

Trinity News



March 2024

Ministers Muse

Dear Friends,

The season of Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the Wilderness, preparing for his earthly ministry.

This season is an invitation to those who are disciples of Jesus to make some space (though not necessarily out in a physical wilderness), to face similar questions to the ones that Jesus faced, and to be reminded of **who we really are**.

So, who am I? What is it that defines my identity? Is it my job – for me a Methodist Minister? Is it where I'm from – a Yorkshireman? Is it my family history – part of the Hume 'clan'. Is it my ethnicity, gender and sexuality – a white British heterosexual male? Or my physical attributes – 5ft8, a little overweight and getting thinner on top by the day. Am I defined by choices I have made, both good and bad, that have led me to where I am now? Or am I defined by how others see me, am I a prisoner to their opinions and expectations?

The temptations that Jesus faced in the wilderness, each begin with a questioning of his true identity: "If you are the son of God, turn these stones into bread..."

This is partly a questioning about what kind of Son of God will he be? Would he use his power for his own benefit (by turning stones to bread), or for the benefit of others (like by feeding the 5000)?

But it was also a questioning of the most important part of his identity – his relationship with the Father.

Just before Jesus went into the wilderness for his time of testing, he was baptised by John in the River Jordan, and heard a voice from heaven saying: **"This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."**

This most important part of the identity of Jesus, that he is the precious son of the Father, and that God delights in him. This is what was going to help Jesus to be true to his calling through the difficult times ahead, through all the challenges and struggles of his ministry, through a journey that was ultimately leading to the cross, to demonstrate the depth of God's love for the world.

When tested, Jesus chooses to reject the voice that says, "IF you are God's son...", and instead chooses to listen to the voice that says, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

As we take time and space to recognise God's presence with us this Lent, in the midst of other voices and temptations, may we hear a still small voice reminding us who we really are – precious children of God, loved more than we can imagine, with a unique place in God's purposes.

And secure in knowing this, will we also ask ourselves the challenging question – what kind of follower of Jesus am I becoming? What kind of choices should I be making to reflect this?

With every blessing,

Gavin



Crème Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt can be placed in the box at the back of the church.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday

10.30am led by Rev Gavin Hulme and Deacon Gail Morgan

Good Friday

10.40am followed by a walk to Richardson Dees Park where we will join Wallsend Churches Working Together for the Easter Story and an Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday

8.30am Communion led by Rev Gavin Hulme followed by breakfast

10.45am led by Deacon Gail Morgan

**All are welcome and we would love
you to join us in worship.**

**Processions Of Witness and Service In The Park On
Good Friday, 29th March 2024
Organised by
Wallsend Churches Working Together**

There are two main options for you to choose:

1. Join A Church Group For A Short Service, Followed By A Procession To The Bandstand At Wallsend Park For The Good Friday Reflection And Service Of Witness:

There are 3 churches in Wallsend from which processions will be starting. There'll be a short service (lasting about 10-15 minutes) at all 3 churches, starting at about 10:45am. The separate processional groups will then leave their respective churches, aiming to arrive at the park bandstand no later than 11:30am.

You can choose to process from any one of the churches.

The churches are:

Wallsend Baptist Church, Milfield Avenue, NE28 9JF.

St. John's Church of England, NE28 8DT (top of Station Road South, just south of the A1058 Coast Road).

Trinity Methodist Church, Station Road, NE28 8SA.

OR

2. Go Straight To The Bandstand In Wallsend Park From 11:00am Onwards And Wait For The Processions To Arrive:

The Salvation Army Band will be playing music at the bandstand from 11:00am and you are welcome to join the gathering from this time. When the processions arrive at the bandstand and join those already there, the Good Friday reflection and service of witness can start. Limited seating will be available by the bandstand for those unable to stand so feel free to bring your own chair.

After the service there'll be a mini-Easter egg hunt.

All are welcome. Invite your friends and families.

Dave Hall WCWT Good Friday Co-ordinator.



