

Newsletter



Amphill Clophill Flitwick

May 2026



Welcome to the May Newsletter

| | |
|--|----|
| A Message from our Minister | 3 |
| Church Family News | 4 |
| Worship in May | 5 |
| What's On in May | 7 |
| Prayer and Coffee Morning | 8 |
| One Minute Prayer for Peace | 9 |
| Poem | 10 |
| Amphill Ladies Group | 11 |
| Prayer Suggestions for May | 12 |
| Local Preacher Appointments | 13 |
| Easter Journey at the Lower Schools | 14 |
| Christian Aid | 16 |
| Discoveries made during Holy Week | 17 |
| Sensory Boxes | 19 |
| Save the date – The Alma Singers Concert | 19 |
| Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association | 20 |
| Flitwick Village Hall Coffee Mornings | 21 |
| News from Paraguay | 22 |
| The Newsletter | 23 |



A Message from our Minister

As we approach Pentecost, we remember the moment in *Acts 2* when the Holy Spirit descended like tongues of fire, filling the disciples with boldness, courage, and a new sense of God’s presence. Pentecost is often called the “birthday of the Church,” a moment when faith moved from fear into action.

This year, on the same day as Pentecost Sunday comes Aldersgate Sunday, when we recall John Wesley’s transformative experience in 1738. At a small meeting on Aldersgate Street in London, Wesley wrote that he “felt [his] heart strangely warmed.” In that quiet but profound moment, he experienced assurance that Christ loved him, personally and deeply and had saved him.

Initially, Pentecost and Aldersgate may seem very different. One is dramatic and fiery, the other inward and gentle. But they both speak of the same truth - the Holy Spirit meets us where we are and brings new life. For the disciples, it was a rushing wind and visible flame. For Wesley, it was a warming of the heart. For us, it may come in ways just as varied through worship, prayer, community, or unexpected moments of grace.

Together, these two moments remind us that faith is not only something we believe, but something we experience. The Spirit who set the early Church ablaze is the same Spirit who kindles faith within us today.

So as we celebrate this year, why not reflect for a moment and ask yourself ‘Where is the Spirit at work in my life and how might God be warming my heart again?’

I pray that we will all be open to both the fire and the warmth of God’s presence renewing us, assuring us, and sending us out in love.

God bless.

Silas



Church Family News



Happy Birthday

to all those who have birthdays this month.

May God be with you all on your special day and always.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Happy Anniversary

to those celebrating a wedding anniversary this month.

*Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn
Romans 12:15 (NIV)*



We wish to thank all our friends at the Greensand Community Methodist Church for the lovely flowers, cards, and congratulations we received on the occasion of our diamond wedding anniversary. Also the blessing of our marriage from our minister Silas during Sunday's service surrounded by the outpouring of love by our family and friends in the congregation. It was a truly heart warming experience we shall never forget. Once again thank you all.

Anita and John

Worship in May

3rd May

United Worship at Ampthill led by Chris Fox **10.30 am**

10th May

Ampthill Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC) **9.30 am**

Clophill Worship led by Meredith Major **10.30 am**

Flitwick Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC) **11.00 am**

17th May

Ampthill Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood **11.00 am**

Clophill Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood (HC) **9.30 am**

Flitwick Worship led by Rev. Nigel Bibbings **10.30 am**

24th May - Pentecost

Ampthill Worship led by Geoff Talbot **10.30 am**

Clophill Worship led by Rev. Silas Wood **11.00 am**

Flitwick Breakfast Church led by Rev. Silas Wood **9.30 am**

31st May

Ampthill Local Worship **10.30 am**

Clophill Local Worship **10.30 am**

Flitwick Local Worship **10.30 am**

6th June

United Worship at Clophill **10.30 am**



Worship in May

| May | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
|----------|--|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Ampthill | 10.30 am United Worship led by Chris Fos | 9.30 am Holy Communion led by Silas Wood | 11.00 am Worship led by Silas Wood | 10.30 am Worship led by Geoff Talbot | 10.30 am Local Worship |
| Clophill | 10.30 am United Worship at Ampthill | 10.30 am Worship led by Meredith Major | 9.30 am Holy Communion led by Silas Wood | 11.00 am Worship led by Silas Wood | 10.30 am Local Worship |
| Flitwick | 10.30 am United Worship at Ampthill | 11.00 am Holy Communion led by Silas Wood | 10.30 am Worship led by Nigel Bibbings | 9.30 am Breakfast Church led by Silas wood | 10.30 am Local Worship |



