

“Methodist and United Reformed Church News in Darwen”

Working together to learn, live, love and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

April and May 2026

CENTRAL

BRIGHT STREET

SPRING VALE

TRINITY

TOCKHOLES

URC MINISTERS

Rev Gilbert Esambe email: gilbert.esambe@nwsynod.org.uk
Home number 01200 859038 Mobile 07442 923377

Rev Noma Marambi email: noma.marambi@nwsynod.org.uk

METHODIST MINISTER

Rev Dr Joseph Suray . Email : revdrsurray@gmail.com
Mobile: 07858 376362

URC Churches – Central URC, Tockholes URC and Trinity URC/Methodist
For baptisms, marriages and funerals and other enquiries please contact the appropriate church secretary.

Central Website: www.centralurcdarwen.org.uk
Methodist Website: www.darwenmethodists.co.uk

Our magazine is now produced in this format for email and printing purposes. If anyone does not receive a copy or knows of someone who hasn't received a copy, please contact Liz Rutherford 07505 052133 or email lizrutherford@live.co.uk

Ministers' Letter for the Season of Easter

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord.

By the time you read this letter, our Missional Partnership will have shared in two deeply joyful and significant moments at Westbury Gardens URC: the induction of Noma into ministry among us, and the celebration of marriage between me and Florence. These occasions have been filled with love, fellowship, and a profound sense of God's presence.

Together, Noma, Florence, and I, wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Your prayers, your presence, and your generous support have been a great encouragement to us. You have truly made us feel that we belong to a caring and faithful family, and for this we give thanks to God. We have no regret in being part of this wonderful community, and we pray that God will richly bless you all.

As we enter the Easter season, we are reminded of the hope that is at the very heart of our faith. The resurrection of Christ is not only a past event but a present reality that continues to bring light into our lives. As it is written:

"Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." (John 11:25–26)

Easter assures us that no situation is beyond God's power to renew, and no darkness can overcome His light. May the love and light of the risen Christ be your portion, bringing you peace, strength, and renewed hope in all that lies ahead.

There is a simple story told of a small village that endured a long, harsh winter. The people grew weary, wondering if spring would ever come. One morning, a child noticed a single flower pushing through the frozen ground. Though small, it was enough to remind the whole village that life was returning. Soon, the fields were filled with colour again. In much the same way, the resurrection of Christ is that first sign of new life; assuring us that God's promises are always unfolding, even when we cannot yet see the full picture.

As a missional partnership, we believe that God has greater days ahead for us. We look forward with anticipation, especially as we prepare to welcome the General Assembly Moderator of the URC in June. This visit reminds us that we are part of something far bigger than ourselves, the global Church, united in Christ across nations and cultures.

In this spirit, we are excited to introduce a new annual initiative: **Mission Weekend**. This will be a time to explore and celebrate the life of the Church in different parts of the world, through learning, exhibition, and fellowship. Our first event will take place on **Saturday 13th June at Trinity Great Harwood**, with a special focus on Cameroon. We warmly invite you all to come, participate, and share in this enriching experience.

We also give thanks for the recent Missional Partnership Steering Group away day, which was marked by meaningful conversations, shared vision, and a renewed sense of purpose. We move forward with confidence, trusting in God's guidance and provision.

As we journey together through this Easter season and beyond, may we continue to grow in faith, in unity, and in love; bearing witness to the risen Christ in all that we do.

With every blessing,
Your friend and minister,
Rev. Gilbert Esambe

Ministers' Update to the Missional Partnership

Dear Friends,

Following our recent Missional Partnership Steering Group away day, the ministers felt it would be helpful to share a little more about how we work and how certain decisions, particularly around preaching plans and ministerial responsibilities are made. We recognise that some aspects of our ministry may not always be visible, and we hope this update brings greater clarity and understanding.

When preparing the preaching plan for the year, there are several important factors we prayerfully and carefully consider. Firstly, each minister is entitled to five weeks of annual leave, which must be scheduled in advance. In addition, we work around commitments within the wider Church, such as Ministers' School, Education for Ministry (EM) retreats, and attendance at the General Assembly. These are significant gatherings, and we are encouraged to keep the Sundays around them free, as they are both enriching and demanding.

