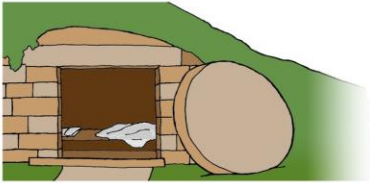


ABBHEY HILL U.R.C. MAGAZINE

March
2024



Changed from Glory into Glory

By the time you read this we will be at least two weeks into Lent. It seemed to start quite early this year, although it can start as early as 4 February. Not in our lifetime though! The last time this happened was 1818 and the next is 2285.

What difference does it make to you? Do you give things up, or give things away, as suggested by Val Whiteman when she led our worship recently? Maybe you choose to read an appropriate book? I have several on my bookshelf, some read, some waiting to be read.

As well as two daily reading books, this year I am using, 'At home in Lent – an exploration of Lent through 46 objects' written by Gordon Giles. The objects he chooses include a door, fireplace, mobile phone (don't tell children!), keys, and...toilet! Really interesting.

However, before Lent started, I was sitting quietly trying to discern the voice of God and I heard, 'Look at 2 Corinthians again.' Being an obedient sort of person, mostly, I read through the letter, all thirteen chapters in about 45 minutes. And then I understood. So much in Paul's letters is still very relevant today and this is no exception.

I admit to having studied the letter some years ago whilst at Westminster College, but insights from God are no bad thing! Some think, and I am one of them, that the letter is actually two letters, 2 Corinthians 1-9, but after a second, more difficult visit, a follow-up letter that is 10-13. There are significant differences in tone and topic between the two sections. In fact, the whole letter has a fragmented and jerky feel to it.

Yet, it is in this letter we find some of Paul's greatest spiritual insights and sublime rhetoric. Pushed to his limits, Paul is able to access the 'breadth and length and height and depth' of Christ's love (Ephesians 3: 18).

The Christian community at Corinth is a masterpiece set up by Paul, a creative work that demonstrates his competence as an evangelist and church-planter. However, he has received criticism and he is determined not to be side-tracked by having fears and doubts, and to justify himself, thus taking his eye off God. How many of us have fallen into that trap? 'You can't please all of the people all of the time,' is a great truism.

Paul reminds his readers of the great work he did, inspired by Jesus and under the direction of the Holy Spirit. He talks of God's glory that was so great it had to be veiled from them, yet is now available because God has done a new thing. The glory is no less bright, yet because of Jesus, we can approach it and instead of being weighed down with feelings of shame and inadequacy, we find acceptance and dignity.

Instead of being dazzled, we glimpse beauty and discover new insights. Even more miraculously, as we move towards Good Friday and into Easter Day, we get to share some of this glory ourselves.

Whatever you choose your time doing this Lent, I pray you will feel God near you, inspiring and guiding you. And on Easter morn experience the exhilarating resurrection joy!

Bless you all

George

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH 2024

- 3rd Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by George Jones.**
- 10th Sunday** **11.00 Mothering Sunday/Parade Service led by
Jo Statton and Anne Holloway.**
- 17th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service with Communion led by George Jones.**
- 24th Sunday** **11.00 Palm Sunday Service led by Dave Boyle**
- 28th Friday** **17.00 Good Friday Service led by George Jones**
- 31st Sunday** **11.00 Easter Day Service led by George Jones.**



CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

- 7th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by George Jones.**
- 14th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by Thomas Abraham from Tearfund**
- 21st Sunday** **11.00 Family Service with Communion led by George Jones.**
- 28th Sunday** **11.00 Family Healing Service led by Kath Shortley**

Home Bible Study Group

This group meets at Hilary Scott's house on Wednesday evenings – 7.30pm.
Contact Hilary for further details – 07749 836928/01926 859337

Regular events 2024

Event	Venue	Date	Time	Coordinators
Elders	Abbey Hill	1 st Wednesday every month	7.15 start	elders
Managers	Abbey Hill	2 nd Wednesday every month	7pm start	Ivan Pointon - manager's secretary
Coffee Pot	Abbey Hill	Every Thursday	9.30 to 11.30	Betty and David Connelly
Community Listening Exchange hosted by Coffee Pot	Abbey Hill	3rd Thursday every month	10.00	Ivan Pointon and Ed Watson
Repair cafe	Abbey Hill	Every 3rd Saturday	2 to 5pm	Kenilworth Repair Cafe

