
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

News from Whittle & Clayton Brook

PARISH GAZETTE

Speak out, Reach out, Gather in for Christ



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Dear Friends

We are probably all sick of hearing about coronavirus. Sadly, we will be hearing about it for many months more. (I enjoyed a recent cartoon showing a couple watching the news on television, with the word 'Coronavirus' spread across the screen. The caption read, "Gosh I miss Brexit!".) So I hope my piece this month doesn't produce a groan.

I want to suggest three ways we can pray at this time—for ourselves, for our church, for our nation and world.

Pray for yourself

When Jesus was entering his time of severest testing in the Garden of Gethsemane he urged his disciples to 'pray that you will not fall into temptation.' That is a good prayer for this time. We will easily be tempted into fear or despair. We may be tempted to doubt God. We may be tempted to sheer selfishness—witness the stockpiling. Many of us will be desperately worried for ourselves and for our children and families. Do pray for yourself that you will come through this time without falling. And for our encouragement, do note that before speaking these words, Jesus said to his disciples, 'I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail.' Pray for yourself, but how wonderful to know that, before we do, Jesus has already prayed for us.

Pray for your church

This is unlike anything we have ever experienced. There are people I have just got to know in our church—maybe only even met them once or twice—and now I may not see them again for many weeks. It's awful! The very meaning of the word 'church' is 'gathering'. How can we possibly be church if we can't gather? Well, of course, the Lord's arm is not too short that he cannot save (Isaiah 59:1) and Jesus is quite able to build his church in any and every circumstance. If the gates of hell cannot prevail against it, neither can this virus. So I am praying that the Lord will use this time to build his church as never before. I am praying that people will be converted and joined to his people while we are still physically cut off from one another. How amazing it would be to look back on this sad time and see what wonders he has done.

Pray for our unbelieving world

There is a phrase in the book of Revelation that haunts me. It comes four times (with slight variations):

The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands . . . Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts . . . They cursed the name of God, who had control over these plagues, but they refused to repent and glorify him . . . They cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done. (Revelation 9:20, 9:21, 16:9, 16:11)

Horrible plagues came upon the earth, but they refused to repent. As we so well know, people are content to ignore God completely when things are going well for them, but then they blame him or hate him ('they cursed the God of heaven') when things are tough. What they will not do, is repent, turn to God and be saved.

But some do and some will. So please pray for our unbelieving world. We have so convinced ourselves that we are in control, we can do anything, life will always get better, we are 'the captains of our souls', and in the twinkling of an eye that self-deception has been completely overturned. Surely, if ever, here was a reason and a time to repent. How wonderful if the Lord used this time not only to build his church, but to save his world.

Please pray.

Your brother in Christ

Philip

From Parish Registers:

Funerals:

16 March David Bould age 79

17 March Margaret Berry age 97

St Johns and Clayton Brook now have a Virgin Money Giving Account which allows donations to either church by going onto the Virgin Money Giving website. You then search for St John the Evangelist, Whittle le Woods and we come up in the charity section as "**The Parochial Church Council of St John the Evangelist, Whittle le Woods. Reg. Number 1134259**". Donations can be gift aided and specified to a particular project.



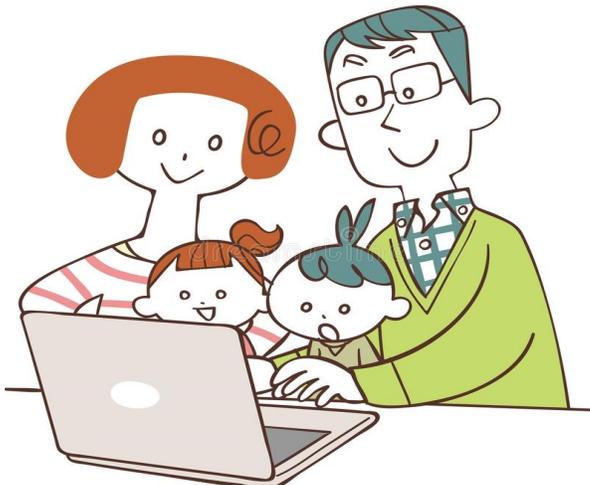
5 April – Palm Sunday: Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse. After all his teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following. On the Sunday before he was to die, Jesus and his followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier. As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. Maybe not this year,.....

