

**ST. THOMAS'S METHODIST CHURCH
BURTON ON TRENT**

**FOCUS
APRIL/MAY
2025**



PALM SUNDAY



*Good
Friday*



Ascension Day



ISSUE 228

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Sun - Closed



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Meetings & Worship @ St. Thomas's - to which **All are Welcome**

Sunday Worship takes place each Sunday
@ 10.00am.

Coffee Mornings 10.00am - 11.30am
on the **1st Saturday of the Month**

Wednesday Group 2pm - 4pm -
on the **2nd Wednesday of the Month**
(with Activities and Guest Speakers)

Dear Friends,

By the time this edition of Focus arrives, the Spring Budget will have been announced, but it's not only at the highest levels of government that finances are being reviewed and the pennies counted. I'm sure you have been feeling the pinch as well. At our last Church Council meeting we spent a great deal of time discussing finance, from the injustice of the bank introducing charges for banking cash and cheques, to our current and future financial health as a church. The same discussion also happened at the circuit meeting.

I'm reminded of the parable of the widow's offering in Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4. What I find interesting about this story is that Jesus was teaching in the temple in Jerusalem when he told this story – so he was addressing the religious, us, the Church as well as those with government responsibility. Firstly, he observed their financial practices but then noticed an individual within the system – the widow. He saw her human story and rather than run and take out her offering and give it her back, he speaks out and attempts to change the system not only just for that widow but for all who are exploited by the system. I wonder whether the government and ourselves as a Church fully consider the human impact of our financial decisions and systems and look at the bigger picture? The traditional reading of this parable tends to view it as contrasting the conduct of the scribes with that of the widow and encouraging generous giving to the Church.

In the past the Church I feel has used this story to exploit people, to encourage people to make large offerings, despite a precarious personal financial situation. This I never think was Jesus's intention when he told this story. If we read further back in chapter 20 of Luke, I think there is a connection with Jesus' condemnation of religious leaders devouring the houses of widows (Luke Chapter 20) rather than commending the widow's generosity. I think what Jesus intends is to condemn both the social system that made this woman poor and the value system that motivated her action – he condemns the people who conditioned her to do it. There is also a terrible irony to this story in that as the Temple is destroyed in the year 70, the widow's gift was not only misguided but for nothing.

This story I think speaks powerfully to where we are as a Church and Circuit. We have money in the bank which has been gifted to us, but we also face daily financial pressures as prices have risen but our income as a church has not. We all have a huge responsibility to discern well how we as a church should use and maintain our financial resources. It is not just the treasurer's responsibility – please pray for our church and circuit treasurers!

As a minister I'm in an exceptionally privileged position of living on a stipend and I always feel guilty talking about money or discussing church finances – maybe that's because I'm from a working-class background, where talking about money was always a taboo subject. But it makes me concerned about those who live on the breadline or who are struggling financially, like the widow, as there is so much shame that comes with it and people are often afraid to ask for help and support. As we have been developing the Church mission plan, I have learnt that Burton has one of the highest levels of pensioner poverty in the UK. One of the ways we discussed at the Church Council was how can we use what resources we do have to respond to this need in our community.

The Church Council are also the managing trustees of the Mary Jane Boston fund, which can give grants to support those in need. I and Liz, our Church Treasurer, are working hard to find out if some of the money from this fund can be released to help with the running costs of the church. As on paper the church expenses of things like gas/electricity/water etc have all gone up but regular giving has stayed the same. Please can I ask you to pray for the work that I and Liz are doing with this and for the financial health of the church.

In a practical way you can help by setting up a standing order for your regular giving to the church rather than putting cash on the collection plate as the bank have introduced charges for us banking cash. I'm writing to the bank and expressing how unjust this is! If you need help setting up a standing [order](#) please speak to Liz.

I'm also available for a confidential chat with anyone who is worried about their financial situation.

I'm not motivated to encourage you to give more in your regular giving to the church, thank you for what you do give. I also don't have a blank cheque book, but can walk with you, point you to sources of potential support and pray for you. Please do get in touch with me if that would be helpful. There will be no shame.

Yours in Christ,

Rachel

+ + + + +

The Journey

Some years back my husband had an eye injury which happened just before we had a 220 mile journey to make. He said to me, "you will have to drive back home." I gulped; "what through London and on motorways?" I had driven on motorways before but not actually driven through London streets. I was quite happy to be 'chauffeur' driven there! In fact, as the years had rolled on, it had worked out that my husband did the long distances whereas I just kept to local travels – a range of 30-50 miles! My husband, when a student at London University, often cycled round London so he was well acquainted with the roads in and around the capital city.

