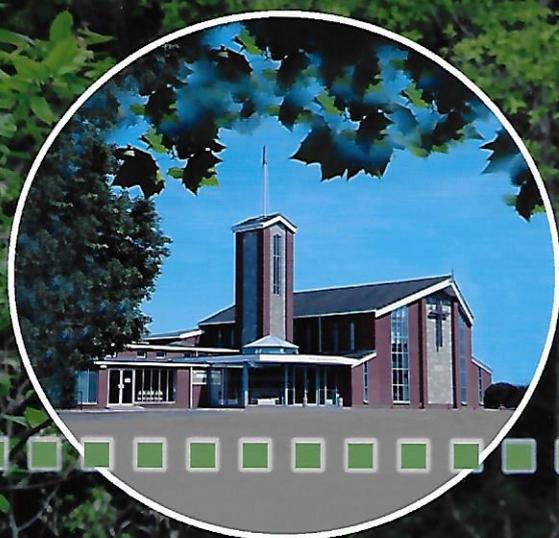
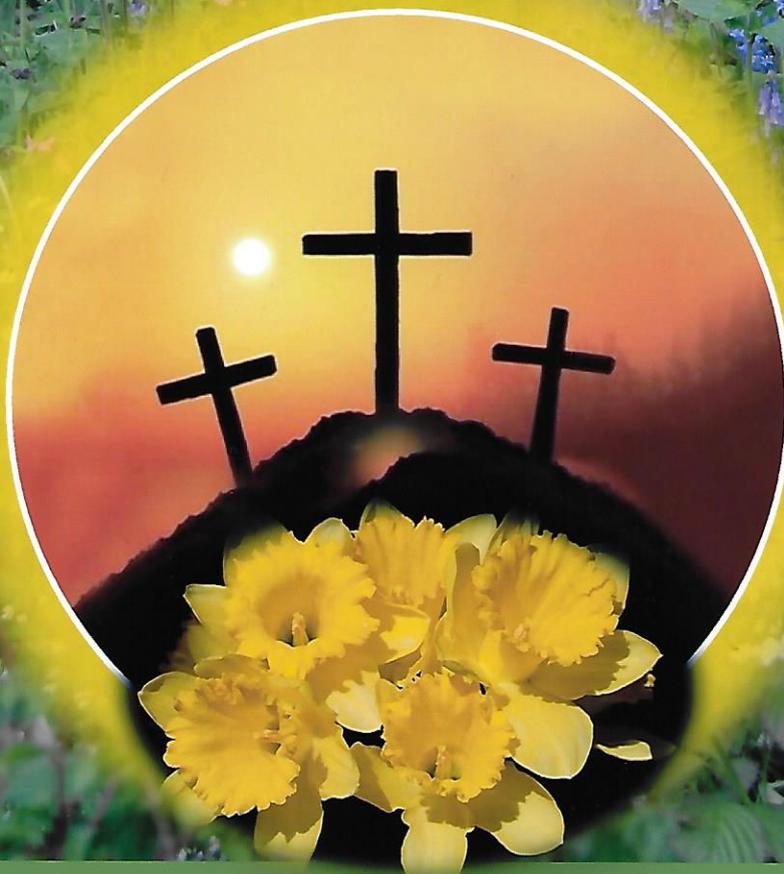


Trinity Methodist Church, Kidderminster



Trinity Tidings

April 2020



Special Easter Edition

**TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCHFIELDS, KIDDERMINSTER
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TRINITY TIDINGS

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**The closing date for items for the
MAY ISSUE
of Trinity Tidings is Sunday 26th April 2020**

**Please email articles, preferably as a Word Document to:
arleystation@aol.com**

Thanks to John Harris for designing the front and back covers

Dear Friends,

We are currently living in unprecedented times and this coronavirus is impacting on us all right across the world, whether we are unfortunate to have been infected with it or not.

As a society we are dependent upon each other and as active members of churches we are in the business of bringing people together, which at the moment we are unable to do. For most of us not being able to go out, especially if you are in the 'at greater risk' category is really difficult and can affect us physically, mentally and spiritually.

However, even though we cannot physically meet together for the immediate future, we are still church and 'church' is still happening (online & via telephone etc) and I want you to be reassured of that. I along with your Church Stewards, Local Preachers, Pastoral Visitors and many others, are trying to work toward ways that can sustain us during these times and to remind us all that God is still with us no matter what the circumstances.

