

new winepress

40p

March & April 2020



Christ Church Orpington

Devoted to Christ – Dedicated to Community

Sharon's Sharings

I love the month of March. We have put behind us the dark, grey, winter months of January and February, and the beginning of March sees longer and lighter days, bringing the vibrant colours of Daffodils, crocuses and the hope of spring. Then as the month progresses, gardens become a riot of colour as tulips, Azaleas, Camellias and a whole host of life bursts forth until March finally gives way to April and we feel the hope of the warmth of summer just around the corner.

Hope. Without hope human beings shrivel. Without hope, life starts to become almost meaningless. Those who sit on death row, or live the sentence of life imprisonment away from those they love, know what it is like to be hope-less. Even the rich and famous with enough money to buy all they want and Californian sunshine aren't exempt from lack of hope.

Yet we have a God who holds out His hands to all with the offer of hope. Hope that this is not all there is. Hope that life has a meaning. Hope that one day everything will make sense, and pain and suffering will end.

In the Bible hope is mentioned explicitly about 150 times (dependent on translation), but hope is present all through the bible, from the very beginning of God's dealings with humanity.

When God names the first descent of men from Adam and Noah in Genesis, the ancient people who understood what each name meant, would have read this genealogy and understood the hope that

God was speaking to them:

*Adam = Man

Seth = Appointed

Enosh = Miserable

Kenan = Sorrow

Mahalel = The blessed God

Jared = Shall come down

Enoch = Teaching

Methusaleh = His death shall bring

Lamech = The despairing

Noah = Rest and Comfort

Man appointed miserable sorrow, the Blessed God shall come down teaching. His death shall bring the despairing rest and comfort...

Hope. From the very beginning God set hope in the names of the fathers of the human race. Hope that when Adam sinned, God had a plan to restore our hope and a way out of our hopelessness and restore us back to Himself and eternal life. As God said through the prophet Jeremiah "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future..."

And that is exactly what we have in God, both hope for today, and hope for a future with Him.

The story goes there was once a wise woman who was travelling in the mountains who found a precious stone in a stream. The next day she met another traveller who was hungry, and the wise woman opened her bag to share her food. The hungry traveller saw the precious stone glinting in the bottom of her bag and asked the woman if he could have it. She gave it to him without hesitation. The traveller left, rejoicing in his good fortune. He knew the

stone was worth enough to give him security for a lifetime. But a few days later he came back to return the stone to the wise woman.

“I’ve been thinking,” he said, “I know how valuable the stone is, but I give it back in the hope that you will give me something even more precious. Give me what it is within you that enabled you to give me the stone.

We have a God who holds out His hands waiting to give us one of the most precious things in life. Hope and a future through Jesus Christ. If you have this hope, please give it to those who don’t. And if you don’t have this hope, please come and ask somebody to give it to you.



With much love,

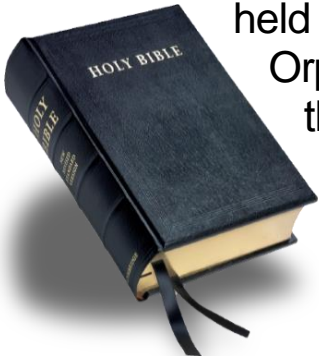
Sharon x

Vicar of Christ
Church, Orpington

*Chuck Missler
<https://www.khouse.org/articles/2000/284/>

“Behind the Bible”

In 2019 a series of 8 sessions were held at Christ Church Orpington, based on the Bible Society’s “A Bible Course”.



We are following up in 2020 with a further series of four talks, given by Bob Kendall, called **“Behind the Bible”**, about how the Bible was written.

We believe the Books of the Bible were written by God’s people who were inspired by God. The process started over 4000 years ago; gradually the 66 different books were built up to become Holy Scripture.

But how did this happen? Who wrote them? When? In what language, originally? And into what languages was the Bible text translated? How was the complete Bible formed over the years? And who translated it into the English language, for us to read and understand today?

All these questions, and more, will be dealt with. And there will definitely be a chance for audience participation and questions!

- Session 1: From Hebrew to the Tanakh
Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th March
- Session 2: From Greek to the Canon
Tuesday 31st March, Thursday 16th April
- Session 3: From the Scroll to the Print
Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd April
- Session 4: From Tyndale to 2020
Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th May

The format will be similar to the 2019 course.

Four Talks, on Tuesday mornings during the Community Club meeting time (11am-12pm), which are repeated and extended on Thursday evenings (8pm-9.15pm)

All at Christ Church!

