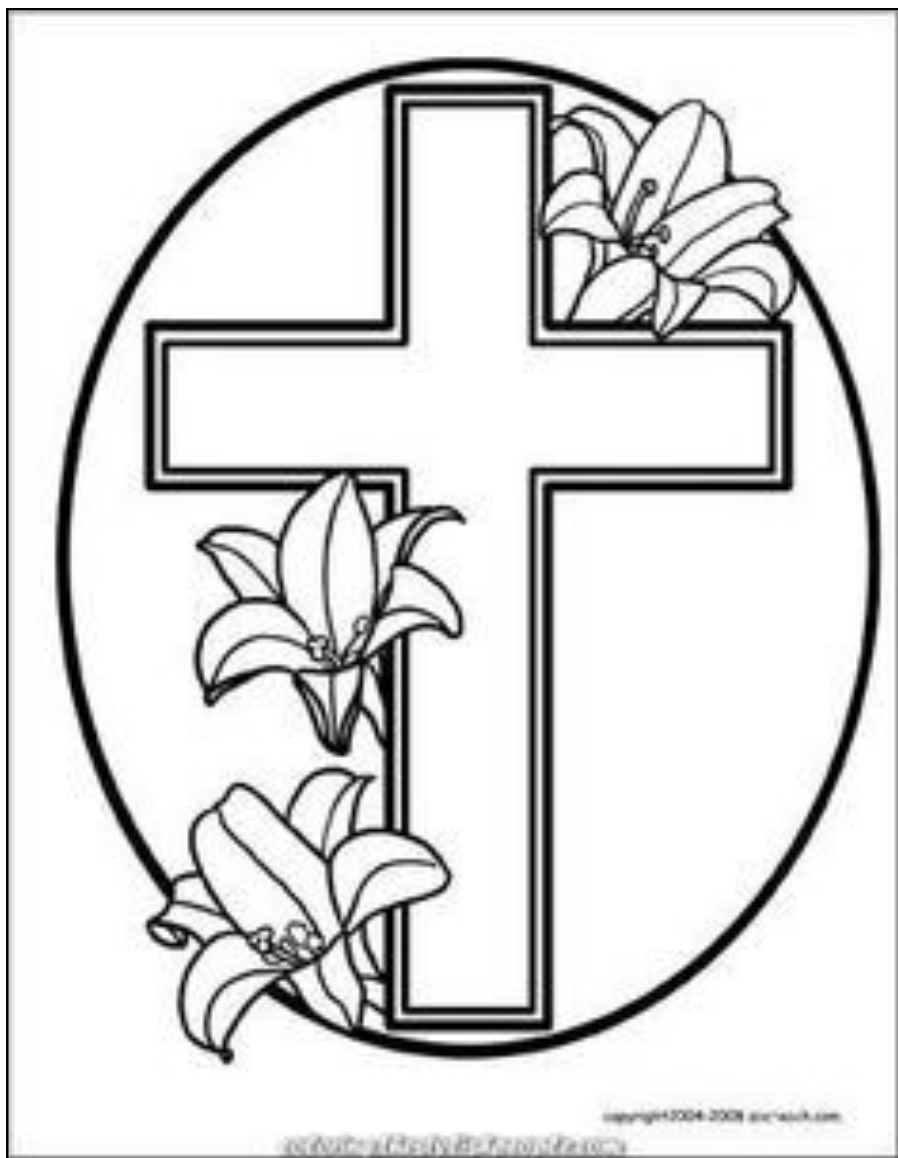


***DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH AND
CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS***



Minister: Rev Simon J Carver, MA, BSc, - simoncarver@btinternet.com

Associate Minister: Rev. Jonny Fillis jonnyf87@aol.com

Church Secretary: Chris Penn

Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley

Property: Ray Saunders

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs

Cross Street: 01727 846891

Bookings: bookings@dsbc.org.uk/01727 568162

Charity Registration Number: 1127791

APRIL SERVICE THEMES

April 5th	Palm Sunday Matthew 21:1-11
April 10th	Good Friday John 17-19
April 12th	Easter Sunday Matthew 28:1-10
April 19th	<i>Peace be with you</i> John 20:19-31
April 26th	<i>Moments of Revelation</i> Luke 24:13-35

Dear Friends,

In writing this letter for our magazine, I feel a connection to those ministers of our church who cared for the members of their congregation during times of war. I am thinking of Alfred Phillips and Edwin Robertson, who ministered during the Second World War and William Hughes who was minister of Dagnall Street for just the years 1914 to 1918.



Mr Hughes was just 26 when he began his ministry in St Albans. He left because he became seriously ill, but after a time of recuperation he went on to have a long career as a minister and he came back to Dagnall Street to preach in 1974, when he marked 60 years as a minister. But back to William Hughes' four years here.

The deacons in those days were a pretty intimidating-looking group. They were all men – it was several years before the first woman was elected as a deacon – and they wore dark suits and most had long beards. William Hughes was much younger and less experienced than them and was a little nervous of them. This changed after one deacons meeting.

On 28th January 1918 an air raid warning sounded. The meeting's minutes read "9.15pm, notice was given of an hostile air raid, and the meeting was terminated." When Mr Hughes came back to the church nearly 60 years later, he remembered that day and how the speed of the departure of these men, who left him to lock up, was a reminder that they were human too.

122 men from the church went off to be part of that war. 113 came home. The names of these nine are on the brass plate on the wall. One of the men who didn't come home was a teenager, little more than a boy. His name is on that brass plate A. Ivory. Arthur Ivory joined the church in February 1916 and died in April 1917.

The church was there throughout these most difficult years.

The promise to those who went off to war in the early Autumn of 1914 was that they would be “home by Christmas”. While we are not at war in 2020, we are certainly living in unprecedented times. There is the promise that it will all be over in 12 weeks ... but maybe not fully for 18 months. The reality seems to be that no one really knows for sure. So we share something of the sense of uncertainty experienced in times of war. Similarly, we also know the feeling of isolation from loved ones, although we have Skype, which would have seemed like magic 100 or so years ago!

Another point of comparison is that the Christian Church is here through *these* difficult times. Clergy and members of churches are looking for creative, meaningful ways in which to support the more vulnerable members of our communities.