Once these commitments are identified, usually marked clearly on the preaching plan, we then seek, as much as possible, to distribute ourselves fairly and equitably across all the churches in the partnership. We also aim to rotate responsibility for major Christian festivals such as Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas, so that each congregation shares in these important moments over time.

We therefore ask that when you receive a preaching plan, you do so with the understanding that much thought, care, and prayer have gone into it, always with the wellbeing of the whole partnership in mind. Of course, there are times when unforeseen circumstances arise, and changes become necessary.

We also want to emphasise something very important: *we are here because you are here*. We are at your service, for everyone. Ministers are not assigned to individuals or groups. We are called to serve the whole Church. So, if you ever feel the need for support, a conversation, or simply someone to journey alongside you, please do not hesitate to approach or contact us. We are approachable, we are friendly, and we are here for you.

We are equally committed to supporting our elders and working alongside them in ministry. Together, we share in the calling to care, lead, and nurture the life of the Church.

As a partnership, we also value our ecumenical relationships. This is why we actively engage with friends from other denominations, recognising that the Church of Christ is wider than our own setting, and that we are enriched by walking together.

We are mindful too of the important sacraments and pastoral rites such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals which are part of our calling as ministers. However, there are occasions when families request that someone with a close personal connection leads these services. In such cases, our absence does not mean a lack of care or commitment. Wherever possible, we seek to be present in support and solidarity, because we believe that pastoral presence is at the heart of ministry.

Above all, we want you to know that we love and value you all, and we are grateful to be serving alongside you in this missional partnership. We felt it was important to share this insight into our work, so that there may be greater understanding and openness between us.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and fellowship.

With every blessing,
Gilbert Esambe on behalf of the Ministers of the Partnership

CENTRAL (Janet Goodship)

How lovely to see Geoff Tolley's tree in the memorial garden in blossom, indicating that Spring has now truly arrived, despite the current weather forecast of cold nights and sleet in few days' time.

We are now looking forward to Easter. On Palm Sunday the cross will be taken at 2 pm from the Green in Darwen Town Centre up to its accustomed place near Darwen Tower, there for all to see during Holy Week.

At Central we are looking forward to this day, not only to celebrate Easter but because it will be the Rev'd Noma's first service with us after her induction to the partnership.

When Rev'd Gilbert took a service two weeks ago, this also became a very joyful one as he received into membership by transfer Ann Halliwell, who always lights up our church with her lovely smile and warm personality. Welcome, Ann.

As always, it has been very interesting to hear what our preachers have to say on the various topics set by the lectionary. George Grime, on Racial Justice day, spoke about how it's up to all of us to be ambassadors for Christianity in our daily lives. David Foster, faced with the readings about Lazarus' resurrection, and the passage from Ezekiel about very dry bones being joined together, made us think about what it means to be human.

Central Fellowship Group had an informative, if slightly disturbing talk on crime prevention, including cyber crime. The amounts of money the crime prevention officer told us were being stolen or money laundered in this country were truly horrifying, but we were also told some very effective methods of ensuring we are not taken in by scams.

Birthday Celebrations: Doreen Goodship; Rev Gilbert, Margaret Burns; Tommy Laditan; Nancy's grandson; Karen's daughter Kerry; Pat; Doris Hamer's daughter; Beryl Shaw's granddaughters Zoe and Eve; John and Nancy's daughter; Alison's friend Kevin and Alison's sister; Dave Elliott; Ann Halliwell's granddaughter Sally-Anne and great-grandson, Dorothy Chappell's great-grandson; Kathyrn's twin granddaughters Clara and Lili and granddaughter Eleanor. Apologies to mistake in previous magazine which should have read – Doris Hamer's daughter Karen and granddaughter Kayley.

Wedding Anniversaries: Margaret and John, Karen and Len, Tom and Rachael.

Congratulations: To George Grime who has been presented with the Silver Wolf - the highest award which is given in scouts – well done! Also to Christy and Steph's friends who have just become parents to twins (born at 31 weeks).