Easter Offering Service

Sunday 31st May

Kempston East at 3pm

Theme -Unbound: a gospel that breaks barriers

Your Easter Offerings for the World Mission Fund will be dedicated and we will learn about some of the work being done by Methodist Partner Churches around the world.



What's On in May

Monday

Craft Café at Flitwick **11th May** 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm

Tuesday

Prayer Meeting at 6 Brinsmade Road, Ampthill 2.30 pm

Wednesday

Tea and Chat at Clophill 10.00 am - 12 noon

Ampthill Ladies Group 13th May - Party Time 2.00 pm

Tea and Chat at Flitwick 2.30 pm - 3.45 pm

Thursday

Baby Comes Too at Flitwick (Term time) 9.15 am - 11.15 am

Community Café at Ampthill 10.30 am - 1.30 pm

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association at Flitwick (Term time)

 Anchors and Juniors 6.15 pm - 7.30 pm

 Company and Seniors 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm

Saturday

Coffee and Croissants at Clophill 9th May 10.00 am - 12 noon

Christian Aid Big Brekkie at Sacred Heart Church 16th May
(see page 17)

Prayer and Coffee Morning at Flitwick 30th May
(See next page) 10.00 am - 12 noon



Prayer and Coffee Morning

Saturday 30th May

10 am - 12 noon

There will be prayer stations in the church, based on Paul's letter to the Philippians, which is the book we will be studying for Bible Month in June.

Paul's letter to the Philippians is one of the letters he wrote while he was in prison. Despite his imprisonment he wrote about his joy and the joy the readers could have through their relationship with Jesus. It is a short letter with only four chapters but in those chapters there is much we can learn from.

Our prayer mornings are an opportunity to spend some quiet time with God while immersing ourselves in particular parts of the Bible.

A verse about prayer from Philippians:

Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6 (ESV)

A coffee morning will be held in the back room where you will be able to enjoy fellowship and refreshments. Donations will be given to the Methodist World Mission Fund adding to what has been collected through your Easter Offering gifts.

All are welcome. We hope you will be able to join us.



One Minute Prayer for Peace

During the Second World War, a group of people stopped whatever they were doing at a specific time every night to pray for peace and safety for everyone. They did this every day, and it was as if the whole city paused – such was the power of prayer. The result was so overwhelming that the bombing stopped shortly afterward!

Now once again some people are organizing. A group of people around the world has agreed to spend one minute praying for the safety of our countries, for the end of the problems that oppress us, and for God to guide the decisions of our leaders.

Different countries around the world will be praying at different times. In the UK the time will be 3.00 pm.

Please support us in this initiative. Every day we will pause for one minute at the designated time to pray for world peace, for the end of conflict, and for the restoration of calm and security for all people on earth. We will also pray that families may seek their security, protection, and salvation in God.

If we truly understood the immense power of prayer, we would be amazed.

If you can, please forward this request to your contacts so that together we can work a miracle through our prayers.

Set an alarm on your phone every day at the time designated for your country and pray for one minute for peace.

The power of many people praying together at the same time is incredible! Let us try to pray at the given time.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

The above was sent to Churches Together in Ampthill and Flitwick and has been forwarded to the churches in the group.

Living In The World/Living In The Bible

It is so easy to look to the world for answers
And not to the Bible,
It is so easy to follow the ways of the world,
To listen to the wisdom of man, with his soothing and
persuasive words
Rather than the eternal wisdom of our Lord that gives us Life.

