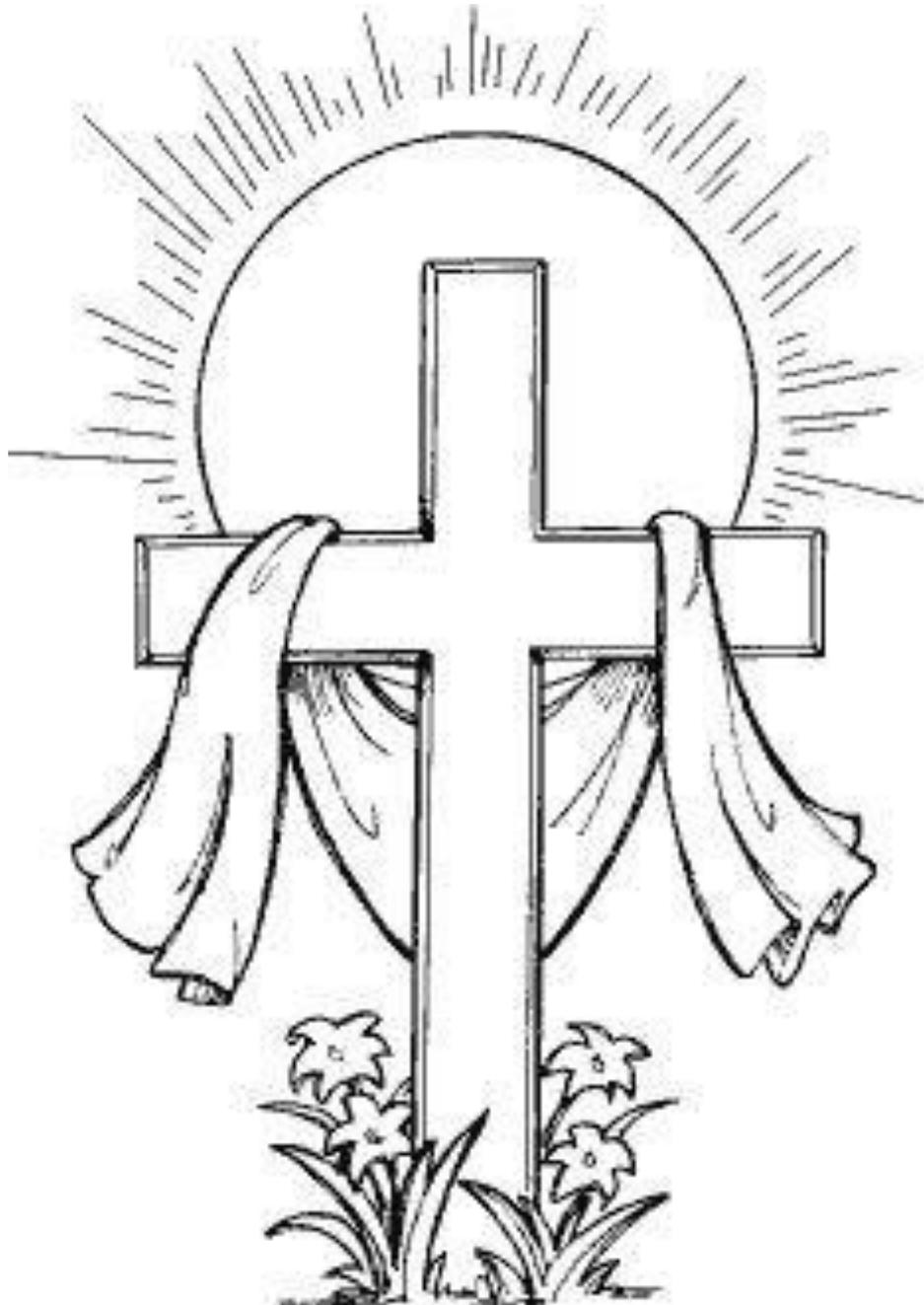


HANHAM METHODIST CHURCH MAGAZINE



MARCH / APRIL

Welcome to the magazine of Hanham Methodist Church, a member of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit.

Our services are open to all, whether or not you are a Church member. We have a loop system for those hard of hearing. Notices and service sheets are available in larger print and services on CD are available for the housebound on request.

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Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect Church policy. Enquiries should be directed to the Editor.

Copies of this magazine are held on the Church website and therefore all articles can be viewed through the internet. Submissions of all articles should therefore highlight any information you wish to be removed from the online version.

