

# THE MESSENGER

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD AND LISS  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**We wish you  
a very blessed  
Easter**



**April 2020 No 687**

## From the Minister ...



My dear brothers and sisters, we are living in unprecedented times and there is so much that is still unknown in regard to the Coronavirus, Covid-19 and the effect it is going to have on our communities and towns. What I have noticed in the past weeks though is the fear that is rife at the moment. Fear is understandable and a human reaction, but we have so many promises in scripture that can help us to somewhat overcome it.

Psalm 121 feels particularly poignant at this time; I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

We have taken the very difficult decision in line with the Government Health Secretary's advice to suspend our weekly gatherings for worship and all of our other activities for the foreseeable future. This is a decision I never thought we would be in a position to have to make and things feel very uncertain at the moment in regard to how long we will be in this position for.

However, with great challenge there is great opportunity. We as the church here in Petersfield and Liss have a responsibility to carry doing all we can to be salt and light in our world. We may not be able to physically meet together in the way in which we have become accustomed, but we are still able to worship our God together from our individual homes. We as a church will be providing resources for weekly worship either via email or in hard copy for those unable to access email. It is our hope that we can continue to worship together albeit not physically each Sunday morning at 11am and so I really do encourage you to do so. We will be a lot more reliant on email and phone calls to keep in contact and we will also be providing a weekly newsletter again via email to those who have it or in hard copy to those who don't. We hope this will be a useful and uplifting resource and it will include prayer pointers, poems, bible passages and messages from our congregation. If you would like to contribute anything to this, please do email the office on [admin@petersfieldurc.com](mailto:admin@petersfieldurc.com) by Thursday at the latest and it will be distributed on either Friday or Saturday.

The most important thing is that during this time we all remain as safe and well as possible and keep in contact with those who might be more in need and feeling isolated. We will be doing all we can to be the church in this very different context we find ourselves in.

Your Brother in Christ.

**Josh.**



## **Why did Jesus die?**

***‘God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you.’ (Billy Graham).***

God showed His love for us, when Jesus dealt with the problem of our sin on the cross. *‘He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed’* (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus died in our place to bear our sin and guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin and to set us free from death.

In the 75th anniversary year of the liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, it’s appropriate to remember the story of Fr Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish priest imprisoned in Auschwitz. On 31<sup>st</sup> July 1941 a prisoner escaped from the camp and in response the authorities selected ten men to die in the starvation bunker.

One of the men, Francis Gajinisdek, cried, *‘My poor wife and my children. They’ll never see me again!’* Then Kolbe stepped forward and said, *“I’m a Catholic priest. I don’t have a wife and children and I am willing to die instead of this man.”* He followed the other nine into the bunker. Remarkably he got the prisoners praying and singing hymns and transformed the atmosphere in the bunker. He was the last person to die and after two weeks he was given a lethal injection and died at the age of 47.

Jesus’ death was even more amazing than this, because He didn’t simply die for one man, but for every individual in the world. If you or I had been the only person in the world, Jesus Christ would still have died in our place. *‘Hallelujah, what a Saviour’!!*



# Secretary's Snippets!

Hello everyone,

What a strange world we are living in at the moment. So much uncertainty about what will happen in our country – and will probably have already happened by the time you read this - because of the coronavirus. I just pray that everyone stays safe and that we can continue to support each other in whatever way is necessary through this crisis.

Andy and I were lucky enough to have a short break away in Gran Canaria just before all the flights here there and everywhere were cancelled. We were talking to the taxi man taking us to the airport at the start of our journey home. He was telling us all the wonderful things about Gran Canaria, all of which I agreed with as it is a beautiful island and the weather is gorgeous, and he ended by saying it was paradise and he would not want to live anywhere else. It got me thinking about where we live and what a special part of the world this is. Even with the awful weather we have had this winter and the virus situation now I would not want to live anywhere else. And I know that a lot of this feeling is to do with our church and the people that belong to it. I thank you all for being extended family. Please don't hesitate to contact me, the church office or Josh if you need some help over the next uncertain weeks.

God bless you all and take care. **Carol (Tubbs)**



## New Church Members

At the Communion Service on Sunday 15 March, we were delighted to welcome 7 new church members:

Tim Abbott

Mavis Batty

Colin Duffin

Alan & Mary Fair

Ron & Ena Henderson



## World Day of Prayer – a women-led global ecumenical movement



On Friday 6 March, Petersfield & Liss URC hosted the world Day of Prayer for Petersfield. The service, which took place worldwide on that day, had been prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe, so the sanctuary was decorated with flowers and artefacts relating to that country. People from many of the churches in the area attended the service and a number of the PACT churches were represented by those taking part. The theme was “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk”, and during the service all were encouraged to commit to supporting the local community with actions of love, peace and reconciliation.



