician a.m. - Mike/MIDI Box

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

### **Sunday 28th April**

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Smitha Thomas in memory of her Grandfather - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Margaret Bailey & Marion Hammond

# Letters Page/Church family news

## Your letters

Note  
From  
The  
Editor

Please note that the May edition of the newsletter will not be available until Sunday 5th May, due to my holiday. Therefore the last day for items for the May edition will be Sunday 28th April. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Sue

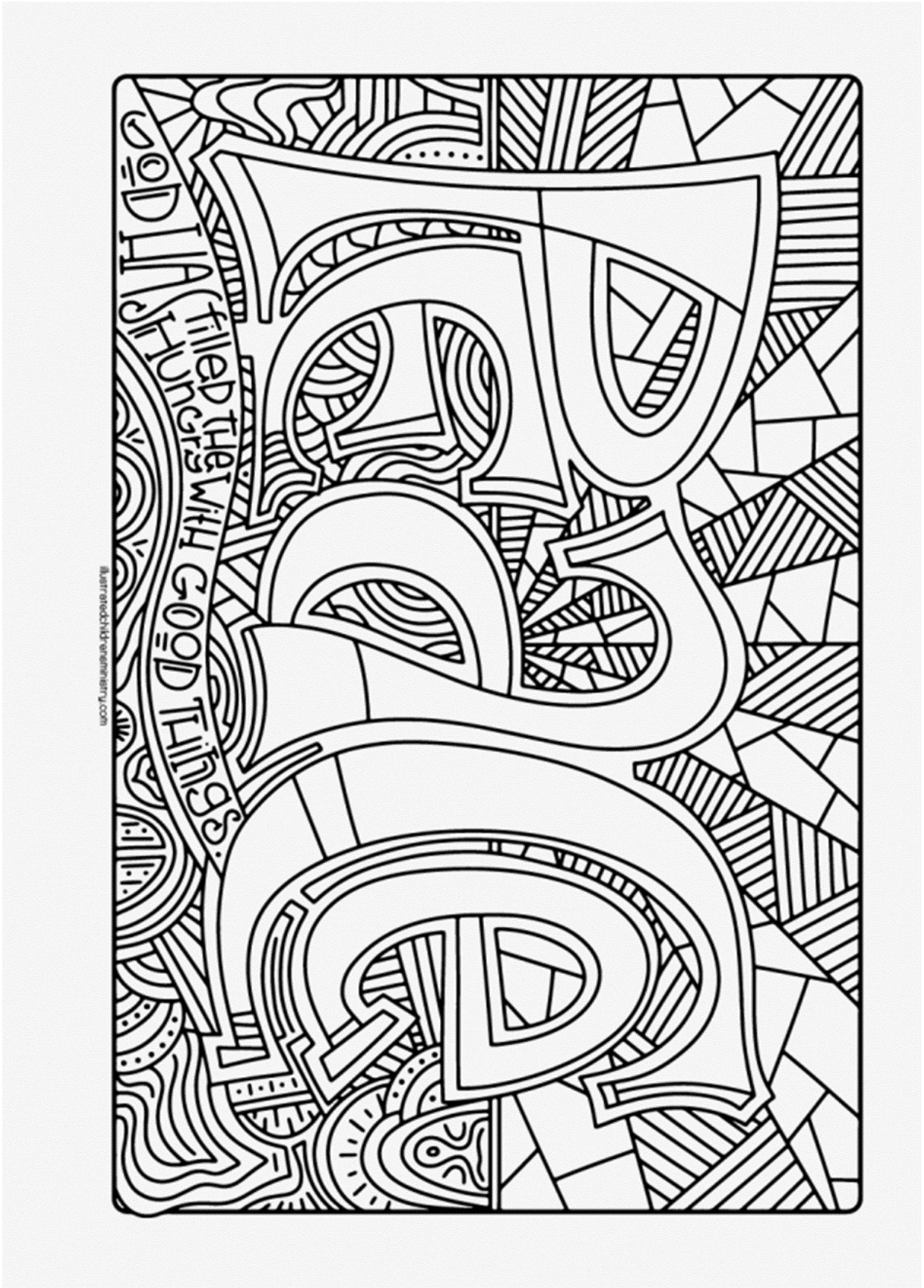


### A TRIP TO TOWN?



The Belfairs Methodist Church coach trip to London and the Houses of Parliament took place on 15th March. The sum of £450 was raised for church funds.

