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## Dear Friends,

Following on from the Repair Shop last month, another story of restoration by a **craftsman**.

There is a Japanese historical tale that speaks of a **tea master** named Yusai Hosokawa. When he was about to prepare tea for the warlord Hideyoshi, the **warlord's young servant** dropped an invaluable piece of tea ware, one of the warlords favourites, **breaking it** into five separate pieces. Hideyoshi raised his hand to punish the young servant, but Yusai Hosokawa intervened, and succeeded in **gaining mercy** for the young servant. Yusai Hosokawa's actions basically **atoned** for the young servant and took responsibility, saying, "I will be the one **to be blamed** for his mistake". The young servant was spared.

Yusai Hosokawa, the tea-master, then arranged for the five pieces of pottery to be reconnected using a Japanese lacquer technique **with gold gilding** and presented it to the warlord. The warlord was very moved by the beauty of the **restored** tea ware pottery, and the story spread far and wide and became **renowned**. This act of compassion which added gold into the filled cracks, became the basis of **Kintsugi**, which created a work of beauty through **brokenness**, and something more **valuable** than the original.

**Kintsugi**: Kin stands for **gold** and Tsugi means to reconnect or **repair**. A Kintsugi master mends the broken pottery with Japanese lacquer and then mixes or covers that with gold. Kintsugi does not just fix or repair a broken vessel; rather, the technique makes the broken pottery a **new creation** and more beautiful than

the original. The Kintsugi master will take the broken work and create a **restored piece** that makes the broken part even more visually sophisticated.

**No two works**, restored with such mastery, will look the same or have been broken in the same way. There are passages in the Bible which **parallel** this restoration. Kintsugi is described as a **cultural parable**. There are shades of biblical redemption here, of a vessel being made into a new creation. The Christian gospel, or good news, begins with the awareness of our brokenness. Christ came not to just fix us, not just to restore us, but also to **make us a new creation**. The **example** of Kintsugi captures, and enlarges, this promise.

And as the first fruits of this new creation, did not the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ still bear the **wounds** of his crucifixion in his hands and side, when he was **broken** and then **restored for us**. He showed them to Thomas and the other disciples (see John 20:24-29). Through these wounds of Christ, a new world is born for us; that is, the way to God has been opened and the promise of eternal life has been given. Kintsugi is a **paradox** of destruction and new creation, like the crucifixion and resurrection is for us.

By the grace of God, our cracks and brokenness can **feel like gold** because the repair and restoration has brought about a strength as well as beauty. God loves us with our **faults** and **brokenness**, and loves us so much that he **values the restoration** he makes so much, as if they were as gold. Kintsugi treats the breakage and repair as part of the

object's history. It makes a feature of them. It has had a **life**. Christ does this for us and makes use of what we have experienced to be a blessing to others.

I like the word **Master**. It indicates the one who has the very best expertise, and also the one who has the authority to restore. Our **Lord and Master** Jesus Christ is the ultimate 'Kintsugi Master'. 'If anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation'.

Yours in the master's name  
**John**

## Sunday Worship

**MARCH** 10.30am unless specified

- 6 Revd John Lee, Communion
- 13 David Weller
- 20 Revd John Lee
- 27 Revd Keri Eynon

## Elders Contact

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Modern examples of Kintsugi



**Deadline for next issue:  
 Sunday 13 March**

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



Margaret Wilson suffered a fracture of the pelvis and is at home but having physiotherapy.

We welcomed Karen and Mark who brought their son William for baptism.

We pray for all those involved in school life and particularly for the teachers within our church family, that they may see covid cases start to diminish.

Alan T has had an operation on his hand and we pray that all goes well with his recovery.

We think of Ernest, following the funeral of his brother last week.

Flowers from the church have been given with the love of us all to:

Jan: Dorothy, Nikki, Jeanette, Margaret Wilson

Feb: Beryl Sugden, Cath, Amanda



### ***Emergencies and Afghanistan***

Pray for all those who have been affected by emergencies in the past few months and years. Pray for all who are still trying to rebuild their lives after cyclones, drought and flood. Pray for those who are still enduring food shortages and experiencing extreme hunger.

Pray with those who are living through the fear and trauma of conflict across the world, pray particularly for Afghanistan at this time facing the risk of famine for more than 8 million people.

