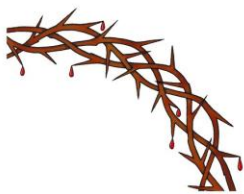


ABBHEY HILL U.R.C. MAGAZINE



April
2023

THE HEAD THAT
ONCE WAS
CROWNED WITH THORNS

A large, detailed illustration of a crown of thorns, similar to the one in the top left, but much larger and more prominent. It frames the text in the middle of the page.

IS CROWNED
GLORY WITH
NOW

A large, detailed illustration of a crown of glory, featuring golden braided bands and red teardrop-shaped ornaments. It frames the text at the bottom of the page.

Struggling before the Cross

What are you doing for Lent I wonder? Giving something up? Challenging yourselves in some way? Maybe exploring Christianity either through a book or visiting different churches, even countries? All things I've tried in the past and they certainly can be rewarding, even in the wilderness we are called to find in Lent.

This year I'm doing something different altogether. I'm going to struggle through the whole year, hopefully, although maybe not all of it in the wilderness. You see, I decided I needed to take on some challenging reading, both in terms of style and theology. So, I sourced two books that I thought might achieve this and I'm right! As I write this, there are still nine months to go!

The first is, 'Celebrating the Seasons – Daily Spiritual Readings for the Christian Year.' Each day is either an extract from a sermon or essay, sometimes the whole thing. Writers include some well-known figures from Christian history, others are unknown to me. A small sample for you: Proclus of Constantinople, Basil the Great, Dorothy of Gaza and Aelred of Rievaulx. Maybe you have heard of them – I hadn't. Well-known figures include Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Carl Jung, Wilfred Owen and John Wesley.

'Celebrating the Seasons' is mostly written in old English, contains theology that is somewhere to the right of mine and calls us to see God in ways we no longer follow today. Yet, despite the struggle, I'm learning something and gaining insights into the Christian journey taken on our behalf by so many over the centuries.

The other book is somewhat more straightforward, 'The BRF Book of 365 Bible Reflections' – catchy title, don't you think? This is a modern book, written by either existing or former employees of Bible Reading Fellowship, or others with a connection in some way. Much more up-to-date, yet still very challenging, because every writer, so far anyway, challenges you in a different way to DO something.

So, my Lent this time will last 365 days! A long, hard journey. Shorter than following Jesus through his journey to the cross, as we do each Lent, but incomparable to the actual journey taken by Jesus. How did he go on each day knowing the terrible fate that awaited him on what we now call Good Friday? How did he have the faith and courage to go on knowing his life would end in agony? Why did he take on the burden of all the sins of the world? Oh, the questions keep coming.

Yet he did. And eventually, it led to everlasting life for him and to all who believe.

I will enjoy sharing Easter with you, celebrating this amazing man. Praising him for what he has done for all who choose to follow him. Worshipping his 'Abba.' Then, I suspect, I will continue with my reading, but with an entirely different mindset and outlook to when I started the journey.

Happy Easter to you all – but let's keep Good Friday firmly in our mind first.

Blessings, George

CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2023



- 2nd Sunday** **11.00 Palm Sunday Service led by George Jones.**
- 7th Friday** **17.00 Good Friday Service led by George Jones.**
- 9th Sunday** **11.00 Easter Day Service with Communion led by George Jones.**
- 16th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by David Connolly.**
- 23rd Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by Val Whiteman.**
- 30th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by George Jones.**



CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY 2023

- 7th Sunday** **11.00 Healing Service led by Jo Williams.**
- 14th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by Tom Baird.**
- 21st Sunday** **11.00 Family Service with Communion led by Nick Stanyon.**
- 28th Sunday** **11.00 Family Service led by George Jones.**

Dates for your Diary – April 2023

Here's a peek at the events that are coming up and being planned. Lists will be up on the noticeboard for willing helpers and how to obtain tickets as necessary.

