



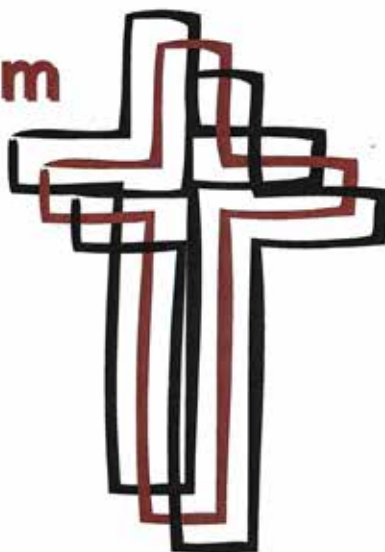
PARISHIONER



Good Friday Walk of Witness

10.15am

Walk from
Lenzie Old
Parish to
Lenzie Union,
St.Cyprian's
and along the
footpath to
Kirkintilloch



Gather
opposite
Freeland
place
At 11.00
Walk along
the
Cowgate
to
St.David's
St.Mary's
St.Ninian's

11.00am

Start opposite Freeland Place

FRIDAY April 15th 2022

Kirkintilloch and Lenzie ACTS Group

Re-live
the early hours of
EASTER
MORNING

**Meet
in
Hillhead
Parish
Church
at
8.00am
for
a
short
service**

**open from 7.30 for
tea and coffee**



**Walk
through
Luggie
Park
to
St.Mary's
for the
breaking
of bread
at 8.50**

Scottish Charity SC039686



St Mary's Parish Church

Cowgate Kirkintilloch G66 1JT

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Find us on:



st mary's kirkintilloch



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PASTORAL LETTER . . .

Dear Friends,

It has been good over recent days to see the daffodils, the lighter nights and yes, even some sunshine, a sure sign that the season is changing.

Indeed, by the time you read this letter, Lent will almost be over, and Easter will nearly be here. It has been a tough couple of years and although Covid-19 is still very much with us, we are learning to live with it. It is true that much has changed during this time and there is a sense that things will not be the same

again. With that reality comes some sadness, as we grieve for what has been.

The Church of Scotland is currently in a process of change and one that is happening very quickly, as presbyteries across the country work hard to respond to the Radical Action Plan approved by the General Assembly last year. The time frame is extremely tight, as representatives from congregations within each of the five zones meet to discuss and discern the way forward. Under the new plan, Zone 3, which we are part of, has been allocated 10.5 ministries – half of what we currently have. From this information alone, you will see that change is very much on the horizon, difficult and important conversations are taking place and there will be no congregation left unaffected by this new plan, which is to be approved by December 2023.

I confess that it is a daunting time to be part of the church – it can all seem a bit depressing and overwhelming – and yet, I believe that all is not lost. For there is a time for everything under heaven and it is up to us to recognise what it is time for and seek God's renewal. Though my Latin is virtually non-existent, I have never forgotten the phrase *semper reformanda* from time at university – **the church reformed, always reforming** – it is certainly one to bear in mind in these days!

At a recent meeting of the Kirk Session, we took some time to discuss what has been, what is and what might be in the life of St Mary's and you know what, it was good! There is a lot to give thanks for, certainly things to work on, and plenty to plan for as we put Jesus at the centre and go forward in faith, hope and love. For we are an Easter people. A church who belongs to a risen Saviour who shows us that all things are possible when

we work with him. So, let's **enjoy** the signs of new life around us, let us **pray** for the Church of Scotland in these challenging days and let us dare to **grasp** the opportunities for change and reformation, as we trust in Jesus and strive together for the growth and renewal of all things.

With love and Easter blessings to you all
Ruth

PARISH REGISTER

FUNERALS

Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life ...'

'Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted'

Jesus said 'The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God'.

March 24 Mrs Elaine McNamee, 4 Marguerite Gardens, Lenzie
29 John Hotchkiss, 21 Craighton Gardens, Lennoxton

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families at this sad time.

NEW MEMBERS

BY TRANSFER CERTIFICATE

Jim and Anne Cousin, 15 Loch Lea, Kirkintilloch

BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Donald and Maureen Ball, 7 Millersneuk Drive, Lenzie

We welcome both couples into our congregation and trust they will find peace and joy in our midst. The good wishes of the congregation are sent from St Mary's.



