



Registered Charity No. 1162105

**A place where all are welcome, all
can grow, all are sent out to serve
local and global communities.**

2024

MARCH News Sheet

Church Minister: Jason de-Vaux
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www.zionbc.org.uk

Please contact our pastoral team at
any of the above for help or support.

Find us on:



A warm welcome to all who join us at ZBC

Church life,

Soup Sunday & Church meeting 24th March. Please note this is a week early due to our Easter Celebrations. Join us for a simple soup, bread and cheese meal. You are also welcome to stay for our members meeting, but voting is reserved for church members.

Holy week services 25th-28th March 10:30am.

Maundy Thursday Meal 28th March 6pm – please book with a deacon.

Good Friday communion 29th March 10:30am

Wonka Fun. Easter Saturday, 30th March 10:30.

Sonrise at the Grafton - Easter Sunday, 31st March, 7am.

Easter breakfast Sunday 31st March 9am – please book with a deacon.

Information on all the above events is enclosed or please see our website.

If you are interested in becoming a church member or Baptism, please see Rev Jason.

Pray with us...

Pray for those facing difficult decisions that God will grant strength and wisdom, that we may feel His guiding presence and discern His path. We especially pray that Gods comforting grace may reassure, that choices will be filled with courage, clarity, and the assurance of God's unwavering love. We echo the resurrection hope that brings new life. Just as Jesus Christ, conquered the tomb, empower us to overcome and embrace the promise of renewal.

Amen

Diary for the Month

3rd ZBC@10.30 – Communion

6th Sip & Seek: 10am

7th Bible Fellowship Groups

10th Mother's day @ ZBC 10:30 followed by Deeper

13th Sip & Seek: 10am

14th Music group - 7pm

17th ZBC@10.30

20th Sip & Seek: 10am

21st Bible Fellowship Groups

24^h Palm Sunday @ ZBC10:30 followed by Soup Sunday & Church Members meeting.

25th Holy week service 10:30am

26th Holy week service 10:30am

27st Sip & Seek: 10am followed by Holy week service 10:30am

28th Holy week service 10:30am & Maundy Thursday Meal 6pm

29th Good Friday communion service 10:30am

30th Wonka 10:30am

31st Sunrise service @ the Grafton 7am

Church Easter Breakfast 9am

Easter @ ZBC10.30 – Baptism service

Birthdays this month:

March 6th – Franco Lorusso

March 23rd – Robin Taylor

March 28th – Eileen Taylor

Online Giving – weekly/monthly offerings can be made online using:

Account name: Zion Baptist Church

Sort Code: 20 17 19

Account Number: 00999660

An offering basket is available at the front of the church for those who wish to donate this way.

Just a thought.....

In the 17th Century, a tradition began in certain churches: the Risus Paschalis (stick with me – this message won't be all about esoteric church history – I promise!) started a tradition.

Risus Paschalis means Easter Laughter, and the tradition is that every Easter sermon **has** to include a joke so that the Church at Easter would reverberate with joy.

That's a lot of pressure on the preacher! Often the jokes I think are hilarious fall flat, while spontaneous, off-the-cuff remarks receive unanticipated guffaws.

We may think of a life with God as a very serious endeavour, but laughter plays its part. Sarah laughs when, at a very old age, she learns that she and Abraham will be blessed with a child. The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is, “a time to weep, and a time to laugh.” And Jesus preached in Luke, “blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

But the real root of the Risus Paschalis is the notion among theologians that, when Jesus defeated death on Easter, he laughed in the face of the devil. Satan thought he tricked God by killing his beloved Son, but the joke was actually on him, and hell was vanquished on this great Easter day.

In other words, Jesus looked death in the eye and said, to paraphrase Nelson Muntz of the Simpsons,

“HA HA!”

Happy Easter.