Burns Night Ceilidh

Saturday 1st February

A Big Thank You to those who helped set the hall up for the evening as we only had an hour as the previous kid's party in the hall finished at 6pm. Most people arrived by 7pm and settled at their tables. At 7.15pm we had the "March of the Haggis" led by Colin and James Beesley with everyone clapping to the pipe music. Colin Beesley recited the "Address to the Haggis" written by Robert Burns. Colin bought three large normal haggis, one vegetarian and one gluten-free and all were eaten! We noticed that the folks who said they were not sure about eating haggis and clapsnot ended up having seconds! We provided a cold buffet as well along with Scottish smoked salmon, oatcakes, cheeses and Scottish shortbread with a wee dram of whisky if desired!



At 8.15pm Angela Campbell and her friend Deidre from the Scottish Caledonian Society started the Ceilidh with a Northumberland Reel followed by a number of different Scottish dances. Nearly everyone of the

70 attendees spent the next 2.5 hours on their feet dancing even the folks who said they could not dance! We have the photo evidence!!



We have had amazing feedback from the attendees regarding the delicious food and how much they enjoyed the dancing. It appears they would all like a repeat next year!

To top it all we also raised £200 to go to the Alzheimers Society!

Thank you to everyone for making this a most enjoyable evening.

Katrina & Colin Beesley

Who Wrote the 4 Gospels?

Well, this is one of the easier questions. And yes, the names of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are very well known. They are at the start of the New Testament. But they were not the first books to be written – Paul’s letters beat them to it.

WHY? Jesus was born in the year 0 (that was how the numbering of the years was decided...somewhat later, based on the date of Jesus’ birth. In fact the Civil Servants were probably four or five years out, but that’s not critical). He died around 33 A.D. In the 40s and 50s Paul embarked on his travels, and wrote several letters to various Christian communities – many, but by no means all of these, are now in our Bible.

WHAT NEXT? The stories of Jesus were of course spoken about, passed on to Jews and Gentiles who became Christians, and were obviously well known. There would have been some written notes of the events and particularly Jesus’ sayings, but no official records. The expectation was that Jesus would return, as his Second Coming, pretty soon. But this did not happen. And many of Jesus’ disciples and followers had died naturally, or moved away, or were killed around 64 A.D. by Nero who blamed the Christians for the Roman fire. So it was decided: we need to write down all the knowledge we have about Jesus, before it’s too late.

MARK’S GOSPEL. This is the second in order, but almost certainly the first to be completed. John Mark lived in Jerusalem, with his mother (see Acts 12 v 12); he

went along with Paul at one stage, though things did not work out well. He was traditionally close to Simon Peter (1 Peter 5 v 13), who of course had closer access to Jesus than anyone. Mark probably made notes in Rome when Peter was telling him all about the Messiah – this makes his material very reliable.

One of the early Church leaders, Irenaeus, wrote: “After Peter and Paul died, Mark, Peter’s disciple, has himself delivered to us in writing the substance of Peter’s preaching.”

An amusing story in the Gospel (Mark 14 v 51-52) is thought to be referring to Mark himself. We don’t know, but it could be. A bit like the film producer Alfred Hitchcock always giving himself a small walk-on part in his own films! This Gospel is the action one, always breathlessly catching on to Jesus’ next activity – Mark focuses more on what Jesus did than what he said.

MATTHEW’S GOSPEL. Matthew was a disciple of Jesus, originally a tax collector working for the Roman overseers. Most scholars think that Matthew drew on Mark’s Gospel for some of his material, but also Luke and Matthew have similar features. Not very much is known about the author.

The gospel is very clearly written for Jewish people, by a Jew. Jesus is presented as the long-awaited Messiah, predicted in the Old Testament. There are copious references to the Jewish Bible, and Jesus is portrayed mainly as a teacher, fulfilling the Old Testament.

LUKE'S GOSPEL. If you read last September's New Winepress you can see that Luke – the doctor, and travelling companion of Paul, was the author – Part One, with Acts of the Apostles as Part Two.

You are not surprised Luke was a medical man. He emphasises Jesus' compassion, in salvation but also in the way he deals with ordinary people – the sick, the poor and needy, the women, the outcasts of society. Luke was almost certainly a Gentile, possibly from Antioch in Syria. He knew Mark well (Colossians 4 v 10 & 14; Philemon v 24), and used that Gospel as a major source. He probably also used similar material to Matthew – they may well have seen the same earlier-written records. But Luke was the better scribe, and the quality of his Greek prose is apparently outstanding. It is just as well he did not suffer from doctors' traditional bad handwriting!

