



*The Westgate  
Chronicle*

**The Magazine of Westgate New Church**

**Issue 465: Easter 2017**

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*United Reformed/Methodist*  
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## Our Mission Statement

We at Westgate are called by God to highlight Jesus Christ's love for the people of Peterborough.

We pass on this good news by worship, fellowship, mission, education, personal life and social service.

## Greetings!

Some of you will know that the subject we are studying for Lent is Life Balance. We are looking at the biblical principle of Sabbath as a model for getting our priorities in life sorted out. I hope those who are on the receiving end would agree with me that there have been good discussions and that it has been time well spent. There's still time to catch the end of the series at 2pm on Wednesdays.

During my preparation for the second session I've been reading and thinking about celebration as one of the hallmarks of Sabbath observance. The fundamental elements of delight, beauty and gift characterise God's intention for our days of rest. The course material asks if our times of worship reflect these God given elements of Sabbath. I would like to ask that of the things we do throughout our day of rest, whether that's Sunday or some other day in the week. Are the



days you hit the pause button of life characterised by delight? Do we give ourselves the opportunity to savour the beauty of creation, no matter how limited a part of it we have the privilege to inhabit? Do we recollect during our time of rest that it is a gift from God, and cultivate an attitude of thankfulness in our joy and wonder?

The sun is shining as I write.

The evenings are getting lighter and there are daffodils lurking on every street corner and at every supermarket checkout. Each of us is blessed by a plethora of wondrous things. May I recommend taking the time to hit the pause button in your frantic round of activity (work, church, family life or retirement) in order to enjoy the moment and give thanks to almighty God for the day as you experience it?

In Christ

*Lesley*



## LOVE AND VALENTINE

*This item, taken from the URC Synod e-letter, was written in February. We have included it because it seems to pick up the theme from our report on the Joint URC service on p13.*



Earlier this week I opened a book that I have not looked at for some time, and a prayer card fell out of it. It reads: From this moment on, may I LOVE powerfully, GIVE prayerfully, LIVE purposefully and LEAVE the rest to God. The bird drawn on it is quite cute too, but I digress. Now, this week many

of us will have celebrated Valentine's Day, but I don't think that this prayer card is about the sentimental, often gushy sort of love we tend to exhibit on 14th February. Indeed, Basil of Caesarea, a fourth-century monk and bishop, wrote: 'I cannot persuade myself that without love to others, and without, as far as rests with me, peaceableness towards all, I can be called a worthy servant of Jesus Christ.' So, I regard the finding of my prayer card a happy reminder that if 14th February is a day about love, it has to include the hard work of working for peace, whatever and wherever that might be, and loving those I don't really want to, because that is the only way I can try to be a worthy servant of Jesus Christ, endeavouring to live purposefully and then leaving the rest to God.

God bless, *Deborah*

*Revd Dr Deborah Baird,*

*Synod Training and Development Officer*

### QUOTATION SPOT

*Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.*

*Albert Einstein*



## STORIES WITHIN THE STORY: HE CALLED ME “FRIEND”!

I am the one who betrayed Jesus to the Sanhedrin, the religious ruling body of our people. If it hadn't been me they would no doubt have found another way, but that does not make me feel any better. I actually thought that I was doing the right thing, and that it would precipitate the rebellion against the authorities for which the teaching of Jesus in the preceding weeks seemed to have been preparing the people.

But in the event Jesus chose the non-violent path, the way of least resistance which allowed the men of violence to do whatever they wanted with him. He is so laid back in the face of danger, so careless of personal safety, so slow even to defend the honour of the Almighty God (whom he calls Father). He makes me furious, even though I recognise this attitude is wholly consistent with what he has always taught.

I suppose I have always been the one with a different attitude, less flexible, more ready to stick to what I decided should be done, and not compromise. The rest of the Twelve Apostles, and even Jesus himself, are all north countrymen – Galileans – but I'm the odd one out. I'm from Judea – my surname, Iscariot, is the Greek form of “from Kerioth”, a town in the far South. I often felt impatient with the others, not quite on their wavelength, and wanting to *do* more – more quickly, reaching out further; not quite fitting in.

That's why I started, just recently, to put together my own plans, to make contact with one or two other like-minded people. We wanted to force Jesus' hand against the authorities, so I went to the religious authorities with a proposal that

we would deliver Jesus into their hands, thinking that would at last make him act. Well, we failed, and in the end I threw the bribe they had offered – thirty pieces of silver – back in their faces.

I think I knew that it wasn't going to work when I approached Jesus at the head of my mixed crowd of Temple police, sympathisers with my plans, and general Jerusalem rabble. I greeted him with a friendly kiss, but I'm sure he knew what was happening. So why didn't he either denounce me as a traitor or be ready to join in with my plans? Why did he call me “Friend” as though this was an everyday meeting and we were on the best of terms? Why when a brave disciple drew his sword and attacked a servant of the high priest did Jesus simply tell him to put up his sword? Why didn't he appeal to Almighty God for defence against his aggressors? Why was he so passive?



My plans failed dismally – had never even left the ground. My sympathisers went away, scornful; the Temple people took Jesus away, triumphant, while Jesus' disciples, dejected and afraid, left quietly, looking over their shoulders.

I have been to the leaders of the Sanhedrin and thrown their bribe back at

them; now it is the end for me, there is nothing left; I have failed dismally. But I am an honourable man and I shall take the honourable way out. The rope is waiting, the noose tied I shall hang myself and go to meet my God and my judge.

God be merciful to me, without doubt the greatest of sinners.