Pray for peace. Pray for provision of resources. Pray for power to be redistributed.

**Save the date for a Christian Aid event Sat 19 March for a Beetle Drive with an alternative online quiz planned if we can't meet together.**

Almighty, loving Father,  
Thank you for the month of March, the month of Spring, the month when hopes are high and new things seem possible, when even coming through the pandemic seems possible.

This month we remember the day that the angel told Mary that she would bear your Son – how could that have seemed possible to her?

Help us to trust you as she did. Whatever we may face, help us to have peace and confidence, knowing, as she did, that nothing is impossible with you.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

By Daphne Kitching

The reporter was interviewing the town's oldest woman. "And what do you find is the best thing about being 104?" he asked.

"That's easy," she said. "No peer pressure."

### **ST. JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL from The Rectory**



My dear Nephew Darren

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias

from Donizetti operas being sung at fresco in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties, with drugs labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped

serving coffee after Mattins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.

It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral Evensong on Friday night, to help set the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to

reassure him. "Heavy metal? We're doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bellringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing." The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: "On Sunday we'll do a Songs of Praise, and not to worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from 'Ancient and Modern'."

I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace

## EMBRACE the Middle East

(extracts from Prayer Diary)

### **6 March**

This week we mark International Women's Day (8 March) by praying for at-risk girls from the Arab community of Acre, Israel. The International Christian Committee in Israel (ICCI) runs a drop-in centre providing counselling, mentoring, social activities and family liaison for teenage girls at risk of dropping out of education.

### **13 March**

Please pray for the Notre Dame School, run by our long-term partner Al-Kafaat, which enables children living with disability to be fully included in mainstream education. The school focuses on each child's individual needs, giving them the best possible chance of thriving in the future.

### **20 March**

The tranquil environment of the Anafora Retreat Centre between Cairo and Alexandria welcomes young women who have experienced physical or psychological abuse. The project helps them heal from their trauma and develop the confidence and skills to support other women in their communities.

### **27 March**

This Mothering Sunday we pray for all caring for the children of Syria. Amidst the physical dangers and psychological toll of war, our partners at Middle East Revive and Thrive (MERATH) and their partner churches run three Child Friendly Spaces where children can learn and play in safety.

### **ST MUNGO'S EVEN LESSER**

On the 20th day of January

In the Year of Our Lord

2022

To Uncle Eustace

Rector

St James the Least of All



Dear Uncle,

Thank you for your advice on conferences, which arrived just too late for me to avail myself of its wisdom. Thus it is that I lie now, in a darkened room, with damp cloths upon my brow, and subdued choral singing emanating from the Hi Fidelity speakers, hoping that by Sunday this curate will be in a sufficiently fit state to assist the Rector in his ministrations to the congregation.

It would be a significant blessing were you to advise me within the next few weeks, of all I need to know. Clearly the Bible College was lacking. Thank you.

Your loving nephew,  
Darren

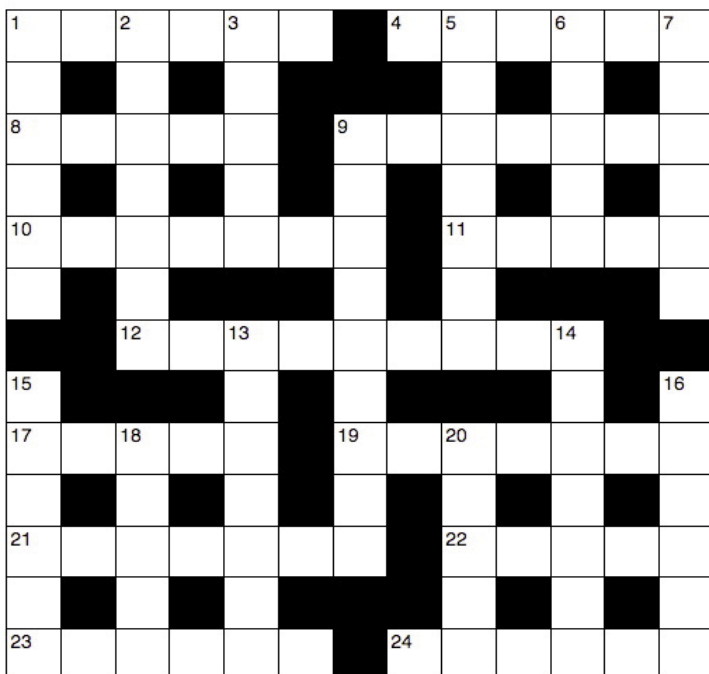


### Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 "They — —," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!" (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 'A truthful witness gives honest — —, but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

### Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — —, and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — —' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — —, and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)



## News from our 'Roving Reporter'

### Our Global Neighbours Sharing the Vaccines

It is reported that only (6%) of African Countries have been vaccinated.