The 4th Gospel, **ST. JOHN**, is somewhat different from the first three. If you imagine Mark as the racy Daily Mail, Matthew as the traditional Daily Telegraph, Luke as the socially aware Guardian, John's Gospel is The Times' weekend magazine (N.B. This is the writer's general guide and not a theological commentary on the quality of the publications!), looking back as an overview rather than including every detail).

Thus John concentrates more on the meaning of what happened – he chooses a few of Jesus' miracles and calls them "signs", i.e. showing who Jesus was. No

parables, but a number of key sayings, starting "I am..." Most of the material happened in Jerusalem rather than Galilee, as in the other three gospels.

John calls himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved", and with Peter and James was closest to Jesus. He was a fisherman, brother of James, son of Zebedee and Salome (who herself was a close follower of Jesus). There are several hints that their fishing business was a flourishing one. Was John originally a follower of John the Baptist? (see John 1 v 35 & 40). Most likely. Did he have special access to the High Priest? (John 18 v 15-16). Almost certain.

John lived in Ephesus for many years, looking after Mary the mother of Jesus. He was clearly revered by the early Christians, and probably wrote three later letters, and the book of Revelation – not certain, the style is not the same, but John may well have had a secretary to help him if, as seems likely, these books were written later. Whatever, John was the last of the Gospels to be written, as a more distant overview of the life of Jesus.

By the way, you can ignore the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, the Gospel of Thomas, and many others. No conspiracy theory – the reason they are not in our Bible is simple: the early Christians thought the four we have were the best. How wonderful that we have four different yet totally fascinating records of the life and times of our Saviour.

Bob Kendall

THE TOMB IS EMPTY

Cold and dim the room
Carved into solid
rock.
They laid him in
the tomb,
They rolled
across a
stone
That one
alone
Could not
remove, and
sealed
And guarded
it.
But all in vain -
He rose
again.
I went and saw
the spot.
I bent to enter
in and in the
gloom
I gazed and
gazed
Upon that empty

shelf -

So still - in awe -
Then, leaving, looked,
And on the door
Saw
Words which leapt upon my eyes
And stilled my sighs.

He is not here - but risen!

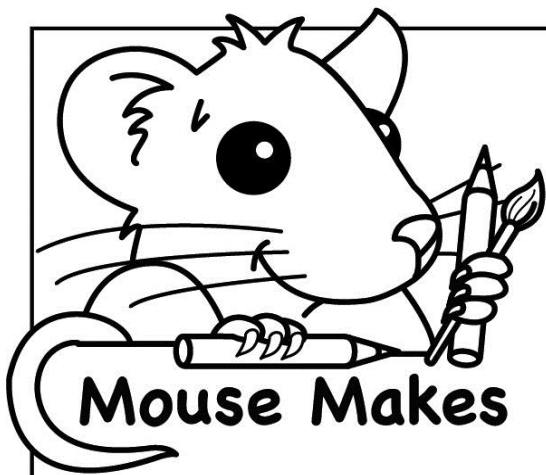
Surprised!

I knew - but
had not fully
realised
The
wonder of
it all.

And full of
sudden
praise
I stepped
outside,
was
bathed in
rays
Of brilliant
sunshine
To see the
world with
different
eyes.

© M.R.G., June 2003

This poem was inspired by the title of a book called THE TOMB IS EMPTY by Clem Clack. I was looking for another book but pulled this one out of my bookcase by mistake and having been thinking about Easter, was struck by the title.



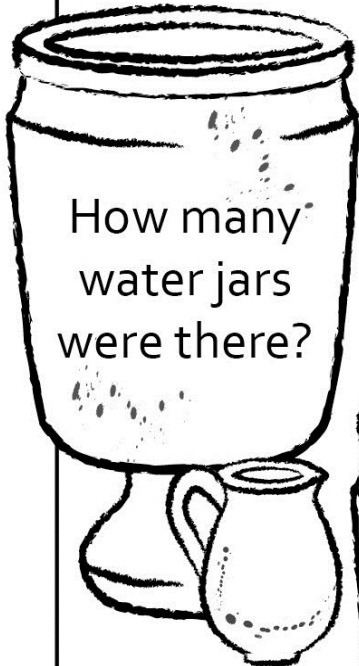
Mouse Makes

Jesus, his disciples and his mother Mary had been invited to a wedding. The wedding was to last a week, but too soon the wine had all been drunk.

READ John 2:1-11 to find out what happened.



