

UOMC News



Unity Oldland Methodist Church,
West Street, Oldland Common,
Bristol BS30 9QS

www.uomc.org.uk

We are part of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit.



APRIL 2024



WELCOME

Our Mission

Unity Oldland Methodist Church seeks to proclaim the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in worship and mission.

Relationship with God

- ◆ The worship of God in word and sacrament in the power of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Celebrating the Good News and the love of Jesus Christ
- ◆ Encouraging growth in faith, discipleship and spirituality

Relationship with each other

- Continuing developing a welcoming and open fellowship.
- Working towards supporting and including everyone.
- Continue developing working with people of all ages.

Relationship with the community

- Serving as a focal point in the community
- Encouraging our relationship with other churches and community groups
- Reaching out to the local and wider community with God's love in Christ offering opportunities to express their spirituality.

UOMC NEWSLETTER

We welcome you to the Newsletter of Unity Oldland Methodist Church.

The Newsletter is published on the first Sunday of each month, except August. If you have any ideas how the Newsletter can be improved please do talk to Margaret S, the compiler.

In order to get your item into the Newsletter please can you let me have it a week before the first Sunday of the following month. **The next edition will be published on 5th May. Please can all items be with me by Tuesday 20th April by 5pm at the latest please.**

Please don't be shy whether you can send your item by email or something that is handwritten or verbal—but make sure I write it down! Photographs etc all are welcome.

My contact details are Margaret Slucutt (referred to as Margaret S) 07967102141 or email mgt.s@blueyonder.co.uk

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Our Minister is Rev P J Jackson

To contact her

Email is rook2rook4@yahoo.com

Telephone number is 965 9364

Jo Stevens, our Pastoral Secretary, can be contacted via

Tel: 0117 9477093, Mobile: 07800784587,

Email: jo.stevens312@gmail.com

A message from our Minister Rev.P.J. Jackson

How Great Our Joy!

I hope everyone had an exciting Easter Sunday and now you are ready to explore your inner funny bone.

The first Sunday after Easter has been deemed *Holy Humour Sunday*. How cool is that! This is said to be an old Easter custom begun by the early Greek Christians who called it "*Bright Sunday*" or "*Holy Humour Sunday*". For centuries in all Christian faith traditions, the week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as 'days of joy and laughter' with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Holy Humour Sunday services not only give Christians an opportunity for ongoing celebrations of the greatest miracle in human history, Jesus' resurrection, it also gives each of us an opportunity to celebrate, and give thanks for, our own smaller resurrections in this world and this life.

From time to time in our earthly lives, many of us experience a feeling of being dead either because of illness, depression, physical injuries, emotional wounds, the loss of loved ones, or financial losses and yet we are alive and we have and will overcome these things while looking forward to the Greatest Resurrection ever, the return of Christ Jesus.

Laughter releases tension, and we have enough of that these days. We need to recognize that this is really God's world, and God has so much in store for us. We put too much emphasis on what's wrong and what's bad with it that we don't stop and marvel at what's good and extraordinary about it.

Hey, you're not going to find beauty like this on Mars, Jupiter, Saturn or any other planet so enjoy what God has laid right before you. Let a smile come upon your face when the sun shines brightly or when you see the brilliant colors of purple, blue, and red flowers dotted around your garden or neighbourhoods.

In *The Easter Book*, Rev. Francis Weiser notes that Easter Monday was traditionally a holiday in Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant

countries. It was a day of special festivities: games, Emmaus walks in the country, picnics, pranks, and practical jokes.