Changes

There is no point in having the Gazette printed and put out in church at the moment. So, here it is online in colour! It can also be read on the church website: www.stjohnsandclaytonbrook.uk Please continue to send in anything you would like printed in the Gazette. My contact details are on the back page. If you know of anyone who does not have access online, then please consider printing them out one copy and push it through their door. Thank you everyone, Stay well and happy. - Cath (Editor)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)



CHURCH FAMILY DAY OUT TO CHIPPING

Saturday 26 September

**Lots of family fun
games and activities
plus quiet space
and worship.**

**Speaker is Tim Hanson
remember him from
Abbott Hall 2014?**

**Lots more info later
but save the date now**

HETTI writes about her recent visit TO SASCA

So, we were off again! Four of us, all kitted up for cold and snowy weather.

We arrived in Romania at 10pm on Sunday 12 January. It was cold, but the snow had all gone, sadly.

We stayed overnight in the town of Suceava, ready to set off to Sasca the next day.

Monday 13th - Friday 17th January

I can't adequately describe our arrival at Sasca—so joyous. We were greeted with such love and delight, unconditional love. Our boxes had all arrived in tact—so we planned the Sasca Boutique for the following morning. Boxes were all unpacked with a lot of willing hands! I suspect it was a cunning plan to inspect the 'designer; clothes!

We then took bags of toiletries etc to the little helpless ones upstairs, we call them 'copi suis' translation—'the children upstairs' They are not children but they are small and under-developed, they are as small children. They are unable to move, unable to talk. These precious ones are the legacy of Ceausescu's evil regime, when 'copi suis' were infants, and many other babies were isolated in appalling conditions undiscovered. Ceausescu and his wife were shot in 1989. The world was horrified by such inhumanity and aid came from many countries to help these wronged and wounded children.

Thirty years on, there are improvements, but resources at Sasca are sadly inadequate.

However, fundraising has enabled us to supply nappies and much needed toiletries. Also plastic sheets and bedding.

I don't know what 'copi suis' have to eat, when it is convenient for the carers and a suitable time we are able to feed them with bananas mashed with yoghurt. Each one enjoys the mixture so much. One can only imagine how wonderful it must taste. We take coffee and chocolate to the staff to thank them for allowing us to join them.

The next day we set up the 'Boutique'. We had some very attractive items and the event went very well apart from the occasional dissatisfied customer! We had lots of warm clothing which was really good quality.

Thank you again to all who donated.

We visited many of the rooms—there are 430 residents in Sasca. The building itself is in a very bad state with infestations and a very dodgy roof. The staff were praying it wouldn't rain or snow heavily. The ceiling below the damaged roof is in a bad way. This is the girls room and dormitory. We had a happy time doing craft activities, singing and dancing. I so wish I could show videos of this, but of course it is not possible.

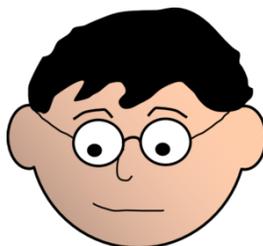
Next activity was icing biscuits. Very messy! And unpredictable! Especially when we made the icing too runny! Sugar rush all round! We only do this activity in the winter, so its always very busy, and at times chaotic; as is the summer delight of ice cream. Just once a year. And then there is 'Bingo' in Romanian of course. Everyone gets a small prize and some sweets—very popular.

When we leave Sasca, it's hard, but now they trust and know we will be back in 6 months time. We will spend time collecting, fund raising and packing boxes to send out. This summer, possibly June/July, I will be having a garden party with afternoon tea—so watch this space.

Finally, I would again like to thank you all for your prayers and support. Also to the Mission Team for donations to Sasca. We are all so blessed with our own lives, enough food, warmth, and the love and security of family and our church family.

Thank you, dear Father God for all your blessings and being here for us. Please help us to show your love for all in Sasca. Amen. - **Hetti**

When God created man, look at
where He placed our ears.



In just the right place
to wear spectacles!

PSALM 91 from Susan Parkinson

Apparently during WW1 the soldiers of the 91st Brigade recited Psalm 91 daily. It certainly feels like we're experiencing war with an invisible enemy & need Gods protection.

- ¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
- ² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
- ³ Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
- ⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
- ⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
- ⁸ You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
- ⁹ If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
¹⁰ no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
¹² they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
- ¹⁴ "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- ¹⁵ He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
- ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation." Amen.