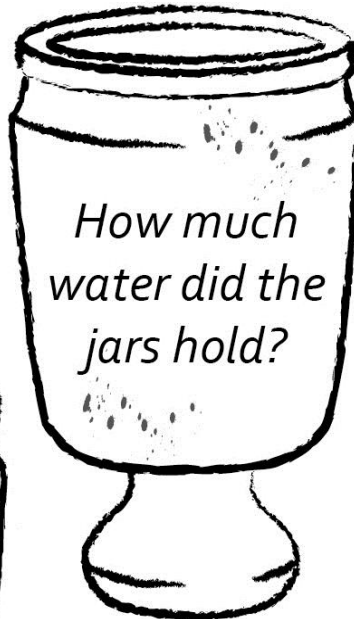
Where was the wedding?



How many water jars were there?



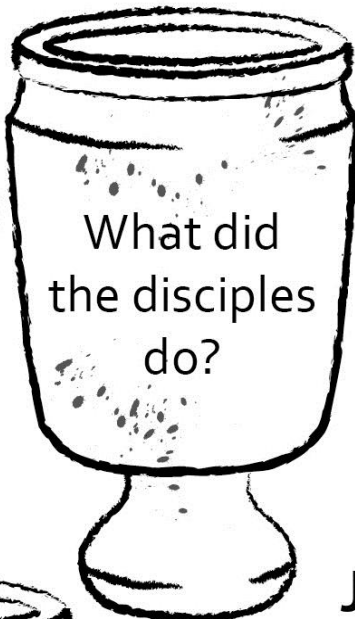
What were the water jars made of?



How much water did the jars hold?

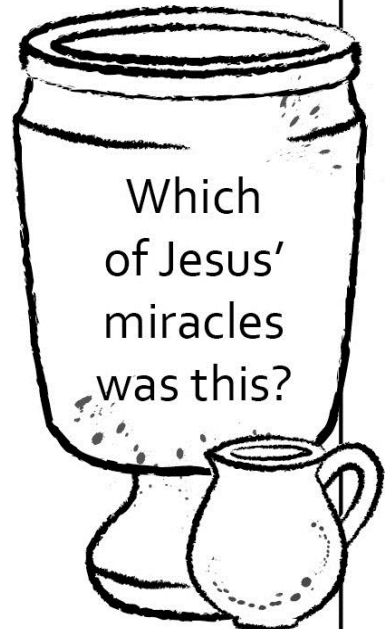


What were the water jars for?

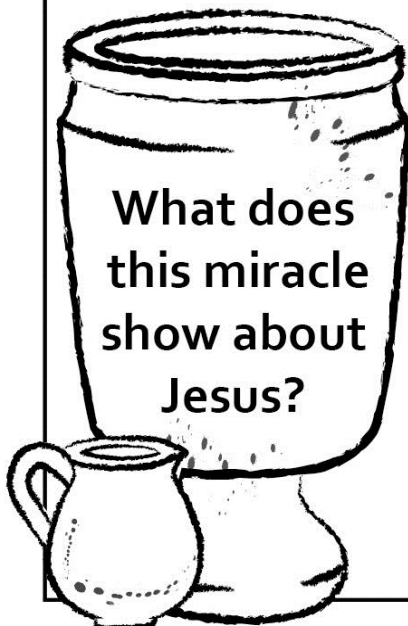


What did the disciples do?

What had happened to the water when it was taken out?



Which of Jesus' miracles was this?

