



NETWORK NEWSLETTER

No. 7: April 2024

Welcome to our April edition of the Newsletter. Flanders & Swann used to sing a comic song about seasonal weather, and *April brings the soft Spring showers, on and on for hours and hours*. Let's hope not! In the first part of the month, we continue our Easter celebrations, and perhaps start to think about summer activities in our churches. And once again, there are lots of events happening in our Network of churches, so do check to see if there is anything that you would like to join in with. You will be made very welcome.

Dates for your diary

The Haven:

Tuesdays 10.30a.m. -12.30p.m. Chatty Crafts: bring your own craft or join in a craft activity.

Wednesdays 9.30 a.m. - 2.30p.m. Veterans' Breakfast self-support group
3.00 – 4.00p.m. "Havenly Choir" community singalong

Thursdays 1.00 – 2.30p.m. Games Afternoon : Group board games, especially "Mexican Train"

Friendship Fridays 10.00- 11.30a.m. Usually bingo, by popular demand, informal & fun

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#### **Coppenhall:**

**Mondays at 9.30a.m.** Breakfast Club, followed by Toddler Group

**Tuesdays & Fridays 10 – 11.00a.m.** Tai Chi. New members welcome

**Tuesdays at 7.00p.m., Wednesdays at 9.45a.m.** Lace making classes

**Wednesday** (last one of the month), **1.30p.m.** Craft Group

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St. Stephen's:

Tuesdays 10.30a.m. - 3.30p.m. 'Come together group' with Revd Jennie Henshall. With activities, soup lunch, come and go as you need to. All welcome.

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## Wells Green:

**Fridays 10.30.m. - 12.30p.m.** Café Wells – coffee / tea, biscuits, chat and games, open to all.

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Shavington

Mondays 2.00p.m. from April 15th (and every 2 weeks thereafter until July 8th). Fellowship: topics - hymns which are particularly meaningful to each of us; Bible Study based on the 4 Gospels.

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**8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 7.30 - 9.00p.m. at The Haven** Bible Course: videos and informal conversation - looking at how the books of the bible are part of one big story from Genesis to Revelation and how key events, books & characters fit together. Everyone welcome.

**11<sup>th</sup> April, 1 – 3.00p.m. at The Haven** Quiz Afternoon with tea & scones. Tickets £5 per person.

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Messy Church meetings will take place at
Shavington on Saturday 13th April at 10.30a.m.
and at **Coppenhall on 20th April** at 10.30a.m.

15th April, 2.00p.m. at Shavington: Monday Fellowship, when we will share hymns which are special and significant for each of us.

26th April. 2.30p.m. CAMEO at The Haven. An informal group for those who are bereaved. Meet over coffee in a relaxed setting to support one another and share experiences.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

For regular Sunday worship services see the Preaching Plan

Rope Green Sunday evenings 6.00p.m., on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, and preachers are on the plan under Wells Green 6pm, and indicated by 'tps'.

Rope Green Thursdays 8.30p.m. (not 4th April): Telephone Prayers.

Join both via LoopUp (To access the telephone service LoopUp, before the meeting dial 0330 094 5859 it's a LOCAL CALL, but please check your phone contract has 'Free minutes'). When asked, key in the **Passcode 732711**, followed by #. *Then, when you join the meeting, please announce yourself.*

Sunday evenings, 5.00p.m. *Worship on zoom.* Link to join in:

<https://zoom.us/j/93904329897?pwd=cjNoUjNKaWRseG0rVGE1cIJTMjBuUT09>

Meeting ID: 939 0432 9897 Passcode: 099462

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Please send information for inclusion in the April newsletter to me by

22<sup>nd</sup> April at [sue.taylor89@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.taylor89@btinternet.com)

### **Just a thought ...**

I was at the hospital recently, when I heard a voice say "Hello, Susan". I glanced round to see who had spoken, and if they were speaking to me, and then looked at the person who was checking everyone as they came in. I looked again, and she could tell I didn't know whether she had spoken to me, so she said "Hello, it's KM". Immediately, I recognised her! We had been at Sunday School together many years ago, and our paths had crossed very occasionally since then. I laughed, and we greeted each other before I went on to my appointment.

Thinking about our meeting when I got home, though, I began to understand more clearly something that we all think about at this time of year, but may have puzzled about. Why did people not recognise Jesus on Easter Sunday, and in the days that followed? It isn't made clear by Jesus, although He *does* say to Mary Magdalen *Do not hold on to me*. It has been suggested that that could mean literally, or that she should let Him go from the way that she knew Him, because He was now different; He had resurrected, *the first fruits of the dead*, and He had taken on the new, incorruptible body that is promised to us all for eternity. The disciples, although frightened and unsure when He appeared in the Upper Room, had at least had word from Mary and the other women that He was alive.

But what about Cleopas and his wife, on the road to Emmaus that same evening? In the Upper Room, Jesus used his normal greeting to His disciples *Peace be with you*. For Cleopas and his companion, they had no idea who they were with until Jesus *took bread and broke it*, and then vanished from their sight. On other occasions the disciples and other followers did not recognise Him when He appeared to them, until He acted or spoke in ways that had been familiar to them. None of them were expecting ever to see Him again, so when they did, it was as though they had never met him. And after my experience at the hospital, I can understand that! K had to identify herself by name, before my brain rewired and I could recognise who she was.

In our everyday life, do we expect to see Jesus? Are we ready to recognise Him? Or is it so long since we have encountered Him that He would need to speak, or do something, to remind us who He is?

*May you know His every blessing, Sue*