

MTC



Trinity E-News



Issue 3 / 20

Trinity's e-mail: trinity@basingstokecircuit.net

April 2020



Our Minister is:
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Note from the Editor:

At this difficult time for us all, I am intending to produce a monthly slimmed-down '**email Trinity News**' each month. These will be sent by email (where we have email addresses), printed and posted to those without email access and will also be available on our website.

If anyone does not wish to receive the newsletter by email, please let me know.

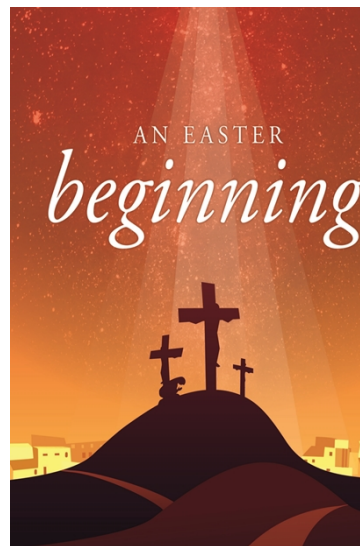
I will continue to do the newsletter this way (if successful) until we are all up and running once again and through the Coronavirus crisis.

As always, I would be delighted to receive any articles, prayers, poems, stories or anything else you might have, for inclusion, by email if you have it or by post.

With best wishes to you all,

Hazel

Ed: Hazel Harris (01256-461375)
email: hazel@basingstokecircuit.net



Inside This Issue	
2	Pastoral Letter from Rev'd Audrey D Browne
3	Methodist Prayers
4	Basingstoke Foodbank News
5	Hilary's Letter
6	A Poem
6	A Journey
7	Worship Resources
8	Your photos needed
8	Crossword
9-10	Angels & Deamons
10	Wordsearch
10	Sudoku
11	Two articles from Parish Pump
12	Hymn
12	Prayer

Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life. S D Gordon

What do you call a chocolate bunny that was out in the sun too long? A runny bunny.

April 2020

Dear Friends,

In light of the extra-ordinary circumstances we are all experiencing as a result of COVID 19, I thought I should write to you to encourage you in the Lord. Coronavirus has crossed all human divides and boundaries. It reminds us of how fragile this world is. Medical Scientists, World Leaders, Religious Leaders, Community Leaders and ordinary people are saying how unprecedented these times are. The unfolding drama on our televisions conjures up unpleasant scenes.

Coronavirus is touching every sphere of human life globally, as, people are asked by their governments to self-isolate and to practise social-distancing. Life as we know it has suddenly changed, and we have now entered into a 'new global reality' of societal relating. I encourage us all to heed the official government advice. An Italian doctor said, 'Take coronavirus seriously, don't think it can't happen to you'. Prime Minister Johnson said, 'Don't think you are invincible to coronavirus, you don't know if you will get a mild form of the disease'. Coronavirus pandemic reminds us of how interconnected the world is. The global community shares everything including coronavirus.

These unprecedented times are very challenging as we are unable to assemble for worship as 'gathered church'. However, since we must involuntarily operate as 'scattered or dispersed church' for an indefinite period of time, let's continually remind ourselves of God's presence with us as His 'scattered or dispersed church' as much as with His 'gathered church'. Psalm 46 speaks to me very deeply at this challenging time: you may wish to read the Psalm in its entirety but let me share vs. 1 & 11 with you:

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

As we become used to this 'new reality' which involuntarily came upon us, we must now find new and innovative ways of keeping in touch. Thank you to Class Leaders (Pastoral Friends), House (Fellowship) Group leaders and all who find ways of staying in touch with others. Thank you also to those who still look after our church buildings, those who continue to ensure that the admin gets done and much more. Please know that as your minister, I am still accessible and available to attend to your pastoral needs.