CHURCH FLOWERS

We can now display and deliver church flowers once again - their presence has been missed. We have, however, agreed to some changes in the way we do things. For the next few months, we will only have four arrangements in church each week (or four vases of flowers). The flower arrangers on duty each week will also deliver them. Recipients will be contacted each week to check if they are happy to receive flowers, which will be delivered following Covid guidelines. Thank you for continued donations. Please know we continue to think about and pray for all those who would benefit from church flowers.

Fiona Leishman, Sandra Burns, Ruth Poynton, Elizabeth Walker
The Flower Committee

Copy for the May Parishioner should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com no later than **Sunday 24 April**. If there are any changes to our current situation

prior to this date, further information will be issued accordingly. With continued thanks to those who make donations towards the cost of producing the magazine.

Church Office

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Church office still remains closed at present. Telephone number is 0141 775 1166 or e-mail: office.stmarys@btconnect.com

The Parishioner Online

www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk



Missed or lost your copy of the Parishioner ... why not go to www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk and see this month's copy. Stephen McKean, Webmaster, has built up previous issues online so you can look back on past copies.

Also if you wish any news or information to be put on the website please e-mail [webmaster@stmaryskirkintilloch@btinternet.com](mailto:webmaster@stmaryskirkintilloch.btinternet.com) and we will put these on the News page of the Website.



BELL RINGERS

We are pleased to intimate that the bells will continue to be rung until further notice by Leslie Bevens.

Nursery Update



To celebrate World Book Day last month, WH Smith gave each of our children a book. Some of the children dressed up on the day too!

The mud kitchen area will be revamped over the next few weeks and a new playhouse has been purchased. Children will hopefully have lots of fun in the sunny days of the summer term!

Children's mental health continues to be a priority in the nursery and so exercise classes and yoga sessions will form part of the weekly programme. Children will also be encouraged to talk about their emotions.

All our staff participated in and benefitted from recent Church of Scotland Safeguarding Training.

The nursery website is being updated – why not have a look using the link below? <https://www.stmarysnureryschool.co.uk>

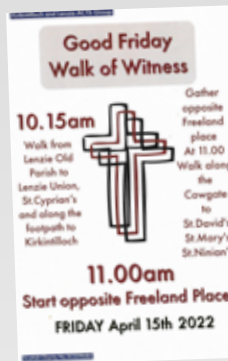
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of staff for their hard work this term and wish them a relaxing Spring Break.

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener

Easter Arrangements

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Kirkintilloch and Lenzie ACTS Group - Friday 15th April 2022, starting at 10.15am from Lenzie Old and then gathering opposite Freeland Place at 11am to walk along the Cowgate.



Easter Morning

Meet in Hillhead Parish Church at 8am for a short service (open from 7.30am for tea and coffee) and then walk through the Luggie Park to St Mary's for the breaking of bread at 8.50am.



St Mary's . . .

11am Easter Morning - All Age Worship service

Holy Week Services:

Monday	11 April	St Columba's led by Mark McKeown
Tuesday	12 April	St David's led by Bill Finnie
Wednesday	13 April	Hillhead led by John Nicolson
Thursday	14 April	St Mary's led by Philip Wright
Friday	15 April	St David's led by Ruth Morrison

All services commence at 7:30pm

Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man DID rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then

escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time.

He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

Young Church Update

We have come through the period of Lent, and we now are almost at Easter. Some of the concepts of Lent can be challenging but our young people have worked hard engaging with the stories and participating in the various activities.

Easter Sunday is on 17 April. The week leading up to Easter is called Holy Week

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - This is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. It is the first day of Holy Week and celebrates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. Crowds of people came out of the city to greet him, throwing down palm branches on the road.

Maundy Thursday - This is the Thursday before Easter Day. On Maundy Thursday we remember when Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples, breaking bread and drinking wine. This meal is known as the Last Supper.

Good Friday - This is the Friday before Easter Sunday. It commemorates the execution of Jesus by crucifixion. Good Friday is a day of mourning in church. During special Good Friday services, we remember Jesus's suffering and death on the cross, and what this means for our faith.