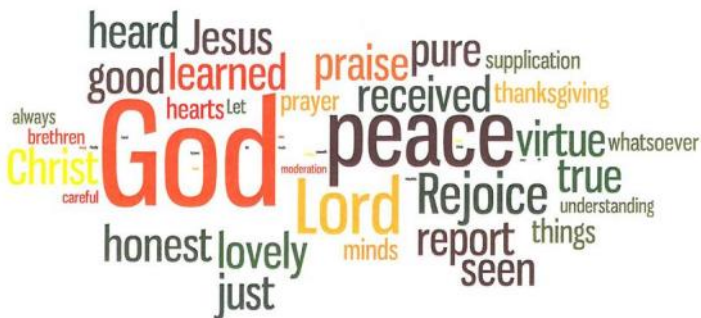
Easter Monday is still observed as a holiday in 125 countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, and parts of America. Rev. Weiser observed: *"In the early days of Christianity, all of Easter Week was one continuous feast...a week of intense happiness and spiritual joy."*

But what about church? Surely you must realize that God delights in our laughter and receives it as an act of worship. Holy Humour Sunday is a continuation of the Easter story. We're celebrating the greatest practical joke of all time: God overturned death. God, in fact, had the last laugh over death.

So, let's truly celebrate with God this great triumph and come dressed in a humorous manner. Leave the glitzy stuff at home and on April 7th dress for laughter and fun. Oh, and bring a humorous story to share.

He has risen let us be joyful!

P. J.





In Guatemala during Holy Week everything is dressed in purple, including Christ carrying the cross in St Joseph's Catholic Cathedral . From Linda Pope

Updates from P. J,

10 Ways to Rejoice in the Resurrection

1. **RE-Joice...** He is Risen... Indeed!
2. **RE-Fresh...** your body by sound sleep and good eats!
3. **RE-New...** acquaintances and habits of health and hope!
4. **RE-Deemed...** Know that you are loved forever by the Lord!
5. **RE-View...** your past lumps and bumps... and know you're forgiven!
6. **RE-Late...** Talk, and listen closely, to those around you!
7. **RE-Store...** "unto me a clean heart, O God." (Psalm 51:10)
8. **RE-Vive...** your faith through the Word and Sacraments!
RE-Focus... on all the great gifts the Lord has given you!
RE-Member... those special people around you!

Dr. Rich Bimler
Itasca, Illinois, USA

Meeting Rescheduled

Because the plan dates are due April 16th, we need to re-schedule the Worship Consultation meeting that was scheduled for April 29th now has been re-scheduled for April 22nd. We will still meet at 7pm. Thank you for your flexibility.

SAFEGUARDING

If you are in need of updating your Safeguarding training the training that was due to be given on April 16th and 17th has had to be cancelled. In the meantime, Kevin Maidment, the Bristol District Safeguarding Officer, is hosting an Onsite training course on the 22nd April in Midsomer Norton.

You can contact Kevin if you need further information at

bristol@dso.methodist.org.uk

Thinking of others

Sadly Jo was not able to get her piece to me before it was necessary to close taking copy for this newsletter. It needs to be printed and delivered on Wednesday 3rd as Mike and I are away for a few days.

Thoughts of those who need our prayers:

It is disappointing for Pat that she is still on her rocky road to recovery after a debilitating illness that included rather than rather than nearing the arrival.

Rev Gordon James joins our on-line members for Sunday service. It would be lovely for him to join us in person when he feels able to.

Our dear friend Reg was due to have a carpal tunnel operation on one of his hands when I saw him last month.

It is lovely to welcome Grace to our services via Zoom.

Brenda Flay and Jean Gay haven't felt able to join us since Covid. Life is feeling a bit of a struggle at times for both these older members, and their husbands, of our church family.

Abi, dear Abi . I have not heard whether eventually the hospital has been able to do a keyhole operation to clear the stones that keep causing a blockage. We also remember Lee who is, I am sure, physically and mentally exhausted.

Sadly Val needs our prayers as she begins to cope with her husbands passing with cancer. Kay and Susan provided and served refreshments after the funeral at the end of March.

We must also keep Norma and Colin in our thoughts as they are in the process of moving house. It is good they have family support as moving when so much of ones life is attached to the same cottage isn't easy.

Lord support them all as they face their challenges.

PRAYER FOR APRIL

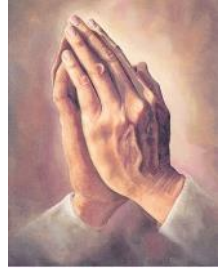
Hymn 295 in Hymns and Psalms

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, Alleluia,

Give praise to his name.



