

Stockwood Free Church

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10.45am ON SFC PREMISES AND ON FCC

<https://www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/sfcbristol/viewer>

Easter falls in April this year, so this explains the variety of our services:

- 17th **Easter Communion at 8am** – Please join us for our popular, early Easter morning, Communion service, this year led by Clare Bidgood
“**He is risen!**” – Our main Easter Celebration – the first one we have held actually on the premises for three years! – led by Lance
- 24th “**It’s not fair!**” – Over the past couple of years more than a few folk have talked to me [Lance] about their faith struggles, particularly concerning the ever-present challenge of suffering. If you want to explore questions like “Why do bad things happen to good people?” or “Where is God in all of this?”, do join us this morning. Please invite any of your friends who struggle themselves with such questions

MAY SERVICES

Just to whet your appetite, we shall be looking at the prophet Samuel, a true giant of faith, during May.

EASTER EVENTS

As well as the Sunday services we will be arranging a number of other events in the week leading up to and including Easter:

Good Friday – Friday 15th – We have three events in the morning:

9am Breakfast on the church premises

10am Walk of witness from the Church to the shops

11am Open Air service at the shops, led by Travis Speedie

Do join us for these events if you possibly can. The more of us there are, the more impact we make – it’s as simple as that!

2-4pm For the past few years, we have maintained the tradition of a silent time of prayer and meditation on the church premises. This year we might put “Be still and know that I am God” into practice? Feel free to pop in and out at any time during the afternoon.

Easter Sunday – Sunday 17th at 6.30pm on church premises. As well as our worship services outlined above, we will be holding our next Film Night showing the super film “Risen”. Our film evenings are always both encouraging and challenging and this one will be no exception!

It is just possible that we might do one or two other things over the Easter period, but they will be organised on an “ad hoc” basis.

YOUNGSTERS

Thank you so much to all of you who prayed for our work in schools last week. We managed to present the “real story” of Easter to somewhere between 400 and 500 young people via Open the Book assemblies, Lance doing a “one-man” assembly and Easter in a Box with year 4 classes. All were very well received by children and staff alike. Please pray for us all this Thursday as we host an activity day, with a flavour of Easter, for children of primary school age; we have over 30 children booked in so far.

NEWER & ONE-OFF ITEMS:

SUE ROWE'S FUNERAL AND JOINT CELEBRATION FOR JOHN & SUE

Steve and Carolyn asked me to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this a perfect occasion for them and their families.

UKRAINE HOST FAMILIES

I have been in contact with one of my friends who works closely with Bristol City Council. He has sent me a few bullet points:

- Through the Government's Home for Ukraine scheme, and some great work in Poland by a team from local charity Love Bristol, a significant number of refugees have now been matched with hosts living in Bristol
- As of the end of this past week around 200 refugees had been successfully matched, and are now starting to arrive in the city
- It is expected this number may rise to 500 to 600 over the coming weeks
- Churches across the city have come together to create a network of 'Welcome Hubs', ten in all. Bristol City Council are commissioning these Hubs, supported by local charities Bridges for Communities and Bristol Hospitality Network
- Each Hub will support refugees from up to 10 hosts, and create a safe space to gather once a week, with a meal, and support provided across a range of issues
- More Hubs will be created as the need arises
- This is a unique multi-agency / multi-sector collaborative effort, with church at the heart of it.

Carol and I are simply not in a position to be able to host a Ukrainian family right now – we have our hands very full as you are aware – but for those who have been thinking about it, now would be a great time to register your interest knowing that there is a strong and supportive partnership between the council and local churches. Please let me know if you want to go ahead. I can make links with the council, our local health centre and schools as my contribution to the effort. [Lance]

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Rebecca Mason – She has settled well into being back home again. This week she starts her final round of arsenic treatment. [Her consultant is very pleased with how well she has responded to this.... as are Lance, Carol and Rebecca of course!]

Dave Reeve – He has a new date for his badly-needed knee operation – 5th July.

Connie Tipping – She is back home again from hospital and is recuperating slowly.

LANCE'S LABOURS

It is no surprise that he will be focusing on Easter events. As soon as the dust has settled, he will start to give his attention to the Queen's Jubilee weekend.

WHERE IS LANCE

Carol and I should be around again all through April (but are now beginning to think seriously about a few days away at some stage later in the year!)

REGULAR WEEKLY/MONTHLY ITEMS:

SERVICE LINK

You have the option of downloading the video (mp4), audio (mp3) and online (mp4). The online version which was capture from live includes the presentation. ***Remember that you can still tune in to the service each week either at the time or later on, even if you have no computer access***

Sunday 10th April

Video

<https://fccdl.in/HWb2VpPjHu?st=77>

HOME GROUPS

Mondays: Each week at 7.45pm on Zoom (contact Howard Penney)

Thursdays: Each week at 7.45pm – 83 Stockwood Road

Thursdays: Each week at 7.45pm – meetings are continuing on Zoom during April

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MEETING

Wednesday 13th at 4pm on SFC Premises

EASTER ACTIVITY DAY

Thursday 14th – 9am to 3.30pm for children aged 5 to 11.

With games, crafts, stories and songs. Registration in advance – forms are available from Clare at secretary.sfchurch@gmail.com. Children need to bring a packed lunch.

If you can help all day or either morning or afternoon, please let Pauline know. No special skills required!

CHURCH SPRING CLEAN

Saturday 30th – listen out for more details

TODDLERS

Every Wednesday & Friday from 9.30-11.30am.

They could still do with a bit more help on either day – if you think you could spare some time, please speak to Hilary or Yvonne

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Each week from 2.30-4pm

MONTHLY PRAYER LIST – APRIL

Fellowship:

Ian & Carol Ferris & family, Brian Greenroyd & Hazel, Clive and Winifred Harris, Angeline Hawkins & family, Andrew & Tina Hounsom, Brian & Louise Howarth, Denise Jeffery

Neighbourhood:

Holsom Road, Holsom Close, Warman Road, Warman Close, Stockwood Lane, The Concorde, Garage, Community Centre, Lansdown Park School, Curious Hedgehogs Nursery

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHURCH OUTING

We are off to Weymouth (of course) on Saturday **16th July**. Steve Birch and his coach are booked!