Easter Sunday - marks Jesus' resurrection. After Jesus was crucified on the Friday his body was taken down from the cross and buried in a cave tomb. The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers and an enormous stone was put over the entrance. On Sunday Mary Magdalene and some of Jesus' disciples visited the tomb. They found the stone had been moved and that Jesus' body had gone. Jesus was seen later that day by Mary and the disciples, and for forty days afterwards by many

people. His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead. We call this The Resurrection



Easter eggs are given as a gift because they are a symbol of new life, which is what this occasion really represents. Baby birds grow in eggs and hatch from them when they are ready, just as Jesus is said to have risen alive from his tomb after lying dead for three days. He was born anew.

Eggs are a reminder that we can always choose to start our lives anew as well. We can make up for and atone for things that we might have done wrong in the past and then go forward in life as better people with the best of intentions.



Treasurer's Report

Thank you all for your continued support and giving.

Some recent receipts I wish to mention:

Donation to Parishioner £20

Donation to Fabric Fund £20

Donations to General Funds £20, £20, £100

A Bequest from The Estate of Mrs Margaret N S Macrae £3,000

Donation following a recent Funeral £50

Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Following the recent retiring offering on 13th and 20th March to support this and coupled with some other monies that came to me for this purpose, I am pleased to report that to date we have received a total of £1,765.42. An amazing effort to support and help those in need in this war-stricken country. Thank you. Thank you also to the folks involved in counting and sorting this; much appreciated.

John M Thomson, Treasurer

Session Report

The Kirk Session met via Zoom on the 22nd February – this was an additional meeting, over and above our normal diet of session meetings, with only two items on the agenda.

The first item was the approval of the Church accounts and budget.

The second item was “Press Pause” - a request from Glasgow Presbytery to look at the impact of Covid-19 on Church life and consider the things we may want to adapt or do differently as a congregation.

Elders split into smaller groups to discuss the various questions and then feed back their insights to the wider group. A “Session Breakfast” is planned for late April, where we will have an opportunity to unpack some of the findings and suggestions identified in the group discussions.

Our regular Session Meeting took place on the 9th March. Our regular meeting, but with one significant difference – we met in-person for the first time in fully two years. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, our Session Meetings have taken place online, so meeting face to face for the first time felt like a very significant step. We met in the Sanctuary, rather than the Session House, so that we had

sufficient space to allow for social distancing and of course, face masks were required. However, it still felt like progress and a move towards what we would previously have considered “normal”.

One of the agenda items at our meeting in March was an update from the reopening group regarding the arrangements and procedures for Sunday worship. It was noted that the transition to our four duty groups had gone well. No issues have been identified and our thanks go to each of the groups, including our new congregational helpers.

Given the significant increase in the number of positive cases of Covid-19, the reopening group did not feel it was appropriate to make any changes to the current arrangements for Sunday mornings. However, this is something that will be kept under regular review and we will provide updates when guidance changes and any relaxations to current restrictions are proposed.

A very significant activity for us at this time is the work to develop our Mission Plan. Glasgow Presbytery have placed congregations in five zones and as previously indicated, we are one of approximately 22 congregations that make up Zone 3. Along with representatives of the other congregations in our Zone, we met with the Presbytery Plan Creation Group to learn more about the process. Further conversations with local congregations are planned for the near future – we will provide regular updates as our work progresses.

Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk

Food Bank

Please continue to support the Food Bank, where you will find the box in the church vestibule. By donating you can help to support local people in crisis. The following items have been requested

Fruit Juice ...long life carton
Tinned vegetables...NOT beans
Tinned meat...chicken, ham
Tinned fish
Tea and coffee
Biscuits
Jam
Toiletries...shampoo...deodorant

***Just now there is too much pasta, soup and baked beans which cannot be stored.
So please don't include these items.***

Katy Owen

Working Together . . . further update

Poppies

Thank you to everyone who is knitting or crocheting poppies. We need lots of poppies, so if you can help, please follow the pattern in the February parishioner – many hands make light work! We really need white poppies in the coming weeks with red ones thereafter. Please don't keep them at home, hand them in each Sunday to allow the Craft Group ladies to work with them.

Bunting flags

We have had lots of colourful bunting flags handed in to help us decorate for the Queen's Jubilee weekend. Please keep them coming! Flags can be submitted as you sew them but no later than Sunday 1st May.