We are not living in the same times as those who survived World War II, let alone World War I. The religious landscape is very different today. And yet even the Secular Society has acknowledged that there is a case for clergy to be included as essential workers by dint of the work that Churches do.

We believe that this time will pass and we pray that God – our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble – will keep us safe.

This prayer, with just one word changed – warfare to disease – was written in August 1914.

O God, who has taught us in thy holy Word that thou dost not willingly afflict the children of men: Grant that in the present time of disease and distress of nations our people may know thy presence and obey thy will. Remove from us arrogance and feebleness; give us courage and loyalty, tranquillity and self-control, that we may accomplish that which thou givest us to do, and en

April 2020

dure that which thou givest us to bear; for his sake who was lifted up on the cross to draw all men unto him, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Best wishes

Simon



May you, in spite of your fears,
walk boldly in faith.
May you know in the depths of your being
know how for you God is!
May you embrace your sense of purpose
with hope.
May you walk so intimately with God
that He is able to divinely interrupt your day
whenever it suits Him.

Virtual Church – Church but not as we know it!

Well this is all a bit different, isn't it? I'm sitting in Cross Street by the front window flooded in sunlight and surrounded by silence. I am certainly missing the hustle and bustle of the café on what should be market day. And I am certainly missing seeing all of your faces and hearing your voices on a Sunday morning. I look forward to seeing you all again soon and celebrating together. And yet, as has been said many times before, we believe that Church is not a building. Now is a time when we get to find out whether we actually believe that. Simon, the deacons and I have spent much of the last ten days trying to figure out how we can still be a worshipping, caring, growing, missional community of Christ followers in this strange new land. If you have any ideas please do share. We haven't got it all figured out yet but we wanted to let you know what we have arranged so far:

1. **Recorded Sunday Services** – You become what you worship. As we adjust to this new normal with its challenges and its moments of grace we need to fix our eyes firmly on the God we find in Jesus, the God of Easter. And so, Simon and I will be recording weekly Sunday services, not too different from what we normally do, which will be distributed by email or cd. We hope they will help guide us through this journey. We hope they will help us worship.
2. **Daily Prayers** – The current circumstances provide a unique mix of uncertainty and the potential for boredom. Into these circumstances a regular habit of listening for the voice of God seems as important as ever. To help with this we will be livestreaming midday prayers, Monday-Friday, on Facebook. A simple liturgy will be used so that we can join together as a community seeking God and praying for each other, the church, our country and the world. You don't have to be a member of Facebook to watch (just click on the email link) and again we will be recording the liturgy and burning it onto cd to send to those who don't have internet access.

3. **Enjoying Fellowship** – This one is reliant on you. We may not be able to physically meet but there is no reason we can't pick up a phone. Why not look through the church yearbook and try and ring one person a day just to say hi and see if they are ok! For those of you on Facebook we have also set up a Dagnall Street Baptist Church Facebook group where we are hoping to try and share some of our experiences together, to encourage and challenge and care for one another! Please search for it, join, and share!

Depending on how long these restrictions last, we may yet add more ways for us to be that worshipping, caring, growing, missional Christ-centred community but this is how we will begin. May God use this time to speak to us, to guide us, to grow us, to reveal new insights in what it means to be church, what it means to follow Jesus!

Grace & Peace
Jonny



Church Finances

Our church finances are generally healthy, but we are experiencing a significant loss of income at this time because of all our room lettings having been cancelled. While the majority of our income from the congregation comes through standing orders, we have also lost our 'loose offerings' at Sunday services.

I am conscious that many individuals are experiencing a loss of income at this time, and so it is with some hesitation that I make this request. If you are someone who chooses to make an offering to God at Sunday services, could you consider doing so in a different way?

We are happy to receive bank transfers and the details are below:

60-18-11
42087783

If you decide to make an offering in this way, it is helpful if you are able to email our Finance Manager, Liz Blight, liz-blight@gmail.com, so that she can connect up the entry on our bank statement.

Alternatively, we can still receive cheques and these can be sent to:

Liz Blight
63, Dalton Street,
St Albans
AL3 5QH

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Simon'.

MISSION NEWS

Gift Day - 2020

Information about this year's Gift Day, which will be shared between Houghton Regis Baptist Church's Pioneer worker project on a new Housing development in the town, and Marshalswick Baptist Free Church's redevelopment project, was given in last months magazine. We had a very informative visit from Rev. David Skinner of HRBC who told us all about the project his church is involved in. In essence the project will support the Pioneer worker who will develop community outreach and ministry amongst the many thousands of new people and families into what will be one of the largest housing developments in Bedfordshire. We had planned to hear from Rev. Graham Clarke of MBFC about their redevelopment project during our Church in the Café on April 5th, but unfortunately this will not now happen. However, we do know that Phase 1 of their Project 50, has already begun with foundations for the new external ramp installed in January. The main works, planned to be starting soon, includes the addition of a ramp and remodeled entrance in Sherwood Avenue, re-glazing, and the installation of toilet and kitchenette in the worship area

We have decided to defer Gift Day until later in the year, hopefully in time for us to celebrate our Tercentenary in September. Meanwhile, please remember these projects in your prayers and we will announce a revised Gift Day in due course.

Many thanks.

Chris Penn



UNLOCK WALK
Saturday 25th April

A reminder that we will meet in the 'spirit' of the event on Saturday 25th April, for a 'virtual' tour around Tower Hamlets!

As I write, there is no further information from UNLOCK, but clearly the event will not take place as planned. Hopefully it may take place in the future, but it seems only right that we should try to support UNLOCK in what is a significant fund-raising event for them, (Annual London Walk proceeds fund 87% of their work.)

May I suggest that we continue to commit what we would have sponsored and/or donated, and to do it direct to UNLOCK on line. It was encouraging to see that most of the route maps have already been taken, so hopefully we can generate a good deal of financial support for them at this time.

Chris Penn

The Fillises on the move...



As many of you know, that when we moved to Dagnall Street in the summer of 2017 we knew that it was likely to be for three years. Incredibly, those three years are now nearly up. Which has meant that over the last few months we have been talking to potential churches

about what God has planned for us next. We think that has now been revealed, as we have accepted a call to Haddenham Baptist Church. Haddenham Baptist church is a small village church with a long history of serving the, rapidly growing, village that lies on the Buckinghamshire/Oxfordshire border.

