

GRAPEVINE

APRIL 2023 Number 572

The monthly magazine of Belmont Road Baptist Church, Carey Baptist Church and The Church of the Resurrection, Grovehill (Anglican/Free Church)

EASTER – A STORY OF FAILURE & FAITHFULNESS (A reflection on Luke 22:24-34)

Can you imagine? Jesus is just approaching the most critical days of his life. The challenge of being called to die on a cross is looming ever larger on his horizon. And what happens? His closest friends start to squabble over who is the greatest... How ridiculous ! How short-sighted. Typical of human nature. Typical of us.

But before this, something even worse. During his prayers, Jesus sees that all his friends will desert him. More than that, his most ardent follower, Simon Peter, will loudly deny Jesus three times, within his hearing. Awful. A dark night indeed. Some awful shadows being thrown, by that fire of denial. You can imagine how terrible both Jesus and Peter felt about this incident.

There's lots which could be said about this. Including the fact that Peter was the only one brave enough to hang around to see if he could somehow rescue Jesus. So, Peter surely gets some brownie points for this, compared to the other disciples. But of course, after this night, Peter is not about to resume arguing that he is the greatest among the disciples. All that is swept away by his betrayal of his friend. And by the awful sight of watching his LORD die on the cross.

Fact is, we all know what it feels like to betray our LORD don't we? One way or another, when the chips are down, we prefer saving our skins to telling the truth. I know I have had to confess to this in the past.

Jesus reaction, in the face of all the weight of sin & suffering that is bearing down on him, is amazing. Here again - the miracle of God's grace. Jesus' words in Luke 22, anticipate the Risen Jesus, restoring Peter over a fish breakfast. Both times, here & in John 21, Jesus calls him by his old name... 'Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail, & when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers'. (Luke 22:31&32)

We all fail don't we? Our faithfulness is wobbly & flakey at best. But we have a faithful Saviour. One ready to die for you & me and others just like us. A Saviour who prays for us passionately. A friend who meets us & embraces us in our failure. Thanks be to God. The merciful One, giving us the grace & strength we need to pick ourselves up & carry on. Beyond betrayal & despair – into the brightness of a new day with Jesus. That's faithfulness. Alleluia !

(Peter) replied: "LORD, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death". (Luke 22:33)

Colin Cartwright



NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

BELMONT ROAD

Wednesday Mornings

On Wednesdays we have started a weekly **Coffee Morning at 10am**. All are welcome, do pass the word and invite people who may be interested in attending.

Also on a Wednesday our **Lunch Club meets between 12 noon and 2pm**. Come and join us for a nutritious meal amongst good company. If you are age 60+ then you are very welcome to come and give us a try. Contact Sandra on 07341 254977 to book your place.

Another new venture on a Wednesday is our **Toy Library.** It is open on the **2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10 - 11.30am** Pop in for a coffee and an opportunity to browse our toy collection or bring your pre-schooler with you to choose their own.

For a £5 joining fee you can borrow any toy for a fortnight for 50p. We have a wide range of toys from books, puzzles, construction toys and games; all aimed at the under 5's.

For a £10 returnable deposit you can borrow larger items like travel cots, walkers and ride on toys.

For more information see our website.

CAREY

Sunday worship

People can once again use their discretion about whether to wear masks during Sunday worship. Please do not come if you are feeling unwell. Please continue to use the hand sanitiser provided. Refreshments are served in the hall after the service and offers of help with the rota to prepare these would still be welcome (contact Judy on 01442 216387)

Monthly prayer sheet for Children, Youth and Families work

Tamzin is producing a monthly prayer sheet for Carey's CYF work. It is available from her or on the memorial table in the church.

Baby and Toddler Group

The Baby and Toddler Group continues on **Fridays from 10.00-11.30am** during term-time Please speak to Tamzin, Colin or Hilary if you would like more information about the group or if you would be interested in helping. Please see the Facebook page for more details about the group <u>https://m.facebook.com/careybabytoddlergroup</u>

Prayer meetings

The **Wednesday** evening Prayer Meeting at **8.00pm** continues on Zoom. Please contact Obed for a Zoom invitation. The Thursday evening meeting continues at **7.30pm at Joan's house**.

