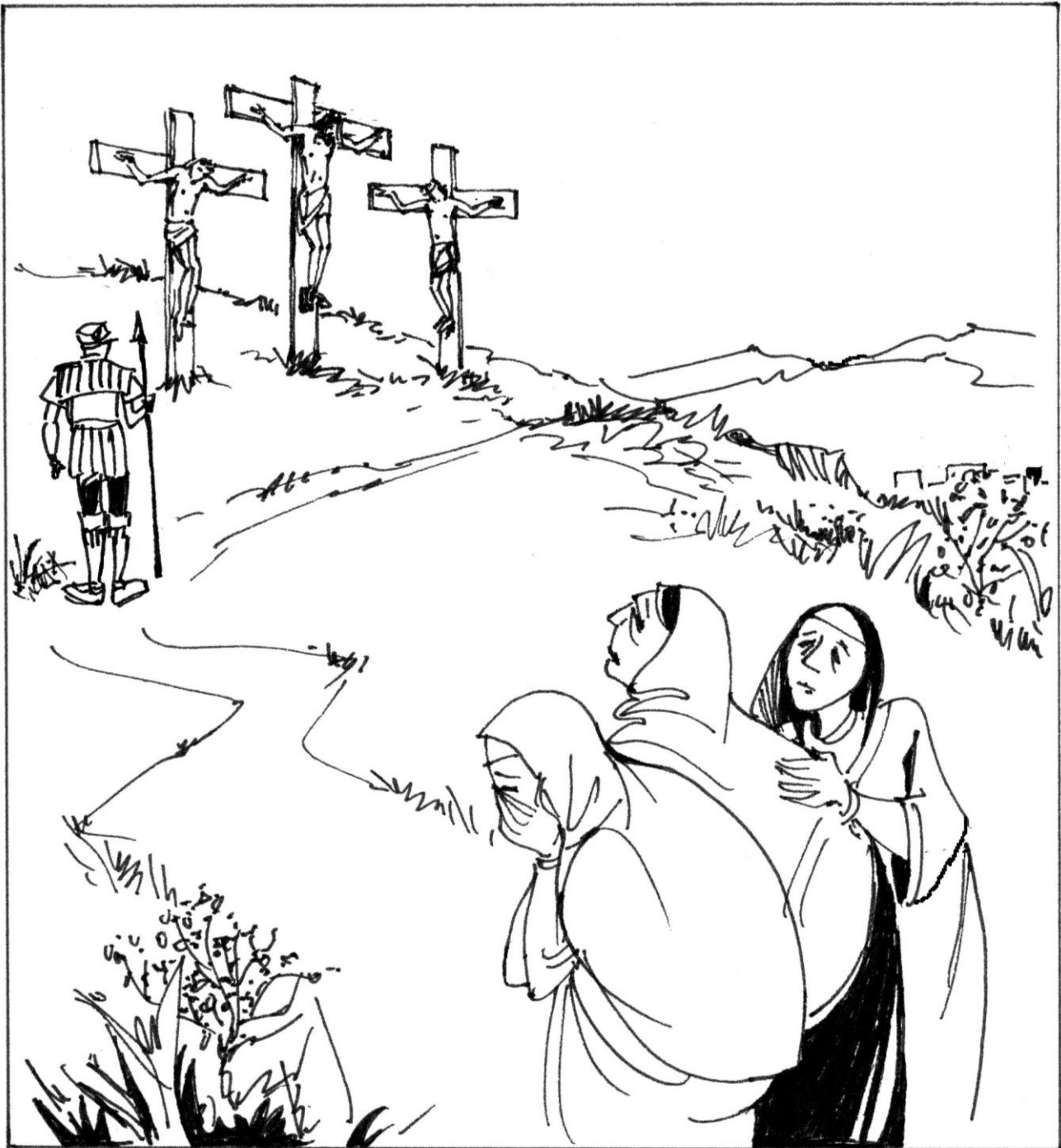




April 2012



# Hanham Methodist Church



Minister: Rev Andrew Prout BA – Tel (0117) 9326692  
Church Office (0117) 9353308

# Hanham Methodist Church Magazine

## Inside this issue:

- |           |                                   |           |                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Word from the Minister</b>     | <b>12</b> | <b>Easter Eggs</b>            |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Circuit Review</b>             | <b>13</b> | <b>Thank You's</b>            |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Sunday Services</b>            | <b>14</b> | <b>Church Fair</b>            |
|           | <b>Pastoral News</b>              | <b>16</b> | <b>Puzzles</b>                |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Dates for the Diary</b>        | <b>18</b> | <b>Mouse Makes</b>            |
|           | <b>A Not So Simple Lunch</b>      | <b>19</b> | <b>Signposts</b>              |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>One Sound Concert</b>          | <b>20</b> | <b>What Happens in Heaven</b> |
|           | <b>Spring Fair</b>                | <b>21</b> | <b>Caribbean Tales</b>        |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Circuit Review</b>             | <b>25</b> | <b>One Sound Concert</b>      |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>New Room</b>                   | <b>26</b> | <b>Pause for Thought</b>      |
|           | <b>Holy Week Services</b>         | <b>27</b> | <b>Rotas</b>                  |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Christian Aid Week</b>         | <b>28</b> | <b>Weekly Activities</b>      |
|           | <b>HMC is not Recession Proof</b> |           |                               |