Event	Venue	Date	Time	Coordinators
Coffee Pot	Abbey Hill	Every Thursday	9.30 to 11.30	Betty and David Connelly
Community Listening Exchange hosted by Coffee Pot	Abbey Hill	3 rd Thursday every month	10.00	Ivan Pointon and Ed Watson
Designated Kenilworth Warm Repair cafe	Abbey Hill	Every 3 rd Saturday	2 til 5pm	Kenilworth Repair Cafe
Prayer Group	Vestry	Every Wed	9.30 til 10am	Anne Gilmore <i>Phone/email to check</i>
Talisman theatre The Girl on the Train <i>A thrilling mystery adaptation of the best-selling novel.</i>	Talisman Theatre	Thursday 20th April	7.00pm For 7.30 start	John Nichols
Talisman theatre Pride and Prejudice Tickets selling fast! Book now!	Talisman Theatre	Thursday 29 th June	7.00pm For 7.30 start	John Nichols
Table top sale <i>'A chance to spring clean and clear some clutter!'</i>	Abbey Hill	Easter Saturday April 8 th	10 to 3pm	Vivien Nichols, Anne Gilmore and Susan Derwent
Pintogether	The Green Man	Friday 28th April	7pm	Anne and Fred Holloway
Sam Sweeney <i>"The fiddler with the Midas touch... an English equivalent of the great Irish fiddle player Martin Hayes." **** The Guardian</i>	Abbey Hill	Saturday May 6th	7pm for 7.30 start	Hosted by the Treehouse bookshop
Coronation tea	Abbey Hill	Saturday May 13th	3 to 5.30pm	Rosemary Lawrence and Pat Cowan
Piano Recital	Abbey Hill	Saturday July 15th	Evening	TBA

Table Top Sale

Saturday
April 8th
10-3pm

Pre-loved
Items
Jewellery

C
R
A
F
T
S

Clothes
Books
Toys
Plants
Swap table

Tables to rent
£10
Contact
Vivien on
01926 512764

Refreshments

Grab a
bargain!

Abbey Hill URC, Abbey Hill, CV8 1LW

Table Top Sale

The Table Top Sale on Easter Saturday 8th April starts at 10am until 3pm and admission is free.

Anybody can buy a table for £10 to sell their own stuff (contact Vivien Nichols).

Abbey Hill will be running these stalls below and donations for these can be dropped off at church:

Refreshments with cake (of course), Soup and a roll for lunch, A raffle, Swap table, Preloved jewellery stall, Craft Stall.

We do need volunteers to run these stalls (even a short time is helpful). A list is up on the church noticeboard.

Any donated items unsold will be donated to charity shops immediately after the sale.

Looking forward to seeing old friends and new!

Vivien Nichols (01926 512764) and Susan Derwent.

Treasurer's report

March communion offertory for Alzheimer's research was £ 25.

April Communion will be donated to the Red Cross Ukraine appeal. If you wish to donate to this there are brown communion envelopes in the porch.

Kenilworth Community Church donated £1000 towards the hall windows.

Pintgether

There will be another opportunity to meet together and chat over a drink at The Green Man on Friday 28th April from 7pm. All are welcome to join us.

Anne and Fred

ROTAS – APRIL 2023

	Transport	Flowers provided by	Flowers arranged by
02/04	Colin Ritchie	Rosemary Lawrence	Rosemary Lawrence
09/04	John Nichols	Jane Woods-Scawen	Anne Holloway
16/04	Di Wilson	Judy Clarkson	Eileen John
23/04	Colin Ritchie	Barbara Gillard	Barbara Gillard
30/04	John Nichols	Jon Atkinson	Di Wilson
	Projector & Sound	Stewards	Readers
02/04	David	Hilary Scott / Ann Banning	Kath Shortley
09/04	Alison	Vivien Nichols / Pat Cowan	Lorna Spenser
16/04	Ivan	Betty Connelly / Kath Shortley	John Thomas
23/04	John	Anne and Fred Holloway	John Williams
30/04	Bronwen	Rosemary Lawrence / Donna Bloy	Betty Connelly
	Coffee	Car Park	Vestry
02/04	Rosemary Lawrence / Suzanne Hall		Jo Warren
09/04	Alison Pointon / Hilary Scott		Kath Shortley
16/04	Jane Woods-Scawen / John Thomas		Vivien Nichols
23/04	Jo Warren/ Pete Warren		John Nichols
30/04	Susan Derwent / Di Wilson		Jane Woods-Scawen
	Communion Prep.	Pat Cowan / Kath Shortley	

