

Wollaston Free Church
Lent Services 2020

Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to fulfil the scriptures - to give his life as the sacrificial lamb. The Son of God had come to earth, to die in our place, so that all who believe in him will have eternal life. As a well known hymn says "He only could unlock the gate of Heaven and let us in."

Jesus knew that his earthly ministry was drawing to an end, and that the painful death on the cross lay before him; yet he was prepared to endure all for our sake.

During his years of ministry Jesus had been faithful to the will of his Father, and through all that he had said and done Jesus had brought glory to his Father's name.

On entering Jerusalem Jesus knew time was short and he knew that there was still much he had to do and to say in his last few days on earth. There were warnings to be given to many, and encouragement for others.

During the Lent Series this year we will be reminded of some of the significant sayings of Jesus during the week from Palm Sunday to Good Friday, now known to many as Holy Week.

February 27th

"...many are invited but few are chosen"

Reading - Matthew 22 v 1-14

Samantha Williams

Samantha is married to Paul and they have two sons and a daughter; she is the daughter-in-law of Peter and Jasmine. Samantha graduated from Birmingham University in 1990. She is a primary School teacher and recently has begun a ministerial course at Regents Park College, Oxford.

She enjoys reading, listening to music and socialising if there is a spare minute.

At Wollaston Free Church Samantha regularly leads services, preaches and is a member of the church choir. At the Family Service she speaks to the children.

March 5th

"..... the stone the builders rejected"

Reading - Luke 20 v 9-19

Rev Peter Manson

Peter was born and bred in Leicester. He graduated in Maths from Bangor before joining Peter Williams at Cardiff Baptist College; pastorates in Cardiff and Woolwich followed.

He joined the staff at Spurgeon's College (London) where he was responsible for the practical training of Baptist Ministers. As he retired he was elected President of the Baptist Union and of the Baptist Men's Movement.

Peter has retired to Selsdon, South Croydon. He is married to Ruth and has one son, Christopher, an engineer who has five children.

March 12th

" You will always have the poor among you ..."

Reading - John 12 v 1-11

Wendy Westwood

Wendy was a member of Wollaston Free Church for over 20 years. On her retirement as a Social Work Manager she moved with her husband Phillip to Burnham on Sea in 2018, where she became a member of the church there.

Wendy is a Trustee of Project Ruth and visited Romania last year with members of Wollaston Free Church. She has shared her experiences of Project Ruth and Romania with the members of the Burnham on Sea Baptist Church.

Wendy and Phillip's only son Adam lives in Edinburgh, and the family celebrated his marriage to Anastasiia in Kiev, Ukraine last year.

March 19th

"watch and pray"

Reading - Matthew 26 v 36-46

Dr Oti Bunaciu

Oti lives in Bucharest Romania and is married to Camelia; they have a son David. Since 1991 Oti has served as minister of Ferentari Baptist Church.

Oti is a Professor of Theology at the University of Bucharest, where he is Dean of the Baptist College and teaches for the TCMi Institute in Austria and for the Baptist Theological Institute in Bucharest. He is past president of the Baptist Union of Romania and of the European Baptist Federation.

In 1991 he founded Project Ruth; its aim being to assist Roma children who live near where the church is located. The main focus is education for children, but now includes the training of leaders for ministry in Roma communities and a centre for counselling and job training Roma women.

March 26th

“You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.”

Reading - Matthew 23 v 23-39

Rev David Tennant

David is a Baptist minister now officially retired. He was ordained fifty years ago after training at Bristol Baptist College. He is currently the minister at Hagley Free Church, Birmingham.

He has had two full time ministries and then became Head of Church Education at Westhill College, Selly Oak.

At various times David has been a member of the Baptist Union Council, Chair and President of the West Midland Baptist Association, also Moderator in nine Baptist Churches.

David is married to Pat, they have two children and two granddaughters.

April 2nd

“.....if you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace....”

Reading - Luke 19 v 28-44

Dr Paul Williams

Paul is married to Samantha and is the son of Peter and Jasmine Williams and has three children. He is the Senior G.P in a very busy practice.

Paul enjoys reading, going to the opera and walking when there is time!!! He has visited Romania many times since the ending of the communist era, and regards Oti as a very close family friend.

Paul has been at Wollaston Free Church since day one (as a baby). He now sings in the choir, also regularly preaches and leads services including communion services.

April 9th

“.....My kingdom is not of this world”

Reading - John 18 v 28-40

Rev Peter Williams

Peter needs little introduction and much of his background can be found in the book he wrote which is still available, entitled ‘A Brief History of Wollaston Free Church As I lived it’.

In this book we read of how in 1967 Peter, together with a dozen others purchased the old Stourbridge rugby club and in faith and through prayer, commitment and hard work Wollaston Free Church was founded. From that small beginning the church has expanded to its current membership of several hundred.

In September Peter will have celebrated 58 years in the ministry. He is married to Jasmine and they have an extended family.

**Services for Easter Day
Sunday 12th April 2020**

11.00 am Easter morning Family Worship
Children participating

6.30 pm Evening Worship
with items by the choir

**CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
Sunday 17^h May 2020**



**Significant Sayings
of Jesus on His way
to the Cross**

A series of special services for

Lent 2020

8pm every Thursday

from 27th February to 9th April

Wollaston Free Church
Somerset Drive, Wollaston, Stourbridge
www.wollastonfreechurch.org.uk