I can be reached on my landline:

☎: 01256 323 103 or email:
padbrowne@hotmail.com

We may still wish to continue our Lenten/Holy Week journey in our own personal devotions or, we may wish to telephone someone to share a reading and/or a prayer with us on a daily or weekly basis. Those of you on social media may find this platform helpful in maintaining a virtual church community. Whatever you do to help you through these extra-ordinary times, may God help each one of us to have generosity of spirit in these unprecedented times.



Rev'd Audrey D Browne

Coronavirus Guidance & Updates:
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/coronavirus/>

A prayer from the Methodist Church:

*God of all hope we call on you today.
We pray for those who are living in fear:
Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them.
May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.*

*We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty.
For those people who are worried about attending worship.
For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others
For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.
Grant us your wisdom.*

*Holy God, we remember that you have promised that
Nothing will separate us from your love – demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.
Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you. **Amen***

* * * * *

**Coronavirus Prayer written by Barbara Glasson
(taken from the Methodist Website)**

Loving God if we are ill, strengthen us,
If we are tired fortify our spirits,
If we are anxious help us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds in the air
Help us not to stockpile treasures from Supermarkets in the barns of our larders
Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves
Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace
Help us always to hold fast to the good
See the good in others
And remember there is just one world, one hope, one everlasting love
With baskets of bread for everyone
In Jesus we make our prayer
The one who suffered, died and was raised to life
In whom we trust these days and all days. **Amen**

Generations, *Ebenezer Methodist Church, Jersey* (from *Methodist Buzz*)

Ebenezer Methodist Church in Jersey is bringing together the eldest and youngest members of its congregation in a new club called 'Generations'. The idea was inspired by the Channel 4 television programme 'Old People's Home for 4 Year Olds' which examined the social and health benefits of the elderly making friends with the young. The activities all have children in mind, however the older attendees are as excited to get involved and are often filled with feelings of nostalgia or eager to try something new. Community lay worker, Amy Britton started the group to connect with the local community. She said the young are already making positive friendships with some of the older generation: "There's a young man called Ethan who is six and doesn't have elderly relatives. His mum was unsure if he would enjoy it but now he holds the most incredible conversations with people. I've seen mums brought to tears when they realise how much their children are giving, and getting back, from this relationship with the elderly people."

With Holy Week and Easter in mind... The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. E Thomson



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE:

At 25 March 2020

'The Basingstoke Foodbank at Trinity remains OPEN for clients to collect food and for donations, albeit with limitations to the service it can provide. New procedures have been implemented to help everyone stay safe. Demand for food is expected to increase so please continue donations. You can check the Basingstoke Foodbank website for updates'.

There is a rumour floating around that the Basingstoke Foodbank is closed and that all donations should go to Spotlight instead. **This is not true.** Spotlight do operate another foodbank in Basingstoke, but the **Basingstoke Foodbank operating from Trinity is very much still operating.**

Stocks of food at Basingstoke Foodbank have returned to a reasonable level, so we once again welcome your donations. At present, we are particularly short of Long-life (UHT) Milk (Full and Semi-skimmed only), Long-life (UHT) Fruit juice, Powdered milk, Shampoo, Microwave and Packet Desserts, and Toilet Rolls. You can always find our up-to-date list of shortages at:
<https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>.

Thank you, **Tony Pitt**

* * * * *

Trinity's Soup Kitchen has had to close due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

A message from Lee, our Circuit Administrator, 25.03.20

Hello everyone. It has been a difficult and challenging few weeks for us all, and it is truly unprecedented times. Everyone will be missing our services and the fellowship our faith brings us, but please stay positive and spread that positivity through Prayer and Worship at home. I hope you have all used the resources available to you to continue to Worship. Please Pray for everyone during these times, and keep on doing what you always do, looking out for one another and providing support in your communities, whilst adhering to the Government advice, Lee

- ***See page 7 of this newsletter for an abundance of worship resources to see and use.***

Passion flower

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

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

(from Parish Pump)

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

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly,

"The Lord is my Shepherd...." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

May you live in interesting times. Chinese Proverb

The past few weeks have been some of the most difficult and confusing I have ever experienced. At work, constant changes in visa requirements, border closures, quarantine restrictions, airline failures and holiday cancellations have made life at our travel agencies a real challenge. The Covid-19 pandemic has put all of us in positions well outside our comfort zone. Fortunately our travel staff have coped magnificently and helped many anxious and stressed clients, although some of the general public have been less than selfless in panic buying.

