



Lord, come with your peace and breathe new life into us; that our fears may be dispelled and our locked doors opened, enabling us to step out in the power of the Spirit to take the life and peace of the resurrection to others. Amen.

Let us pray – ACTS of prayer Part 2 – C is for contrition

by Kathryn Fleming

If our prayer begins with adoration, the very act of contemplating God's glory makes us horribly aware of our own shortcomings. We wish things were different, we wish we were different – and it's natural to lament. This is contrition – a recognition of the truth of our own brokenness, individual and collective, and an honest naming of it before God. Though it may feel a heavy burden, this is in fact a gift, a badge of authenticity.

Washington Irvine said: "There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness but of power... the messengers of overwhelming grief, deep contrition, unspeakable love." Our contrition is as much a part of the love affair between God and humanity as is our praise and worship, evidence of our longing for a relationship based on uncompromising honesty.

Of course, true contrition must lead into action – prayer is active! We lament what we are, but then take positive steps to become our better selves. 🙏

“God does not delay to hear our prayers because He has no mind to give; but that, by enlarging our desires, He may give us the more largely.”

Anselm of Canterbury (1033/4-1109), Benedictine monk, abbot, philosopher and theologian

Unlocking our potential

Thérèse Garman *reflects on* John 20:19-end

One week after Easter, has our life changed? Are we living in the freedom and joy of the resurrection, or have we kept our doors firmly locked? The locked places are those inside us rather than around us. For every person, circumstance or idea we lock out, we actually lock ourselves in. What keeps you locked in? Is it fear, sadness, loss, possibly resentment or anger? Jesus has a habit of entering these locked places of our lives. He steps into our closed spaces unexpectedly, unbidden and sometimes even unwelcome. Present among us, he offers peace and breathes new life into us. He doesn't open the doors for us, but he gives us everything we need to enable us to open our doors ourselves to new life, a new way of being. If sadness has caused us to close our doors, Jesus is there in the midst of that pain: "Peace be with you," he says, and his breath, his Spirit, supports us through it all. Whatever the circumstances, Jesus turns up bringing peace. Life and peace are characteristics of the resurrection. They don't necessarily change the circumstances, but they enable us to face and live through those circumstances. So Jesus gives us his peace, his Spirit, and then sends us out. We have the freedom to unlock the doors of our inner world and walk into the fullness of his life.

Sr Thérèse Garman is a lecturer and consultant specialising in the integration of psychology and spirituality. 🙏

Anselm of Canterbury

by Caroline Hodgson

St Anselm (1033/34-1109), who is commemorated on Friday, was an Italian Benedictine monk, abbot, philosopher, and theologian, generally considered to be the founder of scholasticism, a school of thought that dominated the Middle Ages.

At fifteen he hoped to enter monastic life but to his great distress his father wouldn't consent to it. At twenty-three he went travelling through Burgundy and France, ending

up at Bec Abbey in Normandy. He entered as a novice, and soon after wrote his first philosophical treatise. Eventually he became Abbot of Bec and subsequently (though initially reluctantly) Archbishop of Canterbury. 🙏

He was an important philosopher and theologian, who wrote many influential treatises, including two meditations on the nature of God, as well as *Cur Deus Homo* (Why God was a Man), a dialogue about sin and the importance of atonement for Christianity. 🙏

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 16th April

Good morning and a warm welcome to our Morning Worship which is being led by Mr Brian Sturtridge. The stewards today are Joyce Wild and Pat and Brian Dryden. Thank you to Jean Peck for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 23 rd April	10.45 am	Morning worship led by Mrs Diana Middleditch
Sunday 30 th April	10.30 am	Ecumenical service, Blandford Camp – see below
Saturday 6 th May	8.30 am	Monthly prayer meeting, Holtwood Methodist
Sunday 7 th May	6.00 pm	“Going Deeper”, monthly meeting of prayer, worship and ministry at the Parish Church (first Sunday in each month)
Sunday 14 th May	10.45 am	Church Anniversary led by Reverend Gwyneth Owen, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 16 th July:	10.45 am	Pauline’s final service at Blandford Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall
Sunday 23 rd July:	4.30 pm	Leaving Service for Reverend Pauline Crispin at Trinity Church, Ringwood
Sunday 24 th September	10.45 am	Harvest festival service led by Reverend Nick Wood from Verwood Methodist, followed by lunch in the hall

Bible in a year: 16th – 22nd April: 1 Samuel 30 – 2 Samuel 15 and Luke 13:23 – Luke 17:19

It’s not too late to give a leaving gift for Pauline! Even though it is a few months yet until our Minister and Superintendent, Reverend Pauline Crispin, leaves us for pastures new, it would be good whilst she is on Sabbatical to begin thinking about a gift from our church which will form part of her leaving present. If you would like to make a monetary gift towards a leaving present, please pass this to Joyce before the end of May, and if you have any suggestions for a gift, please let Joyce know.

Church Anniversary lunch: Following our Church Anniversary service on the 14th May, we hope you will join us for a church family lunch. Lunch will consist of home cooked ham, Spanakopita, and Salmon en Croute, all served with new potatoes, side salad and green salad with tomatoes and cucumber. This will be followed by Eve’s Pudding and custard and tea, coffee and mints.

The cost of the meal will be £6 per person (£2.50 for under 10s). Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to assist us with our catering. If you are able to pay when signing up, it will be a great help.

Catering Committee

Ecumenical Service: The next ecumenical service will be held on 30th April at Blandford Camp. This will be a “first” for Blandford’s ecumenical services. To comply with Camp security, if you wish to attend please add your full name to the “sign-up” sheet (which can be found in the Narthex), so that names can be passed on to the Reverend (Major) Ken Adolphe at the camp. Volunteers will also be needed to welcome and assist with refreshments. You will need to take some form of photographic ID (such as a driving licence, bus pass, passport) with you. We have been advised that you will need to **arrive at the camp gates by 9.45 am** for the 10.30 am service (for security reasons). I do hope as many of you as possible will be able to join in this service. Should anyone wish to attend and need a lift to the camp, please let me know.

John Cornish

Methodist Women in Britain – Easter Offering Service: The Easter Offering Envelopes (which were available last Sunday as well as today) are a means for the congregation to give donations to The World Mission Fund. This fund supports mission partners in 65 partner churches outside Britain and Ireland. The money is used in diverse ways to include mission appointments and scholarship and leadership training. The Easter Offering Service this year is to be held on Sunday 14th May at 4.00 pm for tea at Verwood Methodist Church, followed by the service at 5.00 pm. All are welcome at this service.

Glenda Sidding

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of -

Tinned fruit	Tinned vegetables
Coffee	Squash/Fruit juice

The following items are also running low and need restocking -

Tinned meat	Tinned soup	Jam/marmalade	
Rice pudding	Shampoo	Tea Bags	Toilet roll

For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point.

John Cornish

Prayer: Please can we continue to uphold in prayer those members of our congregation who we know are ill or suffering in some way.

If you know of anyone who would like prayer and be mentioned by name in The Link, please let me know (having obtained their permission first to mention them by name).

As Reverend Pauline Crispin is currently on sabbatical, for any immediate problems and concerns, please contact Joyce Wild in the first instance.

Minister:

Reverend Pauline Crispin

Pastoral Support:

Joyce Wild: (Tel: 01258 454091)