The Hanham Methodist Church Magazine is the monthly Magazine of Hanham Methodist Church, in the Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit of the Methodist Church. Opinions expressed in some articles are those of the author of the article and do not necessarily reflect Church Policy. All enquiries need to be directed to the minister.

Minister: Rev Andrew Prout

Address: 22 Grampian Close, Oldland Common, BS30 8QA

Office Tel: (0117) 9353308

Email: [andrew.prout@methodist.org.uk](mailto:andrew.prout@methodist.org.uk)

Website: [www.hanhammethodist.org.uk](http://www.hanhammethodist.org.uk)

To contact the Magazine Editor & Publisher:

Name: Mrs Katie Dicks

Address: Available on Request

Tel: Available on Request

Email: Available on Request

Articles for the next magazine should be submitted by:-

**15 April**

## Word from the Minister

### Dear Friends

*When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed', he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you'. Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.*

**(Mark 16 vv 1-8)**

Through the season of Lent and recently in our Monthly Bible Study we have been following the Gospel of Mark. As we approach Easter it is interesting to note in most Bibles you will find a footnote after verse 8 of the sixteenth and final chapter of Mark's gospel indicating that the additional verses (9-20) are not found in the most early manuscripts discovered to date and were probably added by a later writer eager to give a more satisfying end to the Gospel.

Scholars put forward various and alternate suggestions for the Gospel of Mark finishing at the eighth verse. Some say this ending is intentional and Mark therefore leaves us to consider the fact, awe and wonder of the resurrection. Like the women we may struggle initially to take in the magnitude of this reality on which the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God is founded and anticipated from the first words of the Gospel (Mark 1v 1). Others ponder if Mark never completed his Gospel through arrest, persecution or death, or if there was a more complete ending originally and at some point that part of the original manuscript from which others were copied was either damaged or lost. It is intriguing. None of this should of course alter our faith in the Gospel record. The other Gospels certainly complete the picture for us detailing Jesus resurrection

appearances and his ascension. Nonetheless I think the ending of Mark gives us something important to think about and it is this.

Recognizing that Mark leaves us with the fact of the resurrection of Jesus then might we say we are the next chapter in the story of Jesus. For with Jesus' work completed and His whole life offered to us from His birth in Bethlehem, to His Baptism in the Jordan, to His ministry in Galilee, to His entrance into Jerusalem, to His death on a cross, His resurrection and the testimony of a heavenly message and an empty tomb, is it not now our responsibility to continue the story of Jesus? Are we not reminded it is we who are now called to walk the way of the cross leading lives of humility and service, bearing witness to the teaching of our Lord and bringing others to faith by our worship, words and action. So at Easter rejoice in the resurrection Jesus and be astounded by what God has done in revealing the true extent of His love and in raising Jesus from the dead giving us victory even over death. But also be challenged for the manner by which the Gospel of Mark ends reminds us that we are the next chapter in the story of Jesus and we must write this chapter by dedicating our lives in His service. Peace to you at Eastertide.

**Andrew**

**PS. Please make and take note of the many special events this month from our services in Holy Week (1st – 8th April), to the visit of One Sound (14th/15th April), the Flower Festival (21st/22nd April) and the Spring Fair (28th April). None are to be missed.**

### **Church Ladies (or Men) With Computers**

Throughout this edition of your magazine you will find some Church Bulletin 'Bloopers'. These sentences have actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services. I hope they make you smile as much as they made me. I believe thanks go to Carol Haycock for sharing these with me.

Katie Dicks (Editor)

## Sunday's Services

### April

1 <sup>st</sup>	10.45am	Mr Chris Sledge	
	4.00pm	Messy Church	
	6.00pm	Rev Stephen Newell	
8 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Rev Andrew Prout	Communion
	10.45am	Rev Andrew Prout	
	6.00pm	Rev Dr David Hart	Communion
15 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	One Sound	
	6.00pm	Rev Andrew Prout	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.45am	Mrs Veronica Jackson	
	6.00pm	Mr Colin Saunders	
29 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Mr John Trebble	
	6.00pm	Rev Andrew Prout	

## Pastoral News

It was with sadness that at the end of February and beginning of March we heard of the passing of two great servants of the Church in Patrick Berry and David Roberts. Our sadness at their passing is eased by the knowledge that each is now free of the illness which led to their decline in body although not in spirit. We shall never forget the contribution that each made to the life of our Church and we continue to hold both Margaret and Geraldine and each of their families in our prayers at this time. May they and we be strengthened and have peace in knowing that they who die with Christ shall rise with Christ. There is as we proclaim in this Easter Season even victory over the grave and the knowledge that Christ in going before us opens wide the gates to his eternal kingdom where death and suffering are no more, and one day we shall be all united again by sight and in grace.

