

♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦ Kidderminster ♦

Trinity *Tidings*



April 2021

Easter
Edition

...all are welcome in this place!

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**The closing date for items for the
MAY EDITION
Of Trinity Tidings is Sunday 25th April 2021**

**Please email articles, preferably as a Word Document to:
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Thanks to John Harris for designing the front and back covers,
and to Jon Skitt for putting the magazine online each month.

Dear Friends,

We have now reached (just surpassed in fact) the anniversary of the first lockdown, following an extraordinary year that has seen many changes to the way we live our lives, not least of all our church lives.

All being well we plan to open again for worship at Trinity on 23rd May which is Pentecost Sunday and some sense of 'normality' will again return, although at the time of writing it looks like we will still have to wear masks, be socially distanced, and are unable to sing aloud. Nor are we able to stay to chat over coffee after the service.

Last year as we entered into lockdown for the first time I tried to encourage you with the following, that wherever we are . . .

1. We can still **gather** in God's presence.
2. We can still **seek** God's forgiveness.
3. We can still **read** God's message to us in the bible.
4. We can still **sing** God's praises.
5. We can still **offer** thanks and praise for God's goodness.
6. We can still **give** our offering for the life and work of God's church.
7. We can still **pray** for the needs of others and for our world.
8. We can still **Know** that in our isolation Christ meets us there.

I know we are impatient for a return to the way things were and I'm convinced that eventually we will return to something that vaguely resembles it, but if I'm honest, I'm not sure we will ever be exactly the same again. Too much has changed, we have learned and experienced things we cannot un-learn, things we cannot un-experience. We have grown and developed in ways we couldn't have imagined twelve months ago.

As we enter into the Easter season let us remember that Jesus' followers had to change and develop in ways they couldn't ever have imagined before Good Friday. They had to learn to live their lives in new ways, learn how to adapt to their very different circumstances yet stay true to the teachings of the one they followed, Jesus Christ.

Over the centuries since Jesus' birth, death and resurrection, the church has evolved in many ways and has manifest itself in lots of different forms, in fact Methodism itself is one such form.

Therefore I would say, as we begin to (hopefully) see the end of this terrible plague, let us put our trust in God. Let us trust that God is in control, and that God is creating something new and we are part of this new creation, whatever that looks like.

I end with some words that are likely very familiar to you all:

*'No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought' without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.'*

*'Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.'*

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

Easter blessings to you all,

Nick

PRAYER CORNER

We remember in our prayers Liz Potter, Les Fuller, Margot Stanton, Lynn Jones, Maureen Homer, Ruth Palmer and her sister Anne, and those on the Prayer Vine. We remember also the many people who find these days depressing and lonely.

We pray for NHS staff, who look after the sick in difficult circumstances, and give thanks for the vaccine which is giving us a great hope for the future.

We remember the family of Betty Gunn, who died suddenly at home. We give thanks for her cheerfulness and her life of faith.

* * * * *

THANK YOU...

Pat, Jane and Judith Chiswell would like to thank you for the prayers, cards and letters received following David's death. They have been a great comfort at this sad time. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring church.

Mothering Sunday Flowers

It was so kind of the group of ladies who bought the daffodils, made them up into bunches and then delivered them to ladies of the congregation. It was a lovely surprise, and thank you very much.

During the month of April,
please remember in your
prayers, the area of
Kidderminster known as
Offmore and Comberton



Offmore and Comberton

April

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

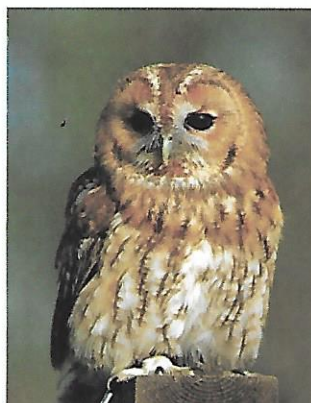
From the Editor....

Many years ago, I had to go to the teachers' centre to a meeting. I walked in with a colleague from another school. He suddenly stopped and pulled out of his pocket a pager – this was before everyone had mobile phones, I asked him if everything was alright, thinking it might be a family problem. He explained that he had been paged to inform him that a rare bird had been sighted in a reed bed in Devon. He could hardly wait for the meeting to end, because he told me he would go home collect all his birdwatching gear and be off to Devon that evening. He was a 'twitcher', that is someone whose interest in birds goes only as far as collecting sightings of as many different species of birds as possible, so that he could add them to his list. I am a bird watcher, but I enjoy just watching the antics of birds, when they are feeding, nesting, or raising their fledglings. It doesn't matter to me whether it is a sparrow, or a more unusual bird. When we lived in Smethwick, we could see from our house a high rise block of flats built in an 'L' shape. We watched two large crows fly low into the corner, and then allow the wind to lift them up to the roof level, whereupon they flew down and did it all over again, and again. They were playing, and enjoying the way the wind lifted them up without any effort. That's what I call 'bird watching', but I don't suppose I need to tell you that. Whether you are a twitcher or a humble bird watcher, let's cherish, and look after our birds, for they have as much right to be here as we have.

David

P.S. Two nights ago I was woken up at 2.30am by the station intruder alarm going off. When I silenced it, it told me that it was the Waiting Room. During the day, I went in to see what had caused it, and to my surprise, sitting on the table looking at me was a tawny owl. I left the door open, and thought it had flown out. He hadn't, and the alarm went off again last night. So today I phoned the Falconry Centre at Hagley, and someone came and caught the owl, gave him a good examination, and then produced from his pocket a small dead mouse which he fed to him.