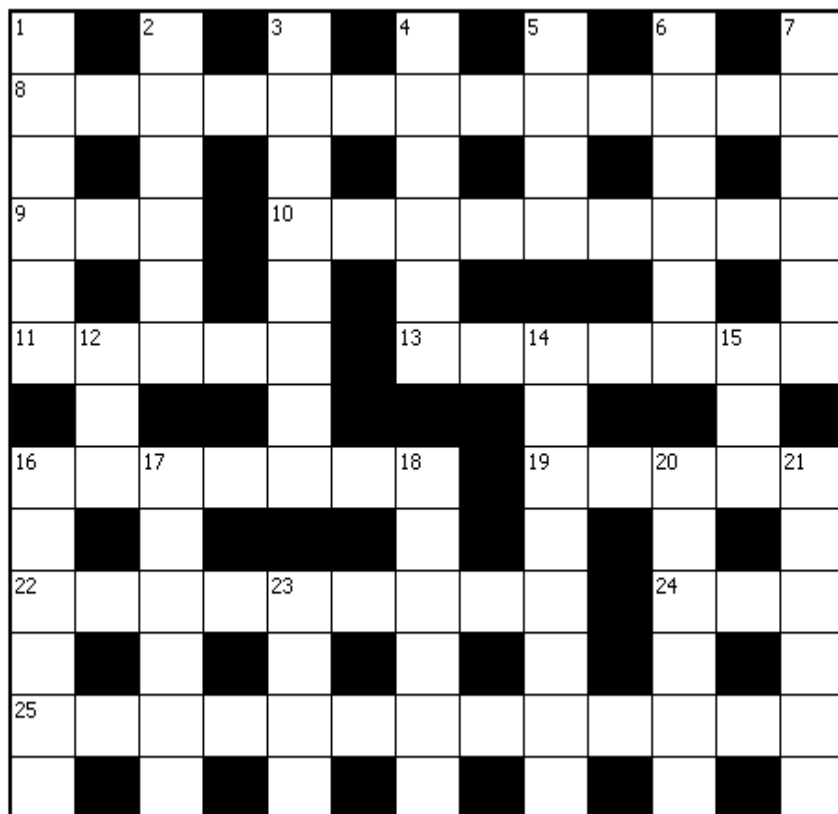


What does this miracle show about Jesus?

J G A L I L E E W A W
J A D I S C I P L E S A
W S E R V A N T S O O D T T
I T S S C A N A X U M D O E
M O U I F I R S T T A I N R
E P S X I T A T T U R N E D
F I L L W I N E X T Y G E T

WEDDING • CANA • GALILEE • JESUS • MARY • DISCIPLES
SERVANTS • RAN • OUT • SIX • STONE • WATER • JARS
FILL • TOP • TASTE • TURNED • WINE • FIRST

✚word



Across

- 8 Academic who studies history of one of Israel's perennial enemies (13)
- 9 Take to court (Matthew 5:40) (3)
- 10 Absence of guilt (1 Kings 8:32) (9)
- 11 Of Tim (anag.) (5)
- 13 Deprive priest of ecclesiastical status (7)
- 16 Where Paul and Barnabas called en route from Perga to Antioch (Acts 14:25-26) (7)
- 19 'The earth is the — , and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1) (5)
- 22 'Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a —message when the body of elders laid their hands on you' (1 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 24 Raincoat (abbrev.) (3)
- 25 Issue relating to sexual ethics dealt with in the controversial Papal Encyclical Humanae Vitae in 1968 (13)

Down

- 1 'The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a — for many' (Matthew 20:28) (6)
- 2 Upward slope (Nehemiah 3:19) (6)
- 3 'God blessed them and said to them, "Be — and increase in number"' (Genesis 1:28) (8)
- 4 'What God has — together, let man not separate' (Matthew 19:6) (6)

- 5 One of the partners which, with BEA, formed British Airways (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'This will be a — — you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger' (Luke 2:12) (4,2)
- 7 Takers (anag.) (6)
- 12 'But the things that come — of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man "unclean"' (Matthew 15:18) (3)
- 14 'Then I set bowls — of wine and some — before the men of the Recabite family' (Jeremiah 35:5) (4,4)
- 15 Levitical eating laws were much concerned about animals 'that chew the — ' (Leviticus 11:3) (3)
- 16 Llama-like animal noted for its wool (6)
- 17 The seed which fell among these was choked by them as it grew (Luke 8:7) (6)
- 18 Launch an assault against (Genesis 14:15) (6)
- 20 'Neither can you bear fruit unless you — in me' (John 15:4) (6)
- 21 John says of the healing of the royal official's son, 'This was the — miraculous sign that Jesus performed' (John 4:54) (6)
- 23 Inflict pain on (Acts 7:26) (4)

A	R	M	O	U	R		T	W	E	L	V	E
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U	L	R	I	C		I	M	I	T	A	T	E
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Last edition's ✚word solution

Wordsearch

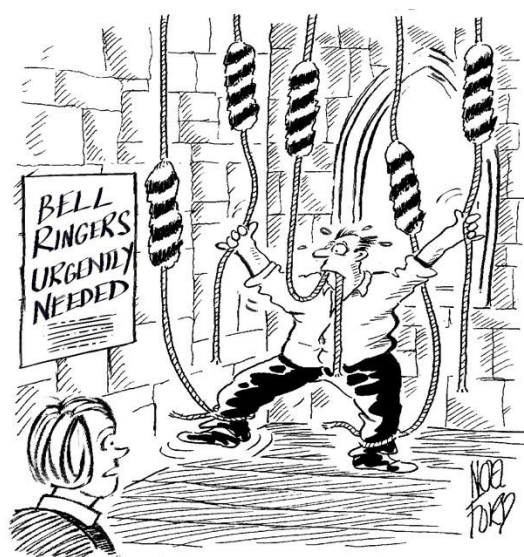
Easter faith Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence. Then a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church politely asked if he could speak. Bukharin shrugged and made way for him. The priest stood next to Bukharin, facing the people, and raised his arms. He spoke just three words: 'Christ is risen!' At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for the atheist politician, who had no response to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that He does not exist?