And yet as Christians
Jesus has called us to walk the narrow Way
The toughest, but the best, if we are to finish the race.

Focusing our eyes on Jesus,
Believing his words are true,
And closing our eyes to those things
Which so easily lead us astray
Is the only way to overcome this world
But only if The Holy Spirit leads the way.

Living out God's word in our hearts is the best thing we can do.
But how do we remember what the Lord says
So it becomes a part of our everyday lives?
By meditating and reflecting on the Scriptures
Until it becomes a way of life.

Lance



Amphill Ladies Group

Meetings are held fortnightly on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm - followed by refreshments - all are welcome.

On **Wednesday 1 April**, we were joined by David Fowler telling us about the Bedfordshire involvement in the BBC during WW2. There were 7 BBC studios within Bedford, studio 1 being based in the Corn Exchange. His talk mentioned Glenn Miller, Vera Lynn and the Beverly Sisters, several well known names who were involved in entertaining the military during the war. RAF Cardington was well known for the barrage balloon handling and training. If the TV or radio was broadcasting using any of these Bedford studios, they always reported they were taking place 'somewhere in England'.

On **Wednesday 15 April**, Dr Bryony Norbury bought us a fascinating talk on the code breaking women at Bletchley Park. She was a very confident speaker with only several images and no notes to prompt her!! She explained one of the reasons Bletchley Park was selected for code breaking in WW2 was the local railway links – ie convenient for London and also the university towns of Oxford and Cambridge, where most of the code breakers were recruited from. Bryony has spent years investigating individual female code breakers, meeting and interviewing some incredible women and their families.

Carole

ALG Committee Member



Prayer Suggestions for May

*O breath of life, come sweeping through us,
revive your church with life and power;
O breath of life, come, cleanse, renew us,
and fit your Church to meet this hour.*

Elizabeth Ann Head StF 391 v. 1

2 days beginning 1st May - God's love

- Praise God for his love and care and pray for people you know who especially need God's love at this time.

Week beginning 3rd May - Our senses

- Thank God for our senses and remember those whose senses are impaired.
- Sight - Thank God for our sight and the enjoyment we have from reading.
- Hearing - Thank God for all we are able to listen to.
- Taste - Thank God for the meals and foods we enjoy.
- Touch - Thank God for the different textures we enjoy touching.
- Smell - Thank God for the aromas and smells we enjoy.

Week beginning 10th May - Christian Aid Week

- Thank God for the work of Christian Aid.
- Pray for the activities and events in aid of Christian Aid.
- Pray that people will be inspired to give generously.
- Pray for Christian Aid as they respond to emergencies around the world.
- Pray for the urban farmers in settlements in Nairobi, Kenya being helped to support their families by growing vegetables in small spaces.
- Pray for people who have inadequate housing and who do not have reliable access to clean water and sanitation.

Week beginning 17th May - Methodism

- Both John and Charles Wesley had a wonderful experience of the Holy Spirit in May 1738. Thank God for the work of the Wesley brothers.
- Thank God for the Methodist Church around the world.
- Pray for our North Bedfordshire Circuit and our Circuit ministers and the changes that will be taking place within the Circuit staff this year.
- Pray for our own Greensand Community Church in its three hubs, and that we will truly work together as one church.
- Pray for the activities that take place with our church.
- Pray for Methodist charities like Action for Children and All We Can.

Week beginning 24th May - Pentecost

- Thank God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples as they waited in the Upper Room.
- Thank God for the power that came on the disciples so that they were enabled to preach the word so that many people were added to the church on the day.
- Thank God that the Holy Spirit is still working through us today, empowering us to work for him.
- Thank God that Jesus is with us today through the Holy Spirit giving us his peace and joy.
- Pray the prayer in the box at the top of the previous page.