Perhaps that which we feel we are lacking most is the structure of our normal weekly church worship services and there are those of us who are trying to cover this in various ways.

But I'd like to remind you that, even if at home alone, we can all still worship.

1. We can still **gather** in God's presence (*Wherever we are we can quiet ourselves and focus on God*).
2. We can still **seek** God's forgiveness (*God is always willing to hear our pleas*).
3. We can still **read** God's message to us in the bible (*Even familiar passages can have something new to say to us*).
4. We can still **sing** God's praises (*Even if we don't have a wonderful voice, to lift our voice in song can lift our spirits*).
5. We can still **offer** thanks and praise for God's goodness (*Even in the darkest hours we have things to be thankful for*).
6. We can still **give** our offering for the life and work of God's church (*A vital part of worship is giving what we can and at this time it is vital that we continue to put aside our offerings and give it when we are able, so the work of God can continue*).
7. We can still **pray** for the needs of others and for our world (*In fact our prayers have perhaps never been more important than at this moment in time*).
8. We can still **know** that in our isolation Christ meets us there (*In the isolation of the cross of Good Friday Jesus knows and feels our every need*).

I hope this goes some way to give you encouragement at this time, but please rest assured of my continued prayers for us all.

Every blessing, Nick

I leave you with the words of St Paul as he encourages the believers in Corinth:

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Margaret Clark, Les Fuller, Liz Potter, Margot Stanton and many more who need our love and prayers.

* * * * *

Congratulations...

Congratulations to Eric Carter who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. During the Second World War he was a member of a 'secret' Spitfire squadron based in Murmansk, Russia. Their orders were to protect Merchant Navy convoys as they approached the Russian coast.



Congratulations also to Beryl Cutts who at long last has received her Veterans Badge for her service in the WAAF during the Second World War

* * * * *

A prayer for these difficult, troubled times:

God, help us to live slowly:

To move simply,

To look softly,

To allow emptiness,

And to rest secure in your love

Amen

From the Editor...

Dear Friends,

The other morning I looked out of my bedroom window, and saw that the white magnolia tree was in full blossom, with the sun shining on it making it look magical. I watched the birds flying back and forth to and from the bird feeders, and then a blackbird flew by with a beak full of nesting material. The blue tits are investigating the nest boxes, and even checking out the nest behind the water pump. There is a wide range of birds that visit the garden, all welcome, except perhaps the magpies. A pheasant has taken up residence, and I have named him Hoover, because he hoovers up all the seed which falls from the feeders, keeping the ground tidy. I heard a chiff chaff twice during the warm spell, and it is amazing that such a small bird should fly to us all the way from North Africa. I am waiting for the swallows to return. They were so disturbed last year that they did not nest. This year the station is closed, so they will have an undisturbed time to build their nest and raise their young. Every day at around 1.00pm a female sparrowhawk swoops round the garden. Suddenly all the small birds disappear into the bushes, and twitter their alarm calls. Sometimes she sits on the hedge looking out for an opportunity to catch an unsuspecting blue tit or sparrow, but nearly always is unlucky. You might think that it is a shame, but she has to eat, and soon feed her chicks. Nature 'red in tooth and claw'. We are now having to keep to our homes and cannot do many of the things we have always done, but you can't stop nature, God's creation goes on as it always has, and always will. I was reminded of a hymn we used to sing at my school:

You can't stop rain from falling down,
Prevent the sun from shining,
You can't stop spring from coming in
Or winter from resigning,
Or still the waves or stay the winds,
Or keep the day from dawning,
You can't stop God from loving you,
His love is new each morning.

Keep smiling, keep safe, and keep praying, David

This is a photo I took last week of a badger paw print on a railway sleeper. You can't stop him either!



Weekly offertories for the past five weeks are as follows

<u>Date</u>	<u>Envelopes</u>	<u>Loose Cash</u>	<u>Standing Orders</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£	£
01.03.20	447.00	99.20	437.80	984.00
08.03.20	187.64	55.00	437.80	680.44
15.03.20	529.00	51.10	437.80	1017.90
22.03.20	Nil	Nil	437.80	437.80
29.03.20	Nil	Nil	437.80	437.80

Sunday services have been cancelled with effect from March 22nd due to the Coronavirus pandemic and only offertories by standing order are being received.