## **A message from Emsworth ...**

**For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son , that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

**John Chapter 3 verses 16**

Over twenty -two years ago now a law was passed by officials of Tagbilaran City; the Capital of Cora's home Island of Bohol in the Philippines, that all tricycles licensed to taxi passengers should display a Biblical verse. When a licence is awarded the verse that is required to be displayed is painted on the back of the tricycle. None of the hundreds of tricycles has the same verse and failure to display the verse attracts a fine or revocation of the license. Strangely, in the Philippines, all official notices are in English but hardly anyone speaks English! The Biblical verses are in English so I wondered how many people actually understood them. That seemed to be the only law relating to these tricycles that seemed to be "laws unto themselves" whilst on the road- undertaking, pulling out in front of you, stopping suddenly. There does not seem to be any law concerning lights; whilst driving at night you often come across a tricycle without any lights at all (Cars as well for that matter!)

There does not seem to be a limit either to the number of persons on the tricycle, I have seen up to seven!

Driving is quite an experience in itself in the Philippines and Cora being Filipino is a truly excellent driver. I am far too British giving way more than I should and being far too hesitant at road junctions (there aren't any Give Way or Stop signs!) Mind you the top speed even outside the City is never more than 60mph. I have always thought that queuing or waiting for service was a British attribute, but in the Philippines this is taken to a completely higher level. Cora and I needed to go to the Bank to withdraw some money in excess of that allowed by the ATM. You first enter the Bank being frisked by an armed security guard. The guards all had revolvers which I think were loaded but some had shotguns which weren't and were only for show! You then drew a number and sat down with large numbers of other customers waiting to be served. Eventually you were served and at least four signatures and ID verification later you were able to leave with your money. If you did this within the hour you were very lucky!

We needed to buy a table lamp for our home and went to a store where we had purchased items before. There in the Sale items was the perfect buy for half-price.(1990.00.pesos around £30.70 down to 995 pesos or £15.35) To buy any items at this store you needed to draw a numbered ticket to be served as in the Bank. Not so many people waiting so I took my prize to the Cashier. She told me

that I could indeed purchase the table lamp but needed to be advised that it did not work!!

Cora and I chose another lamp which was tested for us and yes it worked. However I was told that I could not have that lamp as it was for display purposes only, but there was a new lamp of the same type in the storage area above the store. So we waited (and we waited) for the new lamp to arrive. When it did it was also duly tested (it is a requirement for every piece of equipment you buy in the Philippines to be tested before sale) This lamp worked too. The assistant removed the test bulb but I asked if I could purchase a bulb with the lamp? Oh no sir we do not sell bulbs!!!! The saga of the table lamp had already taken over half an hour but there was one last hurdle to jump, the assistant wanted to take the lamp to the car for me whilst I insisted that I was perfectly capable of carrying the bulbless table lamp myself.

Whilst waiting for this table lamp the second verse of the first Chapter of Genesis came to mind; And God said “let there be light,” and there was light. How absolutely reliable are the promises of God. Probably the most well known verse in Scripture is John Chapter three and verse sixteen; “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” It is such a well known verse that its impact and implications are perhaps somewhat minimised. Eugene Peterson in his translation “The Message” puts it this way; “This is how MUCH God LOVED this world: He GAVE His Son, His one and only Son. And this is why: so that NO ONE need be destroyed; by believing in Him, ANYONE can have a whole and lasting life.

And that’s a promise!

Love Alan and Cora



## **“God is good at writing straight with crooked lines”**

A few days ago I read that sentence in a biography I am reading about Pope Francis, written shortly after his election to the Papacy. It was attributed to a cardinal who was reflecting on the extraordinary and controversial route by which Francis had attained the Chair of St Peter. It immediately chimed in my mind with Alan Jones’s St David’s Day “Message from Emsworth” in last month’s Messenger, which included a fascinating passage about “the five unlikely women who changed eternity”. They are the five mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus which begins the first chapter of Matthew’s Gospel - Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary the mother of Jesus. Jewish genealogies were usually patriarchal, that is, someone’s ancestry would be traced through the male line. As Alan pointed out, what is doubly remarkable is that these five women were also, in different ways, lowly and far from the “great and the good” who one might have expected to have played such critical roles in the Messiah’s ancestry. Matthew lists them deadpan, without comment. But the lines were indeed crooked.

The first sermon I delivered at Petersfield URC, several years ago, was on those five women, each a different kind of “outsider”, and how God used such unlikely people for his purpose. I remember that I asked Peter Jolly to undertake the New Testament reading that I had chosen that day. It was the first 17 verses of Matthew’s Gospel, just the list of names, some of them tricky to pronounce. I need hardly say that Peter managed nobly!