We are back! The Social Committee returns!

After a break of over two years the social committee are now back in action and are very happy about it. During our absence we have had many discussions about how we can safely serve you and are now confident that it is possible. We are ready for our first event which is on Easter Sunday when, after the traditional early Easter service, we will be serving rolls and sausages before the normal eleven o'clock service.

Looking further ahead, we are also planning to have our usual June two course Strawberry Lunch on Sunday 5th June to coincide with the national weekend celebration of the Platinum Jubilee. We hope to make this a great celebration because not only is it the Jubilee, but also Pentecost and it will be our first major event. All necessary precautions will be taken and we expect a good time to be had by all.

We will follow our usual practise of asking you to buy a ticket for £1 to reserve a place so we know the numbers for catering and then on the day to make a donation of whatever you think the meal is worth.

Tickets will go on sale from Sunday 15th May after the service. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this event, which will hopefully be the first of many more as we move into the 'new normal'.

Glasgow Phoenix Choir Concert

The Glasgow Phoenix Choir, under their conductor Cameron Murdoch, will be performing a concert on Friday 22nd April 2022 in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, New Auditorium, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3NY. The concert begins at 19:30 and tickets cost £20.00 and £22.50 online from the GRCH; Box office 0141 353 8000 or via the choir's website.

Their accompanist for the event is Gordon Cree and they have the wonderful mezzo-soprano Cheryl Forbes as a very special guest. During the concert they will be performing the premiere of 'Opening' written specially by Bob Chilcott to celebrate the choir's platinum jubilee and 120 years since the foundation of their predecessors the Glasgow Orpheus Choir.

Two Donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

Easter Prayer 2022

Dear Almighty, All-powerful Father God,

You brought light and hope out of darkness and despair. You brought life out of death when you raised Jesus that first Easter Day. Thank you that the tomb is forever empty and that Jesus is forever alive!

No matter what is going on, no matter how little we understand, help us to hold on to the Easter truth – Jesus is risen! He is alive today and in Him we can put our trust, completely and confidently.

Because of Jesus, death is defeated. Because of Jesus, the best is yet to be. Love wins! Hallelujah! We praise you, Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small, paved area, and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish.

By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew Gardens to the Amazon Rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

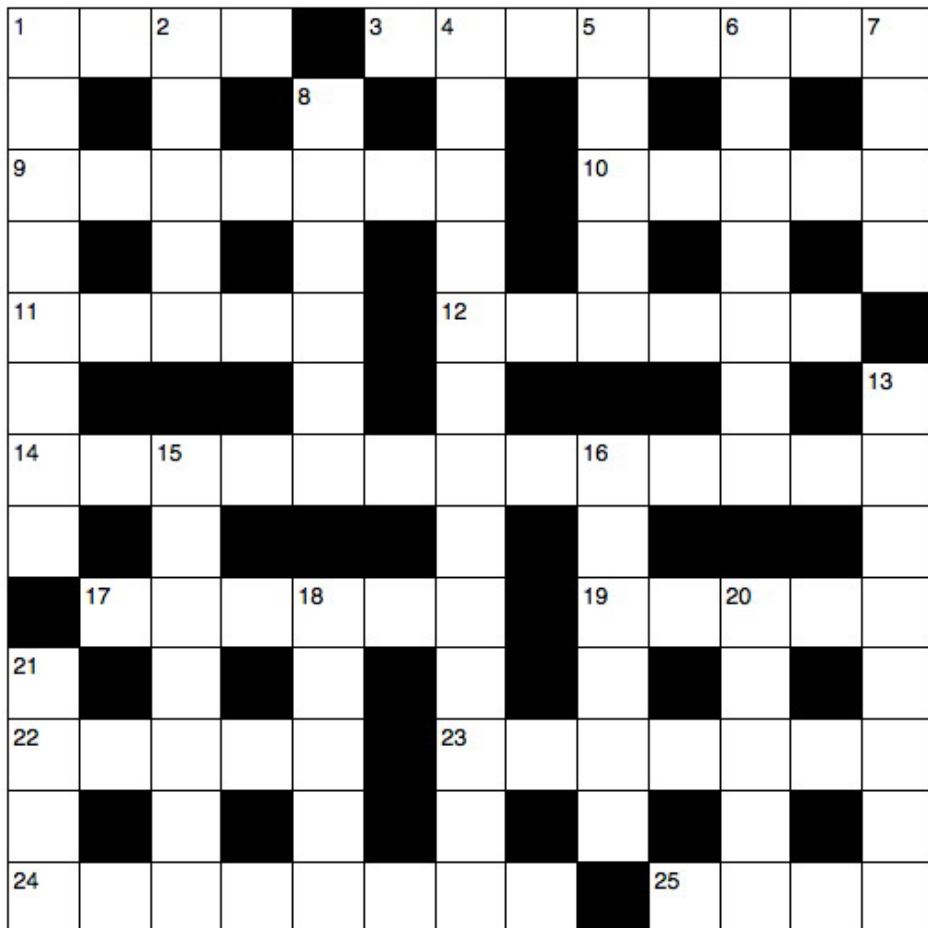
Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk, in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears. A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all around the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to stupefy them when she smokes her briar pipe.