Jan Andrews



A colouring page for you supplied by Anthea

## **Thank you Anthea!**

Last month Anthea Meek thanked Sylvia Smith for her service over many years as a Pastoral Visitor. In my capacity as one of Anthea's colleagues on the Leadership Team, Flower Fairy rota, coffee/tombola rota and church-decorating-for-special-events rota it is now my turn!

I would like to record the thanks of the Leadership Team and the members and affiliates of the church in general, who have enjoyed Anthea's musical contributions to our life at Belfairs. Not only is Anthea now our longest serving church member, she has been playing for us for much of her adult life.

In order to write this article I have returned to the Hundred Years of History that Tina Gowers compiled for us to coincide the Belfairs Methodist Church's centenary in 2011. Anthea's account of her life at Belfairs "through the ages" is a history lesson in itself. Anthea's affiliation to Belfairs started at the age of three when she joined the junior Sunday School: she mentions two services on Sunday's - plus an afternoon Sunday School - with anniversaries when everyone dressed in white. There's scary Sunday School teachers and not daring to ask what tabernacles were, thinking perhaps it might be a rude word! There's best clothes, white gloves, youth club and becoming a Sunday School Teacher at the age of 17.

Around that age, Anthea started playing the organ occasionally - this was just after her dad had physically installed a new organ - located in those days where our own choir currently sings from. There was a choir at every service, sung Amens and once some very squeaky, moaning organ pipes with "hankies" providing a solution.....

Anthea left home to go to college, training as a music teacher, at the age of 18. She returned to Belfairs with her own family some 20 years later. In the meantime she had taught in East London and sang for the BBC Singers choir. Her professional career culminated as Head Teacher at Thorpe Dene Primary School.

Anthea has played for the Parade services for many, many years, along with special services and acting as a reserve musician when necessary. She reluctantly decided to bow out of playing for church services earlier this year.

Methodism has always had caring for others at its heart and Anthea continues to lead, and care for, our Belfairs team of Pastoral Visitors. So thank you Anthea for all your dedication from all of your friends - and family - Belfairs. We miss you being one of our musicians, but it's good to have you down in the congregation with us instead!

**Jan Andrews**

**Tina Gowers' book "One Hundred Years of History 1911-2011" is an informative and entertaining book. Lulu.com has several versions/prices - or ask to see my copy!!**



**COFFEE MORNING**



**and  
'Plant Sale'**

**Saturday 4th May  
10a.m. to mid-day.**

Dancing Daffodils Wordsworth wrote a poem much loved and so often quoted how wandering he came upon a crowd of spring flowers dancing

They could have been some snowdrops or maybe even crocus  
but we all know the famous lines revealed  
'twas daffodils that entranced him .

And to me daffodils seem special, their colour bright and hopeful,  
tall, erect and neat of face ,  
And in my treasured memories they have a special place .

My second daughter was born in March bringing happiness quite overwhelming.  
As I cradled her tiny form I saw daffodils on a distant hill , dancing .

The years went by then she too was wed in Springtime and I'm remembering  
the narrow lanes towards the tiny church were lined with daffodils dancing.

Yesterday a granddaughter, much loved and young and caring  
gave me some daffodils she'd picked and then ran off laughing and dancing.

Supplied by Pat Crabb

### **A.C.T.I.O.N.**

#### **Afternoon Club On Thursday In Our Neighbourhood**

This year A.C.T.I.O.N. started with a wonderful insight of Italy which was presented by Phil Gladman. By putting loads of pictures on the projector screen in the foyer, and telling us about all the locations he had visited we almost felt we were there. Phil brought along loads of souvenirs for us all to admire as well as literature. It was a wonderful afternoon and we thank Phil for an entertaining afternoon.