In the current church year to 31 August 2020 the estimated amount of offertories needed to meet expenses is £1100 per week. This is after taking into account all other income such as rental income from the church flat, rooms and car park hire fees, Gift Aid tax refunds, bank interest and sundry income.

If your offering is through the envelope scheme or by loose cash would you consider paying by Standing Order? This can be done easily if you bank online, or by telephone to your bank.

The SORT CODE is: 30-94-70 and the ACCOUNT NO. is: 01579178

In the months of APRIL and MAY please remember in your prayers:

<u>Offmore and Comberton</u>	<u>April</u>
St Chad's, Offmore and Milton Hall Baptist Churches.	
Offmore and Comberton Primary Schools and Nurseries - King Charles 1 School.	
Offmore Farm Rest Home, Nightingales, Holmwood Nursing Homes	
Sandlewood Assisted Living	
Children's Centre	
Residential Housing	
Retail Units and Trading	
Women's Refuge	
Kidderminster Cricket Club	

<u>Wolverley</u>	<u>May</u>
Wolverley C.E. Secondary School, Wolverley Primary School and Nursery, Heathfield Knoll.	
Nightingale Court Nursing Home	
Canalways	
St Johns' the Baptist C E Church	
Eateries	
Doctors surgery and Community Centre	
Residential Housing	

A Quiz about the Weather and the Seasons

1. Who wrote 'The Ode to Autumn'?
2. Vivaldi wrote 4 concertos for violin. What are they known as?
3. Who wrote 'The Skater's Waltz'?
4. Who wrote 'White Christmas'?
5. When was the Spring Equinox this year?
6. When did we have Double Summer Time?
7. Who went out when the snow was 'deep and crisp and even'?
8. To where do swallows migrate?
9. What is a 'galanthus'?
10. Some daffodils are named after a king, which one?
11. 'Summer suns are glowing' Where?
12. What does the 'Green Man' symbolise?
13. Who wrote 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day'?
14. Who wrote the poem beginning 'In summertime on Bredon...'?
15. Where would you find the words 'To everything there is a season...'?
16. How many sides, or points are there on a snowflake?
17. Who wrote 'The Snowman'?
18. In which film is the song 'Raindrops keep falling on my head'?
19. What does The Beaufort Scale measure?
20. Who wrote the poem 'To Daffodils'?
21. Who wrote 'On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring'?
22. When is St. Luke's Little Summer?
23. Who sang 'We're all going on a summer holiday'?
24. When is St. Swithin's Day?

I came across a quote from a speech by Winston Churchill, which is as apt now, as when he said it on 4th June, 1940.

I have, myself, full confidence that if all do their duty, if nothing neglected, and if the best arrangements are being made, as they are being made, we shall prove ourselves once again to defend our island home and to ride out the storm.

Graham Leigh saw this.

It was on the notice board of Upper Gornal Methodist Church

When God saw you, it was love at first sight

TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

On 24th April, 2010, Trinity Methodist Church was re-dedicated after the disastrous fire which burned, or smoke damaged the interior of the sanctuary. This happened just before Christmas 2009.

It was a very sad time for all of us who worshipped at the church, and also for the many people who come into the building for their various activities. We were able to continue worship in the hall, and we soon found that a spirit of love and unity bound us together. We had to make many difficult decisions, not the least was what to do about an organ, for the original pipe organ was irreparably damaged. We also had to embark on a big fund raising effort to pay for the beautiful sanctuary that we enjoy now.

Alan Stinton has sent some 'before and after' photographs to stir your memory, and a copy of the page that was put in Tidings in April 2010.



TRINITY RE-OPENING AND DEDICATION SERVICE

As we celebrate ten years of worship and enjoyment of our renovated and extended church facilities we recall the day the church was re-opened after the disastrous arson attack and fire of December 2008.

Saturday 24th April 2010 at 3pm

Revd Dr Christina Le Moignan, a long-time friend of Trinity and former President of Methodist Conference preached at the service. Also in attendance were John Howard, Chair of District and Timothy Blatchford, Architect from Stone Ecclesiastical as well as former ministers of Trinity.