The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

Crossword



Across

- 1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4) 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
 9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
 10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)

- 11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
 12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
 14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke

- it, making it unfruitful'
(Matthew 13:22) (13)
- 17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)
- 19 What Jesus wrapped round
his waist when he washed his
disciples' feet (John 13:4)
(5)
- 22 The sixth plague to afflict
the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9)
(5)
- 23 For nine (anag.) (7)
- 24 Where there is no time
(Psalm 93:2) (8)
- 25 Goliath's challenge to the
Israelite army in the Valley of
Elah: 'This day I — the ranks
of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10)
(4)

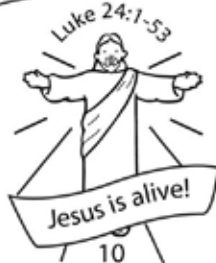
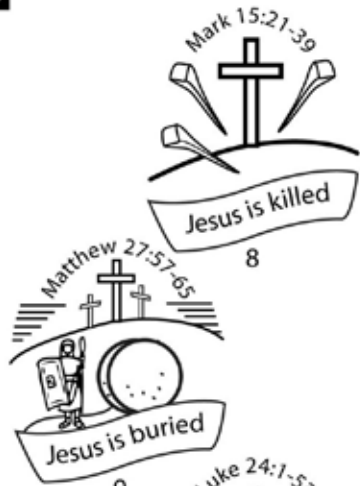
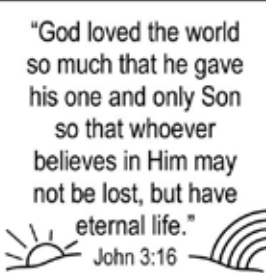
Down

- 1 'I will become angry with
them and forsake them;
I — — my face from them'
(Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)
- 2 Usual description of prophets
such as Amos, Hosea, Micah,
and so on (5)
- 4 'They cannot see the light of
the gospel of the — — — ,
who is the image of God' (2
Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)
- 5 An animal's internal edible
parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)
- 6 Popular 20th-century
religious novel by Lloyd C.
Douglas, which became a
1953 film starring Richard

- Burton (3,4)
- 7 'A — on a hill cannot be
hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)
- 8 One of the exiles, a
descendant of Bebai, who
married a foreign woman
(Ezra 10:28) (6)
- 13 Old Testament hymn-singing
(8)
- 15 'And O what transport of
delight from thy pure —
floweth' (7)
- 16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)
- 18 'So — the — sets you free,
you will be free indeed' (John
8:36) (2,3)
- 20 Comes between 'bad' and
'worst' (John 5:14) (5)
- 21 'Neither height nor depth...
will be — to separate us from
the love of God' (Romans
8:39) (4)



JESUS IS ALIVE!



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HAPPY EASTER!

Jesus has risen!
Jesus is with us!
Jesus will come again!



What did Jesus send the disciples to find?

What did the crowd do?

Read
Matthew 21:1-11



Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?

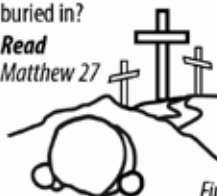
Read Matthew 26:17-75



What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?
What time did Jesus die?
Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?

Read

Matthew 27



What did Jesus do at Passover?

Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?
What had happened to Jesus?

Read

Matthew 28



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

Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER





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