

Dates for your diary

March

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 News Letter

Sunday 31st March 2024

EASTER SUNDAY

Services

Today

Next Sunday

10.20am: Songs led by Chris

Songs led by Chris

10.30am: J-Club

J-Club

10.45am: Local Arrangement

Christine Perry

Door Steward: Pat

Pauline and Derek

OFFERTORY

Last Week = £231.40

Providence Contacts

Minister – Rev Alan Combes

Stewards - David Paxton 07882 268134

Pat Southall

Property Steward - John Butler 07886 177531

Property Secretary Pat Cook

Church Telephone - 413513

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.



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

Two Sundays ago, 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

On Wednesday last (27th). Providence hosted the walkers for this year’s circuit walk.

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

After a short time of prayer, they left for Overend.

Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway, also Mark for being our representative walker who “passed on the baton to Overend Church.”

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 April are as follows: -

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 – later today

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 today (Easter Sunday).

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: - “Refreshing”

What do you think when you hear the word refreshing?

I think of the sunshine as it is such a refreshing change from the rain?

Or do you think the rain is refreshing?

What about quenching your thirst with a long drink?

This Easter weekend be refreshed, be made anew.

Jesus was like no other, he was refreshing to those he met as he was so different, this is why crowds followed him, but then as we know they turned on him.

Through Jesus we can be made new, we can be refreshed and we can start again.

So, this Easter weekend praise him that no matter what is in your past Jesus refreshes you and is interested in you now and your future, what has gone is gone.

WEEKS PROVIDENCE PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Risen Saviour, we praise you.

You conquered death and rose again

We worship you Lord of Lords.

Thank you for your never-ending grace

That allows us to be made new

Be with us this week in all we do.

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.