Thank you to everyone at church for sending me those lovely flowers today! (22nd March). Another treat on my birthday, much appreciated . Anne Grimson xxx

Prayers - Each week in church we continue to mention people by name in need of our prayers, thinking of Doris' husband Raymond, Kathleen Knowles, Margaret Williams and Jean Yates in Care Homes, Pauline's husband Mel, and friends of Val who are going through a very difficult time at the moment..

Coffee Bar Rota

April 5th Barbara Duxbury, Karen Narramore
April 12th Janice Cowell, Elsa Peacock
April 19th Dorothy Yates, Margaret Burns
April 26th Margaret East, Liz Staffa

May 3rd Barbara Duxbury, Karen Narramore
May 10th Janice Cowell, Elsa Peacock
May 17th Dorothy Yates, Margaret Burns
May 24th Margaret East, Liz Staffa
May 31st Janice Cowell Elsa Peacock

Good Friday at Central April 3rd 1 o'clock .Come along and enjoy Easter crafts, egg painting and much more, or enjoy an afternoon walk returning to Central for a Good Friday Service at 4 o'clock. Coffee, tea and hot cross buns will be served all afternoon. Admission free, so come and join us.

Central Fellowship – 2 pm

Thursday 16th April - Danny Wilson. The troubles with music.
Thursday 14th May Meal - venue to be arranged.

Bible Study - 10 am - 9th April, 7th May

Flower Rota

April 5th 'In memory of Jack and Betty East' the family
April 12th Flower Fund
April 19th Dennis and Margaret Oldham
April 26th 'In memory of Harold and Enid Yates' the family

May 3rd 'In memory' Gary and Eileen Pye
May 10th Jean Yates
May 17th Flower Fund
May 24th 'In memory of Mum' the Aspinall family
May 31st Barbara Duxbury

The flowers on 8th February were in memory of Arnold and Edith Briggs, born in Darwen in 1908 and 1910. They attended Darwen Grammar School and trained as teachers at Manchester University and Southlands College and devoted over 50 years in Lancashire County Council secondary schools teaching thousands of local children, many of whom remember them with gratitude.

Helen Gibson (nee Briggs)

Vestry Duty

April – Easter Sunday 5th April – Dorothy Yates (bread), Margaret Oldham

May – 2nd Sunday – Nancy Briggs (bread), Elsa Peacock

EVENTS AT CENTRAL URC – MAY 2026 - All proceeds to Christian Aid



Quiz at Central – Saturday 16th May – 7pm

Tickets £5 or pay at the door

Supper not provided – just small snacks

Bring your own drinks

Raffle

**Bring and Buy Cake Stall at Central
Sunday 17th May after the service**

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP NEWS (Judith Atkinson)

There have been a number of birthdays to celebrate at Trinity recently, including those of Judith, George, Janet and George's great nephew Freddie, Helen, and Lauren, who celebrated her 21st. We hope you all enjoyed your special days.

We were very pleased to hear that George has been awarded a Silver Wolf Award by the Scout Association for outstanding service to scouting. We also congratulated Helen on the birth of her 5th great-grandchild, Billy Jack. Dawn's mum has now completed her move to Darwen, which will make it much easier for Dawn to take care of her.

In our prayers we have remembered Sandra's friend Linda; Janet and George's friend in the Netherlands; Sheila; Ruth; Mary; Colin and Terry; Lilian and Malcolm; Terry Young; the family of Helen's nephew, who sadly took his own life; and Majid's family in Iran. We have also prayed for our new minister, Noma, and her family as she begins her ministry here in Lancashire.

At the beginning of February we held our latest Muddy Church session. The children made bird and bug nest globes and then finished off the morning with a cheese fondue. Our next session takes place on 4th April and will be our annual Easter egg hunt, from 10-11.30am, starting in church.

In February we also had a bit of clean up. Thank you to Janet, George, Sandra, Phil, Helen, Catherine and Frank for giving up their time to help.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
HOLY COMMUNION**

2nd April 2026, 7.00 pm
at 112 Sandy Lane, Lower Darwen
followed by pizza
Everyone welcome

**Warm and welcoming room for hire
at Trinity Church, Sandy Lane, Lower Darwen**

For details contact Janet Grime on 01254 54305

**MUDDY CHURCH
EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday 4th April
at Trinity Church, Sandy Lane, Lower Darwen
from 10am to 11.30am

TOCKHOLES URC (Marion Isherwood)

During January, February and March it is usually a quiet time for Tockholes Chapel but these past three months we have had quite a buzz, which is great to tell you about. The weather, although grey, wet and windy, has not stopped us from opening and we have had more in our congregation than usual. It has been good to chat after our Worship, and due to an enquiry we have had about family graves we came up with the idea to try to create 'Family Trees'.