The village is very close to where Bex grew up and will mean that we will be close to family and friends. The church is also seeking to partner with Cornerstone Baptist in Thame, which was the church we attended before entering ministry. Throw in the warm welcome we received from the fellowship, a good match in theology and practise and some helpful timing, and we were left very confident and happy that this is what God had next for us. There are risks and challenges, for instance finances are tight, so we would continue to appreciate your prayers but we are sure this is where we are meant to and is what we are meant to be doing.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our time at DSBC and we thank you for all your friendship, prayer and support. We will miss you all and hope we will be able to keep in touch. We are excited to see what God has in store for all of you as well. But as we don't move until August we are looking forward to creating some more memories with you all and enjoying these last few (covid affected) months.

Grace & Peace

Jonny, Bex and the boys.



PASTORAL NEWS

Rosemary Ware, who is in Tara's Retreat, is becoming very frail and we remember all those who are in need of care and carers. They all need our prayers very much at this time.

We remember too, Brenda and Jack Passmore, Olly and Bri- and Brian Branch and Jenny Johnson.

We give thanks that Richard Humber is out of hospital and on the road to recovery and that Chris Penn is feeling a bit better and we pray for him and Barbara.

Dennis Rowson as started emailing again and is beginning to feel stronger but he and Marie have a long way to go.

Some of our fellowship are awaiting varieties of treatment and care in hospital or at home but have fears that treatment may have to be postponed.

Sue Owen is also undergoing treatment and we pray for her and Colin.

***Dear Lord, we pray for all our church family, at this time.
So much is unknown and feared by us
all....old.....young.....families...all have different needs
and worries just now.
Help us to see your loving reality and to have faith and
hope that all is truly in your hands.***

Leslie and Marjorie Jones

Please note the email address for Leslie and Marjorie:

**raymondjones246@yahoo.com
alwyntroy26@gmail.com**

PASTORAL TEAM

The Ministers, Simon and Jonny, and members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Marjorie and Leslie Jones (01727 841845)), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051), Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), and Ewen Gilhespy (01707 267682) are also active members of the Pastoral Team.

Simon, Jonny and the team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.



Judy Cook

Thankful for the small things

February 2020

www.bmsworldmission.org/jcook



In these times of worry, especially in the light of the health scares in Asia and globally just now, it is all too easy to become discouraged and afraid - and lose our focus on our God who is in control. This does not mean the situations many people are facing in the light of the viral epidemic and its lasting effects on families and economies is not real- it is, but our source of help, protection and comfort is always there in the midst of all circumstances. Prayer crosses all man-made boundaries and unites us in strength and is an expression of our care for others.

In Chiang Mai this last month the air pollution has increased to unsafe levels once more for vulnerable children and adults. We, at Hope Home, endeavour to live life to the full and yet sensibly and safely too. We do what we feasibly can, that is making sure we wear masks when out, air purifiers to clean the air in the children's bedrooms but ultimately we pray and commit the health and well-being of those God has entrusted into our care into the ever open and ever protective hands of God. We look back with amazement and gratitude on last year and can see how God protected our children through one bad pollution season, and now we once more look to His protection over our precious and loved children. Our situation here helps us to remember and pray for those facing much more harsh situations, such as those in China early February, and we join our prayers with multitude others to see a halt to the growing health concerns globally.

In the midst of times such as this it is good to step aside and see the small but significant signs of progress in our children - brought about through the love and care of their supportive families in some cases, and by the daily loving care and nurture of the staff at Hope Home and by their respective school teachers and therapist workers too. Sometimes it takes a visitor returning from a significant period away to point out just how much a child has progressed - sometimes it is a glimpse of an

action or reaction that demonstrates emotional or social maturity growing in a child - these moments of surprise and wonder come as a delight and an encouragement to us to keep on persevering and trusting in the God-given potential in each individual. One day recently, one of our respite care children was happily playing by herself, uninitiated by others, on the play equipment - this is progress, since prior to that she would wait to be invited and helped up - small but significant steps of independence which mean the world to us and to her anxious mother.



One encouragement for me recently seen at Hope Home has been the way the Thai staff are increasingly keen and able to take on new roles and responsibilities and are themselves encouraged at their own growth in confidence and ability. Sometimes it takes outsiders visiting to observe how much they have progressed, as well as the children progressing, but mostly it is the

overall sense of contentment and confidence exhibited by the staff that speaks volumes. Some of the staff are taking education courses in order to complete missed school years and improve their opportunities to live and work in Thailand and we are grateful for the opportunities open to them, especially for those staff who are not ethnic Thai citizens. Pray that they will continue to be motivated to study and gain new knowledge and skills. The Hope Home family is a source of many blessings and I thank God for allowing me to be a part of this amazing 'family'.

Recently my parents and aunt and uncle visited me here in Chiang Mai, and despite their medical and mobility concerns themselves they were able to be a blessing and be blessed by my work colleagues here, both at Hope Home and at the Church of Christ in Thailand AIDS Ministry. For the children and staff it was seen as an encouraging visit from caring grandparents - and for the CAM staff they are welcomed as surrogate parents. It warms my heart so much to see the way my Thai family/ colleagues of CAM and Hope Home welcomed them and helped them. The language of Christian love has no barriers for sure.



Pray for the ongoing health needs of staff and children, especially in this season of pollution and increasing heat.

Pray and praise for continued growth and development in each child, and staff member. Above all pray for each staff member to come to know our Lord and Saviour for themselves in a personal way.

Pray for all people in Thailand already affected by the effects of the viral epidemics, those affected healthwise, as well as economically.

Thank you for the faithful ways you read our letters, pray for us and support us through BMS. May you constantly be aware of God's protective, caring and loving arms wrapped around you, whatever the circumstances you are facing and may we together work and partner to reaching out to others who do not yet know His love. As each new day dawns afresh may we have our eyes and minds opened to see the small things in everyday life to be thankful to God for.

If you would like to support Judy Cook by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

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Dear friends,

Thank you for all your prayers and support over the time of my heart surgery. It was so good that all procedures were completed before the current virus problem arose. The procedure was carried out with the latest techniques with a full recovery expected within 6 weeks. We can't thank the NHS enough for their care.