Nigel Beeton writes: I've written before about some of the oddities in the Bible, and there are plenty there to be discovered! There's one in the opening verses of Ezekiel chapter 3, in which God invites Ezekiel to actually eat His words! And, give Ezekiel his due - he did as he was told!

God's Word is Nourishment!

Ezekiel thought it quite droll
When God said to eat up a scroll!
But, though this sounds funny
It tasted like honey!
He swallowed that old scroll
down whole!

*Amazing, isn't it, how often the
Good Book makes us smile?
By Nigel Beeton*



From the Living Waters Food Bank:

"Thank you to all our amazing churches and trolley fillers! Covid-19 is increasing demand on the foodbank and together we can meet the need and give hope to many!"

Food cannot be left at our church at the moment, but if you are in Chorley you can still drop off donations at Living Waters Church, in Bolton Street.
Tuesdays & Fridays 10am to 2pm.
Or give a money donation on their website:
www.facebook.com/LWStorehouse

Constant kindness can accomplish much.
As the sun makes ice melt, kindness
causes misunderstanding, mistrust
and hostility to evaporate.
- Albert Schweitzer

He also made the stars

Our God is a great big God...
...and he holds us in his hands

Counterfeit Gods

When we think about idol worship the images conjured up are usually those of Old Testament folk bowing down to a statue. Of course we're far too intelligent to think that something made by human beings could help us in any way, so we don't do that kind of thing; or do we?

Tim Keller, in his book *Counterfeit Gods* says "*Though we think we live in a secular world, idols, the glittering gods of our age, hold title to the functional trust of our hearts*" – (introduction page xxiv)

I have always thought that I am not an idol-worshipper, because I know that God is far more important to me than anything else. But this sort of complacency is dangerous. And it has revealed itself to be a lie now that we are in the midst of the crisis caused by Covid-19. I have believed that my trust is in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the One who created the world and sustains it with His Mighty Hand. But I have believed wrongly. I can see now that my trust (or at least some of it) has been in the structures of our society; the ability to go to work, to find what I need in the shops, to mingle with friends at church, to hug and kiss my granddaughter.

I can see this because of the hollow feeling I have inside now that all this has suddenly been taken away, and the fear I can't help feeling because I don't know what is going to happen next.

But the God who made everything out of nothing; the God who sustains his creation; the God who loves his people so much that he became one of them and went to a cruel and barbaric death to save them; that God is still on his throne, and still loves us, and nothing can prevent him from working everything out for our good (Romans 8 v 28)

As we often sing: Our God is a great big God, and he holds us in his hands.

I need to repent of the way I've put my trust in things made by human beings. Tim Keller's book and the Covid-19 crisis have shown me just how much I need to repent of.

In *Counterfeit Gods* Tim Keller says "*an idol is something that we look to for things that only God can give*" (page 131) It is anything without which we think life would not be worth living.

I can heartily recommend this book – and we will all have more time for reading in the coming days and weeks. You can order it online from 10 of Those for £7.99, to be delivered to your door. Here is the link: <https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/7379/counterfeit-gods>

"The only way to free ourselves from the destructive influence of counterfeit gods is to turn back to the true one. The living God...is the only Lord who...can truly fulfil you, and, if you fail him, can truly forgive you" (introduction page xxiv)

Alison Wynne

5 – 12 April – Holy Week



The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Holy Week.

See page 3 for the events of Palm Sunday

The next day (Monday)

they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how he was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning his authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to his disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how his followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray him to them.

Jesus and the twelve disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates his death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with his disciples. (see page 9)

The prayer chain is still up and running during these difficult days, If you have an urgent or emergency prayer, then telephone any of the numbers opposite.

EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN •

for urgent prayer or emergency prayer:

Tel: Sandra or

any of the prayer chain members:

Ann Harris

Jean Owen

Jean Grindrod

Christine Whiteside

Francis & Peter Grieve

Dedrah Moss

Julie Summers

Lorraine Cliffe

Ethel Rowbottom

David Barlow

Sandra Cameron

Alex Jones

Cath Orr

2020

Year planner for St John's & Clayton Brook Community Church

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

8th Prayer Breakfast@CBrook

MARCH

3-30 Lent Course

14th Festival Ceilidh

28th Uganda Prayer Breakfast

PLEASE NOTE, MANY OF THESE EVENTS MAY NOT TAKE PLACE, PLEASE CHECK NEARER THE TIME

APRIL

6th Annual Church Meeting

9th Maundy Thursday Meal

10th Good Friday Service

MAY

2nd Men's Convention

17th Festival Volunteers

Lunch

21-31st Thy Kingdom Come

JUNE

12-13 Men's Weekend

17th Women's Garden Party

JULY

18-19 Clayton Brook Festival

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

26th Chipping Awayday

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Please put these dates on your calendar/diary. Further details for each date will be available nearer the time. If there are any more events, please send dates to the Editor.