**Rev Andrew Prout**

## Dates for the Diary

- 1 April                      Messy Church at 4.00pm
- 3 April                      An Evening of Music & Meditations for Easter at 7.30pm  
Led by Rev Andrew Prout
- 4 April                      Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7.30pm at  
Unity Oldland Methodist Church
- 5 April                      Good Friday Service at 9.45am
- 8 April                      Easter Day Communion at 8.00am  
Morning All Age Worship at 10.30am  
Evening Communion at 6.00pm
- 14 & 15 April              One Sound Weekend
- 21 & 22 April              Flower Festival / Music and Flowers
- 28 April                      Spring Fair 10.00am - 12.30pm

## A Not So Simple Lunch; 22 April 2012

Mission Committee invite you to "A Not So Simple Lunch" on 22 April, which is during the "Music & Flowers " weekend. Come and enjoy a Sunday lunch (which you haven't had to prepare!) and view the flowers at leisure and support our charities- Bibles for Children & the "Worms" project; all at the same time.

**Pam Blackmore**

**REMINDER: Pizzas & Party Games**, Saturday 12 May, 6.00 – 8.00pm  
Cost £3 Adults and £1.50 Children - more details later.

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

## One Sound Concert; Saturday 14 April 2012

Over the weekend of the 14th and 15th April we are privileged to be hosting 'One Sound' a national youth orchestra and choir consisting of approximately 60 young people (including Jessica Warrey) whose history is rooted in the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs (MAYC). You can book your place at the concert on Saturday Evening 14 April taking place at Woodlands Church commencing at 7.30pm by signing the form in the vestibule (Tickets £10.00 adults / £6.00 Under 18s or those in FTE) or contacting Caroline Warrey direct on 0117 9609600 / E. Mail: ([caroline.warrey@bluyonder.co.uk](mailto:caroline.warrey@bluyonder.co.uk)). Please put your name down to avoid late disappointment and please give this event your full support. Tickets will also be available on the night and please if you need assistance with transport let me know. We shall also be privileged on Sunday 15th April for One Sound to lead our morning service.

### Rev Andrew Prout

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

## Spring Fair; Saturday 28 April

Our Annual Spring Fair will be held on **Saturday 28 April and will open at 10.00am and close at 12.30pm.** As well as your time we once again ask for your generous gifts of **Cakes** (for the Country Fare and two refreshments outlets), **Recycled Gifts** (those things you have which are in good condition but don't really want but no bric-a-brac please), **Pickles & Jams, CDs and DVDs** (no books or videos please), **Plants & Flowers, Cosmetics, Toys** and anything else the individual stallholders / providers request. We can not accept mains electrical goods. Stall holders will be contacted and asked to organise the staffing of their stall. We are also pleased to have people on the day simply available as cover to help and if you are willing to do this please let me know. **We will be setting up the halls and stalls at 2.00pm on Friday 27 April when you can bring your**

**donations and would welcome your help at this time, as well as in the dismantling of the fair once it is finished.**

As this year is both an Olympic Year and the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen Elizabeth II we invite stallholders to dress themselves either in a 1950s style or in red, white and blue. People attending the fair can also of course follow suit although there is no compulsion. There will be no cash prize just the fun of taking part. So do come along and enjoy the camaraderie and ambience of the occasion as well as good food and lots of things to buy. The fair is a means both of outreach into the community and of raising money for the ongoing work of our Church. Please put the date in your diary and make every effort to attend and also to invite neighbours and friends.

**Rev Andrew Prout**

### **Circuit Review**

The Church Council has just completed our Church's response to the Circuit Review Paper. This involved a gathering of facts about our Church and a mapping out of some of our hopes for the future. It is an important and thought provoking document and if you would like a copy please borrow one from the vestibule or request a copy from me. All Church members are encouraged to read this.

**Rev Andrew Prout**

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

---

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

---

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.