Website: www.hanhammethodist.org.uk

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Rivers of the Bible Revelation 22: 1-5

We started this series in the opening chapters of Genesis and we draw to a conclusion in the last chapter of Revelation, though it would be presumptuous to claim we have covered the whole of the Bible or even every river mentioned in the good book.

Some translations give this book the title “The revelation of St. John the Divine” others leave off ‘the Divine’ and others simply call it ‘Revelation’ Most scholars agree that the author was named John but, rather like us at HMC, there were several Johns around at the time. Most agree the author was probably not the same person who wrote the fourth gospel although the writer would have known that gospel as there are clear indications in Revelation linking the two books. It is generally agreed that the author was in captivity at the time probably on the island of Patmos.

John writes in an apocryphal style of language and the book is one of the more difficult in the New Testament for the modern mind to understand. He is writing to Christians who are suffering persecution assuring them of God’s eternal promise of the coming of the Kingdom and maybe the language used is in a coded format which the persecutors would not be able to understand.

The writer describes a river pure and crystal clear, unlike some of our earlier rivers such as the Jordan that Naaman was told to bathe in. The river is simply called ‘the river of life’ - the reference here may well be to Jesus’ conversation with the woman at the well (John 4) and rounds off several of the themes that we have looked at in this series. For instance, the river is described as having a tree

of life on either bank where the leaves of the tree are described as 'for the healing' which we considered with the Naaman story. But here the reference is to 'the healing of the nations' and how that is pertinent today.

I am writing this before the Brexit situation is decided but I think we can all agree that whichever position we hold our nation is more divided than at any time in our lifetimes. Added to which, across the world, we see the rise of leaders who espouse ideals that we thought and hoped belonged to the 1930s and were long ago vanquished. Also the gap between rich and poor is widening as we learned when we were told that by January 4th the Chief Executives of the multinational companies had already earned as much in the new calendar year as a shop floor worker will earn in the whole of 2019.

John is writing to a people even more under the cosh than we might feel we are and he paints a picture of the time when evil and suffering will be no more and in the words of the old hymn 'Satan is vanquished, and Jesus is King' becomes reality

George MacLeod, the Scottish preacher who founded the Iona Community tells in a sermon of the difficulty for us to understand the Second Coming in which Revelation plays a major role. He refers to the Christians who lived during the approach to the first millennium. They believed literally the prophesy in Revelation 20 that after a thousand years Armageddon would visit the earth and Christ would win the decisive battle between good and evil. So how did the people prepare for this anticipated return of Christ in the

year 1000 AD? Across Europe they set to and built great and beautiful cathedrals many of which still stand today.

But why trouble to build cathedrals when they thought that earth would soon be consumed and taken up to heaven? The answer is that they wanted the world to be as beautiful a place as possible for Jesus to return to.

Today we think differently to our ancestors of a thousand years back. Hopefully we think that people are more important than buildings, even grand cathedrals. MacLeod asks whether we should try and make this world more beautiful for Christ. He suggests building a more beautiful city where everyone has a roof over their heads, a more beautiful world where hunger and lack of medical care is no more and, sixty years after that sermon was preached, we could add a world that cherishes and cares for the planet that is our home.

The river of life shall stream from God's throne,

With healing, forgiving: war shall not be known,

The nations shall gather to live in God's light

United forever in joy and delight.

Come people of God, your courage renew

For God reigns already, creates life anew.

Be faithful and bold to welcome God's day

That tears pain and sadness may vanish away. StF 738

TJL

Lenten Bible Studies

Instead of running our traditional Lenten House Groups this year we have been invited to join with the Cluster in a series of Bible studies based on the Parable of the Sower.

These will be held in the Lounge at Hanham Methodist Church each Tuesday during Lent commencing at 7.30p.m. The dates are 12th, 19th and 26th of March and 2nd and 9th April.

Please give this new initiative your support.

Tim Lansdown

Worship Committee



Keep an eye on Hanham Mount

The swathes of daffodils on the Mount are up and in bud.

They should be at their best in the first couple of weeks of March. Well worth a visit.

John Ireland

Where Were the Women?

