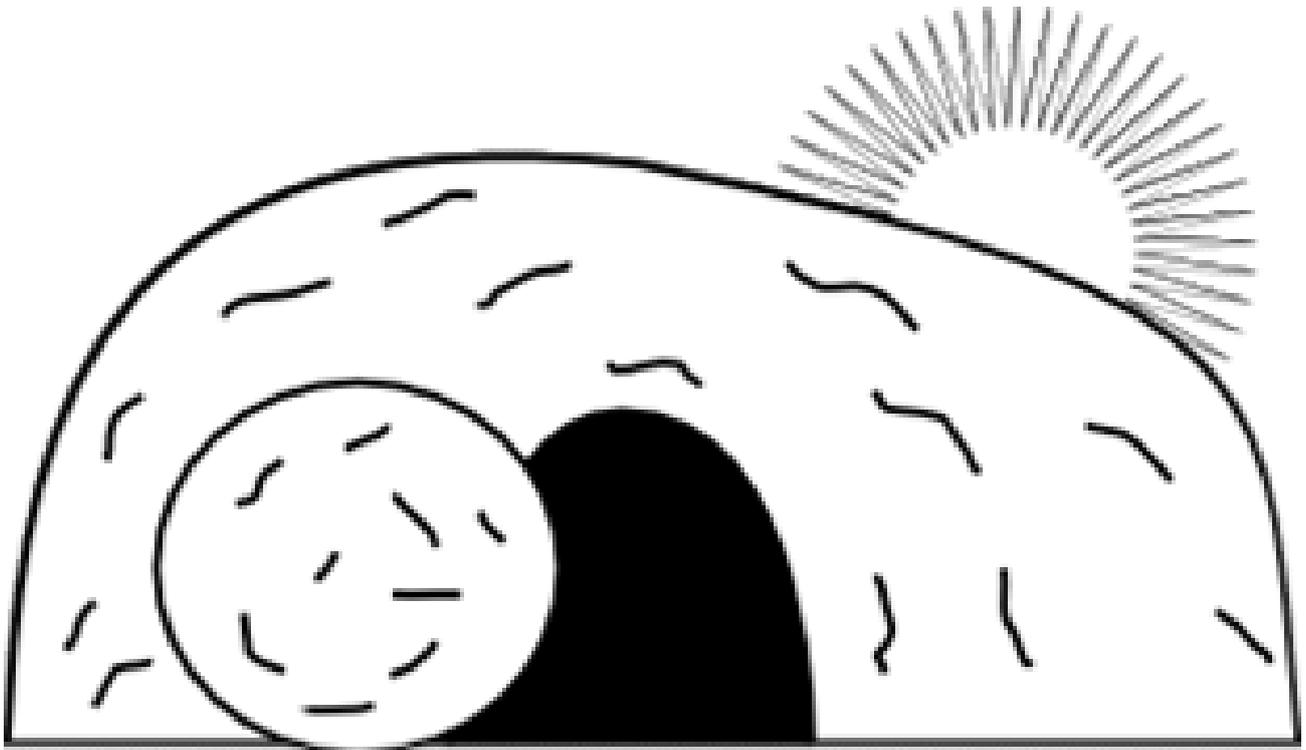


The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

APRIL 2020

## South Leicestershire Group URC



SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE GROUP UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
Saffron Lane-Wigston Magna-South Wigston  
Oadby-Whetstone

<http://southleicsgroupurc.org.uk>

## Contact us:

**Reverend Richard Eastman** 0116 2714751  
South Leicestershire Group Minister

**Mrs Eileen Williams** 0116 2478929  
Local Church Leader

### **South Wigston**

Di Statham Secretary 0116 2810053

Noel Oldershaw Treasurer 0116 2813398

Marion Bartholomew Magazine 0116 2717755

### **Wigston Magna**

Eileen Williams Secretary 0116 2478929

Ray Green Acting Treasurer 0116 2887774

Ray Green Room Lettings 0116 2887774 /  
07518 214144

Mary Childs Brigades Contact 07946093786

Sheila Stephens Magazine 0116 4315206

Church Office answerphone 0116 2882666

### **Saffron Lane**

Sandra Clay Secretary/Finance/Magazine 0116 2835375

Elizabeth Richardson Treasurer 0116 2993176

### **Oadby**

Pauline Hudson Secretary 0116 2712913

Tony Hudson Treasurer 0116 2712913

### **Whetstone**

Janet Statham Correspondence Secretary 0116 2863335

Glenis Chapman Treasurer

Jean Warner Room Lettings 0116 2752405

Kevin West Magazine 0116 2779402

## Letter for April

We are going through challenging times, a complete change, for some, in the way that they live their lives. There are no meetings, no social groups, no coffee mornings: what are we going to do with ourselves? We are unprepared for life's challenges, just like the disciples were when they were challenged by the stormy sea. They panicked, just like we would, and realised that they could die. And while this was happening, Jesus was sleeping peacefully in the boat with them. Jesus' reaction was so different to the disciples' reaction because He knew that God has power over every storm. You may not be able to change your situation but you can choose to faithfully trust God in the middle of it.

