

# THE INDICATOR

*Beckenham Methodist Church*



*A Christ Centred Community Church*  
*Spring 2025*

## **Easter, spring, bunnies and chocolate eggs**

I am looking forward to spring. I long for the time that the daffodils shine their lights across the banks and pathways, heralding ever-so-slightly warmer weather. It is also time for Easter, a bit later than usual this year, but set according to Passover and the phases of the moon.

It's sadly also a time for a slew of nonsense to crop up, usually on social media, about the supposed pagan origins of Easter. People in tweed jackets with elbow patches and bad hair speak earnestly about how early Christians 'stole' the spring equinox, adopted the ideas behind pagan goddess Eastre and a Roman god to craft the whole idea of virgin birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. I have heard these assertions for many years now, but they are false. As I was often reminded when studying statistics, 'Correlation does not imply Causation'. Just because there are correlations in understanding between different cultures, does not mean that the Christian church took their ideas from other places.

The Christian story of these ideas is a direct product of the events surrounding the death and crucifixion of Jesus. They rely on the re-interpretation of Old Testament scripture to add flesh to their theological bones, so that the letters of Paul in this regard (particularly 1 Corinthians 15, written about 20 years after the death of Jesus) refer to resurrection in the context of the witness of the apostles and to the Jewish scriptures, and not with any reference to other cultures. While the stories of death and resurrection may not be unique to our faith, they do not rely on other sources for their inclusion. These stories are part of the reported witness of the apostles and even the witness of Paul, who claimed to have met with the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Our story of resurrection at the first Easter is not rooted in the myth of a cultural god, but based on the witness of people who claimed to have seen, walked with, eaten with and talked with a risen Jesus. None of this is easy, or even possible to explain. Yet the story remains deeply attractive, even today. Death is the final, great unknown in a world where so much has been quantified and explained; where the fog of

superstition has been lifted off so many of the old, deep fears. The story of the man who conquered death still holds the power to amaze and attract. It is made all the more wonderful when we are invited to be part of his story, to become a conqueror of death along with the risen Christ.

So, back to the daffodils ... as we see them, we know that winter's grip is weakening, and that the inevitability of spring will soon sing its symphony of new life to the world. So too may hope be rekindled in our hearts. Soon, we will again sing hymns which declare 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' All the rest - the eggs, the hats, the chicks, the bunnies – only add a bit of sparkle to the story and take nothing away from the awesomeness of it, nor do they detract from the deep love inherent in the invitation to be part of that victory.

Wishing you all a blessed Easter.

*Duncan*

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### **EDITORS' NOTE**



We hope you find this Spring edition of The Indicator of interest. We wish to thank Sarah very much indeed for all the help she willingly gives us with the production each Quarter. We will always be pleased to receive articles or suggestions for the future. Thank you.

*Valerie and Christine*

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### **Future dates to note - more details later in the year**

28 September - Church Anniversary and Gift Day

12 October - Harvest Sunday

## **PRAYER TIME**



**“What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer”**

Prayer is, indeed, a privilege – a time when we can be quiet before God. When we can gather and know his peace before Sunday worship.

Do come and join us, be a part of the group and experience the peace and power of prayer for yourself.

*Valerie*

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## **FUND FOR HUMAN NEED**



The work of FHN goes on and many ‘awards’ are made, to individuals and through various agencies to individuals, where they are most needed.

This is vital work to those in desperate need and we are part of it as we continue to give little donations for our tea, coffee and biscuits each Sunday after service. Thank you to all those involved.

You may remember that in the year 2023 – 2024 we raised £1034.23. Let’s equal that or raise even more!

*Valerie*

## **ECO CHURCH – AN UPDATE : FEBRUARY 2025**

### **The broader picture**

The year 2024 was not a good one from the climate change point of view. Elections in the UK, US and elsewhere have resulted in governments who have watered down eco commitments in the face of solid evidence that climate change is real. Witness the very severe floods, fires and hurricane type events which have had a huge economic impact. Despite these political setbacks, there is a lot of good work that is continuing to find technical ways to mitigate the effects of climate change (such as carbon dioxide capture improving battery storage).

It is ironic that, though globally temperatures have continued to rise, to many of us in the UK it felt that 2024 was a relatively cool year. Just one of the quirks of the changing climate.

Despite these global issues, we can influence what is going on by working together. Here are some current initiatives that Beckenham Methodist Church are pursuing.

### **Eco Church – Silver Award**

Last year we gained an A Rocha Eco Church Bronze Award and we have been working out how we can progress to the Silver Award. There are around 100 challenges divided into 5 categories. We have to meet silver status in each of the five categories. We have achieved silver in two of the categories but in the three others we have quite a bit of work to do. They are : -

- Land and Nature : encouraging bio-diversity
- Community and Global Engagement : challenges that support community action
- Lifestyle : challenges that support lifestyle changes.



