

**The retiring collection for the Cyclone Idai Appeal** taken at Sowerby Methodist Church on 31<sup>st</sup> March raised £162. We have had a thank you letter from Christian Aid to thank us for this donation which will help to provide vital assistance to families facing hardship and enable life-changing work during this devastating time. So thank you all for your generous gifts. A copy of the letter of receipt is on the notice board near the vestry.

**Flowers from Sowerby Methodist Church** were given to Angela Maguire who has not been well. Angela would like to say thank you for the beautiful display of tulips. She was thrilled with the flowers and quite touched that they were sent to her.



#### Save the date

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May: Pleading for the Planet** Our world is in crisis, and unless we act urgently, we may pass the tipping point sooner than we think. The most urgent issue is climate change, from which many poorer communities are suffering now. Bishop James Jones is deeply concerned about all this. The former Bishop of Liverpool and Chairman of the Hillsborough Independent Panel will speak from a Christian perspective on 'Jesus and the Earth' in St. Mary's Church, Thirsk at 7.30 pm. Admission is free. Bishop Jones will take questions. Refreshments at the end.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May: Methodist Women in Britain Quiet Day** Called to Proclaim – Sharing God's Blessings with Denise Creed at Barlby and Osgoby. Coffee at 10.00am for 10.30am start.

**Tuesday 21 May 2019: Creating Safer Space Foundation Module**

**Refresher Training** at 7.30pm at Northallerton Methodist Church. You need to do the refresher training if it is 4 years since you did the Foundation Module and you are still undertaking a role for which it is required.

All items for the following week's notices to Eileen Wrightson no later than 5.00pm on Wednesday please: [eaw48@btinternet.com](mailto:eaw48@btinternet.com) or 01845 597027. Follow us on: [www.facebook.com/ThirskMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/ThirskMethodistChurch) and [www.sowerbymethodist.org.uk](http://www.sowerbymethodist.org.uk)

**The  
Methodist  
Church  
in  
Thirsk &  
Sowerby**



Minister: Rev Denise Williamson Tel: 01845 525176

**A warm welcome to all who join in worship today and a special welcome to visitors**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

#### Thirsk

**10.30am** Sector Service at Sowerby Methodist Church

#### Sowerby

**10.30am** Holy Communion led by Rev Denise Williamson

**10.30am** Godly Play in the Hall – Mystery of Easter

**1.30pm – 3.00pm** Fijian Worship

**6.30pm** United Service at St Oswald's

### Thoughts from Rev Geoffrey Bruce:

'April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire' wrote T S Elliot. Or do you think of all those April showers? Shakespeare speaks of 'The uncertain glory of an April day'. Later in this month we will celebrate the glorious 'certainty' of Christ's resurrection, but not before we have gone through the agony of the death of Jesus on a cross (let alone the ongoing uncertainty and pain of Brexit). Perhaps in this month we will be reminded that uncertainty is part and parcel of human life.

These words from the Bible and from a hymn have been my constant companions. 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord' (Isaiah 55:8) and 'Whatever wakes my heart and mind, Thy presence is, my Lord' (MHB 930 v2). The Psalmist said 'God is our refuge and strength' and he asked 'Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?' God was with him. Jesus' last words to the disciples in Matthew 28:20 are 'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age'. As we will find out again between now and Easter, we cannot entirely understand clearly what God is doing, what He is thinking, and how He acts in this 'wicked' world. Despite our best efforts and attempts to 'understand, His ways and thoughts are not ours. We cannot pin him down with any certainty, either intellectually or in our devotional life. We must let God be God – transcendent, surpassing, intangible and yet always with us. We would like to think that the human Jesus' presence would be easier to know, but the first disciples found him to be elusive, coming unexpectedly and then disappearing.

The 'uncertain glory' of an April day when the weather changes, the 'cruel' things which happen 'out of the blue' are the norms in our life. Many things 'wake the mind and heart' which lead us to God. In accepting the uncertainties of our life, getting on with life despite them, or because of them, are the ways in which we will find God in our midst, and within us. The involvement of Jesus in the cruellest parts of human existence is the Christian story of death and resurrection, and shows us what God is like. 'Rejoice, and be glad'.

**The Crucifixion: A Mediation on the Sacred Passion of the Redeemer by Sir John Stainer**  
presented by Mowbray Singers in Sowerby Methodist Church on **Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Apr** at 7.00pm

**Easter Trail: Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Apr**  
10.30am – 12noon at Holms Park, Thirsk. A free Churches Together event for children up to 11 years of age (must be accompanied by an adult). Discover the REAL story of Easter and receive an Easter egg reward. In St Mary's Church if the weather is bad.



### The Week Ahead: 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019

#### Thirsk Methodist Church

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> 9.00am – 5.00pm The Clock: Time for Time  
Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> 1.00pm Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Margaret Job  
Sun 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Rev Denise Williamson

#### Sowerby Methodist Church

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Morning Prayer at 14 Admirals Court, Sowerby  
10.00 – 11.30am Little Wonders Baby and Toddler Group  
Tues 9<sup>th</sup> 2.15pm Tuesday Friends: Mrs June Anderson  
Wed 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Holy Communion at St Oswald's, Sowerby  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> 10.15am Prayer for Church and World  
10.30am – 11.30am Coffee and Conversation  
7.30pm Choir Rehearsal  
Sun 14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship led by Mrs Iris Smith  
1.30pm – 3.00pm Fijian Worship  
6.30pm Healing Service led by Rev Denise Williamson



**Tues 16<sup>th</sup>: 7.30pm Trials and Tribulations:** music and readings for Holy Week with Rev Ian Johnson and the Church Choir at Northallerton Methodist Church

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup>: 2.15pm SMC Tuesday Friends: Easter Reflection** with Rev Denise Williamson (note change of day)

#### **Maundy Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>:**

7.00pm **United Anglican (St Mary's) and Methodist Sector Service** at Thirsk Methodist Church led by Rev Denise Williamson

7.00pm **St Oswald's and Sowerby Methodist Church United Agape Supper** in the Parochial Hall. *Please sign up on the sheet in the church entrance.*

#### **Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup>:**

**Churches Together Walk of Witness:** Gather at St Mary's Church Thirsk 9.30am. End with coffee at Thirsk Methodist Church at 11.00am  
10.30am – 12.00noon **Messy Church** in Sowerby Parochial Hall