This year, 2026, we remember **Rev David Chritchley**, who shepherded our congregation for 36 years until his passing in 1926. His dedication shaped the spiritual life of Tockholes for decades, and it is fitting that we honour his memory during this centenary year.

Our Chapel dates back to the 1600s when non-conformists gathered in secret to Worship on the windswept moors, risking their lives to practise their beliefs. 400 years later the Chapel remains a cornerstone of village life, a living testament to our Christian heritage.

Already, five ancestral trees are in progress, some stretching back to the 1600s, others to the 1740s. Each family, each story, adds another piece to the rich tapestry of our village's history.

We are reaching out to all our friends, neighbours, and history enthusiasts for any scrap of information, however small, you may have, to help us uncover stories lost to time.

Your contributions could fill gaps in our records, and together, we can preserve the living memory of Tockholes Chapel for future generations. If you can help in anyway please contact Beryl 01254 248034 or Marion 01254 772773

Our prayers are needed for Kathleen and Ann. Kathleen is now in Oldfield House, in Hawkshaw Avenue, Darwen.

EASTER WEEKEND.

Unfortunately, we will not be opening the Village Hall on Good Friday. However, Chapel will be open from 2 pm to 3 pm for quiet reflection and prayers.

EASTER SUNDAY Worship will be 2 – 3pm and will be led by Mrs Doreen Goodship.

5 th April	Doreen Goodship	Easter Sunday (all age worship)
12 th April	Catherine Young	
19 th April	Rev Noma Marambi	
26 th April	Barbara Duxbury	
3 rd May	Danny Wilson	
10 th May	John East	
17 th May	George Grime	
24 th May	John East	
31 st May	Rev Gilbert Esambe	

SPRING VALE METHODIST CHURCH (David Foster)

The last couple of months seem to have flown by. Our Junior Church is going from strength to strength with over ten children on many occasions. We have recently had a number of people volunteering to help with Junior Church and it is becoming so popular that we are looking to split it into two classes. As a result, we will be refurbishing our first-floor room and are organising a decorating party sometime in April.

We have been blessed with a variety of services over the last two months and the numbers in the congregation remain healthy. We welcomed a new member into our church family in March and will have another new member in April.

We are looking forward to our services over Easter including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at Bright St.

Our Stay and Play Group continues to attract families; we recently had a visit from Trainline which attracted over thirty families.

A number of social events have been organised; we had a Film Night in February and will be having another one in May. Our Beetle Drive in March had over thirty people attending and we are holding a Quiz Night on 18th April (see poster).

The Bible Group continues to meet every Thursday evening; we share a meal and have thoughtful discussions. Every 2 months we hold our Mission Group meeting looking at how we can move the church forward.



Spring Vale Methodist Church
Watery Lane, Darwen BB3 2ET

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 18 April 6:30 pm
£8 for adults , £2 for children.
Includes potato or cheese pie
Tel. 07730 405 645 or
davidfoster1d@btinternet.com to book

NEWS FROM BRIGHT STREET METHODIST CHURCH (Karen Rowley)

Greetings from Bright Street. Isn't it wonderful to see new life springing up everywhere – the daffodils are blooming, the trees are beginning to bud, and longer days and lighter nights are on their way. We may yet have some cooler weather but we have the hope of warmer weather to come. What does hope mean for us as Christians ? It's not something that may happen, or wishful thinking on our part, but a confident expectation of better things to come, based on God's faithfulness and the promise of eternal life if we believe in our Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him as true disciples.