It seemed that I had no option, but to be the driver on this journey. We duly set off and I prepared myself for driving through London knowing that often I would just have a shoehorn distance between my car and other vehicles. Not a prospect that I was looking forward to at all, as I preferred more space! However, it was made so much easier as I had a guide with me who knew the way, so all I had to do was drive and depend on my husband's instructions on which lane to be in, preparing me for the next turn needed and so on. What a difference that made under his guidance.

I have found what a big difference it makes having the Lord in my life to guide me along life's roads. One encounters all kinds of twists and turns, the good times, the bad times, the unexpected as well as the expected. Psalm 73:24 tells us: "You will guide me with Your counsel." How thankful I am that I just have to ask Him to be my guide.

Aileen Westwood

Why is it called Good Friday?

The exact origin of the name 'Good Friday' is unclear and debated, with some questioning why the day of Jesus' death is not known as 'Bad Friday'.

In fact, the day is called 'Karfreitag' in German-speaking countries, which means 'Mourning Friday', while in the UK some people claim that Good Friday developed from a previous name, 'God's Friday'.

The word 'good' is thought to have been previously associated with the word 'holy', which explains why the occasion is known as 'Holy Friday' in some cultures.

Other Christians also believe the day's name has positive connotations because Jesus died for our sins, and we reflect on the crucifixion through the [joyous celebration](#) of Easter.

Why do we eat fish and avoid meat on Good Friday?

Traditionally, members of the Catholic Church complete periods of fasting and abstinence several times each year for spiritual focus and self-discipline.

Church law also previously required Catholics to refrain from eating meat every Friday throughout the year, to mark the day of Christ's death, however this is not so strictly adhered to in some other denominations.

In honour of Christ sacrificing his flesh on Good Friday, beef, pork, chicken and turkey were all prohibited on this day of the week, while fish remained acceptable to eat, due to it not belonging to the flesh meat group.

However, the strict abstinence rules later changed in 1966, after Pope Paul VI stated that fasting should be replaced with other practices such as prayer and charity work.

In 1983, the Code of Canon Law officially relaxed the religious fasting practices and nowadays, Catholics tend to refrain from eating meat only on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

The religious practice has now become a modern-day concept, with children tucking into fish and chips for their school lunches on Fridays and many Britons heading to their local chippy at the start of the Easter bank holiday weekend for a tasty dinner time treat.

Why do we eat hot cross buns?

A hot cross bun is a spiced, sweet bun marked with a cross on top. They are traditionally eaten on Good Friday as the cross represents the crucifixion of Jesus, while the spices are said to remind Christians of the spices put on his body.



Hot cross buns appeared in the Oxford English Dictionary in 1733, but they are believed to have existed long before.

Enriched, sweetened bread dough dates back to the Romans. Long before Christianity, loaves and buns were baked with symbols on them, one of which was a cross.

Small, spiced cakes were also baked to honour the Saxon goddess Eostre and celebrate spring, but it was the Tudors who began to link the spiced currant buns we know today with feast days, celebrations and - eventually - Lent.

What do eggs have to do with Easter?

Eggs illustrate new life, just as Jesus began his new life on Easter Sunday after the miracle of his resurrection.

When eggs are cracked open, they are said to symbolise an empty tomb. Originally, eating eggs was forbidden in Holy Week,

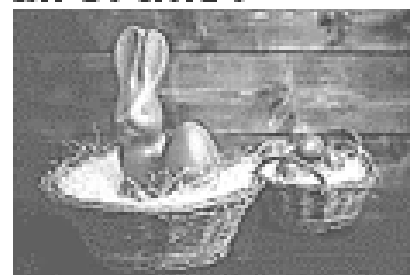


the week heading up to Easter Sunday. They were saved and decorated in the run-up to the celebration and given to children as gifts. Sometimes they were coloured red, in recognition of the blood sacrificed by Jesus when he was crucified. Green was also used to symbolise spring re-growth after the winter.

The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany during the 19th century. As chocolate-making techniques improved, the Easter egg as we know it was popularised.

Where does the Easter Bunny fit into all of this?

Rabbits and hares have been associated with spring for hundreds of years. It is thought that the Anglo-Saxon Goddess of Spring, Eostre—who many believe the Christian event is named after – had a hare as her companion,



symbolising fertility and rebirth. It's hardly surprising that rabbits and hares have become associated with fertility as they are both prolific breeders and regularly give birth to large litters in early spring.

The legend of the Easter Bunny is thought to have originated among German Lutherans, where the 'Easter Hare' judged whether children had been good or bad in the run-up to Easter.

Over time it has been incorporated into Christian celebrations, becoming especially popular in Britain during the 19th century.