Some 100 million doses required!  
Is the U.K. guilty of stockpiling until all ages have been covered - some destroyed, and by the time supplied to our neighbours they are nearing expiry dates!

Does this mean that some nations are more equal than others!

Answer given Our vaccines are kept for younger age groups, whilst lower-income families wait!

If you give a man a fish it will feed him, but if you give him the tools it will give him the opportunity of a livelihood.

We are thankful that our country (Oxford laboratory experts) have provided vaccines for others to carry on but a need to share with other countries.

### Jan - Oxford Churches - Reading the scriptures

Messy church, also Mucky Church.  
Debbie Thrower - Groups that

care for dementia patients Psalm 139 (old text) 'fearfully (carefully) made.

Not focussing on the condition, but the ability! (see Methodist, Karen Frost's Wed group.)

Following Holocaust Memorial Day, a debate in the House of Commons paid tribute to places around the country lighting candles in remembrance.,

including Sbrerenecia (July 1995), where trouble is again brewing in the region.

See report on Newbury commemoration. Welcome by churches to immigrants, marginalised and destitute.

Taking the survivors message to survivors to the hate speech of today. There are still war criminals being sought.

There are 15 countries with ongoing conflicts.

A number of M. P's spoke of their concerns and tributes made to that doughty campaigner Lord Dubbs (a survivor), making reference to those who (will continue to) tell the story.

Graeme

## AGM Sunday 13 March

### PROPOSAL

Due to the on-going covid situation during 2021, no Church AGM was held that year, hence no election for elders was held. Nevertheless, the three elders who were due to retire in 2021, namely Esther Lewis, Alan Mossman and Alan Tarry, have continued to serve as elders.

I propose that the elderships of the said members for 2021-22 be hereby ratified and that they be re-elected for a further two years (2022-24) at this the 2022 AGM, subject to their agreement and the usual 60% approval of members present and voting.

RBT

### CHURCH LUNCH

Following the AGM, we will be having a Church Lunch. Must be booked in advance by signing up on the sheet in the vestibule by Sunday 6th March. A suggested minimum donation of £5 per person can be made on the day.

## Newsletter

Payment for Newsletter. Minimum donation for 2022 is £6 if collected. Can be posted at current postage rates if required.



Answers next page



A Prayer for Fairtrade  
Kevin Snyman

Commitment  
for Life

Jesus, you prayed that we might forgive all debt: not forgive debt once only, but forgive consistently and relentlessly. That is hard. We confess that we are trapped utterly by an economics of debt, an economics of death. We don't know how to operate differently. We cry for your help: show us another way! Nevertheless, we can subvert this economics of death starting today through simple acts of reckless generosity. We can buy Fairtrade. We can choose to pay more. We can choose to place the needs of farmers and workers above our wants and desires. Yet even as we foster Fairtrade, we ask that you give us the wisdom and willingness to discover an entirely new economics of life; one that is no longer is predicated on debt. In Jesus' name we pray for the sake of all life on earth. Amen.



I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20 minutes ago!

When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one.

Daily prayer

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

I said I have a can-do attitude...I never said I have a will-do attitude.

### Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge. 12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 24, Beggar.

DOWN: 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten. 9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.

## URC pandemic prayer

Eternal One, we are invited to believe we stand at Pandemic's end, to discard our masks, "take responsibility", and go back to normal. Yet we're reluctant Lord to go with the zeitgeist. We want to question the Powers, protect the vulnerable, and ourselves, see the developing world vaccinated, and have a better grasp of the science behind it all. Guide us, good Lord, as we take tentative steps forward, give us the courage to stand against the tide, help us to raise our voices to protect the weak and challenge the strong, that your Kingdom will break into the chaos of our world. Amen

By the Revd Andy Braunston, URC's Minister for Digital Worship

## Wordsearch for March

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?



lent  
spiritual  
easter  
preparation  
fasting  
prayer  
desert  
selfdenial  
repentance  
seeking  
finding  
growing  
mothers  
love  
care  
nurture  
learning  
teaching  
disciples  
worldwide  
flowers  
thankyou  
nursing  
family

## Easy sudoku



A baby-sitter is a teenager acting like an adult, while the adults are out acting like teenagers.