ROTAS – MAY 2023

	Transport	Flowers provided by	Flowers arranged by
07/05	Di Wilson	Pam Muckersie	Betty Connelly
14/05	Colin Ritchie	Bronwen Todd	Bronwen Todd
21/05	John Nichols	Jo Warren	Jo Warren
28/05	Di Wilson	Gaynor Watkins	Ayse McKenzie
	Projector & Sound	Stewards	Readers
07/05	David	Pat Cowan / Anne Gilmore	Phil Inshaw
14/05	Alison	Eileen John / Phil Inshaw	Colin Ritchie
21/05	Ivan	Jo and John Williams	Jane Woods-Scawen
28/05	John	John and Vivien Nichols	Pat Cowan
	Coffee	Car Park	Vestry
07/05	Betty Connelly / Eileen John		Anne Holloway
14/05	Pat Cowan / Glenys Hobbins		Anne Gilmore
21/05	Anne & Fred Holloway		Kath Shortley
28/05	Kath Shortley / Cheryl Ritchie		Jo Warren
	Communion Prep.	Comm. Servers	
	Jane Woods Scawen / Donna Curran		

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY FOR APRIL

APRIL BIRTHDAYS.

A Happy Birthday to all of the following:-

11th April – Hugh MacCallum

12th April – Ann Banning

15th April – Joy Thorpe

19th April – Eileen John

22nd April – Mary Skidmore

24th April – Lesley Williams

Special Birthday wishes to Ann who has a birthday ending in an “0”

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3rd April - Rosemary & Gerald Lawrence

15th April - Tony & Anne Gilmore.

BIRTH

Congratulations to Jon & Sally Atkinson on the birth of a lovely granddaughter, Joanna May, a sister for Thomas.

IN OUR THOUGHTS

We continue to pray for all our members but especially Winnie Tawil, Mavis Duckworth, Joy Verral, Mary Skidmore, Esme Thorpe, Janet Turner, Edna Dixon and Lesley Williams.

All of the above mentioned and any who do not wish to be mentioned by name, are in our thoughts and prayers.

Friends make life worth living

“A day spent with friends is a day well spent.”

Anon

“Nothing but heaven itself is better than a friend who is really a friend.”

Plautus, Roman playwright

“Good friends don’t let you do stupid things alone.”

Anon

Please let Pat Cowan know in person or on 01926 313904 of any Pastoral Care matters.

Remembering Corrie ten Boom

It was 40 years ago, on 15th April 1983, that Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch writer, watchmaker, and Holocaust survivor, died. She wrote about her experiences in Christian books that became best-sellers.

Corrie's family were Calvinist Christians in the Dutch Reformed Church, and served their neighbourhood by offering shelter, food and money to the needy. They believed the Jews were precious to God and that all people were created equal. During the Second World War, she – and the rest of her family – helped many Jews and others to escape from the Nazis at great risk to themselves. She later received the rare accolade from Israel of being named Righteous Among the Nations.

The Dutch Resistance helped them to build a secret room in their house behind Corrie's bedroom, which became known as The Hiding Place – later the title of her most famous book. The room held six people, had its own ventilation and an alert buzzer, and was astonishingly successful. It is estimated that about 800 Jews in all were saved through Corrie's efforts, which included obtaining at least 100 false ration cards.

Eventually an informer gave them away, and the family were arrested in February 1944 – though not the six people in the Hiding Place at the time. After months in prison, Corrie and her sister Betsie were sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp in September 1944, where they continued to worship and share the message of forgiveness, hope, love, and salvation. Betsie died in the December, but Corrie was released later that same month, apparently because of a 'clerical error'. A week later all the women in her age group were sent to the gas chambers.

After she was set free, Corrie travelled the world for 33 years, from 1944 to 1977, speaking in 64 countries. She suffered three severe strokes from August 1978 and died on her 91st birthday.

