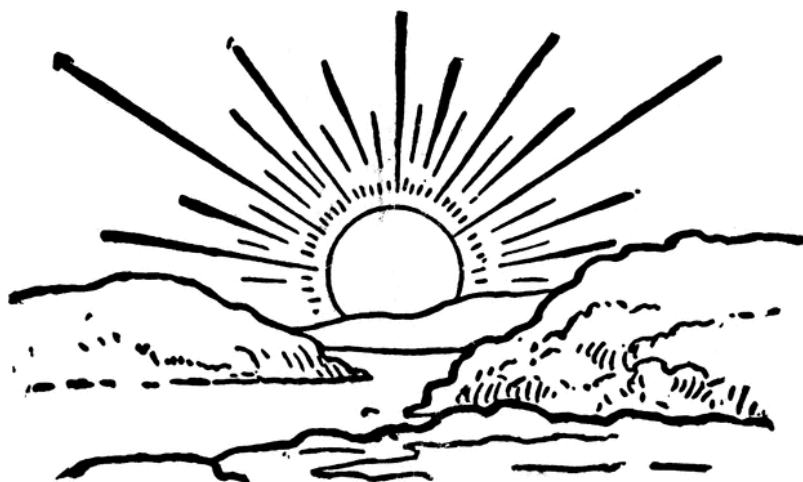


CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH  
and  
CAVERSHAM METHODIST CHURCH

**NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL – MAY 2018**



*Christ is risen – hallelujah*

Volume 44 No 3

**MINISTERIAL TEAM**

**Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Team Leader - 0118 947 2223**

**Rev'd David Jenkins – 0118 327 1592**

**Rev'd Dr John Ogden**

**Website: [www.cavhmc.org.uk](http://www.cavhmc.org.uk)**

**Our Minister's Letter**

Dear Friends,

Some years ago, a minister I knew was diagnosed with a terminal illness. He was in his 50s, and towards the end, he was discharged from hospital. Back at home, he asked for his address book and the phone, and proceeded to call all his friends. To each, he simply said: "This is Paul. Alleluia! Christ is risen!" Not long afterwards, he died.

In the ancient graveyard next to Iona Abbey, Rèilig Odhrain, legend says that many of the ancient kings of Scotland, Ireland, France and Norway are buried, including, it's believed, Macbeth and Duncan. But there are more recent ones, too. One of the gravestones is for Bruce Kenrick, a radical minister whose achievements included founding the organisation Shelter. His tombstone reads: "Here lies all that could die of Bruce Kenrick."

After Billy Graham's death recently, people recalled him saying years ago, "Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address."

These snapshots speak to me of the transformative nature of faith in the risen Christ. These three men, and countless other Christian people, knew that death was not a tragic end. *But the resurrection transformed their lives and how they lived, as well as how they died.* Our Christian faith is not a moral code to live by, or the honouring of an inspirational hero. Nor is it a means of escape from the pain and hurt of the world, or "pie in the sky when you die". The truth that Jesus Christ was raised from death and lives now, changes *everything*. The apostle Paul put it like this:

"If there's no resurrection, there's no living Christ. And face it—if there's no resurrection for Christ, everything we've told you is smoke and mirrors, and everything you've staked your life on is smoke and mirrors. Not only that, but we would be guilty of telling a string of barefaced lies about God, all these affidavits we passed on to you verifying that God raised up Christ—sheer fabrications, if there's no resurrection." (*1 Corinthians 15: 14-15, The Message*)

If it's true, then Jesus was who he said he was. If it's true, evil has been disarmed, the Holy Spirit is at work in all the world, the whole of life has meaning, and we are called into sharing in God's mission of healing and transforming the world.

"Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project, not to snatch people away from earth to heaven, but to colonise earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about." (*Tom Wright*)

May we live and die as Easter People. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Shalom,**

**Jenny**



**DAVID JENKINS IN CONCERT  
'DREAMING DREAMS'  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7 p.m.  
with  
Rachel Scarlett (Soprano and Flautist)  
Renato Fonseca (Flautist)  
and  
Mystery guest artistes  
REFRESHMENTS  
£5.00  
Pay at the door**

## **PASTORAL NEWS FROM CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS**

Sadly, in recent times we have had to say farewell and pay tribute to three wonderful gentlemen – all of whom were stalwarts of Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

Firstly to **Derek Richings** whose tribute was included in our last Newsletter and now **Jim Pilgrim** and **Tom Chadwick**

We are also sad to record the deaths of **Clarice Lott**, a long-time member of our church – always cheerful and willing to help when she was well. **Myrtle Moorey** who died at the age of 102. Such a charming and elegant lady. At our Centenary Service Myrtle – being our oldest member – cut the anniversary cake with Lucy Dawson – the then youngest member (see photograph below) **Vera Young** is now a resident at The Willows Intermediate Residential Care Home awaiting assessment.

**Simeon Beaumont** is home after a spell in hospital.

On a happier note **Matthew England (Janet Offord's grandson)** and **Danielle Matejka** are to be married at Brighton Road Baptist Church, Horsham on 24<sup>th</sup> March - this will be 'past history' by the time this newsletter is published!

## **PASTORAL NEWS FROM GOSBROOK ROAD**

On 7th February **Hazel New's husband – Harry** - sadly passed away after a long illness. We send our sympathy and prayers to Hazel and family at this sad time.

**Kathleen Barren**, is now home from hospital. **Joyce Haines** injured her shoulder in a fall. Please remember **Kathleen and Joyce** in your prayers, also our housebound friends **Barbara Tucker and Gwenda Buckledee**.

## TRIBUTE TO JIM PILGRIM

23rd June 1924 - 29th December 2017



From its inception, for 40 years, Jim was the Secretary and Treasurer of the Caversham Bridge Christian Newspaper.

Jim was registered as Herbert James Pilgrim. He was born in Reading and educated at Katesgrove Infants School, E P Collier and Reading Grammar School.

As a lad, he joined the Scout Troop at Caversham Baptist Church where he earned his King's Scout Badge. However he was denied the opportunity to receive the award from King George VI at Windsor due to the outbreak of the Second World War. As a Scout he helped with the evacuees as they arrived at Reading Station. He was also a Boy Scout Messenger for the ARP Wardens based in Whitley Street.

When he left school his ambition was to train as a surgeon but money was not available for further education. Instead he took a temporary job as a clerk working for the forerunner of the National Health Service whilst waiting for an opening with the GPO (now BT) to be taken on as a 'Youth in Training'. He was trained on teleprinter maintenance and helped to install and maintain the teleprinters at Greenham Common for the Americans.

Shortly after completing his training, he was handed an envelope with a travel warrant for a single ticket to Paddington with instructions of where to report. Having signed the Official Secrets Act, two weeks later, he was given another sealed envelope and travel warrant. This time it was from Euston Station to Bletchley. At Bletchley Park he worked on the maintenance of various teleprinters and coding machines. On one occasion he was presented with a machine in a box that had been recovered from a sunken submarine. It was full of sand and the sea water had started to corrode the contents. He was told to try and clean it up and get it working. After a week he was successful. In later years Jim concluded that he had probably been working on an Enigma Machine.

Leaving Bletchley, Jim returned to London continuing to work on maintaining equipment which often took him to the Foreign Office and to other sensitive areas, which he was unable to talk about for 50 years!

He met his future wife Margaret, the sister of a fellow Scout, and they were married at the Baptist Church on a wet Boxing Day in 1945. Their married life began in Battersea where their first daughter Sue was born. After returning to Reading, their second daughter Gill arrived.

Jim had a reputation for wanting tasks completed efficiently and accurately and he gained the nickname of 'Instant Jim'.

In 1958, Jim and the family moved into the house on the corner of Highmoor and Ilkley Road. The house was in need of serious renovation. Jim rewired, installed central heating and redecorated it. Then he tackled the challenge of the overgrown garden! His colourful front garden gave pleasure to all who passed by.

His other achievements included being Scoutmaster at the Baptist Church, a Church Deacon and with Margaret's help, he edited and printed the Church Magazine and he was also on the committee of Abbeyfield Housing Association when they had a house in St. Peter's Avenue.