# Every Day with Jesus – Bible notes

Everyone needs a little help when reading the Bible on a daily basis, and many of us have started reading these daily Bible notes. Booklets for March/April are now in the church

foyer, free for you to take, and there are still copies of January / February available, if you would like one. Each page has a short Bible reading, then a passage which opens up the meaning

and application of those verses. At the foot of each page are further Scripture references for going deeper into God's word, a prayer and suggestions for action.

Every Day with Jesus aims to bring the Bible to life, and helps to transform our lives and relationships as we encounter God within his Word. The theme of the January /

February edition was God's Word, God's Will and God's Work, which is very relevant in our challenging times. The theme of the March/April edition is Glory to Glory and takes us through the repentance and discipline of Lent to the joy and reconciliation with God which the Resurrection brings at Easter.

Maybe it will introduce you to previously unknown or daunting books of the Bible. When we engaged with sections of Psalm 119 we found these significant words:

*'Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law' (Psalm 119:18) and its commentary:*

*'Scripture is always so much more than words on a page. Like the various access points to Narnia created by C. S. Lewis, these words themselves can open our eyes to an entirely fresh understanding of ourselves and how we are to live within the material world. It demands courage and faithfulness, yet that measure of faith will grow ...'*

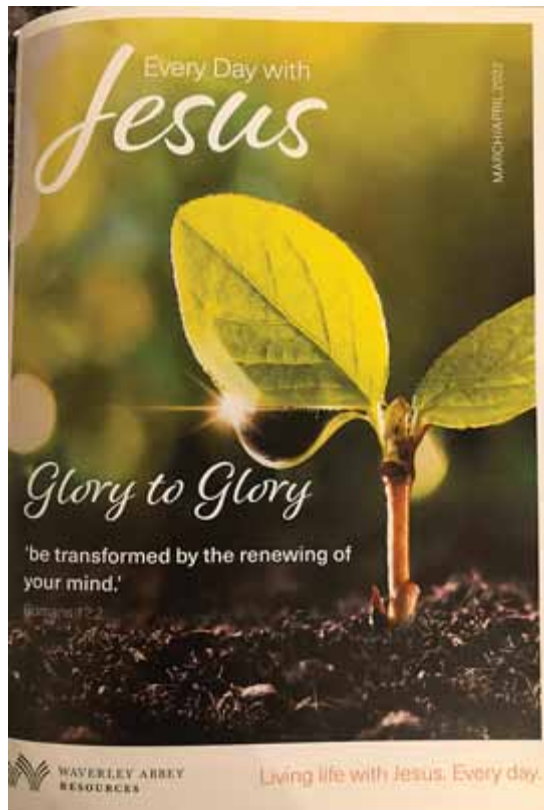
Each time we read Scripture we encounter the living Word, Jesus himself. We know that the Scriptures are foundational to the life of

discipleship, but sometimes we need a little nudge to remind or motivate us. Having the little book by your bedside, in your handbag, or setting a reminder on your phone will help to make this a regular daily pattern.

Of course EDWJ is not the only daily Bible reading plan, and some of you have told me about the notes that you follow – thank you. There will be more about other plans in a future edition of the Newsletter. Now let's keep the conversations going: tell each other what you have been reading in EDWJ, learning and putting into action; mostly we read and pray on our own, but sometimes we could read and pray with a friend; listen out for links in the readings and reflections in Sunday services.

Do let me know what you have thought of the Jan/Feb edition of Every Day with Jesus. I am sure there will be much in the March/April edition to enable us to grow in spiritual development and seriously consider how our lives reflect the faith we practise (aims stated in the introduction to the book!)

**Rachel Lee-Johnson**



A Commitment for Life ZOOM EVENT

## COFFEE WITH WILLIAM

JOIN US ON ZOOM TO HEAR WILLIAM BELL SHARE ON THE IMPACT OF THE 2021 CHRISTIAN AID REPORT 'WHERE IS PALESTINE?'