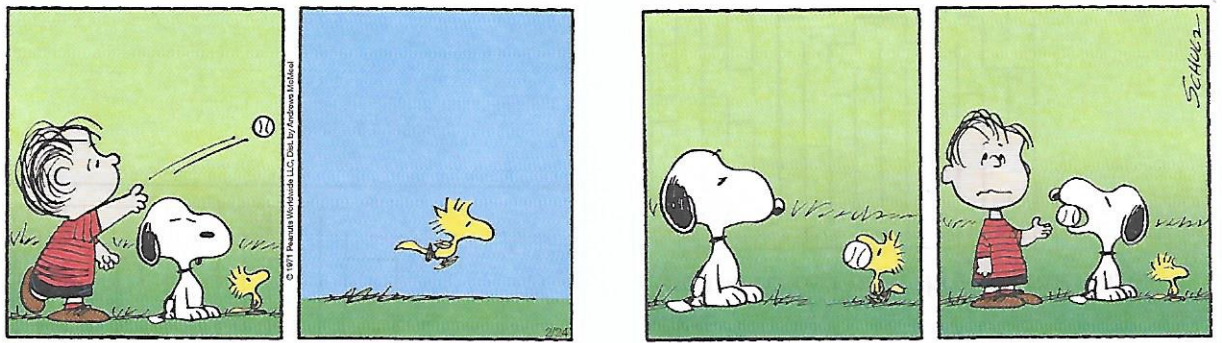
The owl then flew away to freedom. We suspect that he must have fallen down the chimney. There is never a dull moment living here!



Offertories for January and February 2021 are as follows

	Envelopes & Bank Transfer	Loose Cash	Standing Orders	Total
	£	£	£	£
January	1212.00	Nil	2699.00	3911.00
February	775.00	Nil	2489.00	3264.00

Due to the uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic it is extremely difficult to estimate the amount of offertories needed to meet expenses. In past years we have relied heavily on income from room hire but that has ceased, except for some receipts from the NHS Blood Service. Currently, it seems that offertories would need to be in the region of £1550 per week to break even.



COVID19 RESTRICTIONS

It is well known that certain letters of the alphabet can send out a spray from your lips. The worst letter for causing this is the letter 'P', and there are a few others which are not as bad. So a major problem occurs when you use any word containing the letter 'P'. In view of the risk involved in using words containing this letter, it has been decided that when we sing again in church we avoid any hymns with words which contain the letter 'P'. An example could be 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven'. This will be sung as 'Raise my soul the King of Heaven'. This is to take place at any time we begin singing again, and certainly starting from April 1st.

IF JESUS WAS BORN IN 2020

by Anne Perkin

If Jesus was born in 2020
In Britain and not overseas
How would Mary and Joseph have fared?
Would their marital status be a problem?
Probably not – but then there was the colour of his skin
Would he be dark like Mary or even darker like Joseph?

If Jesus had gone to school in 2020
Would he have worn a mask without complaining?
How would Mary and Joseph have coped?
Would they manage Home Schooling harmoniously?
Probably not – but RE would have been easy!

If Jesus had been a preacher in 2020
He would have been surrounded
By noise, unemployment, heartbreak and fear.
Churches closed and arguments over vaccine
Would he have been heard?
Probably not – he would have to get the earbuds out first!
Would his preaching cause a riot?
Or would the silent vigil be preferred to the protest march

But Jesus IS born in 2020. For him time stands still
He is born in every kind heart and caring hand
Jesus DOES go to school in 2020
He is there when every fearful child taking a swab test
Is calmed and encouraged
He is there when friends reunite but then realise how much has been lost.

Jesus IS preaching to us in 2020 through brave people fighting the Covid battle
He does it through those who care for our climate
He does it through Zoom, Skype and Facebook
As long as the hearer feels loved, comforted and encouraged
He is there, defeating loneliness.
Would he have strived for celebrity status?
Probably not- but as a newborn, as a schoolboy or an adult
He is most certainly with us.
We just need to look and we WILL find him.

March 2021



The Anointing of Jesus

It was a sudden impulse. There was Jesus with his friends; my brother Lazarus, you know the one who Jesus brought back to life; my sister Martha as usual busy preparing our meal, and me. It was a real family occasion and should have been a relaxed happy time. But I had a strange feeling that something was overshadowing our friendship. A feeling of foreboding that I could not shake off.

Martha wanted me to help with the food, but I stayed here in the room. I began to feel that if I left something might happen that would cause me, and the others, great sadness. I cannot explain it, but I felt that I must do something. But what? Then a thought struck me. That alabaster flask of expensive Oil of Nard that I had. Why was I keeping it? What would I use it for?

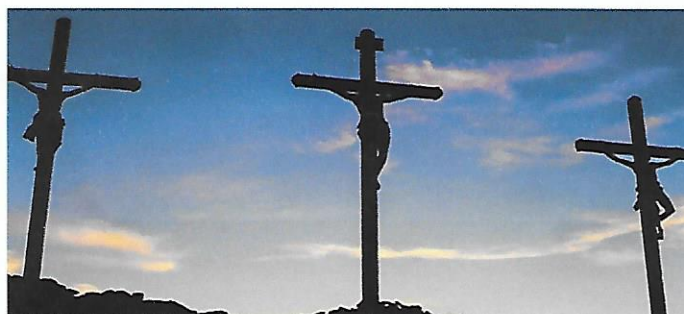
Suddenly I knew, I would anoint Jesus with the oil. So I knelt, broke open the flask, and poured it over Jesus' feet. I realised then that I had brought no cloth to wipe the feet of Jesus, so I undid my hair and let it fall, and used my hair to wipe his feet. At that moment I felt a great love for him, but also an overwhelming sadness because it seemed that I was anointing his body for burial. There was a hushed silence in the room, as I still knelt and let my tears mingle with the oil.