This was the opening question when Rev DR Jonathan Pye gave his sermon at the Induction of Margaret Johnson as MWiB President of the Bristol Methodist District, at Salem Methodist Church 12th January 2019. He went on to say that we are mindful of shepherds, Angels, Wise Men, Herod even, yet there is no mention of midwife, cooks, serving girls, Innkeeper's wife but they must have been at the birth of Jesus. What about the women in the Bible? We are aware of the famous ones and Jonathan gave us a

long list from Sarah and her hilarity at God's news, through Ruth, Esther, Elizabeth, Mary, to Lydia and Dorcas of the young Christian Church. Then he spoke of the women of Medieval times, Julian of Norwich, right down to Gladys Aylward (who incidentally, I met at the Albert Hall during a M.A.Y.C. Show) and Corrie Ten Boon of the 2nd World War. But so often the women are in the background or unnamed, yet we know they were there, supporting, loving, sacrificing. In some societies today, too many we might think, it is the women who fare badly and are scapegoats in a male dominated society. (I am not advocating that women should take over the world, it's just putting a different slant on history)

Jonathan was making the point of "Where are the women?" Because he was drawing attention to work, which is often carried out by the female gender of the species and not always recognized.

Margaret Johnson now heads a long line of women who have been president of MWiB, Women's Network and before that Women's work, all within the Methodist Church. Today MWiB works in Britain and abroad, campaigning for justice and speaking out against such things as FGM, Period Poverty. It's often hard to imagine that this is still relevant in C21st Britain, but it is.

In our church here, we have a Wives Group and they are eligible to be counted as MWiB, as are all the women in our church. There are 2/3 meetings of the local cluster committee and Strawberry Tea is organized by MWiB. If you would like to learn more about the work they do please ask.

Pam B

Spring Coffee Morning

In aid of Church funds

In Main Hall

Saturday 23rd March, 2019

9.00 - 12.00 noon

Come and have some delicious home-made cake with your tea or coffee.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY!

We are holding a Spring Coffee Morning on Saturday 23rd March which is in aid of Church Funds. Any help you can give would be really appreciated.

We would be grateful for assistance with putting up and taking down tables, helpers to serve, washing up and **please, please** can we have some cakes to sell. This is for the Church and the more members we have involved the easier it is for everyone. If you are able to help in any way, please let Pat Webber know.

Many thanks **EVCOG**

Mission Committee invites you to:-

5th March Shrove Tuesday 6pm Come & enjoy a pancake party £2

14th April "Not So Simple Lunch"

12th May "Simple Lunch" in aid of Christian Aid

Frampton Cotterell Male Voice Choir – 23rd March

Frampton Cotterell Male Voice Choir are coming to perform a concert on Saturday 23rd March, featuring a section by the popular Shanty Men. Start time is 7.30pm, price £6.50 to include tea, coffee and biscuits. All profits to **The Y's Men's Club of Hanham** Charities which for this year are Kingswood Community Transport, BAT (Battle against Tranquillisers) and Above and Beyond (The Bristol Heart Institute).

Please come and have an evening of superb entertainment and support these worthy charities. Tickets from any Y's Man or on the door.

Messy Church!

If you enjoyed our crib service on Christmas Eve why not come along to Hanham Methodist Church on Saturday 20th April at 4pm to find out the rest of Jesus' life-story and discover how He changed our world. There will be refreshments including hot cross buns afterwards and chocolate eggs to share. Please come along and dress up if you would like to take part or sit back and enjoy the fun!

Hope to see you there,

Hanham Messy Church Team

For more info contact: hanhammessychurch@gmail.com

The next Messy Church dates:

- *March 3rd Messy Church - Jesus calling the fishermen.*
- *April 7th Messy Church - Palm Sunday story*

And the winner is...

Following our Advent House Groups Joan invited us to meet up in the New Year for a game of Miracles and Pitfalls. This is a board game where, a bit like Monopoly, you move your counter around the board but in order to shake the dice you first have to answer a question on the Bible in the style of Trivial Pursuit.

The questions can be on a character, a place, an object or a Biblical text with certain words missing that you have to fill in. The questions varied from the ridiculously simple to the most obscure quarried from the likes of Joshua, Judges or Revelation.

Six of us played but only got half way round the board so we met up a second time. Two of the players were 'injured' and we had no substitutes on the bench so four of us continued.

The game is made more difficult with the Miracle and Pitfall cards, rather like Community Chest and Chance. This meant that two of us who were on the cusp of victory were sent back to the start. But just as the clock reached nine o'clock the winning dice was rolled, and the winner was...Mary Golding!!

TJL

CASUAL CHURCH SERVICES:

Summerhill Methodist Church have started a brand-new venture, on 2nd Sunday of the month at 6.00pm. You are invited along for a cup of coffee or tea and some nibbles, and to join a discussion of Nehemiah, talk about any issues, sing songs and join prayers.

