

### Saturday 10th May 2025

10.0 - 11.30 a.m. **Coffee morning**

*This will include a charity donation to Christian Aid week.*

11.15 - 12.15 a.m. - **Recital** -

**Robert Fields piano & organ music**

### Sunday 11th May 2025

10.30 a.m. - **Rev. Debbie Caulk**

**General Church Meeting** after the morning service. All are invited to discuss the life of our church in 2025 as we pray for meeting and welcoming new people and new ventures that God is calling us to do in our community. Lots to consider in faith. Do you have any callings or observances that will help the church flourish? Your opinions and ponderings matter and this meeting is an opportunity to share. **Please can each Church group ensure that others in their group are aware of the meeting and share the invitation.**

*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.*

4.30 p.m. - **Rev. Stuart Gunson**

### Monday 12th May, 2025

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

### Wednesday 14th May, 2025

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

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



10.0 a.m. - **noon** - at St Oswald's, Althorpe

**Christian Aid** coffee morning

### Wednesday 14th May, 2025

2.30 p.m. - MWiB - *Getting to know you*

### Saturday 17th May 2025

10.0 - 3.0 p.m. - **Christian Aid collection**

**Outside Epworth Co-op and in Market Place**

### Sunday 18th May 2025

9.30 a.m. - **United Service at St Andrew's**

4.30 p.m. - **Rev. Debbie Caulk** -

**Circuit Service - Easter offering**



Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding. - *Albert Einstein*



### **Christian Aid Week 11 - 17th May 2025.**

I have obtained a licence to hold a Christian Aid street collection in Epworth **Saturday 17th May, 10.0**

**a.m. - 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. *Louise*

**Epworth Baptist Church** will be holding a coffee afternoon on **Thursday 15th May from 1.30 - 3.30 p.m.**, all proceeds going to Christian Aid. Cakes and Fair Trade goods will be on sale. Please support this fund-raising event and enjoy a pleasant afternoon of Christian Fellowship.

### **Saturday 24th May 2025 - 7.0 p.m. at St Andrew's**

### **Radiant Dawn**

A concert by **Phoenix Chamber Choir**

*(formerly known as Isle Chamber Choir)*

Tickets £7 available on the door

### **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.

### **All our yesterdays**

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be. As though it were not enough to have a succession of radio and television programmes about 1945, I have received a black-and-white photograph from one of my sons showing me as a scruffy 8-year-old. I am shown standing together with my brother and sister, in front of our neighbour's house, which displays a somewhat droopy union flag in the window. He accompanies it with a cheerful coloured picture of one of our great-granddaughters wearing red, white and blue. What a striking portrayal it is of the changes in the lives of young children then and now!

I shall spare your sensitive feelings, and keep my picture hidden, but it does prompt me, however, to invite you to share memories of your times past, happy or less so. Do any of our members recall seeing the railings on top of the front wall of the church garden before they were cut down and taken away to be scrapped and converted to bombs and weapons? If you look at that wall now, you will still see the stubs of railings, like broken teeth. I wonder if, in fact, they were ever used for weapons.

My morning walk to primary school, as I have said before, took me past many houses newly reduced overnight to rubble, and I suppose I just regarded it as one of those things that happened. Here in the Isle I imagine enemy bombing was less concentrated, unless it was the overflow from attempts to damage weapons production in Scunthorpe factories.

You will have noticed, perhaps, that I try to keep party politics out of this column. It would be improper to allow my own thoughts to become too explicit. I wonder, though, how many Christians felt as they witnessed Adolf Hitler and his like first growing in power, then taking over the government, attacking those they hated, and growing increasingly violent. In the school-room here in Wesley there is a photograph of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on a visit to Epworth. He spoke out against the Nazi menace in Germany, and was silenced for his opposition. Would we have been as brave as he was?

Meanwhile, perhaps we should look through our collections of photographs and edit out any that our children will use to embarrass us. Did we *really* look like that in those days?

The Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

*Revelation ch. 7 verse 17 (NIV)*

“ I prefer peace. But if trouble must come, let it come in my time, so that my children can live in peace.  
- Thomas Paine

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### The Man He Killed

"Had he and I but met  
By some old ancient inn,  
We should have sat us down to wet  
Right many a nipperkin!

"But ranged as infantry,  
And staring face to face,  
I shot at him as he at me,  
And killed him in his place.

"I shot him dead because -  
Because he was my foe,  
Just so: my foe of course he was;  
That's clear enough; although

"He thought he'd 'list, perhaps,  
Off-hand like - just as I -  
Was out of work - had sold his traps -  
No other reason why.

"Yes; quaint and curious war is!  
You shoot a fellow down  
You'd treat if met where any bar is,  
Or help to half-a-crown."

Thomas Hardy  
1840 - 1928

*The poet must have struggled in his mind with questions of war and peace. His historical novel "The Trumpet Major" described life in a rural community in Wessex while the army was preparing for possible war against France. There had been the second Boer war in the 1880's, and the horrors of the 1914-18 war. Wouldn't it have been enough to make any of us question what is gained by killing?  
In this poem the soldier, possibly in the trenches of the Somme, speculates on the man he has just shot face-to-face, and of how they might in other circumstances had a drink together. In essence, he was saying, "He was just like me, and I shot him."*



Wesley Memorial Church, Epworth

Notices for the week commencing

**Sunday 11th May, 2025**



“ If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.  
Mother Teresa