The Suffering Church in Three Countries

Every year Open Doors produces its World Watch List of the 50 most difficult places to be a Christian today. In addition it produces information about the 10 most dangerous countries. Sometimes persecution and suffering can happen in less expected places.

Maldives (a few thousand Christians)

Seen as a paradise for thousands of holiday makers from the West, Maldives is number 14 on the Open Doors World Watch List where life for Christians is extremely difficult. An oppressive regime makes it almost impossible for Christians to meet openly and Maldivians found to have converted lose their citizenship. Expatriates are closely monitored and sharing the Gospel is illegal.

Vietnam (8.7 million Christians)

Vietnam, number 21 on the Watch List, has seen progressive freedom for its people over the past 20 years and is an increasingly popular tourist destination. However believers from ethnic minority groups face persecution including harassment, violent attacks and social exclusion. Churches and individual Christians are regularly stoned in rural villagers, often with the collusion of local Communist authorities. The Communist regime still wants to destroy the church as in the past.

Qatar (367,000 Christians)

Qatar home of the 2020 World Cup and 2022 Olympic Games was seen as one of the more benign Middle Eastern Countries. However escalating violence against Christians has seen it jump 11 places to number 27 on the World Watch List. Christians face persecution from the government and for Christians from a Muslim background from their families and communities as well. Sharing the Gospel with Muslims is strictly forbidden punishable by imprisonment or banishment.

Please pray:

That secret believers in the **Maldives** will find miraculous ways to meet and study God's word together.

For safety for those distributing Bibles and training and supporting believers in **Vietnam**.

For protection for **Qatari** believers facing increasing violence.

God will break through in all three countries and make them places where Jesus can be freely worshipped. More information can be found at www.barnabasfund.org and www.opendoorsuk.org. You can get the full list free by going onto the Open Doors website above and following the link to World Watch List.

And now some good news. Many will remember Asia Bibi, convicted under Pakistan's harsh blasphemy laws in 2010 and sentenced to death. After international condemnation of her sentence Asia was finally freed on 31 October 2018, leaving Pakistan to build a new life in Canada in 2019.

Asia was recently interviewed by Open Doors about her experience. Firstly she wanted to thank all those who supported her in prayer during her 10 year ordeal and then answered some questions:

How did your time in prison change your faith?

My faith has always been strong because my family had a lot of devotion, but it did get stronger because now I know that God is with me – and God doesn't leave you alone, He is always with us.

How is it possible to endure such difficulties in prison and not doubt God's existence?

I never doubted, because when I was born, the priest told my mother, "This girl is going to be tested by God." And my parents kept telling me this story and I knew that this was going to happen someday.

Did you realise you were a symbol of hope and faith while you were in prison?

I had a lot of patience and hope in my heart while I was in prison. And I was certain I would be released one day because I was innocent. I knew that someday I was going to be free. When my father came to visit me, he said that I've been accused in the name of Jesus – and I told him I would also be released in the name of Jesus.

How did you feel when you heard that extremists assassinated a government official who supported your case?

I had very deep pain. I really cried because he was innocent. Whenever I think of him, I have tears in my eyes. I have a lot of pain in my heart. But I also have the feeling that he is alive because anyone who dies for his faith is always alive – he never dies.

Do you hope to live anonymously in the future?

I'm free, but I do need security. I'm sure you understand. My wish in my life is that my children will have an education. Their education has suffered a lot.

Do you have a message for those who've prayed for you while you were in prison?

Yes, I have a message for them. God is with you in the exact way He was with me. You are in God's hands and you are vital.

Please keep praying for Asia Bibi and her family, as they heal from the trauma of the past decade and ►

➤ start building a new life in Canada. Thank you for your persistent prayer for this courageous woman over many years. And please keep praying that Pakistan's blasphemy laws would be made fairer and that Christians wouldn't be targeted.