## Judas

*The betrayal of Jesus by Judas is hard to understand. I think this is the only way it makes any sort of sense – a disciple who thought he knew better than his master and wanted to force his hand. In Luke's gospel it says "Satan entered into Judas. . ." and if that means a particular, attractive temptation, it would be the*

*temptation to bring in the Kingdom of God by means of earthly force. That was a temptation Jesus himself had faced at the beginning of his ministry, in his time of preparation in the wilderness – faced and decisively rejected. Judas was not able to resist, and would have led his Master down the path Jesus had already rejected. But Jesus was too strong and too wise to fall for what Judas had plotted.*

*This is a cautionary tale for us – when we perhaps are tempted to know better than our Lord!*

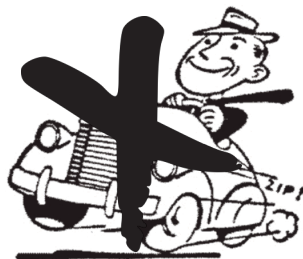
*Ian*

<sup>i</sup>Matthew ch 26 v 50: the word in the Greek of the New Testament is *hetaire*, meaning *Friend* or *Comrade*.

## RETIREMENT

I retired from work when I was 75, having gradually done less each week.

The decision to retire from driving has had much more impact. We have been blessed with offers of lifts to Church and meetings for which we are grateful. We have been closer to our family as they come much more frequently – it gets us out shopping. A gift of a mobility scooter has been a real Godsend, as it made local shopping more viable. Over the last year the cost of running the car was effectively £48 a week. Beside the petrol there are also the costs of the MOT, tax, new tyres



and servicing. This gives us the ability to hire taxis as and when required. It does however mean a lot more planning. Thank you all who are helping.

*Des*



## THE GOOD NEWS

*There is always lots of bad news, so it was good to hear some good news from Theirworld. ([www.theirworld.org](http://www.theirworld.org))*

'Ghana's president promised this week to make senior high school free as part of an initiative to prioritise education – that certainly gets our vote!

By the time a child reaches the age of five, 90% of their brain has already developed, which means those first years are crucial to how you turn out as an adult. Theirworld has looked into how a child's brain develops from when its in the womb up to the age of five.'

*(More on the website above)*

# PAUL GERHARDT (1607– 1676)

Paul Gerhardt, an early hymn writer, was a German theologian, Lutheran Minister and hymnodist. He was born on 12th March 1607 in Grafenhainichen Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. He was educated at the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg.

He was called Germany's gentlest, sweetest singer and was ranked next to Martin Luther as the most gifted and popular hymn writer of the Lutheran church, although the hymns of the two writers are in some respects very different. Luther's belief in free grace and justification by faith inspired his hymns, whereas it was the consciousness of the love of God which introduced joyful confidence in the hymns of Gerhardt. Gerhardt had a profoundly spiritual mind and was regarded as a poet.

The following verse is taken from one of his best known hymns, said to have been written when he was ordered to leave Prussia because of the views he had in contrast with those of the Elector. The verse goes like this:-

"Give to the winds thy fears  
Hope and be undismayed  
God hears thy sighs and counts thy fears  
God shall lift up thy head  
Through waves and clouds and storms  
He gently clears thy way  
Wait thou this time, so shall this night  
Soon end in joyous day."

Gerhardt spent his early years amid the horrors of the Thirty Years War and he did not obtain a settled position in life until he was forty-four as a pastor of a church outside Berlin and four years later he was married. Four years after this he was deposed from office by the Elector Fredrick. When Gerhardt was reinstated



he declined the offer and resigned his appointment. He spent several years in Berlin without office and later his wife died of a long illness. However, he was later appointed pastor to a church in Saxony, but he was not happy with the congregation as they were not responsive, which grieved his sensitive spirit.

He died in 1676 leaving only one child, for whom he wrote a Testament.

Many of Paul Gerhardt's hymns were translated by John Wesley. His hymns combine simplicity with depth and force. It is said the first German missionary to India, Schwartz, was comforted by native Tamils singing a hymn by Gerhardt.

The best modern edition of Gerhardt's hymns was published in 1843 and was later translated into English by Kelly (Paul Gerhardt's Spiritual Songs 1867).

*Manny*

*Sources:* Christian Hymn Writers (Elsie Houghton), Wikipedia

Our hymnbook, *Singing the Faith*, Contains only one of his hymns, 'O sacred head, sore wounded' at no 280.

# WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service this year was prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines with the theme 'Am I Being Unfair to You?' The bible reflection was from Matthew 20:1-16, the story of the landowner who hires labourers for his vineyard at intervals throughout the day, but he pays them all the same daily wage. The Philippines have a mainly agricultural economy and the service was written in this context.

Agriculture is a labour-intensive and seasonal economy so there are periods of intense activity where many labourers are needed to prepare the ground, tend the crops and harvest them in due time. The work needs extra labourers at harvest and these workers have no fixed hiring terms.

The Philippines have had a turbulent history being ruled by Spain and then the United States of America. In 1907 the Philippine Assembly was convened and Commonwealth status was granted in 1935. Full independence was granted in 1946 but a US presence remains in terms of investments and military forces and its influence in matters of religion, education and technology. Now, after a period of instability, the economic growth has gained pace.

The service highlighted the plight of victims of domestic violence and young people from rural areas who are forced to work as domestic workers and are exploited through abuse and economic injustice. Also, daily-wage workers, who often do not earn enough to feed their families, and who work on large sugar plantations and have been promised land in the government reform programme, which has, however, not been distributed.