Hymns sung during the service were:

- ~ Come to us creative Spirit, in our Father's house.
- ~ Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.
- ~ God is here! as we his people meet to offer praise and prayer
- ~ O thou who camest from above the pure celestial fire to impart.
- ~ Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided

The Architect's approach to the renewal:

The concept was that the moment should be seized to give the sanctuary a facelift rather than simply replacing what was lost. The ceiling was totally replaced and the glazed area above the cross was hidden behind a new wall to support the specially commissioned wall hangings and cross. New double glazed windows were installed and the ceiling and walls were lined with substantial insulation. The main timber chosen for the new furniture was ash, to give a light grained appearance. Although this was used by the different manufacturers for the chairs, the organ casing, the communion rail, table, lectern, pulpit, the cross and the sound desk the various suppliers achieved a remarkable match for such a natural material.

It was decided that the original cross, damaged by the fire, but intact, should be hung on the wall opposite the entrance doors.

The opportunity was also taken to create a new, lighter and larger entrance foyer, to give a definitive entrance to the property. The external cross was also replaced with a design which reflected the main internal cross.

Upon recommendation of the insurers we also took the opportunity to install smoke sensors and alarms throughout the whole of the property.

The painted and embroidered panels:

Designer Juliet Hemingray says she drew her inspiration from the moment she walked into the devastated sanctuary, being determined to produce a piece that was uplifting and colourful, from which the congregation will gain inspiration as a focal point and as a worship and study aid. The themes are water, twelve fishes and Jesus as the Light of the World. The triple cross portays the crucifixion of the two thieves alongside Jesus. Details can be read in the framed image hung by the sanctuary entrance doors.

In total over £92,000 was raised by the congregation through events and donations to cover the full cost of the refurbishment and the improvements, which were not covered by the insurers. A remarkable feat.

A substantial effort not only by church members but we must also remember the contributions of our contractors, consultants and specialists who all contributed to what is still today a superb facility.

- ~ Stone Ecclesiastical, Project Manager and Architect
- ~ J Harper and Sons (Leominster) Main Building Contractor
- ~ Fullers Finer Furniture
- ~ Juliet Hemingray
- ~ Rodgers Classical Organs
- ~ FTAV Audio and Visuals
- ~ Aspire Church Furniture
- ~ Faithful+Gould, insurance claim negotiation.

And finally, the members of Blue Watch Fire Fighters who did so much to reduce the impact of the fire.

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).

Parish Pump 2020

Passionflower

Why is the passionflower called the passionflower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens, was discovered in South America by Spanish missionaries centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

The five petals and five sepals represent the 10 disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona is the crown of thorns. The stigma is the cross or nails, and the five stamens are the number of wounds Jesus received.

Parish Pump 2020

"Quotes"

Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime. ***Martin Luther***

Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. ***Pope John Paul II***

Parish Pump 2020

Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!"

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But, of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me", and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.' Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

The big surprise lurking in your Granny's chicken soup

Granny always knew her chicken soup was good for you when you were poorly, but she did not realise quite *how* good.

Now research has found that the traditional hot broths used in many cultures to battle flu and fevers pack a bigger punch than even the cooks realised.

A range of soups, ranging from vegetable to beef and chicken, were discovered to have the power to interrupt the life cycle of *Plasmodium falciparum*, which causes 99 per cent of deaths from malaria. Some of them were actually as effective as a leading antimalarial drug, dihydroartemisinin, in fighting malaria.

No one particular ingredient was found to be common to the broths, but there certainly seems to be "evidence that they contain antibiotic properties", according to one doctor. The study was carried out at the Imperial College London and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Parish Pump 2020

A prayer for communities affected by flooding

For people battered by forceful storms
For communities battling rising floods
For emergency services stretched to the limit
We pray

For farmers losing straw and crops
For shopkeepers losing high street trade
For repeat victims losing strength and hope
We pray

For resilience and resolve to change
For impatience with using flood plains
For commitment to protect riverbanks and coasts
We pray

In Jesus' name we pray
Amen

By the Revd Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Parish Pump 2020

And a prayer for all of us who are unable to go out, socialise or attend church

Lord, give us patience to accept what are having to do,
give us time to read our Bible, to reflect, and to pray.
Help us to be grateful for telephones, smart phones and computers, that keep us in contact with family and friends. May they be used to spread friendship, love and care.
We give thanks those friends who shop for us, and make sure we are alright.
Help us to know that when we feel lonely you are there, the unseen guest,
help us to know that when we feel depressed that your arms are around us.
We give thanks to the many who risk their own health to keep essential services going,
may they also feel your compassion, and love.
Above let us be convinced that nothing – nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

All in the month of APRIL

It was:

250 years ago, on 7th April 1770 that William Wordsworth, British Romantic poet, was born. He was Poet Laureate 1843-50.