Many children believe that the Easter Bunny lays and hides baskets of coloured eggs, sweets and toys in their homes or around the garden the night before Easter Sunday – much like Father Christmas delivering gifts on Christmas Eve.

This has given rise to the tradition of the Easter egg hunt which is still popular among children today.

Chocolate

The chocolate industry has been enjoying an Easter bonus for about one hundred and fifty years, largely due to two important developments in chocolate manufacture: the invention of a press for separating cocoa butter from the cocoa bean, and the introduction of purer forms of cocoa.

The first chocolate Easter eggs were made in France and Germany during the first half of the nineteenth century and were often solid and decorated with marzipan.

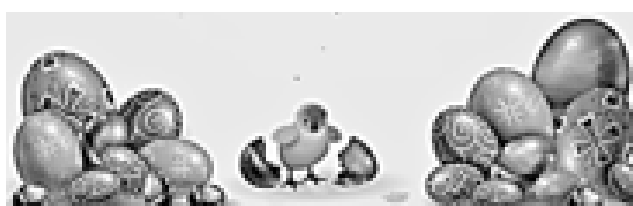
The British families of Fry and Cadbury provided the means to create mass produced moulded eggs in the second half of the century, traditionally filled with sugared almonds or other confectionary.

French, Dutch, Belgian and German chocolatiers continued to innovate and exchange ideas. From Germany, for example, came the crocodile finish that, by breaking up the smooth surface, disguised minor imperfections-a technique that has been continued and adapted until the present day. The introduction of milk chocolate made the Easter egg extremely popular, although dark chocolate eggs are seen as more sophisticated by many.

I'm obviously less sophisticated
as I prefer milk!

Which is your favourite?

Submitted by Terry



Finances

Following the Church Council meeting on Thursday night and the discussions that took place regarding finance, it was agreed that the congregation should be made aware of our financial position.

As a church we are very much dependant on interest accrued and the trust funds that we are trustees of, to meet our commitments i.e. Circuit share, utilities, repairs and maintenance. Our offertory does not meet all these expenses.

Our current bank, Lloyds, have informed me that from May 2025 we will have to pay charges on our accounts. I have established that the Mary Boston account will not be affected by these changes as that account is a charity.

From May our current account will incur the following charges: -

- Standard monthly charge £4.25
- Paying in each cheque £0.50
- Paying in cash £1.50 per £100 or £0.85 per £100 if paid into the machine
- Writing a cheque £0.50
- Transfers in and out incur no charges

Therefore, I am requesting that as many people as possible start to pay their weekly collection by standing order (weekly, four weekly or monthly). This is simple to set up but if you require any help then please ask me or ask at your bank. This will not affect your Gift Aid contribution if you are a taxpayer, have filled in the form and given it to Richard Ward.

I am looking into alternative banks but at the moment it appears that most are now charging for club accounts, but if we can reduce our fees as much as possible then every little helps.

Liz Merrick
Church Treasurer



Join us for

VE Day
80th Anniversary
Afternoon Tea

ST. THOMAS'S METHODIST CHURCH

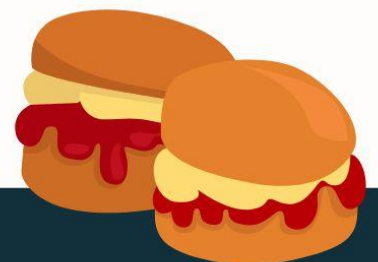
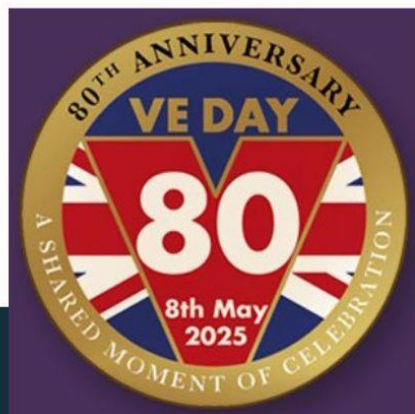
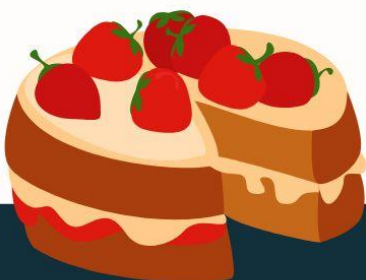
Saturday 3rd May 2025

3.00 – 5.00pm

Suggested donation - £5 per person

To help with catering numbers, if you are planning on coming please let Rev. Rachel Moss or one of the stewards know. Thanks.

All welcome



Smiles ☺

Enjoy the following poem which appeared in a recent magazine issued by the East Midlands Asbestos Support Charity – should be sung to the tune of *My Favourite Things* from the Sound of Music....

