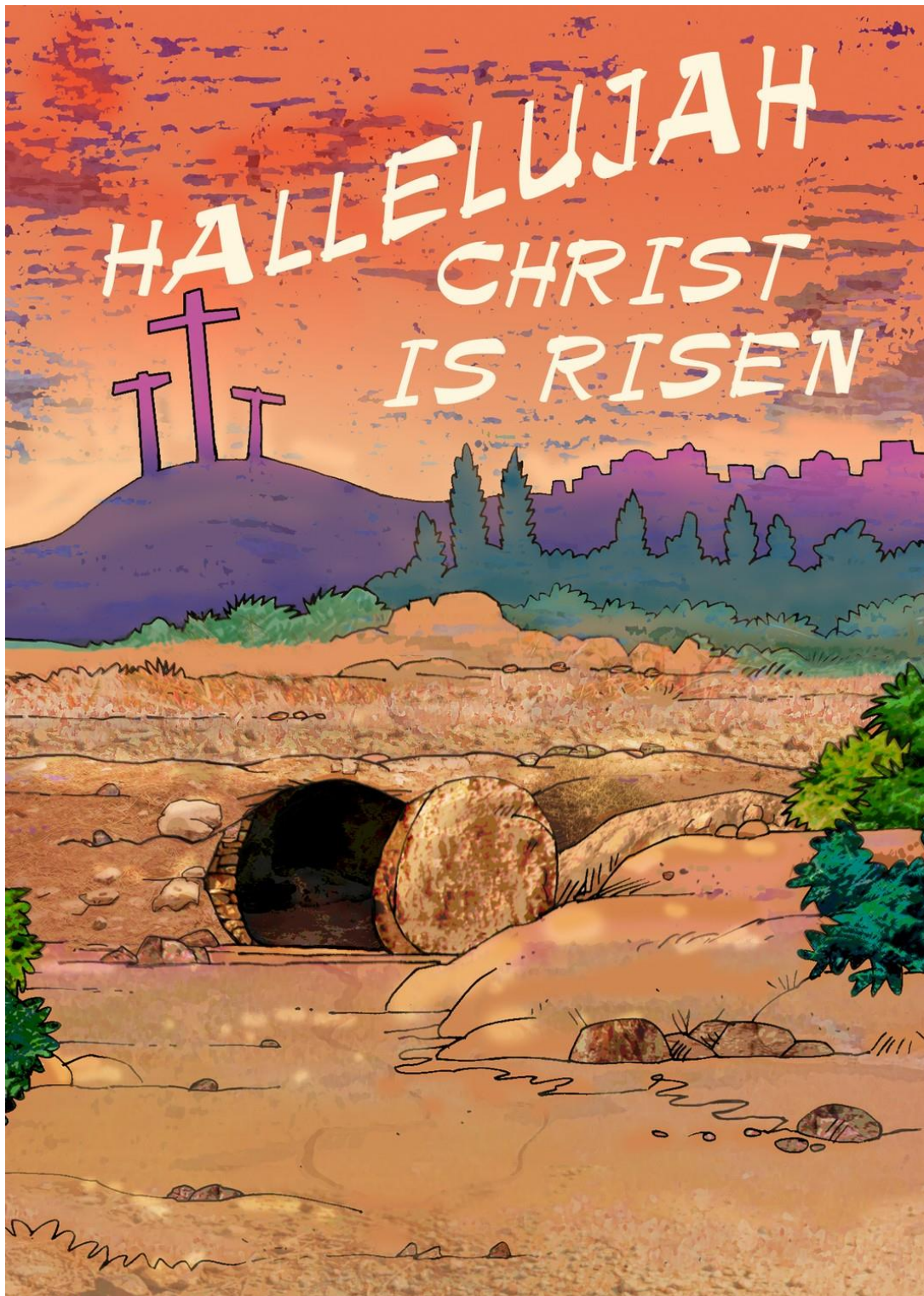


FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISHES

The magazine of Sydenham Methodist Church



Easter 2015

GB News - page 5
Cubs' News - page 16

FROM THE EDITOR



I read recently that The Real Easter Egg came third in a poll to find the UK's favourite Fairtrade product. The Real Easter Egg was Launched in 2010 with the support of hundreds of churches and schools. It beat leading brands such as Maltesers, Cadbury Dairy Milk and Nestle Kit Kat to win the coveted title of third most popular UK Fairtrade product.