1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth; he is the king of creation:
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth; Jesus has died and is risen;
3. We have been crucified with Christ; Now we shall live for ever:
4. God has proclaimed the just reward; new life for all! Alleluia!
5. Come, let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour;

Sadly Pat is unwell we hope she will feel able to return next month

SERVICES IN APRIL

We continue to share our morning service 'live' on Zoom. Join

Zoom Meeting

Code 842 0837 4335

Password 844 944

Sunday 7th April

10.30am Rev P. J. Jackson

Stewards Susan & Kay

Sunday 14th April

10.30am Brenda Andrews

Stewards Phil & Alison

Sunday 21st April

10.30am Joy Harris

Stewards Catherine & Margaret

Sunday 28th April

10.30am Rev. Mandy Briggs Holy Communion

Stewards Susan & Debbie



**A lovely picture of Ruby celebrating her
90th birthday**



At the Golden Valley Café, Bitton.

Board games night!

Monthly - Friday night 7.00-9.00pm

Community Hall, Unity Methodist Church,
West Street, Oldland Common, BS30 9QS

Love playing games? Join us, make new friends and
play Game of Life, Pictionary, Scrabble etc... or
bring your own to share - refreshments available

Most suitable for 8 years - 80ish

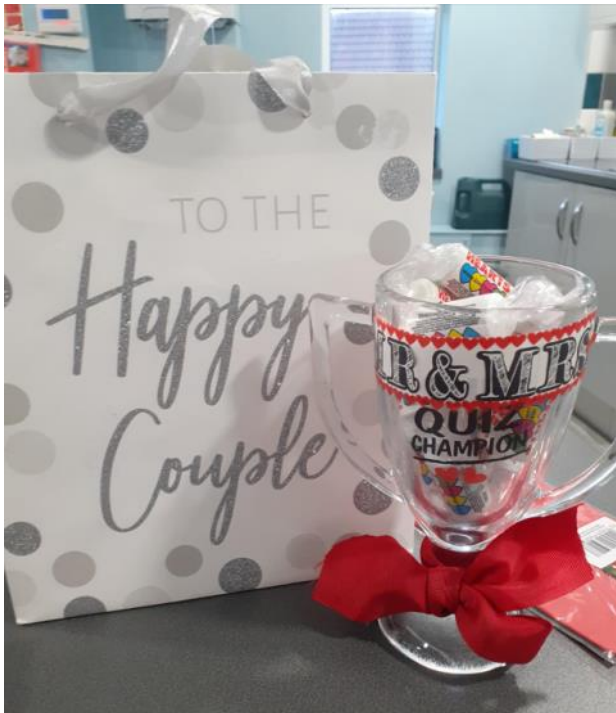
28th April

HOW DO YOU THINK YOU ARE—MR & MRS?

Thank you to the 23 people who came to our Mr & Mrs evening and for all the help provided, particularly my glamorous assistant Kay, and Susan on refreshments and tech support from Jess and John.

A fun night was had by all and we learnt a lot about our 6 couples, although the overall winners were Lynette and Marlene - congratulations! See photo of their prize trophy.

A grand total of £113.50 was raised for church funds- thank you for all the wonderful donations of cakes and prizes, they were much appreciated.



The Gardens at Dyrham Park

The gardens at Dyrham Park are looking splendid at the moment but in just two weeks they should be spectacular. The Gardeners have planted 15,000 tulip bulbs in preparation for *Tulipmania* Monday 15th April to Monday 6th May. *Tulipmania* will celebrate the tulip, its place in the garden and its link to Dyrham. If you have the time, do go to enjoy the flowers. If you visit on a Monday, look into the Great Hall to say “Hello” to me.

What was *Tulipmania*?