Lastly, there are people who are still suffering from the effects of Typhoon Haiyan. All these people told their stories and of the effects upon their lives and their families.

The hymns and prayers sought to hear the voices of the women seeking economic justice, to confess that we have fallen short of the Lord's glory using excuses and not taken responsibility for our inaction and seeking assurance of pardon. 'God forgives and sets us free to start anew from the depths of our hearts'.

Our hosts on March 3rd were the Minister and congregation of All Saints Church, Paston. This year is the 800th anniversary of the church and Revd Mark Bridgen welcomed Women's World Day of Prayer to their church in this special year. Following the service we were offered refreshments including Philippine cakes and candies and fresh pineapple, mango and a welcome cup of tea.

*Monica*



Churches working together...

# joint public issues team

...to live out the gospel of Christ in church and society

## Refugee Children

On Wednesday 8th February, the UK Government ended its commitment to resettle 3,000 unaccompanied children from refugee camps in Europe after accepting only 350 children. The church leaders from the Church of Scotland, Methodist and United Reformed Churches, the Baptist Union and the Quakers in Britain released a statement urging the Government to reconsider this decision. Here is the statement:

We are dismayed to hear, through the announcement from the Immigration Minister this week, of our Government's intention to suspend its programme of resettling unaccompanied minors in March 2017. We urge the Government to reconsider this decision and to recognise the potential harm that this policy might cause.

Throughout the United Kingdom, our churches have sought to offer welcome and practical support to refugees and asylum seekers of all ages, often working in partnership with other faith and community groups. It is disappointing your consideration of provision is restricted to the perceived capacity of Local Authorities. This approach is devoid of ambition and lacks creativity. We would encourage an approach to refugee resettlement that actively includes and engages those community groups and agencies, who offer the potential of raising our existing capacity.

There is compelling evidence that many young people have "disappeared" from temporary camps. If this disturbing trend is to be avoided in future, it is vital that they have the confidence to present themselves to the relevant authorities at their earliest opportunity. This will only happen if they know that in so doing, they will be cared for and given safe passage. The current policy announcement risks sending out a message that will further discourage this, and thus significantly increase the risk of harm to these children.

As the minister rightly asserted, the UK can be proud of its record in welcoming refugee children, which now extends back for over half a century. We believe that this should continue to be the case and would urge the abandonment of any policy that gives any impression to the contrary.

As a nation we have a rigorous approach to safeguarding, reflecting a strong commitment to the wellbeing of children and vulnerable citizens. We do not believe that this commitment should be limited by political borders.

We urge you therefore to adopt a policy that places the wellbeing and safety of children above every other consideration. Not only do we commend this as representing our own Christian values, but it is what we believe the overwhelming majority of UK citizens would believe to be right and just.



## CHRISTIAN AID UPDATE

In February we had a Christian Aid update by a lad from the London Office.

The Peterborough and Cambridge Offices have been axed. We now come under Norwich as the HQ for East Anglia. For a brief spell we were considered part of East Midlands with the contact point at Lutterworth. This was changed within a few weeks. Chris Wild is retained but in a different role.

This year's project for EU funding project is for the People's Republic of the Congo, specifically working in the province of Manierma. They are helping the most vulnerable. Here the average wage is only

\$1.25 (£1.02) per day, just not enough.

The amount that the EU will give this time from a commitment to raise £5000 is three times the amount raised and there are three years to raise it before further money can be put to a new project.

Christian Aid house to house collections start on 14th May. The money raised will be put to the new project as will money from the Friday lunches and any other events under the Peterborough Committee. There is not quite so much pressure, but still both need the effort of our helpers.

*Des and Vi*

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## GETTING MARRIED IN HEAVEN

On their way to get married, a young couple were involved in a fatal car accident. The pair found themselves sitting just outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven. While waiting they began to wonder; could they possibly get married in Heaven?



finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled. "Yes," he informed the couple, "You are able to get married in Heaven."

"That's great!" said the couple. "But we were just wondering; what if things

don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

When St. Peter arrived, they asked him if they could get married in Heaven. St. Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out," and he left.

The couple sat and waited for an answer. . . for a couple of months. While they waited, they discussed the pros and cons. If they were allowed to get married in Heaven, should they get married, what with the eternal aspect of it all? "What if it doesn't work? Are we stuck in Heaven together forever?"

St. Peter, now red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard on the ground. "What ever is the matter?" asked the frightened couple.

"OH, COME ON!" St. Peter shouted. "It took me three months to find a priest up here! Do you have ANY idea of how long it'll take to find a lawyer?"

*Found by Ewan*

*However, please see Mark Ch12, v 25: For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*

# HOLY WEEK AND EASTER: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

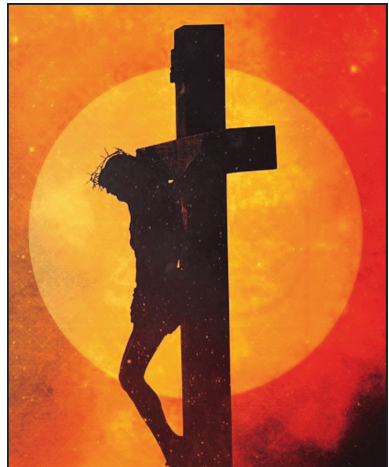
**Palm Sunday** is celebrated the Sunday before Easter. It is the day when Christian people remember how Jesus rode into Jerusalem shortly before his death. Jesus rode in on a borrowed donkey (a poor person's transport) yet the crowds treated him like a king, throwing their cloaks on the ground for him to ride over (roughly equivalent to our red carpet), tearing branches from palm trees to wave (like flags) and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!"