Dates For Your Diaries March 2024

Event	Venue	Date	Time	Coordinators
Lent Group	Abbey Hill	Starts Thursday Feb 22nd	After coffee pot 11.30	George Jones and Elders
Church Meeting and AGM	Abbey Hill	Wednesday 20 th March	7pm	George Jones and Elders
Walk of Witness from Abbey Hill URC (not St John's) to Abbey Fields corner	Cross erected at Abbey Fields corner - Abbey Hill for refreshments	Good Friday 29 th March	Leave Abbey Hill 10.30 for service in Abbey Fields at 10.45	All Kenilworth Churches
Good Friday Service (Quiet Reflective Service)	Abbey Hill	Friday 29 th March	5pm	George and Elders
Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG)	Baginton Road Church	Monday 8 th April	2.30pm	George and Elders
"Pressure" Talisman Theatre	Talisman Theatre	Tuesday 16 th April	7 for 7.30 Start	John Nichols

Church Calendar

Jan 21st	Church Meeting
Feb 13th	Shrove Tuesday
Feb 14th	Ash Wednesday
March 10 th	Mothering Sunday and Parade
March 20th	Church Meeting and AGM
March 29th	Good Friday
March 31st	Easter Day
June TBA	Church Meeting
Sept 29th	Harvest and Parade
September TBA	Church Meeting
Nov 10 th	Remembrance Sunday
December 22 nd	Carols by Candlelight

Presentation on the Holy Land

Wednesday 13th March in the Parish rooms at St Francis Church, 6.30 for 7pm. Finishing by 8.30.

Churches together in Kenilworth offer the opportunity to hear about the life in the Holy Land for Christians from Peter Brand who has visited the holy land 26 times in 14 years! With his information and the information they get from the contacts they have in Gaza, the West bank and Israel, this will be an insightful presentation. This is information that is not available in the press. It is about actual life of Christians in these differing areas.

Friends of the holy land support the 1000 Christians in Gaza, the 44,000 in the West Bank and the 177,000 in Israel.

THE BIG PLASTIC COUNT

In the week 11-17 March the big plastic count is inviting everyone to count how much plastic they throw away.

100 billion pieces of plastic are thrown away annually by UK households (according to Greenpeace and Everyday Plastic), of which only 12% is recycled!!!!

Go to www.thebigplasticcount then register to take part. At the end of the week submit your total via the website.

The aim is not to make individuals feel guilty but to put pressure on the government to do better and faster in dealing with this issue.

Anne Gilmore

Elders' Tea for Circles of Care

This will be held in the school room on Saturday 13th April 2.30pm to 4.00pm Elders will be contacting their group members individually with a personal invitation.

LENT STUDY GROUP

We'll be running a Lent Study Group in the vestry 11.30 to 12.30 during lent. The dates are Thursdays 22nd February, 29th February, 7th March, 14th March and 28th March.

The material we're following is "Decisions Decisions" by Nick Fawcett.

All are welcome.

EASYFUNDRAISING

Abbey Hill has recently received £63.63 from easy fundraising with many, many thanks due to those who shop on-line using the *Easyfundraising* app/website for Abbey Hill.

It would be great if even more people were to sign up and receive donations of between 0.05 - 5 or 6% for Abbey Hill every time they shop.

There are over 8000 websites that offer donations through *Easyfundraising*. Holidays and insurances give the highest percentages of a spend. However, weekly shopping food shopping generates a lot because it's a very regular event.

Ask Anne Gilmore or Vivien Nichols to know more about how to join.

T4U Christmas boxes

I hope you were in church to see Susan Derwent's fascinating presentation on distributing T4U Christmas boxes to children in Romania. It was so interesting to learn and understand a little more about the recipients of boxes.

A huge thank you to all that support T4U, whether through Abbey Hill or elsewhere. 64,405 boxes were distributed in 2023, even more than the previous year, which is hugely appreciated.

I aim to have boxes available in church for early August this year, to allow plenty of preparation time. Also, our local collection contact, who prepares boxes all year round, has requested if anyone has spare wool or material to donate? If you do, please pass to me or leave in the Foodbank box in the church entrance.

Many thanks

Donna Bloy

Report on Abbey Hill Home Bible Study Group – January 2024

The Abbey Hill Home Bible Study group started nearly a year ago, with Wednesday 3rd February 2023 being our first meeting, and it is blossoming.

We are a group of 8 currently, with two people having stepped away and two just joined - this is a nice number for a home-based group. We are by no means an exclusive group and are very happy for anyone interested to visit us on a Wednesday evening and join us.