In January we joined with our Spring Vale friends for our annual covenant service where we renewed our commitment to follow Christ. During the rest of January and February we have had some very varied services, among the most memorable was the Sunday when we got a message at 8.30 am to say the local preacher planned for that day was ill and unable to come. All was well, our worship leaders stood up to the challenge and stepped in at the last minute and we did a good job (according to the congregation). Note to self and the other two worship leaders, be prepared! Another memorable Sunday was when we had a sermon based on the words of the Beatles song 'Eleanor Rigby'. How often do we listen to a song but we don't really hear what the words are saying to us or understand the meaning of them. Wow! Well, I think most of us went away that day with a fresh understanding. Look up the lyrics on google and see what you think.

It is always sad when churches close, something we have experienced of late, with 3 of our Circuit churches having closed their doors for last time, not for the lack of money but lack of active Human Resources needed to keep a church alive and functioning. Every cloud has a silver lining however, and we have been fortunate to welcome 7 lovely new people to Bright Street, who came to worship with us when Feniscowles closed and they decided to transfer their membership. They have fitted in so well it feels like they have always been with us.

So what are we looking forward to? Easter of course, and our Easter services are listed below.

Maundy Thursday at 12 – two-course lunch and Holy Communion (Rev Joseph)

Good Friday at 11 am - a service of reflection led by Rev Joseph

Easter morning at 10.30 am - Easter celebration led by Charlotte Rumble

On Saturday April 11th at 3 pm we invite you to join us for an Easter Celebration in word and song led by 'Apples of Gold', followed by a light tea of sandwiches and cake. No entry charge, just donations to a chosen charity.

Our 'Time' well-being group is still attracting new members and as this term's programme is coming to a close Elizabeth has yet again put together a varied programme of activities and speakers. All are welcome to come and join the fun.

Once again we have been collecting Easter Eggs to donate to the DARE community and our congregation have not disappointed. A massive thank you to all who have donated.

Preachers for April and May Sundays are:

5 th April (Easter Sunday)	Charlotte Rumble
12 th April	Local arrangement
19 th April (Holy Communion)	Rev Joseph
26 th April	Pam Greenhalgh
3 rd May	Local Arrangement
10 th May	June Littlemore
17 th May	Simon Huggill
24 th May (Holy Communion)	Rev Joseph
31 st May	Bryan Lamb

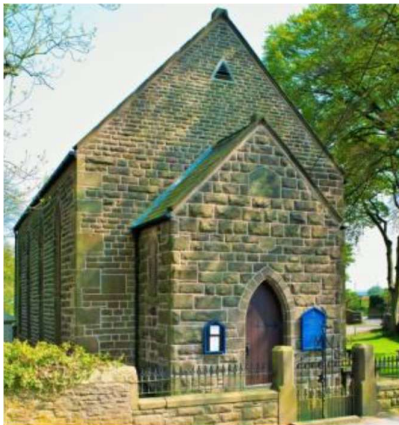
DEADLINE DATES FOR MAGAZINE 2026/2027

June/July, 2026	Sunday 17 th May, 2026
August/September, 2026	Sunday 19 th July, 2026
October/November, 2026	Sunday 20 th September, 2026
December 2026/January 2027	Sunday 22 nd November, 2026

URC CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL AND MAY 2026

Date	Central	Trinity
5 th April (Easter Sunday) Communion	Rev Noma Marambi	Doreen Goodship
12 th April	Barbara Duxbury	Rev Terry Young
19 th April	David Grimshaw	Rev Gilbert Esambe
26 th April	Barbara Duxbury	David Foster
3 rd May	Doreen Goodship	Danny Wilson
10 th May	George Grime	John East
17 th May	Barbara Duxbury	George Grime
24 th May	John East	Doreen Goodship
31 st May	Elders	Natalie Litnevski

TOCKHOLES URC CHURCH



5 th April	Doreen Goodship
12 th April	Catherine Young
19 th April	Rev Noma Marambi
26 th April	Barbara Duxbury
3 rd May	Danny Wilson
10 th May	John East
17 th May	George Grime
24 th May	John East
31 st May	Rev Gilbert Esambe