**Passion Sunday** is confusingly on the same day as Palm Sunday. We get the word 'Passion' in this sense from a Later Latin word which meant 'suffering' or 'enduring'. On Passion Sunday Christians remember how Jesus, after he had been betrayed by Judas, was tried by the Jewish High Priests and by the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. This time the crowds shouted out that they wanted Jesus to be crucified. The rest of the story of Jesus' sufferings as he endured the journey to the cross and was put to death overlaps with Good Friday.

People who lead services on Palm/Passion Sunday may concentrate on one or other of the topics or may cover both.

**Maundy Thursday** is the occasion to recall the last meal Jesus had with his friends before he was arrested. It was during this meal that Jesus said the words we use in our communion services as he shared bread and wine with friends. Jesus also sent Judas off to 'do what he had to do', knowing that Judas would betray him to the Jewish authorities. This led to Jesus being arrested.

**Good Friday** is the day when Christians remember the cruel crucifixion of Jesus and his death and burial. After severe beatings, Jesus was forced to carry a heavy cross to the place of execution, where he was nailed to it, then it was hauled upright. Jesus hung on the cross until he died and he was then quickly buried in a cave before the start of the Jewish Sabbath at sunset. It is hard for us to imagine the agony he went through.

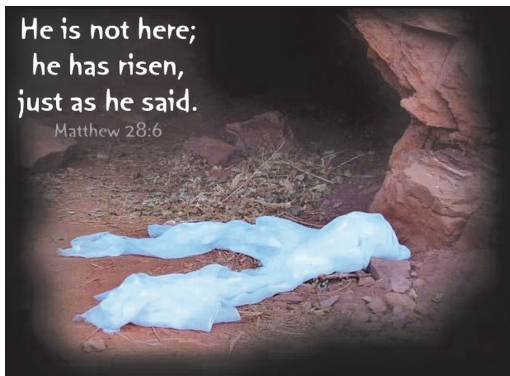


The question that is often asked is this: Why is it called Good Friday when something so horrible happened? The answer is that Jesus put up with all of that so that we didn't have to. We are all sinners (we sometimes do things God wouldn't like) so Jesus paid the penalty on our behalf, so that the wrong things we do can be forgiven and we can be right with God.

We read in the Bible: **For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.** (John 3:16, NRSV)

**Easter Day** is for remembering that Jesus came to life again. Early on the Sunday morning some of his friends were astonished to find that a great rock which blocked the entrance to his burial cave had been rolled away and the cave was empty! Over the next few weeks Jesus appeared a number of times and many of his friends saw him. Eventually he went back to heaven, but he is still alive in the hearts of people who follow him.

It is hard to describe, but if he is alive in you, you will know it.



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES FOR WESTGATE NEW CHURCH



### **Palm/Passion Sunday: 9th April**

10.30 am: Morning Worship at Westgate New Church

3.00 pm: Churches Together in Central Peterborough

Palm Sunday Service in the Garden of All Souls RC Church, Geneva Street



### **Maundy Thursday: 13th April**

7.30 Service at Westgate New Church



### **Good Friday: 14th April**

Churches Together in Central Peterborough Walk of Witness

Meet 10.00 am at Stanley Recreation Ground

Christians from across Peterborough will walk in an act of witness from Stanley Recreation Ground, through the city centre, to Cathedral Square.

A service will take place in Cathedral Square at approximately 10:30 am, when the procession arrives there.

If you are unable to march, please join us in Cathedral Square for the Service.

Hot Cross Buns and hot drinks will be served at Westgate New Church after the service: everyone welcome!



### **Easter Sunday: 16th April**

10.30 Easter Morning Service at Westgate New Church



**Everybody is welcome to join us at any of our services.**

# JOINT URC SERVICE



On Sunday 12th February we hosted a joint URC service with friends from St. Andrew's, Christchurch and Whittlesey.

As this was so near to St. Valentine's day, our three ministers picked the theme of **Love**.

While we did hear a lot about the very popular Saint Valentine, who, in fact, may be a composite formed from the lives of two or even three saints, there was rather more about the kind of love described by St. Paul in Chapter 13 of the first letter to the Corinthians.

Drinks were served while we got on with our choice from the activities provided on the theme. You could ice biscuits, do a wordsearch using your memory of Corinthians chapter 13 rather than a list of words, or do colouring. At intervals we suspended these activities for hymns, a talk and prayers. In one prayer we used paper hearts to record the people or the situations we wished to pray for.

The evening finished with a generous 'bring and share' tea.

The fellowship and the worship seemed to have been much enjoyed by all.



# LATE, LATE PANCAKE DATE

On Wednesday March 1st we held a 'Late, Late Pancake Date', which was also an event for Fairtrade Fortnight. Yes, of course we did know that you are supposed to eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, this year on February 28th! However, at the time of the initial planning, we did not have a room available on that date. When a room became available, we liked the title so much that we decided not to change our date.

While this event did not attract quite as many visitors as we had hoped, the people who came had a good time (look at the faces in the photos) and enough money was raised to pay for one of our new chairs to use for services.

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a success and also to Trevor, who took all the photos.



A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother said, 'If Jesus were sitting here, he would

say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Owen turned to his younger brother and said, 'Bill, you be Jesus.'

# CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S APPEAL

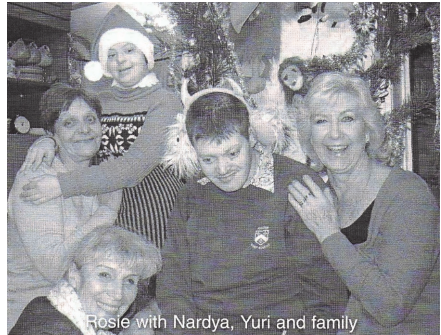
How is your memory?

When did the Chernobyl accident take place? Well, it happened on 26th April 1986, nearly 31 years ago, and although it is possibly the worst nuclear disaster the world has known, I suspect that for many of us it has not crossed our mind, even though it is still causing lots of problems in the area. The land will be contaminated for many hundreds of years to come and with it deformed children will be born.

The contamination in the soil is a vicious circle as the population has to eat, so it grows its own food, which then causes illness. It breeds its own animals, which also are also contaminated. The country is very badly off as there is not much work so the men turn to drink – vodka – which does not help their wellbeing.

In Peterborough there is a charity called Chernobyl Children's Appeal, run by a local family from Longthorpe who go across twice a year. At the start they used to drive there taking lots of materials etc to help the families, but because of the costs they now fly there and take money, which is better for the population. However they have to be very careful how they distribute this, because it can be used to buy drink by the men, so they try to give it to the women of the households for them to buy food, clothes etc.

The organiser came to speak to the NHS Retirement Fellowship in February about how they became involved and



Rosie with Nardya, Yuri and family

what they do to raise the funds. They hold two main fund raising efforts in each year; the next one will be held on April 8th in All Saints Church Hall from 10am. Then on July 16th at their home they host a Garden Party which includes entertainment and lost of stalls.

*Trevor and June*

You can help by:

- Sending a donation to the Chernobyl Children's Appeal, 51 Apsley Way, Longthorpe, Peterborough, PE3 9NZ.
- Donating household goods, jewellery, unwanted gifts, books and toys (no clothes or videos thanks) for our next sale, Saturday, April 8, 10am to noon, All Saints' Church Hall, Park Road, Peterborough (opposite Central Park). Donations to the above address please.
- Attending our popular annual Garden Party at our home (the above address) from 2.30-4.30pm on Sunday, July 16, with entertainment from the popular Palmerston Ukulele Band, tea, cakes, strawberries and lots of stalls

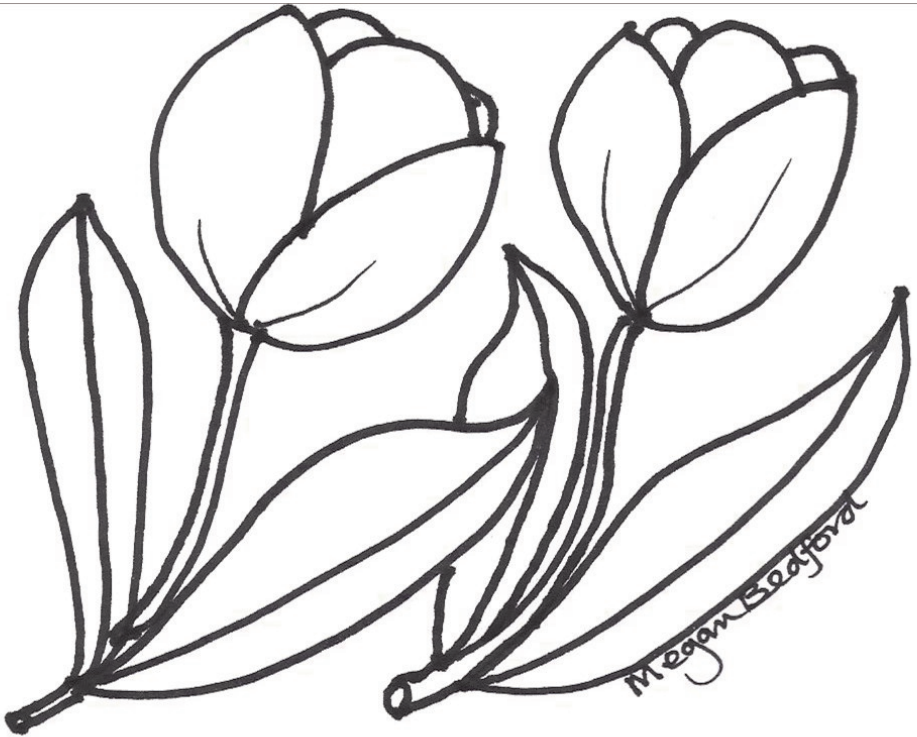
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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*When you choose to forgive those who have hurt you,  
you take away their power.*

*Writer unknown*

# Inspirational Colouring



## Inspirational Thinking - Put Thought into Action at Westgate New Church

Each Sunday in Lent: Encourage, Thank, Praise.

Encourage two people to keep going as they volunteer at church.

Thank two people who have contributed to make our new church building work for us.

Praise two people for a job well done.

Be part of the Easter Miracle and build our church community up with kind words and actions.

# BROADWAY THEATRE

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1937 the Odeon Cinema opened in Broadway and operated for over 50 years in this capacity. In 1950 it was modernised using a design by Harry Weedon with 1912 seats. Then in February 1973 extra seating and two additional screens were installed. It was closed by the Rank Organisation in 1991.

In 2001 it reopened as a live theatre/cinema/conference centre with 1200 seats. All the plaster work had been restored with a new build project to one side offering an art gallery and restaurant plus a back extension which gave room for more dressing rooms and office accommodation. It was at this time one of the finest interiors remaining in the UK from the original Odeon Chain.