Local Preacher Appointments

Please pray for preachers from our Greensand Community Church who are planned to lead worship in May:

Anne Foley 10th at London Road; 31st at Upper Caldecote

Angie Woodcraft 17th at Priory



Easter Journey at the Lower Schools

As part of the Open the Book team at the Parish church, Sheila Smith and I were invited to share in the Easter Journey which was shared with Key Stage 1 children at all three Lower Schools in Flitwick, during the last week of the term before the Easter Holidays.

The school hall was used as the base for all parts of the journey and it began with the children entering the hall and sitting on benches, lining an imaginary road, covered with cloaks and palm leaves. Crowd noises could be heard in the background whilst the Narrator told the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem, with the children waving palm leaves and calling Hosanna.

The children then moved on to the next area where they were asked if anyone would like their feet washing. The children watched as the Narrator washed the feet of one child and told how Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

The next area was in the Upper Room, (under Gazebo) where the children sat, at floor level, around a table, laid with plates of flat bread and grapes, cups and the names of the disciples. The Narrator talked of the Last Supper and its significance to Holy Communion in church, showing the children the chalice and paten used. The children were told of Judas and his name card was placed face down on the table.



When the children had eaten the bread and grapes, they then moved to the Garden of Gethsemane where they heard that Peter would deny knowing Jesus and saw the 30 pieces of silver.



Moving on to the Trial, they heard Jesus being questioned by the High Priest and Pilate, which led the children to the Crucifixion where the children sat in front of the Cross and heard the Centurion describe what he saw and felt. A sign was hung on the Cross with a crown of thorns placed on top.

Finally the children sat down to watch a video of the Resurrection, followed by a talk on NEW LIFE with the aid of an egg, a chick and a hollow Easter Egg.

It was a wonderful experience of seeing the Easter Journey - both for the children and the adults, with grateful thanks to Sophie for all her hard work.



Linda

PS

If anyone would like to share in the OtB story telling, more volunteers are always welcome. The minimum time asked for the commitment is 1 hour a month on certain Mondays or Thursdays but the most any of us do is 3 hours a month. Sophie does all the hard work. We just turn up knowing where we will help! Please speak to Linda if you are interested.

Many thanks

Christian Aid

CHRISTIAN AID IN THE MIDDLE EAST

This year, in particular, with the conflicts in the Middle East, Christian Aid's partners throughout the region have needed prayer and financial support more than ever. £5.3 million has been raised to help local partners rooted in communities and 1.2 million people have been reached in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. As we watch the awful scenes on our television screens, this might seem a drop in the ocean, but together with other national charities working in these war-torn parts of the region, this support can provide life saving help to innocent people caught up in the conflict.

You can donate to Christian Aid's Middle East Humanitarian Appeal through the Christian Aid website -

www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/dec-middle-east-humanitarian-appeal at any time.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – Sunday 10th May – Saturday 16th May

Christian Aid Week is a time when people across Britain and Ireland come together to stand alongside people living in poverty around the world. This year the focus is on the crowded urban settlements in Nairobi where families struggle to feed their children and to provide nutritious food for good health. With tools and training provided by Christian Aid's local partner, Beacon of Hope, parents are farming vegetables in small city plots to feed their families and to earn a small income.

As usual, you can support Christian Aid's work in Nairobi by donating your gift, however small, in the traditional red envelopes which will be given out in our three Greensand Churches. As we will all be together at Amptill on May 3rd, it would seem a good opportunity to give them out then although CA Week does not begin until the following Sunday.

Envelopes will also be available on the 10th. Please put your envelope in your church collection on May 10th or 17th.

I will also send an email with the link to our e-envelope for those who would like to donate in this way.

Sacred Heart Church will again be hosting the Big Brekkie on Saturday 16th May. Details of times and booking arrangements will be shared in the coming weeks. Please put the date in your diary and please ask if you need transport.

Please support Christian Aid's work as generously as you can.