Eco-matters April 23

There seems to be a growing groundswell of eco-action taking place around us, which is wonderful. A couple of weeks ago at the Methodist Church there was a day on “retrofitting of” a number of solutions to make one’s home a more eco-friendly one. One that was particularly interesting was the use of a thermal imaging camera to show where there was a problem with heat loss.

A major International one is the multinational agreement for the protection of the oceans. This has taken many years of diplomacy and negotiation to bring to fruition. One prays that this will indeed bear fruit.

If you watched the new David Attenborough series of “Wild Isles”, at the end of the first program, they showed one of the Orcas from pod 27, that had died, by drowning, after becoming entangled in a discarded fishing net! Many hundreds of marine animals/bird die annually in this way! So anything to reduce this is to be greatly welcomed.

While, this is brilliant, sadly we have a dire situation in our country with massively polluted rivers, which is a danger to mammals, fish and us. This is especially true of the chalk streams in

England. There are only 200 chalk streams around the world and 85% of them are in Southern and Eastern England! Greater action is required to protect them and the wildlife they support.

Much is being done to reinstate wildflower meadows, such as on Abbey Fields, and at many stately homes, and National Trust properties across the country. We’re all being encouraged to “no mow “our lawns. Last year we did leave a good amount of our grass areas uncut and we’re rewarded with a variety of grasses and some flowers and also grasshoppers.

We sowed seeds of yellow rattle, which is parasitic on grass, reducing it and allowing wildflowers to grow by impoverishing the soil. Hoping that it will develop further this year.

Work is being done to reflect peat moss by blocking the drainage ditches of the past.

The paucity of British insects has previously been mentioned in an Eco article, and in “Wild Isles” David Attenborough mentioned that 60% of our insects have vanished in the past 20 years!!!

Butterflies have been particularly impacted by the use of pesticides and the removal of Wild Flower Meadows and hedges. Some are on the cusp of extinction. When we moved to Kenilworth some 14 years ago, the sedums in the garden were smothered in butterflies in the late summer/ autumn, last year, there were hardly anywhere to be seen, a very rapid decline.

The wanton destruction of trees has been truly appalling in recent years. And just this week *in the dark of night* a council in England felled all the trees on the street, for, they said the redevelopment of the area! We have recently learnt that trees have an incredible underground support network for one another and a wealth of insects. The trees themselves provide habitats for a wide range of insects and mammals. An Oak tree supports 240 species. In the UK we have the largest number of oak trees in Europe and the oldest oak tree in the country is 1000 years old! In the RHS magazine there a picture of a dead tree with holes drilled in it to act as bee hotel.

Did you know that we have rainforests in Britain? They are temperate rainforests and a few pockets of them remain. These rainforests are world beating: they support about 500 species of lichen, and one of them is to be found on an area near the river Dart.

So this spring and summer, can you be a help to nature by not cutting your grass and being an untidy gardener, leaving piles of dead wood in sheltered places to provide cover for small mammals and invertebrates and also letting some weeds flower (dandelions are a great source of food for bumble bees, hover flies, solitary bees and day flying moths). Also when thinking of buying plants for the garden do consider ones that will be beneficial to our pollinators. Most garden centers now have symbols which indicate which plants are good pollinator feeders. Plants with single flowers are better than double flowers for insects.

One aspect that is really growing in popularity is “preloved” items at, charity shops , online or at our Table Top Sale on 8th April!!!

Be concerned, Take Action. The world needs YOU!!!!

The Eco Group .

‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Poussin’s ‘The Funeral of Phocion.’

In the 17th century the name Arcadia evoked an earthly paradise that was celebrated in art and literature as an idyllic place of peace and harmony where humanity and nature were at one. To live in such beautiful surroundings was to find heaven on earth. We often have that feeling when we are out in the countryside amid the hills and woods, the valleys and lakes. The sun shines benevolently down on the scene, and we feel nothing can destroy that happiness and sense



of unity we have with creation around us.