## **New Room**

At the Circuit Meeting I picked up a certificate of thanks presented to Hanham Methodist Church by The Warden in gratitude for the work done by our 'staff' with help at coffee mornings. I am sure that 'staff' would also include the number of volunteer stewards who help at the New Room as guides on a regular basis. The Certificate is displayed in the foyer

**Martin Sagar**

## **An Invitation to Services in Holy Week; 1 – 8 April 2012**

**Follow Jesus  
To Jerusalem  
To Calvary  
To Glory**



**Palm Sunday**

Morning Service; Mr Chris Sledge

Messy Church 4.00pm

Evening Service; Rev Stephen Newell at 6.00pm

**Holy Week**

**Tuesday, 3 April**

Music, Meditations & Readings for Easter led by Rev Andrew Prout 7.30pm

**Maundy Thursday**

Communion Service; Rev Andrew Prout at 7.30pm at Unity Oldland Methodist Church

**Good Friday**

Service of the Cross & Walk of Witness at 9.45am

**Easter Sunday**

Holy Communion; Rev Andrew Prout at 8.00am

Family Service; Rev Andrew Prout at 10.45am

Evening Communion Service; Rev David Hart at 6.00pm

**Please place these services in your diary and feel most welcome to attend.**

## Advance Notice – Christian Aid Week; 13 – 19 May

In recent years the number of our voluntary collectors has decreased alarmingly.

### Urgently Needed

Door to door collectors **AND** people willing to stand outside shops with collecting tins.

Please give some time to help those we see from the comfort of our homes who are in **DIRE NEED** of food, shelter, clean water and sanitation – things we take for granted.

To help, please contact Pat or Colin Saunders on 0117 9677539.

Thanks you.

### Pat and Colin Saunders

The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water.  
The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus

## HMC Is Not Recession Proof

In the last few months we have seen the income that the Church receives from Room lettings become greater than that coming from collections and donations. Our average weekly offerings are slightly down by £16 per week this year. We are faced with on going costs of running the Church and keeping it well maintained in the face of rising costs, notably in utility bills for gas and electricity, as well as our obligations and commitments to the Circuit with the assessment payment, now nearly £45,000 a year. To explain, this assessment, payment has to be made to support the workings of the Methodist Church with such items as our Minister's stipend and the costs of running the Church at local, regional and national levels. As an indication of our need this means that on average each member of our Church should contribute £1 per day just to meet that commitment. The income from lettings, church fairs, gift day and gift aid helps substantially towards the running costs of the Church.

I must therefore ask that members review their givings, please. As far as I am aware many standing orders remain unchanged and some have been so for many years. Of course we appreciate that times are hard, and that many members have been so generous in donations and loans to the boiler fund. But please do look to see if you are able to help in some way. Be aware too that there are advantages to 'Gift Aid' your offerings by means of a straightforward declaration to the Inland Revenue (HMRC) for those that pay at least the standard Income Tax. Through this scheme your offerings can be enhanced by HMRC by a further 25%, and at no cost to you. I am the Gift Aid Secretary and will glad to give you details of this.

To appeal for money is an uncomfortable process, so I hope and pray that you will give some thought to your giving and take what action you can to help us to keep the standards you enjoy and we wish to continue in the essential work of maintenance and development of the Church.

Thanks and blessings.

**Martin Sagar**  
**Chairman Finance & Resources Committee**

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

---

This evening at 7.00pm there will be a hymn singing in the part across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

---

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

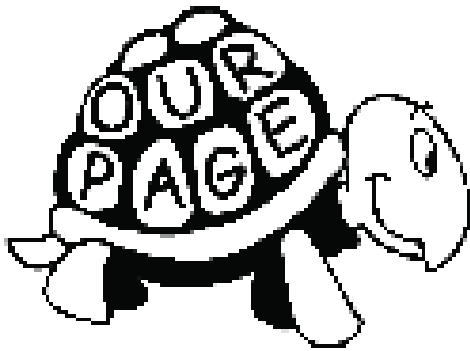
---

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

---

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

## Easter Eggs



### EASTER EGGS

Easter eggs have been in the shops since just after Christmas but they are not a new idea. The egg has been used as a symbol of rebirth and new life since before Christian times.

The English name for Easter is said to come from Eostre, a northern goddess of spring. The rebirth of growing things in the spring, after the long dark days of winter, was a time of rejoicing in the pagan world and many of their rites and symbols have been carried over into our Christian festival of Easter.

In pagan times they celebrated the return of light and warmth to the world but our Easter celebrates so much more. We celebrate the fact that Jesus died for us and yet is not dead. We celebrate because Jesus overcame death.

And if all those brightly wrapped chocolate eggs in the shops help us to remember that Easter means new life, new life in Jesus, then good – I'll have lots!



### BEAUTIFUL EGGS

Chocolate eggs are a new idea; the traditional Easter egg is a decorated hen's egg. Why not make some as special gifts to share the good news of Easter?



You can decorate them in the traditional method of wrapping eggs in onion skins and then boiling them. This gives a mottled, golden look to the egg (or try a couple of slices of beetroot for a different effect).

