

Hello all,

Circuit Lay Pastor

Firstly let me wish you a Happy Easter.

You will note on the plan that there are a few churches that have Local arrangements on Easter Day. It was simply not possible, with preacher's availability to offer a preacher to every church. If you have a LA, and are struggling to cover the service, please remember that the worship at home sheet will be available (you can download them from the circuit website) or contact the circuit office for a copy, or you might wish to join with another church to worship together.

This year Easter day, is also the Sunday in which the clocks go forward – whilst this is always a welcome day, for me it symbolises spring, with nicer weather and new life (so maybe a very appropriate day). I hope that when it arrives, you are able to take advantage of the good weather to spend more time outside enjoying God's creation, and take the opportunity to simply rest in God's presence.

Many of you will know that from Mid-March until the beginning of July, I will be on Sabbatical (with a couple of weeks holiday included as well). Finding time to rest in God's presence is one of the things I plan to do, as I aim to worship regularly (as opposed to leading worship), retreat, spend time with friends and family, and re-engage with my dissertation on Sabbath Theology. Throughout that time, I will now be available for circuit and church matters, and will not be reading emails or listening to phone messages. If something crops up please contact Sarah in the circuit office or if you need a Minister contact Mike Redshaw, who will liaise with other staff to help.

I am looking forward to the space, but am conscious of the extra pressure / responsibility this adds to my colleagues – so please do continue to pray for them.

God bless

Rachel Wood

On this plan, you will spot a new name - Graham Mizon who has been appointed as a Lay Pastor for 1 year within the circuit, working with Hilton and Etwall, although there may be times he preaches in other churches in the circuit. Please do say hello and welcome him when you see him! Please do pray for him as he gets to know the congregations at the 2 churches, and for all he does within the circuit.