

## 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:

- 10<sup>th</sup> **Palm Sunday** – Ted is going to lead our service this morning, with a procession(!) in the first part of the service
- 17<sup>th</sup> **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
- 24<sup>th</sup> **“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 15<sup>th</sup> – 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **EASTER WITH YOUNG PEOPLE**

This Easter we have more opportunities than ever before to explore faith in a variety of ways with children of primary school age. I [Lance] am in Waycroft or Woodlands every single day(!) in the last week of term, either leading assemblies (including all year groups) or unpacking “Easter in a Box” with year 4 classes. Also, on Maundy Thursday, we will be holding our first “Activity Day” for a few years. I am indebted to the wider teams who help to make these events so fun, memorable and effective. Please pray for this work and especially for our advanced preparations which take a lot of time and effort.

## **NEWER & ONE-OFF ITEMS:**

### **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**

Wow! Thank you so much to Joyce, Ken, Martin and the rest of the team for an absolutely super lunch on Sunday. It was very good to have so many people, "old and new" as they say, joining us for this special occasion. We will arrange another one in due course.

### **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]

### **SCHOOLS WORK**

Please pray for the teams this week – it really will be a very busy one. There are numerous complications this year which have meant a lot of last-minute major changes of plan. We really want to encourage the youngsters to explore their own faith.... and to come to our Activity Day on Maundy Thursday too (more details below).

### **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

**Abi Clements & Tommy Dyer** – We are now at a point where we can say that their wedding is **next** month – on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Please pray for this lovely young couple, as they make this important step of commitment.

**Pauline Kelly's daughter, Kate** – As I have been saying recently, Kate (and her family) have had a very difficult time for the past couple of months. They are slowly beginning to emerge from it all now. Pray that they will all enjoy God's healing and peace in every part of their lives.

**Rebecca Mason – SHE'S HOME!!!** We rejoice in God's goodness. She still has lots of treatment and appointments coming up, but we are thrilled that, after nearly 7 months in hospital, she is finally back in her own bed. God is sooooooooooooooooooooo good!

**Steve Rowe & Carolyn Johnson** – Pray for them both as we approach Sue's funeral and a joint celebration for John and Sue this Wednesday. This family has had a very hard time of it for the past few years, so again please pray for them to know God's peace.

**Connie Tipping** – Connie is coming home on Monday with a care package now in place for her.

**Linda White's daughter, Emma** – Some more good news! Emma has given birth to a baby girl (Evie) on Friday. Congratulations to all the family.

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

#### Video

<https://fccdl.in/R8KYuAVhsU>

#### Audio

Dial: 033 00 88 1945

Access Code: 353390#

Service Ref No: 801#

## 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

## PRAYER WALK

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>** – Meet at Lance & Carol's home, 7 Cogsall Road at 4pm to walk around this month's prayer area.

## LEADERS MEETING

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup>** at 7.45pm

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER MEETING

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>** at 4pm on SFC Premises

## EASTER ACTIVITY DAY

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>** – 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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup>** – 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 **16<sup>th</sup> July**. Steve Birch and his coach are booked!