If you are not going to eat the egg afterwards you can decorate it with paint or felt tip pens. Painted eggs can look very special if, when the paint is dry, you stick on sequins and small beads. Rather than waste a perfectly good egg find out how to 'blow' the egg out of the shell – then you can eat the egg as well as having a perfect empty shell to decorate.

**Why did the egg go into the jungle?**

**Because he wanted to be an eggs-plorer.**

## Thank You's

This is to thank all members and friends for their greetings, cards, letters, calls, prayers and visits and during my recent heart surgery and recovery. I'm well on the way to being fully fit again and returning to normal. So thanks to the team at Bristol Heart Institute and Hanham Health, and to you for the wonderful support given to myself and Angela.

### **Martin Sagar**

I give thanks to everyone at Hanham Methodist Church for their cards, flowers and words of comfort shown to me after the death of my mum. I give thanks to everyone who prayed for myself, Phil and my family. I especially give thanks to Andrew who compassionately took my mother's funeral service. May God bless you all.

### **Mary and Phil Golding**

**Donations to Marie Curie and Schistosomiasis Control Initiative:** Many of you will have joined the family on 23 January 2012 as we gave thanks to God for, and celebrated the life and work of, Donald, and we do thank you for your presence. We have been overwhelmed by the stories of his caring love, support for people in sadness and need, of the happiness and fun he shared, and the general uplifting of spirits in lives of friends, work team members, work clients, church family, young people and above all our extended family. We are so very proud of him, of the happiness he spread, through his Christian values and the expression of them. Your monetary giving in his memory following the service has enabled £850 to be sent to Marie Curie, who helped us so much at the beginning of January; also £750 to S.C.I. (Schistosomiasis Control Initiative), [the 'worm charity' eliminating parasitic worms in children in Africa]. This is a fantastic response - so Donalds' life work continues! We have expressed our thanks previously and continue to be grateful for ministers support, your prayers, visits, practical help, hugs and Christian love shown to all of us by so many. God has showered His blessings upon us through large numbers of people, near and far.

**Dorothy: Dorry, John, Sam, and George: Jonathan, Sandra, Hannah, and James.**

# Church Fair

# Church Fair

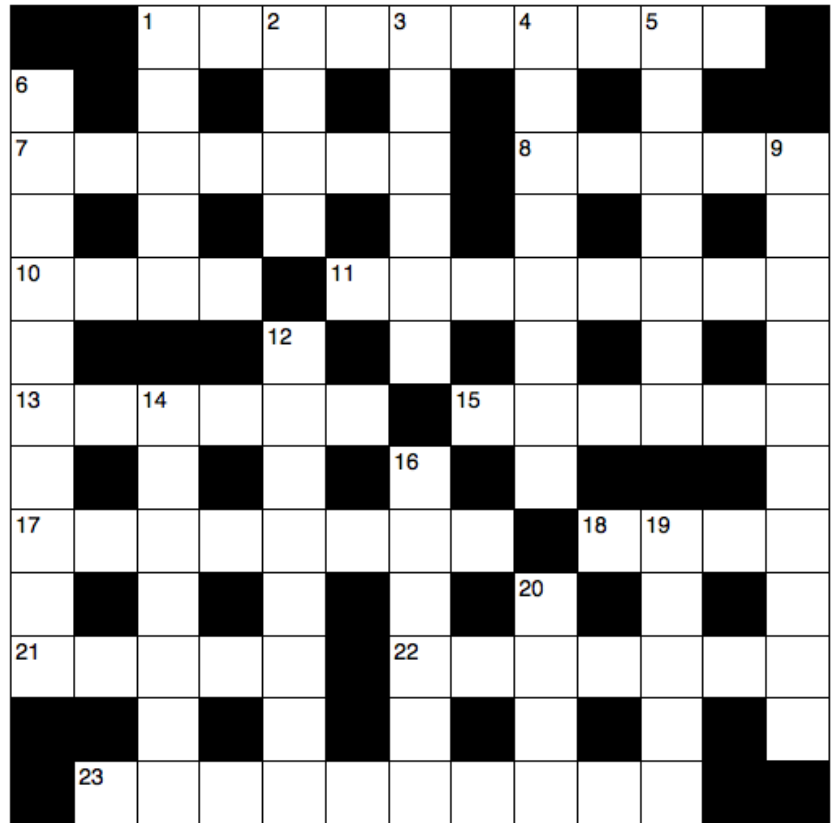
## Crossword

### Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
- 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
- 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
- 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

### Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
- 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
- 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)



- 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
- 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
- 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
- 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
- 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
- 14 See cape (anag.) (7)
- 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
- 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
- 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)