**christian aid**

THURS 17th March 2022  
11am-12.15pm GMT

ZOOM Meeting ID: 826 2918 7235

# Church Life

## *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – pulpit exchange*



Revd John Lee at Thatcham Methodist



Revd Nicola Hulks from St Barnabas at URC



Pat and Iris with snowdrop woods at Vintage Adventure



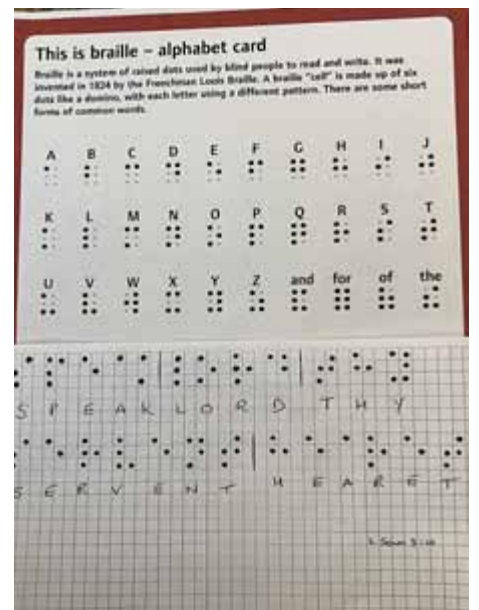
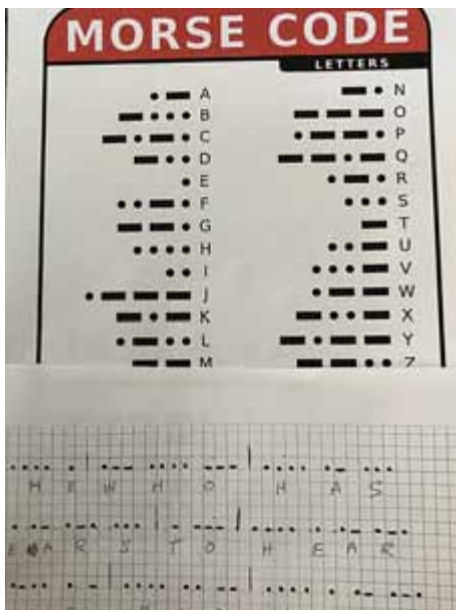
Baptism of William Sugden Moss



# CafeWorship

Our Cafe Service on the 5th Sunday in January was led by Keri, supported by a 2-member church band of Karen and Helen. The theme of the service was 'Communication' which Keri illustrated with some examples of misunderstanding and Gill had everyone working out bible passages that were in different codes – morse code, semaphore and braille. Coffee and biscuits were served.

Lets look forward to more cafe services that we can all take part in as we gradually return to some normalisation. We also look forward to more band members being able to join in as covid restrictions are relaxed.



Love does not say, 'Give me', but 'Let me give you.' - Anon  
The need of the world is to listen to God. - Albert Einstein

Seek Christ, and you will find him, and with him  
everything else thrown in. - CS Lewis

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke 15:11-32.

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!

So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.

Then his money ran out and there was a famine.

The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!

Then he came to his senses.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.

Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son.

But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.

your brother has returned and your father is having a feast!

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house.

For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!

so his father came out to see him.

My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.

# Mouse Makes

## GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:  
"No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit...  
... Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."  
- Luke 6:43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to love, your impatience to patience and your unkindness to kindness, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.

READ Luke 6:27-45

How did Jesus say we should treat others? Look up Luke 6:31

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

Do to everyone who asks you Luke 6:30

for those who are cruel to you Luke 6:28

those who curse you Luke 6:28

to those that hate you Luke 6:27

and you will be forgiven Luke 6:37

Find these words from Luke 6 in the word search above:  
GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED  
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

Mar2202 deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

f	c	l	o	t	h	e	s	d	x	h	v
o	e	y	t	s	o	r	r	y	v	u	b
t	l	e	e	a	n	g	r	y	m	g	w
l	e	f	d	n	o	t	h	i	n	g	y
p	b	l	o	i	n	f	a	t	h	e	r
f	r	y	o	u	n	g	e	r	n	d	h
e	a	o	s	n	g	v	o	p	o	o	
a	t	c	p	o	t	d	m	x	n	l	u
s	e	n	s	e	s	l	a	v	e	d	s
t	e	w	w	o	r	k	m	a	n	e	e
i	n	h	e	r	i	t	v	h	u	r	r
n	i	h	u	n	g	r	y	p	i	g	s

inherit clothes hugged  
feeding money feast  
sorry younger house  
celebrate found nothing  
hungry senses father  
workman angry slaved  
property country pigs  
son older lost