Moving forwards, it would be fantastic and pleasing to God to replicate this model potentially and start more Home Bible Study groups. There are wonderful benefits – the reading and study of God’s word, discussion, prayer and of course fellowship. As a group we pray for each other and share (confidentially) both worries and joys and support each other. We have also included some purely social events. As a group we have also willingly and happily been involved in planning and running two church services – both Messy Church and the Candlelit Carol Service – a new experience for most of us; definitely fulfilling and we would readily take on other services in the future, if felt appropriate.

We have covered various topics during the year, having started with ‘Friendship’, then ‘Service’ as gentle introductions. We have completed the ‘Freedom in Christ’ course, and this month are dipping into ‘Deep Dive’ by Barry L Davis with devotionals on ‘Gratitude’, ‘Worship’, and next week ‘Courage’.

We start with refreshments, catching up with each other, then commence our focus on the planned bible study by lighting a candle and beginning with a prayer, and sometimes including a worship song. The themes are backed up by relevant bible verses which we read out loud and discuss, and we find that reading different bible versions often helps our understanding. All thoughts and beliefs are respected. The group generally bring their own bibles, and I have extras! We have spontaneously sung together too, which was a joy.

It should not be underestimated the power and importance of reading God’s word, the resulting spiritual input, prayer and fellowship; and a weekly bible study group enables this to happen on a regular basis.

Hilary Scott

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY FOR MARCH

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

A Happy Birthday to all of the following:-

March 1 st Ayse McKenzie	3 rd Di Wilson
4 th Judy Clarkson	5 th Ian Rose
6 th Elspeth Stratton	9 th Andy Cooper
13 th Martyn Todd	14 th Bronwen Todd
15 th Martha Curran	17 th Vivien Nichols
18 th Jane Woods-Scawen	20 th Lorraine Hall
21 st Jayne Bryan	22 nd Robert Kerr
24 th Helen Thomas	

Best wishes to Martha Curran who celebrates her 21st birthday on the 15th and to Robert Kerr and Helen Thomas who both celebrate a birthday ending in a "0".

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Wedding Anniversary wishes to:-

March 9 th Heather & John Barton	16 th Jo & John Williams
20 th Lorraine & Barrie Hall	30 th Michael & Donna Curran
31 st Ian & Barbara Rose	

Congratulations to John & Heather Barton on the occasion of their Golden Wedding.

NEW MEMBERS

It was lovely on Sunday 18th February to be able to welcome Ian and Barbara Rose as new members who have transferred from Rugby URC where they were members for 46 years. Barbara and Ian were well known to lots of Abbey Hill members before the move and are getting to know the rest of us already!

DEATH

We are very saddened to announce the death of a long standing member, Madeline Hamper. Madeline had not been able to attend church for some time and was latterly in a Nursing home.

THINKING OF

This month we think especially of Jane Woods-Scawen, Gill Littleford and Jo Warren. We continue to think of and pray for all our members and friends and name a few – Mary Skidmore, Janet Turner, Esme Thorpe, Winnie Tawil. Edna Dixon, Mavis Duckworth and Donald & Haro Horsefield.

FRIENDS MAKE LIFE WORTH LIVING

A day spent with friends is a day well spent.

Anon

Nothing in heaven itself is better than a friend who is really a friend.

Plautus254-184 BC

Good friends don't let you do stupid things alone.

Anon

Please let Pat Cowan know either in person or on 01926 313904 of any Pastoral Care matters.

Abbey Hill Needs YOU!

If you had the opportunity to help Abbey Hill URC to grow, what would you say? Hopefully, 'Yes please, count me in!' Well, that opportunity does exist, and it needs as many as possible joining in.

Starting **Monday 8th April at 2.30pm**, the Reverend Peter Kimberley, Baginton Road URC, Coventry, and ourselves are joining forces to put on, '**Leading your Church into Growth.**' The course is seven sessions long, each lasting one hour, once a month, and will start at Baginton Road URC, and then alternate between our two churches.

Why are we working with another church on this?

Three reasons. Firstly, it is a good idea for two quite different churches to share their experiences together, thus broadening our knowledge. Secondly, Peter and I have worked together several times in the past, and, being two quite different people, bring different skills and perspectives to the party. Finally, the more people, the more experiences we can share, and the more we will be helping our churches to grow.

What are the seven sessions?