Fellowship Group

Everyone is welcome to join us every

Thursday at 10.30am for 1 hour

Thursday 7th March – the theme 'Finish then thy new creation'

Thursday 14th March – the theme 'Changed from glory into glory'

Thursday 21st March – the theme 'Till we cast our crowns before thee'

The title is taken from Charles Wesley's well-loved hymn, 'Love divine'

Through Lent we are reflecting together on the transforming power of God's pure and unbounded love.

Girls Brigade **BIG** Birthday

You are invited to 60th Birthday Celebrations on Sunday 7th July for 1st Wallsend Girls' Brigade. Starting with a church service at 10.45am and followed by a buffet lunch in the church hall at 12.30pm. Expected finish time 4pm. Please pass information onto anyone who may not see this invitation. Thank you.

RSVP numbers and any dietary needs by 4th June please.

Monthly or Bimonthly?

Looking to reduce some of the work needed to run our church.

One suggestion is to reduce the production of Trinity News to every 2 months instead of monthly.

We already do bimonthly at Christmas and June / July for holidays.

To make sure we wouldn't be preparing Christmas articles in October, the bimonthly cycle would be April/May, June/July, August/September, October/November, December/ January and February/March.

If there are no objections, this would start with the next edition.

Alan Barker (Editor)

Bible a Month: the Gulf

“Abraham named that place, “The LORD Provides”. And even today people say, “On the LORD’s mountain he provides”” Genesis 22, vs 14 (GNB)

The states known as the Gulf States are UAE (United Arab Emirates); Kuwait; and Oman. Oman is the largest, covering 119,499 sq miles, followed by UAE at 32,000 sq miles and then Kuwait at 6,680 sq miles. Bahrain covers 293 sq miles. (The UK is 93,630 sq miles). The UAE has 9.9 m people, Bahrain has 1.5 million, Kuwait 3 million and Oman 3.8 million.

Languages include Arabic, English and many others. The literacy rate in all countries is around 96% .

Four hundred Christians completed a full course in Bible Storytelling in the Gulf last year. Your support of Bible a Month helped achieve this. Listening to stories, rather than reading, is a cultural tradition for many migrant workers who arrive in the Gulf desperate for work. And when they return to their homeland- whether it be in Africa or the Indian sub continent they go on to share the gospel through storytelling. This is Bible engagement at its most impactful, thanks to your support.

A total of 24,400 copies of the booklet, “Who is Jesus Christ?” and the storytelling manual, A Strong Foundation, were distributed in more than a dozen languages in the Gulf last year.

Many migrant workers who arrive find themselves in a dreadful environment, working long hours for poor pay, and being housed in camps separated from regular society. It was reported recently that migrant women are held captive in one Gulf state and traded online like slaves. These people are finding hope in Jesus, thanks to you. Last year, Bible Society in the Gulf provided Bible-focused healing sessions for 369 migrant workers suffering from trauma. And 3,715 full Bibles or New Testaments were provided in Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Prayers

- Ask God to protect each member of the Bible Society in the Gulf team as they work in a difficult environment.
- Pray that laws will be passed in Gulf countries to improve working and living conditions for migrant workers. And pray that more of them will encounter Jesus through the Bible.
- Thank God for the great success of the Storytelling ministry.

Bible a Month Newsletter, Spring 2024.

365 days on from the initial earthquake, we're still doing all we can to help.

Even before this devastating earthquake, there were over 4 million adults and children in need of aid in Northwest Syria - that's over 8 in 10 people. The area is home to nearly **3 million** people who have been displaced by the long-standing conflict in Syria.

- Nearly **2 million** of these people are still living in camps with limited predictable access to heating, clean water or other necessities.
- Around **80%** of these people are **women and children**, who are particularly vulnerable and often face further brutality like gender-based violence.

Our initial response

Once the disaster struck, a rescue operation was rapidly launched across much of southern Turkey and northern Syria. The initial disaster response focused on supporting immediate needs, which mainly included food kits and cash in the first few months. This was followed by humanitarian support through protection, education and community-led approaches. Working through local partners, and with funding from several donors, Christian Aid has been able to reach more than 105,500 people badly impacted by the earthquake, including many who saw their homes destroyed or badly damaged. Christian Aid aims to reach almost **289,500 more people** by the time our projects in the area are complete.