Then the silence was broken – of course it was Judas. It had to be him, I don't know why Jesus chose him, he was a thief and a hypocrite! He spoke to me telling me what a waste it was and that the oil could have been sold and the money given to the poor.

Then Jesus turned to Judas and told him that the poor would always be with us, but he would not be, and now he had been anointed for burial. I didn't know what he meant then, but yesterday I watched Jesus being nailed to a cross, and dying in agony, and then laid in a tomb. As I watched all this with an aching heart, I realised what I had done on that evening.

Jesus brought my brother back to life – if he could do that for Lazarus, why is he not able to do that for himself? Perhaps he can't, but it is too late now. I saw him die, no doubt about it. It is too late. I am so glad I felt the urge to anoint Jesus, because there is nothing more I can do now. Except to sit here and weep.

My Lord, my love, why did you die?



Eco- Church

At Trinity we are trying to become more ecologically aware and are striving to reduce our carbon footprint.

This month we thought we would focus on one room in our homes and perhaps at church...the bathroom.

1. Reduce shower time
2. Ditch single-use bottles
3. Use sustainable and zero-waste personal care products
4. Use shampoo and conditioner bars
5. Chose a responsibly-sourced toilet paper
6. Switch to menstrual cups
7. Save water with every flush
8. Line dry your towels and clothes



Most of these are self-explanatory; there are shops which offer refills for shampoos and shower gels or better still use soap bars, not only for your skin but ones for your hair are easily found.

Hippo the Water Saver is a simple low-cost water saving device to help conserve water in household toilet cisterns. Every time a toilet is flushed the Hippo saves approximately 3 litres of water.



We can switch from plastic to bamboo toothbrushes and use bamboo toilet paper or at least recycled.



Menstrual cups or reusable sanitary products are easily found in local shops.

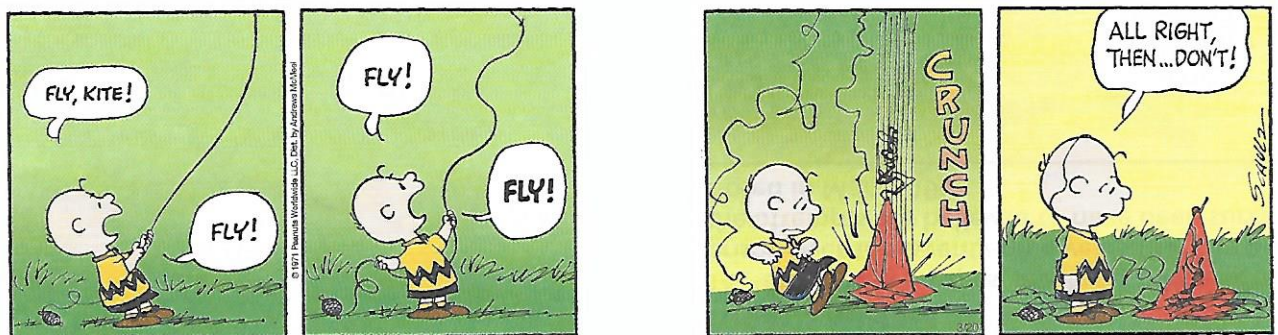
Make-up wipes do not need to be disposable; reusable or bio-degradable ones do the job just as well.

We hope this article has given you some ideas on creating a more ecological bathroom. We will be discussing cleaning products in a future article. Any questions please don't hesitate to ask one the Eco- Church group.



Quiz about birds, April 2021

1. What was wrong with war-time song "There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover"?
2. Which bird's name is missing from this line of poetry, "That's the wisehe sings each song twice over"?
3. Which British bird is the fastest flier?
4. Which birds are often seen in a 'murmuration'?
5. Where do swifts perch at night?
6. Four and twenty what were baked in a pie?
7. From which country did turkeys come from?
8. Which bird is the logo of the RSPB?
9. Which is the smallest British bird?
10. Which bird is thought of as Britain's national bird?
11. Which is the largest bird in the world?
12. "One for sorrow, two for joy....." which bird is referred to?
13. What is an eagle's nest called?
14. Which bird lays its egg in another bird's nest?
15. Which birds steal bright sparkly objects?
16. Which bird "sang in Berkeley Square"?
17. Where in the song did a partridge perch?
18. What does an emu not do?
19. Which bird has the longest life span?
20. Which bird can fly backwards?
21. Which bird is an 'emperor'?
22. What is oology?
23. Which bird is sometime called a 'windhover'?
24. Which bird was Shakespeare referring to when he wrote "Tu-whit, tu-who, a merry note"?
25. About how many miles does a swallow fly each day when migrating?
26. What name is given to someone who is obsessed with seeing as many different types of bird as possible?
27. Which bird "went to sea in a pea-green boat"?
28. What is the title of the piece of music for violin about a bird, written by Ralph Vaughan Williams?
29. What is a yellow hammer's song often called?
30. Which anarchic bird did Rod Hull use in his act?