**James Fells**



## **From the editors ...**

At the time of writing, we have been overtaken by the constantly changing advice on keeping safe during the coronavirus pandemic. All of a sudden, many of our regular activities have been stopped, and many of us will have to adjust to a very different way of life over the next few weeks and months. As all our church activities have been suspended for the time being, there are no calendars or rotas published in this issue.

However, with so much attention focussed on the COVID 19, we need to remember that April is the month during which we celebrate Easter, and in this issue, there are various article to focus our minds on this most important festival in the Christian calendar. So, however you are spending Easter, we do wish all our readers a very joyous Easter time.

**Keith and Mary**



## Comfort baskets

*The message below is from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust and I thought it would be a great thing to do at church, if we could collect some of the things they are asking for. I liked that you can donate something small like a toothbrush or bigger things like the blankets. If you would like to help with this, please pass items onto Josh or I and then when Josh does a hospital visit to QA then he can drop the donations at the ward.*

**Hannah Thomas**

It can be heart-breaking sitting next to your loved one when they are in hospital and very unwell. Having to face losing them is one of the most difficult challenges you will ever experience.

Senior Sister Marianne Treagust says she had been thinking for a while about 'how we can further support the person who stays by the side of their dying loved one.' So she came up with the idea of a "comfort basket." Marianne explains that people in their patient group 'can be especially vulnerable, particularly when they have been together for many years and are facing losing their lifelong companion.'

Marianne and her colleagues thought about what they would appreciate if they were in that position and decided on some toiletries – toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, wet wipes, tissues, combs, flannel and towel etc. A cosy blanket, eye mask, lavender 'calming spray' and radio/CD player are also in the basket. The team also hope to get some small cushions to help make the armchairs more comfortable. They do offer the use of a fold away bed for night-time.

Currently, the baskets are only for F2 Ward and they will be given to the next of kin who find themselves sat at the bedside of their loved one, alone and with little or no family/friend support. The team hope that this gesture will provide a little comfort during a very distressing time.

These are important for Marianne. She says "They don't want to lose that person, so if we can try to make it a little bit more comfortable for them then that's the least we can do. She also says it's important to "care for the family, not just the patient as they're all going through it".

Marianne also adds that donations to the comfort baskets would be most welcome by both staff and public and asks for those who wish to make a donation if they can be made directly to F2 Ward.



## Psalm 22: Why have you forsaken me?

*'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'* (Psalm 22:1 & Matt 27:46). *Where is God?* is a common question voiced today and shared by Jesus on the cross on the first Good Friday. This question is answered in the psalm, as we look through the lens of Jesus' crucifixion.

***It is a real question:*** Both David and Jesus question God about the pain and darkness of their experience. It is a real question for all suffer, yet they are still able to hold onto a God of love, who has their lives in His hands: *'Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.'* (3).

***It requires faith to ask:*** Their complaint about the apparent absence of God is not a sign of losing faith in Him. David remembers those who have trusted God in the past and been saved from their troubles: *'In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.'* (4). Just like Jesus on the cross, we are able to entrust ourselves *'to Him who judges justly.'* (1 Peter 2:23).

***It is answered in experience:*** When David cried out to God, he experienced his deliverance: *'For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help.'* (24). As a result, David was able to praise God and witness to His faithfulness.

The fulfilment of these verses are seen in Jesus' resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday. He was vindicated by God and has become the source of life and hope for all who trust themselves to Him.

In answer to the question *'Where is God?'*, we hear the answer, *'Look to the cross of Jesus!'*



## Passionflower

Why is the passionflower called the passionflower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens, was discovered in South America by Spanish missionaries centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.



The five petals and five sepals represent the 10 disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona is the crown of thorns. The stigma is the cross or nails, and the five stamens are the number of wounds Jesus received.

## Who moved the stone?

*'When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.'* Mark 16:4

Frank Morrison was an investigative journalist who was a sceptic when it came to religion. He decided to write a book to disprove the claims of Christ, specifically focussed on the last week of His life.

However, when he came to consider the evidence for himself, he was drawn reluctantly to a different outcome than he had imagined. He found that the evidence proved the story to be true, including the fact that Jesus not only died but rose again. In the end he wrote a different kind of book called 'Who Moved the Stone?' with the first chapter entitled, 'The book that refused to be written.'

The veracity of the Christian faith is grounded on historical fact. Not only was Jesus a real person, a figure of history, but His death was real, and so was His resurrection. Examine the evidence for yourself. Read the gospel accounts openly and honestly and see what happens. The truth is there for anyone willing to consider the facts.

Easter reminds us that our faith rests on solid ground. It is why we celebrate Easter Sunday with such gusto. The Resurrection proves that Jesus was who He said He was (the Son of God) and that He did what He set out to do (save us from our sin). But more than that, it reminds us that He can deliver what He promised and help us today because He is alive for evermore.