After 9 months, the focus of our humanitarian aid shifted to building community resilience. This included support for women through women centres that provided economic opportunities, legal awareness, and educational, protection and skills support, along with small business grants for the wider community. Christian Aid's partners also helped the rebuilding of schools and roads.

Our ongoing response

Though the earthquake has passed, the crisis is far from over.

Hundreds of thousands of people across Syria and Turkey will continue to face the impact of the flood for many years to come. Though we were able to help fulfill the immediate and essentials needs, we know that our focus now must turn to battling the ongoing impact and rebuilding the community.

During the summer of 2023, we turned our attention to child protection. We began creating safe spaces for children in the area, helping them work through the devastating scenes they witnessed and regain their childhood. Working with our partner Hurras, a child protection agency, we created a child-friendly space where they can provide one-to-one educational and emotional support. In total, **4,000 children attend these safe spaces** and are able to take part in fun activities designed to help reduce stress levels and promote the well-being of children. The children in attendance have not only survived a terrifying earthquake, but have also lived most of their life during Syria's 12-year-long conflict. We hope that these safe spaces can provide hope for a brighter future to not only the children attending, but to the entire community.

Stories of impact (All names have been changed to protect identities).

Sami

Ten-year-old Sami was living with his family in a small town in northern Idlib, northwest Syria, when the earthquake struck. His hometown is around 30km from the Turkish border, and was very close to the epicentre of the devastating quake. Sami recalled: 'The house shook a lot, things fell on the floor, and the cupboard overturned and broke.' 'I became afraid that it would happen again, and I became afraid to sleep at home.' Sami was offered specialist one-to-one educational and emotional support at a child friendly space at a community centre in his home town. This is one of the 100 child-friendly spaces that Christian Aid's partner is able to run in northwest Syria thanks to funding from CORDAID. These centres serve as a safe space for children to have learn, spend time together and play.

Mahmoud and Salwa

Mahmoud and Salwa were survivors long before the earthquake struck their homes early on the morning of 6 February, having both spent their entire lives through the 12-year conflict in Syria. Both families fled their homes to avoid the conflict, and settled in an area close to what became the centre of the earthquake. After the shock, Mahmoud and his family lived in a tent for two weeks until they felt safe enough to move back home. 'I was afraid that there would be another tremor. We were scared to sleep indoors. We were afraid the roof would collapse.' he said.

Both children were unable to attend school, but thankfully in June they were able to start attending classes run by Christian Aid's local partner Hurras Network. 'My favourite subject is maths. When I grow up I want to be an engineer so I can rebuild houses destroyed by earthquakes.' he said. 'I consider the summer school my second home. I feel very safe here. I am with my friends, which helps me forget about the earthquake.' she said.

Renaad

Initially, Renaad found attending school again to be frightening, fearing that the horrors she had witnessed would repeat themselves. "I was afraid of another earthquake happening while I'm away from my family. The school building is old, I was afraid it might collapse." However, she now uses the wellbeing support and self-soothing techniques taught at school to help her get through difficult and scary moments.

She said "I learned how to take deep breaths, which makes me feel more relaxed. It gives me the strength to face situations that bother me or make me sad." With funding from CORDAID, more than 7,000 primary school-aged children were able to attend classes designed to help them catch up with their studies.

Christian Aid press release, Feb 24

Eyewitness Report from the Gulf and Ghana

Emmanuel escaped from a cult in Africa and found Jesus in the Gulf, thanks to your support of Bible work among migrant workers in the region. He's found his calling in Bible storytelling and is now leading people to Jesus.

“ It was my turn to do the Bible story. I did the story of Zacchaeus. It was the last time Jesus went to Jericho. After that, Jesus went to Jerusalem to be crucified. One of the main points of the story is how amazingly God rewards those who seek him. At the end of the story, I share my testimony with other migrants.

I am from Ghana in West Africa. My father comes from an animistic faith. I used to observe him doing all the rituals. But for some reason, he respected Christianity and would force me to attend the local church. I found the church boring so I stopped going. When my father found out I had stopped going to church, he beat me hard. In a quest for the truth, I tried another religion which has a strong presence in Ghana. I accepted this faith and practised it faithfully for some time.