200 years ago, on 8th April 1820 that the famous Ancient Greek statue of the Venus de Milo was discovered on the island of Milos in the Aegean.

75 years ago, in April the following concentration camps and prison were liberated: Buchenwald (11th April); Bergen-Belsen (15th April); Colditz Castle (16th April); Dachau (29th April). They were liberated by either US, British or Canadian forces.

65 years ago, on 15th April 1955 that American fast-food pioneer Ray Kroc opened his first McDonald's franchise in Des Plaines, Illinois. 30 years ago, on 24th April 1990 that the Hubble Space Telescope was launched.

15 years ago, on 2nd April 2005 that Pope John Paul II died.

Also 15 years ago, on 9th April 2005 that Charles, Prince of Wales married Camilla Parker Bowles, who gained the title the Duchess of Cornwall.

Parish Pump 2020

Smile Lines

Why do we paint Easter eggs? Because it's easier than trying to wallpaper them!

**

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

**

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. The lady paused for a moment. "Only the Ten Commandments," she said politely.

**

While driving in the countryside, a family caught up to an old farmer and his horse-drawn cart. The farmer obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: 'Ecologically efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

**

An infant teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. One little girl was working away furiously, and so she asked her what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, the little girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Parish Pump 2020

Easter Rising

There is a strange sort of innocence among children. Christmas is here and baby Jesus gets another birthday. Time to celebrate, fun, laughter, sweets and many presents. Yes, a few carols to remind us of Jesus's birth and that's it. Four months later, in April, He's dead. Though it's time for celebration again, fill yourself with chocolate, hardly thinking of Christ's death on the cross. Seeing it like this through the eyes of a child is very simple. They had no idea Christ lived for 33 years.

We know nothing of Christ's early life until the age of 12. We have to assume He was with His father Joseph, a carpenter, learning the trade. So He had a lifetime of 21 years. He spent times in the wilderness, but think about it, His miracles and preaching could have been done over the 4 months that children thought He lived. Of course, this is the mind of a child. They could never comprehend His death and resurrection. This is the problem. Hung from a cross, a painful lingering death and we get chocolate eggs? As for His resurrection – could it be magic? Children you are not alone.

How do you make sense of the resurrection? Dead men don't rise from a coffin so how do you believe that one man could rise from the grave. O.K., us modern day people believe in Dracula, we know it's not true but at least it's entertaining. But Jesus rising from the dead?

Don't worry, even the disciples didn't believe it and they were there. After the crucifixion they panicked and ran away. These were Jesus's followers; He had told them He would die and rise again but they couldn't believe it. Then suddenly, at Pentecost, they became confident Jesus was crucified but God raised Him up. They could now spread The Word "Death is death but Jesus is alive". This is the thing that we as Christians understand, not really a story for children but a message for them as they grow older. Let them enjoy Easter, especially the songs. Carols at Christmas, hymns at Easter.

In the late 1600's there was a child prodigy. Unattractive and sickly, he studied Latin aged 4, mastered Greek when he was 9, French at 11, Hebrew at 13. (No video games in those days). His name was Isaac Watts, his father was a Deacon. When he complained to his father about the boring Old Testament psalms they sang, he replied, "Right my lad, give us something better". No problem for Isaac – he came up with not only the finest Easter hymn, but also the greatest hymn of all time, 'When I survey the Wondrous Cross'. Aged only 15, he gave us 5 simple 4-line verses, what a song for the crucifixion.

"See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e're such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown".

Christ died on the cross that we might live. He loved us and died for us. Give it your best ...

"Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all".

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Oberammergau

It's the 1600's and a great plague is sweeping through Europe, it was known as the Bubonic Plague and said to be spread by rats. It killed millions, many being buried in pits or burnt, it gradually petered out. London was one of the places where it was completely eradicated thanks to somebody causing a great fire in 1666, unfortunately burning down the whole city as well. However, there was one little town in the Alps it never touched thanks to the faith of its inhabitants. Praying to God they said if they were spared, they would put on a play depicting the death and resurrection of Christ. This was in 1633, the town was saved and every 10 years since, they have acted the play, performing it every year that ends in an 0. For almost 400 years this passion play has been acted, it's on again this year, 2020. The town? Oberammergau.