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polydent and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favourite things.

Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short-shrunk frames,
When we remember our favourite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had
And then I don't feel so bad.

*Thank you to Yvonne and her Mum
for submitting this item*

PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL WITH YOUR WISHES!!!!

40 YEARS OF MARRIAGE.....

A married couple in their early 60s was celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet and romantic little restaurant.

Suddenly a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table.

She said, 'For being such an exemplary married couple and for ...being loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish.'

The wife answered, 'Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband'.

The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! - two tickets for the "Queen Mary II" appeared in her hands.

The husband thought for a moment: 'Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me'.

The wife, and the fairy, were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish. So the fairy waved her magic wand and poof!.....
the husband became 92 years old.

The moral of this story: Men who are ungrateful souls should remember fairies are female.

SENIORS & COMPUTERS

As we Silver Surfers know, sometimes we have trouble with our computers.

Yesterday, I had a problem, so I called George, the 11-year-old next door, whose bedroom looks like Mission Control and asked him to come over.

George clicked a couple of buttons and solved the problem.

As he was walking away, I called after him, "So, what was wrong?"

He replied, "It was an ID ten T error."

I didn't want to appear stupid, but nonetheless had to inquire,

"An ID ten T error? What's that? In case I need to fix it again."

George grinned "Haven't you ever heard of an ID ten T error before?"

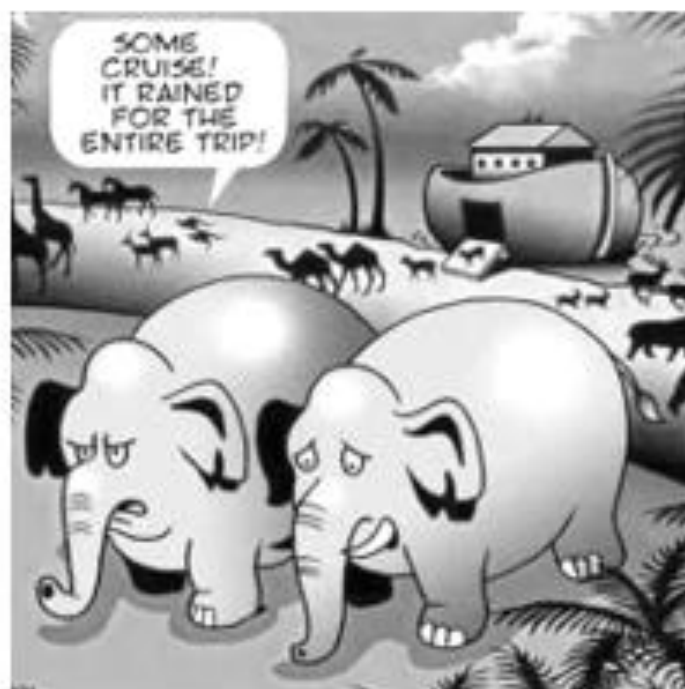
"No," I replied.

"Write it down," he said, "I think you'll figure it out."

So I wrote down:

ID10T I used to like George.

Submitted by Terry



GOD IS...



...NOT BOUND BY
APPOINTMENTS

With thanks to Gill Bentley on
this one



Submitted by Terry

Wednesday Group

It was a joy to welcome the Rev Rachel Moss to our Wednesday Group meeting on the [12th](#) February. She opened our 2025 programme with a talk about her journey into becoming a Minister. She was ordained last June in Bradford and was appointed as Minister at St Thomas's last September. Her smile always lights up a room and we settled down to listen about her experiences throughout her life.

Rachel came to the meeting accompanied by her bag – named fondly by her aunt as her 'Dora the Explorer' bag – containing items to illustrate her discipleship journey.

Cake has played a large part in encouraging and enticing her to become a follower of Christ. At the age of 12 she was taken to Church on a Sunday evening by her aunt, with the promise of cake as a reward, but through attending Church she found God's love as a reward too.

Next out of the bag came a packet of seeds and Rachel explained that the seeds of God's love were set when she went to Guides and Church with her aunt, and when she joined the Methodist Society at Aberystwyth when she was at [University](#) there.

Rachel explained the many difficulties that she faced on the road to becoming a minister including sadly losing both her parents before the age of 12 and facing serious health issues of her own. Both events really testing her faith in God. It was while recovering from illness that Rachel went to Church again with her aunt to a flower festival where an unconventional Minister reminded Rachel of the love of God. Rachel thought he was a strange new Minister because he didn't stand in the pulpit! She produced a soft toy flower from her bag to remind her of the occasion.