When Margaret's mobility deteriorated they joined and became valued members of the congregation at Caversham Heights Methodist Church where Jim remained until his death.

There is so much more we could learn about Jim, a practical Christian, a Good Samaritan, a man of principles. He disliked the limelight but had a hidden sense of humour.

Following Margaret's death in 2009, Jim remained fiercely independent, continuing to care for himself, cooking his own meals and tending his garden.

**An incredible man. It was a privilege to be his Pastoral Visitor.**

**Janet Offord**

### **Separated families update – real progress!**

**“STOP PRESS”** at the end of my article in the February and March Newsletter referred to a meeting scheduled for 24 January. This did, indeed, take place. Michael Lewkowicz from Families Need Fathers and I met with people from the Child Maintenance policy and strategy team and analysts. The focus of the meeting was the work that THEY had been doing since last July on MY evidence and analysis of the problems of unaffordable child maintenance payments. The discussion started with the statement

**“THERE IS NO DISPUTE THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM.”**

Indeed! - I have often used the phrase **“The facts are indisputable”** in my evidence. Their work (of course) confirms the analysis that I had done and they have also done their own modelling - building on my approach.

**This is an official acknowledgement by government that a problem exists.**

We are allowed to share that acknowledgement but they would appreciate us adding that they (the DWP) are working on a solution.

This acknowledgement is real progress. However, there are some notes of caution:

- The DWP accepts that there is a problem BUT query its scale.
- I don't think they fully understand the nature of the problems. (They are focussing on the interaction of Universal Credit and Child Maintenance but that is a symptom of the problems, not the cause. Many parents not on Universal Credit have difficulty in paying the assessed amounts.)
- They say that introducing primary legislation would be a problem at the moment.

Nevertheless, the tone of the meeting was one of cooperation and I will try to build on that. Michael and I have been sent information on the different strands of work that they intend to take forward to help them build up evidence and understanding. They are also investigating what can be done within the current legislation.

I would appreciate your prayers:

- For all those in the DWP involved in this work, that they will be given increased wisdom, understanding and compassion.
- For politicians of all parties, that they see the human beings behind the statistics and work together towards a just and equitable solution.

For the parents and children suffering under the current flawed legislation, that they may be given comfort and strength to cope with their present difficulties and hope for a better future. (If you know of any such parents, please encourage them to tell their MP and to write to the new Minister, Kit Malthouse. Department of Work and Pensions, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA

***Christine Dugdale, 5 March 2018***

### **TRIBUTE TO TOM CHADWICK**

1929 - 2018



Born in Wheelton, near Chorley in Lancashire, Tom was a scientist by degree and training. He worked as a research scientist in various organisations before marrying Dorothy in August 1958. They lived in Blackburn, Lancashire where he worked as a lecturer at Blackburn College of Technology and whilst there, he wrote and published 3 Chemistry text books for A level students.

They moved to Australia with their three children John, Anne and Philip. They lived in Victoria and then Melbourne until the early 70's. On their return to U.K. Tom got a job at a private girls school (St Felix School) in Southwold, Suffolk. In 1976 Tom took a job at Reading College of Technology in the Building Science Department and they moved to Caversham where they joined, and became very active members of Caversham Heights Methodist Church.

Tom enjoyed drawing maps when they went on holiday to illustrate where they had been and he also kept a daily diary for many years. It had been his intention to write his life story but he 'put it on the back burner' after Dorothy died. Anne intends to do so on his behalf.

He had been learning German and had enjoyed walking and could often be seen with Dorothy walking into Caversham from Emmer Green where they bought their last house. Tom was also an expert jam maker with fruit from his beloved garden and for many years had his own 'produce stall' at Caversham Heights Church Autumn fairs. It always sold out!

He was a very independent man and found it difficult as time went by to accept the need for a cleaner, help with cooking and his personal care.