Jesus is not a figure of history, locked away in the past. No, He is a risen Saviour who is alive today and who invites each of us to receive the gift of salvation, and to live a new life in fellowship with Him.



Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. *Pope John Paul II*

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. *Anon*

## The spread of Coronavirus

Thorough and frequent hand washing with soap and water is recommended by the World Health Organisation as the first step to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

I don't know who first said, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness", but you won't find that phrase in the Bible. Ritual washings are practised by many religions, but they usually signify spiritual cleansing, not physical sanitisation. Piety isn't a substitute for hygiene, nor vice versa.

The Coronavirus, now called Covid-19, has been a daily news item for months, with the result that fear is spreading more rapidly than the disease itself. Stock markets throughout the world have plummeted; sales of disinfectant have soared. Sports fixtures have been cancelled, whole towns have been quarantined and worldwide trade is threatened.

Statistics change hourly, so anything quoted here will be out of date by the time you read it, but we need to put this plague (if that is what it is) into perspective. Do you remember the Ebola epidemic which swept through regions of Africa from 2014 onwards? More than one in three sufferers died from that virus, but there's now a vaccine which can be used when Ebola threatens. Past influenza pandemics have been nowhere near as severe. 'Asian Flu' in 1957, led to 3,550 deaths in England and Wales, or something like 2.4% of actual cases. In 2009, the fatality figure for the swine flu epidemic was about 0.026%. The figures for today's Covid-14 virus suggest that around 80% of cases are mild, 14% develop severe symptoms, 4% become critically ill and the death rate is 2%.

This virus was first publicised by Doctor Li Wenliang, who was detained and censured by the Chinese police for "spreading false rumours". Although he himself subsequently died of the disease, there can be no doubt that his courage saved many lives. There are echoes here of words from St John's Gospel: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." As for the people of China where the virus originated, the Bishop of Newcastle, Christine Hardman, tweeted a Sri Lankan poster, which shows the right Christian attitude. It says, "HATE THE VIRUS, NOT THE CHINESE. Let's pray for them instead".

Amen. And do wash your hands.



# Mission News

***For your information and prayers, there will be news from one or more Missions each month. If you support a mission that has any information and prayer updates, please send these to the editors so that they can be included***

Leading Japanese newspaper The Mainichi reported how 92-year-old Yasuji Hirasawa, a leader of a leprosy colony in western Tokyo, was barred from entering the Tokyo Olympic stadium in 1964 because of discriminatory laws surrounding leprosy. Instead passionate athletics fan Mr Hirasawa watched his favourite athlete Kokichi Tsuburaya compete in the marathon by the side of the road.



The Mainichi reported Mr Hirasawa's delight on Tuesday [17 December) when he heard he is to be an Olympic torch relay runner in the Tokyo 2020 games. This follows the abolishment of the controversial Leprosy Prevention Law in 1996.

Mr Hirasawa was reported to say: "I want to make this an opportunity for people to understand that leprosy is curable. Taking up the role of a runner in the torch relay will help comfort the spirits of my friends who were left to die disappointed. It's a heavy cross the bear, but I want to carry the torch with their thoughts in my heart."

National Director of The Leprosy Mission Peter Waddup praised Mr Hirasawa's campaigning spirit and determination. He said: "Our biggest challenge in ridding the world of leprosy is overcoming stigma and ignorance surrounding leprosy. Tragically all too often I have heard people's stories of being thrown out of their families, communities, workplaces and schools because of leprosy which is just absurd as it is an entirely curable disease.

"Mr Hirasawa's role in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic games is a real inspiration to what we can achieve together in changing attitudes."



*Peter Waddup meets young people affected by leprosy in Sri Lanka.*

**It is nine years since the Syrian conflict began. For almost a decade, families have been forced to flee their homes, losing their loved ones and struggling to survive.**



Tim Purver, part of Tearfund's team based in Syria, explains that, despite the desperate circumstances, he has hope for the future...

### **The scale of the crisis**

Numbers alone paint a devastating picture of the conflict and how far-reaching the impact of the crisis has been:

- 11.7 million people need humanitarian assistance
- Around half of the population have fled their homes.
- Around 83 per cent of Syrians live below the poverty line

### **Time to rebuild**

Tearfund is focusing on three programmes to give people back their dignity and empower them as they rebuild their lives: water and hygiene, income support, and trauma counselling.

### **Join us for a future filled with hope for Syria**

'Please continue to partner with us and pray for Syria – for the country, the people and for our work.