Rachel originally qualified as a secondary school teacher but after her illness she became an IT Trainer in the [NHS](#) and she was a highly trained NHS professional doing a Master's Degree alongside her full time job and she also became a local preacher.

Rachel worked really hard but God had other plans for her!

After going back to a reunion with friends in Aberystwyth, Rachel rescued several Bibles that the University were clearing out. She put them in her bag and rushed to catch a train. As she put the bag in the overhead luggage rack one of the Bibles fell out, hit her on the head, and a poem fell out called '*Just Talk To Me*'. This led to Rachel speaking to the unconventional Minister she had met at the Flower Festival and she found herself leading prayers from a pulpit and making paper chains of prayers at the Black Country Museum.

A while after this experience someone gave Rachel a postcard with a pixelated image of Jesus made up of faces of people. On the back was the question "Are you called to ordained Ministry?" Rachel put it in the back of a drawer but it later played a bigger part in her journey.

Again Rachel faced set-backs as the country went into lockdown in 2020 due to Covid. Her determination to test and follow the call to the ministry eventually led her to study at Theological College at Queen's in Birmingham.

Rachel concluded her talk by reading from Mark chapter 5, a reading that means a lot to her.

So, cake, seeds, health issues, a flower festival, an unconventional Minister, the NHS, a Bible hitting her on the head, a poem, paper chains, a postcard and a map she recommended to us to help with our own journey of discipleship, all played a significant part of Rachel's journey to becoming a Methodist Minister.

After her talk Rachel invited us to speak of influences in our own lives. It was very interesting as some members talked about what had inspired and influenced them over the years.

We thanked Rachel for a most interesting and thought provoking talk and we gave her two pots of daffodils to take home, referring to the poem "The Glory of Springtime" that we had opened the meeting with and related to new beginnings in life.

God Bless you Rachel and keep you well. We are very lucky to have you as our Minister. Your enthusiasm and determination is an inspiration to us all.

The Wednesday Group's meeting on the 12th March should have been exercising with Annie Ferguson, but sadly Annie was unable to come. Annie is hoping to visit us later in the year.

We also had problems with the heating and we were unsure if we could hold our meeting in the usual room. Things were not running smoothly for us. My thanks go to everyone who helped me to sort the afternoon out.

I opened the meeting with a poem entitled '*Friendship*', showing the importance of friendship throughout our lives and I certainly appreciated the help and support I received from my Wednesday Group friends and John Jones with the heating. We held a quickly planned 'Beetle Drive' and 21 of us had fun trying to win prizes from Eileen's decorative basket.

The more games we played the louder the noise and "chatter" became as members became excited by the possibility of winning! We were certainly ready for our refreshments at the end!

One of our members, Christine Binding, brought along to the meeting the Order of Service for the World Day of Prayer – A Women Led Global, Ecumenical Movement – that was held on Friday 7th March 2025. The service was prepared by Christian women in the Cook Islands and was based on the words of Psalm 13 recognising the fact that God created each one of us with great attention and loving care. We are unique and special and should cherish all aspects of who we are and of those around us. The theme of the service was "I made you wonderful". Christine attended the service and has kindly agreed to put the order of service booklet at the back of our church for people to look at. Please take time to look at it and then I will return it to Christine.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th April when Tilly Bancroft will be talking to us about the "Burton Trails" of swans, carousel horses, beer barrels etc. The meeting starts at 2pm. Please join us if you can.

Margaret Clark

Dates for your diary... (Meeting at 2pm unless stated otherwise)

Wed 9th April – Burton Trails – Swans/Carousel Horses/Beer Barrels
Tilly Bancroft.

Wed 14th May – Fish & Chip lunch – 12.30pm

Wed 11th June – Dennis Entertains – Musical afternoon.

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Wanted

Readers

We would like a few more readers for our Sunday services. If you would be willing to read an occasional scripture passage, please have a word with one of the stewards.

Advertising Sponsors for Focus

Do you know someone who would like to advertise in our magazine? The rates are very reasonable. Please have a word with the editor for more information.

+ + + + +

Signs found outside Churches

Church car park sign.... This is for MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!

No God – No Peace. Know God – Know Peace

When the restaurant next to a church put out a big sign with red letters that said, 'Open Sundays', the church reciprocated with its own message: 'We are open on Sundays, too.'

RECIPE CORNER

Harissa Fish Traybake

A delicious tasty and relatively easy fish dish, suitable for any occasion but especially for Good Friday. Serves 2 but amounts can be adjusted up or down accordingly for however many are being catered for.

Preparation time: 15 minutes. Cooking time: 25 minutes. Serves: 2.