A manager, an engineer, and a programmer were driving down a steep mountain road when the brakes failed. After a terrifying few seconds they managed to stop the car by running it against the embankment. Shaken by their narrow escape from death, they got out. The manager said, "We need to organise a committee, have meetings, exchange ideas, and then develop a solution." The engineer disagreed, "No that never works. I will take apart the brake system, isolate the problem and correct it."

Then the programmer said, "You are both wrong. First, we need to push the car back up the hill, get back in, and see if it happens again."

# INTERMEDIATE

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8		6		2	4
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5					
		8	7	3	2
6	3		5		



# Saturday 7th May 2022

## Hollycombe

STEAM IN THE COUNTRY

Attractions for everyone, Largest Traditional Steam Fairground in Britain, Steam Railways, Listed Woodland Gardens including an Azalea Walk, Treasure Hunt, Reflective Labyrinth, Live Brass Band, Synod Marquee and Activity Field with Interactive Zones and Workshops, Refreshments and Worship.

Save the date, more information including booking information in the new year.



*A great day out for **all** the family  
and for **all** ages*

# URC Wessex Synod: Sharing-the-Vision

## **Synod Big Day Out – 7th May 2022**

URC Wessex Synod - Big Day Out. Date: 7th May 2022 Time: 11am till 5pm

Venue: Hollycombe Steam Fair and Museum near Liss (Wessex Synod will have sole use of the whole site) Theme: Jubilee: 50th anniversary of the URC

## **Wessex Synod Meeting – Saturday 12 March**

The next meeting of Synod will be Saturday 12th March at London Street URC, Basingstoke. Papers will be available on the Wessex Synod Website from Friday 25th February. We look forward to seeing all Ministers and Church Representatives. Visitors are also welcome to attend.

## **Westminster College Cambridge – online open day**

19th March 2022 – 10.30am Degree programmes, short courses, community, resources, worship. Bursaries available. To express interest please email [office@westminster.cam.ac.uk](mailto:office@westminster.cam.ac.uk)

## **GEAR events – Lent Series on Zoom**

GEAR are hosting a lent series that is open to any individuals and churches who wish to join us. Each week there will be worship, Bible Study, discussion and prayer as we will unpack the aims of GEAR.

Weds 2 March - Growing Close to Jesus, led by Sally Willett

Weds 9 March - Enthusiastic about the Bible, led by Andy Twilley

Weds 16 March - Alive in the power of the Spirit, led by Paul Stokes

Weds 23 March - Reaching out with the good news, led by Ashley Evans

All from 7.30-9pm on Zoom. Contact : [matt.stone@cantab.net](mailto:matt.stone@cantab.net) The sessions (excluding discussion) will be recorded and made available the next day in case churches wish to use them.

## **LAMPS Easter Production – The Passion**

Reach out and remind your community what Easter is all about with a performance of The Passion from Christian theatre company, LAMPS Collective. This powerfully inspiring and accessible production is perfect for outreach and has been touring with great success for the last five years to churches all over the UK. "Your performance last night was one of my most moving spiritual experiences ever" (Rev Tony Rogerson, St James Church, Radley)

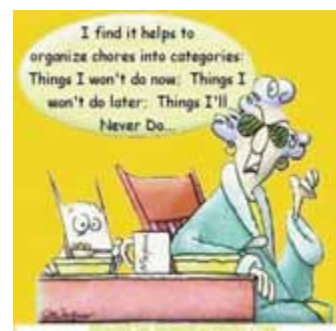
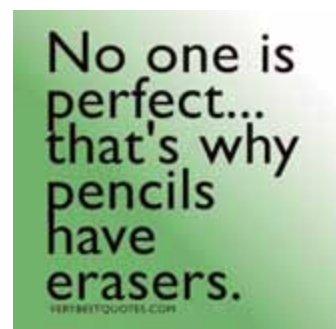
"I would go so far as to call it life changing" (Roger Dennett, Kennington)

Hear the Easter story afresh from the viewpoints of Simon Peter, Mary Magdalen and a Roman centurion named Marcus in this simply staged production which speaks with enormous power.