1. Creating a prayerful culture of growth
2. Implementing the 4P's: Prayer, Presence, Proclamation, Persuasion.
3. Practise Fruitful Evangelism
4. Developing Engaging Worship
5. Become an Inviting and Welcoming Church
6. Making a Pathway for Seekers to become Disciples
7. Begin a Planned Journey of Growth.

Hang on, aren't we already an inviting and welcoming church?

Absolutely! What if we could get even better though, and grow in number? Come along to find out how!

Evangelism – hang on, I don't want to go out knocking on people's doors, thank you.

I don't blame you – neither do I! And that is not what Evangelism is about. It's about talking through what we believe. Again, come along and find out more. If you do want to go knocking doors though...!

I've got more questions. Who do I talk to?

Me! Either face-to-face, via email or telephone – all freely available!

I can't make Monday afternoons.

Not everyone will be able to, we know that. In fact, there is no time convenient to everyone. But you can still be involved. Firstly, there is a prayer that goes with the sessions. It is reprinted below and I have Prayer Cards that I will be distributing. Secondly, ask people who have been what it is about, what's it like!

I'm convinced – I want to go! What do I do next?

All the dates for each session are printed below. Put them in your diary. Note they do not all fall on the same Monday in the month – holidays intervene! Let me know you plan to come; it's face-to-face, email or 'phone again! Or mention it to an Elder – they talk to me too!

I have no transport; what do I do?

Don't worry! We will sort out car-sharing. Very eco-friendly for a church going for the Silver award!

Do join me. I get so lonely on my own!

Blessings, George

The Leading your Church into Growth Prayer:

God of Mission, Who alone brings growth to your Church, Send your Holy Spirit to give, Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship, And power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, In spiritual commitment to you, And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The dates for these sessions are confirmed as Mondays all at 2.30pm

8th April at Baginton Road
20th May at Abbey Hill
10th June at Baginton Road
8th July at Abbey Hill
12th August at Baginton Road
2nd September at Abbey Hill
7th October at Baginton Road

Looking for the Resurrection

An old couple are driving down the motorway when the wife gets a call from their daughter. *'Mum, there's a car driving the wrong way down the motorway!'* The wife warns her husband that there is a lunatic on the motorway. Her husband, clutching the wheel in terror, replies: *'One lunatic? There are dozens of them, all headed straight for us!'* What we see is determined by our perspective on life.

In the Nicene Creed we say: *'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.'* In the gospel accounts of the Resurrection, there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: *'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him...He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him'* (Mark 16: 6,7).

Like the women we would probably have been left *'trembling and bewildered'* by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we can look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of His presence through the darkest of times. God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life at work in our lives and the people around us.

ROTAS – March 2024

	Transport	Flowers provided by	Flowers arranged by
03/03	Di Wilson 01926 857002	Janet Turner	Heather Barton
10/03	Colin Ritchie 01926 512507	Anne Holloway	Anne Holloway
17/03	John Nichols 07770 598598	Ivan Pointon	Anne Gilmore
24/03	Di Wilson 01926 857002	Bronwen Todd	Bronwen Todd
31/03	Colin Ritchie 01926 512507	Rosemary Lawrence	Rosemary Lawrence
	Projector & Sound	Stewards	Readers
03/03	John	Phil Inshaw & Eileen John	Elinor Davies
10/03	Bronwen	Pat Cowan & Anne Gilmore BINS - Recycling	Fred Holloway
17/03	David	Jo & John Williams BINS – Grey Refuse	Rosemary Lawrence
24/03	Alison	John Nichols & Mary Lea BINS - Recycling	Ivan Pointon
31/03	Ivan	Di Wilson & Julia Graham	Anne Gilmore
	Coffee	Car Park	Vestry
03/03	Barbara & Ian Rose		John Nichols
10/03	Susan Derwent & Di Wilson		Colin Ritchie
17/03	Betty Connelly & Eileen John		Kath Shortley
24/03	Pat Cowan & Glynis Hobbins		Anne Holloway
31/03	Anne & Fred Holloway		Anne Gilmore
	Communion Prep.	Comm. Servers	
17/03	Colin Ritchie & Donna Bloy		