### **Six ways you can pray for Syria**

- **Peace:** pray for an end to the violence in Syria.
- **Relationship building:** pray for our team in Syria – for the existing relationships they have with local churches and organisations, and for wisdom and opportunities for new relationships too. These relationships are vital to help reach even more people with lifegiving support.
- **People returning to their homes:** lift up people who have fled to other countries, and those that have been internally displaced. Life is never the same again, so pray for comfort as they come back to face what they have lost. Pray for new opportunities and for support as they rebuild their lives.
- **Water and hygiene:** pray for the programmes Tearfund is implementing to help people have access to clean water and safe sanitation. Ask that these programmes will reach people in need.
- **Employment opportunities:** pray for new and sustainable opportunities for people in Syria to earn an income and provide for their families. Pray especially for young people; for there to be no lost generation and that they will have hope for their future.
- **Recovery from trauma:** lift up everyone who is suffering the after-effects of this long conflict. Pray for God's healing and comfort to surround them as well as freedom from anxiety and fear. Pray that people will be restored so that they feel empowered and encouraged to follow their dreams.

## Book review

### **Triumph - The extraordinary life and faith of Louis Zamperini**

Louis was born on 26 January 1917, and lived with his parents in Torrance, California. By his 13th birthday, he was out of control and a gang leader. He liked to ruin other people's activities. Eventually he was caught by the police, who warned him about the way he was going. Louie ran away with another boy, but it only lasted a short while and so he came home. His older brother, Pete, was a model student, and was very good at athletics. Louie realised he had been a fool and so he asked his brother to train him to race. Eventually he was very good at running. When Louie was 18 he broke the school record in many races and decided to enter the Olympic Games in Germany in 1936. Louie was able to represent the United States in the 5,000 metre race.

During the last war he was drafted into the air force, and he ended up in a Liberator bomber in the Pacific ocean searching for a lost plane. The Liberator had engine trouble and, sadly, crashed into the sea. Fortunately there were life rafts for them to get into. Although various planes were around, none of them saw them on the life raft. They were 47 days on the water and during that time they prayed for help; one of the 3 men died. They were picked up by the Japanese navy and taken to Makin island in the Gilberts, and then transferred to Ofuna. Louie was treated very badly by the Japanese while there. Louie then went to Omori POW camp near Tokyo and a corporal named The Bird was in control. He had a down on Louie, and gave him hell while there. When the war ended with the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima with the atomic bomb, Louie came back to California. On 2 October 1945 he came to San Francisco and was given a plane to fly to Torrance, where his parents were waiting for him.

Louie suffered nightmares from his past experience and was a difficult person to live with. He started drinking and smoking to try and deal with the past. Louie married Cynthia but he did not get better, Cynthia had a baby girl and Louie doted on her but it didn't make any difference. Eventually Cynthia asked for a divorce. She went to hear Billy Graham at the Los Angeles crusade and Cynthia went forward and was converted. Louie noticed the difference it made to her. She did not want to have a divorce, but he still would not go to the crusade. Cynthia did not give up and kept on asking Louie to go with her. Eventually he went, but sat near the door of the large tent, and when it had finished he went

out with Cynthia and he remained the same. Cynthia persisted and eventually to keep her quiet he went along to the crusade with her. That night he came to the Lord and as a result he did not have another nightmare. He went to Japan and Tokyo to the Sugamo prison to meet the guards who were so cruel to him. He had a love for them and hugged them. He then returned to the United States.

Cynthia had another baby, this time a boy, Luke, this made the family complete. Louis was able to tell his story in churches, prisons and youth centres. He started a boys' camp in the hills near Los Angeles with all the gang leaders, delinquents and misfits. Louie lived to 97.

The book is now in the church library.

## Robin Ive



Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf in springtime. *Martin Luther*



## Books of the Bible

This is a series outlining all the books of the Bible, the word of God, which is central to our Christian faith. This month we are focusing on ... **Malachi**



- *What type of book is it?* prophecy
- *Who wrote it?* Malachi
- *When was it written?* approx. 430 BC

The author of the last book in the Old Testament, Malachi was the last recorded prophet to God's people. He brings them the message that God loves them but they have been sinful particularly the priests who had been failing as spiritual leaders. However, God had a rescue plan and the book concludes with the announcement of the coming of John the Baptist and then Jesus and finally the Day of the Lord.



For our younger readers ...