CHURCH GROUPS

CENTRAL URC

Day	Time	Name of Group and Room
Monday	9:30-Noon	DARE (Hall and Lounge)
	6.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Ballroom/sequence dancing (Hall)
Tuesday	10am to 11:00 am	Yoga (Hall)
	11.30 am to 12.30 pm	Dance Fit Exercise Group (Hall)
	6.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Ballroom/sequence Dancing (Hall)
Wednesday	10.00 am to 1 pm	DARE (Hall and Lounge)
	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Ashleigh Singers (Hall)
	5.00 pm to 9.00 pm	Line Dancing (7pm-8pm) Ballroom (Hall) 8 – 9 pm
Thursday	9.00 am to 12.00 noon	P.R.O.B.U.S. alternate weeks (Hall and Lounge)
	10.00 am to 11.30 am	Bible Study once a month (Lounge)
	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Church Fellowship once a month (Hall/Lounge)
	7 pm to 9 pm	Beginners Line Dancing/Ballroom
Friday	8.00 am to 10.00 am	Slimming World (Hall)
	11.00 am to 12 noon	Yoga (Hall)
Sunday	1.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Lighthouse of Glory Church Darwen

TIME WELLBEING GROUP - AUTUMN TERM - 1-3 pm at Bright Street

17 th April	Speaker – Norman Pearson
24 th April	Everything chocolate
1 st May	Sing and dance with Allan and Andrew
8 th May	Board Games
15 th May	Speaker - TBC
22 nd May	80's Day
29 th May	Summer Quiz
5 th June	Speaker – Elizabeth
12 th June	Ashleigh Choir
19 th June	Speaker - TBC
26 th June	Bingo and Beetle Drive
3 rd July	La Fete National
10 th July	Trip to the Seaside
17 th July	Strawberry Cream Tea

Any questions ring Elizabeth 01254 776294

DARWEN METHODIST CHURCH AT BRIGHT STREET


Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday service – multi-media Contact Karen Rowley 07941 881833 Karenliz1947@gmail.com
Monday	11.30 am – 12.15 pm	Pilates
	7 to 8.45 pm	Fellowship Group
Tuesday	10.30 to 11.30 am	Tai Chi
	6 to 7 pm	Fit n Funky
Wednesday	11am to 12 noon	Strength & Balance
	1 pm to 2 pm	Strength & Balance
	6 to 7 pm	Yoga (for menopausal women)
	7.30 to 9 pm	Trefoil Guild (1st Wednesday of every month)
Thursday	9.30 to 12 noon	Stay & Play Toddler Group
	10 am to 12 noon	Beading Group
	1 pm to 2 pm	Making Memories
Friday	1 to 3pm	“Time” wellbeing Group
Saturday	9-10 am	WW

SPRING VALE


Sunday	10.30 am	Sunday Service & Junior Church
Monday	5 pm	Drama Group
Tuesday	10.30 am to 12.00 noon	Stay and Play Toddler Group
Tuesday	2 pm to 4 pm	Craft Group
Tuesday	5.45 pm to 7.00 pm	Rainbows
Wednesday	5 pm	Drama Group
Wednesday	6.00 pm to 7.30 pm	Brownies
Wednesday	7.30 pm to 9.00 pm	Guides
Thursday	10 am	Lullaby Baby Group
Thursday	6.30 to 9 pm	Bible Study
Friday	11 am to 12.30	Moving and Stretching Classes
Friday	7pm	Karate

Fitness & Wellbeing at Trinity Church

Looking to boost your energy, improve flexibility, and enjoy friendly fellowship? Come along to our Fitness & Wellbeing Classes at Trinity Church, Lower Darwen — all are welcome!

 Pilates – Mondays 10–11am & Wednesdays 6–7pm

Find your balance and strengthen from within. Pilates helps improve posture, flexibility, and core strength through calm, controlled movements — perfect for toning the body and easing the mind.

 Zumba Gold – Tuesdays 6–7pm & Thursdays 10–11am

Dance your way to fitness with this fun, low-impact workout! Zumba Gold is ideal for beginners and active older adults, combining great music and simple moves to lift your spirits and keep you moving.

✦ All classes are friendly, inclusive, and designed to help you feel good inside and out. Come as you are, meet new people, and take time each week to care for your wellbeing.

 To book or learn more: Angela Cook – 07904 097711

 Email: missatan23@hotmail.com

A prayer for Easter by Lesley Barker



Almighty God, you came to our world in Jesus Christ.

You lowered yourself, taking the form of a servant.

You endured suffering and humiliation, then death on the cross.