The Meaningful Chocolate Company (MCC) was launched in 2010 and produced the first Real Easter Egg that year. 80 million Easter eggs are sold in the UK each year. Not only is the Real Easter Egg a Fairtrade charity egg, but it is the only egg which explains the real meaning of Easter.

Isn't it great the impact this Easter Egg has made? As well as explaining the Easter story, it's Fairtrade, and some of the profits are given to charity.

Certainly makes you think...

CAROLYN HALL

(With thanks to this edition's contributors)

The Manse
March 2015

Dear Friends

Many years ago, a minister, while preaching asked the question 'who is the minister of the Church of Ireland' (we happened to live near Lurgan at the time). At first we thought the preacher must have forgotten and so most people called out the name of the current Rector of that parish. We were somewhat taken aback when the preacher said 'no, you're all wrong! Go and read the sign outside the church as it says 'every member is a minister' or words to that effect.'

This year, we as a church have focused on the theme of Spiritual Gifts and ministry. We have discovered that each person has been given a gift by God to be used for the building up of his Kingdom. We have been challenged to discover what our gift is, and how we can use it for God's glory! (Perhaps you would like to think further on that and the sermons can be found on the website).

As I approach the end of my time of ministry in Sydenham, I am grateful to God for the variety of ways in which many of you have used your God given gifts week in week out to help build up the body of Christ. So I say 'thank you!'

Sunday 28th June will be my last in Sydenham and Edwin and I value your prayerful support as we prepare to move to Killarney.

Yours in Christ
Karen

Congratulations and best wishes to those who have recently married:

Jackie Hanna & Kathleen Narroway

We welcomed the following to our church family:

Baptism

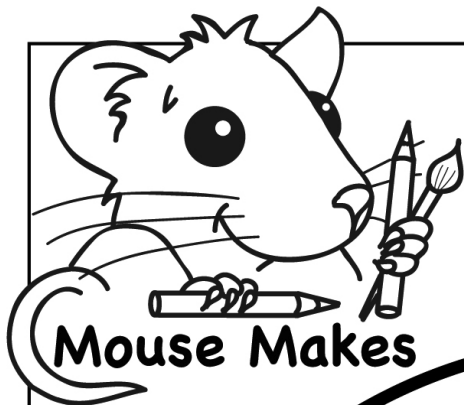
Avery Thomas son of Andrew and Amanda Kane.

Deaths

We give God thanks for those lives which touched ours while they lived among us:

Tom Grigg
Noel Butler
Jack Young
Amy Patterson
Jean Wilson

(As of 9 March 2015)



Jesus said to Martha,
*"I am the one who raises the dead and gives them
 life again. Anyone who believes in me, even
 though he dies like anyone else, shall live again.
 He is given eternal life for believing in me and shall
 never perish. Do you believe this Martha?"*

*"Yes, Lord," she said "I believe
 you are the Messiah,
 the Son of God, the
 one we have
 so long
 awaited."*
 Matthew
 11:25

Colour the picture
 and cut out.
 Make into
 an Easter
 card or
 hang
 up.

JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED

JESUS

SON OF GOD
 Matthew 3:16-17
SAVIOUR
 John 3:16-17
LORD
 1 Corinthians 1:9
SHEPHERD
 John 10:11

JESUS WAS BURIED


JESUS IS WITH US

JESUS IS RISEN


**JESUS
 IS
 ALIVE!**
 Read the
 Easter story
 in Luke 22-24

THE WORD
 John 1:1-50
THE WAY
 John 14:6
THE LIGHT
 John 8:12
THE BREAD
 John 6:35
THE LAMB
 John 1:29
THE DOOR
 John 10:9
THE LIFE
 John 11:25-27

JESUS IS ALIVE


 Jesus
 said:
*"I am the
 resurrection"*
 Read Matthew
 11:14-44



7TH NI SYDENHAM METHODIST GIRL'S BRIGADE

Junior, Senior and Brigader Sections

This year our Company has seen a great increase in membership, especially in the Explorer Section. So much so, we are finding it necessary to look for new leaders. What a Blessing.