For more information and details on how to book the show, please see our website [www.lampscollective.com](http://www.lampscollective.com), email [bookings@lampscollective.com](mailto:bookings@lampscollective.com) or call Sam on 0744 333 0240 to see how it might work for you.

## **Good News for Listed Buildings**

Good news to those of you who are custodians of our Listed Chapels and Churches. It has been announced that the Government's Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has been extended for another three years until 31 March 2025. This is the scheme that gives a grant to cover the cost of VAT on repairs, alterations etc. to listed places of worship. Eligible criteria and the Application Form for the scheme continue to be found here: <http://www.lpwsscheme.org.uk/>. The continuation of this scheme will come as welcome news to those of you planning to undertake works after March 2021 when the scheme was due to end.



**Kennet Community Lunch**  
**12.30–1.45 £3**  
**Wednesday 16 March**



We invite you to join us at our  
**Vintage Adventure**

A time of fun, making friends, singing, informal Christian worship, activities, drinks and homemade cakes

For the young at heart in our community  
Inclusive and dementia friendly  
Led by the Churches in Thatcham



This month's activity will be seated exercises – suitable for everyone.

**Thursday, 17 March 2022**  
**2.30-4.00pm**  
**Thatcham Methodist Church**  
(Chapel Street, RG18 4QL)

**Book your place:** contact Karen on 07444 851606 or email: [pastoraldevelopmentworker@outlook.com](mailto:pastoraldevelopmentworker@outlook.com)

# What the papers say...

## **Nurse demoted for wearing a christian cross**

*From The Christian Institute Website, 15th January 2022*

A Roman Catholic nurse, who was harassed by NHS bosses for wearing a small crucifix, has won her discrimination case against a south London hospital trust. Operating theatre nurse Mary Onuoha, 61, was suspended in November 2018 after she rejected a series of attempts to stop her wearing the item.

Senior staff at Croydon University Hospital in south London had claimed it violated the Trust's dress code and posed an "infection risk".

Employment judge Daniel Dyal upheld Onuoha's claim of constructive and unfair dismissal. In his judgment he wrote that the Trust had created a "hostile and threatening environment" that Onuoha found "humiliating" and had been "offensive and intimidating" when the experienced nurse had complained.

The tribunal heard that she had worn the crucifix without incident for more than 14 years before first being asked to remove it in 2014.

Judge Dyal ruled that the Trust's dress code had been applied "in an arbitrary way". He said there was "no cogent explanation" as to why religious attire such as hijabs and turbans were permitted but not "a fine necklace with a small pendant". The judge added: "There has been no evidence, for instance, that these items carry a lower infection risk than a necklace" and noted that, except in the case of the long-serving nurse, "the wearing of non-compliant jewellery was very widely tolerated".

Onuoha was supported by Christian Concern, Wimpole St, London. Its CEO Andrea Williams welcomed the verdict. "It was astonishing that an experienced nurse, during a pandemic, was forced to choose between her faith and the profession she loves".

A spokesman for Croydon Health Services NHS Trust said: "We would like to apologize to Mrs Onuoha". The Trust added: "It is important that NHS staff feel able to express their beliefs, and that our policies are applied in a consistent, compassionate and inclusive way".

## **Protect the most vulnerable on our highways**

*From The Highway Code – a new rule has recently been introduced*

January 2022

New Rule: at a junction you should give way to pedestrians crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which you are turning.

Reminder: drivers and riders MUST give way to pedestrians on a zebra crossing and to pedestrians and cyclists on a parallel crossing. Pedestrians have priority when on a zebra crossing, on a parallel crossing or at light-controlled crossings when they have a green signal.

You should give way to pedestrians waiting to cross a zebra crossing and to pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross a parallel crossing.

Horse riders should also give way to pedestrians on a zebra crossing, and to pedestrians and cyclists on a parallel crossing. Cyclists should give way to pedestrians on shared use cycle tracks and to horse riders on bridleways.

Only pedestrians may use the pavement. Pedestrians include wheelchair and mobility scooter users. Pedestrians may use any part of the road and use cycle tracks as well as the pavement, unless there are signs prohibiting pedestrians.