On January 25<sup>th</sup> after a break-in, fire broke out severely damaging the stage and the first few rows of seats. The majority of the building was damaged by smoke and it was estimated to be closed for six months while renovations took place. However the insurance company refused to pay out, so the owner, Rinaldo Fasulo, closed the theatre.

In late 2010 it was taken over by the Stageline Group; with the necessary repairs completed it opened on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011. It was found that it was being run by a notorious fraudster, so it was closed six months later and was put on the market for



sale at £2.8 million. No one has come forward to purchase it and although the Council have expressed an interest in buying it, no agreement has been reached.

Now a planning application has been submitted to the Council to convert it into flats, which is still to be heard by the planning team as far as I can ascertain.

At present the building is being used by the Peterborough Male Voice Choir, together with The Ladies' and Youth Choirs. It was also used by Bill Kenwright in 2013/2014 with top shows from London.

I hope that the planning application is not successful, as I feel that it will be great loss to the City to lose the use for groups putting on variety shows.

If you agree with me, contact your local councillor to let them know.

*Trevor*

*Information summarised from the Theatre website.*

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## PASSPORT CONTROL

*Frau Merkel arrived at passport control in Athens:*

*"Nationality?" asked the immigration officer.*

*"German," she replied.*

*"Occupation?"*

*"Nah, just here for a few days. . ."*





# IS ENGLISH YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE?

Many of you know that language is my special thing, so you will understand how fascinated I was to receive an email from Theirworld which trumpeted the great importance of early education in a child's first language.

In many countries all education is in the language of a former colonial ruler, not the native language of the people.

Theirworld has a report by Johannes Paulus Yimbesalu, from Cameroon, where teachers are on strike because French is imposed as the language of education in the two smaller English speaking regions, which however contain about five million people. This is part of wider discrimination against the English speakers, even though English, as well as French, is recognised as an official language.

He says, "When we teach children in their first language, it provides them the best chances of educational success," and "Teaching in a language that is not a child's first language – especially during preschool and or primary school years – is very demanding for the child." However, while I sympathise with the people who feel marginalised, I note that he quotes no research to support his point of view.

As part of my own studies, I looked at the Canadian System, which likewise has both French and English speakers. The Canadian approach is to give primary education in whichever language is *not* the child's home language, so that they may become fluent in both languages. This tallies with research that shows that the best time to learn a second language is before the age of eight – language learning ability diminishes after that age.

Coming closer to home, did you know that there are over 80 languages spoken by Peterborough schoolchildren? Providing

early education for all of these children in their first language would seem to be an impossibility.

My own experience as a teacher in Peterborough is that four to five-year olds who do not speak English at all when they first start English-speaking school learn English very quickly and are very soon doing as well in class as native English speakers. The one disadvantage they have is that they may not have the language to explain what they have learnt in school in their first language. However, it is generally accepted that being able to function in more than one language is an advantage. It gives children a better understanding of how language works – the sort of subconscious knowledge that tells you when to use 'has', 'have' or 'had', for example. They also know that different languages have different patterns and rules, so when they come to learn a third or further language, they do not expect to to translate one word at a time with a dictionary. (This can lead to very strange results, like the French menu that offered us the translation 'jumped calf strengthen' instead of 'Corsican stir-fried veal'!)

**I would be delighted to hear from members of our congregation, whose first language is not English, their experiences of learning English or other second language. We could publish accounts in the Chronicle.**

*Linda*



# CHARITY CONCERT FOR THE STROKE ASSOCIATION

Hosted by Hereward Harmony Barbershop Chorus  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May at the Fleet Centre in Fletton (PE2 8DL)



We are one of the smaller musical choruses in Peterborough and the only male chorus in the city that sings a capella four-part close harmony in the Barbershop style. Every year we give part of our income to charity. About a year ago one of our members, John Gould, suffered a stroke. Fortunately he was not far from the City Hospital and received prompt attention. To support those who have given help and support to John and others like him, Hereward Harmony is hosting a concert on 13<sup>th</sup> May to raise additional funds to be donated to the Stroke Association. In addition to Hereward Harmony, among those performing will be the Peterborough Concert Band, Peterborough Young Singers Choir and Singchronicity, Hereward Harmony's sister chorus. The concert is programmed to start at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm). Ticket prices are £10 or £5 for youngsters 16 years of age or under. Tickets are available through Phil Dorner or Brian McDonnell (phone 07740 987127)

*Sent in by Phil, a member of this Chorus (middle of back row)*

# A HEART FOR HAMPTONS EAST

**Supporting the Development of a New Community**

The organisers say, 'Please join us to hear about the exciting developments and to pray for the next stages.'

A series of prayer meetings have been arranged to support this church initiative. The first took place in March. Subsequent meetings will be as follows.

Sunday 23rd April 2017 at 6.30pm  
Park Road Baptist Church

Monday 22nd May 2017 at 7.45pm  
Bretton Baptist Church

Sunday 25th June 2017 at 6.30pm  
Oundle Road Baptist Church



## **PETERBOROUGH ECO-FAITH NETWORK** ( Churches Together in Central Peterborough )

### **OUTING TO THE GREEN BRITAIN CENTRE, SWAFFHAM**

**Monday June 5, 11a.m. – 2.30-3p.m.**

**All welcome to join a guided visit to discover latest  
developments in sustainable living, focussing on Energy,  
Transport and Food**

**Opportunity to climb the world's only Wind Turbine  
open to the public**

**Lunch at the Centre's Organic Cafe**

**[www.greenbritaincentre.co.uk](http://www.greenbritaincentre.co.uk)**

**for details contact John Harper:**

**[revjohnharper@talktalk.net](mailto:revjohnharper@talktalk.net), 01733699923**

**( by May 1 please )**



# CHRONICLE PUZZLE PAGES

This year we celebrate Easter on the third Sunday of April.