Ingredients:

3 tbsp Harissa Paste
Zest and Juice of one Orange
1 tbsp Sunflower or Vegetable oil
250gm White fish (of your choice)
2 Tomatoes (cut into wedges)
3 tbsp Crème Fraîche (lighter if you prefer)
1 medium Sweet Potato (scrubbed and diced into 2cm cubes)
150gm Dwarf Green Beans (trimmed and halved)
1 Red Onion (cut into wedges)
1 Courgette (cut into chunky wedges)
10gm Fresh Mint Leaves (removed from stems)
180gm cooked White Rice or Potatoes (to serve) your preference
2 Naan Breads to serve (optional)

Instructions:

1. Heat oven to 200°C, 180°C fan.
2. Mix 2 tbsp harissa with the orange juice and zest. Rub over the fish fillets and set aside to marinate while you prepare the vegetables.
3. Toss the chopped vegetables with the remaining harissa paste and mix with 1 tbsp oil. Tip into a large roasting tin. Roast for 10-15 mins.



- Remove the tray from the oven and gently lay the marinated fish or the vegetables. In a small bowl stir together the remaining harissa with the creme fraiche and spread evenly onto the fish fillets. Return to the oven and roast for a further 8-10 minutes.
5. Sprinkle generously with mint leaves and serve with rice or potatoes or naan.

Terry Butler

Church Chuckles

On the Church Notice Board

If you would like to make a donation, fill out a form, enclose a cheque, and drip in the collection basket.

Don't miss this Saturday's exhibit by Christian Martian Arts.

We are grateful for the help of those who cleaned up the grounds around the church building and the rector.

A worm welcome to all who have come today.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Minister Nelson's sermons.

During the absence of our minister, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Julius Belzer.

The year-eights will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.

Helpers are needed! Please sign up on the information sheet

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Submitted by Terry

Sunday and Holy Week Services

April 2025

- 6th 10.00am – Jenny Kilgour
- 13th 10.00am – Rev'd David Leese  *Palm Sunday*
- 17th 7.30pm - Joint service at
Trinity Methodist Church, Linton.
- 18th 7.30pm - Good Friday Liturgy 
- 20th 10.00am - Rev'd Rachel Moss  *Easter Sunday*
Sacrament of Holy Communion 
- 27th 10.30am – Joint service at Stretton
Dr Philip Robinson

May 2025

- 4th 10.00am – Vic Appleby
- 11th 10.00am – Shirley Irons
- 18th 10.00am - Rev'd Rachel Moss 
Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 25th 10.00am – Rev'd Manoa Ratubalavu