“*Tulipmania*, a speculative frenzy in 17th century Holland over the sale of tulip bulbs. Tulips were introduced into Europe from Turkey shortly after 1550, and the delicately formed, vividly coloured flowers became a popular if costly item”. (Britannia.com)

Linda Pope (Volunteer at Dyrham Park)



Film Night 2024 (updated Feb)

Unity Oldland Methodist Church

FUTURE PROGRAMME

Friday 16th February - 7.30pm

A Haunting in Venice - (12) based on an Agatha Christie mystery

Friday 15th March - 7. 15pm*

Oppenheimer - (15) the development of the first nuclear bomb

Friday 19th April - 7.30pm

The Railway Children Return - (PG) sequel to the original film

Friday 10th May - 7.30pm

The Lost King - (12) the finding of Richard III in a Leicestershire car park

After the summer break

Friday 20th September - 7.30pm

One Life - (12a) the story of Nicholas Winton who saved children from Prague at the outbreak of world war II

Refreshments available and when possible we use subtitles

Do come and join us

Further details on website:- www.oumc.org.uk

*Please note the early start time this film is 3hrs

PLEASE NOTE STARTING AT 7.30pm

FRIDAY 19th April



The Railway Children Return

NOTE THAT THE FILM WILL COMMENCE AT 7.30pm

Enjoy refreshments and great company.

Our 20th anniversary weekend of celebration in May

Keep the weekend of 18th / 19th May 2024 free for church anniversary celebrations. It will be 20 years since the four churches of Bridgegate, North Common, Oldland and Warmley Tower Methodist churches came together, and following slightly later our friends at Bitton joined us too.

We are planning to have a 20th birthday tea on the Saturday afternoon starting at 3pm. We hope the Willis family will be able to join us on the Saturday afternoon. Sunday worship will be led by Rev David Willis and so we can all be part this anniversary service it was decided to forgo the lunch but there will be coffee as usual.

We are in the process of sorting out decorating the church with displays about the last 20 years and the team who did the displays during covid have come together again to so see what we can do to decorate our celebrations.

Do feel free to invite people who have been part of our journey over the past 20 years. Or those who haven't been but like a party! Find those photographs, dust off the memories, and bring them along on the day.

It should be a fun weekend of fellowship, togetherness, joy and a look at what we have achieved in the last 20 years, do join us.

*Many thanks
Val Helliard*



Crafting Friends

We meet every other Wednesday 2pm till 4pm in the Church Hall here at Unity Oldland.

We do Knitting & Crochet, Arts and Crafts, refreshments and chatting we do it all. All ages welcome come try something new or just sit and relax and enjoy a break away from day to day life.



The Cast of Christmas Reassembles for Easter

Take the wise men to the emperor's palace.
Wash their hands in water.
Get them to say something about truth.
Does anyone know any good Jewish jokes?
The one about a carpenter
who thought he was a King?
The one about the Saviour
who couldn't save himself?
The shepherds should stand with the chorus.
They have a big production number -
'Barabbas, We Love you Baby'.
Mary? She can move to the front.
We have a special section reserved
for family and close friends.
Tell her that we had to cut the manger up.
We needed the wood for something else.
The star I'm afraid I can't use.
There are no stars in this show.
The sky turns black with sorrow.
The earth shakes with terror.
Hold on to the frankincense.
We'll need that for the garden scene.
Angels? He could do with some angels..
Avenging angels.
Merciful angels.
He could really do with some angels.
Baby Jesus.
Step this way please.
My! How you've grown!

by Steve Turner

Offered by Joyce James.

Don't miss our **Coffee Morning** on **Saturday 13th April**
10am—11.30am. The takings will go to the One25.

There will be our usual Bacon Butties, Cakes, Tea and Coffee.

Last month our takings were given to the Unity Oldland Methodist Church. In excess of £205 was given. Cakes remaining from the coffee morning we sold after our Sunday morning service.



Thank you for your generosity.



Due to being away for a few days all cakes on Tuesday 9th April to Jan Parry—the pink house opposite Court Road Between 7pm—7.45pm please.

If I have agreed to collect that will be first thing on Wednesday 10th before taking all the cakes to One25.

Sorry for any inconvenience. Margaret

A Quiz

These Cryptic Clues are all food items that you can eat e.g. A Scandinavian veg could be a Swede.