Richard H



off the mark

by Mark Parisi

www.offthemark.com



Make the One Plant Promise



Do you eat food? Then you can change the world! We take our groceries for granted, but they're a big part of every day for us all and it's easy to forget that what we eat impacts the world in countless ways. Yes, in the modern world our food systems play into most big issues on earth; pollution, poverty, climate change, extinction, animal cruelty, human slavery, waste, public health and more. But as author and activist Michael Pollan famously says: *"The wonderful thing about food is you get three votes a day. Every one of them has the potential to change the world."*

Growing even just a little of your own food starts to put control back in your hands and has countless benefits. Knowing that it's grown naturally without cruelty, waste or pollution, doesn't need packaging, and doesn't travel far to reach you is just the beginning. You also get fresher and often tastier food, it's cheap and easy to do, highly rewarding, gives you fresh air and exercise, and reconnects you with nature in a way that is all but forgotten in modern life. It can even increase your self-reliance in times of trouble.

"But I don't know how!"

There really is nothing simpler than putting a few seeds in some compost, keeping it moist and seeing what happens, and you have little to lose! Plants *want* to grow – they *want* to succeed and fruit and prosper – so many will take care of themselves if you just provide for their basic needs, and the back of the seed pack usually

has a few useful tips too (ALWAYS guidelines, not gospel!). Just like learning to cook, you won't get everything right all the time, but you'll learn as you go along and improve each and every time you try!

“Where do I start?”

- First, identify WHERE you will grow, choosing a spot with as much direct sunshine and natural light as possible. Clear and weed the area if needed, and consider spreading a thin layer of fresh peat-free compost on top before you plant – this isn't absolutely necessary but will give the soil a good boost.

Next, decide WHAT you're going to grow. The easiest crops in our climate are listed below, but of course, think about what you like to eat as well!

- **Potatoes** (especially good for breaking up fresh ground! – buy seed potatoes from a garden centre)
- **Tomatoes** (buy young plants and put out after risk of frost has passed – provide support and feed fortnightly for best results)
- **Courgettes** (sow indoors in late April or buy young plants – put out after risk of frost has passed – feed fortnightly for best results)
- **French beans** (climbing or dwarf – may require support – really easy from seed)
- **Beetroots** (the easiest of all! Sow seeds or buy seedlings)
- **Swiss chard** (use it in anything where you'd use spinach – but it's much easier to grow! Sow seeds or buy seedlings)
- **Lettuce/salad leaves** (but be aware that rocket and other spicy/oriental leaves prefer cool weather and won't do well in summer – sow in earliest spring or autumn instead)

•

“I don't have the space!”

Fear not! Many useful crops can be grown in pots on your patio,

front drive or balcony, and some people grow significant amounts of food this way. Focus on crops that give a continuous harvest for a period, such as tomatoes, beans, and salad greens, and be sure to water (and feed) well as pots dry out faster than the earth.

“I don’t have the time!”

It’s true that caring for a whole veg plot can take a lot of time, but it’s easy to start small and there are other options too. Low-maintenance perennial crops such as fruit bushes, strawberries, rhubarb or woody herbs only need adequate water and an annual tidy-up. Another time-saving tip is to buy veg plants from a garden centre to cut out the fiddly tasks of raising seedlings. Once they’re planted at home, many veg need little care other than watering – and picking the food of course!

“My garden’s too shady!”

Leafy crops are a good choice for shady plots; try lettuces, rocket, cabbage, kale, spring onions, spinach or chard. If your plot gets sunlight for half the day most root crops will be okay too; potatoes, carrots and beetroots are all well worth a try, and so are peas and broad beans.

“But what about pests?”

A healthy garden has a huge variety of creepy crawlies in it, and yes, sometimes some of them might develop a taste for your precious crops; however ladybirds, hoverflies, ground beetles and their larvae eat aphids and other pests by their thousands (frogs, newts and hedgehogs help too), so having a diverse garden with a good variety of flowers and a ban on harmful pesticides can really help. It’s also helpful to check on your plants regularly and remove (or squish) any aphids or green caterpillars you spot on your crops while the problem is still small. If the problem is bigger, a mild soap solution can be sprayed on aphids and similar to kill them, but be very careful as it can kill beneficial insects too. Slugs are usually a problem when plants are young or weak, but you can protect seedlings with barriers of copper tape or crunched tinfoil, set beer traps

to lure them away, use organic slug pellets, or simply go out with a torch after dark and collect them up.

What are you waiting for?

Now is the perfect time to get started. Grow a little something this year and see how rewarding, healthy and delicious it can be!

Starting April 4th, FoodSmiles St Albans is running a campaign encouraging St Albans and District residents to grow just one edible plant variety and eat it – every one makes a difference! Why not sign up at the web address below and challenge yourself to grow just one edible crop this year?

www.foodsmilesstalbans.org.uk/p/st-albans-one-plant-promise.html



Brain Trainer

EASY	16	x2	+4	x2	+9	x6	DOUBLE IT	+8	x5	+6	ANSWER
MEDIUM	28	x5	+6	DOUBLE IT	+8	+1/2 OF IT	+20	-1/2 OF IT	HALF OF IT	+5	ANSWER
HARDER	343	-13	TRIPLE IT	+6	-2/3 OF IT	+4	+5	x3	-1/2 OF IT	x7	ANSWER

Polygon



From these letters, make words of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the Concise Oxford Dictionary; excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. How you rate 10 words, average: 14, good; 18, very good; 23, excellent

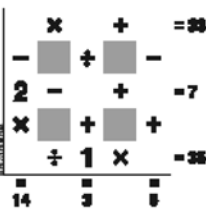
Yesterday's answers
attend, date, daunt, dean, dent, dust,
dune, dunt, dust, nude, sand, sedan, send,
stand, statued, stead, stud, student,
stunted, sundae, tend, tendu, unstated,
untasted, used, ustad

Cell Blocks No 3792



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

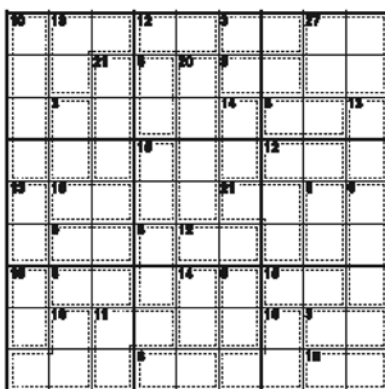
Set Square No 2612



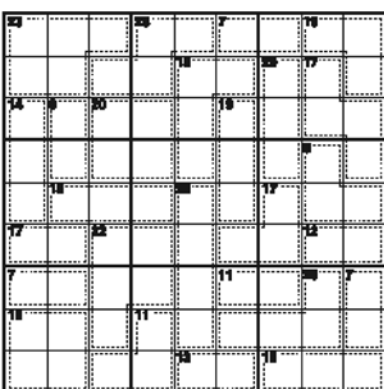
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Moderate No 7057