This year Victoria Moore, one of our Section Leaders, was successful in obtaining a Community Relations Enhancement Development Scheme funding from the BELB. This scheme was introduced into the programme, making it challenging not only for the girls but also for the leaders! It involved guests coming to GB to talk to the girls about their cultures, to teach their native dance, introduce different crafts and cook some lovely, exotic foods! Some guests brought beautiful costumes relative to their country. The funding also enabled us to take the Company on a weekend Residential to Greenhill YMCA, Newcastle in March. There the girls learnt new skills, experienced different challenges and made new friends. A wonderful opportunity for all involved.

Some other events GB took part in this year were, our annual Enrolment Service, when all members renewed their vows; attended the Remembrance day Service, took part in the Christingle Service and organized a Fundraising event –

fun-night in the church halls. The event involved baking cupcakes, (and eating them!), making dogs out of facecloths, watching a DVD, playing a few games and sampling some food. The £200 that was raised was donated to the girls' chosen charity "FORGET Me Not". Well done to all those who took part.

Two of our Brigaders, Laura Gray and Beth Trimble are coming to the end of the first of a two year Queen's Award course. (This award is the highest award achievable in Girls' Brigade). They will also complete their Sub-Officer training course in September, along with their fellow Brigader, Kaitlyn Phair.

On Sunday, 19 April the Company will attend the Castlewood Annual District Service in Mountpottinger Presbyterian Church.

At present we are preparing for our Annual Display which will take place on Friday, 1 May. This is a big event for Girls' Brigade. This is when our members get the opportunity to display their talents and receive their well deserved Awards and Trophies. Everyone is welcome ☐.

Two of our young Officers recently announced their engagements. Faith to Peter and Vicky to Paul. We wish both couples – Health, Wealth & Happiness.

Carol Winstanley
GB Captain

Pride

A short time ago I began to read a book by C.S. Lewis that some of you may have read called “Mere Christianity”. One of my favourite chapters in this book was also one that surprised me a great deal. The title of the chapter was “The Great Sin”. I thought that the chapter would mention the sins that we hear about in church a lot or in the news, like adultery or murder. I was a little surprised to find that this chapter was dedicated to the bad things about Pride.

I had heard that pride was a major sin but before reading this book I had no idea of its true importance. I would first like to mention that it is not bad to play to win or to feel proud of your son. It is wrong, however, when we begin to feel as though we are a better person than anybody else because of our achievements.

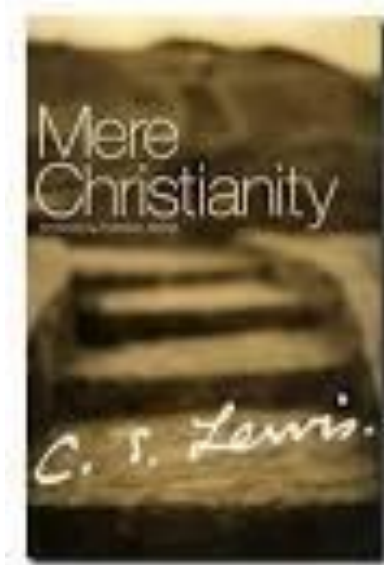
This is so important because although it is something that everyone hates to see in other people, you may have to take a long hard look before you can see it in yourself. If you're still not convinced that uncovering your pride is important, I can just remind you that the reason that the devil became the devil was because of pride. Even a great and wise teacher can use a boy's pride - the worst of all sins - to teach him not to do other sins like the ones I mentioned earlier. For example - “Don't be greedy like that! Real Christians aren't greedy.” The devil thinks that this is great, because for him it is okay if the Christian becomes generous, since he has now developed a problem that he can't see in himself – pride.

One of the most dangerous things about Pride is its competitiveness: we can think that we want to be rich, smart or good looking but in fact we are only happy if we are richer, more intelligent and better looking than someone else.

In the past number of weeks I have taken a look at the way I live my life and have discovered how hard it is to find a balance between humility and conceit. I challenge all of you to try to prayerfully live a life of humility and modesty too. The first step in doing so is to realise that you are proud, because if you think that you are not proud then you are probably very proud indeed! Even though it is very hard I promise that, through God's grace, it will evidently make you a more positive and loving person in the end.

Good Luck!

Aarin Trimble



This poem by David Williams was first written as a hymn for use at his church in Meopham.

Lord, our Hearts we lift to Heaven

Lord, our hearts we lift to Heaven
and this joyful song we sing;
Lives made new and sins forgiven,
Praise the love of Jesus our King.

Peace shall be upon the mountains,
dried-up wells be living fountains,
sight restored through parted curtains;
Look, for the Kingdom of Heav'n is near.