Tom was 'a quiet man' with a very strong Christian belief. When his daughter Anne visited him in hospital she asked him if he was afraid of dying – his response a very firm “NO”

I have a personal memory of Tom and Dorothy on their knees in one of the small rooms at Caversham Heights -struggling to assemble old camp beds as the church was hosting a young brass band which was spending the weekend at the church.

**Janet Offord**

#### **In conclusion – Helen Lambert writes:**

For many years, Tom was an active committee member of the Caversham and District Residents' Association (CADRA). He led the campaign to recruit an increased membership and was Secretary until the year 2000. When Derek Bartlett moved away from Caversham at the start of 2004, Tom ably stepped in as Chair and wrote columns for the Caversham Bridge under the name "Bystander." *Kind, courteous, always considerate of others and too often self-effacing, he was a true gentleman.* **He will be greatly missed.**

### **FROM OUR CHURCH LIBRARIAN**

As I write this 'The Beast from the East' is raging outside, yet in this comfortable and warm sitting room I am at peace. I have a cosy armchair and a good book to review, what more do I need?

Troubles from outside come to us all. In this book- '**Seasoned by Seasons. Flourishing in life's experiences**' by Michael Mitton – BRF 2017, we are taught a lot through the natural world and its seasons.

Beginning with **Autumn**, Michael Mitton calls it a season for creating space. The leaves fall from the trees and are converted into humus which creates soil for new growth. He writes of various emotions including fear, rejection, change and disturbance and links them with well known bible characters who have been guided by God.

After this **Winter** is the season of discovery, then **Spring** is the season of birthing. Finally **Summer** is a season of flourishing – holidays, release, abundance and salvation are some of the highlights in the good sunny weather

Each sub-chapter is no more than four pages long. Perhaps you are able to look at just one or two which affect you most – or read the whole lot.

It is a very easy read (I completed it in about 3 hours) but there is much to ponder more deeply. It contains help for us all – young, old and in between.

Honestly, I recommend book to you – try it.

**Meryl Beek**

### **MAKING OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD FRIENDLIER**

#### **Pledge cards were launched on February 11th!**

#### **What are the pledge cards?**

These are small credit card sized cards available at the back of both our churches. On them is written a pledge you take for yourself which you sign and keep as a reminder

.....maybe in your purse or wallet. You then take it home – perhaps put it on your notice board - and start acting on it.

The pledge maybe one of the following:

**I resolve to:**

- start conversations with people I wouldn't normally talk to
- accompany someone to a film/ club/ concert/ garden centre
- become a volunteer in a local voluntary organisation
- speak or telephone our neighbours or relatives regularly
- try to do a random act of kindness every day
- or you may choose to write one yourself

These acts of kindness will probably **not** be targeted at someone you perceive as lonely; they will be random and you don't know where they will land or where they will lead.

**Why this idea?**

**Loneliness** has been identified nationally as a cause of great concern, and major contributor to ill health.

As part of the **Partnership for Missional Church (PMC)** process to discern what God's mission is for our church, we met at St Barnabas, and discerned that loneliness was to be our focus of our mission.

We discovered that the **Caversham, Thameside and Mapledurham (CTM)** parish of St Peter's, St John's and St Margaret's had come up with the same focus, and so we formed a joint Anglican-Methodist Missional Innovations Team (MIT for short). Amongst us, by 'God-incidence', it turned out that we had the skills and experience we would need.

We did not feel comfortable identifying any individual or group as 'lonely'.

(Our research and our experience informed us that people do not want to be labelled as such.)

It was not up to us to define people in certain circumstances as lonely, as people in identical situations feel differently. It is something that can affect people of any age or in any situation, and research shows that it is not predominantly the elderly.

People may live on their own but not feel at all lonely, they might live with someone else and feel desperately lonely.

They might be elderly, but could well be young and recently moved to the area, they might have just had a baby and missing work colleagues, or they might be middle aged and have just lost their job or their partner.

Bearing that in mind, we looked at what could we do in the face of this enormous need. Rather than a few people setting up something that might be difficult to sustain, we were increasingly drawn to the idea of involving as many people as possible each doing something very small, which added together could make a big difference. That led to the idea of pledge cards.

