

Dear Friends,

I recently gave a lenten talk based upon the thought of ‘where are we in God’s vision’, I based our discussion around the verse found in Jeremiah 29:11, how God’s thoughts are always towards us to give us hope in the midst of dark times.

Well.... we need hope in our present times for sure, the news items on TV seem to feed on worry despair and dark deeds, many of our newly commissioned drama programmes seem to concentrate on evil thoughts acted upon in our society.

It can all get rather dark and depressing if we are fed this constant diet of bad news and hopeless situations, I find refuge both in my grandchildren’s energy and fun and the promise of God’s constant presence and care for us.

We are fast approaching that most precious time in our year for those of us who profess faith in Jesus Christ, the events of Christ’s passion and the path to the cross always kindle within me inspiration and emotion in equal measure, it is a familiar story for some but NEVER loses its ability to bring us to the place of shock and awe at God’s grace and love for the human race.

The build up to that Resurrection morning is like a juggernaut of sacrifice for Jesus, from the moment that he dismounted from the donkey on Palm Sunday it plays out for him with misunderstandings, desertion, mockery, betrayal and finally death.

THEN comes the Glory of the Resurrection and the empty tomb, and running disciples and lifted hearts and a future and a hope, it is THE most wonderful and vital part of our lives lived as God’s people and acts for me as a huge boost to my faith every year.

We have a series of services going forward throughout Holy Week, all geared to help us come ‘within the veil’ and draw closer to God through this most precious time, I do encourage you to join with us and experience God’s presence and power.

Every Blessing in Christ

Revd Keith S.

PRAYER DIARY



The April Prayer Diary is now available and can be found on the EEMC website:

<https://eastofedenmc.org.uk/worship-resources/>

A hard copy is attached for those who receive the Newsletter through the post

SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK

DAY	DATE	TIME & SERVICE	CHURCH	LED BY:
Monday	3 rd April	7.00pm - Taize Service	Lazonby Church	John Doidge-Harrison
Tuesday	4 th April	7.00pm – Celtic Evening Prayer	Renwick Church	Julie Barrett
Wednesday	5 th April	7.00pm – Evening Prayer	Langwathby Chapel	Bishop Graham Dow
Thursday	6 th April	7.00pm – Maundy Thursday	Culgaith Church	Bishop Graham Dow
Friday	7 th April	12.00 noon to 3.00pm Good Friday The Passion	Addingham	Bishop Graham Dow
Friday	7 th April	2.00pm Good Friday Devotional Hour	Kirkoswald	Michael Watts
Saturday	8 th April	8.00pm Easter Vigil	Skirwith Church	Revd F Jenkins & Revd A Burrell

A SPRING UPDATE FROM THE ANNA CHAPLAINCY TEAM



On the last Sunday of January this year, we had a wonderful celebration of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. This took place in the warm and welcoming Gamblesby Chapel and it was a truly joyful service. In the reading from Luke's gospel (chapter 2 v22-38) we met with Simeon and Anna, so what better occasion for Julie Barrett to be commissioned as an Anna Friend! Most of you will know Julie through her work as a Lay Reader in the Mission Community.

We were blessed to have our newly appointed Anna Chaplaincy Lead, Reverend Annie Gray to take part in Julie's commissioning. Annie was only a week into her new role, so we were delighted that her first commissioning service was with us here in the East of Eden Mission Community.

Julie has joined Cindy Butterworth and myself and together we are loving getting to know the older people in the community villages. Those who are blessed with the richness of years are also so rich in their life experiences. It is such a privilege to listen to so many colourful stories and the journeys of people who have done and given so much.

There is now a national network of 280 Anna Chaplains and still counting! And many more Anna Friends. In Cumbria, there are now 12 Anna Chaplains across the county.

As Anna Chaplain in our rural community, I am humbled by and in awe of the devotion and caring given by neighbours to older people in the villages and by the many social gatherings and the opportunities provided by the church for older people to come together to eat, talk, create and worship.

It is our hope, that Anna Chaplaincy grows and flourishes as part of this caring so that any older person who would like spiritual support and befriending could be offered it. To make this possible we need more Anna Friends to join our Team.

If you are reading this and think joining Cindy, Julie and myself on this journey could be right for you, then please do contact me, so that we can have an initial chat. As little as an hour or two every two weeks would be such a great help.

From Isaiah (chapter 41 v4) NIV:

"Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he. I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and will carry you. I will sustain you and I will rescue you"

Every blessing at this Easter time.

Wendy

Anna Chaplain

Telephone: 01768 896040

EEMC Living Stones Events 2023



The next Living Stones meeting will be held at Kirkoswald Chapel on 12th April @ 7.00pm for tea and biscuits with a planned start at 7.30pm. **Please note the change of time for the meeting.**

A ROCHA UK's EASY ECO TIPS – APRIL

Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine. As the weather warms up, it's worth considering what journeys can be made by walking or cycling. Could you get off a stop early to walk the rest of your journey, take a relaxing stroll home, or hop on a bike and enjoy a cycle friendly route? If you prefer exploring outdoors on foot, find out if there is a local Ramblers group.

For more practical ways to enjoy, nurture and defend nature, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email at: arocha.org.uk/wild-christian