Ann B



*Discoveries made during Holy Week looking at
Matthew's Gospel*

Mon 30th March Matt 26 v 69-75 After the disciples had fled, Peter follows Jesus to Caiaphas's courtyard, let in by an unknown disciple. Jesus hasn't asked this of Peter, who was once again *getting in the way of Jesus path of obedience to God*.

Tues 31st March Matt 27 v 1-10 Judas strategy to compel Jesus to use His divine power to overthrow Rome *had misfired*. One year, at Oberammergau Passion Play, Judas was pictured as a good man trying to do his best to help Jesus out – just like us???

Wed 1st April Matt 27 v 11-26 We can easily be persuaded by others to do the wrong thing. I remember being part of a passion play in a church. As the congregation, we were the crowd. "*Crucify Him*" I *shouted*.

Thurs 2nd April Matt 27 v 27-44 They made a crown of thorns for his head and then struck him on the head *to make it dig deeper*.

Good Friday Matt 27 v 45-56 12 – 3 pm there was darkness over the land. It could not have been an eclipse as 3 hours is too long. It was also Passover when there is a full moon. *Eclipses don't occur when there is a full moon.*

Sat 4th April Matt 27v 57-66 Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy member of the Sanhedrin, has a newly cut family vault. *He honours Jesus* by offering it to him. He will not associate himself with what has been done in the name of the Sanhedrin.

Easter Day April 5th Matt 28v 1-10 Strictly speaking Jesus doesn't rise *but is raised from the dead. Jesus was dead totally and could do nothing.* God raised Him from the dead.

V1, The two Marys went to the tomb while it was still dark. *That's how we know that guards had been posted* (usually 4 on a watch) and the tomb sealed.

V2, The Marys felt the earthquake and saw the angel rolling back the stone and sitting on it. *V4, They saw the guards pass out.* V6, The tomb was empty. V8, The women hurried away to the disciples.

V9, *Suddenly Jesus met the women.* Hallelujah.

April 6th Matt 28 v 11-20 The Roman soldiers reported to the Chief priests *rather than to Pilate*, where they would have got into trouble for sleeping on duty.

V16 When the disciples saw Jesus they worshipped Him, *though some doubted* that it was appropriate to worship Him.

Jesus talks to them and tells them all authority in heaven and everywhere on earth has been given to Him. *It is right to worship Him.*

(Thanks to Scripture Union - Encounter with God.)

Contributed by Ann



Sensory Boxes- a step towards being fully inclusive



You may have noticed some plastic boxes appearing at each mission hub. These contain sensory items to help those children and some adults with neurodiversity, and sensory issues to feel more comfortable in the church environment. At present each box has fidget

items for those requiring more sensory input, and comfort items for those needing to be calmed. The boxes have space for more items to be added as we learn from those using the boxes what is helpful to them.



SAVE THE DATE

A concert by
THE ALMA SINGERS
with guest Redborne Upper School students
will be given on
Friday 5 June 2026 at 19:30
at **Greensand Community Methodist Church (Amphill)**

The Alma Singers are Angie's choir from Great Barford.

Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association



In April we only met for 3 weeks due to the Easter holidays. It was great that all youngsters returned after the break including those who had only recently joined.

Anchors have learned about the lifecycle of a frog, playing games and recreating the 4 stages of the lifecycle using fruit. They also thought about how we each have superpowers to make the world a better place through sharing love, joy and kindness. Jesus and the miraculous catch was the focus another week, which also included playing beetle – but using natural resources – leaves and sticks etc.

Company & Seniors, started with a “Trust me” themed programme when they considered who they trust among each other and various professions, and reflecting on how we can trust Jesus. They did some survival activities another week and created some mocktails. Another themed programme “Me and the Law” was the final week of April.

Looking ahead to May we will be enrolling 2 new members - signs of growth for BBGA.