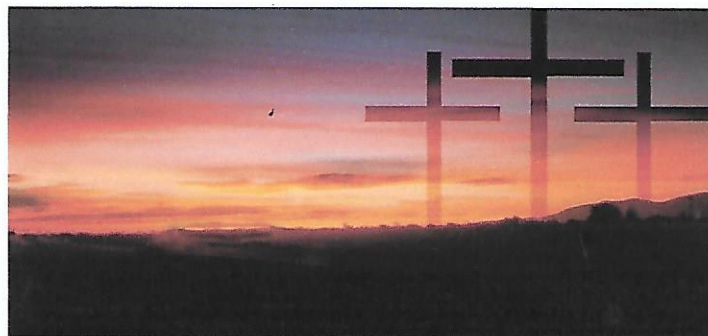


Another of Sarah Weston's poems, this one for Easter

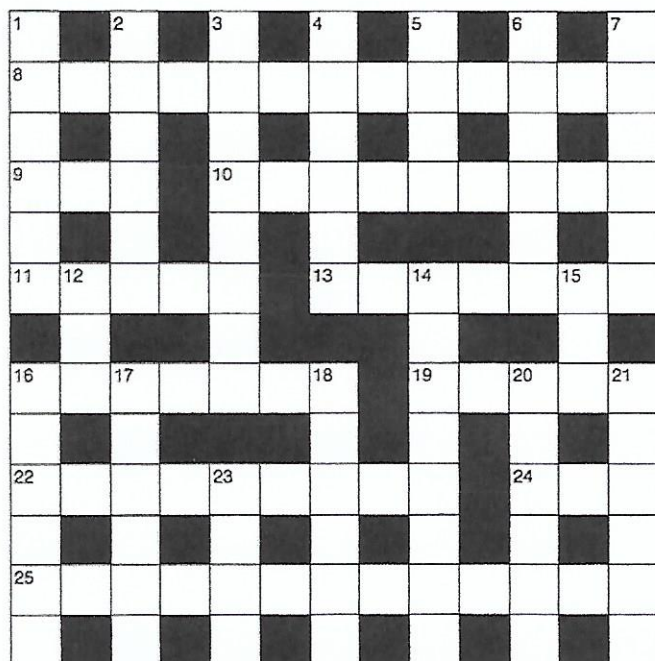
DARKNESS BEFORE THE DAWN

We, of course, know how the story ends.
How daybreak staunched our death wound in an Eden reborn;
Unbearable anguish at the foot of the cross transfigured by unbreakable assurance.
But empty hours and empty hearts precede the empty tomb.
Let's pause awhile with those bereft, in the no mans land
Between the 'lost battle' and the winning of the Greatest War,
And share the desolation of those who don't yet know,
Of those who thought themselves beyond surprise after so many wonders,
Who stagger, dazed and forlorn, beneath that bitterest blow,
Lost in smothering darkness before the glorious dawn,
Their stoppered hearts broken like an alabaster flask,
His once-familiar love as fleeting as the waft of priceless perfume.
Faith lies shattered, like remnants of lightning-struck temple walls,
While tattered hope flutters, aimless as the storm-torn curtain.
How did it come to this?
Fragments of memory seem unreal, and even feel like treachery.
The dazzling brightness of mountaintop transcendence.
Waving palms and praiseful singing, with joy soaring like a dove.
An argument, half joking, about who should be called the greatest.
A mellow communion and glib promises of loyalty, even unto death.
But worse is still to come.
Among the crush of crippling grief and bewildered disappointment,
A crowd of recriminations clamour to be heard.
A crucifixion of 'what if's and 'if only's':
Those final hours of His company, lost to drunken sleep,
The self-preserving scatter into flickering torchlit shadows,
Annihilating regrets of repeated denials, of cowardice and failure,
The scourge of that rash oath: abandoning Him, even unto death,
With no chance now to atone or make apology,
Doomed to a lifetime of reproach and directionless defeat,

Until... a glimmer of gold lightens the horizon.



Parish Pump Crossword



ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
 13 Muslim holy month (7)
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in *Three Down, Nine Across*, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).

Sudoku puzzle (easy)

	5	7		8	9	2	1	
3			7			9		6
	4	9	2					
	6		1				3	
	1						8	
	9				3		5	
					1	8	2	
9		1			4			5
	3	4	5	6		7	9	

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.

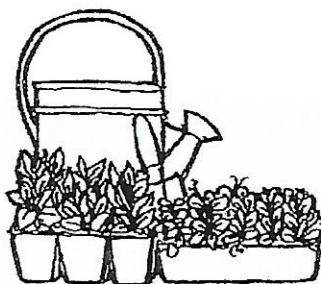
Pond plants will begin to grow this month and the pool will often have its first algal bloom. Don't worry - if the pool is balanced the green will disappear next month as the oxygenators put on growth. Feed fish sparingly at this stage, especially if the weather is cool.

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



Two more articles from our friend Mike Knott of Stourport Wesley. Thank you Mike

Born at Christmas – Died at Easter

It's Easter! Don't panic, it's me saying that not Noddy from Slade and reinventing his song to "Merry Easter everyone", Thank heavens. Sadly, it's the songs or hymns that we will be missing this year once again, with churches shut. We lost the Carol Services and it seems we won't be joining together for those once-a-year good old Easter tunes. How can you stand in the shower and warble the finest Hymn lines ever?, "See from His head, His hands, His feet; Sorrow and love flow mingled down". You can't, but it's fun – better than an Easter egg. Just think, surveying that wonderous cross on which The Prince of Glory died is what Easter's all about. If Jesus hadn't died on that cross would He have been forgotten?

We don't know anything of Jesus's life story year by year. There is no chronological record of His years or of His preachings or of His miracles. We didn't know of His childhood until He popped up in the temple around the age of 12. We knew of His birth of course, but that was it. The things He did of course could have been done over a few months before His entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He obviously had some form of family life, but the timescale could have been anywhere between His age of 12 and His death at 33. However long, the Jesus Movement eventually got off to a fine start probably in His own locality. Crowds would flock after Him, although many would have dropped off scarcely understanding what was happening. Many couldn't grasp what He was doing but the message got through to His more receptive believers. So it was those people who would have to spread The Word to the population. They would have to travel, there was no Facebook in those days.

