



ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Rachel Leather

Tel: 01242 262657

minister@stmarksmethodist.org.uk

Sunday 05th April 2026

Collect for Easter day

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit be praised and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

From the Methodist Prayer Handbook: Praying for our partners in West Africa.

Gracious God, Give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

08:00 – 09:00 Early Easter morning Holy Communion – Rev John Kime

09:00 – 10:00 Easter Breakfast in the hall. All are welcome.

10:30 – 11:30 Easter Day Holy Communion – Rev Steve Ward

Live-stream link for morning service 10:30-11:30 only:

<https://youtube.com/live/tZH8EEvsJJQ?feature=share>

Please join us for refreshments in the hall after the service.

Notices for Holy Week

Thursday 2nd April	19:30 – 20:30 Maundy Thursday Service in Church Hall – Rev John Kime (joint service with Bethesda)
Friday 3rd April	15:00 – 16:00 Good Friday Service at Bethesda - Rev John Kime 14:30 – 16:00 Friday Club
Saturday 4th April	15:00 - 16:00 - Roots in the main hall – presentation of The Crucifixion
Sunday 5th April	08:00 – 09:00 Early Easter morning Holy Communion – Rev John Kime *09:00 – 10:00 Easter Breakfast in the hall. All are welcome. 10:30 – 11:30 Easter Day Holy Communion – Rev Steve Ward - the Easter Cross will be placed outside the Church on Easter Sunday morning – please bring flowers to decorate it.

*Between the 8am and the 10.30am service on Easter Day there will be breakfast available in the hall; cereal, eggs, toast, hot and cold drinks. You are welcome whether you come to the services or not. Please let Ann Varley know if you have any allergies so that they can be catered for.



ST. MARK'S METHODIST CHURCH

Notices for week to come

Tuesday 7th April	10:00 - 12:00 Coffee Church
Wednesday 8th April	09:00 - 10:00 - Ecumenical Communion service Bishop's Cleeve Methodist Church
Thursday 9th April	14:30 - 16:00 House Group @ Lesley's - led by Anne
Sunday 5th April	10:30 - 11:30 Rev John Kime (2nd of Easter)

Holy Week Prayer Focus – Let go of fear, embrace joy (Methodist Lent Resources 2026) Thursday

Matthew 26:26–30 Jesus shares bread and wine, offering hope in the face of betrayal. Imagine you were at the table with Jesus, holding a cup in your hands. Would you have seen this meal as a quiet act of restoration? What does this moment have to say about the possibility of hope even when things feel fragile?

Friday

Matthew 27:27–31 Jesus endures cruelty without retaliation. Imagine you were in the crowd, holding a cherished, comforting object as Jesus was mocked and beaten. How might holding that symbol of gentleness and kindness feel at that moment?

Saturday

Matthew 27:57–61 Jesus' body is laid in the tomb. Silence and waiting begin. Imagine you were one of the women watching the tomb being sealed. What false messages might have crept in about endings, failure or absence? What truths might still be waiting to rise, quietly, in the silence?

Other notices

Peter Wright's funeral and thanksgiving service

This will be on Wednesday 15th April, 2.00 pm at the church, followed by a short committal service at the crematorium attended by Rev Diane Daymond and a representative from Mason Stokes only. The family will remain at St Mark's to join with other attendees over refreshments in the church hall. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Peter's life.

Rev Rachel Leather Sabbatical

Whilst Rachel is away on sabbatical we have a couple of supernumerary ministers covering her for emergencies. Rev John Kime will cover most of the time and he can be contacted at: john.kime@methodist.org.uk 01242 603570. John is unavailable from 10th May for a month and Rev Ian Yates will be stepping in - he can be contacted at: iyates02@hotmail.com 07476 109000 In the first instance, please contact the stewards or your pastoral visitor, and only use John or Ian for urgent matters.

Cheltenham Food bank - Our current shopping list

Tinned Cold Meat (or fish) , Pasta Sauce, Soup - packets or tins, Desserts - hot or cold, packets or cans, Washing up liquid, washing powder (powder or capsules please, not liquid)

Deodorants – Ladies' and Men's

Thank you for all your donations for the Foodbank.

You can leave items in the boxes near our entrances at church. These are collected once a fortnight by volunteers from the Foodbank at Elim.