Killer Deadly No 7058



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Clues: Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

BIBLE READING **APRIL**

	Monday	Tuesday	
30 th March -3 rd April	Psalm 143 1 Kings 17:17-24 Acts 20:7-12	Psalm 143 2 Kings 4:18-37 Ephesians 2:1-10	Jerem
6 th April – 10 th April	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36	
13 th April – 17 th April	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21; Colossians 3:5-11	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Exodus 15:1-18 Colos- sians 3:12-17	Psalm
20 th April – 24 th April	Psalm 114 Judges 6:36-40 1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Psalm 114 Jonah 1:1-17 1 Corinthians 15:19-28	P
27 rd April – 1 st May	Psalm 134 Genesis 18:1-14 1 Peter 1:23-25	Psalm 134 Proverbs 8:32-9:6 1 Peter 2:1-3	

SCRIPTURE TEXTS FOR APRIL

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Psalm 143 Isaiah 32:1-9, 36-41 Mat- thew 22:23-33</p>	<p>Psalm 31:9-16 1 Samuel 16:11-13 Philippi- ans 1:1-11</p>	<p>Psalm 31:9-16 Job 13:13-19 Philippians 1:21-30</p>
<p>Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32</p>	<p>Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35</p>	<p>Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1-19:42</p>
<p>Isaiah 118:1-2, 14-24 Josh- ua 3:1-17 Matthew 28:1-10</p>	<p>Psalm 16 Song of Solomon 2:8-15 Co- lossians 4:2-5</p>	<p>Psalm 16 Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3 1 Corinthians 15:1-11</p>
<p>Psalm 114 Jonah 2:1-10 Matthew 12:38-42</p>	<p>Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 25:1-5 1 Peter 1:8b-12</p>	<p>Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 Isai- ah 26:1-4 1 Peter 1:13-16</p>
<p>Psalm 134 Exodus 24:1-11 John 21:1-14</p>	<p>Psalm 23 Exodus 2:15b-25 1 Peter 2:9-12</p>	<p>Psalm 23 Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20 1 Peter 2:13-17</p>

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE?

“All things work together for good ... “

Romans 8:28

Have you had a bad day recently?

“Enjoy” this one, as written up by Rebecca Dudley, editor of *News Tribune*:

Paul Johnson, 37, a mechanic from Maitland, had a day to forget last Tuesday.

During the morning, he pushed his motorcycle from the patio into his living room, where he began to clean the engine with some rags and a bowl of petrol.

When he finished, he sat on the motorcycle and decided to start it to make sure everything was still OK. Unfortunately, the bike started in gear, and crashed through the glass patio door with him still clinging to the handlebars.

His wife had been working in the kitchen. She came running at the noise, and found him crumpled on the patio, badly cut from the shards of glass. She called the emergency services, and the paramedics transported Paul to the emergency room.

Later that afternoon, after many stitches had pulled her husband back together, the wife brought him home and put him to bed. She cleaned up the mess in the living room, and dumped the bowl of petrol in the toilet. Shortly thereafter, her husband woke up, lit a cigarette, and went into the bathroom. He sat down and tossed the cigarette into the toilet, which promptly exploded because the wife had not flushed the petrol away. The explosion blew Mr Johnson through the bathroom door.

The wife heard the explosion and her husband's screams. She ran into the hall and found him lying on the floor with his trousers blown away and burns on his buttocks.

April 2020

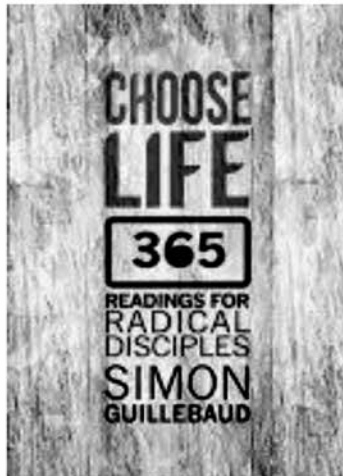
She again ran to the phone and called for an ambulance. The same two paramedics were dispatched to the scene. They loaded Paul on the stretcher and began carrying him to the street. One of them asked the wife how the injury had occurred. When she told them, they began laughing so hard that they dropped the stretcher, and broke Mr. Johnson's collarbone.

Nothing profound today – maybe just some perspective!
Thank God he's with you "for better or for worse!"

A Prayer: Lord, I choose to laugh today. Amen!

From: CHOOSE LIFE (365 readings for radical disciples)
by Simon Guillebaud.
Published by Monarch Books.
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Submitted by *Ewen Gilhespy*
(Co-ordinator of Bible Reading Notes)



Over 70's Self Isolate !!

So what are us active people going to do with our time?

*Psychology says that **routine** is important.*

*We also need **purpose**.*



Seeing as it is not possible to sleep for 4 months and wake up to being allowed to socialise can I suggest some things to consider.

Make a **schedule** for each day with interesting and challenging things to do.

1/ **Exercise** is important there are lots of routines on YouTube and CD's. We all need to do at least 20 minutes a day. There are chair aerobics for those not able to stand. We should be allowed to go for walks or a jog if we keep away from other people.

2/ Take up a **new hobby**.

3/ **Phone** friends and relatives especially if you live alone.