Then I was attracted to a music group that turned out to be a cult. I went through the ceremony to join the cult-cuts on the hands, shoulders and back. You can still see the scars. Then I discovered this cult was bondage and God freed me from it. The turning point was street preaching. I witnessed a conversation between a street preacher from a local church and a passer-by. I was so intrigued by the preachers answers that there and then I decided to attend that church. From there God brought me from West Africa to the Evangelical church in Dubai where there is a feast of God's word. After the church service, I was given free Bible Society story training, which the Bible Society in the Gulf makes possible.

I am an engineer and I handle the equipment used in drip irrigation. Several months ago, I lost my job. As our company did not have any more projects, I went back home to Ghana.

I shared the Bible stories in two tribal languages I can speak. I would sit under a tree and read the Bible stories to people who would gather around me. The young men listening to the Bible stories heard them eagerly. My interactive way of teaching that I learned in the Gulf thanks to Bible Society held their attention fully.

A few months later I was called back to Dubai. Now I am continuing to enjoy learning and presenting more Bible stories. God's ways are amazing. It is by the grace of God that I am here today, doing my best to reach as many people as possible with the word of God. Thank you, Bible Society supporters, for being there for us.”

Emmanuel uses the Bible storytelling book, a Strong Foundation, as a starting point for sharing the gospel. This book is like a manual for discipleship and the desire is to train all those who regularly attend church in discipleship so that when they go back to their home countries they will be good Bible teachers.

Bible a Month Spring Newsletter

Easter Bible Quiz

1. What was the Jewish feast which was being celebrated the week Christ was crucified?
2. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as his Triumphal Entry, what animal was he riding on?
3. Why is the Sunday before the resurrection called Palm Sunday?
4. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priests servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken prisoner?
5. How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?
6. How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?
7. In repentance Judas returned the money to the priests that he was given and then did what?
8. Who was surprisingly released before Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death?
9. A man named Simon was compelled to carry the cross of Jesus. In Mark 15 we are told the names of Simon's two sons. What were their names?
10. What was the inscription above the cross?
11. When Jesus died, there was darkness in the land. How long did it last?
12. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?

Easter Trivia Quiz

1. How many Easter eggs are sold in the UK every year?
2. Which country started the tradition of the Easter bunny?
3. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake? And what do they represent?
4. The first Easter eggs were dyed what colour?
5. What is the tradition behind the hot cross bun?
6. What is the official flower of Easter?
7. Where is Easter Island located?
8. What meat is traditionally consumed on Easter Sunday?
9. Where did the Easter bonnet originate from?
10. What is Easter named after?

Answers near the end of magazine.

We aim to end leprosy transmission by 2035, but we won't stop there.

Our work will not be finished in 2035. There will still be millions of people living with the consequences of leprosy and we must continue to care for them.

We believe we can end the transmission of leprosy by 2035. To wipe out a disease as ancient as leprosy would be an amazing feat. Only one other disease in history has been eradicated (smallpox) so we will have a big reason to celebrate.

However, our work will not be finished in 2035. There will still be millions of people living with the consequences of leprosy and we must continue to care for them.

Leprosy can lead to life-long disabilities that must be cared for

Leprosy is a disease that attacks the nerves in the face, arms and legs. This means that, without proper and timely treatment, a person can develop disabilities of the feet, hands and eyes. A person may experience claw hand, which means they struggle to hold anything from a pencil to a glass. They could also experience drop foot, which means they need assistive footwear and surgery in order to walk without injuring themselves.

Other common disabilities include a loss of feeling, which means that a person can pick up a hot pan without realising the damage they are doing to their skin. They could also, for example, stand on a sharp stone and not realise their foot is being damaged. When these injuries go unnoticed and untreated, they can lead to ulcers, which, in a worst-case scenario without proper treatment, can lead to amputations.

A person may also have nerve damage in the eyes, which can mean, among other things, that they are not able to close their eyelids. Because of a loss of feeling around the eye, a person may also stop feeling when their eyes are dry, which can have serious consequences for the health of their eyes.