With a population of just over 5,000, everybody will have a hand in the show. No age limit, all ages are represented, from, infants to the oldest, one regular, Anni Drohmann, aged 96. The only qualification is that you have to be born in the town or have lived there for 20 years. Almost 2000 actually audition for parts and understudies. 500 children also applied. 110 instrumentalists plus 100 singers are also needed for the show. Nobody gets left out though, for all the town is involved even if not in the cast. You're either building sets, sewing costumes or creating props. Soldiers wear real leather and metal uniforms. 3.8 miles of fabric are stitched for costumes and feathers are sewn on Angels wings. There are no wigs so men start growing beards and hair a year in advance. This year's show runs from May until October, a total of 102 performances.

Many other places throughout the world stage a passion play, though nowhere near as lavish as Oberammergau, even Bewdley performs one. Let's face it, what Broadway or West End show could match the finale of The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Mike

(Mike Knott, Stourport Wesley)

Mike's Smile Lines

Sky have just won the World rights to screen the world's first origami games from Tokyo. Unfortunately, it's only available on paper view.

**

Tom: How many days belong to the year?

Dick: All of them I suppose.

Tom: No, just 325. The rest of them are Lent.

**

When is it correct to say I is?

I is the letter after H in the alphabet.

**

Office Manager: Look at all the dust on this desk. It looks like it hasn't been cleaned for a month.

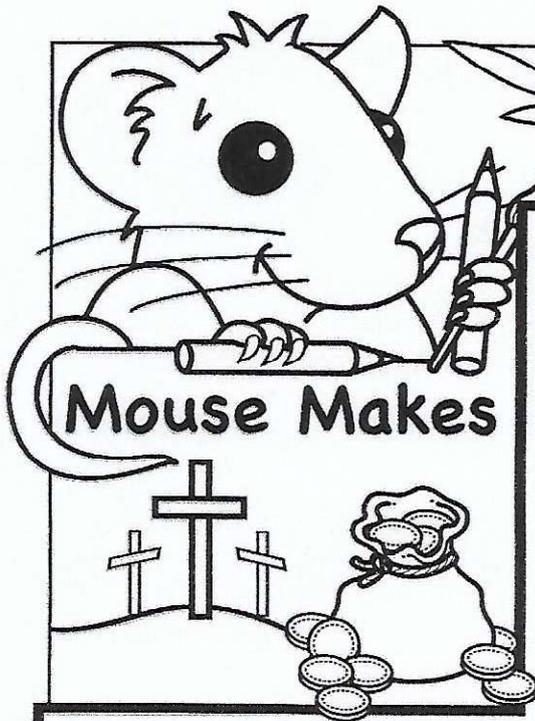
Cleaner: Don't blame me sir, I've only been here a week.

**

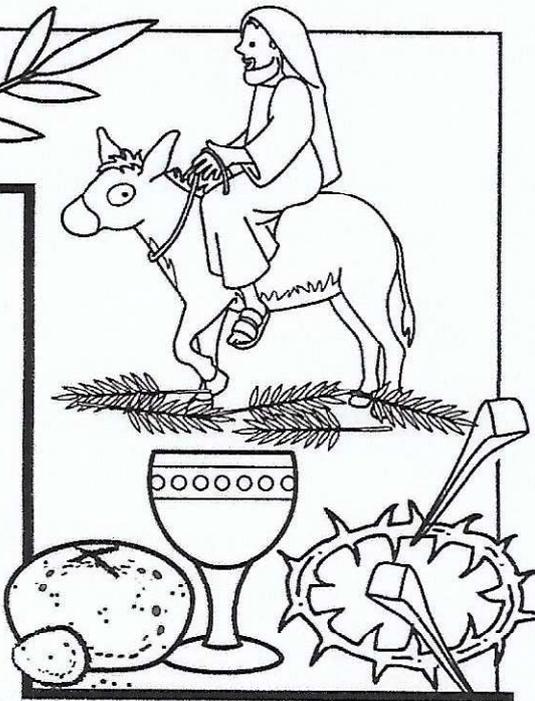
A man walked into Cape Canaveral and asked for a ticket to the moon. Sorry, said the gateman, the moon is full.

**

Old teachers never die, they just lose their class.