However, through the sacrifice, the world believed this was a defeat, but was in fact the greatest of victories.

We give praise, not only at Easter, for this triumph over evil and death.

We give thanks for our own experiences of your resurrection power, Father.

For you brought us victory over those many things which deny us opportunities, to live life to it's fullest.

We, through you Lord God, can learn to live confidently, for no situation, however bad, is ever beyond your tremendous power.

We give thanks and trust in you always, not only in this life, but in our lives to come

Through Jesus Christ.

Amen



The United Reformed Church North Western Synod
invites you to

**The Farewell Service for the
Revd Clare Downing
North Western Synod Moderator**

30th May at 2pm
Cornerstone URC

261-267 Parrs Wood Road
Burnage
Manchester
M20 6EE

Please RSVP by 15th May
to Kerry Later office@nwsynod.org.uk

Women's World Day of Prayer 6th March 2026



On Friday 6th March, several members of Central URC, joined many fellow Christians at the beautiful Wilpshire Methodist Church, to celebrate the World Day of Prayer. This was during the week of International Women's Day.

The Service was led by Rev. Noma and Rev. Daleen and organised by the Churches together In Lancashire in North Blackburn: North Blackburn URC, Wilpshire and Lammack Methodist and St Peters and St James C of E.

The resources: I will give you rest, come, were written by women in Nigeria, and during the service we reflected on the challenges faced by people in the country, and saw some uplifting testimony from women living there.

We also remembered people facing conflict around the world.

Many women in the congregation wore traditional African dress.

The whole service was very meaningful and inspiring. Thank you to everyone involved.

Adebola Laditan and Karen Narramore (Elders at Darwen Central URC)

Time Line Quiz – Answers

1981	Charles married Diana
2002	Queen Mother's funeral took place
1969	Moon landing
2012	London Olympics
2011	Will and Kate's wedding
2018	Harry and Meghan's wedding
1997	First Harry Potter Book was published
1936	George VI crowned
1979	First woman Prime Minister
1926	First TV was invented and put on the market
1996	Dolly the sheep was cloned
1959	First Mini was produced
1928	Penicillin discovered
1948	Free healthcare started
1940	Rationing began
1953	Edmund Hillary reached the top of Everest

Wordsearch – The Upper Room

D W E H T T A M A T T H I A S
E G K S C Y R E N E W W I N E
V P N S D N S D E Z A M A J L
A E U N E M O W E H T E M E A
S T R A V T N O U M L A D R M
A E D I O T S T O I R E R U I
D R M H U U H O L Y G H O S T
U A E T T O R A C S A J L A E
J Y D R M R G E W E P O E L S
A B E A E U M E A H T H H E I
M I S P N O J D R P T N T M M
E L P O R P U Y N O M R E S O
S U T S U J G W E R D N A P N
F M O C K I N G F P I L I H P
I R E Y A R P R E F I L L E D

Amazed, Andrew, Cyrene, Devout men, Drunk, Elamites, Filled, Galileans, Holy Ghost, James, Jerusalem, Jews, John, Judaea, Judas, Justus, Libya, Mary, Matthew, Matthias, Medes, Mocking, New wine, Parthians, Pentecost, Peter, Philip, Phrygia, Pour out, Prayer, Prophecy, Rome, Saved, Sermon, Simon, Sons, The Lord, The Women, Thomas, Upper Room

Answer to last Wordsearch – Chronicles

BIBLE READINGS

APRIL 2026

MAY 2026

1 st	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70
2 nd	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Psalm 49:1-7
3 rd	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22
4 th	John 19:38-42	Psalm 31:1-4
5 th	Matthew 28:1-10	Psalm 118
6 th	Romans: 1:1-7	Psalm 2
7 th	Revelation 1:4-8	Psalm 110
8 th	Job 14:1-17	Psalm 114
9 th	John 5:19-29	Psalm 8
10 th	Isaiah 26:1-19	Psalm 100
11 th	Colossians 3:1-14	Psalm 150
12 th	John 20:19-31	Psalm 16
13 th	Acts 1:1-8	Psalm 26
14 th	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 27
15 th	Acts 2:14, 22-35	Psalm 28: 1-2, 6-9
16 th	Acts 2:36-41	Psalm 29
17 th	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 30
18 th	Acts 3:1-16	Psalm 112
19 th	Luke 24:13-35	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
20 th	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 113
21 st	Acts 4:13-22	Psalm 32:1-7
22 nd	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 32:8-11
23 rd	Acts 5:17-32	Psalm 33:1-12
24 th	Acts 6:8-15	Psalm 33:13-22
25 th	Acts 7:54-60	Psalm 34:1-10
26 th	John 10:1-10	Psalm 23
27 th	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 34:11-22
28 th	Acts 9:1-20	Psalm 36:5-12
29 th	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 37:1-11
30 th	Acts 10:34-48	Psalm 37:12-29