Lord, our hearts we lift to Heaven
and this yearning song we sing;
Beyond the Cross the Son is risen,
come and rule Lord Jesus our King.

Prince of Peace be our peace making,
Wine of life be our partaking,
Light of all be radiating;
Shine in our darkness and banish our fear.

By David Williams

Churches that help libraries help themselves

Did you ever consider how donating good Christian books to public libraries is a great way of helping local people learn about the Christian faith?

Speaking Volumes Director Paula Renouf explains: ‘In an increasingly secular society, we as Christians need to think outside the box about how we reach people and help them understand the Christian faith. People might not go to church but they might consider borrowing a book from their local library. In a society where many adults and children do not know what Easter is all about, we need to make it as easy as possible for people to access good literature that will help them explore our Christianity.’

Speaking Volumes, an initiative of the Christian Book Promotion Trust, match funds gifts of Christian books and DVDs made to libraries – from public libraries to prison libraries – anywhere where books are readily available to a wider readership. Many of those who use the scheme are churches.

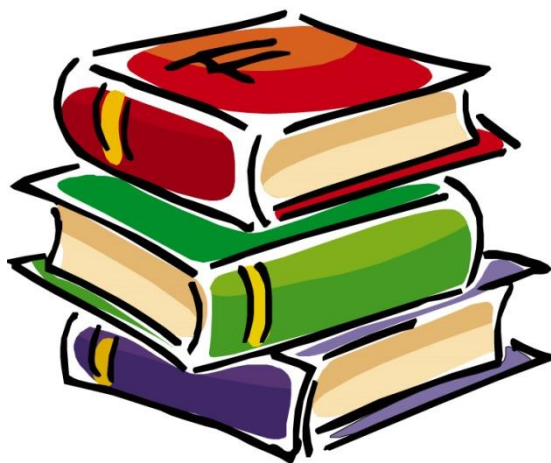
Despite declining funding for libraries, eight million people in the UK regularly use a library.

‘Churches can have a really direct and powerful impact on their communities by making Christian books available, in a place where people can read them inconspicuously if they’re just searching,’ says Paula. ‘And in poor areas particularly, borrowing a book from the library may be the only way that people will read these titles – and it’s also a very practical

way of helping church congregations grow in faith.'

With 50% match-funding from Speaking Volumes, churches can buy books to donate to their local public library. There are 100 books and DVDs available through the Speaking Volumes scheme: all are selected by experts because they are useful, readable and attractive to someone who may have no understanding or belief in God.

If you would like to give a library a gift of books, visit www.speakingvolumes.org.uk to find out more.



The Unburied Treasure of Easter!

It's amazing what people can unearth with metal detectors! At the end of last year an amateur treasure hunter uncovered 5,251 silver coins in Buckinghamshire. It was one of the largest hoards of Anglo Saxon coins ever found in Britain and worth £1million! Of course, treasure is only valuable when it's no longer buried! At Easter, we celebrate Jesus and His resurrection as the greatest unburied treasure we can discover.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God 'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.' (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

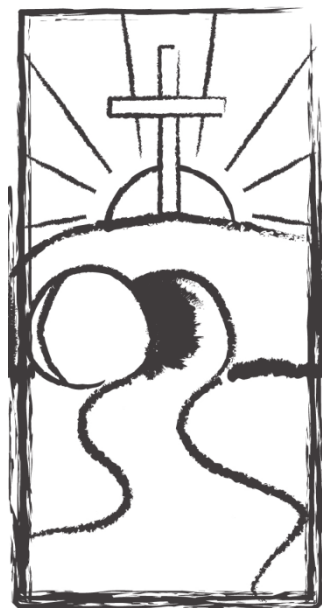
On the one hand, it is the reason for hope in our lives. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it 'is kept in heaven for you' (4). Do we share this confidence in our lives? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist spoke of the time when people would read about his death in the newspapers, 'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'.