If you would like to know more about these challenges, please contact David Bishop for more information. We would always welcome more help in the quest to achieve the remaining challenges.

Finally we can report progress with the installation of **photo voltaic solar panels** on two of the hall roofs. We have accepted a proposal from a firm called Prostar Energy to install a system consisting of 30 panels spread across the Bevington Hall roof and the newly refurbished flat roof of the Epworth Room. The system should reduce our electricity bill significantly. The savings come from not having to import electricity when our power needs are met by the panels and the payments we receive when we export electricity to the grid when the panels are generating more than we need. The predicted payback period for this investment is 7 years but this figure depends on how much electricity prices change over the next few years.

Hopefully we might see the installation completed in 2025 but various permissions will be needed including planning permission from Bromley Council, permission from the central Methodist Property Board and a check that the local electricity network is able to accept the electricity we export.

*David B, February 2025*

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## **LIVING WELL EASTER APPEAL**

Alongside our regular collections, we will be collecting especially on Sunday, 6th April which will enable goods to be delivered and distributed before Easter. Items needed are:

Tinned Ham / Corned Beef / Salmon / Veg / Fruit / Soup  
UHT Milk, Tea Bags, Coffee, Hot Chocolate

Jam / Marmalade, Rice Pudding / Custard, Biscuits & Chocolates  
Cereal, Pasta

Toilet Roll, Shampoo, Shower Gel



# SENsational Church

## A new community

Fun Fellowship Crafts Music  
Refreshments Dance Play

Sensory Room Prayer Tent  
Chat & Chill

Singing & Signing

Creative Worship

Venue: **Bromley Methodist Church, BR1 1SB (North St.)**

Time: **2-4pm**

Sundays: **16 March**

**22 June 16 November**

**for all ages and abilities**

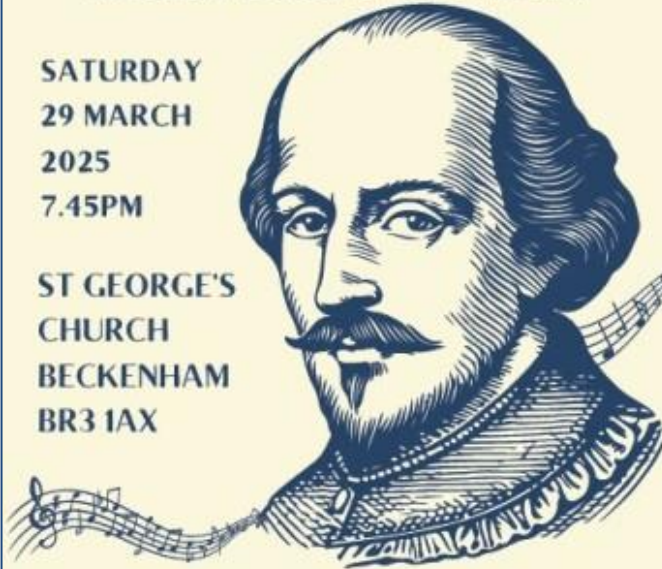
To register, please email: [SENsationalchurch@proton.me](mailto:SENsationalchurch@proton.me)  
or leave a message via: **020 8313 1029**



THE SOUTH LONDON SINGERS PRESENT

SATURDAY  
29 MARCH  
2025  
7.45PM

ST GEORGE'S  
CHURCH  
BECKENHAM  
BR3 1AX



**SONNETS & SONG**  
A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF SHAKESPEARE  
THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Join us for an evening of choral arrangements and readings of Shakespearean texts, with works by Vaughan Williams, Shearing, Rutter and more  
Director: Christopher Braime | Accompanist: Jack Stone

GENERAL ADMISSION £15 | BOOK TICKETS AT [SOUTHLONDONSINGERS.ORG.UK](http://SOUTHLONDONSINGERS.ORG.UK)  
South London Singers | Registered Charity No. 800934

## MUSICAL NOTES BY DJ

The South London Singers are delighted to introduce their new Director, Christopher Braime, conducting his first concert with the choir on Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> at St. George's Church, Beckenham at 7.45pm. The theme is "sonnets and song" as we celebrate the genius of William Shakespeare in words and music. The eagle-eyed may recall the choir planning a similar concert in the first season with their previous Director which unfortunately fell foul of the Covid lock-down. Let's hope for nothing similar!

Music featured will include the jazz settings of Shakespeare texts by George Shearing, part songs by Vaughan Williams and items by Rutter, MacFarren and others. Readings will be interspersed with music and piano accompaniment will be provided by the our regular accompanist, Jack Stone.