# Sudoku

## Easy

	7			4		6		
				1	7	4	8	
	9	5	6	3			2	
1	8		3	2		5		
2								9
		9		5	4		7	2
	1			9	6	3	5	
	4	2	1	7				
		6		8			1	

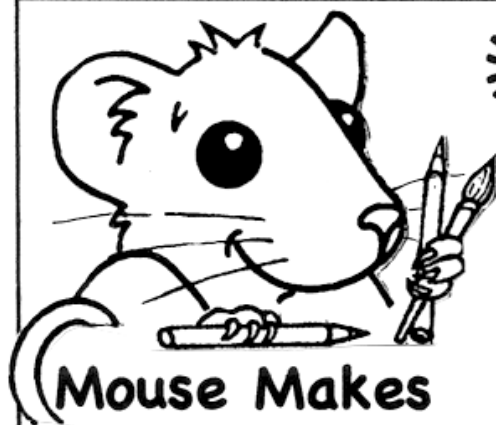
© 2011 KrazyDad.com

## Intermediate

		1		6			5	
		4	9					
					5	9		
	2			4				6
6				3				8
3				8			7	
		7	2					
					1	5		
	3			7		4		

© 2011 KrazyDad.com

For the Children – Mouse Makes



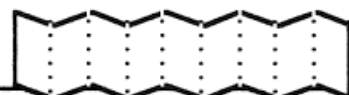
Jesus Christ is risen today!  
our triumphant holy day,  
who did once upon the cross  
suffer to redeem our loss.

Sing we to our God above  
praise eternal as his love,  
for the Lord from death is raised  
Father, Spirit, Son be praised!  
**ALLELUIA!**



<p><b>The Easter Story</b></p>	<p><b>Into Jerusalem</b> Luke 19:28-48</p>	<p><b>The Last Supper</b> Luke 22:7-38</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">glue to 'Betrayed'</p>
<p><b>Betrayed</b> Luke 22:1-3, 39-53</p>	<p><b>Condemned</b> Luke 22:54-23:25</p>	<p><b>Crucified</b> Luke 23:26-49</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">glue to 'Buried'</p>
<p><b>Buried</b> Luke 23:50-56</p>	<p><b>Risen</b> Luke 24:1-12</p>	<p><b>Jesus is Alive!</b> Luke 24:13-53</p>

Make a mini Easter book: Cut out the strips, glue them together then zig-zag fold along the dotted lines.



## Signposts

What a wonderful time of year, the promise of spring with the daffodils beginning to bloom. Also, as we progress through Lent with the unfolding of a journey that Jesus made, yes ending in Jerusalem and the stark Cross on a hill but also the victory over wrong and death and the promise of eternal life to all who believe on Him.

A very potent message in the present happenings in the world.

Since last year the message of Easter hasn't changed, the promise of God is still with us. Last year fighting in the Middle East, earthquake and tsunami was the main news, now the news seems just as bad, the terrible struggle in Syria, more of our troops killed in Afghanistan and the failed attempt to rescue two men held in Nigeria.

We feel better in the warmth and sunshine of spring and brighter days but many about us have suffered through illness and bereavement and it highlights the needs and concerns of our society and the people in our street and community.

What a challenge for us to show how we might contribute in sharing the good news of the love that has been shown to us in the love of God.

We also might realise the greatness of God and in worship give thanks that in a world of change, unrest and even disaster God sent His son into a world that we might know love and compassion and the love of God for all His people.

### **Arnold Wheeler**

Weight Watchers will meet at 7.00pm at the First Presbyterian Church.  
Please use large double door at the side entrance.

---

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

---

The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals

## What Happens In Heaven When You Pray

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was deputised to show me around.

Our first stop was at a large room filled with angels. They were unfolding, reading and stacking thousands of bits of paper of all sizes. My angel guide explained, "This is the Receiving Section. Here all petitions to God said in prayer are received." I looked around the area and it was terribly busy. Angels were sorting out petitions from all over the world. Some were long and involved and weighty, others merely a sigh on a scrap of paper.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings that have been asked for are processed and delivered to the people who need them." I noticed again how busy it was there. The angels were working hard to package and send back to earth all the blessings that had been requested.

Finally, at the farthest end of the long corridor, we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my surprise, only one angel was seated there, doing nothing much. "This is the Acknowledgement Section," my angel friend said quietly. He seemed a bit embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here?" I asked.

The angel sighed. "Well, after people receive the blessings that they ask for, it seems very few think to send back any acknowledgement."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. "Just say 'Thank you, Lord.' And mean it."

**Vivienne Dalton**

## Caribbean Tales from Methodist International House

The Caribbean Sea is part of the West Atlantic Ocean but separated from it by a series of islands known as the West Indies. This tropical sea has an area of 1,000,000 square miles, and is an important shipping route, mainly because of the Panama Canal. The West Indian islands here include the Windward Islands and the Leeward Islands, the Windward ones being southerly and nearer to South America and Guyana. The community at M.I.H. became Home from Home to a large number of students from this region, and from a variety of islands. Many were studying for further degrees in Education (M.Ed.) or (Ph.D.), others in engineering, art, medicine etc.