On the other hand, this treasure is a source of joy to us. This unburied treasure fills us 'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith,

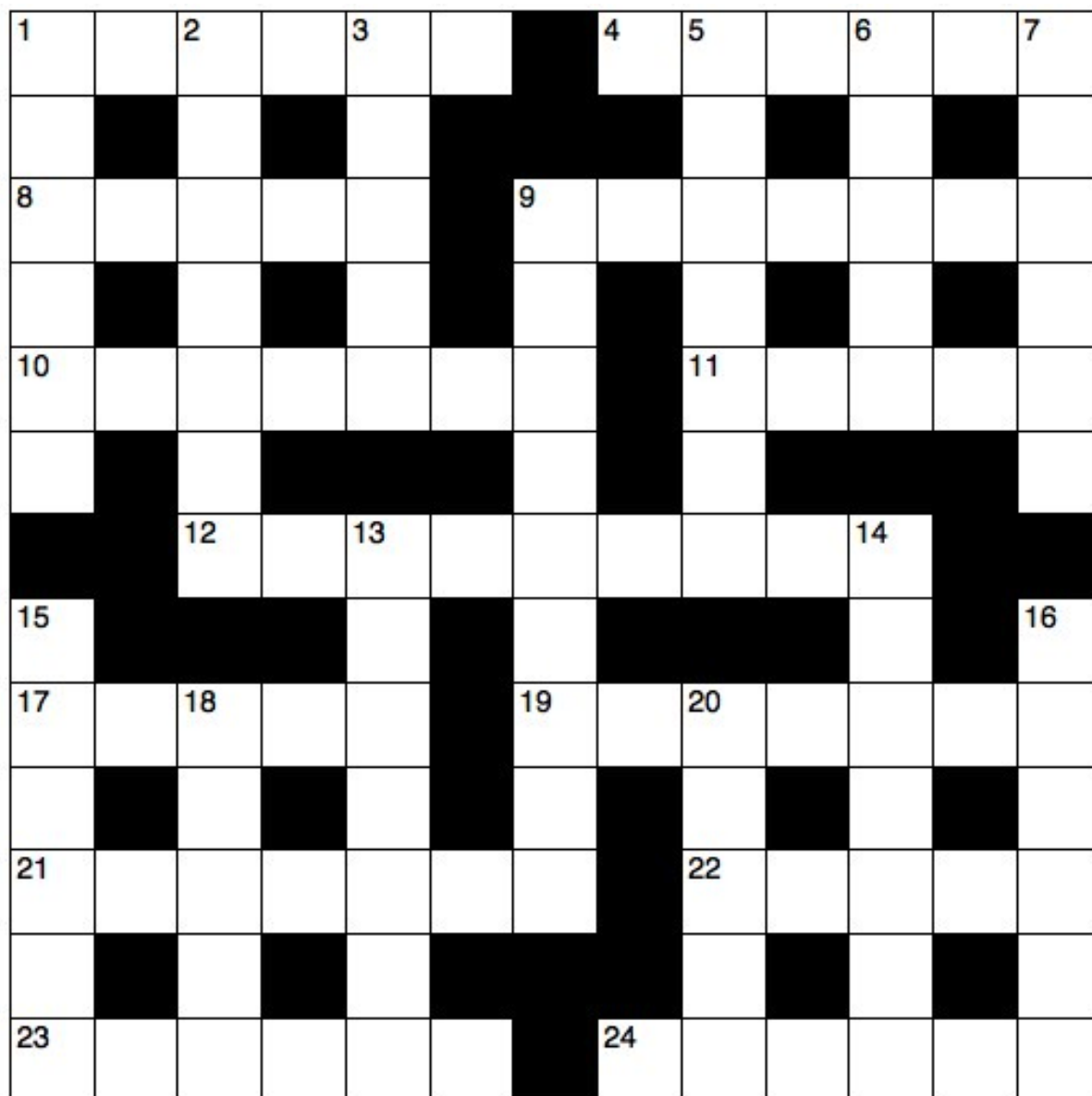
the salvation of your souls.’ (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, ‘These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.’ (7). We reflect the treasure itself, by developing the character of Jesus and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

This Easter, let’s not miss out on the best unburied treasure we can find! In the days of Communist Russia, an Orthodox priest was given five minutes to reply to somebody who had set out to discredit the resurrection of Jesus. ‘Five seconds is all I require!’ He turned to the audience and said: ‘Christ is risen’ and with a deafening roar the reply came back, ‘He is risen indeed!’

Rev Paul Hardingham



TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR CROSSWORD!



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)

- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 ‘Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord’
(Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis’s half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 ‘The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles’
(Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 ‘I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me’ (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27)
(7)
- 14 They must be ‘worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine’ (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 ‘O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ’ (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not — ’ (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

9TH BELFAST CUB SCOUT PACK

The Cub Pack re-started in September without former Akela, Brian Waring, who stepped down at the end of session in May 2014 after 12 years in the Cub Section. We record our sincere thanks to Brian for all his work with the boys over those years - firstly as Assistant Leader, and then Akela.