1 st	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 70
2 nd	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Psalm 49:1-7
3 rd	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Psalm 22
4 th	John 19:38-42	Psalm 31:1-4
5 th	Matthew 28:1-10	Psalm 118
6 th	Romans: 1:1-7	Psalm 2
7 th	Revelation 1:4-8	Psalm 110
8 th	Job 14:1-17	Psalm 114
9 th	John 5:19-29	Psalm 8
10 th	Isaiah 26:1-19	Psalm 100
11 th	Colossians 3:1-14	Psalm 150
12 th	John 20:19-31	Psalm 16
13 th	Acts 1:1-8	Psalm 26
14 th	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 27
15 th	Acts 2:14, 22-35	Psalm 28: 1-2, 6-9
16 th	Acts 2:36-41	Psalm 29
17 th	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 30
18 th	Acts 3:1-16	Psalm 112
19 th	Luke 24:13-35	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
20 th	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 113
21 st	Acts 4:13-22	Psalm 32:1-7
22 nd	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 32:8-11
23 rd	Acts 5:17-32	Psalm 33:1-12
24 th	Acts 6:8-15	Psalm 33:13-22
25 th	Acts 7:54-60	Psalm 34:1-10
26 th	John 10:1-10	Psalm 23
27 th	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 34:11-22
28 th	Acts 9:1-20	Psalm 36:5-12
29 th	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 37:1-11
30 th	Acts 10:34-48	Psalm 37:12-29

CHURCH DIRECTORY

CENTRAL:

Secretary: Karen Narramore email karen.narramore@elht.nhs.uk

Room Lettings: Janice Cowell Tel 01254 943801 email: rooms@centralurcdarwen.org.uk

DARWEN METHODIST CHURCH AT BRIGHT STREET

Secretary Karen Rowley
email: secretarydarwenmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Stewards: Angela Burton Tel 07501 277066
Karen Rowley, 2 Lyndhurst Road, Darwen. Tel 07941 881833
Val Hunt Tel: 01254 776667 Mobile: 07967 526341. valeriehunt0412@gmail.com

Worship leaders: Karen Rowley 07941 881833
Jean Fish 07506 613830
Elizabeth Foster 01254 776294

Room Lettings: Val Hunt 35 Coniston Drive, BB3 3BJ 07967 526341 email:
valeriehunt0412@gmail.com

SPRING VALE

Stewards: Chris Allan, 2 Sudell Close, Darwen
David Foster
Duncan Turner

Worship Leader Donna Boothman

Room Lettings: David Foster, 4 Derby Close, Darwen Tel 01254 703858
email: davidfosterld@btinternet.com

TRINITY, LOWER DARWEN

Secretary: George Grime Mobile 07932 632009 email: agandjmgrime@aol.com

TOCKHOLES:

Secretary: Beryl Pickup email bcpickup@hotmail.com Tel 01254 248034

CHURCH NEWS EDITOR

Liz Rutherford 4 Earnsdale Ave, Darwen Tel 07505 052133 email: lizrutherford@live.co.uk

FORMAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Spring Vale: Guides, Brownies, Rainbows;

Methodist at Bright Street: Brownies, Rainbows

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUPS

Weekday Groups at Spring Vale, Trinity and Bright Street

ENQUIRIES:

URC Churches – Central URC, Tockholes URC and Trinity URC/Methodist

For baptisms, marriages and funerals and any other enquires please contact the appropriate church secretary.

Methodist Churches—please contact the Minister or Stewards.