RUSSIAN	RIDICULE
REVOLUTION	SILENCE
RALLY	PRIEST
KIEV	ORTHODOX
POWERFUL	CHURCH
ORATOR	CHRIST
BUKHARIN	IS
MOSCOW	RISEN
DEMOLISHED	ASSEMBLY
CHRISTIAN	INDEED
FAITH	ANCIENT
ARGUMENT	LITURGY
ABUSE	

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

Last edition's solution



"Ready when you are, George..."

Carer's Corner

A "Sense of Loss" GOALS REDEFINED? PART 1

I took a taxi two weeks ago, the driver to make conversation just asked, "so what do you do"? In a split second, I was going to respond with **"I am a mum and a carer for my youngest daughter, who has got a disability"**....but then I recalled, I should start to talk about OAK, so I said... **"I am a Christian life coach; I coach carers as I am also one"**. I reflected on this very brief exchange afterwards and it dawned on me that I am quite comfortable introducing myself as simply 'mum' or 'carer' without any other ring to it. Then I thought, 'eureka' it took 10 years, but I'm finally FREE!!!

You see, I used to attach so much importance to status. I demanded so much from myself and from life. I was a planner- I had my life figured out on an organogram (the different parts to me clearly structured out); and what I will achieve was clear in my mind. I will set yearly goals, 5-years plan, 10-years plan...the common words in my vocabulary then were accomplishment, professionalism, competency, driven, highflyer and so on. I demanded this from myself and I taught people around me the same.

My definition of success however, was "having it all"- spiritual, family, career, finances, health and social life at the same time. As far as I was concerned, all these areas of my life must always be sound and positive for me to be successful. I didn't want one at the expense of the other. I had a good home, job, involved in different spiritual activities in church and seemingly life was

progressing nicely. My so-called success at that time was however, at the expense of so many other things that mattered, the cost was too high. **You could say I was climbing the ladder of success, it just happened unfortunately though, that my ladder was leaning on the wrong wall.**

It could be quite challenging to care for a child with disability. This role calls every fibre of your being into question. It challenges your outlook to life; visions go dim and dreams could be totally forgotten as our reality demands totally different priorities.

Coming into this terrain 10 years ago my priorities changed to;

- making decisions that dictated life and death for an 18 months old baby,
- meeting up with hospital appointments,
- handling several emergency admissions,
- co-ordinating the family's relocation and practically starting all over,
- running a home with a 5- and 3-year olds
- understanding new diagnosis
- dealing with professionals tutoring us about what the 'new life' is going to be like (that is about 13 different teams by the way 😊)
- All the above and more, including completing a Master's program in a totally different field!

How did I navigate this terrain then? What were the fall outs? What happened to my goals/plans? Do we just go with the flow? How did we cope...did we? Is it realistic for Carers to dream? What worked?

Stay with me on this topic...

look out for PART 2 😊

Blessings, Olufunke Adelaye

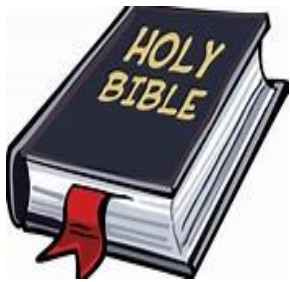
News Update from Kim Curle, our Interim Youth Minister



We praise God for how the work has progressed this term. Numbers at **ReD** every Friday after-school in term-time have shown an impressive increase. We have set up a Table Tennis Tournament with certificate for winners. Outdoor football is popular together with the usual indoor games. We have been following a series on Bible Heroes. On Valentine's Day we had LOVE themed crafts and followed the story of Ruth and Naomi. We are grateful to our team of volunteers who cook supper for the young people. On alternate weeks at **Friday Night @ the Base** members enjoy playing pool, air hockey, table football, maybe a game of Jenga or time on the Wii, simply being together and sharing in circle time.