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
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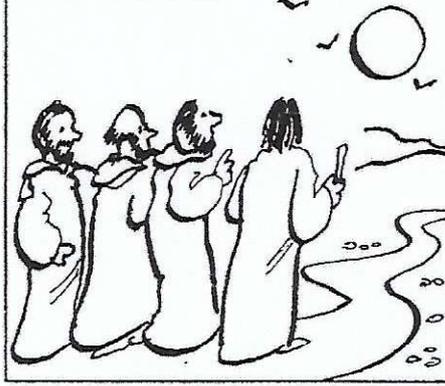


H U G D A W N
 R T O M B M G
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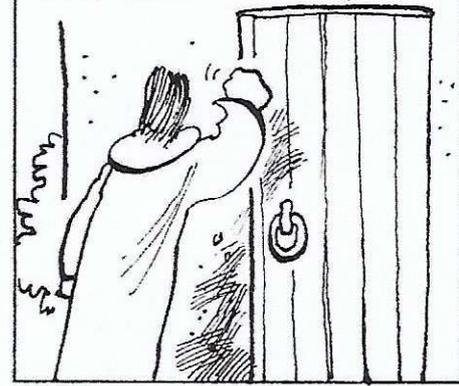
DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
 ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
 BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
 DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
 FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
 WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
 MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
 GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL
 BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
 CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
 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 

Words and Actions

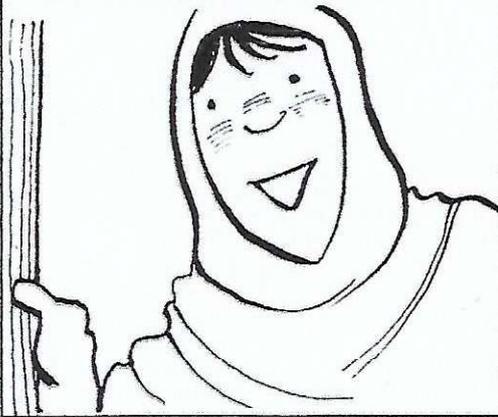
JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK. NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



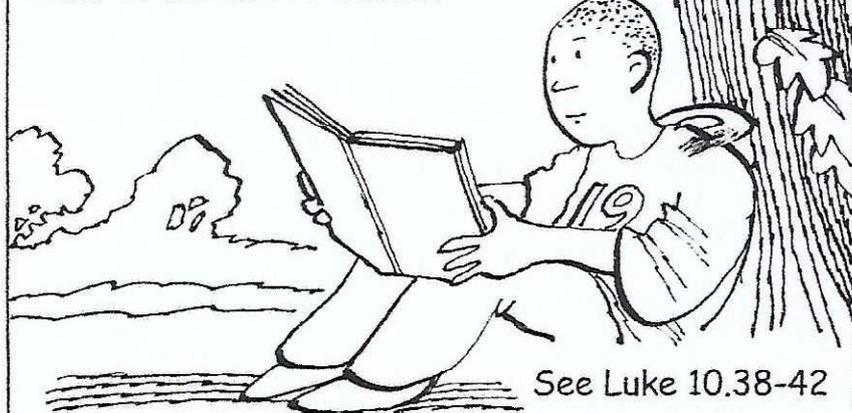
MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



GARDENING NOTES FOR APRIL

April is often famed her showers and this weather lore is based on fact, we may experience short, sharp downpours. Hail, rain, snow and thunder are quite common. Fortunately April is characterised by a pleasant mixture of fair, to fine conditions. Good sunny spells, frequent cool showers and chilly nights with the tantalizing hint of warmer weather later on.

One thing that will be evident this month will be the greening of the lawn as the grass has its first flush of spring. Mowings will become more frequent, with the blades set high to begin with. Aerating and scarifying established lawns will improve neglected areas and will allow water, light and air to penetrate down through the soil, and will remove dead and decaying material from the upper surface. Repair damaged edges.

If the weather is favourable, and by that I mean not frosty, prune back forsythia to promote new growth. Cut back stems of buddleia to a stronger pair of buds and don't be shy about it, it will respond well to a hard prune. If the weather in March precluded the pruning of roses then don't delay, do it now and feed with a proprietary food and hoe into the surface.

April is the ideal time to divide and split established clumps of herbaceous perennials. After gently lifting the established clump the splitting of herbaceous perennials is a simple task. Simply pull apart with your fingers into individual plants, or if the clump is a little more congested, then the best method is to insert two forks back-to-back and rock the forks back and forth until the clump is severed apart, then split as above.