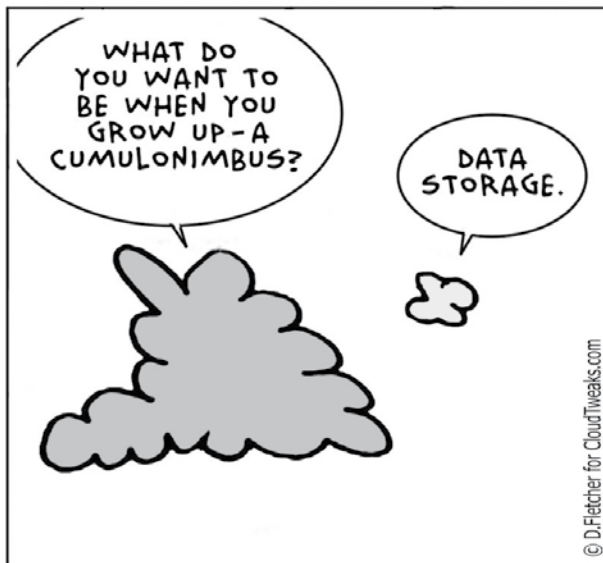
4/ Use **social media** to contact friends and family.

5/ **Learn** some new skill that is challenging. It is possible to study for a degree on line, learn a new subject - the internet has lots of possible ways of learning.

6/ We have time to meditate and grow in our **relationship with God**. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness. It is possible to look at any aspect of the Christian faith and find videos, speakers, articles and even get into contact with these people to ask questions.

7/ Pray for those in worse situations to ourselves.
These are my challenges – Try to play the piano. Try to speak Swahili. Take up painting. Listen to speakers on different Christian topics. Wonder about starting a Theology degree but that seems taking it a bit too far!!

Noreen



Thameslink

If you are traveling on the train and are not already aware, Thameslink has partly declassified first class on most of its trains meaning anyone can use those seats. Note that the front carriage of the faster trains is still reserved for first class ticket holders only but the rear carriage is usually open to everyone. The slower trains are generally fully declassified. Check the Thameslink website in advance or look on the overhead signs at the station for the words “first class front” or (on the slower trains) “no first class available” to be sure of the rules for your train if you want to travel in a bit more comfort.

Megan Thompson



Umbrella -Lost and found



I'm standing at a lofty height
As raindrops catch the evening light
In my canopy I'm dressed
It really is the season's best
I have a story as you'll see
My spokes are first rate quality
They're covered in a silky strand
That's tied within a woven band

The craftsman who created me
Was warranted by Royalty
In his workshop I was made
And when complete I was displayed
In the window, what is more
Of a grand department store
Located on a London street
Well patronised by the elite

I revelled in my new-found fame
With each day passing just the same
When I was purchased, full of pride
I took it all within my stride
My owner caught a hat and cane
And hurried for her homeward train
She climbed aboard and then was gone
But I was left on platform 1!

I stayed there feeling quite forlorn
Getting trampled, kicked and torn
At last somebody noticed me
And took me to Lost Property
Where wedged between a stick and bag
My spirits soon began to sag
I really looked a sorry state
All I could do was watch and wait

Many hours then passed away
I feared that I was there to stay
Until a voice called out my name
My anxious owner- in she came
She scooped me off the dusty floor
And took me forward through the door
She carried me along the lane
I knew we wouldn't part again

As we walked the cloudy sky
Darkened as a storm drew nigh
As the rain began to fall
I answered to my owner's call
My canopy with wind proof trim
Had been restored from tip to rim
And there I was, held by her hand
The finest broolly in the land!

Megan Thompson 2020





CHURCH & CENTRE ROOM BOOKINGS

To contact Danny Smith regarding Church and Centre room booking enquiries:

Tel: 01727 844348

email: bookings@dsbc.org.uk



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Due to these very strange times we have suspended all our regular activities.

As soon as we are able to resume we will make sure you know and messages will be sent out.



Information will be found on Facebook and on our website and in this magazine.

Please keep safe.





A Message from Adrian Whalley at Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week 2020 is still going ahead but this will be a Christian Aid Week like no other. Whilst a number of key activities will not be taking place in May - all H2H is off, including our use of the delivery-only envelopes. Similarly, all Christian Aid-related meetings are off as well. We are working with supporters and volunteers to identify alternative ways of raising funds, acting and praying on behalf of those living in poverty - both during Christian Aid Week and later in the year. Please do let me know if you have any ideas to add into the mix. I understand that there is to be an email sent on 3 April (Friday next week) from HQ to organisers with a whole list of alternative fundraising ideas of things that we can do but within the latest government safety guidelines.

With regards to your order, this will have gone into an automatic hold for now. We are still working through the best way forward in regards to orders for materials looking at government advice and how to keep our supporters safe whilst we identify alternative ways of raising funds, acting and praying on behalf of those living in poverty both during Christian Aid Week and later in the year.

We will be in touch with supporters who have placed orders for materials shortly to let you know what's happening. Thank you for your patience whilst we work this out!

You can see the latest news on the website which is here <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/christian-aid-week/coronavirus-guidance>



April 2020



**'Treat the Earth
well. It was not
given to you by
your parents. It
was loaned to you
by your children.'**

- Ancient proverb



Michael Junior, 4, is learning
how to plant a tree sapling
in Kenya, to help care for
the environment.

Christian Aid is a registered charity in the UK and Ireland. In the UK, it is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (charity no. 1105821) and the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (charity no. SC091340). In Ireland, it is registered with the Charities Regulator (charity no. 151715). Christian Aid is also a registered charity in the USA (charity no. 52-0911044) and in Canada (charity no. 98014162). The Christian Aid name and logo are trademarks of Christian Aid and are used exclusively on material authorised by the Regulator. © Christian Aid (December 2019) 1105821

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2nd—Denise Tromans

8th—Diane Saunders

26th— Julia Plant



To continue my series on how giving to the BMS Birthday Scheme changes people's lives, I'm writing about how it changes the lives of children.

Joy is 10 and has cerebral palsy, which makes her life very difficult as she fights diseases like pneumonia. She lives in Hope Home in Thailand, which we as a church support. When Judy Cook, the BMS nurse, first met her, she had pneumonia and weighted 5kg. Last year she had 2 major surgeries, a tracheotomy, to reduce her regular battle with pneumonia, and gastric feeding tube to provide her with steady nutrition. Judy says that she "lives up to her name in full". She "smiles and laughs through the toughest times". The benefits of the operations are being seen as she has only been in hospital twice since then and has had fewer sick days.

Your gifts to the scheme mean that Joy and other children are receiving the care and support they need. Thank you for giving on your birthday.

I wish all those with birthdays this month, a very Happy Birthday and good health in these difficult days.

Linda Williams



April 2020



Good Friday Walk

SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT RECOMENDATIONS AT THE TIME, our walk this year will be around Wheathampstead and Gustard Wood.