# Bible Bite

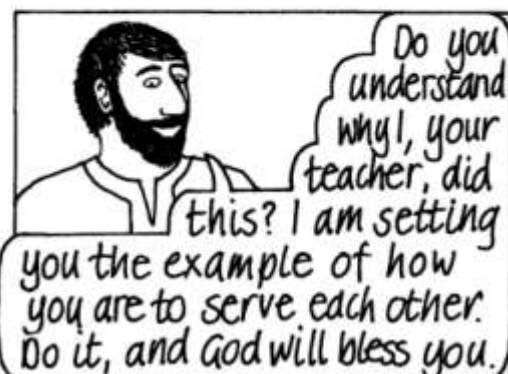
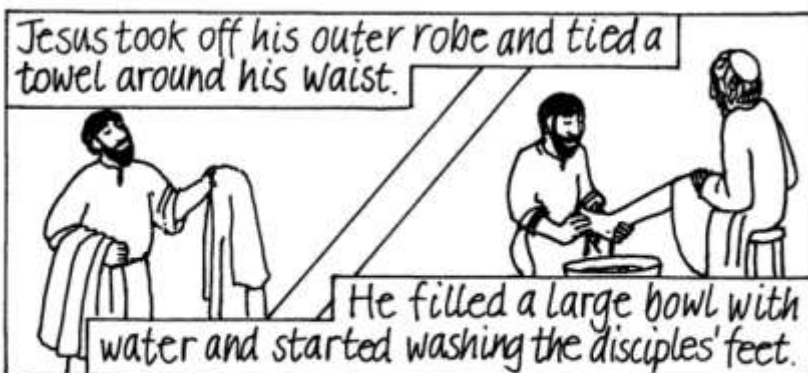
A short story from the Bible

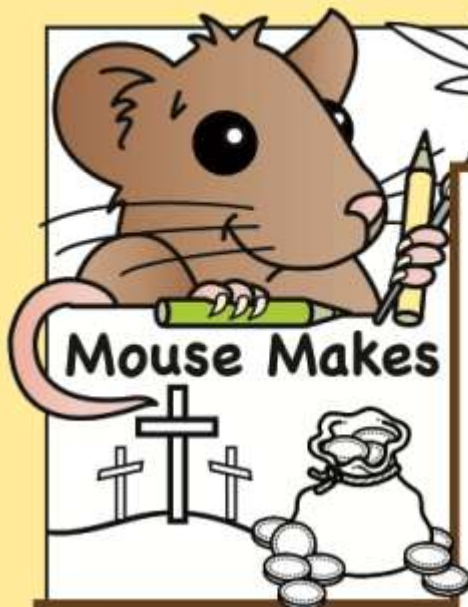
It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

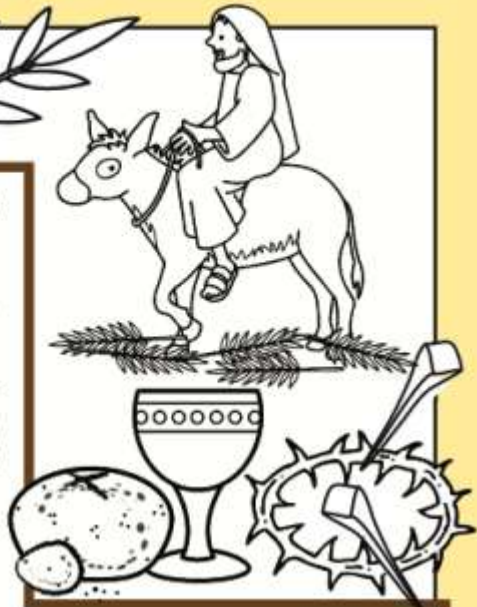


There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.





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ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS  
BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA  
DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER  
FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD  
WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP  
MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS  
GETHSEMANE • PRAY • WILL  
BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH  
CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN  
THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS  
CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS  
TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE  
TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY  
BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS  
DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL  
HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD  
GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE  
PRAISE • SAVIOUR • EASTER

## Crossword

### Across

1 Relating to the whole universe (6)

4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)

8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)

9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)

10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)

12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)

17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)

19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)

21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)

22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)

23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)

24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

### Down

1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)

2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)

3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)