We now have 16 boys on the role with full attendance most weeks except for illness, and all are very enthusiastic. We moved 2 boys to Scouts in February and then had 6 new boys from Beavers.

The Cub Programme is very varied, with many Activity Badges available, as well as 6 Challenge Badges: Promise/Creative/Community/Fitness/Outdoor and Global, each of these having several parts to complete. Some of the boys have completed several of these Challenges and we are working towards completion which will then entitle them to the Chief Scout's Silver Award, the highest Award in the Cub Section.

In November, our Family Worker Stephanie came along on three evenings to train the boys for the My Faith Badge, doing so in a fun and instructive way about our Christian Faith, and methods in the Methodist Church. At the end all the boys achieved their My Faith Badge, and our thanks to Stephanie for all her work with them. Having taught the boys about compass work and Map Reading, we then had

members of our District Scout Fellowship (former Leaders) along, to complete the instruction. They passed all the boys for their Map Reader Badges and complimented them on their behaviour and interest.

Four of our Cubs entered the Belfast County Swimming Gala, and their points, joined with others from East Belfast, enabled 'East District' to bring back the Belfast County Gala Trophy.

We made cards and gifts for Mother's Day and our thanks to Pat, our Beaver Leader, for preparing them for us. The boys decorated them well, so hopefully their Mums loved them.

We will be hosting the East Belfast 5-aside Competition on 24th March and hope our team will do well at it. Then we will have a break over Easter.

After Easter, we will visit Ikea on Saturday 18th April, which we look forward to, and will help towards environmental issues needed for further Challenge Badges. We will then attend the East Belfast St. George's Day Parade on 26th April, with the rest of our Group, parading from Stormont Grounds to our Service in Knock Presbyterian Church.

All in all things are going well in the Cub Section, but if anyone would like to volunteer to help either as a Leader (even on a rota basis) or to help with specific badges then please contact me or any of the Leaders.

Ann Anderson

(Akela)



Filthy Rich - the property tycoon who struck real gold

By Manoj Raithatha, Monarch, £8.99

“Why not spend £35 million on one big day out?” – The Daily Telegraph on Manoj’s growing property empire, 2005 Manoj Raithatha had it all. A booming property business, a picture-book family, and the power to shape his destiny. His was a life to envy. Then his professional and personal worlds were shattered. The 2008 financial crisis devastated his business and a sudden illness threatened his son’s life. His hollow foundations exposed, Manoj found himself utterly dependent on the prayers of others and the help of a previously unknown God. What happened next would forever change his life and the lives of all his family. Morally bankrupted by greed and selfishness, Manoj would have to build his life and marriage anew with different foundations.

God in the Lab - How Science enhances Faith

By Ruth M. Bancewicz, Alister McGrath, Monach, £8.99

For Dr Ruth Bancewicz, experiencing scientific research first hand brings a sense of awe that enhances faith. She has encountered many others who have similar stories. This book distils that experience, and explores the common ground between science and faith. Science can be unglamorous and tough, but it gives the opportunity to use creativity and imagination, to appreciate the beauty of the natural world, and to experience the joy of finding out new things – thinking God’s thoughts after Him. Through the eyes of the author and six other experienced scientists, ‘God in the Lab’ shows how science can build faith in God.

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAT GORDON, CRADLE ROLL SECRETARY

Occupation: Housewife (nurse, financial advisor, personal development officer, cook, cleaner, travel agent etc)

Length of time at Sydenham: 34 years. I was married in Sydenham, Easter 1981

Interests/hobbies: I like to bake, knit and make quilling cards. I enjoy working with young people in the Scouts in Sydenham. I am Ahmeek in the Beavers, (this is the name given to the Beaver Leader).

Favourites:

Food: I like chicken, home made soup and chocolate.

Music: Abba. (This proves how old I am). I also like to listen to Christmas songs. It doesn't have to be Christmas for me to play them at home.

Hymn: Morning has broken (H&P No 635). It reminds me to be thankful as every morning is a blessing.

Worship Song: I have quite a few worship songs that I like but the ones that mean the most to me are, In Christ alone, and I will Offer up my life. Through times of trouble and illness the words of these songs have meant a lot to me.

