

Dates for your diary

March

Monday 25th Monday Fellowship - Martyn Filsak - Easter Time- followed by
Hot Cross Buns - Bring & Buy Yellow
Wednesday 27th - Circuit Holy Week Walk 2024
Friday 29th – Good Friday
Sunday 31st - Easter Sunday
Sunday 31st – Join Margaret Bradley at Lime Gardens for Easter Praise.

April

Monday 8th Monday Fellowship - Jill Martin (I'll read a Story).
Bring & Buy Blue
Saturday 13th Prayer and Pastries, at 9.45am
Saturday 20th Table Top Sale 10.00am – 1.00pm
Monday 22nd Monday Fellowship - Claire Biggs (my role in the Church).
Bring & Buy Orange

Providence Contacts

Minister – Rev Alan Combes
Stewards - David Paxton 07882 268134
Pat Southall
Property Steward - John Butler 07886 177531
Property Secretary Pat Cook
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Pastor Martyn Filsak voslaypastor@gmail.com
First Contact Pastor Martyn Filsak 07947 879357
facebook.com/providencemethodistchurch
Church Web :-<http://providence-methodist.org.uk/>
Newsletter :- notices@providence-methodist.org.uk

NB Church Web Site and facebook Press Control Click to activate
The Vale of Stour Methodist Circuit is committed to Safeguarding all with whom we share fellowship and those who use our premises. We also seek to ensure the security and protection of any personal information that we may receive from you and to provide a compliant and consistent approach to data protection. If you have any questions related to Safeguarding Policies or our GDPR compliance, please contact our Circuit Office on 01384 442718.

Providence News Letter

Sunday 24th March 2024

Services

Today

Next Sunday

10.20am: Songs led by Chris
10.30am: J-Club
10.45am: Rev. Alan Combes
Holy Communion

Songs led by Chris
J-Club
Local Arrangement

Door Steward: Helen

Pat

OFFERTORY

Last Week = £221.00

Table Top = £188.20



CHURCH COUNCIL – OPEN MEETING – PROVIDENCE’S FUTURE

As we all know, the Circuit Leadership team has been looking at a way forward for the Circuit.

The plan is to reduce the number of churches from 13 to 6 or 7.

During the recent Circuit Leadership team meeting, **the viability of Providence as a church going forward, both in terms of maintenance of the buildings and our financial security was foremost in the leaderships concerns. The stark reality is that the future of our church is severely in doubt, with the closure of our church a distinct probability.**

There will be an ongoing conversation in respect of our way forward as a church family so keep aware and attend as many meetings as you are able.

FURTHER OPEN MEETING – PROVIDENCE’S FUTURE

Last Sunday approx. 25 Church council and church members of Providence met for an emergency Church Council. Martyn chaired the meeting and Rev. Alan joined us to give advice and assistance. On the agenda was the possibility of accepting a long term let for the J-Club Hall from a dance school.

Whilst the meeting was generally positive, it raised more questions than answers.

With some regret, there was an acceptance that as a minimum the J-Club Hall will need to be sacrificed, if there was any way forward for Providence. This would be either by way of being hired out on a long term let or sold off.

The meeting concluded with Alan and John kindly agreeing to make further investigations.

Alan will be looking into a realistic costing for a viable rent going forward and John will be looking to contact an estate agent to establish the value of the hall for a possible sale.

In time another meeting will be called to review ongoing developments.

Keep Praying for Providence!

CIRCUIT HOLY WALK 2024

After the success of last year’s Holy Week walks there is to be a repeat this year this coming Wednesday (27th). Please see Rev. Michael Payne’s Holy Walk information sheet giving full details on the notice board in the side chapel.

The walkers will arrive at Providence at approx. 12.55 for lunch (provided by the walkers).

After a short time of prayer, they will leave for Overend at 13.45.

Our representative walker to “pass on the baton to the next Church.” will be Mark.

It would be great if there are a few people here at Providence, not only to provide refreshments but also to walk with Mark and the other walkers on to Overend (and beyond).

If you are available, please contact **David Paxton or Pat Southall.**

PRAYER AND PASTRIES (A BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP)

For your diary: the next Prayer and Pastries is planned for Saturday 13th April at 9.45am.

This is an informal meeting for the sharing of prayer and fellowship over a simple breakfast.

We pray about anything and everything, especially for Providence, and share how we sense that the Lord is leading the church at this moment.

You are welcome to come along and join in this fellowship. **Thank you, Martyn.**

CONCERNS

On the notice board there are now two different forms to be used for anyone to raise any concerns they may have on health and safety or property issues. Please use the relevant form. This is so that any problems can be spotted and dealt with quickly. If you see any issues to raise, please complete the forms and hand to a steward who can ensure that the relevant person deals with the issues.

THANKS FOR SUPPORT

Diane and Barry want to thank all those from our church family, who have sent their good wishes, prayers and support following Barry’s surgery. **Thank you, Diane**

MONDAY FELLOWSHIP

The dates for our fellowship in March and April are as follows: -

Tomorrow (25th) Martyn Filsak - Easter Time- Followed by Hot Cross Buns - Bring & Buy Yellow.

April 8th Jill Martin - (I’ll read a Story) - Bring & Buy Blue

April 22nd Claire Biggs - (my role in the Church) - Bring & Buy Orange

Meetings start at 10.30 am. Subscriptions are £1.00 plus a bring and buy.

If you are free on a Monday morning you would be welcome to join us. **Judith Morris.**

LIME GARDENS EASTER PRAISE

You are invited to join the residents of Lime Gardens on Homer Hill and members of other local churches, for a celebration of Jesus’ Resurrection at 5 pm on Easter Sunday, 31 March. Bring your voices to raise the roof and wear your Easter bonnet if you wish! **Thank you, Margaret Bradley**

COLLECTIONS

From Sunday 3rd March we resumed passing the plate around in church. This is done before J-club leaves and allows and reminds us all to add to the collection. Please give generously, thank you.

J-club will receive the usual blessing before leaving to their activities and the offering will also be blessed at this time.

TABLE TOP SALE

Our next table top sale will be 20th April.

As usual Chris and her team will be providing the refreshments.

Any help will be appreciated. **Thank You.**

REFLECTIONS – from Helen: - “Challenges”

For those that know me well you will know I am quite competitive! I was never great at sport or running but when it comes to games etc I do like to win. Bit like puzzles, I might not always be able to do them but I will keep trying till I’ve cracked it, or even eventually helped to crack it.

We all face challenges in life whether they be big or small. Challenges could be physical or mental and sometimes we feel we cannot achieve them but I am reminded bit like puzzles we need to not give up but to keep trying and if need be, ask for help.

Hebrews 10:36 (NIV) “You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.”

WEEKS PROVIDENCE PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Thank you for loving me

Thank you for saving me

Thank you for supporting me

Help me to reach out and help others.

In your name Jesus

AMEN

Remember in your Prayers

Please pray for all our friends who are not well or who need our support and remember those who are not able to join us today including those who are housebound or in residential care.

Please pray for all who are facing illness.

Please pray for Providence our fellowship, our congregation and in particular our leadership as we all face challenging times ahead with the future of our church uppermost in our thoughts.