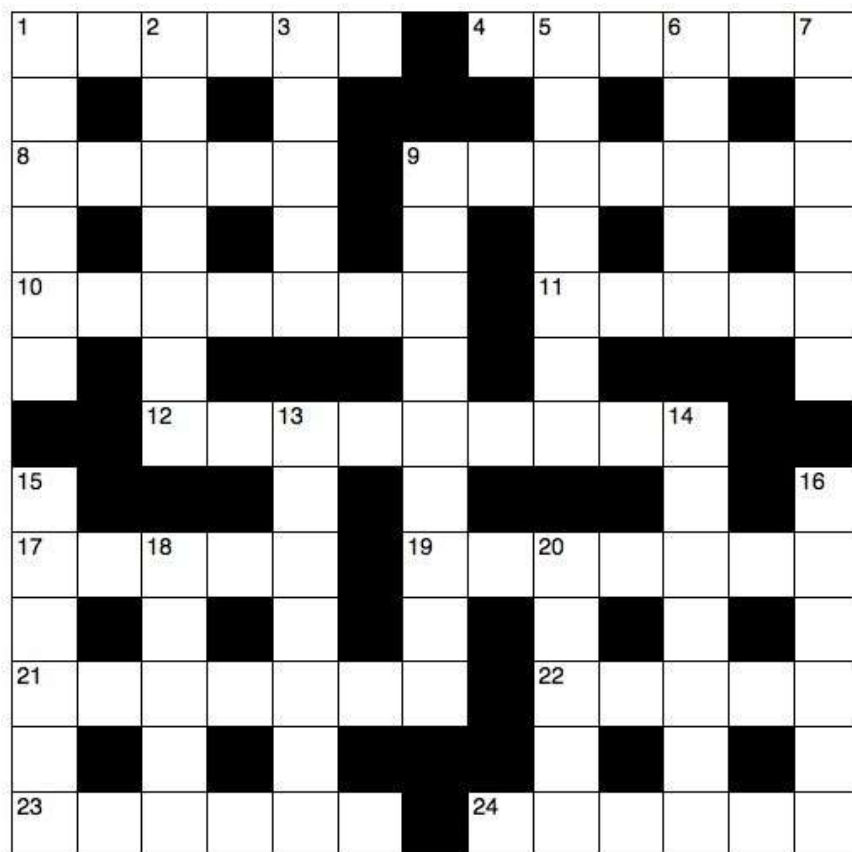
5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)

6 11 Across is certainly this (5)

7 He reps (anag.) (6)

9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)

13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)





14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)

15 The human mind or soul (6)

16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)

18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)

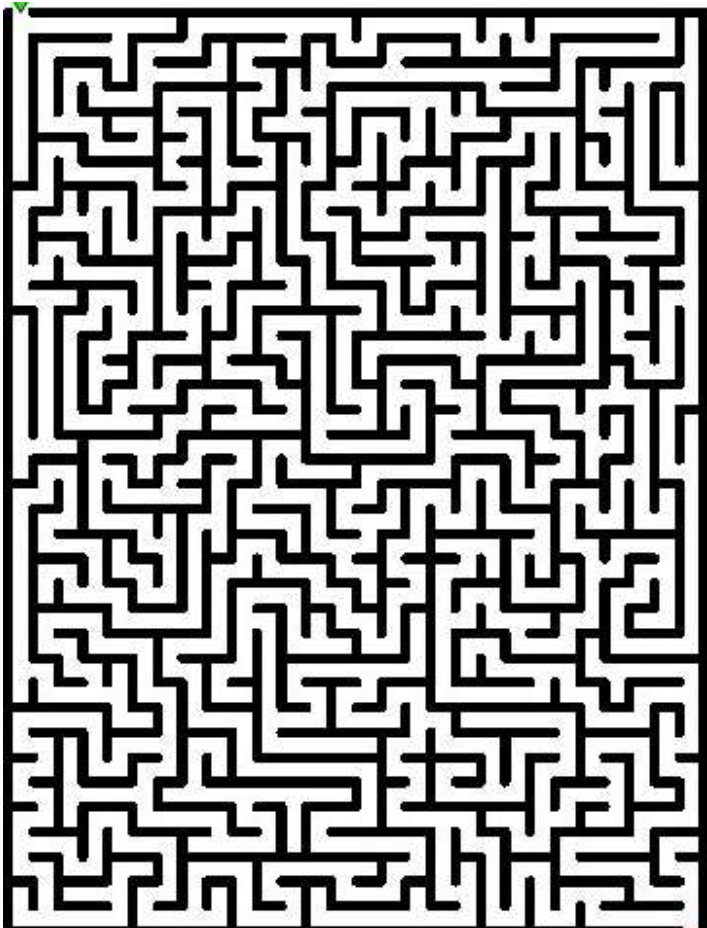
20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Solution on page 23

**Sudoku**

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

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**Maze**



## News from the United Reformed Church items from the March edition of the Synod Newsletter



### Discipleship Development Fund

**Grants of up to £200 per person are available!** To encourage individuals to engage with a journey of deepening personal discipleship. Individuals can apply for help with the cost of attending approved discipleship courses, activities or retreats offered by others, or a congregation can apply for help with the cost of buying in a speaker or other resources. Please contact your DSO to discuss your discipleship development in advance of an application to this fund. [DDF flier](#).

### GEAR

The Spring 2020 edition of In GEAR is now available on GEAR's website. This latest edition plus numerous back copies can be found at: <http://www.gear.org.uk/publications/in-gear-magazine/>

You can download the PDF version by clicking on the relevant front page view. If you wish to receive a paper copy (or multiple copies), please complete the form on the web page.

### NEW BOOKLET AVAILABLE:

#### **The Holy Spirit in the New Testament by Rev'd John Proctor**

John Proctor writes with his usual clear and succinct style to explore what is said about the Holy Spirit in each book of the New Testament. He highlights the distinctive emphases characteristic of each author, each giving their own particular insight into the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

This booklet contains freshly-written material alongside articles originally published within the In GEAR magazine.

