

## Stockwood Free Church

### **SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10.45am ON SFC PREMISES AND ON FCC**

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

We start the month with our Easter celebrations; thereafter the programme is quite varied.

5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter	8am – Pauline Bingham is leading our early morning Communion service. (This will serve as our monthly Communion as well) 10.45am – Lance leads our Easter Day celebration
12 <sup>th</sup>	Pete Slee	“The Comforting Stranger... He’s still on the road” (the road to Emmaus that is)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Beth	Speaking on a theme of her own choice
26 <sup>th</sup>	Lance	Beginning a series on Joseph, in Genesis, focusing on forgiveness

### **NEW THIS MONTH**

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

Just a final reminder to put your clocks forward by one hour before you go to bed on tonight. We will include our annual Commissioning service in the morning and widen it out to the many folk who are involved in leading our various groups and activities, particularly those working “behind the scenes”.

#### **EASTER**

We do not expect people to attend all of our events; instead, we are organising a wide variety of different ways of gathering together, and we hope that there is something here for everyone. And there are several opportunities to invite people who wouldn’t normally come to church services.

#### **GOOD FRIDAY (3<sup>rd</sup>)**

##### **Breakfast, service and walk of witness**

We begin the day at 9am with breakfast. At around 9.30am we will hold a short service to set the tone for the rest of the day. Then, as is our custom, we will set off on our walk with the Cross, around Stockwood. We will make four devotional stops along the way at these approximate times:

10.15	Chestnut Close
10.30	Linden Close
10.45	Maple Close
11.00	Hollway Road shops (short closing service)

#### **Prayer**

In the afternoon, from 3 to 4 pm in the Back Hall, we will host a much quieter event. This will not be a service as such, but a chance for any of us who want to gather for prayer and meditation. As usual there will be a few visual aids to help us to focus. You are most welcome to pop in and out.

#### **EASTER SATURDAY (4<sup>th</sup>)**

##### **“At home”**

From 2pm to around 5.30pm the building will be open for people to drop in on various activities, including several crafts and games, and maybe just to chat over a cuppa. There will also be quiet room for those who may want to explore their faith. At the end of the afternoon some simple food will be served. The idea is to hold a very informal event that is open to absolutely anyone of any age or background and to which we can invite friends.

## **EASTER SUNDAY (5<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Services**

In the morning all are invited to our traditional Easter Day celebrations. Details of these are given above.

### **Film**

At 6.30pm we will show a film, most probably one of the "God's not Dead!" series. This will give us all a chance to sit back, but also to be challenged.

## **THE AGM**

Thank you so much to everyone who was able to join us on Thursday evening. It was extremely encouraging to see so many people there, including several non-members, and for us together to reflect on and celebrate the past year and to be challenged for this current year. We are aiming to show some "best of" slides on Sunday mornings so that those who couldn't be with us at least get a flavour of what went on. In amongst all of this the Church Membership prayerfully made some important decisions. We elected the following:

### **Elders**

- Roger Bingham
- Geoff Jones

### **Deacons**

- Yvonne Nichols
- Linda Pitarella

and "voted in" the following as **Members**

- David Boston
- Alison Carson
- Richard Carson
- Ange Cox

My closing slide contained some great words of wisdom from George Whitfield, the famous Methodist preacher...



What does this mean for Sfc in 2026?

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **CHURCH OUTING**

The trip to Weymouth is booked for 27<sup>th</sup> June. Coach will leave the church at 8.30am and leave Weymouth at 5.30pm for the return journey.

## **ONGOING & REGULAR ITEMS**

### **LANCE'S LABOURS**

I always have plenty to keep me out of mischief, but am currently working closely with local schools, the children's centre and the medical centre on a variety of initiatives, with lots of support from Bristol Charities. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please let me know!

PS. It has become increasingly apparent to me that mental health issues are a huge challenge for many in the church (and outside of it as well for that matter). I am working on a seminar session that I'll organise at some point. If I commit myself to print here, I might actually do something about it!

### **WHERE IS LANCE?**

It will come as no surprise that Lance and Carol are going to take a week off after Easter. They will be taking life slowly (as if Lance is capable of that!) on a narrowboat from **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**. Please pray for them as they are also trying to discern what "pressing forward" means for them personally.

### **HOME GROUPS**

Mondays: Each week at 7.45pm at the home of Trish & Mike Caswell – 16 Warman Close

Thursdays: Each week at 7.45pm – 83 Stockwood Road

Thursdays: Each week at 7.45pm on Zoom (details from Pauline Bingham)

### **LEADERS' MEETING**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm**

### **MONTHLY BIBLE MEDITATION**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am** on Zoom (ask Lance for a link)

### **PRAYER WALK**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 4.30pm**. Please meet at Lance & Carol's home, 7 Cogsall Road, to walk around this month's prayer area (note the later start)

**MESSY CHURCH** (any help is gladly accepted)

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 3.30pm**

### **PRAYER MEETING**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm**

### **TODDLERS**

Every Wednesday & Friday from 9am-11.30am

### **WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP**

Each week from 2.30-4pm

### **PUPPETS**

Alternate Wednesdays at 7pm (speak to Emily Stephens for more details/dates)

### **PRAYER ITEMS FOR APRIL**

#### **Around the Fellowship:**

Jill Duffy, Abi, Tommy & Freya Dyer, Ian & Carol Ferris & family, Nicola Frankcom, Eve & family, Jackie Greenland, Clive and Winifred Harris, Angeline Hawkins & family

#### **Around the Neighbourhood:**

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