Bible Studies

Monday Morning Group

We are holding a series of Lent meetings on Zoom, from **10.30am-12noon**, led by Colin.

The **Thursday Evening Group** will be restarting on the **20th April**, from **8.00pm-9.00pm** over Zoom. We will be working through the Lifebuilder Bible Study: **Listening to God**, by Carolyn Nystrom. All welcome. Please contact Charlene for a Zoom invitation.

Zoom coffee mornings

These weekly get-togethers continue on **Wednesdays at 10.30am**, with Tamzin hosting. Please contact her if you would like an invitation.

Colin's Annual Leave

Colin will be on Annual Leave from **10th-16th April**. Details of pastoral cover will be in the weekly newsletter.

GROVEHILL

For all Zoom details, please contact Revd. Austin Janes at: revaustin@sky.com

Monday-Friday 9.00am - Morning Prayer on Zoom

Monday-Friday 9.30pm - Night Prayer on Zoom

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at **7.30pm** - Men's Bible Study & Faith Group on Zoom

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month - Ladies Bible Study on Zoom at 12 noon

Thursdays 1pm - Sticky Fingers in the church hall - Craft, chat, drinks, toys and Toddlers

Saturday mornings 10am to 12 noon - 'Drinks and Dunkables' - Refreshments in the Church Hall.

Sundays 11am - Communion Service and Junior Church in Church and on Facebook 'Grovehill Church of the Resurrection - The Church behind the Chippy' page.

1st Sunday of the month 3.30pm - Causeway Church in Church (see below)

2nd and 4th Sunday of the month **6pm-7pm** - Hard COR Youth Group (10 to 14 year olds) in church

3rd Sunday of the month **6pm-7pm** - Digging Deeper Bible Youth Group in church (10-14 year-olds)

2nd and 4th Friday of the month **2pm** - 'JUST A THOUGHT' Bible Study Group in Church Hall (contact revaustin@sky.com for more info)

Causeway Church

Sunday 2nd April 3.30pm - Causeway Church in Church. If you know of any young people (16+) or adults with additional needs who might be interested, please let them and their helpers know about this – they will be very welcome.

BELMONT AND CAREY YOUTH CAMP 2023

Belmont and Carey Youth Camp next year will be at Beeston Regis in Norfolk from $12^{th}-19^{th}$ August. Costs: for children aged 8 to $13 - \cos t \pm 180$. For children aged 14 to 18 cost ± 200 .

For booking information please contact Warren (07890 494273 or warrenpyke@hotmail.com). More information can be located on our website <u>www.bcyccamp.com</u>

Warren Pyke

DENS NEWS

Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who has recently supported our Foodbank with generous donations. We are now extremely well stocked, with enough provisions to meet the needs of our community for the coming months.

Therefore, we ask that if you are able to, please make a financial donation to help cover the staff and operational costs of our vital service. If you still wish to donate food or hygiene items, please ensure they are on the High Needs List below. Thank you.

High Needs List

Food: Tinned fish (not tuna), cereal bars, 750ml squash, tinned potatoes, instant mash, small jars of coffee, tinned ham/corned beef, rice, tinned vegetables

Please note that:

- We do not accept furniture
- · Not currently accepting clothes, shoes, accessories, bedding or crockery

Thank you for your support

Donations can be dropped off at our **Foodbank at Dacre House, 19 Hillfield Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4AA Monday-Friday 10am-1pm.** Tel: 01442 250969 Email: <u>office@dacorumfoodbank.org.uk</u> Web: <u>www.dens.org.uk</u> Charity No: 1097185



DISCUSSION ABOUT GRAPEVINE

The ongoing production of Grapevine is currently under review. This shorter version of the April / Easter issue of Grapevine highlights the difficulties we now face in continuing to produce this joint publication to the size and standard that we are used to. Ahead of any attempt to produce an issue for May, our three churches, Grovehill, Belmont Road and Carey, are being encouraged to consider whether it is necessary and/or possible to continue to produce the Grapevine in this form.

Please contact Colin – ahead of Easter – if you have any views on whether to discontinue or how to continue Grapevine in its current form. Also, it would be helpful for Colin to hear from anyone who could help with editing, photocopying and distributing Grapevine in its current form. Please contact me on either <u>colin4fairtrade@gmail.com</u> or 01442 256433. Thank you.

