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Newsletter from the WRU Churches



THE POWER OF ASCENSION!

The Ascension of Jesus isn't just the end of the Easter story - it's the beginning of our place in it.

When Jesus rose into Heaven, His disciples were left standing there, gazing upward.

How often do you gaze upwards?

They had walked with Him, seen miracles, heard His voice call storms to silence — and now, He was lifted from their sight. But His leaving wasn't abandonment. It was the next step in God's plan of closeness.

Have you ever felt abandoned only to look back in hindsight to realise you were being 'held all along'?

"Why do you stand here looking into the sky?" the angels asked (Acts 1:11). It was a gentle nudge: *Don't just look up - live it out!!!*

Jesus ascended to the Father, but He didn't leave us alone! He sent His Spirit to live **within us to guide, comfort, and empower** us. That means even today, even in our mess, our fears, our questions - He is with us!

The King of Heaven reigns **not far away, but near to every heart** that calls on Him.

The Ascension is a BEAUTIFUL promise:

- **That Jesus is alive and active**, ruling with love and justice.
- **That our lives have meaning**, because we're invited into His mission.
- **That Heaven is not far off**, but a reality that touches our everyday.

So today, whatever you're facing, know this:

Jesus didn't just rise - He reigns.

Because He ascended - We can live with

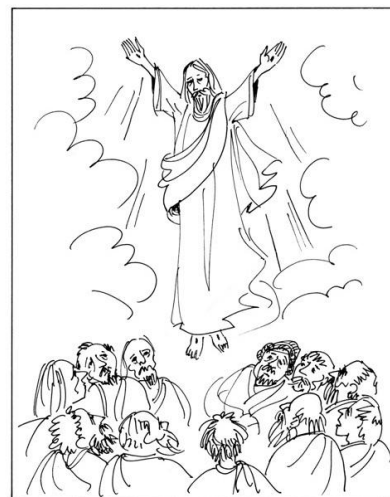
Hope
Power
Purpose

Lift your eyes, yes - but also your heart.

He's not just above us - He's within us.

We are part of something so much bigger that we can ever imagine. He reigns. We watch. We wait. We receive.

**We are LOVED.
The POWER of ASCENSION.**



A PRAYER FOR ASCENSION DAY



Lord Jesus Christ,
Risen and ascended King,
we lift our eyes to You today—
not to watch You disappear,
but to remember You reign.

You are seated in glory,
yet You have not left us.
You are exalted in heaven,
yet You dwell within our hearts.
Thank You for going before us,
for preparing a place,
and for sending Your Spirit to walk beside
us.

When we feel lost,
remind us that You are leading.
When we feel weak,
remind us that You are praying for us.
When the world seems uncertain,
remind us that You are on the throne.

Help us live not with eyes fixed on the sky,
but with hearts rooted in Your mission.
Fill us with hope,
ignite our faith,

and send us into the world
with the love and courage that come from
You alone.

Until You return in glory,
keep us faithful,
keep us close,
and keep us looking to You.
Amen.



A HEALING AND PRAISE DAY ORGANISED BY FLAME

Here you can see Ian and Sandra Fall leading a day of healing and teaching at an Anglican church in Coalville in Leicestershire. The Lord has clearly led Sandra to join in the Flame ministry which means that she is sadly stepping down from the leadership of the Women of Action.

Maybe, like me, you know very little about the charity "Flame". The preaching of the Gospel is central, emphasising the unity of body, soul and spirit along with forgiveness and freedom from fear. An inspiring day, interspersed with lively drama which is understood by people of any language.

Daphne Hodkinson





SPRING SPRINGING IN LAST YEAR'S GARDEN

Spring May 2024

Well, I thought it would never come. Ever since last November, I've been waiting, watching and preparing for that special time of the gardening year when seeds germinate, hedges suddenly turn green and I have potato shoots popping out of compost in my red recycling boxes.

Spring!!!

We all know that gardening is supposed to be good for you, all that bending, stretching, lifting and digging so why do I ache so much when I try and get out of bed the following morning. It's certainly doing something to me!

It's worth a few aches and pains when I see things burst into life and look forward to what's coming later. We have tomato and cucumber plants growing nicely, lettuce which is just about ready to pick as well as lots more for later. I've just planted out cabbage, beetroot and peas but protecting them from cats is my main challenge. At the moment the cats have the upper paw.

I installed a wildlife camera in the garden a couple of

years ago to see what was digging big holes everywhere, turned out to be a badger. We spent some happy times, badger watching just as it got dark.

This spring we had a surprise when we looked at the footage, a beautiful Muntjac deer, walking all around the garden. Sadly we only saw it for one night but in the last few weeks, Mr Fox seems to be a regular visitor.



I seem to be getting quite experienced at just quietly sitting, watching and listening to what's happening in the spring garden. It brings me such a good feeling.

This week we've watched Mrs Robin feeding the whole family, Mrs Blue Tit building her nest which now has at least two eggs (we have a camera in the nestbox). I love to listen to the continual birdsong and can even pick out the various sounds, but I haven't a clue as to who's singing what. Perhaps one day I'll get to know.

June 2024

Well, the Robin family have moved on to an obviously better stocked garden. We watched the Blue Tit nest increase to 6 eggs and now they appear to have 4 little chicks all competing for food from both mum and dad.

This year, I've dug the contents of both compost bins into the garden. Unfortunately, tomato seeds don't compost down and now I have hundreds of tomato seedlings coming up all over the place. I'm going to "grow a couple on" just to see if they do grow into proper tomato plants.

Troublesome Squirrels: - Our squirrels not only like bird food, they eat the bird feeders too. I've surrounded the feeding post with anti-squirrel spikes as well as putting them above the feeders. The squirrels now walk up the spikes like a ladder and sit nice and comfy on the top!!