Bible verse: Romans 8: 1 & 2. “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” This shows me the love of Jesus and the assurance of salvation.

And another thing: I go camping every year in England with the Morris Minor Club. I regularly go to England to watch the British Super Bikes and would also go to the Isle of Man Classic and TT races. From 20 miles an hour to 200 miles an hour. For many years my husband and I toured the continent on a motorcycle.



EASTER – the most joyful day of the year

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

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

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

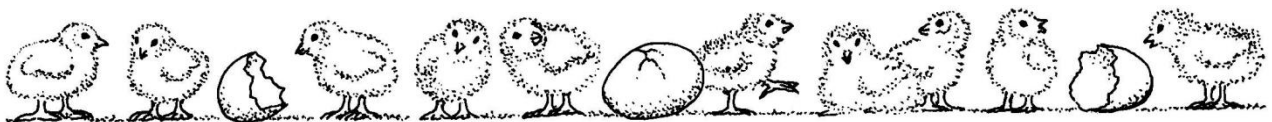
Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last

fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



Never Far Away

We can only imagine how the two travellers to Emmaus felt knowing that Jesus had died. Gone were their hopes for a bright future. They thought God had let them down. They had suffered a cruel blow and were bewildered and upset.

In their grief, the risen Jesus came alongside them and spoke with them at length but somehow they didn't recognise Him. Why was this, and why did Jesus intend to leave them at Emmaus without first revealing who He was?

The answers may be found by looking back at the encounters Jesus had with people. He never forced His true nature onto anyone. Every individual had to make up their own mind as to who He was, and to decide if the things He said were true.

Today, Jesus does not 'gate-crash' into our lives. In a number of ways He gently and persuasively reveals Himself. So, the story of the walk to Emmaus should encourage us each time we feel His absence; at those times when we thought He would step in and immediately solve our problems! On our journey of life, we can have times of sadness and it can seem as though God is far away.

But while we are thinking that Jesus has left us alone, He is actually with us. He knows where we are and what we are feeling. He can quietly draw alongside us. Surprisingly, it can sometimes be in situations of sadness and solitude that Jesus 'speaks' to us more clearly.

We don't have to go off in search of some 'religious experience' or to a special 'holy place'. He is present in the here and now. Jesus is the unseen companion on every journey and the unseen guest at every meal. In His way and in His time, our Lord reveals Himself to us in different situations. We may be aware of His presence in surprising circumstances and on unexpected occasions. How important it is that we stay alert.

There will be times when we will be like those two men on the Emmaus Road, searching for answers. We will earnestly desire clear and direct answers to our questions and the knowledge, understanding or revelation may be slow to come. But, with Jesus, there are many lessons to be learnt along our Emmaus Road than would have been discovered any other way.

Lester Amann

Further reading: Luke 24:13-35

With Easter in mind...

The face of Jesus must be very near our own when the thorns from His crown of suffering are pressing our brow and hurting us. Anon

Of all the things that will surprise us in the Resurrection morning, this I believe, will surprise us most: that we did not love Christ more before we died. **J C Ryle**

The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christians brought; what we call the 'gospels'...were composed later.... The miracle of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, comes first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. **CS Lewis in 'Miracles'**.

God fits our souls here to possess a glorious body after; and He will fit the body for a glorious soul. **R Sibbes**

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope. Anon

Jesus can be contacted 24 hours a day: just go on on-line via your knee-mail. Anon



"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."



"Whilst I appreciate the thought, would whoever it is please stop tweeting, 'So far, so good...!'"

Dear Father,

When we have lost someone we love, the world seems very dark. Sometimes we might feel that our world has ended, and it's hard to turn round and glimpse any light ahead. But you, Lord, know all about that, and you care.

You sent Jesus to overcome death and lead us into the light of his forgiveness and freedom - to new and eternal life.

Help us Lord, like Mary, to turn away from the darkness death wants to scare us with, and to reach out to you.

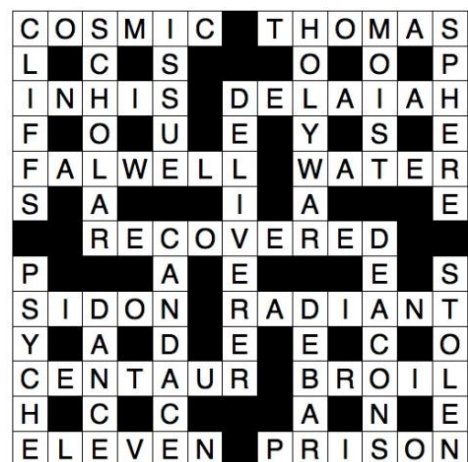
Help us to take courage, strength and confidence from the reality of Jesus' resurrection.

