



The Methodist Church

East Solent and Downs Circuit (26/7)

Co-Superintendent Ministers: The Revd. David Muskett
The Revd. Elize Goddess

February 2024

Dear All

We are pleased to send the Plan for the quarter from March to May 2024 which includes appointments for Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Once again, many thanks to all the Preachers, Ministers, Worship Leaders, Stewards and members across the Circuit who resource and enable worship in local churches and online week by week.

Even so it has not been possible to fill every appointment on the Plan. As usual there are a number of gaps in which local congregations have the opportunity to arrange the worship for the gathered people of God. It can be a very positive experience for the local church to gather in worship which has been planned by members of the congregation. There are several resources available to help with that planning and offering content for a service. Some of those available are The Vine, provided by the Circuit to each local church; another one is Roots; and the weekly Digital Service produced by the Circuit and available online on YouTube. (Search YouTube for ES&D Circuit, or get the link and printable order of service sent to you by email). Ministers and Preachers with appointments elsewhere in the Circuit may also be willing to share the material they have prepared.

During this period, we will see the physical signs of seasonal change as we transition from winter to spring. Physical signs of spring which trigger the feelings of the possibility of hope. Hope is not to be confused with optimism. There may be many reasons not to be optimistic. Especially if you tend to think the glass is half empty. Hope is much deeper and a much more confident sensation.

In the season marking the temptations, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus we can see that God's vision and plan for a new future and a new creation are worked out. It is our calling, challenge and privilege not just to commemorate but to be part of that through the life and worship of the local church and the gift of the Holy Spirit which we celebrate in May at Pentecost.

With every blessing

Elize and David