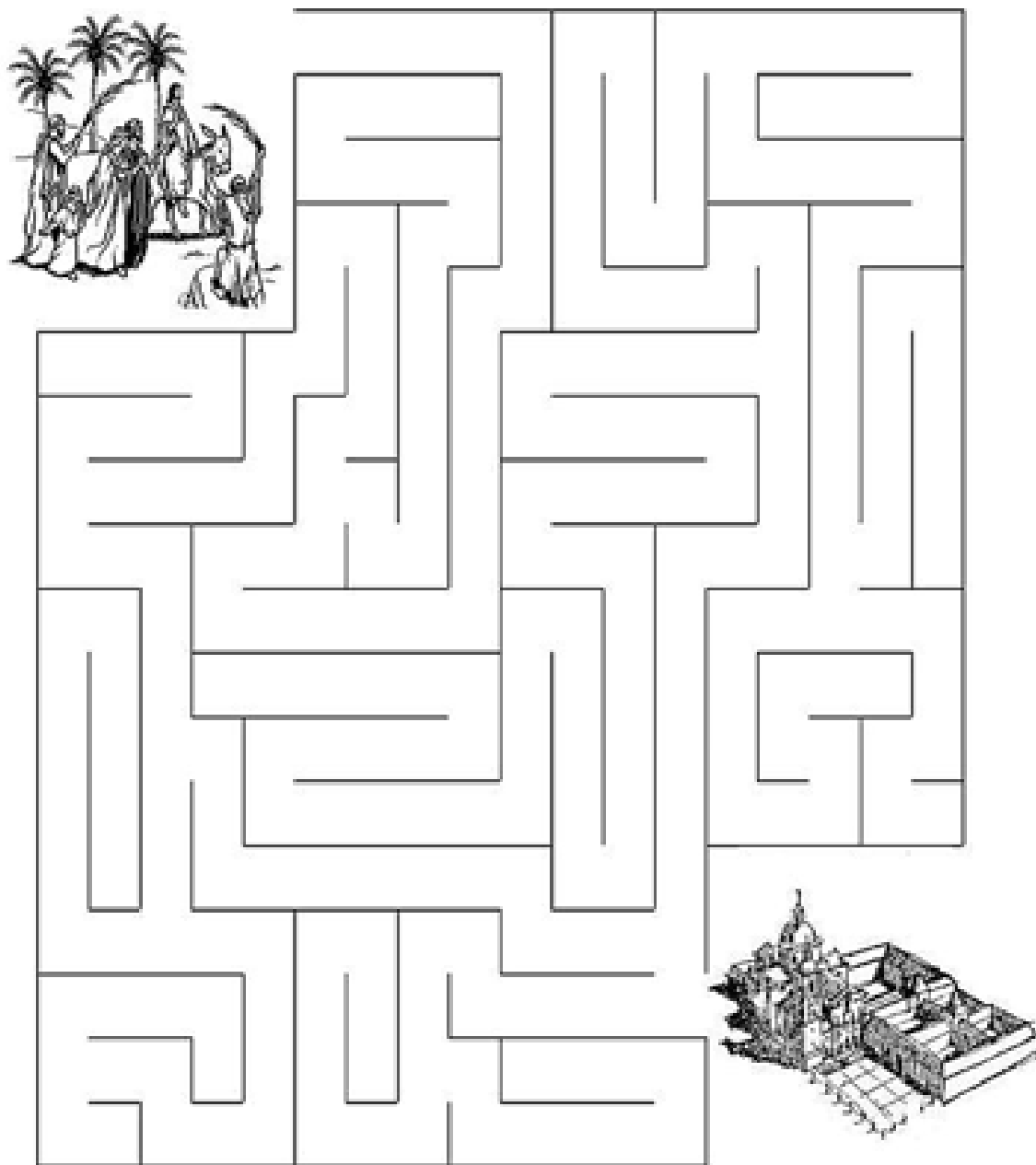


FUNERALS

11th February Maureen Brenda Birkett Stapenhill
Cemetery

"They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" - John 12:13:

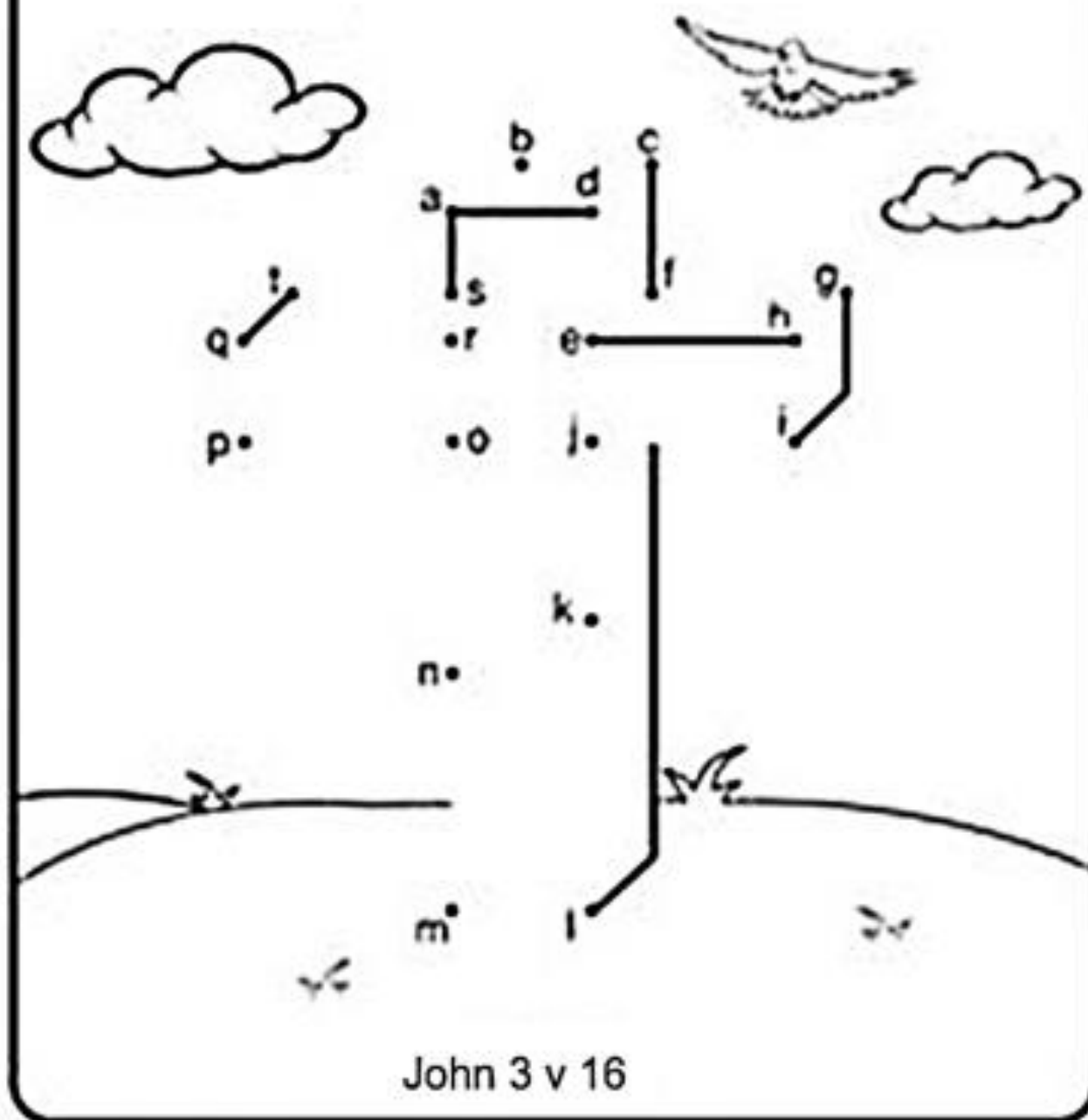
Can you help Jesus find the route to Jerusalem?