ROTAS – April 2024

	Transport	Flowers provided by	Flowers arranged by
07-04	John Nichols 07770 598598	Jane Woods-Scawen	Anne Holloway
14-04	Di Wilson 01926 857002	Judy Clarkson	Eileen John
21-04	Colin Ritchie 01926 512507	Barbara Gillard	Barbara Gillard
28-04	John Nichols 07770 598598	Jon Atkins	Di Wilson
	Projector & Sound	Stewards	Readers
07-04	John	Barbara & Ian Rose BINS – grey refuse & recycling	Kath Shortley
14-04	Bronwen	Hilary Scott & Gill Littleford	John McKenzie
21-04	David	Kath Shortley & Betty Connelly BINS – recycling	John Nichols
28-04	Alison	Anne & Fred Holloway BINS – grey refuse	Lorna Spenser
	Coffee	Car Park	Vestry
07-04	Kath Shortley & Cheryl Ritchie		Vivien Nichols
14-04	Rosemary Lawrence & Suzanne Hall		John Nichols
21-04	John Nichols & Mary Lea		Colin Ritchie
28-04	Alison Pointon & Hilary Scott		Anne Holloway
	Communion Prep.	Comm. Servers	
	Anne Holloway & Betty Connelly		

Why we should be like donkeys

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They can survive on poor fodder, can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So, Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work He has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

All in the month of March

750 years ago, on 7th March 1274 that St Thomas Aquinas, Italian Dominican friar, Catholic priest, philosopher, and theologian, died.

125 years ago, on 6th March 1899 that the German pharmaceutical company Bayer patented aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid).

100 years ago, on 25th March 1924 that Greece became a republic. The monarchy was abolished, and the Second Hellenic Republic was proclaimed.

90 years ago, on 9th March 1934 that Yuri Gagarin, Soviet cosmonaut, was born. He was the first man in space. (Died 1968)

80 years ago, from 24th to 25th March 1944, that the Great Escape took place. 76 Allied prisoners of war broke out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging three tunnels. Three of the prisoners escaped, 73 were recaptured, and 50 were executed. The event was dramatized in the film *The Great Escape*.

65 years ago, on 9th March 1959 that the Barbie doll was launched at the International Toy Fair in New York City. 9th March is Barbie's official birthday.

60 years ago, on 6th March 1964 that American world heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay was given the name Muhammad Ali, after joining the Nation of Islam.

50 years ago, on 29th March 1974 that the Terracotta Army was discovered in Shaanxi, China by a group of farmers who were digging a well. The 8,000 life-sized warriors, plus chariots and horses were buried with the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang (247 BC - 210 BC) to protect him in the afterlife.

40 years ago, 5th March 1984 to March 1985 that the 1984 miners' strike took place. 6000 coal miners in Yorkshire began a strike, to protest against pit closures and job losses. By 12th March the strike in Yorkshire became a national one, involving tens of thousands of miners.

30 years ago, on 12th March 1994 that the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.

25 years ago, 21st March 1999 that Ernie Wise, British comedian and actor (Morecambe and Wise) died.

Why saying hello is important

What lessons can Christians learn from a London rail worker who was recently honoured by King Charles, for talking 29 people out of taking their own lives? Maybe something about the power of conversation and being willing to 'stop for a chat.'

Rizwan Javed helped to save each life over a period of eight years, by being alert and approaching vulnerable individuals in difficult situations. He was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours earlier this year. Rizwan was alert, and willing to engage people in conversation.

Anglican priest Jemima Prasadam's style of talking with people has been described as 'bus stop theology.' She put it into action on the half-mile walk from her home to the church in Lozells, an inner-city area of West Birmingham, with high unemployment and poverty.

Her engaging approach is featured in *Stick with Love*, a recent book by Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall in northern England.

She explained: "I don't go out looking to talk to people, but I am ready to do it. I don't pass anybody without saying 'Hello' and when I leave, I always say 'God bless you.' Meetings happen on a daily basis, but often only last as long as it takes for the bus to arrive.

"People often say they are not religious, but I say we are all spiritual beings, and they agree. So, I simply tell them that weak and simple people like me call that God."

Sadly, we are living in a society where conversations are being closed down. People who might have chatted on the bus or train, are now deeply involved with their mobile phones.

Supermarkets are phasing out staffed checkout points, so that elderly people and others who live alone are deprived of those conversations that can make a difference to their day.

Jesus asked questions as a vital component of His earthly ministry. His deep conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 begins with Him asking for a drink.

Maybe we, as Christians and churches, need to be looking out for more chances to start conversations, to give people the opportunity to open up about their lives. In our busy, rushing-around world, there are many people out there who are just longing for a chat...

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: Hildegard of Bingen

In this series we have looked at the psalms of the Old Testament and the songs of the New Testament, and now we enter the Middle Ages. But it is the Middle Ages through the eyes of a record producer in the last century.