- 1) Cram together to make a drink or veg. (6)
- 2) Water sounds to be dripping from this veg. (6)
- 3) pppppppp (4)
- 4) The second part includes the whole (which you might eat for breakfast) and the first part. (10)
- 5) What the wood cutter eats. (5)
- 6) Here comes a low flying object - look out! (4)
- 7) Rubbish in the email. (4)
- 8) Sounds as though it looks beautiful in the garden. (5)
- 9) Homer's wife. (5)
- 10) An inconsequential pudding. (6)
- 11) Sounds as if the compiler is in the choir (5)
- 12) Powers of ten on a cake. (8,3,9)
- 13) Where mother's drink alcohol. (4,3)
- 14) Get your new fivers here. (4)
- 15) A Greek letter to quantify a circle. (3)
- 16) Richard has the measles. (7,4)
- 17) Smile for the photograph. (6)
- 18) A foolish person. (6)
- 19) I am shivering in the weather. (6)
- 20) Jail (8)

Provided by Jo. Answers are on the inside of the back cover.

If I could fathom everything,
figure out all there is to know,
about you and this world...
If someone told me I could understand it all
have nothing left to mystery,
have no story left untold,
nothing left to wonder ...

If I had the chance
to solve it all,
identify every twist and turn,
never miss a beat ...

I think I would hesitate,
stop and think.

Because I love You, Lord,
and part of the reason why,
is the 'don't know'.

The mist,
the haze,
the fog,
the questions,
the discovery,
the adventure.

It's fantastic, Lord,
so I'm searching,
I'm looking,
I'm living the best You have for me

I desire more of You,
more of the life you want to live through me.
Living with eyes wide open,
I'm looking to see,
where you will jump out next!

How exciting Lord. Let's keep going'.

Offered by Joyce James.

Community Information



Supporting you
and your local
community in
later life

OUR SERVICES

Walking Project



Group walks and 1:1 walking initiatives within your area!

Welcome Home



Achieve your hospital recovery goals with a dedicated volunteer

Digital Inclusion



Free 1:1 or group skills and knowledge digital sessions.

Activity Day Centres



Taking place daily in your area. Join for lunch and activities.

Befriending & Reconnect



Have a volunteer visit your home or call you on a weekly basis.

Information & Advice Service



For more information on any of these services please contact us on:

Phone: 01454 411707

Email: info@ageuksouthglos.org.uk

Visit our Website: www.ageuk.org.uk/southgloucestershire

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Answers to the Quiz

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1) Squash | 2) Leek | 3) Peas | 4) Grapefruit |
| 5) Chops | 6) Duck | 7) Spam | 8) Flour |
| 9) Margarine | 10) Trifle | 11) Icing | 12) 100's & 1000's |
| 13) Mars bar | 14) Mint | 15) Pie | 16) Spotted duck |
| 17) Cheese | 18) Noodle | 19) Chilli | 20) Porridge |

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A prayer I found in one of my booklets.

Listening God,
Blow away the cobwebs of our insecurities
Make us so sure of your love that we dare to live differently
So confident of a fresh start that we are not afraid of making
mistakes
And so immersed in your Spirit that our doubts can surface
and be aired.
Inspire us to listen and question until such time as you gather
us in, like chicks under your wing.
Amen.

What goes on at UOMC

**Talk to Susan Weaver if you have any queries about bookings.
07460082852.**

Services UOMC have a morning service at 10.30am and there is a Zoom link for those who wish to join us from their digital equipment. Please ask Alison if you haven't got the link.

50:60s Group—Meet monthly please contact Brenda Andrews on 07484 705597.

Wriggle Giggle Hop –Each Tuesday morning 10.30am—12 noon for young children and their parents or carers.

Social Group—Each Tuesday afternoon, 2—4pm this group meet to share conversation, information and activities. Run by an outside organisation for the benefit of all. .

ONE25 Cake collections . Please deliver to Jan Parry at the Pink House opposite Court Road between 7pm—7.30pm on Tuesday 9th April.

Coffee morning— Saturday 13th April 10am—11.30am

Crafting Friends—Wednesday 3rd and 17th April
2pm –4pm

Nita Nata—Wednesday 10th, & 24th April from 2pm—4pm.

Film Night— Friday 19th April 7.30pm the Railway Children
Return

Board Games - 26th April at 7pm . You are welcome to bring your own Bring and Share supper

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