**I would but...**



Many of you already spend a lot of time helping neighbours friends or family, some of you are weary and don't want to make big commitments, but the joy of this idea, is that it is personal and unique to you and your situation.

You may already smile at passing strangers.

You may already start conversations with people on the bus.

You may already let another car in in traffic.

You may forgive poor driving rather than hoot at them

You may already phone the difficult relative on a regular basis.

You may already acknowledge a person sitting on the pavement in town (or you may pass by embarrassed that you know giving money is not appropriate but you don't know what to do),

but even if you already do some of these things maybe you can be on the lookout for more opportunities to do a random act of kindness

### **What if I resolve to do something and then don't do it?**

No-one is going to check up on you. You will not be answerable to anyone - it is just between you and maybe God.

This is a pilot project in 5 local churches and the library so we will keep a note of which cards are proving popular and if the idea works our aim will be to spread it further afield. Feedback about what happened will of course help us decide if the idea is working but it is not compulsory. For example someone decided to do more than smile at someone as they passed a bus stop they said "hello" and "how are you?" After a few minutes chat the other person said "you are the first person I have spoken to for 24 hours".

The idea is, if everyone tries to do some small act of kindness over and above what they already do, the level of friendliness and kindness in our neighbourhood could increase and loneliness decrease.

### **Is there anything else I could do about loneliness?**

**Caversham Champions to end loneliness** is a group of individuals from churches and other organisations brought together by Reading Voluntary Action. We meet regularly and welcome new members. Currently we are focusing on the pledge cards and Coffee Companions.

### **Why is this a pilot project?**

We want to see if it works- if church members can't do it who can?

We want to see if the suggestions we have made are the right ones?

It will be interesting to hear stories of where it has led.

We think it is something everyone could try, whether they are feeling full of the joys of spring, or lonely.

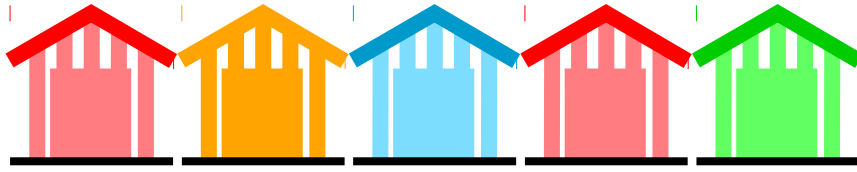
We hope and pray it might result in a friendlier atmosphere, which could lead to meaningful conversations, and from it may emerge some idea of future work to address loneliness.

We will report to the Caversham Champions to end Loneliness group as to how the pilot has gone and with our partners in the community, see if we can spread it further through Caversham and Emmer Green.

It will only work with your encouragement, your involvement and your prayers.

***Lesley Boardley and the MIT team: Ken Macrae,***

## *A Day on Holiday*



### **A DAY ON HOLIDAY**

This year's new look Holiday at Home is on Wednesday May 30th from 10.00am to 3.30pm and includes lunch and afternoon tea.

As usual there will be a wide range of activities and crafts.

You can just turn up on the day (by 10.30). Bring an emergency contact number with you. Cost £6.

If you need help with transport ring Janet on 947 0903

### **I'M FINE**

There's nothing whatever the matter with me,  
I'm just as healthy as I can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees,  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin –  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

I think my liver is out of whack,  
And I have a terrible pain in my back.  
My hearing's poor and my eyes are dim –  
Most everything seems to be out of trim.  
The way I stagger sure is a crime  
I'm likely to fall most any time  
But, all things considered, I'm feeling fine.

Arch supports I have on both feet  
Or I wouldn't be able to walk down the street,  
My fingers are ugly, stiff in the joints,  
My nails are impossible to keep in points.  
My complexion is bad, due to dry skin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Now the moral is – as the tale we unfold –  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say – "I'm fine" with a grin  
Than to tell everyone of the shape we are in.

*Mai Sherman`*

### **FOLLOWING THE MASS SCHOOL SHOOTING IN AMERICA**

#### **A TEACHER WROTE THIS:**

"Today was really hard for me. Today was the first time I had to teach the day after a mass school shooting," Schimmoeller wrote. "I was dreading one specific question. Soon after class began, a freshman asked me the question I had been dreading since I had heard about the tragedy in Florida.