Whilst I was warden / manager I often visited churches in the District to explain the work of the Methodist church carried out, on their behalf, by the staff at M.I.H. On these visits, I regularly invited a student to accompany me. (We often attended weekend conferences too). It gave the residents an opportunity to give information from their islands about the situations they had to cope with (government restrictions, weather problems, agricultural difficulties, health, family structures, etc.) and give us an insight into their way of life. Obviously a visit to the area would have been better, but this was probably second best. Sometimes we were able to give them some type of gift on their return home.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5.00pm – prayer and medication to follow.

A headmaster from Anguilla was quite impressed when he heard Dorry and Jonathan playing their recorders (we didn't realise they were that good!), and made enquiries about costs. He thought the young pupils at his school could enjoy performing as an orchestra as it seemed an easy instrument to play. We had a few fund raising events, and presented him with 15 recorders and these eventually produced beautiful music in Anguilla.

Several teachers came from St.Lucia. One who lived in sight of the airport, taught Jonathan to play the piano. Another, a lady teacher from a poor area of the capital, Castries, told us of the difficulties in providing meals at school for some of the undernourished (and so under achieving) young pupils. Again, after fund raising, a cooking stove of a suitable type was purchased,

and money, for shipping it, provided. A very valuable addition to the welfare of those children given by the school.

A very different type of help was needed and given to a man from another island. I had received a call from the British Council, to the effect that a tragedy on an island in the Caribbean affected our resident. They failed to locate him and asked that we should break the news, as it was a weekend. Evidently a neighbour in his home cul-de-sac had run amok, shooting and killing several people including one of his family. Obviously care and counseling as well as physical help regarding travel arrangements were a priority. This we were able to provide. We realised how valuable a place like M.I.H. was in circumstances like this. How would he have coped if he had been in a bed-sit on his own?

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

This prayer comes from the Methodist Prayer Manual for the Methodists in the Caribbean “Gracious God, your Son, Jesus Christ, endeavoured in all aspects of His earthly life to be about Your business and has given us an example of commitment and wholesome living. We pray that this same spirit may permeate the lives of Methodists in the Caribbean area. We pray especially for young people who live with the growing culture of drugs, human trafficking, gang warfare and sexual abuse. We thank you for those who committed their lives to Christ at a conference in 2010 and pray that they may be positive role models for their peers. Amen.” This is a shortened version of a prayer by Franklyn Manners, President of the Leeward Islands.

As a family we still have contact with several past residents living in Barbados, Anguilla, Monserat, St.Kitts and Nevis, Antigua, Jamaica, and Turks and Caicos. I sometimes feel it would be a pleasure to make the journey to link up and reminisce (even in our retirement!). At the beginning of the academic year, British students usually had parental help in relocating to halls of residence; coming with all manner of packages computers and bikes. This assistance is not available if you have flown in from abroad. A plan was organised, arranging ‘meet and greet’ students at the airports or in Bristol at rail or bus stations. This was a very useful venture, as it included (after the new arrival had been given refreshment) an introduction to the local shops and area. It also introduced people to one another; so at least one friendly face was around to greet you! Sometimes

these friendships became deep and long lasting. A young engineer from Guyana ('from Demerara where the sugar comes from') welcomed an English girl student who had experienced the 'Hills of Bristol' as she had cycled from Temple Meads and was almost exhausted. He gave her soup and new bread and took her to the shops of Clifton. Eventually they became engaged and married and with their family, still live in Bristol.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7.00pm. Please use the back door.

If you shop at Sainsbury's you are probably aware that their bananas are Fairly Traded and that they come in from the Windward Islands. Evidently Sainsbury's purchase almost all of the bananas grown in those islands. A few years ago I spoke at our Bright Hour meeting, bringing with me a resident who was from St. Lucia. She told us of the difficulties experienced by the farmers on St. Lucia as new regulations regarding crops and marketing were affecting them. Evidently, America had decreed that the Windward Island crops were no longer needed in America. This also coincided with the time that Britain decided that we needed our imported bananas to measure more than 5" and that they had to be straight! This of course meant that the small Windward bananas were no longer suitable for our markets. After protesting, the farmers were told 'You must diversify'. As our St. Lucian lady told us, 'How can you diversify when the soil is only suitable for banana growing, and the climate is as it is? The islands depend on this crop and on holiday makers.' After our visits to various churches where she made her plea to us to support the farmers of the Windward Isles we christened her 'Our Banana Queen'. The fact that the fairly traded fruits system of farming and marketing has developed has saved the islanders of the Caribbean. These small bananas are ideal for lunch boxes, and for small appetites! I know that when our 'Banana Queen' returned home and became involved in the political aspects of St. Lucia she was very supportive of the farmers, and their concerns.