That is the mood shown to us when we first look at this month’s painting, ‘The Funeral of Phocion.’ It is by the Baroque artist, Nicholas

Poussin, who was born in France but spent most of his working life in Rome, where he died in 1665. In the distance are friendly hills, and then closer at hand we see the trees and bushes, a winding river, the shepherd and his sheep, a couple walking and talking, and the farmer and his cart. There are also signs of civilization – it is the city of Athens with its temple and buildings, a place where harmony and reason rule. Poussin presents us with a calm, ordered landscape.

But in the foreground, we see something that jolts us out of this reverie. Two slaves carry off a body for burial. It is Phocion, an Athenian general. He was known as 'Phocion the good,' admired for his honesty and integrity and for his simple way of life. In the 4th century BC Phocion argued for peace when the city around clamoured for war with Macedon. His enemies won the day and they intrigued to have him condemned. As a traitor, Phocion was denied a burial in Athens, and so his body is being taken outside the city. The world of civilization and the world of nature seem oblivious to this tragedy of a moral life cut down by others. In this month of Eastertide we can think of a similar scene of nature and civilization. The garden of Joseph of Arimathea where a body is brought for burial – someone, who like Phocion, stood out for goodness and peace, but who fell victim to the forces of hatred and jealousy within the city walls of Jerusalem.

Poussin painted a second canvas where the ashes of Phocion are returned to his grieving widow – a sad end to a good life with no hint of hope for a better future. In this season we rejoice in a different end to the story of Jesus. On Good Friday His body is laid to rest in a tomb. Two days later the Lord of Easter walks again in that garden to tell a grieving Mary Magdalene that there is hope for her future. There is the promise of transformation – a new creation and a new world where eternal life is triumphant. In such a world, the human heart within, the dwelling places of people and the countryside around can never be the same again. The Easter Alleluia rings out to embrace them all.

Why the stars are fading

By the time a child born today becomes an adult, they may be able to see fewer than half the stars that are currently visible.

This is not because the stars are fading, but because of ever increasing 'skyglow', or light pollution, which is brightening the night sky by 9.6pc on average each year.

So warn researchers at the German Research Centre for Geosciences. And the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) says that the change could see some of the fainter constellations – such as Cancer – fading away, along with astronomical features like the Orion nebula and Andromeda galaxy.

“At this rate of change, a child born in a location where 250 stars are currently visible, would be able to see only about 100 by the time they turned 18,” said one scientist.

Too much artificial light at night not only impacts our ability to see the stars, but affects animals and plants, who rely on daily and seasonal cycles to determine behaviour and physiological processes.

The researchers published their work in the journal Science.

Remembering the Royal Yacht Britannia

Seventy years ago, on 16th April 1953, Queen Elizabeth II launched the Royal Yacht Britannia. It was decommissioned in 1997. The Royal Family no longer owns a royal yacht.

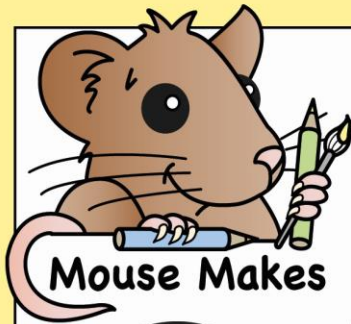
Britannia was the 83rd such vessel since King Charles II acceded to the throne in 1660, but the first Royal Yacht to be built with complete ocean-going capacity and designed as a Royal residence to entertain guests around the world.

She was decommissioned in 1997, when the Government decided she was too expensive to repair, although she had raised £3 billion in commercial days between 1991 and 1995. Moves have been made to replace her, but they have so far come to nothing. She is currently moored in Leith, Edinburgh, and attracts 300,000 visitors a year.

Built by John Brown & Co, one of the world's most famous shipyards, she was commissioned into the Royal Navy on 11th January 1954, and on 22nd April sailed into her first overseas port, Malta. In 44 years, the Britannia sailed the equivalent of once round the world each year, calling at over 600 ports in 135 countries.