Once bulbs have flowered remove flowers before they expend energy in producing unwanted seed. If the weather happens to be exceptionally dry then give the bulbs a good watering as this will help the bulb to store up energy for the next year, this is especially important for daffodils. A late mulching of beds and borders helps to suppress weeds and conserve moisture. Good garden compost or spent mushroom compost is ideal for this purpose, although remember that the latter should not be under any circumstances be applied around lime-hating subjects such as camellias or rhododendrons, as spent mushroom compost is very alkaline in nature. Apply mulches after rain to maximise their effect.

Pond plants will begin to grow this month and the pool will often have its first algal bloom. Don't worry - if the pool is balanced the green will disappear next month as the oxygenators put on growth. Feed fish sparingly at this stage, especially if the weather is cool.

Anemone Pavonina is truly spectacular for spring colour. A native of grassy hillsides and olive groves along the shores of the Mediterranean, this tuberous perennial is equally happy here in the Midlands. For best results plant in a well-drained, sunny position and they will, over time, reward you with a spectacular display of early spring colour. Usually reaching a height of around 18" they appear in a variety of shades from purple, pink through to scarlet and white. Like most things originating from the Med. They go to sleep when it gets hot, becoming dormant throughout the summer, to reappear in the autumn with fresh growth. They are simply charming.

Writing these notes in March it's hard to imagine the warmth that awaits us within the next few weeks. I am sure that by the time you read these jottings spring will be well and truly with us. The sun will be out, the birds will be singing and nesting, the garden will be bursting into colour and winter will be a distant memory.

Whatever the weather, enjoy your garden: it's the only one you've got!

Bob

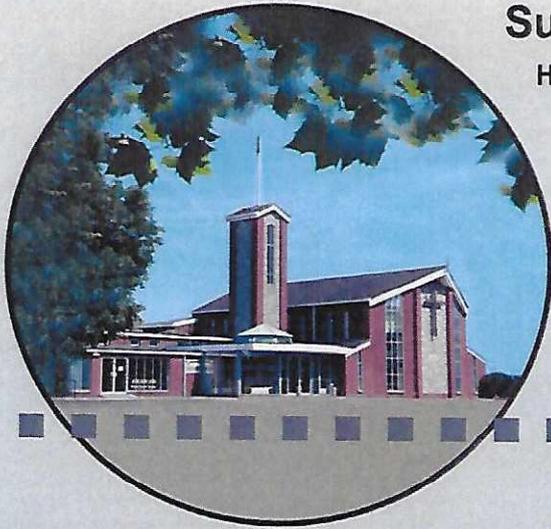


Answers to the weather and seasons quiz

1. John Keats
2. The Four Seasons
3. Emile Waldteufel
4. Irving Berlin
5. March 19th
6. During the Second World War
7. Good King Wenceslas
8. South Africa
9. A snowdrop
10. King Alfred
11. 'over land and sea' (an old hymn)
12. Spring and rebirth
13. William Shakespeare
14. A. E. Housman
15. Old Testament - Ecclesiastes
16. 6
17. Raymond Briggs
18. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
19. Wind speed
20. William Wordsworth
21. Frederick Delius
22. Mid October
23. Cliff Richard
24. 15th July

Do you think I should wear this if I go to Sainsbury's. I think everyone would steer clear of me!





Sunday Services

Holy Communion 9.00am
(Second Sunday of each month)

Morning Worship 10.30am with
• **Creche** for babies & toddlers with parents
• **Footsteps** for children of S...

Evening Worship 6.30pm
(Except Second Sunday of Ea...)
(Services that include Holy Co...)

Monday

'Start the Week' - 9.30am - 10.00am. Vestry 1.
A short time of quiet contemplation and prayer

Zumba Gold 12noon - 1.00pm
Leader: **Bev Slater** - 01562 228016
(07779 07876 345160)

Tuesday

Trinity Toddlers 9.45am
Contact: **Mrs Stella**
Rev'd. ...

Harris/Str...

Week Lunchtime Service at Trinity
12.30pm - 1.00pm

(See Plan on Notice Board
for details of Communion Services)

Second Sunday of each Month

6.30pm Café Worship

A relaxed style of Worship with a difference!

Trinity Methodist Church, Churchfields, Kidderminster, DY10 2 JL

Telephone: 01562 824450

www.trinitymethodistkidderminster.org.uk

**ALL SERVICES AND REGULAR ACTIVITIES
ARE SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**