In 1980 Ted Perry decided to found a new independent record company, Hyperion. If that was not financial risk enough, in the following year Hyperion issued a CD of a composer virtually unknown in the 1980s – Hildegard of Bingen. The risk paid off, and Gothic Voices’ recording of the music of this remarkable medieval nun became a best seller. The CD sold in its thousands and received awards from the gramophone industry.

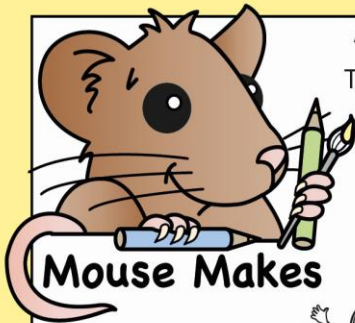
‘A feather on the breath of God’, the title of the CD, is how Hildegard described herself. ‘Listen, there was a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself, but because the air bore it along. Thus am I a feather on the breath of God.’

Hildegard was born in 1098, the tenth child of noble parents who lived in western Germany. Aged only eight, she was given into the care of Jutta, abbess of a monastery in the Rhineland, near Bingen. There she lived the life of an enclosed nun, her only contact with the world outside via a grille through which food was passed.

After 30 years, Hildegard left that cell and was assigned a scribe, who wrote down her visions and meditations in two volumes. She founded two monasteries, wrote books on medicine and natural healing and the first morality play, and composed a great range of songs. She corresponded with the great and the good, and as the ‘Sybil of the Rhine,’ her advice was sought by popes and emperors, by kings and bishops. A truly creative life of prayer and service until her death in 1179.

The starting point for her own compositions was the plainsong of that time. Modern techniques of singing and performing often make plainsong slow and heavy. The secret to bringing plainchant alive is to sing it with relaxed attention. In many ways that is the secret of the life of prayer: that paradox of resting in the Lord while being alert to the promptings of his spirit. Hildegard realised that secret as she brought to her music, as she did to everything, an intensity of emotion and faith, developing the medieval plainchant into melodies that flowed off the page and soared into the skies.

It is all there in the chant ‘O ignis spiritus’ on the CD – an ecstatic song, praising the life of God’s Spirit as breath and spark of flame, as a power within and armour without. As Hildegard contemplates this gift, her music moves and grows, reaching upwards to God’s throne of glory in praise and adoration and outwards to those who listen.



Mouse Makes

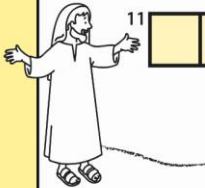
Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



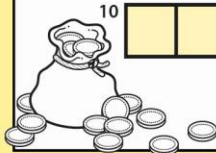
Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



"I am the **resurrection** and the life.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."

John 1:25



READ the Bible passages to find the answers to the crossword clues

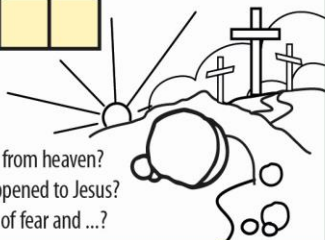
A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- 1. Down: Jerusalem
- 2. Across: Donkey
- 3. Down: Hosanna
- 4. Across: Cloths
- 5. Across: Palm
- 6. Down: Passover
- 7. Across: Branches
- 8a. Down: Jesus
- 8d. Down: Disciples
- 9. Down: Crucifixion
- 10. Across: 30
- 11. Across: Bread
- 12. Across: Friends
- 13. Down: Shroud
- 14. Down: Tomb
- 15. Across: Last Supper
- 16. Across: Stones
- 17. Across: Disciples
- 18. Down: Chalice
- 19. Down: Buried



Matthew 27:27-61

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?



Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?

Crufts Dog Show, 7th - 10th March

Crufts has well been called the greatest dog show in the world.

Everything about Crufts is big: last year more than 155,000 visitors flocked to the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) at Birmingham for a show that lasted four days, to see more than 24,000 dogs compete. In addition, there were numerous displays of agility, obedience, and simply fun games.

Crufts was established in 1891, and named after its founder, Charles Cruft. In 1876 a young Charles had left college with no wish to join his family's jewellery business. Instead, he became a travelling salesman for Spratts, a dog food company. This brought him into contact with large country estates and many sporting kennels.