This is where dangers would crop up. It was against the law to preach and religious leaders of the time would be sure to oppose them. It was punishable by death, but His message was carried by word of mouth throughout the land. He was out to preach the word of God and if people had accepted it He would have lived to a ripe old age. Priests and teachers of the day were more concerned with their own versions and could not accept Jesus talking of the Love of God, so He changed tack and set about sacrificing Himself for the love of God. He made up His mind to die for the cause. He knew He had to die and in doing so created what we have today. It was His death that would inspire His followers. Had He lived would we have got what we have today? Who knows, He may have just faded away, another one-day wonder.

No doubt He was innocent, we all know that. He never gave way to hatred or bitterness and when he died He asked for His murderers to be forgiven. As the Hymn says "No guilt in life, no fear in death". Jesus's death in the end was inevitable. Those last few days after His entry into Jerusalem condemned Him. What was He thinking in those 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness which we now call Lent? Those last few days of His 3 and 30 years. That's why Easter is the greatest story ever told.

Shrouded in Mystery.

You know what it's like, you're on holiday and sightseeing and somebody wants to sell you a souvenir. All part of the fun. I was in Turkey at the time and some young market trader tried to sell me a replica of a Fender guitar, 12 inches high, but no ordinary Fender, this was a copy of Buddy Holly's. In fact, a copy of the last guitar he played. Even more so the guitar pegs were exactly in the same position as he left them when he strummed his last note. Actually there's a grain of truth here. Buddy Holly was killed in a plane crash. However, his guitars and amps travelled by road so they still exist in some collectors home, worth millions. One thing I do know, doesn't matter how the guitar pegs were set, the last tune he played on that guitar was Chuck Berry's "Johnny. B. Goode", greatest rock song of all time. What am I talking about? Souvenirs.

It's back to Turkey and you're offered a 6inch piece of wood. "Genuine piece of Noah's Ark", so the salesman says. Now, Noah's Ark is supposed to have come to rest on a mountain top in Turkey, so you believe him. Well, it's holiday time, let's have fun. Now it's off to the Holy Land. You're offered probably the same piece of wood. This time the vendor says it's come from the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Shame that these tales have seen a million acres of rain forest chopped down. Now we're off to Italy, Turin in fact. This time you're offered a small piece of cloth, The Turin Shroud, the cloth that Jesus was wrapped in after He died. Here you hesitate, it probably could be genuine, although it's likely to be a piece of the reams of cloth being woven in some backstreet warehouse.

"As evening approached there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away" (Matt. 27 v 57-61, NIV). The interesting thing here is that most people who were crucified were just left upon the cross, sometimes taking over a week to die. In fact, Pilate couldn't believe it, sending a soldier to confirm Jesus was dead. It seems Christ's death was almost instantaneous, easing the pain and suffering He took for us.

"He saw the strips of linen lying there as well as the burial cloth that had been Jesus's head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (John 20 v6-8, NIV). So what happened to the shroud? According to The Bible it remained there. Nobody had an interest in it. Seems strange that something so important wasn't acclaimed at the time. How did it end up in Turin?

First report of a cloth came in AD40 in Edessa, Eastern Turkey, it was said to be imprinted with the face of Jesus. This was in a city which became one of the first conversions to Christianity. Could it be that Mary and Joseph of Arimathea took it there? After all, they left Jerusalem and moved to Ephesus after the Crucifixion. Did they take the shroud with them? Who knows. The cloth now known as The Jesus Cloth moves around the Middle East and the length of Turkey, finally ending up in Constantinople (Istanbul). After Constantinople is sacked by the French and all churches looted it ends up in France. It then turns up in various chateaus and castles in France until 1578 when it turns up in Turin (Italy) where it has remained since, except in World War II when it spent 7 years at the Abbey of Montevergine in Avellino. Although it is supposed to be The Shroud of Jesus, no one knows. It remains the most controversial religious icon in the world. No one knows where it came from. No one knows when it was made.

What we do have is a large linen cloth bearing the marks of a crucified man, kept in the cathedral of St. John in Turin. A test in 1978 detects no evidence of forgery. However in 1988 carbon dating put it between 1260 – 1390, so it could not have been Christ's. So should you be in Italy on holiday and you're offered a small piece of cloth, take your chance, you never know, it could be. Bring it home for the Antiques Roadshow.

Mike's Smile Lines

Murphy's Law: If something can go wrong it probably will.
Coles law: Thinly sliced cabbage.

**

How does the man who drives the snowplough and gritter get to work?

**

Little Boy: Mom, can I have some money for the lady in the park.
Mother: Why? Is she homeless?
Little Boy: No, she sells ice cream.

**

It's been a long wait said the blues singer, 50 years for a recording contract. Sadly, I've never felt more like singing the blues.

**

I've every intention of living forever, I'm not doing too bad so far.

**

In the old days it was common for thieves to strip the lead off church roofs. After all, pencils were rare and expensive in those days.

**

Man: Where's the self-help section?
Librarian: If I tell you that it defeats the whole purpose.

**

I married Mrs. Right but it didn't know at the time her first name was always.

**

A dog applied for a job in the Foreign Office and passed all the tests easily. "Finally, you need to show you're bilingual" said the examiner. "Miaow" said the dog.

**

Birthdays are good for mind and body. The more you have the longer you live.

**

Man: Is that the police station? I'd like to report that I keep getting a lot of nuisance phone calls.
Policeman: OH! Not you again.