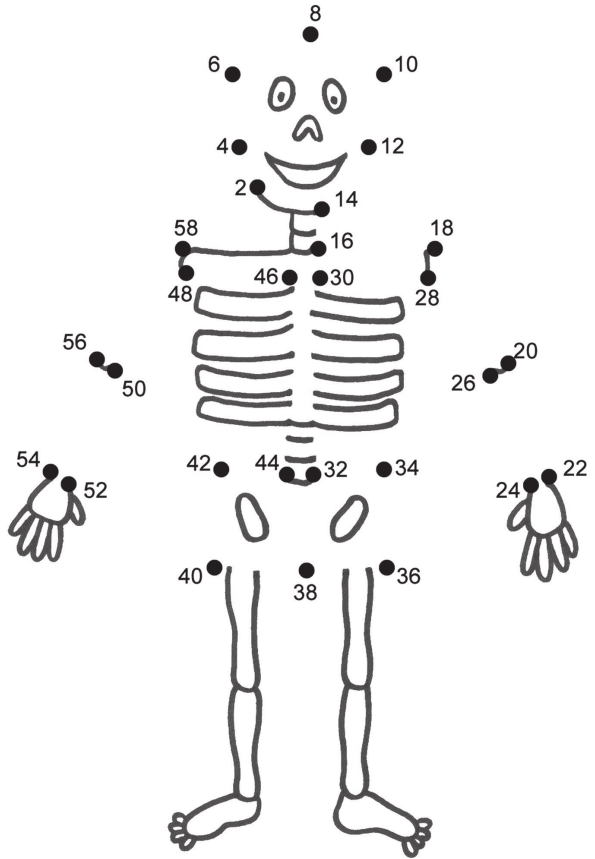
## Puzzle 1: Ezekiel ch 37 vv 1-14

On the fifth and final Sunday of Lent the Old Testament reading is a story of a great prophet who lived thousands of years ago. His name was Ezekiel. Some of the stories about Ezekiel are very strange, almost like today's science fiction stories and very similar to a scene from the Lion King. Ezekiel (not Simba) is lost in a scary place. He found himself in a desert valley surrounded by dry bones. He doesn't know how he got there he just finds himself there. He felt lonely and scared, but God was there, too!

God asked Ezekiel a question that Ezekiel didn't know how to answer, so he answered very cleverly by telling God that He knew the answer already. God did know the answer and God told Ezekiel that he would make these old dry bones live again. He would add muscle and skin

to them and breathe life into them and what appears to be dead would walk the earth again – and they would be God's people.

Join the dots in order counting in twos from 2 to complete the skeleton.



Q: Why didn't the skeleton dance at the Halloween party?

A: He had no body to dance with!

Q: When does a skeleton laugh?

A: When something tickles his funny bone.

Q: What do you do if you see a skeleton running across a road?

A: Jump out of your skin and join him!

Q: Why did the skeleton run up a tree?

A: Because a dog was after his bones!

Q: What happened to the pirate ship that sank in the sea full of sharks?

A: It came back with a skeleton crew!

Q: How did the skeleton know it was going to rain?

A: He could feel it in his bones!



# CHRONICLE PUZZLE PAGES

## Puzzle 2: Acts 10 v 34-43

The second puzzle is based on a reading which is set for Easter Sunday. In this reading Peter had a vision from God that showed him that God created all people and that He loved them all the same. It didn't matter that they may look different because on the inside they were all the same. After God showed him that, Peter realized that God did not show partiality. He accepted people from every nation. The reading then recalls the death and resurrection of Jesus and how we are all witnesses to it.

Solve the wordsearch below, which is based on this reading.



all	forgiveness	Jesus	peace	sins
accepts	Good news	little	people	testify
children	healing	loves	preach	witnesses
favouritism	Israel	nation	prophets	world

# NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

## 10TH – 16TH APRIL

National Gardening Week is a time for us to celebrate the beauty of gardening. Gardens are a place we can reflect, relax, meditate, pray, exercise, in fact everything about gardens is good for both our mental and physical well-being.

During this week the Royal Horticultural Society put on numerous events, as I guess many of our local garden centres will. But if, due to circumstances, you are unable to attend, step out into your garden and take in the view or go to some local ones such as Bishops Road Gardens or Central Park in Peterborough, both of which are free but beautiful.

God has given us both beauty and education through gardening. If a plant looks dead, don't give up hope, cut it back and the chances are new life will start to shoot, given a second chance. It proves we should not to go by appearance, as beauty and life comes from within. Most roses have thorns but give us beautiful flowers and fragrance. Gardening shows



us how to nurture plants; they may not always grow to how we expect, sometimes they get diseases and we try to get them to survive, not always successfully.

Allotments, as we know them here in Peterborough, or Garden Patches as known in Northamptonshire, give us food. Vegetable and fruit plants provide flowers which

give food to the bees who pollinate the plants.

Don't wait for this week, when you are next out in your garden, or if you don't have one, looking at your garden box or friend's garden, give thanks for all the plants, flowers and trees, for the colour and fragrance they provide, for the health benefits they give us including giving us the oxygen we breathe. Evens weeds are beauty in their own right; I should know, I have had more weeds than flowers these last few years; insects love them and I in turn have come to appreciate them, but do find it hard to give thanks for them.