Copies can be ordered at the following link:

<https://www.gear.org.uk/publications/gear-booklets/>

### Education for Ministry Phase 3

#### **2020-21 Church Leadership Programme**

A key opportunity in EM3 is the **Church Leadership Programme**, a URC programme to help ministers and other church leaders develop resilient leadership skills whilst deepening self knowledge. The course runs over two weeks, with one week in the Autumn and the other in the Spring of each academic year. In between, students run projects and benefit from tutor mentoring. An ***introductory video*** is here <https://youtu.be/BL07h4jNScg>.

### **‘Emily And Other Stories’ by Ann G. McNair**

One of our Retired Ministers, Ann McNair has written the above book.

Help arrives just in time, and from an unexpected source, to save a critically ill child. A boy who has never spoken is given the time and attention he needs to grow. An older lady is given a second chance to truly discover herself and find happiness. Every life is full of inspirational and thought-provoking moments. Ann recalls just some of her experiences, reflecting on her faith in God and her work as a speech and drama therapist. The stories contained within are sure to give new hope and provide fresh insight to any reader. Published by Olympia Publishers. ISBN: 978-1 78830-592-1. Due out on 26<sup>th</sup> March at £5.99 in paperback.

### **Wessex Synod Prayer Calendar April**

5	Woodley: Christ Church; Longham
12	Oxford: Cumnor; Bordon; Chandler’s Ford: St Francis, Valley Park
19	Banbury: St Francis; Beacon Hill, Hindhead; Isle of Wight: Shanklin
26	Oxford: Wheatley; United Church Dorchester



### **Don’t break’em**

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. “Is there anything breakable in here?” asked the postal clerk. The lady paused for a moment. “Only the Ten Commandments,” she said politely.

### **Environmentally friendly transport**

While driving in the countryside, a family caught up with an old farmer and his horse-drawn cart. The farmer obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: ‘Ecologically efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.’

### **What God looks like**

An infants' teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. One little girl was working away furiously, and so she asked her what the drawing was. The girl replied, “I’m drawing God.” The teacher paused and said, “But no one knows what God looks like.” Without missing a beat, the little girl replied, “They will in a minute.”



## Lectionary Bible Readings for April

April 5	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66; 27:11-54
April 12	Acts 10:34-43; Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10
April 19	Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
April 26	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

### Important - Sensitive issues

As the Messenger is included in the Church Website, it is important that all the content is suitable for public exposure. When composing an article, if there is anything at all that you consider should be removed before publishing on the website, please inform the editors, Keith and Mary Evans.

The articles contained in this magazine do not necessarily represent the views of Petersfield and Liss URC leadership.

The deadline for the **May** Messenger is **Sunday 12 April 2020**. Please send articles to Messenger Editors, Keith & Mary Evans, tel 01730 235922 e-mail [keithnmary@talktalk.net](mailto:keithnmary@talktalk.net)



### **Solution to Crossword on page 19**

**ACROSS:** 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:** 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.

## **Church Contact Details**

<b>Church</b>	<b>Petersfield : College Street, Petersfield GU31 4AG 01730 266475</b>	<b>Liss : Hillbrow Road, Liss GU33 7PX</b>
Minister	Rev Joshua Thomas Tel 07734 254983 <a href="mailto:minister@petersfieldurc.com">minister@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Church Office	Administrator Mrs Esme Kelly Office Hours 9am-12noon Tuesdays to Fridays	
Church & Community Worker	Mrs Jo Hopkins 01730 266475 <a href="mailto:communityworker@petersfieldurc.com">communityworker@petersfieldurc.com</a>	
Telephone	Church Family Centre 01730 266475	
Website	<a href="http://www.petersfieldurc.com"><u>www.petersfieldurc.com</u></a>	
E-mail	<a href="mailto:admin@petersfieldurc.com"><u>admin@petersfieldurc.com</u></a>	
Sunday Services	Mornings at 11 am with Junior Family Church	Mornings at 9.30am (usually 2nd Sunday in the month only, but see Liss calendar inside for full details)
	Evening Worship at 6.30pm (1st Sunday in the month only)	No evening Services
Secretary	Mrs Carol Tubbs 39 Rotherbank Farm Lane Liss Forest GU33 7BJ Tel 01730 893489 Mobile 07766 412160.	
Treasurer	Mr Jim Cleverly, 4 Crundles, Petersfield GU31 4PJ Tel 01730 300558	

### ***Petersfield United Reformed Church Mission Statement***

*“As a congregation worshipping God: we seek to reach out with the love of Jesus; to worship God in our daily lives; to draw others into the knowledge and love of Christ; and to make disciples”*