In February Mike Spaul came along telling us the Roger Whittaker Story. With the aid of the projector in the foyer, he was able to show many pictures. Mike told us that he met Roger many years ago and had always been a great fan of his country and western music. And what a treat it was to have Mike play the guitar and sing Roger Whittaker music. Thank you Mike for giving us all fabulous time and letting us join in the singing.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 25th April @ 2pm. All ladies and gentlemen are welcome for a Social time in Friendship and Fellowship.

Neeltje Charles

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

12-18 May

Help Christian Aid push back Poverty with your generous donations. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive.

Aline Nibogora, a determined mother in BURUNDI was pushed to the brink of survival by poverty. She suffered abuse at the hands of her violent husband and was forced to flee. He then turned the community against her. Alina lost almost everything. She separated from her children and had to sleep on the streets. 'People forget that I was human,' she told Christian Aid worker. 'I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine.' Aline's situation is not unique. BURUNDI is one of the poorest countries in the world. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges families face and now malnutrition and poverty affect more than 70% of the population putting them on the edge of survival. In the areas where our Christian Aid workers work, people without their own small business or income often head out on an empty stomach each morning to look for casual work to buy food for the evening. Most only eat once a day. Coming back from the edge isn't easy when food is scarce, disease prevalent and jobs hard to come by.

But there is HOPE!!

We can help through Christian Aid to help fund the training that enables communities like Aline's to form a Village Saving and Loans Association, that will support people to grow food, buy medicine and improve their living conditions. Together, we can help ensure that more people in BURUNDI get the skills and knowledge they need to fulfill their ambitions and hopes. We can help families plan for a better future that they'll build together.

Please be generous during CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Neeltje Charles



**Belfairs Methodist Church  
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SS9 4NG**



# **CHRISTIAN AID BRUNCH**

**Sat 18th May  
10 - 12 noon**

## GIRLS' NAMES

1. She launched 1000 ships. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Make a legal claim. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jewel: degree. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Aunt at the fair. \_\_\_\_\_
5. She went to Wonderland. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Batter Chinese food. \_\_\_\_\_
7. A colour in the spectrum. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Be quiet! sounds very prompt. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Part of a watering can. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Amble around. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Punch's long suffering wife. \_\_\_\_\_
12. One of 7 virtues. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Goddess of hunting. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Green or black fruit. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Learner: inside: American lawyer. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Part of the eye. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Spinning machine. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Mr Robert's daughter. \_\_\_\_\_
19. Vehicle : O: \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_
20. A twisted road. \_\_\_\_\_

Supplied by Anthea Meek

The answers will be available in next months newsletter

## April birthdays

For all of you who celebrate birthday/anniversaries, or remember loved ones during this month, the following is for you, although of course everyone can read it!

**A** fresh each Day, God give you his blessing

**P** lace all that has been in God's hands

**R** icher may you be through the gifts of God

**I** n your growing and your learning

**L** et the wisdom of God guide you,

Ed.



Please remember you are free to put your prayer concerns on the board at the back of the church. If it is not for you, please make sure you have the named persons consent .

Please add your name and date to the request on the reverse of the white cards provided which are by the board. These will be removed after two months, but can be updated if necessary  
(please make sure you re-date the update).

If you have any questions or queries, please speak to Sue.



When something bad happens, you have these choices.  
You can either let it define you,  
Let it destroy you or  
you can let it strengthen you.

The fastest thing on earth is prayer, because it reaches God before  
you even speak the words.

When you become frustrated with older people because of  
what they cannot do, think how frustrated they must feel  
because they can no longer do it.

Breathtaking view of the milky way



Seen from Mars



God is still writing your story,  
Quit trying to steal the pen.  
Trust the author.

Don't close the book when bad things happen in your life,  
Just turn the page and begin a new chapter.

Every time you get upset at something,  
Ask yourself if you were to die tomorrow,  
Was it worth wasting your time being angry.

When you see something beautiful in someone, tell them.  
It may take a second to say, but for them it could last a life time.

The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen  
or even heard but must be felt with the heart,

Don't look back with regret, Look forward with hope.