The situation has made me think a lot about rates of contagion and the way in which both infections and ideas can spread through a population. We have heard about those people who are “super spreaders” of the current virus and have infected a large number of people unwittingly so we shouldn’t be surprised that we are being asked, in the interests of the whole population, to isolate ourselves and minimise the risk of contact with those likely to infect us with the disease.

While I was at University I was part of an experiment designed to identify the social contact pattern in our student group and analyse how ideas and trends spread from person to person. A secret message was started by Stephanie (the prettiest girl in the year!) and passed from person to person for a week. Analysis of the results showed which people were social leaders and who had spread the message furthest and fastest, that is the “super spreaders.”

Jesus was probably the best “super spreader” in history, yet with twelve unlikely helpers his message has infected the whole globe. When we think about the simple contacts and conversations in which he passed on God’s message of redeeming love, it seems an impossibly feeble way to change the world. I am always amazed at the Bible stories of people who were totally transformed by one meeting with Jesus, like the Samaritan woman at the well or Zacheus, perched in a tall

tree. It’s also amazing that the twelve men who were with Jesus most didn’t “get it” for quite a while.

At Pentecost, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, what a difference they made! The good news of God’s plan spread out of a backwater in the Roman Empire to reach the whole known world. Today we not only have evangelists carrying the message but electronic media to reach anyone, anytime, anywhere.

All my life I have completely underestimated the power of the Holy Spirit and God’s message of unconditional love and forgiveness to transform the lives of ordinary people like me. We can all be “super spreaders of God’s message to all the people we meet and on every social occasion. We don’t have to “get it” completely, just allow ourselves to be carriers of God’s amazing virus of love and forgiveness through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

So even though we may be faced with bad news, forced to self-isolate and perhaps feel anxious or lonely, let’s cling to the fact that we are loved more than we can imagine. Through grace and the work of the Holy Spirit, the most precious gift in the world, the message of God’s love in Jesus Christ, is spreading ...and it’s unstoppable!

Hilary

“Save the Date”

**A ‘Prayer Day’
at Silchester**



Saturday 13 June 2020.

Further details to follow.

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. Matthew Henry

This poem was written by an 11³/₄ year old young girl, a daughter of a friend, who published a book of poems when she heard about the death of our daughter.

Jenny Leighton

Her name is Elin Lloyd

The Easter Egg Hunt

I woke this morning
to find fluffy chicks running around
and bunnies hopping in the garden,
through the dew on the ground.

Chocolate eggs playing hide and seek,
among the trees and grass,
sweets all bright and beautiful.
Was it a dream I asked?

As I hunt around the garden
my mum tells me,
the eggs are a sign of promise
because Jesus died for me.

On Easter day he rose again,
up out of the tomb,
just like the chick emerging,
from its shelled womb.

So while you're eating chocolate
please remember why,
God sent his son to earth
and then he watched him die.

He died to save us all,
but it was not in vain,
its so we can enjoy this Easter day
while we wait till he comes again.

Don't break'em

There was a very gracious lady who was
mailing an old family Bible to her brother
in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?"
asked the postal clerk.

The lady paused for a moment.
"Only the Ten Commandments,"
she said politely.