All are welcome if you want to come for an alternative church service for a change.

East Mission Cluster Services

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 15TH TO APRIL 20TH



Monday

7pm Wesley
Memorial Church
Service



Tuesday

7pm Hanham
Art, Music and Readings
for Holy Week



Wednesday

7pm Summerhill
Church Service



**Maundy
Thursday**

7pm Unity Oldland
Maundy Thursday
Service



Saturday

4:00 pm 'The real Easter
story': Hanham
Afterwards Hot Cross Buns

All are welcome to join us
to celebrate the real Easter story



Hanham Methodist Church
invites you to discover

THE REAL EASTER STORY

20th April

@4pm

Come along,
dress up,
join in
and have fun!

Hot X buns

Egg hunt

Easter biscuits

(hanhammessychurch@gmail.com)

Worship at "The Beeches"

Now in our 18th year we continue to arrange a short act of worship at "The Beeches Residential Home" on the third Thursday of each month. We are grateful to Vron, Tim and Chris who, each, once a month lead these Services supported by someone saying prayers and another doing the reading.

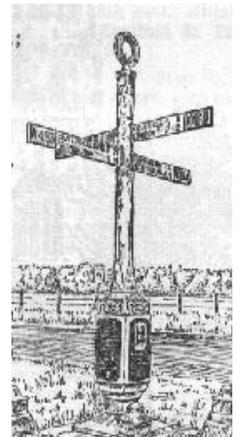
We would welcome some more support. If you feel able to help in this way, or even to join in the hymn singing, I would love to hear from you. It works out about once every 3 months, so it's not a huge commitment. The staff and residents really enjoy these visits and it is an excellent way to engage with our Community. Worship commences at 2.30 p.m. and lasts about 45 mins.

Rosemary Ireland

Worship Secretary

Signposts

Finished packing up after Christmas, snow and frost followed by Spring daffodils and croci. Usual English weather not to mention the mix-up of Brexit or hard fences in America with demonstrations and pointing fingers. World disasters caused by volcanic eruptions, refugees fleeing looking for refuge and peace.



Now at the time of Easter when in the sacrifice of the cross, the beauty and wonder of God's Creation. Love, compassion, sharing, living together in peace.

ACW

Thank you...

On behalf of my husband and myself, I would like to say a huge thank you to you all, for the many beautiful bunches of flowers, cards and get well wishes. It has been a difficult year for us both, but hopefully things seem to have settled down a little now. Thank you all very much, and we send our good wishes to you all.

Dot and Dave Murphy.

Well here I am back again hoping to stay fit and healthy and be a better attender at church. Many people have suggested that too much excitement and partying caused me to end up in BRI with pneumonia!

Firstly, many thanks to everyone for all they did to help make my 90th birthday such a special occasion. Thank you to all those that attended on the Saturday afternoon, it seemed that everybody enjoyed themselves and there was such a lovely feeling in the Church Hall. Many of my friends and family, not associated with Hanham Methodist Church commented on the friendly welcome they received from everyone.

On my actual birthday I was treated to a surprise outing and visited Concorde and the Museum at Aerospace, Bristol at Filton. Who would have thought at 90 I would actually go on board Concorde! We then had party tea at Kift Lodge to wind up events!

Thank you for all your good wishes, cards and presents. BRACE charity has benefited £165 thanks to everyone's generosity.

With my best wishes

Nesta

RANDOM THOUGHTS – ORIGINS & CONNECTIONS

There is always a precedent for the origin of just about everything however original or unique it may seem. The origins of Old Testament narratives are shrouded in the mists of time before organised civilisation and written language. The anthropologist defines the beginning of organised civilisation as when man first started to build cities. Iraq is regarded as the cradle of civilisation and was located in Mesopotamia on the flat plains between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates around 3000BC, it was one of the six major civilisations - the others were India, China, Egypt, Central America and Peru. These civilisations were characterised by diverse interpretations of their ultimate purpose for existence and expressed through their moral, spiritual, intellectual and political structures and Bronze Age Technology and yet, the outward materialistic expression of this diversity is remarkably similar. These Civilisations, based as they were on a hierarchical framework with a privileged governing class and rigid social, religious and economic structures, built civic buildings, public squares and gardens, temples, theatres and housing usually laid out on a grid-pattern. In the beginning these large cities had to be self-sufficient, - their agricultural basis being supported by vast irrigation systems feed from tidal rivers such as the Nile in Egypt and the Ganges in India. And within this simplistic description of the beginnings of organised civilisation, we can detect something of the origins of the Old Testament narratives. In terms of place and time, the book of Geneses names a number of the ancient Mesopotamian cities - Babylon, Akkad, Erech and Ur where Abraham was born.