All of these disabilities can be serious. With early diagnosis and proper treatment these disabilities are manageable, or even preventable. However, even after the last person is diagnosed in 2035, there will still be people living with leprosy-related disabilities for decades. The Leprosy Mission will not forget those people. We will care for them and offer them all the support they need.

Leprosy can lead to devastating stigma

Leprosy is also a disease that generates a lot of fear, stigma, and discrimination. There are false beliefs around leprosy, including the fear that it's a curse, that it's highly contagious, or that it's incurable. All of these are false.

Our teams around the world are working hard to break down leprosy-related stigma by improving communities' knowledge of the disease. However, we know that, even after 2035,

people affected by leprosy may face stigma from their communities. They may be forced away from their homes, families, communities, and jobs.

For as long as there are people living with the effects of leprosy, The Leprosy Mission will stand behind them and work towards a world where people affected by leprosy are able to access all of their human rights and live full and happy lives as contributing members of society.

We won't give up after 2035

When we end the transmission of leprosy we will have huge reasons to celebrate. But that won't stop us working for and with those who will live with the consequences of leprosy for decades to come.

Leprosy Mission blog online, Feb 24

Smile- Backronyms

Words are devised to fit an existing word, usually a brand name, and more often than not for comic effect. The car industry is an excellent environment for backronyms, as the examples below indicate:

BENTLEY	Beautiful Engine, Needs to Last Endless Years
BSA	Best scrap available
FIAT	Feeble Italian Attempt at Transportation
FIAT	Fix It Again Tomorrow
FORD	Found On Rubbish Dump
HONDA	Had One, Never Did Again
LADA	Life And Death Association
LOTUS	Lots Of Trouble, Usually Serious
MAZDA	Made At Zoo by Demented Apes
MG	Mostly in Garage
PEUGOT	Poor Engine, Useless Gearbox, Every One Trouble.
SAAB	Something's Always About to Break.
SUBARU	Still Usable But All Rusted Underneath
TOYOTA	The One You Ought To Avoid

Meeting Together



I have been thinking all this week about meeting together. I love meeting up with friends, whether that be deliberately and planned or unintentionally. It is a real pleasure to catch up with news and enjoy the company. As Christians we are encouraged by Paul to keep meeting together in order to encourage each other. Sadly though, most who belong to some part of the organised church consider that meeting together means in a particular building usually on a

Sunday morning and probably a couple more times during the week. The meeting usually consists of some singing, prayers and listening to someone preach on some verse(s) from the Bible. This also infers that the same people meet at the same time in the same building most weeks. The sad thing is that this is considered by such people as being the only way of meeting up and is often the accusation put before those who no longer congregate, that now they are ‘outside’ of the fellowship of the church and by association must be limited in their access to God.



How wrong that is! As has often been stated before, the Church is the people and not a building. Since leaving the organised meeting, I have found many new Christian friends while many of those that I had considered friends somehow don’t consider me to be one with them anymore. I have found that the internet is a wonderful place to be connected to friends near and far.

God is everywhere and this seems to become more apparent when we no longer keep him confined to a church building until the next Sunday when we come together and talk to Him again, seeking strength to last us through the coming week. The truth is that wherever I am, God is there. There is no ‘once a week fix’. He is Emmanuel – God with us, always, everywhere, at any given moment.

So I have discovered that God is much bigger than we allow ourselves to think. He has more friends He wants us to ‘meet’ with and encourage than just those who gather on a Sunday morning in a particular building. My friends are all over the world and in all walks of life and circumstances. I like how my online friend Paul once expressed it – it’s like dot-to-dot pictures and gradually with new friends and connections, God is joining up the dots and making a picture much bigger and better than we had ever imagined. He is not confined to a building or even one place or area. I am finding out how to ‘do church’ differently. I am learning new and different ways of meeting together so that my horizons have grown bigger and wider. And I am learning to recognise His touch, voice and teaching all around me in the day to day living and in things that happen. I am not advocating that the organised building meeting isn’t the way. For those who find it helpful and good, I’m happy for you and pray you find fulfilment in it. But I am saying that this is not the only way and that those who find an alternative way of meeting and worship are equally acceptable in God’s sight. Our God is a great big God! Amen.

From the blog of Mavis Andradez.

