

**Sunday 27th April 2025**

**10.30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship - Mrs Val Hackney**

**3.0 p.m. -** Afternoon service at Wesley **cancelled.**  
We are encouraged to support **Owston Ferry** for their **Anniversary service** to be led by Rev. Debbie Caulk

**Monday 28th April, 2025**

**9.30 - 11.30 a.m. - CHATTERBOX**

**Wednesday 30th April, 2025**

**10.0 - 11.30 a.m. - Jack in a Box**

*A fun time for pre-school children and parents or carers*



**Wednesday 30th April, 2025**

**2.30 p.m. - MWIB -**

**Sue and Caroline - Music**

**Saturday 3rd May 2025**

**10.30 a.m. Messy church**

A warm welcome for the whole family.  
Bible stories, songs, activities, food and fun.

**Sunday 4th May 2025**

**9.0 a.m. - Rev. Debbie Caulk - Communion**

**10.30 a.m. - Mrs Elizabeth Taylor**

*There will be an extraordinary church council meeting following the morning service with two urgent items on the agenda:*

- 1. to approve tree surgery as outlined in recent tree report.*
- 2. to consider offer of reconditioned grand piano as a donation to church.*

**2.30 p.m. - Mr. Peter Jackson - at West Butterwick**

**Christian Aid Week 11 - 17th May 2025.** I have obtained a licence to hold a Christian Aid street collection in Epworth on Saturday 17th May from 10.0 a.m. to 3.0 p.m. If you can fill a one-hour collecting spot, please contact Lou Howard. This will be a joint effort from our 3 Churches in Epworth. Thanks.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Epworth Town Council seeks the help of Wesley knitters or church members in providing red knitted poppies to be sewn on, and cascade down, a black net which will be displayed over the monument in the Market Place for VE Day. Offers of help to Caroline Finch, please.



**General Church Meeting - 11th May 2025**

Louise has indicated that she wishes to step down from her rôle as Church Council Secretary. A note of the rôle outline is in the vestry for anyone considering whether it is a duty you could consider undertaking.

At the side of chapel there is one small raised bed and one large one which are not planted at the moment. If you would like to help maintain or donate to them can you please have a word with Tish ?

**More Safeguarding News**

**30th June to 11th July 2025** – Individual sessions on zoom throughout the two weeks on a variety of themes to help us understand how to create safe cultures within our churches and related activities.

**12th July 2025** - District Safeguarding conference – venue to be confirmed.  
More details to follow.

**Thomas**

Do you feel just a bit sorry for Thomas? Along with the other apostles, he has followed Jesus through thick and thin, in dangerous times. The occupying Roman army maintained order in brutal ways, and he had seen vivid evidence of that just a few days earlier. Three men had been crucified, one of them Jesus, whom he had learned to trust. Now, after he has ventured out after the horrors of that event, he returns to his place of relative safety in the company of his friends, to he told "We have seen the Lord!"

What would you have thought? If I had been in a sympathetic frame of mind, I might have thought, "Poor souls! They are seeing what they want to see, and can't accept the facts; he is dead! We saw what he had had to undergo. No-one could have survived that in any case, but the final stab into his side will have left no doubt." However much he wanted it to be different, he knew Jesus was dead.

Thomas is the one who has acquired the soubriquet of "Doubting Thomas", and with it by implication the disapproval of believers down the ages. But ask yourself what you would have thought in similar circumstances. We are constantly being advised not to take anything on face value, but to test it out against the evidence of experience.

If we are to do this, we have to look for the evidence. I can see my own father's reliance on his Saviour, despite the harshness of his own life. If we look at the lines from Hebrews, when the writer speaks of, and names, some of the "great crowd of witnesses", we may be prompted to seek them. There are many whom you will be able to remember - people whose simple goodness has had its effect on what you are. I owe much to a host of people whose faith, service and testimony have fed into my experience.

The tradition is that Thomas became a missionary to India, though it is not easy to find actual proof of this. Whatever the facts, he is evidence that it is possible for us to redeem our earlier failings. That will do for me.

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

*John ch. 20 verse 29*

“ The fundamental cause of the trouble is that in the modern world the stupid are cocksure while the intelligent are full of doubt.  
- *Bertrand Russell*

Minister	Rev. Deborah Caulk - 07821 284084 <a href="mailto:deborah.caulk@methodist.org.uk">deborah.caulk@methodist.org.uk</a>
Contact Steward	Dr John Lambert 6 Rectory Street , Epworth DN91HB Tel. 01427 872466
Face book	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/WesleyMemorialMethodistChurchEpworth">www.facebook.com/ WesleyMemorialMethodistChurchEpworth</a>
Baptism admin.	Mrs Louise Howard—07460 657278
Circuit web site	<a href="http://www.esgmethodist.org.uk">www.esgmethodist.org.uk</a>
Notices	Keith Topham - <a href="mailto:grange.top35@gmail.com">grange.top35@gmail.com</a>
Room bookings	<a href="mailto:epworth_roombookings@esgmethodist.org.uk">epworth_roombookings@esgmethodist.org.uk</a>
S C Prayer Chain	Andrew Bamford - 07549123574 <a href="mailto:epworthwesleysafeguarding@gmail.com">epworthwesleysafeguarding@gmail.com</a>
	Pauline Bennison - 01427 875478 Pat Fincham - 07776 490275



Friday 9th May 2025 Tickets, £8, from Epworth Old Rectory on line or from Sue Hollingworth. Children free.

### The Resurrection

I was the one who waited in the garden  
Doubting the morning and the early light.  
I watched the mist lift off its own soft burden,  
Permitting, not believing, my own sight.

If there were sudden noises I dismissed them  
As a trick of sound, a sleight of hand.  
Not by a natural joy could I be blessed  
Or trust a thing I could not understand.

Maybe I was a shadow thrown by one  
Who, weeping, came to lift away the stone,  
Or was I but the path on which the sun,  
Too heavy for itself, was loosed and thrown?

I heard the voices and the recognition  
And love like kisses heard behind thin walls.  
Were they my tears which fell, a real contrition  
Or simply April with its waterfalls?

It was by negatives I learnt my place.  
The garden went on growing and I sensed  
A sudden breeze that blew across my face.  
Despair returned but now it danced, it danced.

*Elizabeth Jennings*

“ Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd. - *Voltaire*



Wesley Memorial Church, Epworth

Notices for the week commencing

**Sunday 27th April, 2025**



When in doubt, don't. - *Benjamin Franklin*