A Circuit prayer as we Dwell in the Word

Loving God,

Although our destination is not yet clear,
May we trust in your graceful promises;
Though we are uncertain of ourselves,
May we be rooted in your loving regard;
Though our attention is inclined to wander,
May we hear the things you are saying;
Though we often neglect your influence,
May we be convicted of your power to
change,

In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Journeys

Once again the immediate Christmas period is over and I hope everyone has been sustained and encouraged by it. Every year it is casually mentioned that Jesus and family journeyed to Egypt and then after the death of Herod they journeyed from Egypt to Nazareth. I would ask you to think on this, they were momentous decisions, people would get a party together so that it was safe to travel, they would help each other. Remember there were bandits and wild animals in the desert at the time. Also they could not catch a flight, a train or a bus. They for the most part would have to walk, it is possible they would have a donkey, they would have all their worldly goods and food with them. They would be sleeping out in the open in the desert which can be very cold at night.

I travelled through the Sahara for some 1400 miles sleeping out every night but we were travelling on the back of a lorry. We would lay our bedding out on the sand with a waterproof on top because of the dew in the morning. I only took my boots off and got in fully dressed, I then would completely cover myself up as tightly as possible. There was always the possibility of a sand storm and the tightness discouraged the local insects from joining me in bed.

The next time you go on a plane, train or bus, think what an ordeal it must have been for them. **Nobby**

During the Coronavirus Pandemic, folk may find the following resources useful:

- **Pray as you Go Website – online resource:** <https://pray-as-you-go.org/index.php>
* * * * *
- **Live-Streamed Services / Worship during Coronavirus at Wesley’s Chapel, London**
(adapted for no physical congregation):
- **10 am, Monday – Friday:** www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA
- **Service times:** Wednesday 12:45 pm; Thursday 12:45 pm; Sunday 9:45 am & 11 am.
These services available at: www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA
* * * * *
- **Morning Prayers from Wesley House, Cambridge:** 9 am, Monday – Friday:
www.facebook.com/welseycambridge
- **Resources for following prayers & readings available at:**
www.wesley.cam.ac.uk/prayer-space/
* * * * *
- **Link to Methodist Church website for Worship during the Coronavirus:**
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>
* * * * *
- **Service Sheets –** These are short acts of worship. Click on the link for the Word Documents:
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>
* * * * *
- **Additional resources from The Methodist Website:**
- From Andrew Brown, a hymn for when we feel vulnerable – revised in light of the Coronavirus pandemic: ‘When life is shaken to its core’ (StF+ website only)
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/posts/when-life-is-shaken-to-its-core-website-only/>
- A new-look set of lectionary suggestions for Holy Week, designed to support personal reflection as well as planning worship: Holy Week – a Singing the Faith introduction
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/posts/holy-week-a-singing-the-faith-introduction/>
- Prolific Methodist hymn writer Andrew Pratt has written two responses to the Coronavirus pandemic, "This sudden Sabbath gives us pause" and "The care of all we seek or see". You can find them on Andrew's blog at <https://hymnsandbooks.blog/category/hymns/>
* * * * *
- Our friends at Family Friendly Churches are offering, free of charge, weekly prayers, address and a couple of hymns as videos (with words and music) for use within the home. These can be found at: www.ffctideas.org.uk/Corona.php
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- **Sermons & Talks Online: The Open Bible Trust Website:** at this time when there are no services to attend, people may feel they would like a 5 to 10 minute sermon / talk. Michael & Sylvia Penny have quite a few of these on YouTube. Go to: www.obt.org.uk click on the YouTube button on the right & you will find a number of short talks including:
 - The Seven Deadly Sins and Their Corresponding Virtues by Sylvia Penny (9 talks)
 - Wonderful Words by Michael Penny (5 talks)
 - In Heavenly Places by Michael Penny (6 talks)
 - Problem Passages by Michael Penny (5 talks)
 - Wisdom in Proverbs by W M Henry (7 talks)
 - Living According to the Spirit by W M Henry (4 talks)

