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April 2018

LAST MONTH'S
FIGURES

Captain's Column

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate Easter this weekend, the date being 1st April or April fools day as well on Easter Sunday! Many people on that first Sunday would have thought that the people saying Jesus had come back to life was an April fool.

We live in an age of not believing, even hospital forms now have a space for Religion and also No religion box! How sad is that!

So this Easter Day is on "April Fool's" day, yet, many will still be worshipping God. Many in the world would call us "foolish" for believing in God. Some would say, that believing in a God who gave himself up for His people is foolish. Jesus Christ lived in glory as God (Philippians 2:6). Yet, he took on the form of humanity (Philippians 2:7) in order to die on the cross to free us from the sentence of death we have with our own sin and an eternity without God. To the world, the concept of an all-powerful deity carrying the punishment for His people is utter nonsense.

Paul describes it this way, "*For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*" (1 Corinthians 1:18). Yes, to some I suppose Sundays are always a "fool's" day. But for those saved from death and an eternity without God April 1, 2018, like every Sunday, is a day of thanksgiving and praise. Especially this Easter Sunday as we celebrate that Christ defeated death and rose again on the third day and is alive. He is alive in the hearts and lives of every Christian. This is the faith we profess and believe in that is available to all.

Easter Day is probably my favourite day of the year because it's a day of victory, a day when we celebrate the Joy of life, new life. The resurrection was a true historical event but the ultimate proof of the resurrection for each individual lies in knowing Jesus. This Easter Sunday we celebrate in Saffron Walden the enrolment of 3 new adherent members Marion Pearson, Helen & Lucy Gill and Rowan Hall as a senior soldier who can testify to the words of that Easter song 'You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart' The real evidence that this day is no April Fool. Easter Blessings,

Carol

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

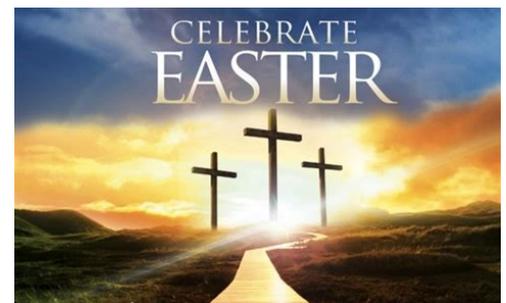
Week 1	34
Week 2	42
Week 3	31
Week 4	35

AVERAGE 36

Offerings	
Envelope giving	£ 2148.30
Collection	£ 182.76
Total	£ 2331.06

PRAYER FOR EASTER

GOD OF POWER and might, by your holy will you raised Jesus from the dead so that we might share his life eternally. As we rejoice and give you thanks for your great goodness and mercy, help us to reach out to those who do not yet believe in the truth of the gospel. Fill us with your compassion so that with loving hearts we may serve the weak and needy for love of you. Strengthen the faith of our families so that we may grow together in love. May your joy grow in us day by day. Amen.



SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

April

- 1st Barbara K, Adrian, Peter
 8th Sheila D, Maureen, Melanie, Sheila Anderson.
 15th Sheila & Ray A.
 22nd Sally, Helen, Sheila S, Jean
 29th Kathyne, Helen, Rowan

May

- 6th Barbara K, Adrian, Peter
 13th Sheila D, Maureen, Melanie, Sheila Anderson.
 20th Sheila & Ray A.
 27th Sally, Helen, Sheila S, Jean

If you would like to help with this please see Carol/

Steph Thank you to the teams who volunteer to do this each week.



Prayers

1. We would pray for all our corps members and friends who are unwell at the minute. We continue to think of Janet and pray for God's healing hand on her. For all those who are ill and struggling we would ask for strength, peace and comfort in pain.



2. We would thank God for his blessing on our corps over this Easter season, for messy church and the many families that came along and for our community band and this outreach to people who perhaps don't know of God's love. We thank God for the fellowship together during the Lent course and what we learned from that. We thank God for committed leaders to lead all our programmes and outreach and pray God will continue to make these grow and souls will be won for the kingdom of God.

3. Each month we pray for one of the groups connected with our corps and this month we pray for our Bible study groups. We thank God for the opportunity which these groups bring. We thank God for the fellowship within them and pray they would be blessed and continue to grow and be a source of learning much and building a stronger relationship with Jesus.

"Christ the Lord is risen to-day,
 Sons of men and angels say,
 Raise your joys and triumphs high;
 Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.
 (Charles Wesley)

UNITED CHURCH PRAYERS

For the month of April we are invited to pray for St. Mary's Church. We pray for leaders and members of this church. We also pray for St. Mary's primary school, the teachers and children.



Please join us for our next Messy Church at The Salvation Army For craft, singing, Bible story, food. A time for all the family of fun, food and fellowship. All Welcome and its free!!

Sunday 6th May 4pm

Come & have some fun!

Monday 9th April

Prayer meeting

7.30pm



To include a time of praise and worship.

**All Welcome
 Please come and join us**

Few forward dates for your diary!

Farewell Sunday 1st July
 Captain Carol Leading meeting
 10am

Sunday 8th July Tony & Julia
 leading meeting 10am

Sunday 15th July Steph Hall
 leading meeting 10am

Sunday 22nd July
 Welcome Sunday to
 Captain Katrina Thurlow. 10am
 Installation by
 Major Margaret Ord

DATES FOR THE DIARY

April

- 1st Easter Sunday Service 10am
 led by Capt. Carol
 2nd-16th No Weekly programme
 except -
 13th Community Band 6.30pm
 8th Sunday Worship Service led by
 Capt. Carol 10am
 9th Prayer meeting 7.30pm
 15th Worship Service led by
 Capt. Carol 10am
 17th Well café
 CAMEO
 PCC 7pm
 18th Toddler song 10am
 19th Well café
 20th 6.30pm Community Band
 22nd Worship Service led by Steph
 Hall 10am
 24th Well café
 25th Toddler song 10am
 26th Well café
 27th 6.30pm Community Band
 29th Worship Service led by Capt
 Carol 10am
 30th Corps Council 7.30pm

May

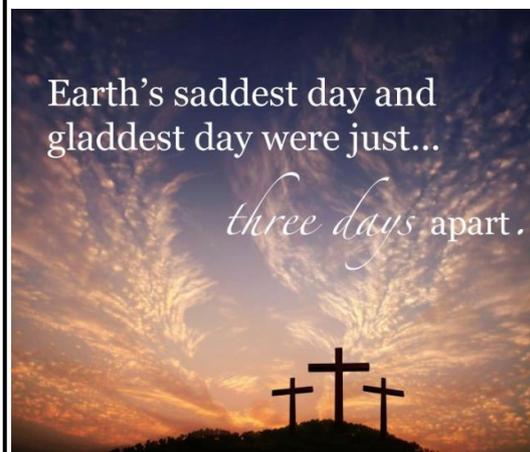
- 6th Messy Church 4pm
 20th Meeting Led by retired Officer
 Major Jenny Doohan 10am



**Congratulations
 to Lee on passing
 your driving
 test!!
 Well Done!**

Earth's saddest day and
 gladdest day were just...

three days apart.



alleluia!
Christ has Risen!