Perhaps all this and more as we move through 2025.

Pete In New Swannington



HAMPDEN VIEW CHURCH – BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

25 YEARS CELEBRATION PARTY

A GOOD STORY

Isn't it great to celebrate a 'Good Story'. People need good stories. On Saturday 15th March 25 years ago, we started our Toddler Group. We have made so many good friends through this group. It has been a positive contribution to our community, serving families. One little girl earlier this year told her grandma that it was her favourite group.

WHAT WE DO

We run it on Monday's starting at 10am, with toys and board games. We actively encourage play, involving the parents. This is a great time to chat with the parents and for them to share the worries and joys of being parents. Then we serve refreshments, including home made cakes, fruit etc. At 11am we tidy all the toys away, and we have a mat-time bible story, craft activity, parachute games etc. Sometimes we run a pretend market, with a pet stall, hardware shop, groceries and a pan shop. The children go round with baskets bartering and paying for goods. It's really good fun. At Christmas and Easter we give the children books appropriate to their age and

when they come to leave the group they get a Toddler Bible. In the past we have organised coach trips.

A number of years ago we also ran a Parenting Discussion group.

THE PARTY

In March we felt it would be good to have a party. When the group was 20 years old, we had everything ready for a Gruffalo Party, but Covid stopped us from meeting.

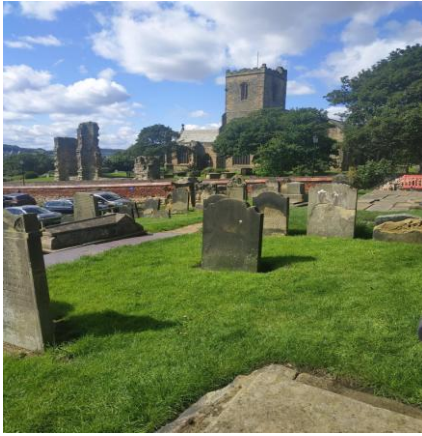
We have stayed in touch with many families, with one that joined us right at the beginning, (our Mary and their daughter are still good

friends). The dad Phil is a primary school teacher but has recently taken up entertaining at parties with magic. He's called his act 'Shay Presto'. We used the hall and stage at our Philadelphia Church, and 50 people attended. It was a wonderful afternoon, and the children and parents loved the show. We even had our Mary who is now 25, sawn into three!

One of the parents asked if we could run another Parenting Discussion Group, this time for 8's and over - great news!

Andy Wilcock





OUT AND ABOUT IN SCARBOROUGH

There are many things to enjoy seeing and visiting in Scarborough, the sea, beach, scenery, donkeys, rock, ice-creams and the castle, to name but a few. Perhaps not many visitors would look for the grave of a famous writer, Anne Brontë, but we did. Anne was a novelist and poet, the youngest member of the Brontë literary family.

She wrote two fictional stories, *Agnes Grey* and the tenant of *Wildfell Hall*, as well as a book of poems with her sisters Charlotte and Emily. They all had “pen names,” Anne’s was Acton Bell. She is now known as perhaps one of the first feminist writers, her style differing from her sisters, more realistic than romantic, taking on subjects such as

alcoholism, gender roles, marriage and motherhood.

Anne was born on 17 January 1820 and lived a relatively short life of only twenty nine years. Living conditions and disease in the 1800’s ensured short life spans - cholera, smallpox, measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, typhus, dysentery and consumption being the main culprits.

Anne began being ill after catching influenza in December 1848 and despite taking medication, her health worsened. In May she travelled to Scarborough with Charlotte.

She planned to ‘take the waters’, a popular tradition of drinking the local spa waters, which were said to have healing qualities.

However, her health worsened and she requested to be buried locally, not back in Haworth. She died two days after her arrival of consumption/tuberculosis.

Her last words to her sister were, “Take courage, Charlotte. Take courage,” and “God’s will be done.”

Anne was buried in St Mary’s churchyard, beneath the castle walls and overlooking the bay.

If you’re ever up near the castle, Anne’s grave is easy to find. It’s in a peaceful spot where you can sit on a bench and quietly contemplate the marvels and complexities of life, all created by our God, a God well known to Anne too.

Marie Nichols



CONFERENCE 2025 SPEAKER

Tristan Stevenson-Coulshaw

Tristan works for “Flame International” and is a Coordinator for the Online Courses & Intercession. To find out more please visit <https://www.flameinternational.org>

Please note!

Deadline for Conference bookings is **15th May 2025**. For enquiries, please contact Alina Taylor admin@thewru.co.uk



May - June 2025

WATCH THIS SPACE



Here at **SYRESHAM** we were privileged recently to work with the local CofE primary school in their Prayer Space times. Everything was set up in the chapel so that it could be left undisturbed and the children came in by class - from reception through to year six - for around an hour. The class teacher and headmistress came with each group and various people from the chapel and parish church came to help with the groups.

The experiences were all interactive, six in total, giving the children the time to look at issues and feelings.



The stations were -

- I have a dream, looking at Martin Luther King's dream and what you would do if you were king of the world for one day. The answers ranged from world peace to buy a pony!
- Bracelets of forgiveness, using beads as a symbol of fragmented feelings from words said to or by us; washing them clean the way Jesus does for us and then joining them together in unity.
- Pray for the world.



- God's attributes, spelling out your name on tiles and then building on them with others to spell out some of the qualities of God.
- Special people, making a model of a special person in your life.
- "I am special", recognising some of the amazing talents we each have.

The children had fun and gave some very considered opinions. We all really enjoyed the time together

Cathy Corns



PICTURE PARABLE