**The Methodist Prayer Handbook 2019/2020:
'Responding to the Gospel'** is full of beautiful prayers.

**Photos are needed for the next Methodist Prayer Handbook:2020/2021:
'The Earth is the LORD's'**

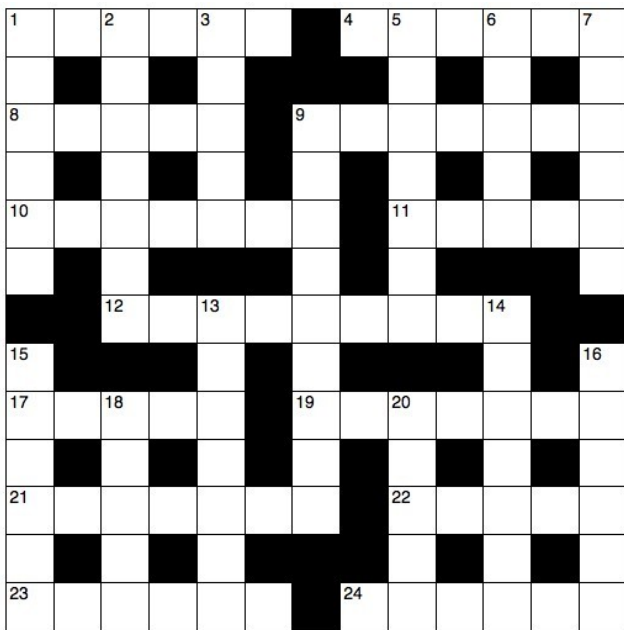
Our Methodist Church is asking if any members of our churches have recently done any conservation work or are involved in any environmental projects? If so, please send photos to the Prayer Handbook Editor for consideration for inclusion in next year's Handbook.

Photos must include at least one human being and should be emailed to:
prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk.

Please send photos in high resolution (i.e. a large file size) along with a description, including where the photo was taken. For full submission guidelines visit the [Methodist Church website](#).

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2020/2021: The Earth is the LORD's

The Earth is the LORD's recognises how human activities are having a major impact on the life systems of our world. Use these prayers of thanksgiving, penitence and intercession to resolve that, with God's help, we may take responsibility for our actions and, as stewards of God's gift to us, participate in the healing of creation.



- 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)

- 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)

Angels and Demons!

We are all familiar with angels in the Bible, with angels bringing good news, as in the case of Gabriel visiting Mary and foretelling the birth of Jesus, Luke 1:26-38. There are also many times when we see angels protecting God's people; Jesus in the wilderness, Matthew 4:5-11, and Lot before the destruction of Sodom, Genesis 19:1-29. But what of angels in our lives today? In Christian testimonies we read of many examples of angels at work in today's world. In fact, many of us I'm sure might well have first-hand experience of this happening.

Indeed, some friends of mine can testify to this. Some years ago, as a young married couple their young son was stricken with a severe medical condition. After the best medical treatment available they were advised that their son had only a short time to live. Shortly afterwards they attended a prayer meeting at their local church and were leaving when a young man, that they did not know, approached them, and told them not to worry as their son will now be fine. A few days later they had a follow up meeting with their medical doctor who told them that their son was now totally healed in some medically unexplainable way; in fact a miracle! They enquired about the young man at the church, and found that he was unknown there, and has remained so ever since! As a result of this angelic message and miracle healing, they became seriously involved in Christian ministry.

What of demons? The Bible speaks on many occasions of Jesus casting out demons and performing miracles, Mark 1:32-34. This was also the case with the Disciples in Mathew 10:5-10. Do we encounter demons today? We tend to avoid the subject, but the truth is that there is continuing spiritual warfare around us between God's angels and Satan's demons. Demons are very real spiritual persons and are the fallen angels cast out of Heaven with Satan, Isaiah 14:12-15 and 2 Peter 2:4.