There is the possibility of reproducing the Grapevine each month on Carey's website (and possibly Grovehill and Belmont Road's websites also). This would reduce photocopying and distribution costs, as well as the time given in hours by a number of volunteers, for producing and distributing hard copies. However, this version would of course only be available to those able to access it online. If hard copies were to be discontinued entirely, Carey's weekly newsletter would aim to cover most of the news usually featured each month in Grapevine.

Blessings Colin







APRIL DIARY

BELMONT ROAD

(Services on Zoom and in church. All services led by Tim Keightley unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 2 nd	10.30am	Worship Service
Thursday 6 th	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Supper,
		Communion and Foot Washing
Good Friday	10.00am-	Messy Easter
7 th	12.30pm	
Sunday 9 th	10.30am	Easter Day Worship Service
Sunday 16 th	10.30am	Worship Service led by Kathy
		Williamson
Sunday 23 rd	10.30am	Communion Service
Sunday 30 th	10.30am	Worship Service

CAREY

(Services in church and on Zoom and edited audio recording on website – all led by Colin Cartwright unless otherwise stated)

Sunday 2 nd	10.30am	All-age Palm Sunday Service in the hall
Tuesday 4 th	8.00pm	Deacons' meeting
Good Friday	10.00am-	Good Friday Quiet Service in the
7 th	10.40am	sanctuary
	10.45am	Churches Together Hemel
	for	Hempstead, Walk of Witness,
	11.00am	Marlowes
Sunday 9 th	10.30am	Easter Sunday Morning Service with
		Communion in the sanctuary
Monday 10 th – S	unday 16 th	Colin on leave
Sunday 16 th	10.30am	Morning Service led by Bob Little in the Sanctuary
Friday 21 st	1.00pm -	Heather Club 40 th Anniversary Tea
	4.00pm	Party in the hall
Sunday 23 rd	10.30am	Morning Service in the sanctuary
Tuesday 25 th	2.30pm	Hymn Café in the hall (NOTE: NOT THE 18 TH)

Sunday 30 th	10.30am	Morning Service in the sanctuary
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GROVEHILL

11.00am	acebook see page 4) Communion Service in church and on Facebook
40.00	
	'Drinks and Dunkables' in Church
12noon	Hall
3.30pm	Causeway Church (page 5)
7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service with washing of feet at The COR
1.30pm	Good Friday Meditation at The COR
11.00am	Easter Day All Age Communion with Easter Egg Hunt
2.00pm	'Just a Thought' Bible Study Group
6.00pm	Film Night in church
6.00- 7.00pm	Hard COR Youth Group (10-14 year- olds) Digging Deeper Bible Youth Group
7.00pm	
	7.30pm 1.30pm 11.00am 2.00pm 6.00pm 6.00- 7.00pm 6.00-

OTHER EVENTS

Good Friday 7 th	10.45 for 11.00am	Churches Together Hemel Hempstead, Walk of Witness 2023. Start from the Riverside Entrance end of Marlowes (near 'A Point for Reflection' sculpture). Service will be at The Bainbow Stage
		at The Rainbow Stage.

ADVANCE DATES FOR MAY

Sunday 14 th – Sunday 21 st		Christian Aid Week
Saturday 27 th	1pm-4pm	'I Love Hemel' Festival at Carey

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD BAPTIST CHURCHES SUNDAY SERVICES

(see pages 3-6 for current variations to this pattern)

BELMONT ROAD

(Bennetts End) www.belmontroadbaptist.co.uk

Morning Worship - 10.30am

Sunday Club (5 - 15 years) Occasional All Age Family Worship on 2nd Sunday in month 4th Sunday in month includes Communion

CAREY

(Marlowes)

www.careybaptisthemel.org.uk

Morning Worship - 10.30am – Children's Church and Youth Church 2nd Sunday in month All Age Family Worship 3rd Sunday in month includes Communion

GROVEHILL ANGLICAN/FREE CHURCH

(Church of the Resurrection, Henry Wells Square) www.grovehillchurch.org.uk

Morning Worship - 11.00am - with Junior Church 2nd Sunday in month: All Age Worship

MINISTERS

BELMONT ROADRev Tim Keightley07821 741435CAREYRev Colin Cartwright256433GROVEHILLRev Austin Janes270585