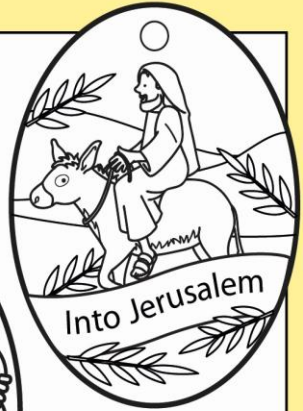
Britannia's final mission was to bring the last Governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, back from Hong Kong after its handover to the People's Republic of China in July 1997. The Queen was reported to have shed a tear at the decommissioning ceremony, which was attended by most of the senior members of the Royal Family.

All the clocks on board are stopped at 3:01pm, the time the Queen was piped ashore for the last time.

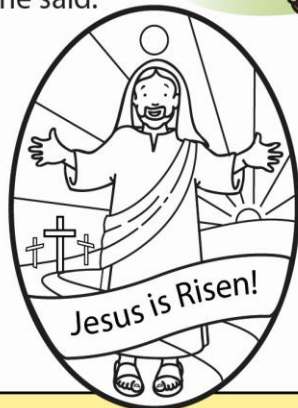
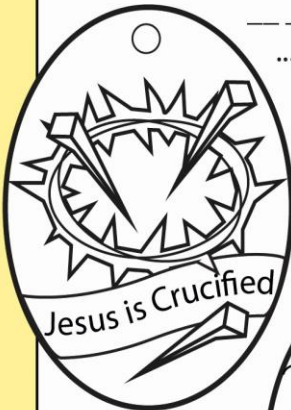
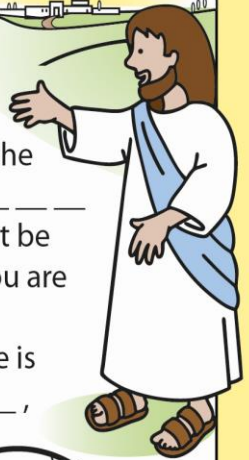


Mouse Makes

HE IS RISEN!
Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



An _____
of the Lord came down from _____ and going to the
_____ rolled back the _____
... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said!"



Glue this page onto
card. Cut out the
ovals then colour in.
Punch a hole at the
top and hang up
for Easter

Who is eating the plastic at sea?

Scientists believe they may have discovered what happens to a great deal of the plastic that is dumped in the ocean.

The mystery has been that while about 14 million tonnes end up in marine environments each year, only about one per cent of that is ever found in sampling surveys.

While much of the plastic may have sunk to the deep bottom of the sea, now scientists believe that the answer may also be partially because bacteria are eating it.

A recent study by the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) has found that the widespread bug bacterium *Rhodococcus ruber* can actually digest plastic, turning it into carbon dioxide and other harmless substances.

One scientist explained that while “this is certainly not a solution to the problem of the plastic soup in our oceans,” it does help explain “where all the 'missing plastic' in the oceans has gone.”

Rhodococcus ruber is found across the globe, and is abundant in soil, water and marine environments. The species is known to transform a number of harmful pollutants, including industrial chemicals and pesticides, into harmless molecules.

The research was published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin.

Why is it getting harder to see your GP

Ever wonder how many other patients your local GP now cares for? Recent figures show that could be up to as many as 3,000 other people.

Amid worsening staff shortages, the number of fully qualified GPs has fallen from 29,320 in 2016 to 27,372 last year, as more and more doctors are opting to reduce their hours, or go for early retirement.

And to make matters worse, the number of registered patients has grown from 58 million to 62.2 million in that time, according to the House of Commons Library.

The Liberal Democrats, who commissioned the research, have recently warned that the falling numbers of GPs “is creating a perfect storm that means for many people, it feels almost impossible to see your GP when you need to.

“This ever-worsening GP shortage is having a terrible human cost, as people face delayed or missed diagnoses, and A&Es fill up with desperate patients looking for treatment.”

Happy Birthday, Cadbury Crème Egg

Cadbury Crème Eggs celebrate their 60th birthday this Spring. They have a lot to celebrate: the Creme Egg is the best-selling confectionery item between New Year's Day and Easter in the UK, with annual sales of more than 200 million eggs, worth about £55 million.

Cadbury Crème Eggs were first created by the British chocolatier Fry's in 1963, before being renamed by Cadbury in 1971.