**

The reverse of 'stressed' is 'desserts'.

**

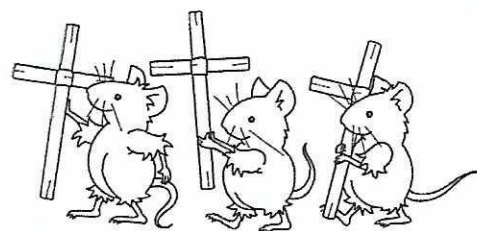
Teacher: What's 2 + 2?
Boy: 4
Teacher: Good.
Boy: Good? It's perfect.

**

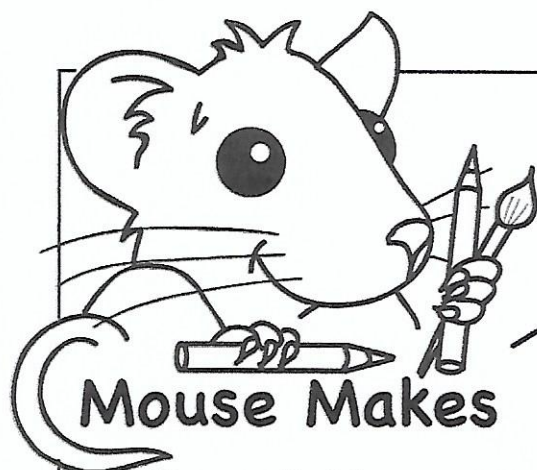
What's the difference between dogs and cats? Dogs have owners, cats have staff.

**

A man swallowed some letters from a scrabble game. The Doctor asked him to say AAAAA.



Mike

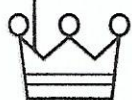


Mouse Makes

Can you find these names of **Jesus** in the word search?

SON OF GOD

Matthew 3:16-17



KING OF KINGS

Revelation 17:14

PROPHET

Luke 24:19



PRIEST

1 Timothy 2:5

ROCK

1 Corinthians 10: 4

LORD

1 Corinthians 1:9

AMEN

Revelation 3:14

LIFE

John 11:25-27

MESSIAH

John 1:41

SHEPHERD

John 10:11

LIGHT

John 8:12



WORD

John 1:1-50



BREAD

John 6:35

CREATOR

1 John 1:3

CHRIST

Matthew 16:16

SAVIOUR

John 3:16-17

HOLY ONE

Mark 1:24

VINE

John 15:5



DOOR

John 10:9

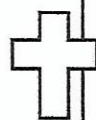
THE WAY

WAY

John 14:6

LAMB

John 1:29



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

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 26:20-25, 31-35, Mark 14:17-21, 27-31
Luke 22:22, 31-34, John 13:21-30, 36-38

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.
One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, had
accepted money from them to betray him.

As Jesus and his disciples ate the
Passover meal, Jesus said



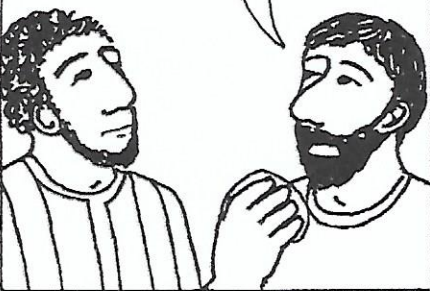
John was sitting
next to Jesus, so
Peter said



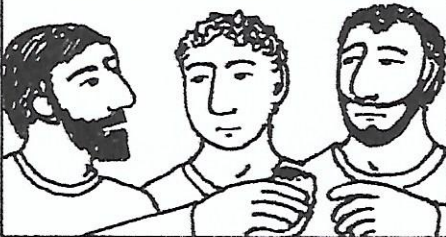
So John asked Jesus



It is the person I give
this piece of bread to.



Jesus dipped a piece
of bread in sauce, and
gave it to Judas.



What you are about to do
you must do quickly.



Why has Judas gone out?



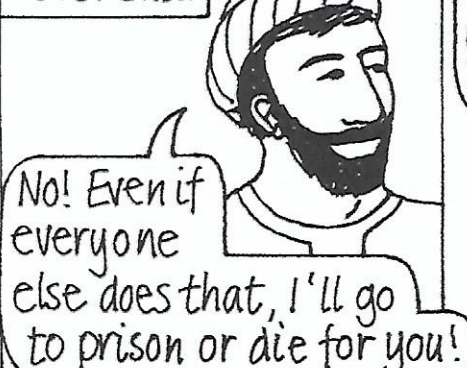
They continued
the Passover meal



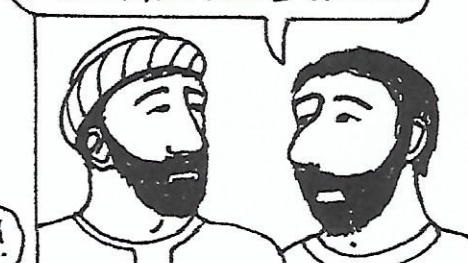
Jesus then told the rest of the
disciples



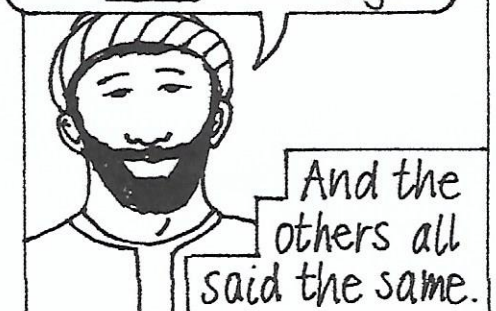
Peter said



Before tomorrow morning
you will have denied you
even know me 3 times.



Even if I have to die, I
will never disown you!



Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

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 (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ. 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.

Parish Pump 2021

Easter morning, the 'Other' Mary

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person actually to meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it *was* Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel

Parish Pump 2021

23rd April: St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

Parish Pump 2021

John Barton considers the Government's policy on Covid-19.

Covid-19: should we have sacrificed the economy, or us?

Suppose the Government had chosen an entirely different policy for dealing with coronavirus. Instead of building temporary hospitals and instructing us to wash our hands, observe social distancing, and then locking us down, they had let the pandemic run its course? Hundreds of thousands of people would have died: mainly those who were old, as well as some younger people with pre-existent health deficiencies.

As these potential casualties were already costing the National Health Service much more per head than anyone else, their (slightly) premature deaths would have saved the Exchequer billions and freed up resources to improve the health and standard of living for the rest of the more vigorous population. Only the fittest would have survived. Isn't that the law of nature?

Instead, the policy was deliberately to sacrifice the economy. At all costs, human beings were to be saved, whatever their longer-term prospects. Consequently, many businesses have gone under, unemployment has shot up and may get worse when the dust clears. Family relationships have been curbed, children may have lost a year's schooling, and leisure, hospitality and travel have been hampered.

Why? Why choose this policy and not that?

The answer is a religious one. Perhaps without realising why, policy-makers chose to act as though each human being has a value which can't be measured by their state of health or wealth or status. That's not what 'nature' intends. It's what the Christian faith demands. Everyone, everyone without exception, is unique and marked with God's image. Everyone has the potential for adoption as a child of God. Christ died for each one. You can't put a price on that.

Some countries have this faith ingrained in their national character. Some do not. In some, life is cheap, disposable and valued only by its usefulness for production or warfare. The fittest

survive. Even then some are sacrificed as warriors, like suicide bombers paying the price of an ideology.

Christianity doesn't happen by accident. It is the outcome of missionary activity and the conversion of one-time unbelievers. They then saw other people in a new light: equally worth saving, whatever the cost.

Dreadful as it is, Covid-19 will eventually be controlled. In its wake will be a history of survival, not of the fittest, but of the God-given value of every human being.

Parish Pump 2021

A True story

Several years ago, a notice appeared on the vestry noticeboard of a church in Hampshire, after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion'.

The choirmaster wrote "The Crucifixion – well done, everyone!" Later that day, someone had added, 'The Resurrection – well done, God!'

Parish Pump 2021

The good news about your forgetfulness

You know the scenario – you go into the lounge, and then wonder what you wanted. Or you need to make a phone call but can't find the phone. You go to the cash point and forget your pin number. Or your car keys are lost in the kitchen, but even when you find them and go shopping, you forget stuff on the list.

If at times you find yourself living in an annoying brain-fog, the good news is that it is not because you are ill or getting old. To varying extents, everyone does it.

A recent study at the University of Edinburgh has found that forgetfulness is as common in people in their 20s as it is in people in their 50s. Although some of the people in the study were worried about getting dementia, a neuropsychiatrist at the university reassured them: "People think that if you are starting to forget things – something like misplacing your keys – that is something to worry about. But it is normal."

Good reasons for forgetting things range from the fact that too much was happening in your life at the time, you were stressed about something, not paying attention to what you were doing, or just too busy thinking about something else entirely.

Parish Pump 2021

In praise of the afternoon nap

A short nap in the afternoon improves your memory and keeps your brain more agile. People who nap tend to speak more fluently, have greater mental agility, and remember things better than those who do not break up their day with sleep.

Even a five-minute nap can offer your brain a chance to down-time and replenish itself, so that it is 'good to go' again.

If you want longer than five minutes, try to stop at 40 minutes, before you enter the deepest stage of sleep. If you do carry on, sleep for two hours, which is a full sleep-cycle. The study was published in the British Medical Journal.

Parish Pump 2021

All in the month of APRIL

It was:

300 years ago, on 3rd April 1721 that Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister.

250 years ago, on 13th April 1771 that Richard Trevithick, British mining engineer and inventor of the first steam locomotive, was born.

125 years ago, from 6th to 15th April 1896 that the first modern Summer Olympic Games were held in Athens. The original Olympics were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius (I or II) in either 393 or 426 AD.

95 years ago, on 21st April 1926 that Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. Her father became King on the abdication of his brother King Edward VIII in 1936, from which time Elizabeth was the heir presumptive.

90 years ago, on 14th April 1931 that the first edition of the Highway Code was published in the UK.

80 years ago, on 12th April 1941 that Bobby Moore, British footballer, was born. He was Captain of the English team that won the 1966 World Cup and died in 1993.

70 years ago, on 17th April 1951 that the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first national park.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1971 that Igor Stravinsky, Russian composer, died. He was one of the most important and influential composers of the 20th century.

40 years ago, on 11th April 1981 that the Brixton riot took place in London. 5,000 youths rampaged through the streets, attacking police officers and damaging buildings, looting shops and setting cars alight.

30 years ago, on 3rd April 1991 that Graham Greene, novelist, short story writer, playwright and journalist died. Author of *Brighton Rock*, *Our Man in Havana* and many more.

20 years ago, on 7th April 2001 that NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of life and volcanic activity on Mars. It went into orbit around Mars and remains operational (though it will run out of propellant in 2025). It is the longest surviving continually active spacecraft orbiting another planet. (It has successfully mapped the distribution of water below the surface and discovered a vast amount of ice below the equatorial regions.)

10 years ago, on 29th April 2011 that the wedding of Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton took place at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Parish Pump 2021

Chelsea Flower Show moves to the autumn

For the first time ever in its 108-year history, Chelsea Flower Show will not be held in the Spring, but in the Autumn.