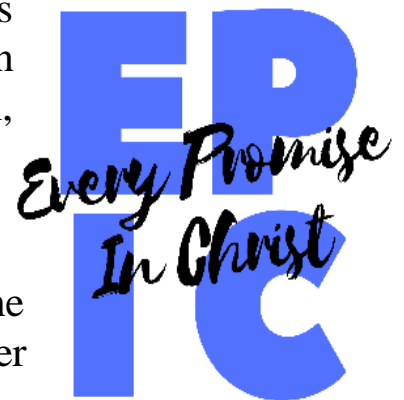


ATSOC meets fortnightly at Costa Tesco for informal Bible study and prayer. This term we have studied passages on Hope and Love. In **Pathfinders** on a Sunday morning, we have been following Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. And on the first Sunday of the month the children and young people now come together for our new-style **Praise Party**.



At **Juice** on a Sunday evening we have been pleased to welcome new members to the group and been grateful for hospitality offered by Janet and Len, and Sarah Gardiner (who has kindly been doing the youth administration).

Following the success of our Churches Together EPIC – *Every Promise in Christ* Youth Service on Sunday 5th January hosted by Orpington Baptist Church, we plan to hold a youth social at All Saints' Church on Good Friday following the Walk of Witness. Another EPIC service is planned for Sunday 17th May at OBC. Our youth at Christ Church have been invited also to attend the **LIMITLESS** Festival 7th-11th August in Staffordshire under the banner of CTiO.



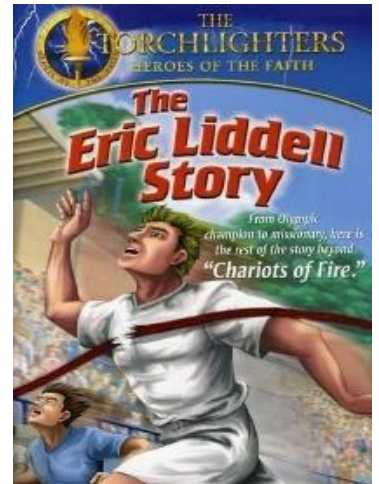
With exam season fast approaching, we are encouraged to remember our young people in the lead up to their GCSE and A-level exams and those at university that they would find support from their campus Christian Union and local church.



Please pray for our youth, that with God's help they would do their best and realise their potential in Christ. With our interest in their young lives and encouragement as they journey in the Christian faith, we can all be a part of their story. Let's be humbled by their spirituality. Listen to their stories. Be challenged by their testimony.

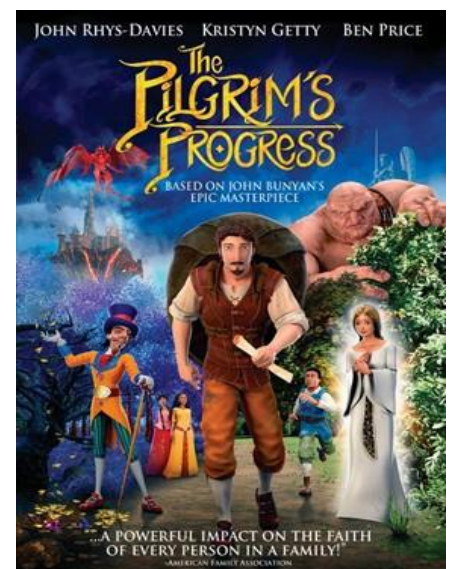


This was brought home by Ben Gardiner's sharing during the TTT slot in Morning Worship on 9th February. Not only were many in the congregation inspired by his faith as he shared his medal hopes for the forthcoming National Indoor Championships but, we had a record attendance at **Pathfinders** where our young people had further opportunity to hear and be spurred on by his story. We also watched *The Eric Liddell Story* animated DVD and at **Juice** a special feature documentary *From Olympic champion to missionary, the rest of the story beyond "Chariots of Fire."* We too are called to be torchbearers of the faith.



On 17th February during half-term we took a group of young people to visit the London City Mission Webber Street Homeless Day Centre at Waterloo. This was an eye opener for all of us. It has spring boarded a fund-raising initiative and desire to share about our visit in church, especially on the evening of 26th April when we are planning for youth participation in the service.

Later in March we look forward to a film showing of *The Pilgrim's Progress* (new release). We are hoping that anyone from the congregation who would like to see this all-time classic will feel welcome to join us for a 4pm Sunday afternoon viewing, with popcorn and drinks and opportunity for reflection and discussion, in the big hall.



Yours in Christ, *Kim Curle*

2020 Diary

Sunday 1st March

10.30pm Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 4th March

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 8th March

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Celebration of Ministry

Sunday 15th March

10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion



Mothering Sunday
Sunday 22nd March

Clocks go forward One Hour

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship
6.30pm Go Deeper

Sunday 29th March

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 1st April

10.00am Holy Communion



Palm Sunday
Sunday 5th April

10.30am All Age
Holy Communion
6.30pm Go Deeper

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 9th April

8.00pm Holy Communion

Good Friday

Friday 10th April

2.00pm Good Friday Meditation



Easter Day
Sunday 12th April

9.00am
Holy Communion
10.30am
Holy Communion

Sunday 19th April

10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm No Service

Sunday 26th April

9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship

On the Grapevine...