A Living Hope

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, And your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in Glory" Colossians 3: 1 - 4.

- David Barlow

9 April – Maundy Thursday:

- time to wash feet

How do we say goodbye to someone who we have known for many years and enjoyed their company? We arrange a farewell party! When Jesus prepared to leave, it was very different. He arranged His last meal and it was no party. His disciples were in for a shock. Jesus brought His friends together and then said one of them would betray Him! He then said Peter would deny Him.

Although Jesus was the host and should have been honoured, He changed His role and became a servant. He got up from the meal table, removed His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. Jesus humbled Himself and washed the feet of His disciples, much to their dismay and Peter's objection.

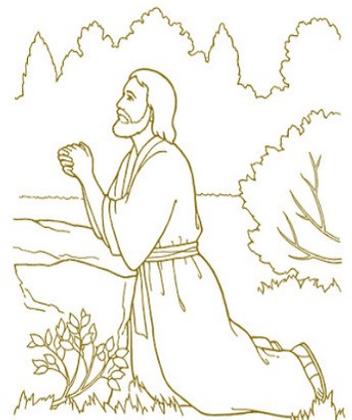
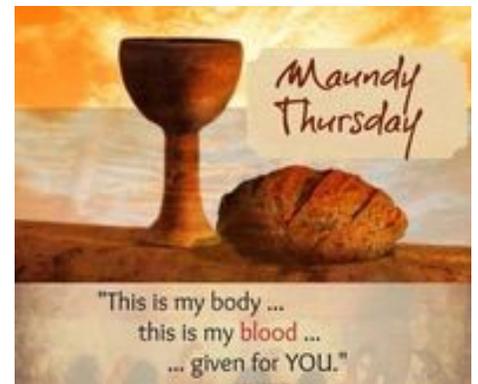
Jesus showed humility and bestowed honour onto the disciples. They were to do the same, to serve others. They were to learn, as we do, that in God's service it will often be a humbling and sacrificial experience. Jesus said "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for You" (John 13:15)

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together – for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. Luke, records him praying, '*Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done*'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.



From Roland, from one of his daily readings.....

Think about the disciples hanging out with Jesus on a boat when a life-threatening storm erupts on the water. They're unprepared to face it and, panicking, realize they might die.

The entire time this is happening, *Jesus is sleeping peacefully.*

Instead of looking at Jesus' reaction to their situation, the disciples allowed their situation to dictate their reactions.

After begging Jesus to do *something*, He calms the storm.....

But not before asking them, "Why are you afraid?"

His gentle rebuke over their lack of faith wasn't because they didn't believe Jesus could save them *from* the storm, but because they struggled to believe He would see them *through* it.

When we find ourselves in storms we can't control, how do we respond with faith? Here are three encouraging truths to remember:

God has power over every storm: If the wind and waves don't concern Him, then they shouldn't frighten you. You might not be able to change your situation, but you can choose to faithfully trust God in the middle of it.

Fixing your eyes on Jesus leads to peace: Are you looking at the size of the storm, or turning towards the One who can calm it? It's only by focusing on God, who knows every outcome, that you can navigate any situation with His wisdom and peace.

Jesus is always in your boat: It's easy to focus on your fears when you can't control your future. But thankfully, Jesus knows your future, and He's always by your side. And, He calls you to live by faith, not by sight.—*from You Version*



When you drink your coffee, remember....