The 2021 Chelsea Flower Show will now take place from 21st to 26th September. The Royal Horticultural Society, the show organisers, will still hold it at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea.

The hope is that by September, millions more people will be vaccinated, so that mass outdoor events will be able to happen safely. 140,000 people are predicted to attend this year's Chelsea, over the six days.

Sue Biggs, RHS director general, says: "We believe many designers and nurseries will look forward to working with different plants that would not be available or at their best in May. We will do our utmost to deliver a beautiful, uplifting and different RHS Chelsea safely in September 2021."

Parish Pump 2021

Smile Lines.

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.' His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

**

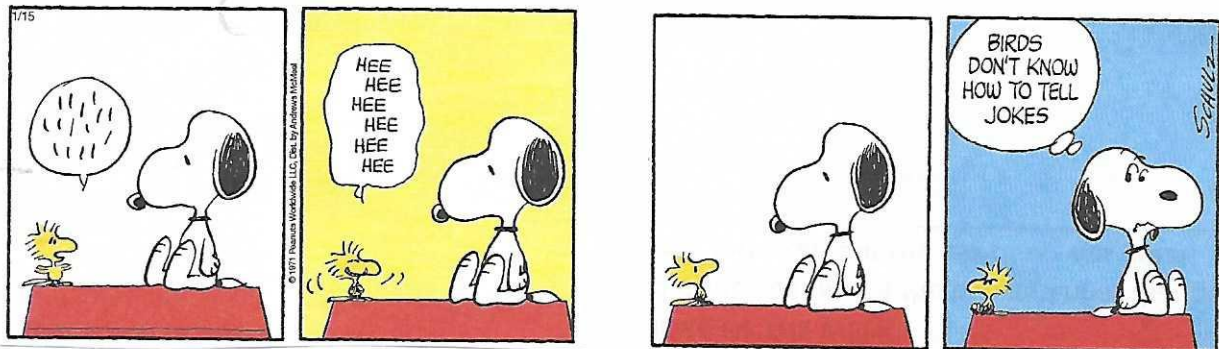
Dear Lord, please keep your arm around my shoulder — and your hand over my mouth.

**

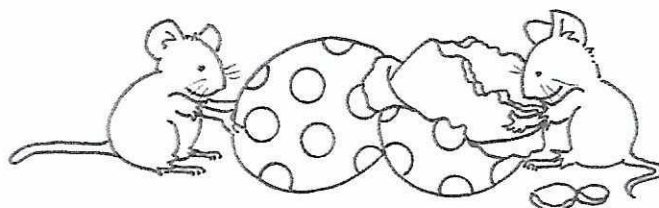
The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once.

**

I ate a kid's meal at McDonald's today. His mum got really angry.



A minister was planning a wedding at the close of the Sunday morning service. After the communion, he had planned to call the couple down for a brief ceremony in front of the congregation. For the life of him, he couldn't think of the names of those who were to be married. "Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?" he requested. Immediately, nine single ladies, six single men, three widows, and four widowers stepped to the front.



A friend of mine bought his wife a world map and gave her a dart and said, throw this, and wherever it lands--that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends. It turns out that they will be spending two weeks behind the fridge.

Answers to the Bird Quiz

1. There are no blue birds in Britain.
2. Thrush (Poem 'Home Thoughts from Abroad' by Robert Browning).
3. Peregrine Falcon, timed at 115 mph diving on its prey.
4. Starlings.
5. Nowhere. They fly very high and sleep on the wing.
6. Blackbirds.
7. North America.
8. Avocet.
9. Goldcrest.
10. Robin.
11. Ostrich.
12. Magpie. Can you remember the rest of the saying?
13. An eyrie.
14. Cuckoo.
15. Reputedly a jackdaw.
16. Nightingale.
17. A pear tree.
18. Fly.
19. Some species of parrot.
20. Hummingbird.
21. A species of penguin.
22. Study of bird's eggs.
23. Kestrel.
24. Tawny owl.
25. An average of 200 miles.
26. A twitcher.
27. Owl (and a pussy cat) by Edward Lear.
28. A Lark Ascending.
29. 'A little bit of bread and no cheeeese'.
30. Emu.

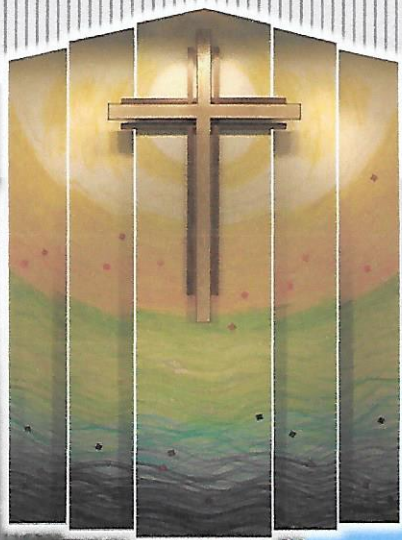
Sudoku solution:

6	5	7	4	8	9	2	1	3
3	8	2	7	1	5	9	4	6
1	4	9	2	3	6	5	7	8
7	6	5	1	2	8	4	3	9
4	1	3	9	5	7	6	8	2
2	9	8	6	4	3	1	5	7
5	7	6	3	9	1	8	2	4
9	2	1	8	7	4	3	6	5
8	3	4	5	6	2	7	9	1

Crossword answers:

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.



♦ Trinity Methodist Church ♦



**DUE TO COVID- 19 ALL
SUNDAY SERVICES
AND WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES
ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE.**

Thank You.

...2021 ...2021 ...2021

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