'Mrs. Schimmoeller,' she asked. 'What will we do if a shooter comes in your room?'"

This is 24-year-old Schimmoeller's first year of teaching, and she has more considerations than others when it comes to active shooter drills in her classroom: Schimmoeller was born with cerebral palsy and she uses a wheelchair.

Her students are familiar with the day-to-day implications of her condition, she told TODAY Parents. "I begin on the first day by talking about my disability," she said. "I tell them that they may be asked to assist me in the classroom — by passing out papers or writing on the board for me — and I allow them to ask me any questions they want to.

"However, last Friday was the first time that I had to share my limitations in terms of protecting them."

When her student asked what they should do in case of an attack, Schimmoeller said she felt "a bolt of fear and sadness run through me. I definitely don't have all the answers, but I want them to feel safe in my classroom."

On Facebook, Schimmoeller wrote that she told the students, "I want you to know that I care deeply about each and every one of you and that I will do everything I can to protect you. But being in a wheelchair, I will not be able to protect you the way an able-bodied teacher will. And if there is a chance for you to escape, I want you to go. Do not worry about me. Your safety is my number one priority."

Her students had other plans. "Slowly, quietly, as the words I had said sunk in, another student raised their hand," Schimmoeller wrote.

"She said, 'Mrs. Schimmoeller, we already talked about it. If anything happens, we are going to carry you.'"

***(It brought tears to my eyes – Ed)***

## **DIARY DATES FOR APRIL-MAY**

### **CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS APRIL**



**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> - Easter Day**  
**Sunrise Service – Holy Communion – in Macraes' garden**  
**Led by Rev'd Jenny Dowding**

Followed by  
Easter Breakfast in church hall  
10.30 – Rev'd Dr. James Mather – Holy Communion  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April – David Jenkins in Concert at Gosbrook Road  
(see this newsletter for full details)**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd David Jenkins  
3 p.m. Circuit Service - St Andrew's  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding  
3 p.m. Circuit Service at Emmanuel  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Dr Ruth Midcalf  
6.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Holy Communion

**MAY**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

9 a.m. Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Holy Communion  
10.30 Mr Symon Turner  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Holy Communion  
6.30 Rev'd Doctor James Mather

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost**

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Andrew Moffoot  
6.30 – Rev'd David Jenkins – Holy Communion

**GOSBROOK ROAD  
APRIL**



**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Easter Day**

**Easter Breakfast**

10.30 – Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Holy Communion  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 – Rev'd David Jenkins  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April – David Jenkins in Concert  
(see this newsletter for full details)**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding  
3 p.m. Circuit Service – St Andrews

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd David Jenkins  
3 p.m. Circuit Service – Emmanuel  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 REVELATION  
6.30 At Caversham Heights – Rev'd Jenny Dowding  
Holy Communion

**MAY**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd Jenny Dowding – Holy Communion  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 – Rev'd Chris Evans  
6.30 at Caversham Heights - Rev'd Doctor James Mather

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> - Pentecost**

10.30 - Rev'd Doctor James Mather  
NO 6.30 SERVICE

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

10.30 Rev'd David Jenkins  
6.30 at Caversham Heights Rev'd David Jenkins –  
Holy Communion

***Jesus the first and last***

First light, first thought – Jesus, be with me  
I do not go into this day alone.  
Words, tasks, challenges – Jesus guide me;  
I look to you for direction, wisdom, compassion.  
Doubts, tears, stumbles – Jesus uphold me;  
I am weak but you are strong.  
Joys, laughter, opportunities – Jesus bless me;  
I am thankful for your grace.  
Family, friends, neighbours – Jesus touch them;  
I name each one before you.  
Last light, last thought – Jesus, be with me;  
I hold on to you in the long reaches of the night.  
Amen

***Jill Baker – Vice-President of the British Methodist Conference – 2017/2018***

**Deadline date for articles for JUNE/JULY Newsletter is 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018**