We are continuing to take part in the Building stronger campaign, and we are hopeful of receiving a further grant. Anchors (age 5-8) have very limited space for new members at present. Junior Section (school years 3,4 and 5*) we hope to relaunch in June. Company & Seniors, (school years 6* plus) have space for new members to join. Email 1flitwickbbga@gmailuk for more information.

(*usually Juniors are school year 4-6 and Company & Senior 7+ but this close to the end of the school year we are more flexible)

So, a quick reminder of how you can support BBGA:

New leaders: as the company grows, and we look to restart the Junior Section then the need for additional leaders is also growing. Several of our members have varying levels of neurodiversity which also requires

more leaders. Even if you were willing to help out every other week, or on a rota basis would be great – so long as we have a few folk willing to do the same. But also coming along weekly if you can, is the most helpful way of volunteering.

Be a Friend to BBGA, by supporting those events we organise that we open to the wider church. A date for your diaries - Sunday 12th July is our final church Parade of this session 11am at Flitwick. This will be followed by lunch in the back room, this is an opportunity to support the young people of brigade. Email 1flitwickBBGA@gmail.com

Financially – just a reminder that we are collecting used ink cartridges for recycling. All mission hubs now have boxes for collection.

If you shop online then please do sign up to easy fundraising to earn further donations for BBGA at no cost to you:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/1stflitwickboysbrigade>

Social Media – Like and share our social media posts.

Pray: Prayer cards for the newest members will be available at the May United Service.

Angela

Company Captain/Leader in Charge



Flitwick Village Hall Coffee Mornings

During May the Coffee mornings on Fridays at Flitwick Village Hall will be in aid of the following:

- | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st May | Templefield Lower School PTA |
| 8th May | Embrace |
| 15th May | Town Lands |
| 22nd May | Ampthill and District Inner Wheel |
| 29th May | Royal British Legion |



News from Paraguay

April has been a month of celebrations in Paraguay.

The first and most important was Easter which arrived at the beginning of the month. Easter is the biggest festival of the year in Paraguay and the whole country shuts down for it.

From the Wednesday before schools and offices begin to shut down and on Good Friday everything is closed with people spending the day either at home with family or at church.

On Good Friday meat is not eaten and many people go without a meal at all. Here the most important Easter day is Friday not Sunday.

One tradition followed in every house is the making of chipa. They are Paraguayan cheesy bread rolls which are very tasty when fresh. Every house makes many chipa which are then taken to friends and neighbours as Easter gifts. I don't make any myself, but did receive some from neighbours.

Easter Sunday is then a day for a family meal with everyone in the city heading out to spend the day with relatives in the countryside. That makes it a very busy day on the roads. So not a day for going out if you don't need to.

Then the other celebration was my birthday which always comes round mid April. To treat myself to something I had a day in the shopping centres of Asuncion. It is always a long day out with a slow 3 hour bus ride there and back, but enjoyable, being something very different from what is available in the countryside.

Then on my birthday itself I spent the day with some local friends in town who got me a cake, which was nice.

Also in April autumn truly arrived.

It had been a very long hot and dry summer but the weather is quite different now.

During the month there have been three heavy storms bringing all the rain that had not fallen during the summer.

The rain when it comes can fall for a whole day. So living down a dirt road I can't get out on a rainy day, or the day after while I wait for the water to drain away.

Sometimes a storm will come with a gale force wind. When that happens it is not unusual for the electric to go off and stay off for a few hours until whatever has been blown down is repaired.

Then once that is over the sky is blue once more, temperatures much lower and the air fresher.

Autumn can be one of the most pleasant times of year in Paraguay.

Simon



The Newsletter

Thank you to those who have contributed to the issue of the newsletter. I hope you have found it useful and interesting.

I have previously asked for your favourite Bible verses and as June is Bible month I would especially like to include Bible verses that you find helpful. I look forward to including some of your verses in the June issue. Just give me the reference and the Bible version that you prefer.

Your contributions are welcome. Please let me have items for the June newsletter by **Sunday 24th May**. Thank you very much.

Janet