When his next job with Spratts took Charles Cruft to Europe, he became friendly with some French dog breeders. In 1878 they invited him to organise the promotion of the canine section of the Paris Exhibition. Though Cruft was still just two years out of college, his entrepreneurial talents were already evident.

Back in England, in 1886, he took up the management of the Allied Terrier Club Show at the Royal Aquarium, Westminster. And then, in 1891 the first Cruft's show was booked into the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington. It has evolved and grown ever since.

Last year more than 200 breeds of dog were shown at Crufts. More than 83 per cent of the people who visit Crufts are dog owners themselves.

Where is the most generous place in the UK?

The fundraising website GoFundMe has praised the British public, as recent figures show that it receives a donation every second of every day.

The generosity of the British can even be broken down into regions.

Last year Manchester was the most generous place in the UK, with 43,135 donations, while Liverpool (36,739), Brighton (19,641), Lisburn (11,122) and Saint Albans (10,474) came in second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.

This past year, many British donors have given to the victims of conflicts and natural disasters, from Ukraine to Syria, Turkey to Morocco, not forgetting those impacted by the various storms that battered the UK itself.

One notable success was for victims of Storm Babet, whose homes were flooded in Chesterfield. The fundraiser, organised by a team at Lifehouse Church in the town, raised more than £92,000, from a total of 1,600 donations.

All in all, the UK was ranked as the third most generous country in the world per capita, with more than four million donations made last year.

Quotes

Observations for Lent

The shortest distance between a problem and its solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. - Anon

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything. - Anon

People are like tea bags - you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are. - Anon

Meditation has a digesting power and turns special truth into nourishment. - Anon

Many a man has thought himself broken up, when he has merely been made ready for the sowing. - Hugh Redwood

Adversity does not make us frail; it only shows us how frail we are. - Anon

Affliction by itself does not sanctify; it exhausts and embitters, it depresses and entices. It is the presence of God and the use made of it by Him, as He relates it to our lives as a whole... that makes adversity salutary. - Donald MacLeod

God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb. - Laurence Sterne

Self-emptiness prepares for spiritual fullness. - Richard Sibbes

Treasures in heaven are laid up only as treasures on earth are laid down. - Anon

An humble knowledge of thyself is a surer way to God than a deep search after learning. - Thomas a Kempis

The man who does not like self-examination may be pretty certain that things need examining. - C H Spurgeon

God only asks you to do your best. - Robert H Benson

Fight truth decay - study the Bible daily. - Anon

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns. - Anon

Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church. - Anon

**COULD ANY ARTICLES/NOTICES FOR THE
APRIL 2024 MAGAZINE PLEASE BE SENT TO ME BY
SUNDAY 24th MARCH 2024
PLEASE 😊? (e-mail to m.todd1@hotmail.com)**

Earth Hour

Do you know about Earth Hour? Have you taken part in the past? Will you take part this year?

Earth Hour involves people across the world switching off all their lights for one hour on one day of the year. This is to highlight the plight of the world from Climate Change and the consequential ecological degradation.

Currently we are going to miss limiting the rise in global warming to global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre industrialisation levels agreed in Paris in 2015 coming into force in December 2016, and signed by 195 countries.

One of the target dates for this was to be by 2050 but the world is on track to breach it by 2030!!!

There is a great, great deal to do to ensure our temperature rise does not exceed 1.5° by 2030.!!!! We also need to re-nature the world and particularly our country by 2030.

Earth hour began with a “lights out” event in Sydney Australia in 2007 and year on year it has grown, till now much of the world takes part. Will you?

The date for this year’s hour is Saturday, the 23rd of March 8.30 to 9.30pm. Please switch off all your lights for one hour between the given times.

News programs usually show photographs of the before and after of all the lights being switched off across the world. It is quite amazing how dark the world looks when lights are off. Highlighting just how much light and electricity we use the rest of the time.

Go on give it a go!

Anne Gilmore



REPAIR CAFE
KENILWORTH



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REPAIR CAFE



Repair Café Kenilworth

Repair Café Kenilworth (ReCK) is a free meeting space that's all about repairing things together, be that clothes, toys, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles ... there's very little that can't be repaired by our team of expert volunteers.

We meet at the United Reformed Church every third Saturday in the month, between 2PM and 5PM. There is free parking outside the Church, but it can get quite busy. If your item is particularly heavy or large, we'll always try to assist you as best as possible.



Sustainable. Social. Economic. Fun.