Points to Ponder

- To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times, what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens. *F Scot Fitzgerald.*
- We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or we can rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.
- I prefer loneliness over fake company. *Good Mental Health*
- There is more power in a good strong hug than in a thousand meaningful words.
- Every smile, every laugh, and every bit of kindness lets a little more light into the world. Light up the world today!
- Reading is an escape into another world. It can be the best part of a hard day.
- Feeling guilty if you fall asleep while praying? Let me ask you....how do you feel when your child falls asleep in your lap? I'm glad that's settled.
- Its not how much Scripture you know. It is how much Scripture you live. *Clergy Coaching Network.*
- I hope.....yesterday reminds you how strong you were; today proves how capable you are and tomorrow tells you how fantastic you can be. *Good Mental Health*
- There is no standard normal. Normal is subjective. There are 7 billion versions of normal on the planet. *Good Mental Health*
- Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. *Robert Louis Stevenson.*
- I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship. *Louisa May Alcot*
- As you start and end each day, be thankful for every little thing in your life. You will come to realise how blessed you truly are. *Simple Reminders*
- Every situation in life is temporary. So, when life is good, make sure you enjoy and receive it fully. And when life is not so good, remember that it will not last forever and better days are on the way. *Simple Reminders*
- You don't have to be positive all the time. Its perfectly okay to feel sad, angry, annoyed, frustrated, scared and anxious. Having feelings doesn't make you a negative person. It makes you human .
- There's a lot that is good in your life- don't take it for granted. Don't get so focussed on the struggles that you miss the gift of today.

The first Easter – a robin's tale

A robin remembers the events of the first Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday



I must have travelled hundreds of miles following the man they called Jesus. Flying just close enough to hear his words and watch all he did. He puzzled me at times but mostly my heart ached as I longed for the Kingdom he talked about – a Kingdom that started here on earth with love and compassion. With justice and healing.

You might think a man of his gravity would be all work and no play – but he liked a party too and met with all sorts of folks. Not that I minded. I've feasted on many a crumb from under his table in my time! He made you marvel at him but he was a mystery too. You would just think you had the measure of him and he would surprise you again and again.

It's the last few days I remember the most. I'm an old robin now and it was many summers ago. But I remember what happened as if it was yesterday and I still shed tears sometimes as well as being filled with the joy of that morning in the garden.

The night in Gethsemane was hard. I perched on a branch just behind where he was sitting and watched him sob. His pain wracked my little body too. His disciples slept and I couldn't help but fly down closer onto a stone. I know he saw me and I was glad to be able to do something for him. Even if it was such a tiny thing as just staying beside him. I tried to sing but no tune would come. It was as if the weight of all he was carrying had drained the music out of his breast and mine.

But there was worse to come. Oh my dear ones, I can hardly bear to tell you what they did to him on that hill the following day. Nature can be harsh and I have seen many birds killed brutally and tragically but I have never seen anything as brutal as the sight that ripped my heart in two that Friday.

There were three of them: Jesus and two men they called thieves. They banged nails in their feet and hands and Jesus had a crown of thorns on his head too. His back was bleeding from the scourging and I wondered again about human beings and what they were capable of. He had healed so many and yes, he had done some things people didn't like, said some things that stung. But why oh why could they not see his goodness. How could they not see that he was different? I stayed as close as I could but I just couldn't bring myself to fly up onto the cross they had nailed him to. I wasn't afraid, I was just defeated and my wings had no flight in them.

I watched him die as I had watched him being jeered and abused and It felt as if the breath of all creation was slipping away. That night and the next day were a bit of a blur but I remember waking on the third day and feeling different. I can't explain it really but my song was back and I sang my heart out. I heard other birds singing too and the lambs on the hills seem to be skipping and playing in the grass with new energy and joy.

I flew over to the tomb where they had put him after his death and I knew. I knew he wouldn't be in there. I'm not one for 'experiences' or 'premonitions'. I was and still am a very ordinary little bird. But as I flew into the garden and saw the trees in blossom and the flowers

vibrant and bright and the woman I knew to be Mary in conversation with a figure. I knew it was him and I sang. Oh how I sang and then it happened. He saw me and winked. He winked at *me* a tiny robin and my red breast swelled with joy and I think I blushed too!