All three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam have their origins in the land of Abraham. According to the later Sumerian writings the earliest religious shrine was built at Eridu in Iraq sometime before 3000 BC. The Sumerians believed this to be the site of creation, - the first land to rise out of the primal sea at the beginning of time. The shrine housed the Enki, the God of Waters and Wisdom who was named after the ocean of sweet water out of which came all natural and human life.

In spite of the many varied narratives devised by the ancient religions to describe the creation of the world, all these narratives describe a central creator god, - see *Geneses chapter 1 for the Jewish version*.

As late as the 10th century AD the shrines of the older religious sects whose cosmologies contained Sumerian myths still contained a walled garden in which the sacred Kiskanu tree (the tree of Paradise) was planted. It has been suggested that this myth is the source of both the Tree of Life and the Garden of Eden narratives described in the Bible, - see *Geneses Chapters 2 and 3*.

The Last Judgement: Egyptian religious belief was optimistically concerned with Life after Death and in the 'Book of the Dead' there is reference to 'weighing the dead' i.e. a last judgement on a person's life at death. This Egyptian concept is thought to have later influenced Islam and Christian theology.

Biblical references to Judgement are many; see Revelations c.20 vs.11-15 and for Forgiveness (whilst there is still life!):- Luke c.7 vs. 36-50

The Flood and the Great Ark: 'Imaginative literature' has provided an enduring legacy down the centuries and from the Mesopotamian culture, there is 'The Epic of

Gilgamesh'. Gilgamesh, according to legend was the King of Uruk who built the city walls around 2700BC. The Sumerian tale of the Flood and great ark attributed to Gilgamesh appears many centuries later in the Bible; - see *Geneses chapters 6 to 9 inclusive*.

If we now consider the subjective motivation that drives of our own personality, we might believe a person will progress from selfishness, prejudice and intolerance to enlightenment and tolerance as a result of living within a social framework of caring and moral learning and experience.

And that such a person should be able to assess, evaluate and devises solutions for given situations and those involved, **in an impartial manner**. But experience actually shows that impartiality and enlightenment can rapidly 'go out of the window' when we become personally involved in such a situation. In that event we become unable to play the role of assessor, judge or councillor.

Prejudice, intolerance and fear were encapsulated in the savage persecution of those 17th century nonconformist Christians in Bristol by the Church of England. The religiously offending Baptists were driven into the surrounding Hanham countryside in order to avoid persecution and even death. *Biblical References for Hatred: Matthew c.5 vs.43-48 & John c. 15 vs.18-25 and for Revenge: Romans c.12 vs.17-21*

And of course prejudice, intolerance and fear are sustained in part by our own sometimes dubious beliefs and self-interests, the origins of which are usually routed in the sub-consciousness conditioning of our moral and

religious upbringing, - for example if we debate the acceptability or otherwise of homosexual and same-sex marriages and the raising of children within those relationships, then disagreement arises,- but this should not be allowed to promote personal animosity between the opposing parties. Where disagreement arises and conflicting opinions are sincerely held then we need to remember that Jesus is in the midst holding together, in Love and tolerance, those very strands of disagreement and chaos to which we are required to selflessly seek acceptable solutions limited as we are by the scope and influence of our lives. This way of living can make for a tough life but one possessing the hidden benefits of peace and satisfaction.

We end with an enlightened narrative from Ancient China; - Nestorian Christianity in Iraq held beliefs and forms of worship considerably different from the Roman and Orthodox Churches of the Mediterranean. This early Christian sect was reputed to preach an unusual level of religious tolerance and enlightenment and in 638AD the Emperor of China in a moving and open-minded manner granted permission for it to build a church in Xian; - he is reputed to have declared that Nestorian teaching is helpful to all creatures and beneficial to all mankind so let it have free course throughout the empire. ARGI

Reference Source: - *'Legacy - A Search for the Origins of Civilisations'*
by Michael Wood - BBC Publications

Looking ahead...

Christian Aid week 12th - 19th May.

Coffee morning 11th May. Simple lunch 12th May.

Soup lunches - look out for details.



Easter



Directions: The words are hidden vertically and horizontally.