I feel honoured to know that one of the M.I.H. residents who completed her Ph.D. (Doctorate in Education); has attained the position of Governor General of her home island i.e. of St. Lucia; has since been awarded Doctor of Letters by the University of Bristol, and above all, has been made a Dame. When Jonathan visited the Caribbean with a Dutch sailing team (he went as the cook), he was able to visit the Governor at Government House. She made him very welcome, gave him a tour of the House and refreshment. During the time whilst Donald has been ill, she has spared time to visit us here and has recently sent word to our family as she recalls

Donald, and the pleasurable times we enjoyed during her student days, and her visits to our home here. She has signed 'Erstwhile Banana Queen'. Coming from an ordinary family, educated at an ordinary school, and at university, she has empathy with the ordinary people of her beloved island. I am sure that, if she came again to visit Bright Hour (or wives, or Y's Men), her message would include 'Please buy Windward bananas!'

As we continue our journey through life our Christian calling is to care for people, as we would wish to be cared for. Jesus gave us the pattern. It sounds an easy one to follow. 'LOVE ONE ANOTHER'. We all know that it isn't as easy as it sounds! Perhaps the need is for us to try harder, and to trust in the promise of Jesus that he is with us and will guide and support us.

Let there be love shared among us, let there be love in our eyes.  
May now Your love sweep this nation, cause us O Lord to arise  
Give us a fresh understanding of brotherly love that is real,  
Let there be love shared among us; Let there be love.

### **Dorothy Blackmore.**

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

---

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

---

The eight graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7.00pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

---

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

---

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10.00am. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.



One Sound Concert



The UK's Leading Christian Youth Ensemble

# OneSound

## LIVE IN BRISTOL

Sacred Classics.  
Modern Worship.  
Contemporary Hits.



Saturday 14th April - 7.30pm

Tickets: £10 / £6 (Under 18s/Full time students)

T : 0117 960 9600

E: [Caroline.warrey@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Caroline.warrey@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Woodlands  
Church,  
Clifton  
Bristol BS8 2AA**

Presented by Bristol & South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit  
OneSound is the new name for MAYC Orchestra and Singers. [WWW.ONESOUND.org.uk](http://WWW.ONESOUND.org.uk)

## Pause for Thought

### An Easter Hymn

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What joy the blest assurance gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my everlasting Head.

He lives to bless me with His love,  
He lives to plead for me above.  
He lives my hungry soul to feed,  
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives triumphant from the grave,  
He lives eternally to save,  
He lives all glorious in the sky,  
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to silence all my fears,  
He lives to wipe away my tears  
He lives to calm my troubled heart,  
He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death:  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His Name!  
He lives, my Saviour, still the same.  
What joy the blessed assurance gives,  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

***Samuel Medley (1739-1799)***

## Rotas

### Door & Books

Feb	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
am	J White B White	P Webber J Tippett	M Stone M Golding	M Frost W Frost	P Blackmore J Green
pm	M Kenway M Kenway	W Stamford B Griffen	J Morgan M Morgan	R Ireland C Haycock	T Lansdown H Lansdown

### Flowers

1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Church</b>				
Heather Britton	<b>Easter</b> – Phil Bond	Free	<b>Flower Festival</b>	Free
<b>War Memorial</b>				
Rosemary Ireland	Phil Bond	Lilian Curnock	<b>Flower Festival</b>	Free

## Weekly Activities

You are invited to share in our services and activities as listed below.

If you would like an introduction to any of the groups / activities please contact the Minister or a Church Steward.

Details of further events inside.

### **Sunday**

10.45am Morning Worship, Youth Church & Creche  
4.00pm Messy Church (First Sunday of each month)  
6.00pm Evening Worship

### **Monday**

10.00am – 3.00pm Friendly Table  
2.30pm Bright Hour  
Evening Brownies, Guides & Rangers  
Table Tennis

### **Tuesday**

7.30pm Girl's Night In (First Tuesday of the month, ask about venue)

### **Wednesday**

1.30pm Mums & Toddlers  
Evening Rainbows  
7.30pm Wives Group (Alternate weeks)  
Men's Curry Club (As announced)

### **Thursday**

2.15pm Shawl Ministry (Last Thursday of the month)  
Evening Boy's Brigade (Anchors, Juniors, Company & Seniors)  
Brownies

### **Friday**

7.30pm Y's Men (Third Friday of the month)  
Men's Curry Club (As announced)

### **Saturday**

9.30am Prayer Meeting (Second & Fourth Saturday of the month)  
Coffee Morning