So you see, even as I prepare for my death. I'm not sad. Even as I share my story with you, I'm not afraid. I didn't see him again after that morning but it didn't matter. Wherever I flew, wherever I sang my song. He sang with me.

It's time to say Goodbye now but think on my story and Happy Easter.

With thanks to Lynne Chitty www.writingontherun.co.uk

Easter Bible Quiz Answers

1. Passover (Luke 22:1.)
2. A young donkey. (Mark 11,vs 1-7) .
3. When Jesus entered into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passion week, the people welcomed him as King and Messiah. They covered the road with their garments and palm fronds as a symbol of their worship and acceptance of him as king.
4. Peter (John 18:10)
5. 30 (Matthew 26: 15)
6. By giving him a kiss.
7. Hanged himself (Matthew 27: 3-5)
8. Barabbas (Matthew 27: 15-26; Mark 15, 6-15; Luke 23,18 and John 18, vs 40)
9. Alexander and Rufus (Mark 15: 21)
10. "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" (Luke 19:19)
11. Three hours (Mark 15,vs33). From noon to 3pm.
12. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16,9)

Easter Trivia Quiz Answers.

1. 80 million.
2. Germany
3. 11. Jesus's 11 disciples (excluding Judas)
4. Red
5. The cross represents the cross on which Jesus died.
6. White lilies
7. The Southeast Pacific.
8. Lamb
9. Europe
10. Easter is named after the Anglo-Saxon Goddess called Eostre.

Prayers of intercession . Help us to tell others the story

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you; Help us to tell others the story.

Lord, as we come to you in stillness now, help us to feel your proximity. As we breathe in, we say in our hearts 'Jesus is near'. As we breathe out, 'nearer than our breath'.

(Pause to breathe in and out a few times).

In this quiet moment, we replay the week just passed in our minds. Ask God to show you places and moments when he was particularly close.

Thank you, Lord, for being with us even when we didn't know you were there. For the times when we caught a glimpse of you. For moments when we might have had an amazing encounter. We rejoice that you are a God who comes to us. Raise our eyes towards you today that we might go into the week ahead energised and inspired to meet you in every person and every situation.

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you: Help us to tell others the story.

Lord, we lift to you our world. We pray for the places that are in such need of your presence and your glory. We pray for Ukraine and the Middle East. For Ethiopia and other parts of Africa, once again facing famine. Lord, we pray that, in every place where there is need, pain, hunger and despair, there may be a new revelation of you. Give us the eyes of faith to see where you are at work in the darkness of our world. Help us to see your light and seek ways to spread that light further and further until all the world sees a glimpse of your glory.

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you; Help us to tell others the story.

Lord, we pray for all who have hit the headlines this week... whether for good, painful or unpleasant reasons...

We also remember those who were prominent in the news just a few days or weeks ago who have now faded from the front pages, yet whose stories are still known to you...

Thank you, Lord, that you never forget anyone. You know our stories and love us throughout our lives.

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you; Help us to tell others the story.

Lord, we bring to you those who need a special touch from you right now. We pray for those who are sick, remembering King Charles among them. We also pray for....

Lord, may they know the revelation of your healing power.

We pray for those who are sad and sorrowful, particularly naming....

Come close, Lord, with your tender touch.

Help us to be bringers of peace and kindness this week to anyone we know who needs to feel your presence in their lives...

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you; Help us to tell others the story.

Lord, thank you that the disciples and Gospel writers had the courage to tell their stories. We pause for a moment to think of those who directly, or indirectly, led us to this faith moment in our lives...

Lord Jesus, the great storyteller, help us never to be ashamed of our story of faith, even if it doesn't seem as dramatic or exciting as those of other people. Give us the courage and desire to tell our story to others, that our witness may in some way help to bring others to trust and follow you. Lead us this week into moments of opportunity where we can share your love with those who need you so deeply.

Lord, whenever we catch a glimpse of you; Help us to tell others the story.

Amen.

(Adapted from Roots; Feb 24)

A Prayer for Church Growth

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship, and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The most beautiful porcelain ever designed for Wallsend.