He is alive and we are his. There is nothing to fear. All shall be well.

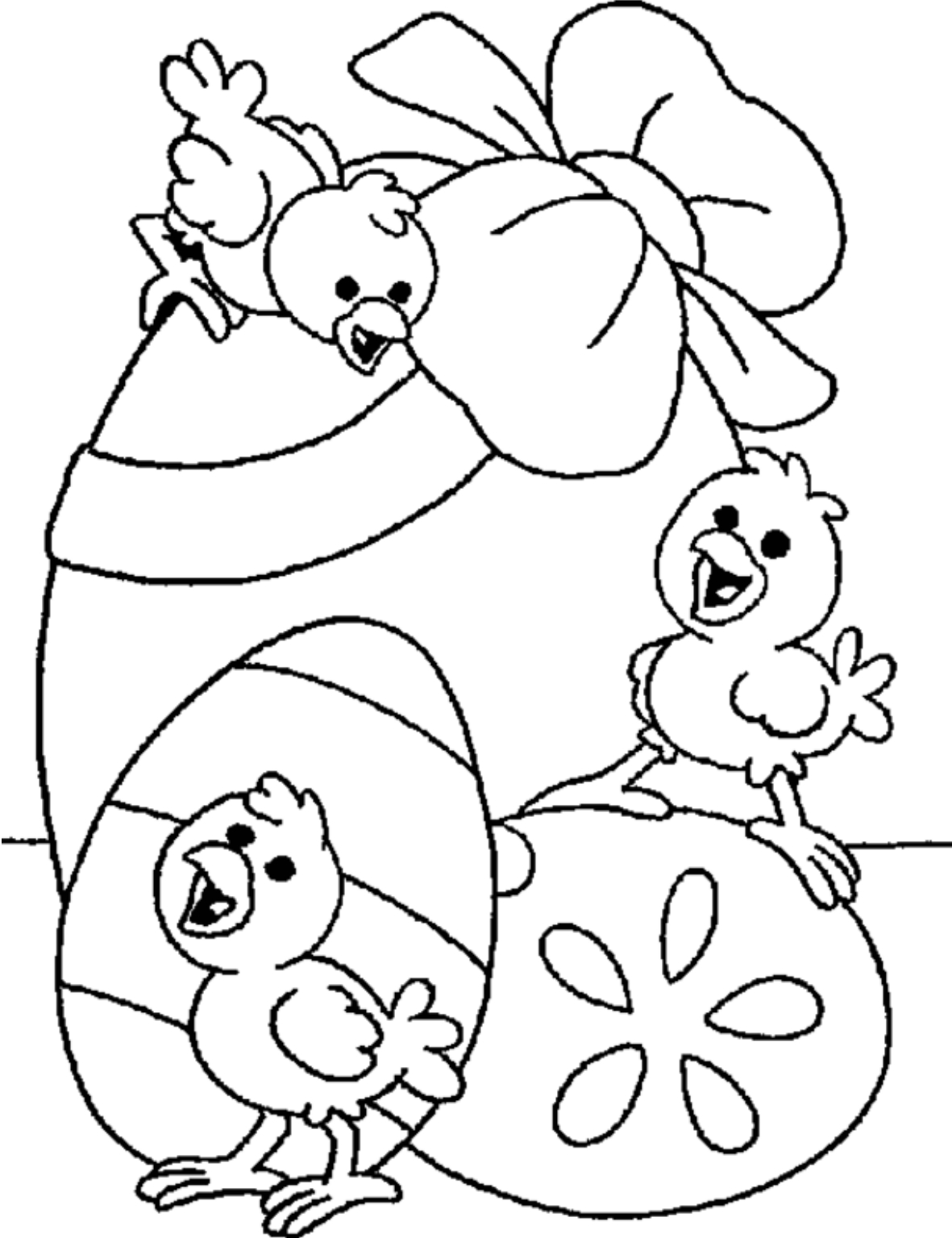
Hallelujah.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching



Colouring Page





Our Cub Scouts