## **Heat pump bill a third higher than gas boiler**

*From Daily Telegraph, 12th February 2022*

The cost of running a heat pump in an average home will hit more than £1,000 a year for the first time, nearly a third more than a traditional gas boiler. An analysis of Ofgem figures by the Energy and Utilities Alliance, a trade body, has found that when energy bills rise in April, the cost of running a heat pump at the minimum level of efficiency will rise from £919 to £1,251.

This is hundreds of pounds more expensive than a gas boiler, for which prices will climb from £584 to £984.

## **Teachers urged to drop gender honorifics**

*From Daily Telegraph, 15th February 2022*

Pupils should refer to staff as "teacher" instead of Mr or Mrs in an

attempt to eradicate gender in schools, a union-funded training session has said. Elly Barnes, chief executive of the charity Educate and Celebrate, told teachers they should be moving towards a "gender-free model" in a 90-minute lecture organized by the National Education Union. One teacher who attended the session and asked to remain anonymous said: "It was propaganda for trans activists".

## **Lumley: stop jumping on mental illness bandwagon**

*By Craig Simpson, Daily Telegraph, 29th January 2022*

"In general, our culture has become very anti-children, which is not helped by pressure on women to be superheroes".

Mental health issues are being "over-played", because some people who claim to suffer from it are just feeling sad, Dame Joanna Lumley has said.

The actress and campaigner, who supports mental health charities, has claimed many people jump on the "mental illness bandwagon".

Dame Joanna added that there was a difference between being "sad" and being mentally ill, and suggested some people needed to "get a grip".

She said: "This is a horrible thing to say but I think the mental health thing is being overplayed at the moment because anybody who is even remotely sad says they have got mental problems. [Being sad] is what is called being human. When someone dies and you grieve, that's human. That's what being a human is. You're not mentally ill. I think it also is awful [for] people who really are mentally ill or are properly clinically depressed, for everybody to say they've got to have some sort of special treatment. Everyone's claiming the mental illness bandwagon and I think that's wrong".

In an interview with Isabel Oakeshott, a GB News presenter, she added that the British "stiff upper lip and not blubbing" was "much derided".

The star became a dame in the New Year for services to entertainment and charitable causes and has backed mental health charities as part of her remit. She has also talked of her own struggles in her 20s as a single mother raising her

son, Jamie, that led her to walk out on work commitments and revealed she had a breakdown because she feared rifles were being aimed at her in the Garrick theatre in London's West End.

## **Women are too often given reasons not to have children**

*From Daily Telegraph, 29th January 2022*

It saddens me to read that more than half of women are childless by the time they turn 30. I had my first child at 30 and my second at 32. I don't think I would have had my third at 35 were it not for a brief conversation with (name drop), the actress Tamsin Greig, of Friday Night Dinner fame, in the green room of ITV's This Morning.

After telling her that I thought it would be difficult to have the third child I'd always wanted due to work, she replied: "Work won't be thanking you in ten years' time for not having another baby".

It was so refreshing to hear someone so successful encouraging me to prioritize my maternal instincts over my career. The sad truth is that all too often women are given reasons not to have children rather than to have them - everything from career pressure and the cost of childcare to, these days, environmental concerns.

Astonishingly, couples are now being told that it's "selfish" to have children by people who wouldn't be alive if their parents had had that attitude. In general, our culture has become very anti-children, which is not helped by pressure on women to be superheroes, breaking through the glass ceiling with a newborn strapped to their backs.

As every parent knows, there is no career ladder I can climb, no scoop I can land, no TV appearance I can make and no radio show I can present that will beat being a mum.

And that's obviously not to denigrate women who decide not to have children - or indeed cannot have children (I had three years of fertility treatment to become pregnant with my eldest, so I have experience of that unique hell).

But if you want them, have them. Don't put it off, because there is never a "perfect" time.

And certainly, don't let work stand in the way. They won't thank you for it.

# Facebook favourites

Please submit your Facebook favourites to [thatcham.urb@ntlworld.com](mailto:thatcham.urb@ntlworld.com)  
Be sure to download them and then send as attachments – copying and pasting into an email will not work!



"Can you hear the wind in the trees, Tiny Dragon?"

That's nature's way of telling us to take a moment to stop, breathe and just be."