Derek Prince the well-known Dutch Christian minister and teacher (now deceased) has lectured extensively on this subject, and his lectures are available on YouTube under the title "The Enemy We Face". This video series covers 1) The Structure of Satan's Kingdom, 2) The Nature of the Occult, 3) Spirit of Antichrist, and 4) The Church's Victory. All his teaching is strictly Biblical and well worth viewing for those seeking a deeper knowledge and understanding of the Antichrist. Prince has also written extensively on the subject including "They Shall Expel Demons".

Satan's demons will enter our bodies quietly and unobtrusively when they perceive we are sinning and will then encourage and persuade us in our minds to continue to sin. I speak here of sins such as jealousy, envy, deceit, lust, greed, hatred and there are many more. They will invite more demons to join them and remain un-obtusely hidden within us. Their objective under Satan's direction, apart from annoying us, is to prevent mankind from achieving Salvation through the Cross of Christ, and for those of us already saved to prevent us from ministering God's Word for the furtherance of His Kingdom. They know the Holy Spirit well, live in fear of Him, and will expose themselves in anger, fear and terror when confronted by Him, James 2:19.

"You believe there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder"

I personally have had two experiences of demonic activity in otherwise normal, healthy educated people. On both occasions the demons were roused from their comfort zone by confrontation with the Holy Spirit. This resulted in vicious personal verbal attacks upon me, with much shouting and screaming, and serious threats of physical harm being made against me. Not a comfortable experience, but I believe that angels were there protecting me.

The one occasion was in discussion with a well-educated Arab Muslim lady after a conversation during which she insisted that "Jesus would not call me a dog". She was referring to the Canaanite woman in the Gospel of Matthew 15:21-28.

26 **He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."**

27 **"Yes Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."**

continued.....

Angels and Demons! (continued)

Her objective was to prove that the Bible was corrupted, and that Islam is the religion of Truth. The confrontation occurred when I brought the Holy Spirit into the conversation which scared the hidden demons out of their comfort zone, and their immediate reaction was to try and scare me and drive me away from them! I am sure there are some of us who have had similar experiences!

We should not fear demons as the Victory over Satan has already been won on the Cross. We should however go out well prepared in our own particular calling or ministry protected with The Armor of God, as did the Disciples and the Apostles.

Finally be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Martin Frost (St Andrews), March 2020

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**Trinity's 50th Anniversary Celebrations are in May this year
from Monday 25 May - Sunday 31 May
Please put these dates in your diaries !**



Trinity '50 Years Old'

In May we hope to be celebrating 50 years of Trinity Methodist Church.
You should have already had an initial invite and more details will follow. A number of activities will require booking as we will be limited on numbers.

As part of our preparations we wish to collect items, memories, and any history or photos you may have. If you have anything you would like to contribute to this please speak to Tony Pitt or email pitt@btinternet.com

***Celebrations will need to be Confirmed nearer the time
in view of the Coronavirus Outbreak.***

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

Wordsearch Words	
Jesus	Covenant
Ate	Old
Last	New
Passover	Body
Meal	Blood
Disciples	Gethsemane
Warned	Cup
Betrayed	Removed
Bread	Will
Blessed	Easter
Wine	Approach
Thanks	God
Drink	Law

Medium Sukoku

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It is the person who most knows himself liable to fall that will be most ready to overlook any offences from his fellow men. Alexander Auld

The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham his looks at Psalm 22: Why have you forsaken me?

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Psalm 22:1 & Matt 27:46). *Where is God?* Is a common question voiced today and shared by Jesus on the cross on the first Good Friday. This question is answered in the psalm, as we look through the lens of Jesus' crucifixion.

It is a real question: Both David and Jesus question God about the pain and darkness of their experience. It is a real question for all suffer, yet they are still able to hold onto a God of love, who has their lives in His hands: *'Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.'* (3).

It requires faith to ask: Their complaint about the apparent absence of God is not a sign of losing faith in Him. David remembers those who have trusted God in the past and been saved from their troubles: *'In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.'* (4). Just like Jesus on the cross, we are able to entrust ourselves *'to Him who judges justly.'* (1 Peter 2:23).