This will be preceded by a picnic lunch in the small park in the village centre by the bridge (like 2016), where there are several benches (which are several metres apart !).

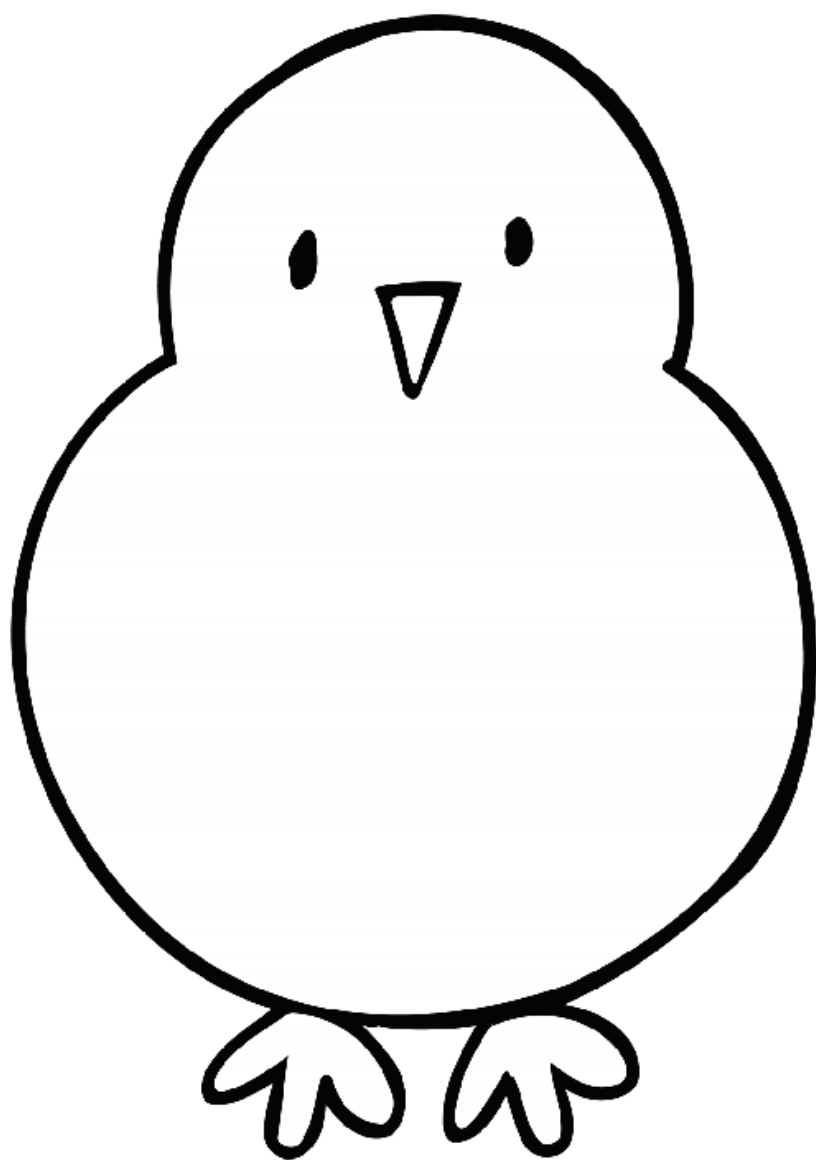
There will be socially-distanced walks of various lengths and difficulties available: a 4.5 mile walk or a choice of shorter 1 or 2 mile walks.

Alternatively, just join us for the socially-distanced picnic lunch and fellowship.

We will meet in the large public car park behind The Bull pub (where there are public toilets) at 12:15 for lunch and then back again at 13:00 to meet anyone just walking.

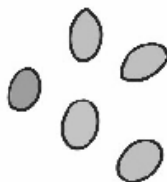
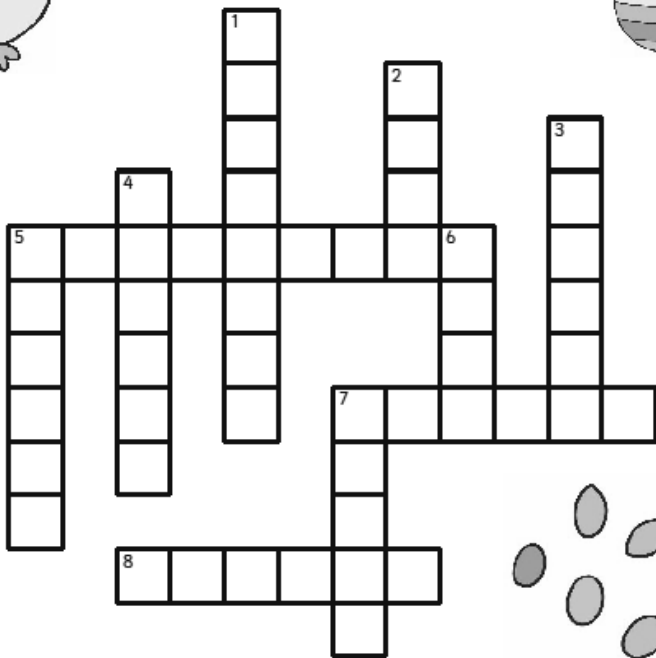
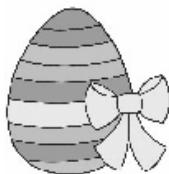
For further information, speak to Colin Owen.

P.S. If you want to know where and what Owen's Corner is, come and join us on Good Friday!





Easter Crossword



Across

5. Easter eggs are often made out of this treat!
7. Collect your eggs in this.
8. The season in which Easter is celebrated.

Down

1. Cheerful, yellow spring flower.
2. You may go on an Easter egg ...
3. Show off your Easter bonnet at one!
4. You may wear one in the Easter parade.
5. These hatch out of real eggs.
6. We give chocolate ones at Easter.
7. Will he visit you this year?