C Christ
O Offers
F Forgiveness
F For
E Everyone
E Everywhere



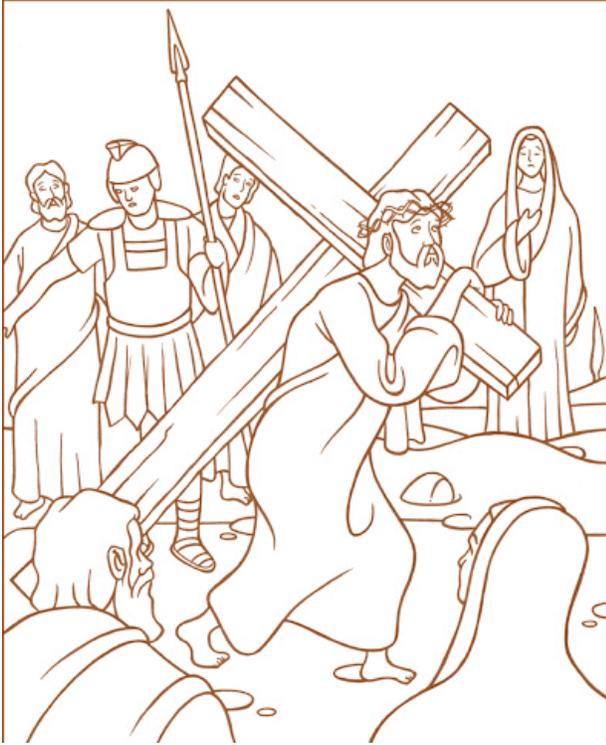
ANAGRAMS

From books of the Bible

Burns me
 Chair haze
 Eds jug
 Evil is cut
 Hail Mac
 Hurt
 I jam here
 On gloom of sons
 Our needy Tom
 Rich clones
 See sign
 Select as ices
 Threes
 Tom anneals it
 Used ox

Answers below:

Exodus
 Lamentations
 Esther
 Ecclesiastes
 Genesis
 Chronicles
 Deuteronom
 Song of Solomon
 Jeremiah
 Ruth
 Malachi
 Leviticus
 Judges
 Zechariah
 Numbers



10 April – Good Friday:

Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, '*If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself*' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who was crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us. The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: '*Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.*' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

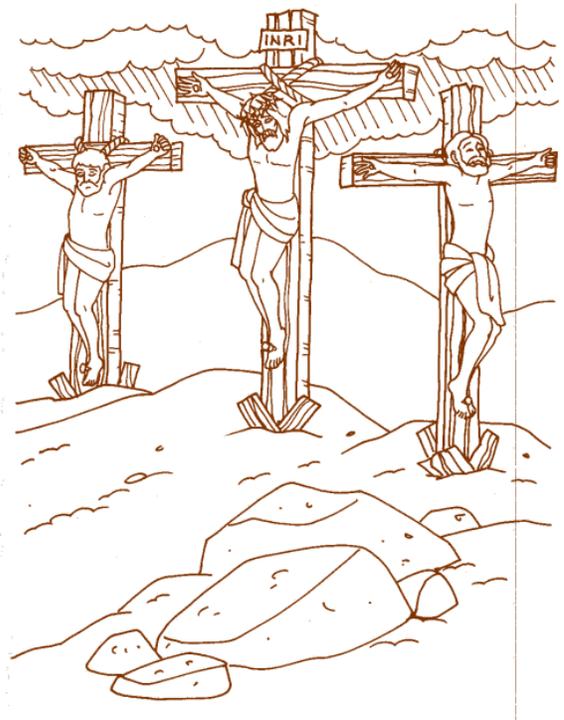
So – what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last

moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: '*this man has done nothing wrong.*' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, '*remember me when you come into your kingdom*', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; '*Today you will be with me in paradise.*' Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand his promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want him to 'remember' us when He comes into his kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? '*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.*' (1 Peter 3:18).



“I am the way, the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me”

John 14:6

From Anne Harris.....

"And the people stayed home.
 And they read books, and listened, and rested, and
 exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned
 new ways of being, and were still.
 And they listened more deeply.
 Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
 And the people began to think differently.
 And the people healed.
 And, in the absence of people living in ignorant,
 dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,
 the earth began to heal.
 And when the danger passed,
 and the people joined together again,
 they grieved their losses, and made new choices,
 and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live,
 and they healed the earth fully,
 as they had been healed."
 - Kitty O'Meara

Please tell people how
 lovely the virtual prayer
 services and Sunday's
 'church' service have
 been. Encourage them to
 watch - it really makes it
 feel like we're together.
 - Irene Flack



The Musical King

King Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived - (until Jesus) - and King Solomon was also very musical. He wrote many songs. To find out how many songs he wrote, write the words from the clues in the boxes, then read the answer down from the arrow.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	

- Opposite of 'bottom'
-
- To tear
-
- What we hear with
-
- A female chicken
-
- Another way of writing 'America'
- Opposite of 'stand'
-
- You need a shovel to to this

King Solomon was
 the wisest man who
 ever lived - (until
 Jesus) - and King
 Solomon was also
 very musical. He
 wrote many songs.
 To find out how
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 clues in the boxes,
 then read the
 answer down from
 the arrow.