Funeral

Wednesday 11th March 2020
Patricia (Pat) Hedley Huff
2.45pm at Beckenham Crematorium

new winepress

By writing articles, readers are reminded of forthcoming activities and events; provide accurate factual information; communicate a Christian message; educate and entertain readers, and provide a service to the church and local community.

The closing (copy) date for articles for the
May & June 2020 issue is
Friday 3rd April 2020

Please email your articles to our editor Vernon at
vandjmapp@gmail.com If you need more time,
contact Vernon on 01689 832433

*NB due to copyright issues we have had in the
past, can you please make sure any pictures,
photo's etc can be reproduced with permission*

Article: essay, report, account, story, write-up,
feature, item, piece (of writing), composition,
column, paper, tract, study, review, commentary,
treatise, analysis, disquisition, discourse.

Acknowledgements

Mouse; Word Search; Cartoon; Page 16
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Easter Island cover by Sam Power
reproduced courtesy of <https://unsplash.com>

The name "Easter Island" was given by the island's first
recorded European visitor, Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen,
who encountered it on Easter Sunday (5th April) 1722.
Roggeveen named it Paasch-Eyland (18th-century Dutch for
"Easter Island"). The island's official name, Isla de Pascua,
also means "Easter Island".

Children's Groups

On Sunday's

During Morning Services:

The Rainbow Room Crèche is a fun,
supervised soft play facility available on
Sunday mornings for babies and children
aged 0-3 years (inclusive)

CLIMBERS is for children
aged 3 to 7 years and meet in the Small
Hall. Activities each week include singing,
Bible stories, games and craft

EXPLORERS is for children aged
7 to 11 years and meet in the Large Hall
for singing and crafts in a framework of
Christian teaching

Pathfinders is for young people aged
11 to 14+ and meet in the basement of
the church for games, videos, drama and
discussions, looking at the Bible and
discussing relevant issues

During Evening Services:

Juice for young people who are year
10+ in a place where you can
be yourself and hear something
about how great our God is!

Juice meet on alternate Sunday
evenings (6.30pm – 8pm) in the
Undercroft at Christ Church.

ATSOC POD (for those year 11+)
meet bi-weekly at
Costa, Tesco, 4pm - 5pm

Don't chase what isn't there

'...those who chase fantasies have no sense.' Proverbs 12 v 11

Have you ever been attracted to computer gaming? For many people it has become addictive; and they spend so much time in their fantasy world that their own avatar and those of their fellow players have come to seem more real to them than their own family and friends. You can get so drawn into this virtual world that you can resent the time you have to spend in the real world. Instead, you have come to prefer living in your fantasy world, where you always have the power and control. Problems come when a person spends so much time in their virtual world that they are too tired and distracted to do anything productive in their real world.

Some people say that Christians live in a fantasy world, that our faith has no basis in reality. But faith in God is not a crutch – nor is it a fantasy. Jesus was an historical person who lived and died – and rose again. Those who follow him as Lord find that knowing him, and having his Spirit within them, gives them the strength they need to live the right way in the real world, and to reach out to other real people with God's love.

A senior moment

- I made a list.
- I checked it twice.
- I left it at home.

If God had voicemail

Most of us live with voicemail as a necessary part of our lives. Have you ever wondered what it would be like if God decided to install voicemail

Thank you for calling heaven

For English, press 1; for French, press 2; for all other languages, press 3

Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for request; press 2 for thanksgiving; press 3 for complaints; press 4 for all others

I am sorry, all our Angels and Saints are busy helping other sinners right now. However, your prayer is important to us and we will answer it in the order it was received. Please stay on the line

If you would like to speak to: God, press 1; Jesus, press 2; the Holy Spirit, press 3

To find a loved one that has been assigned to heaven press 5, then enter his social security number, followed by the # key. If you receive a negative response, please hang up and dial 666

For reservations to heaven, please enter JOHN followed by the numbers, 3 16

For answers to nagging questions about dinosaurs, life and other planets, please wait until you arrive in heaven for the specifics

The office is now closed for the weekend to observe a religious holiday. Our computers show that you have already been prayed for today, please hang up and call again Monday. If you are calling after hours and need emergency assistance, please contact your local minister

Thank you and have a heavenly day