REPAIR CAFE
KENILWORTH



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REPAIR CAFE



Repair Café Kenilworth

Repair Café Kenilworth (ReCK) is a free meeting space that's all about repairing things together, be that clothes, toys, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles ... there's very little that can't be repaired by our team of expert volunteers.

We meet at the United Reformed Church every third Saturday in the month, between 2PM and 5PM. There is free parking outside the Church, but it can get quite busy. If your item is particularly heavy or large, we'll always try to assist you as best as possible.



Sustainable. Social. Economic. Fun.

A local Repair Café is a not-for-profit community event, created by neighbours, for their neighbours. The aim of the Repair Café Kenilworth (and those worldwide) is to reduce waste, increase sustainability, save money, and have fun in an informal social gathering.

Oh ... with lots of tea and cake on tap also. It is a Repair CAFÉ after all.

Bin it? No Way!

Some things have to be thrown away ... the old toothbrush with curly bristles, that blown light bulb that's been sitting inside the cupboard since 1983, the fish 'n' chip wrappers from last night's tea ... but what about that broken bedside lamp, or the rickety wooden stool that belonged to your grandparents?



The Repair Café movement has one simple question, and an even simpler answer; Bin it? No Way!

Along with actually repairing your broken items, we'll help you to develop the skills to start repairing them yourself, to promote the culture of repair over replace, and to give you the satisfaction of bringing your treasured memories back to life.

Further details

[Repair Cafe](#) | [Repair Cafe Kenilworth](#) | [Kenilworth \(repaircafe-kenilworth.org\)](#)

The third Saturday afternoon of the month at Abbey Hill Church Schoolroom 2pm-5pm.

**COULD ANY ARTICLES/NOTICES FOR THE
MAY 2023
MAGAZINE PLEASE BE SENT TO ME BY
SUNDAY 23rd APRIL 2023
PLEASE 😊? (e-mail to
m.todd1@hotmail.com)**

The story behind the story of *Ben Hur*

There is a story to be told of the writing of *Ben Hur*, the book that became the 1959 block-buster film featuring Charlton Heston.

It was written in 1880 by Lew Wallace, an American lawyer, Union general during the Civil War, and then governor of the New Mexico Territory. (His statue still stands today on Washington's Capitol Hill).

Wallace had told his wife that he intended to examine the New Testament, and then write a book that would explode what he called "the myth of Christ's resurrection". Wisely, his Christian wife did not argue with him, but simply prayed.

The months passed, and Wallace read and reread the New Testament, and wrote and rewrote his draft chapters. Finally, he confided to his wife that he could not refute the resurrection of Christ, and that therefore his book would not be written.

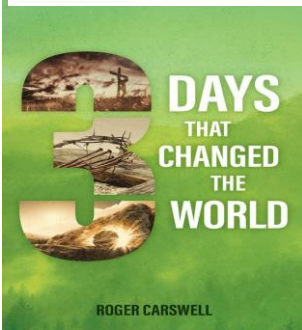
Wallace's wife disagreed. She persuaded him to write his book, but from a new and different standpoint altogether. '*Ben Hur - a tale of the Christ*' was the result. It is the story of a high-born Jewish man who is taken prisoner by the Romans, who encounters Jesus, and whose life is gradually transformed. Oh, and there is a battle at sea and a chariot race in the story as well!

In the past 143 years since it was written, '*Ben Hur - a tale of the Christ*' has never been out of print.

Book Reviews

3 Days that Changed the World – the three most significant days in history

By Roger Carswell, 10Publishing £3.99

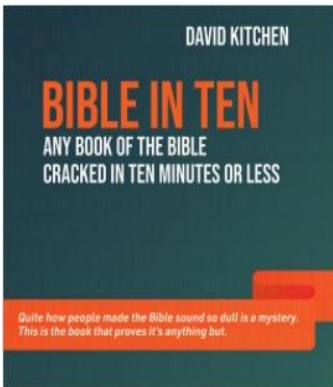


The crowds shouted, ‘Crucify Him!’ ... So began the three most significant days in world history. Three life-changing days that have the power to transform your world.