Dig
 Nut
 Ant
 Sit
 USA
 One
 Hen
 Tap
 Ear
 Eye
 Rip
 Hat
 Top

Mouse Makes

Word Search Grid:

L A B R O A D
 O C R O S S E
 R H A P P Y B
 D O N K E Y S
 F S C I A S C
 E A H N C A O
 A N E G E T A
 S N S P L O T
 T A P A L M S

D I M O U R J E W S S L N P A T T C U P K J C B D
 R P A S S O V E R O B E A R R C H R I S T E R E E
 I G N A B O D Y K I L L I A R O O O L O T S U T A
 N E A T T M E A L G O D L Y E L R W I L L U C R T
 K D I S C I P L E S O N S U S T N N M E S S I A H
 E B R E A D W I N E D X G E T H S E M A N E F Y E
 D A R K N E S S H T L I N E N A H E A V E N Y Y D

H U G D A W N
 R T O M B M G
 E O O T P O E
 E C D E F R L
 D R N M R N K
 A O E P A I I
 Y W W L I N S
 S D S E S G S
 E A S T E R B
 G U A R D E U
 S A V I O U R Y
 P R A I S E Y
 I D C U T K T
 R I D J O Y E
 I C O I N S L
 T E T R E E L

Word List:

DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
 ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
 BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
 DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
 FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
 WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
 MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
 GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL
 BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
 CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
 THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
 CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
 TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
 TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
 BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
 DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
 HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
 GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
 PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

Something to remember when we get back into church.....

Euros, koruna, yuan, or dollars in the collection plate

You would be surprised at how many different coins end up in church collection plates. Euros and obsolete pound coins can jostle alongside American dollars, Czech koruna and even pesos from Chile. It just shows where some people go on holiday!

In Bible times the Jewish people also had a collection, but it was not voluntary; they called it the Temple Tax. Jews had to pay the Temple Tax by using a coin called a half shekel. They could not just use the change they already had in their pockets, because foreign coins would be 'unclean', and anyway, pockets had not been invented. So instead the Temple Tax was paid in shekels, because they were made to a reliable quality of weight and fineness of silver metal.

This led to a roaring trade for the moneychangers, who would take the worshipper's coins and change them into shekels, less a handsome profit. The moneychangers would have shouted out their exchange rates, which would be distracting for people going there to pray. They were preventing the people from praying and worshipping by overcharging and squabbling for business. No wonder Jesus got angry with them!

Back to our peaceful collections in church, we should welcome the funny foreign coins. Lots of us have jars of coins from holidays abroad, and these could even be a way of raising money for the church. There are some companies which will take unwanted foreign coins for cash. Even junk coins have a small scrap value, as does broken silver or gold jewellery.

CORONA VIRUS

- Damages
- Must be contained
- Creates fear
- Makes us weak
- Separates us
- Creates chaos
- Temporary
- Leads to death

JESUS

- Heals
- Must be shared
- Brings courage
- Gives us strength
- Binds us
- Gives us peace
- Eternal
- Leads to life

L.O.C.K.D.O.W.N is a time to reflect:

L-isten to God's voice and reflect.
O-bey His Word and His teachings.
C-all on Jesus' name and be calmed.
K-now what is the purpose of all this.
D-well in His presence. Do not panic.
O-ffer a prayer for everyone's safety.
W-ait and be patient. This too shall pass.
N-urture your personal relationship with Him

From Ethel Rowbotham



**CLOCKS GO
FORWARD ON
SUNDAY 29th**



**When David faced Goliath
he didn't talk about how
dangerous Goliath was- he
talked about how great God is.
Don't talk fear. Talk faith.**

@blessedlifeofficial

Encouragement from Julie Summers

Brothers and Sisters
in Christ,
We are living in strange
times, a virus that the
Scientists and doctors do not
know has engulfed our world.
But keep strong, our God is
more powerful than this virus,
we will come out of this
situation, so keep praying
and praising our God the
Father, Jesus His Son, and
the Holy Spirit. And all Gods
children said, **'Amen'**

**"If you would like to live a quiet, peaceful,
uneventful life, you are living at the wrong time"**

Meadow Bank



Nestled in a quiet residential community in Preston, Meadow Bank is a friendly care home offering residential, nursing and nursing memory care for older ladies and gentleman.

At HC-One kindness is at the heart of everything we do and our care and services are tailored to individual preferences.

To find more information on the care we can offer you or your loved one, please visit our website, or contact our Home Manager, Helen Holden.