A local Repair Café is a not-for-profit community event, created by neighbours, for their neighbours. The aim of the Repair Café Kenilworth (and those worldwide) is to reduce waste, increase sustainability, save money, and have fun in an informal social gathering.

Oh ... with lots of tea and cake on tap also. It is a Repair CAFE after all.

Bin it? No Way!

Some things have to be thrown away ... the old toothbrush with curly bristles, that blown light bulb that's been sitting inside the cupboard since 1983, the fish 'n' chip wrappers from last night's tea ... but what about that broken bedside lamp, or the rickety wooden stool that belonged to your grandparents?



The Repair Café movement has one simple question, and an even simpler answer; Bin it? No Way!

Along with actually repairing your broken items, we'll help you to develop the skills to start repairing them yourself, to promote the culture of repair over replace, and to give you the satisfaction of bringing your treasured memories back to life.

Further details

[Repair Cafe](#) | [Repair Cafe Kenilworth](#) | [Kenilworth \(repaircafe-kenilworth.org\)](#)

The third Saturday afternoon of the month at Abbey Hill Church 2pm-5pm.



Destination?

Lenora, 95-years-old and in excellent health, confided that she was terribly worried: "Every one of my friends has already died and gone on to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went!"

Mother's reward

A man was decorating his new den and decided it was a good place to display all the awards he and his two sons had won at various athletic competitions. When he had filled two whole walls, he remarked to his wife that it was a shame she had no awards to contribute.

The following day, she produced, neatly framed, the birth certificates of their two sons, and added them to the display.

Just like mum...

That desert was delicious. Did you buy it yourself?

Mothers and teenagers

A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son. "I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed," she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help. "Easy. My son sleeps with the dog."

St Patrick's Day

"I married an Irishman on St Patrick's Day."

"Oh, really?"

"No, O'Reilly!"

Pewsheet notice that went wrong...

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Helping

If it's true that we are here to help others, what are the others doing here?

Expensive boat

A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"

Musings on life...

I'm taking care of my procrastination issues. Just you wait and see.

I hate it when I see an old person, and then realize we went to school together.

My boss calls me 'The Computer'. Nothing to do with intelligence; I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

And finally – this month is Crufts Dog Show, and dog lovers may enjoy the following...

How many dogs does it take to change a light bulb?

Border Collie: Just one? Not only that, but I'll replace any wiring that's not up to code.

Golden Retriever: The sun is shining. The day is young. And you're inside worrying about a stupid, burned-out light bulb?

Dachshund: I can't reach the stupid lamp!

Toy Poodle: I'll just blow in the Border collie's ear, and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.

Shi-tzu: Puh-leeze, dah-ling. What are servants for?

Lab: Oh, me, me!!! Pleeeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Can I?

Malamute: Let the Border collie do it. You can feed me while he's busy.

Doberman Pinscher: While it's dark, I'm going to sleep on the couch.

Mastiff: Mastiffs are NOT afraid of the dark.

Hound Dog: ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

Pointer: I see it, there it is, right there...

Greyhound: It isn't moving. Who cares?

Australian Shepherd: Put all the light bulbs in a little circle...

Old English Sheep Dog: Light bulb? Light bulb? That thing I just ate was a light bulb?

PRAYER DIARY MARCH 2024

1 st	Lorna and John Spenser
2 nd	Jo Stratton, Sophie and Elspeth
3 rd	Ruth and Steve Sutton
4 th	Winnie Tawil
5 th	Helen and Dave Thomas
6 th	Esmé Thorpe
7 th	Joy Thorpe
8 th	Bronwen and Martyn Todd, Sarah and Lottie
9 th	Janet Turner
10 th	Jo and Pete Warren
11 th	Gaynor Watkins
12 th	Emma and Gary Watt
13 th	Jo and John Williams
14 th	Lesley Williams
15 th	Di Wilson
16 th	Jane Woods-Scawen and John Thomas
17 th	Jon Atkinson
18 th	Heather and John Barton
19 th	Louise Barton and Emileigh Warren
20 th	Peter and Barbara Champion
21 st	Judy Clarkson and Sam
22 nd	Betty and David Connelly
23 rd	Vera and Andy Cooper
24 th	Gloria Cordery
25 th	Pat and Ian Cowan
26 th	Alison and Robert Crichton
27 th	Donna and Michael Curran, Henry and Martha
28 th	Elinor Davies and Alexander Nunn
29 th	Susan Derwent and Henry Bentley
30 th	Edna Dixon
31 st	Mavis Duckworth

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