Tickets can be ordered online (see the invitation which will appear in the notices) and will be available on the day at the door, priced £15. The choir returns to Bromley Road for their Summer concert on Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

*DJ*







## A MESSAGE FROM JOY'S KITCHEN – Spring 2025

We have had a lovely three months here at Joy's Kitchen, since my last report. Customer numbers are increasing on Mondays and Wednesdays, making all four days busy and well-supported. One Thursday, a customer came in promptly at 10.30 and said she had popped in because she had seen a glowing review of the café on Facebook, on the Beckenham Appreciation Group page. It was great to read such positive words about the café from a customer: 'Just been to Joy's kitchen, it was absolutely lovely and so reasonable.' I'm sure it's no coincidence that we have seen many new faces since then.

The increasing numbers do mean we are looking for more volunteers, specifically for Monday and Thursday. This would include food preparation and using the coffee machine, to make specialty coffee. Full training will be provided of course. If this is something you'd be interested in please pop in and see me in Joy's Kitchen or speak to Sandra, Mimi or Sheila G at church.

As part of the café's mission and outreach remit, we ran a very successful coffee morning in November, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support – such a wonderful charity. Thank you to everyone for your cake donations and for supporting the coffee morning. I'm happy to report that the final amount raised was £300.

We are always happy to accept more donations of cake, thank you to those of you who donate. The cakes we receive are so popular, customers are bringing in their own Tupperware containers to take them home!

Looking forward, we will be closed for two weeks over Easter from 7th April – 21st April. We will once again be offering pancakes on 4th March for Shrove Tuesday.

We look forward to welcoming you to Joy's Kitchen over the spring months and hopefully, we might have some warm sunny days, where we can see you sitting outside and enjoying a coffee in the sunshine!

*Chloe, Joy's Kitchen Manager*



## **Safe and happy childhood**



Action for Children protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

Thank you once again for your donations to Action for Children from putting loose change in your home collection boxes, giving direct donations and the offertory on Christmas Day. We have so far collected £564.29 from donations. There is still time to donate before we send off the cheque at the end of February.

Did you see this BBC news article on 11<sup>th</sup> February about supporting mothers with babies in prisons which is one of the many projects that Action for Children sponsor? *The Princess of Wales has visited a women's prison in Cheshire, where she talked to inmates in a mother and baby unit. Catherine was shown a project designed to develop strong and healthy relationships between mothers and babies "even in the most challenging of environments".*

[Kate's prison visit to meet mothers and babies - BBC News](#)

This is a link to the latest Action for Children Church newsletter:  
[Action for Children Count Your Blessings 2025 Newsletter DIGITAL.pdf](#)

***Judith R and Ingrid S***



## CHURCHES TOGETHER in BECKENHAM

We start 2025 with the plans for another Lent course. CTiB arrange this every two years and it has always been an excellent course with lots of group choices to join in with. Full details have been given in the notices over the last few weeks. The closing date for booking was 25<sup>th</sup> February so, if you missed this and are interested in joining us, you could try emailing [davidjohnson127@talktalk.net](mailto:davidjohnson127@talktalk.net) to see if there are still places available.

There will be a **Walk of Witness** again this **Good Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> April**. Full details of timings etc will be in the weekly notices but as usual we will be starting from St Edmunds around 11am and walking to The Green.

Later in the year, details to follow, a CTiB picnic is being arranged.

At the moment David Keall and Rita Bishop and myself represent the Church at the clergy/lay meetings. Our Minister Duncan joins the other clergy in Beckenham who also have regular meetings. I act as Treasurer for the group, a post I took over from Frank Thompson, a well loved member of this church. I am sure many of you will remember Frank.

David has been one of our representatives for some years and now wishes to step back from this role. So, Rita and I are looking for someone to join us. Please speak to either of us if you can help. We meet 3 to 4 times a year and it is a very friendly, helpful and informative group.

*Christine  
CTIB Treasurer*

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### VERY PUNNY

How does Moses make his coffee?  
*Hebrews it.*

# FLOWERS IN CHURCH



## ROTA for March, April and May

### **MARCH**

Sunday 2nd  
Sunday \*9th  
Sunday 16th  
Sunday 23rd  
Sunday 30th

### **Flowers provided by:**

Margaret Hazlewood  
(Church Flowers)  
Comfort Lawson  
Christine Handel  
Wilson Family

### **Flowers arranged by:**

*Richard Phizacklea*  
*Margaret Cornwell*

**Mothering Sunday**

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### **APRIL**

Sunday 6th  
Sunday 13th  
Sunday 20th  
Sunday 27th

### **Flowers provided by:**

Valerie Wilson  
Mary Jackson  
**EASTER**  
Diane Chorley

### **Flowers arranged by:**

*Margaret Hazelwood*  
*David Dingley*

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### **MAY**

Sunday 4th  
Sunday 11th  
Sunday 18th  
Sunday 25th

### **Flowers provided by:**

Ena Hamblyn  
Christine Handel  
Sandra Storch  
June White

### **Flowers arranged by:**

*Richard Phizacklea*

**Flowers arranged by providers unless otherwise stated.**

\* If there is anyone who would like to provide flowers on this date, please let Margaret Hazlewood know as soon as possible. Thank you.