Enjoy!

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### **World Autism Day – 2nd April**

Autism affects approximately one out of every 150 children worldwide. It is a neural development disorder that affects their ability to socialize normally by impacting their abilities with communication. Since 2012, there has been a 30% increase in the number of children affected with autism, and World Autism Awareness Day helps to bring awareness to this growing health concern. No two cases are the same, and vary from mild to severe. Often the sufferers have 'melt downs' and often are

seen by others as misbehaving children.

Please pray for both the sufferers and their carers.

### **Walk on the Wild Side Day– 12th April**

Do you go along with exactly what people expect from you? Today, you can do something wild, something no one would expect you to do. Today is the day to embrace your wild inner streak. Are you brave enough?

*Compiled by Brenda*

## 1st–8th April

Churches: All Souls (RC), Brookside (Methodist)

Events: The Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) exhibition in the Cathedral\*\*

People: the people of the Philippines\*, all people who are autistic and their carers\*

Organisations: Christian Aid\*

Give thanks: for all the wondrous things we see around us in Spring\*

Special Request: see p15\*



## 9th–15th April

Churches: Peterborough Cathedral (CofE), Christchurch (CofE, Methodist and URC)

Events: Our special Holy Week events\*

People: The young people of Ghana receiving secondary education\*

Organisations: our new Crafty Capers group\*

Give thanks: for the gardens and parks we enjoy\*

Special Request: see p15



# APRIL

# PRAYER PROMPTS



## 16th–22nd April

Churches: Park Road (Baptist), Crowland (Methodist)

Events: Our Special events for Easter\*

People: the inhabitants of Chernobyl\*

Organisations: Chernobyl Children's Appeal\*, Peterborough Eco-Faith Network\*

Give thanks: for our new building and everybody who has worked on getting it ready

Special Request: see p15\*

## 23rd–30th April

Churches: St. Mark's (CofE), Elton (Methodist)

Events: Prayer meeting about church involvement in Hampton East (23rd)\*

People: All refugees, especially children\*

Organisations: Joint Public Issues Team\*. Church Action on Poverty\*

Give thanks: For all writers of hymns and sacred songs\*

Special Request: see p15\*

The Churches mentioned are taken from the Methodist Circuit and from a list of Churches in CTiCP and other churches with whom we have a close association. \*Further information elsewhere in the magazine \*\* See Diary on next page

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*Tuesdays, 10.30: Pause for Prayer in Walsingham*  
*First Tuesday in the month, 2.30: at Park Road Baptist Church: Tuesday Fellowship*  
*Wednesdays, 10.30 Circuit Intercessions Service in Lindisfarne*  
*Wednesdays, 1pm at the Cathedral: Wednesday at 1 (W@1)*  
*Saturdays, 10.00-12.00: Morning coffee*  
*Saturdays, 12.30-2.30 : Foodbank open*

\* \* \*

Sat.	1	8:00	In Lindisfarne: CTiCP Prayer Breakfast Until April 19 <sup>th</sup> , in the Cathedral (New building), Via Crucis. A mixed media interpretation of the traditional Stations of the Cross
Sun.	2	10:30 4:30	Morning worship, led by Mr Alan Newcombe In Walsingham: Communion Service, led by Revd. Lesley Moseley
Wed.	5	1:00 2:00	W@1: Speaker The Reverend Canon Jonathan Baker In Lindisfarne: Lent course
Sun.	9	10:30	Palm/Passion Sunday: Morning worship, led by Revd. Lesley Moseley followed by Church Meeting
		3:00	In the Church garden of All Souls: CTiCP open air service
Tue.	11	2:00	In Walsingham: Crafty Capers
Wed.	12	1:00 2:00	W@1:* In Lindisfarne: Lent course
Thu.	13	7.30	Maundy Thursday Service, led by Revd. Lesley Moseley
Fri.	14	10:00	Good Friday: From Stanley Recreation Ground: Walk of Witness to Cathedral Square
		about 10:30	In Cathedral Square: CTiCP open air Service, followed by hot cross buns and drinks at Westgate New Church
Sun.	16	6:30am 10:30	Easter Sunday: In Central Park: CTiCP Sunrise Service followed by breakfast at St. Mary's Easter Morning worship with Holy Communion Service, led by led by Revd. Doug Stevens
		6:30	At Southside: Methodist Circuit Healing Service
Wed.	19	1:00	W@1:*
Sun.	23	10:30 6.30	Morning worship, led by led by Mr Nigel Lightfoot Prayer in support of Hampton East church development at park Road Baptist
Tue.	25	2:00 7.00	In Walsingham: Crafty Capers For 7.30, CTiCP AGM and Forum, Friends' meeting House
Wed.	26	1:00 7:30	W@1:.* At the Friends Meeting House: Peterborough Theological Society. Speaker Rev'd Dr. Harvey Kuyam (Ripon College, Cuddesdon)
			African Christianity in Britain – Emerging Missional Impulses
Sun.	30	10:30	Morning worship, led by Mrs Ann Tooth
<b>May</b>	Wed.	3	1:00 W@1:
	Sat.	6	8:00 At St Mary's Church: CTiCP Prayer Breakfast
	Sun.	7	10:30 Morning worship, led by Revd. Peter Meek
		4:30	In Walsingham: Communion Service, led by Revd. Lesley Moseley

\* No information available at time of going to press – please consult Cathedral website