We have recently been given this gift of a cup, saucer and plate and were intrigued to see the design was of our very own church. The pamphlet which was enclosed says each set cost £19.95. There were six designs - the Town Hall, the War Memorial, Allen Memorial Church, St Columbia's Church, St Luke's Church and Trinity Church.

The artist wanted to capture some of the lovely buildings in Wallsend that he felt we were in danger of losing. This was in early 2002.

How good it is to see all those buildings are still with us and all functioning well.

A gift we will treasure here at Trinity!

Margaret

Coffee Morning Rota of helpers.

Coordinators Alan Barker & Janis Duff

March.		23 rd	Pam & Allan
2 nd	Gail	30 th	Doreen
9 th	Susan	April	
16 th	Doreen	6 th	Susan

Please arrange your own swap if you can't make any of your dates.

Smile !

- Sign at the GP surgery: Due to new privacy regulations we can no longer use patient names in the waiting room.....will the patient with the itchy bottom please follow me (receptionist).
- 95% of electric vehicles are still on the road. The remaining 5% made it all the way home.
- You are being told to lower your Air Conditioning usage on hot days to prevent overwhelming the existing grid- while simultaneously being told to trade in your petrol/diesel car for electric vehicles?
- You know that little thing in your head that keeps you from saying things you shouldn't? Well, I don't have one of those.
- Wine is to women as duct tape is to men. It fixes everything.
- If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
- 60 might be the new 40, but 9pm is the new midnight.
- When I say, "the other day", I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east".
- Due to an unfortunate spacing error while booking our holiday, this year we are now looking forward to a week on the Norfolk B roads.
- Do you ever wonder what life would be like if you didn't overthink everything? I think about it all the time.
- Well, someone has ripped out both ends of my dictionary. It goes from bad to worse.
- I drink so much tea, I'm on first names with my kettle. He's called Phil....Phil the Kettle.
- Stealing someone's coffee is called mugging.
- There are 3 kinds of people in this world, those who can count and those who can't.
- Cats are furry children that never ask for money. but, good grief, if you're late serving a meal, they can throw a tantrum like a 3 year old.
- Whoever invented knock-knock jokes should get a No Bell prize.
- What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear.
- Energizer bunny arrested: charged with battery.
- I put my grandma on speed dial. I call that instagran.

Sunday Rotas

Sunday	Door Steward	Flower Rota	Flowers Donated To
3 rd March	Doreen Kirtley	Pam & Alan Emery	Pam & Alan Emery, Judith Bryson, Ann Humphries, Sylvia Aston and Shirley Filmer.
10 th March	Lorna Morgan	Ann Humphrey	
17 th March	Maureen Mills	Jean Trewick	
24 th March	Howard Hedley	Susan Bewley	
31 st March	Sylvia Aston	Doreen Kirtley	
7 th April	Mick Watson	Bill & Shirley Filmer	

Sunday	Preachers	Church Steward
3 rd March	Rev Susan Richardson	Alan Barker
10 th March	Rev Gavin Hume and Deacon Gail Morgan. Communion Service	Mark Burdon
17 th March	Miss Sam Cree	Susan Bewley
24 th March	Canon Peter Dodd	Pam Fender
Thursday 28 th March 10.30	Rev Gavin Hume and Deacon Gail Morgan. Maundy Thursday service.	
31 st March 8.30	Rev Gavin Hume. Communion	Mark Burdon
31 st March 10.45	Deacon Gail Morgan	Mark Burdon
7 th April	Mr Michael Ball	Susan Bewley

The Men's Shed

Thanks to the generous support of Trinity Church, the Newcastle Central and East Circuit, local charities and businesses, the Men's Shed based at Trinity Christian Community Centre in South Gosforth is now well into its third year and growing steadily.

We provide a safe space for anyone (not only men!) to develop their woodcraft skills or just have a cup of tea and a chat.

Those who come along say that they find it a really helpful and enjoyable time. If you would like to join us or would like more information, please contact Trinity Church office on: 0191 285 6130 or office@trinitygosforth.org.uk

We meet on Monday evenings between 7pm and 9pm and on Thursday mornings from 10am until 12pm.