Roger Carswell explains what led to the events of the first Easter, and shows how Jesus’ death and resurrection still impacts our world – and each one of us – today.

Bible in Ten: any book of the Bible cracked in ten minutes or less

By David Kitchen, BRF, £12.99



For anyone who wants to crack open the Bible, poet, broadcaster and teacher Dave Kitchen provides a lively introduction to every single book in ten minutes or less. The book tells stories of success and failure, suffering and hope, home and exile, and a love that is stronger than death.

The 67 short, sharp snapshots cover every corner of a book that people sometimes don’t know quite as well as they think they do. It’s a way into a volume that is often on the shelves but far less frequently taken off them.

Hedgehogs need your help this Spring

During the winter when hedgehogs hibernate, their heart rate drops from around 190 beats per minute to just about 20. They breathe only once every few minutes. So, to rouse themselves from that depth of torpor and get back into normal life takes a huge surge of energy.

Which is where you can come in. Hedgehogs are hungry in the Spring. Very hungry. Most of them will have slept until mid-March, and so will now be awake - but starving.

So why not put out some shallow dishes of meaty cat or dog food or cat biscuits and water?

You can even buy or make special hedgehog feeders.

Hedgehogs have always been popular, but they are now sadly classed as 'vulnerable to extinction'. Numbers have been plummeting, and now there are less than one million left in the UK.

"With their coat of prickles and inquisitive nose, alongside a penchant for snuffling around our back gardens snaffling up slugs and earthworms, hedgehogs are a childhood memory of delight," said one scientist. "Sadly, hedgehogs might be banished to memories alone and lost as a source of wonder for our children and grandchildren."



Sea of Galilee

A vicar planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land was shaken when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."
"Well," said the vicar, "at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"

Palm Sunday visit

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his gran. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.
Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

Signs found outside churches....

- * Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside.
- * Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- * Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives.
- * Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.

Out West

A devout cowboy lost his Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up to him, carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow's mouth and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"
"Well, hardly that," said the cow. "Your name was written inside the cover."

For MPs only

At the Pearly Gates, St Peter greeted a minister and a Member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nicest single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite." When the vicar protested that this was unfair, St Peter explained: "Look, ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first politician we've ever seen."

Miscellaneous observations on daily life

You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance. If you think nobody cares whether you're alive or dead, try missing a couple of mortgage payments.
In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog to worship him and a cat to ignore him.
The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.
Getting older is just one body part after another saying, 'Ha ha, you think that's bad? Watch this!'
The good thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.
All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

PRAYER DIARY APRIL 2023

1 st	Janet Turner
2 nd	Joy Verral
3 rd	Jo and Pete Warren
4 th	Gaynor Watkins
5 th	Emma and Gary Watt
6 th	Jo and John Williams
7 th	Lesley Williams
8 th	Di Wilson
9 th	Jane Woods-Scawen and John Thomas
10 th	Jon Atkinson
11 th	Ann Banning
12 th	Heather and John Barton
13 th	Louise Barton and Emileigh Warren
14 th	Louise Broad
15 th	Jane Bryan, Martha and Seth
16 th	Peter and Barbara Champion
17 th	Judy Clarkson and Sam
18 th	Betty and David Connelly
19 th	Vera and Andy Cooper
20 th	Gloria Cordery
21 st	Pat and Ian Cowan
22 nd	Alison and Robert Crichton
23 rd	Donna and Michael Curran, Henry and Martha
24 th	Elinor Davies and Alexander Nunn
25 th	Susan Derwent and Henry Bentley
26 th	Edna Dixon
27 th	Mavis Duckworth
28 th	Paul Duffy
29 th	Judith and Terry Eaton
30 th	Sue England

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Lettings Officer	Rosemary Lawrence		850264
Free Will Envelopes	Susan Derwent	07515	890598
Magazine Editor	Martyn Todd		864332
Guide Leader	Tracey McNamara		856922
Brownie Leader	Sarah Pointer	02477	042291
Crèche	Ayse McKenzie		779810
Catering & Social Committee	Rosemary Lawrence		850264
Healing Group	Jo Williams	02477	112156
Weekly Notices	Paul Duffy		851650
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