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



Word Box:

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Easter | Sunday | search |
| Spring | parade | hunt |
| chocolate | bunny | find |
| decorated | rabbit | candy |
| daffodil | chick | eggs |
| basket | peeps | fun |

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Easter Story

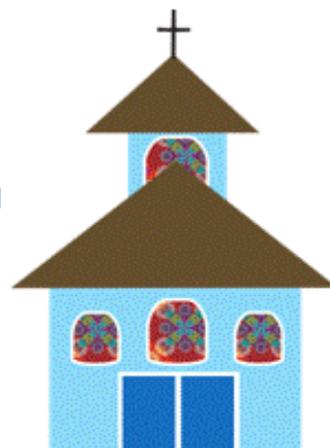
Word Search

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

APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB



Cancer Research UK Marathon Challenge!

In April I will be running the London Marathon to raise money for Cancer Research UK. It's going to be a real challenge for me, so I'd really appreciate your support!

Cancer has affected so many of my friends and family – some have fought the battle and won, others have lost their fight; that is why I'm raising money for this incredible charity. CRUK receives no government funding and relies solely on donations to enable it to carry out life-changing research; this research has doubled survival rates over the last 40 years.

Any support you can give me will really make a real difference:

- ❖ £5 kits out one of the ground-breaking research labs with essential chemicals needed for day-to-day experiments.
- ❖ £10 buys 5 boxes of microscope slides, like the ones used in breakthroughs such as the discovery of temozolomide, which has saved the lives of many thousands of people
- ❖ £35 could buy special 'chemical scissors' that chop up the reams of DNA in a cancer cell, to help scientists understand the disease to fight it better.

Training is going well – you might have seen me pounding the streets of Hanham! I still have a way to go but, considering I wasn't running at all 6 months ago, I'm happy with my progress so far.

Thank you to all who supported my fundraising coffee morning in February – I was delighted to raise £126.15! I have another coffee morning on 9th March. I have also set up a fundraising page:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/katrinas-marathon-challenge> If you feel able to support me I'd be so grateful.

Thank you so much 😊

Katrina

Flower Rota:

Mar	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Ch	Messy Church	Audrey Dayer	Free	Free	Free
WM	Messy Church	Pat Saunders	Free	Free	Free
Apr	7th	14th	21st	28th	
Ch	Messy Church	Richard Needs	E Needs' daughter	Hilary Lansdown	
WM	Messy Church	Richard Needs	E Needs' daughter	Free	

Doors and books rota:

Mar	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
am	K Cowie I Cowie	M Golding D Davies	G Roberts M Stoodley	J Angell P Kirby	J Green P Blackmore
pm	Messy Church	C Haycock R Ireland	W Stamford B Griffen	J Morgan M Morgan	T Lansdown

Apr	7th	14th	21st	28th
am	M Wilby M Sagar	H Teague B Jones	P Webber J Tippet	K Cowie I Cowie
pm	Messy Church	M Kenway M Kenway	C Haycock R Ireland	W Stamford B Griffen

For Your Diary

3 rd Mar	4.00pm	Messy Church
5 th Mar	6.00pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake party
6 th Mar	9.30am -	Ash Wednesday
	7.00pm	Ashing services at Longwell Green
12 th Mar	7.30pm	Lenten House Group - HMC Lounge
19 th Mar	7.30pm	Lenten House Group - HMC Lounge
23 rd Mar	9-12pm	Spring Coffee Morning
23 rd Mar	7.30pm	The Frampton Cotterell Male Voice Choir
26 th Mar	7.30pm	Lenten House Group - HMC Lounge
2 nd Apr	7.30pm	Lenten House Group - HMC Lounge
7 th Apr	4.00pm	Messy Church - Palm Sunday story
9 th Apr	7.30pm	Lenten House Group - HMC Lounge
14 th Apr	12.15pm	"Not So Simple Lunch"
15 th Apr	7.30pm	Holy Week Worship at Wesley Memorial
16 th Apr	7.30pm	Arbt, Music & Readings for Holy Week
17 th Apr	7.30pm	Holy Week Worship at Summerhill
18 th Apr	7.30pm	Maundy Thurs Communion, Unity Oldland
19 th Apr	9.45am	Good Friday Worship at Hanham followed by Walk of Witness
20 th Apr	4.00pm	Messy Church – The Real Easter Story
21 st Apr	8.00am	Easter Day Communion at Hanham
12 th May	12.15pm	"Simple Lunch" in aid of Christian Aid