It is answered in experience: When David cried out to God, he experienced his deliverance: *'For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help'* (24). As a result, David was able to praise God and witness to His faithfulness.

The fulfilment of these verses are seen in Jesus' resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday. He was vindicated by God and has become the source of life and hope for all who trust themselves to Him. In answer to the question *'Where is God?'* We hear the answer, *'Look to the cross of Jesus!'*

These magazines are great for reaching out to your community. A Gospel to give away at Easter

When 800 non-Christians were interviewed about reading a Bible, those aged 18-50 wanted a quality, magazine version of a gospel. So, HOPE Together and Biblica have joined forces to publish Mark's Gospel in a stunning image-filled format that makes a great Easter gift.

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolfe, assistant director of HOPE Together, took the lead in the publishing project. Quoting the Talking Jesus research, she said, "27% of practising Christians said that reading the Bible was key in their coming to faith. We want to give more people that chance, so we hope that Christians will give away this Gospel to help people discover Jesus for themselves.

"More of the younger generations are interested in the life of Jesus than you imagine, so give them a Gospel designed for them," she adds. Families often come to church together at Easter, with grandparents bringing their adult children and teenage grandchildren. The 108-page version of Mark's Gospel is great to give as a gift and easy to read. Those with questions are invited to visit Christianity.org.uk to find out more.

Trevor Wilson, UK Partnerships Manager at Biblica said, "One of the most exciting things we do at Biblica is develop new and creative formats of Bible text to help people read and engage with it whether they are picking it up first time or the one hundredth time. God's Word is as alive and active today as it was when it was first written down. Individuals and communities are being impacted across our country as they read God's Word today. We believe it should be presented in ways that make it accessible and relevant for everyone." Copies are available in packs of five for £5 plus p&p from the HOPE Together shop (hopetogether.org.uk/shop).

(both these articles are from Parish Pump)

A Hymn written by J E Rankin, 1828 – 1904

This was a hymn we used to sing at my senior school on the last day of the summer term. I think the words are quite appropriate at this time. There is another version, based on the original hymn, written by a different hymn writer. This later version is in Hymns & Psalms, but I like the original version.

Hazel, Ed

God be with you till we meet again;
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
'Neath his wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put his arm unfailing round you;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.

And Now a Prayer †

Easter Story

The thud of nails on open palms,
'Father forgive' was all He said,
'Finished' was His final cry,
As death approached God bowed
His head.

Born of a woman He entered our world,
Fully man yet fully divine,
Such is the mystery beyond
comprehension
That One such as this should
step into time.

He came to die and rise again
The first fruits of the Father's love,
That man should follow in His train
On wings of light to realms above.

by Megan Carter (Parish Pump)

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

Tim Lenton looks back on the Poet of the Lake District – William Wordsworth – the 'Church of England pantheist'

William Wordsworth, the Romantic poet always associated with the Lake District, was born 250 years ago, on 7 April 1770. He was Poet Laureate from 1843 to 1850, though he produced no new poetry during that period.

In his youth Wordsworth travelled in France and came to share the radical politics of the French Revolution. He also fell in love with Annette Vallon, by whom he had a daughter in 1792. They were kept apart by the difficult relationship between England and France, but eventually met again, and the poet supported his daughter, though he married Mary Hutchinson, a friend of his beloved sister and muse, Dorothy. He had five children with Mary, three of whom predeceased them.

Wordsworth's political views soon softened, and he never rejected Christianity. He has been described as a "Church of England pantheist" and saw himself as a people's poet. He produced *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798 with his friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who inspired his last great poem, *The Prelude*.

Many Christians, especially those in the Anglo-Catholic movement, deeply admired Wordsworth. During his later years and in the next generation, he was regarded as a defender of the Faith. He himself seemed content that many found his poetry helpful in trying times.

(from Parish Pump)