9 STEPS TO CLEAN HANDS

1. USE SOAP

2. PALM TO PALM

3. BACK OF HANDS

4. BETWEEN FINGERS

5. BASE OF THUMBS

6. FINGERNAILS

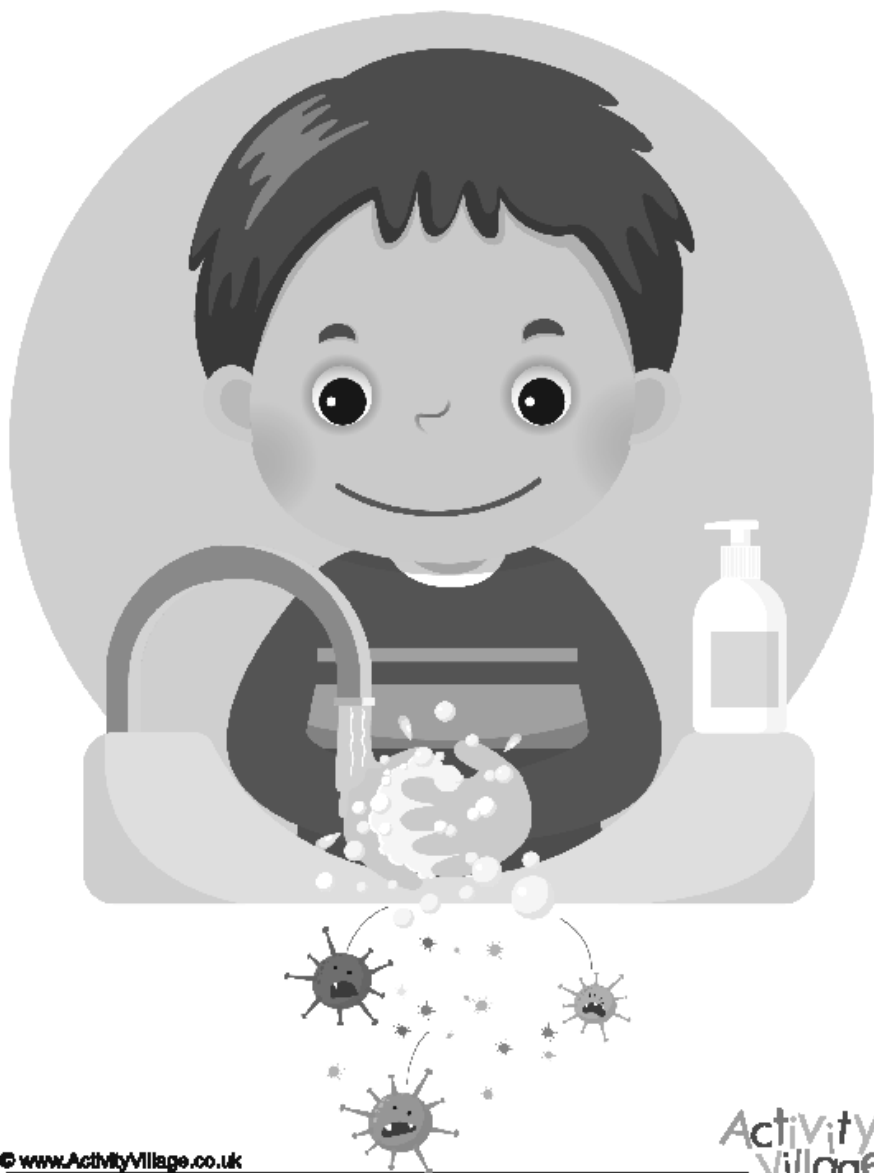
7. WRISTS

8. RINSE WELL

9. DRY HANDS



Please Wash Your Hands!





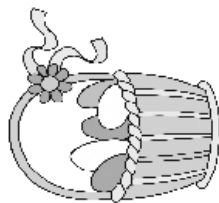
Easter Alphabet Challenge

Can you come up with an Easter themed word for each letter of the alphabet?



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

Easter Letter Elimination Grid



As you solve the clues below, cross out the letters from the answers in the grid. When you have solved all the clues correctly, every letter will be crossed out. You can use each letter only once.

Hint: start with the clues that you find easiest. If you get stuck, look at the remaining letters in the grid for a nudge.

1. This animal brings the Easter eggs!
2. We might eat a chocolate one at Easter.
3. Baby bird we associate with Easter.
4. We might put our eggs in one.
5. You might decorate one to wear on your head for an Easter parade.

G	E	B	C	T
N	U	H	T	I
B	N	A	N	S
G	O	C	E	Y
N	K	B	K	E

Dear Readers

The copy date for the May magazine will be Thursday, 17th April. This date will probably be flexible but I will do my very best to get a magazine out in these difficult times. As you can see the magazine is a bit later this month as the content had to be just right.

I hope everyone is keeping well and keeping their spirits up. I decided to clean out my cupboard under the stairs. Wish I had never started! I now have a hallway and dining room full of rubbish and nowhere to take it (the Waste Centre is shut). But I have a tidy cupboard! And I can look forward to getting rid of the rubbish in the future.

The streets outside are very quiet. I will have to venture out tomorrow to get some milk. Just a short walk to the centre of the village. It will be quite nice to see some human beings in the flesh, if only at a distance.

Please call or email me if you have any queries, also if you just need a chat or if there is anything I can do for you.

See you on the other side!

Happy Easter

Glynis

glynis.griffiths1@gmail.com

01462 733665

07709 618571

What, When and Where April 2020

As I sit down to write up the programme of Church events for April 2020, advice from HM Government regarding Covid 19 has just been issued.

“As a nation we are to avoid large gatherings in smaller public places; we are to avoid gatherings with friends and family; we are to keep in touch using remote technology such as phone, internet and social media.”

So, our usual list of events, and activities for the foreseeable future and in particular during Lent and Easter is in abeyance. However, thanks to the initiative of Simon and Jonny, with invaluable support from our ‘tech savvy’ communications team, our worship services will continue, not in church but on the internet via an email link and CD versions will also be available by request. In addition, there will be a short daily prayer service streamed live from Monday to Friday. Some of these services will include communion, and we will clearly need to be creative in the way we “share” the bread and wine.

Sadly, for the foreseeable future, our regular activities, like Daycare, Toddlers, Messy Church, Who Let the Dad’s Out, Scrabble, Knitting, Games, Church in the Café, Muffins with Mums etc. will cease.

For now, our phones, internet and social media are our means of keeping in fellowship with one another, and for now, a reminder of some of the key dates for April:

Sunday 5 Palm Sunday Service 10.30am

Friday 10 Good Friday Service 10.15am

Sunday 12 Easter day Service 10.30am