Offering:

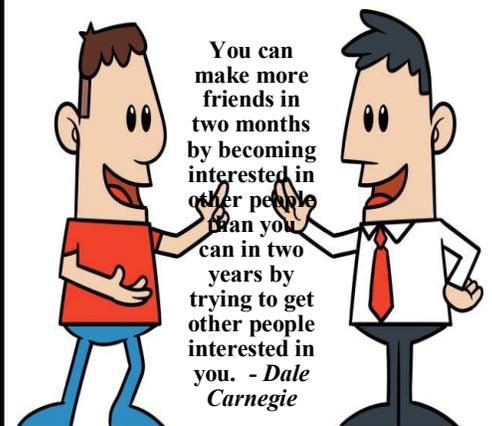
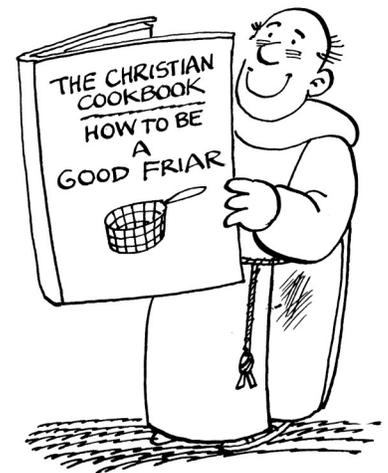
- Residential, nursing and memory care
- Little break – Short term care
- Home from home – Long term care
- Nutritious meals
- Hobbies and interest clubs
- Comfortable day rooms

W hc-one.co.uk

T 0333 321 4703

E careline@hc-one.co.uk

A Meadow Lane, Bamber Bridge,
Preston, Lancashire, PR5 8LN



**You can
make more
friends in
two months
by becoming
interested in
other people
than you
can in two
years by
trying to get
other people
interested in
you. - Dale
Carnegie**

12 April – EASTER:
the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.



The veracity of the Christian faith is grounded on historical fact. Not only was Jesus a real person, a figure of history, but His death was real, and so was His resurrection. Examine the evidence for yourself. Read the gospel accounts openly and honestly and see what happens. The truth is there for anyone willing to consider the facts.

Easter reminds us that our faith rests on solid ground. It is why we celebrate Easter Sunday with such gusto. The Resurrection proves that Jesus was who He said He was (the Son of God) and that He did what He set out to do (save us from our sin). But more than that, it reminds us that He can deliver what He promised and help us today because He is alive for evermore.

Jesus is not a figure of history, locked away in the past. No, He is a risen Saviour who is alive today and who invites each of us to receive the gift of salvation, and to live a new life in fellowship with Him.

Don't let this Easter pass without an encounter with Jesus. He's waiting for you!

He is Risen

Heavenly Father

We thank you that you are our refuge and strength and a very present help in times of trouble. We lift this current crisis to you, knowing that you are the God who hears our prayers, and ask for your intervention.

Anoint our leaders and fill them with peace and wisdom as they govern. Guide the Prime Minister in what steps to take next to protect people and their livelihoods. Protect the elderly and those most at risk, bless our health service workers, and ready your Church to be a light to those in need.

Amen

Mouse Makes

L A B R O A D
 O C R O S S E
 R H A P P Y B
 D O N K E Y S
 F S C I A S C
 E A H N C A O
 A N E G E T A
 S N S P L O T
 T A P A L M S

D I M O U R J E W S S L N P A T T C U P K J C B D
 R P A S S O V E R O B E A R R C H R I S T E R E E
 I G N A B O D Y K I L L I A R O O L O T S U T A
 N E A T T M E A L G O D L Y E L R W I L L U C R T
 K D I S C I P L E S O N S U S T N N M E S S I A H
 E B R E A D W I N E D X G E T H S E M A N E F Y E
 D A R K N E S S H T L I N E N A H E A V E N Y Y D

H U G D A W N
 R T O M B M G
 E O O T P O E
 E C D E F R L
 D R N M R N K
 A O E P A I I
 Y W W L I N S
 S D S E S G S
 E A S T E R B
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 BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
 DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
 HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
 GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
 PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER 

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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this gazette. Please consider sending in something for the next gazette, something you've written yourself or something you've read and you'd like to share with others. We all need to encourage one another during this time. Deadline for the May Gazette is 17th April. The sooner we are blessed by your articles the better!

**To contact the editor or anyone else in this gazette,
 please use the contact form on the website.**