## *Miscellaneous items: -*

### **DAILY HOPE continues**

DailyHOPE was initially launched in April 2020 as a response by the Church of England, Faith in Later Life and Connections at Holy Trinity Church in Claygate to support older people who would not be able to access online worship during lockdown.

In 2023, Faith in Later Life took over the development and ownership of the line, but its aim remained the same; to ensure that the spiritual life of older people could continue to flourish. Data from that year showed that DailyHOPE received almost 100,000 calls.

After closing at the end of January 2024, it has been announced that the service has re-started. As DailyHOPE is relaunched and refreshed, Christians are being encouraged to share the free telephone number – **0800 804 8044** – in their church and wider communities.

The plan for DailyHOPE is to further develop the range of content and content providers in order to appeal to a wider audience of Christians, as well as older people exploring faith for the first time, and be a useful resource for those unable to attend church in person, and who are without online access to spiritual comfort.

### **Bible verse of the year**

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”. Philippians 4:6

This was voted the most popular Bible verse of 2024 by the YouVersion Bible App, with higher engagement with that verse than others. It was written by Paul to the first church that he established on European soil, whilst imprisoned, facing hardship and possible death. It teaches us to have courage and confidence in times of trouble and to trust God to carry our burdens.



## **Finally**

Don't forget the clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on 30th March. (Clocks "spring forward" in spring to mark the beginning of British Summertime.

If you usually have difficulty in adjusting the Sleep Council suggest that a few nights before the clocks are due to go forward start going to bed a little earlier each night and wake up 10-15 minutes earlier each morning. The theory is that by Sunday you will already be adjusted!

*Valerie/Christine*

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## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

**Beckenham Methodist Church, Bromley Road**  
**at 10.30am (unless otherwise stated)**

<b>Sunday 2nd March</b>	Rev Duncan MacBean + Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 9th March</b>	Rev Derek Stanworth
<b>Sunday 16th March</b>	Bennie Harms
<b>Sunday 23rd March</b>	Rev David Morris
<b>Sunday 30th March</b> (Mothering Sunday)	Deacon Laura MacBean
<b>Sunday 6th April</b>	Rev Duncan MacBean (ACM)
<b>Sunday 13th April</b>	Rev Janet Verrier (Palm Sunday)
<b>Sunday 20th April</b> (Easter Day)	Rev Duncan MacBean + Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 27th April</b>	Rev Hannah Faal-Heim
<b>Sunday 4th May</b>	Rev Duncan MacBean + Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 11th May</b>	Jim Holman
<b>Sunday 18th May</b>	Dr Clive Timehin
<b>Sunday 25th May</b>	Susan Cope

## CIRCUIT SERVICES BEFORE EASTER

ASH WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> March @ 8 p.m. at BROMLEY COMMON

MAUNDY THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> April @ 7.30 p.m. at PETTS WOOD

GOOD FRIDAY 18<sup>th</sup> April @ 3 p.m. at CHISLEHURST

Followed by Bring & Share Tea

**GOOD FRIDAY:** There will be a Walk of Witness in the morning – please see details on the CTiB page.

**EASTER SATURDAY;** 19<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30 a.m. You are invited to bring flowers for the decoration of the church and the Cross which Margaret Cornwell will oversee this year and Margaret Hazlewood will be arranging the pedestal. Coffee + hot cross buns will be available.

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**BIRTHDAYS;** We wish all those celebrating birthdays in March, April or May a very enjoyable day.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK;** This will be held from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Envelopes for donations will be available from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**CHURCH GARDEN:** The church garden is being maintained by a small team of volunteers including Dave Bishop who will deal with any admin., thank you Dave, and under the guidance of Richard Phizacklea. We wish to thank David Keall, who has been leader of the church garden team over many years, for all his work and dedication and is continuing to serve.

# USEFUL CONTACTS

## Beckenham Methodist Church

(Registered Charity No. 1138006)

**Bromley Road Church BR3 5JE**

**0208 650 2763**

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**Minister:** Rev Duncan MacBean  
[orpchissuper@gmail.com](mailto:orpchissuper@gmail.com)

**Senior Steward:** Theo Farmer

**Church Administrator (including room bookings):**

Sarah Reed

**Tel:** 07570 230555

**Email:-** [beckenhammethodistsbr3@gmail.com](mailto:beckenhammethodistsbr3@gmail.com)

*n.b. Normal working week is Tuesday to Thursday 10.30am to 2.30pm,  
with Mondays from home.*

**Web Site:** <http://www.beckenhammethodistchurch.co.uk>