Submitted by Terry

Dot • to • Dot

"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son" Follow the alphabet in order and draw a line from dot to dot. Complete the picture and colour it.



Submitted by Terry

Some More Profound Quotes from --

Mahatma Gandhi:

"Truth stands, even if there be no public support. It is self-sustained."

"I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people."

"A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act."

Mark Twain:

"Don't wait. The time will never be just right."

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do."

"It is wiser to find out than suppose."

"Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would rather have talked."

Albert Einstein:

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."

"There are only two ways to live your life: as though nothing is a miracle, or as though everything is a miracle."

"Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters."

"Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth."

"Logic will get you from A to Z; imagination will get you everywhere."

"The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it."

Muhammad Ali:

"You don't lose if you get knocked down; you lose if you stay down."

"Don't count the days, make the days count."

"When you're right, nobody remembers. When you're wrong, nobody forgets."

Submitted by Terry Butler

CIRCUIT NEWS

Save the date : Sunday 27th July at 4pm

The Circuit Leaving Service for Rev'd Mike Redshaw and Lay Pastor Graham Mizon will be held on this date. Full details to follow in due course.

Holiday at Home

The Circuit are hoping to host a Circuit Holiday at Home over 3 days, 6th-8th August 2025 with locations to be decided. It is hoped to form a Mission Team who will help with the planning and running of this event. For anyone interested in helping there will be a volunteer meeting on Friday 9th May at 1pm at OASIS. If unable to make the volunteers meeting but would like to be involved please contact Rev Rachel Moss.

Voluntary Circuit Archivist Role

The Circuit is looking to fill the above role to support and advise the Circuit and churches on issues relating to records and archive management, to promote good governance and compliance, and to ensure that records are retained, deposited in local archive services if they are of archival value, or destroyed as appropriate. A full description of the role is available on the Circuit website: essdmethodistcircuit.org where you can also find full details on all forthcoming events for churches within the Circuit.

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News from the Pews

Forthcoming Event.....

St Thomas's are holding a **VE Day 80th Anniversary Afternoon Tea** on Saturday 3rd May 3pm-5pm. Suggested donation - £5 per person. To help with catering numbers, if you are planning on coming please let either Rachel Moss or one of the stewards know. Alternatively contact the editor, details below. This is a fundraising event and we do hope you will be able to join us on this special occasion.

Message of Thanks

Many thanks to Mrs Shirley Leedham for her recent donation to help towards the printing costs of Focus. This is very much appreciated.

Saturday Coffee Mornings – 1st Saturday each month 10-11.30am

Our monthly coffee mornings continue to be well supported, and a warm welcome is extended to everyone to come along and enjoy a hot drink and a choice of some delicious cakes.

Many thanks to our hosts for February and March.

Our next coffee morning on Saturday April 5th will be hosted by Liz, Sue and Jane.

Please note that there will be no coffee morning on Saturday 3rd May in view of the VE Day 80th Anniversary Afternoon Tea to be held that afternoon.

YMCA Food Bank

Thank you to all who continue to support the ongoing collection for the YMCA Food Bank and items can always be left in the box at the rear of the church. Suitable items are tinned food, dried goods such as cereals and pasta, washing powder and hygiene products. All items to be 'in date'.

Our support is much appreciated and provides help for an ever increasing number of families within the local community.

The next edition of Focus...

Anyone wishing to have an article included in the next edition of Focus, should submit these to the editor by Sunday May 4th 2025. Contact details 07989568979 or gillbentley@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.

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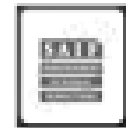
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