We need to fix our eyes on Jesus, instead of looking at the size of the storm. God will help us navigate through any situation with His wisdom and peace.

It's easy to focus on your fears when you can't control your future. But, thankfully, Jesus knows our future and He is always in our boat, always on our side and He calls us to live by faith, not by sight.

In a recent letter to the churches from John Proctor, the General Secretary of the URC, he ended it by giving us a prayer, I share it with you -

Lord Jesus,

In the midst of a storm, you said, 'Peace be still'.

Bid our anxious fears subside, sustain your church in faith, hope and love, bring your nation through this tumult, grant wisdom to those with heavy responsibilities, and healing and hope to those who are infected.

Amen

Cont.....

Share your faith with those around you, by phone or letter, and remember that Jesus came through the sorrow and pain of Good Friday to be resurrected on Easter Day.

We will miss our acts of worship, but there will be one on local radio on Sunday and Radio 4, 9.45am each week day on Long Wave and at 8.10am on Sunday morning. I'm told that Songs of Praise can be uplifting too.

Take care of yourselves and when the world gets back to some sort of normality, we could have a huge party in celebration.

Wishing you all God's blessings

Eileen

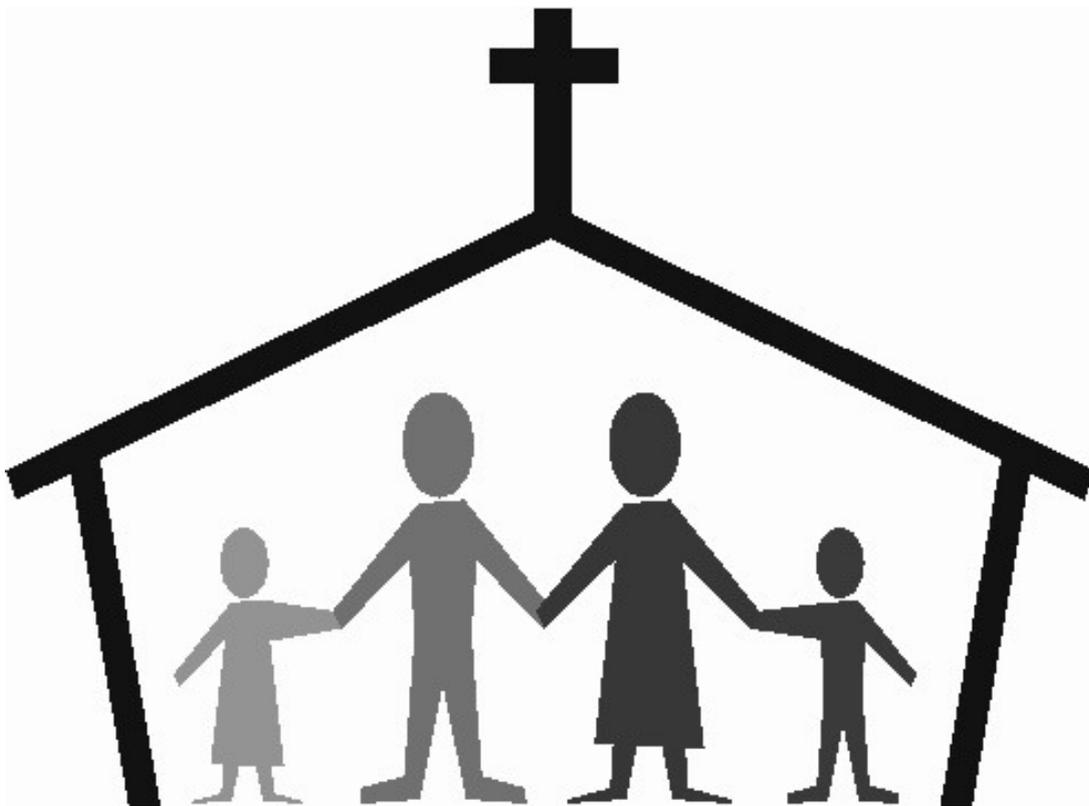
**Faith HOPE**  
**LOVE and**  
**PRAYER**

## SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SERVICES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Whetstone URC	10.00 am
Oadby URC	10.15 am
South Wigston URC	10.30 am
Wigston Magna	10.30 am
Saffron Lane	11.00 am





## Resource Minister

Over the weekend of 14 and 15 March the South Leicestershire Group was visited by Revd Martin Ferris & his wife Charlotte following Martin's application to become the Resource Minister for the South and East Leicestershire Area. On Saturday 14 March members of the Group along with members from Abbots Road all met at Wigston Magna URC for a social afternoon and faith tea. There was a chance to hear from Martin and Charlotte and an opportunity to chat with them informally as they circulated around the room. Then on Sunday 15 March everybody had the chance to attend a service led by Martin at Abbots Road URC.

Following the weekend a meeting was held at Abbots Road URC on Wednesday 18 March 2020 to consider whether a call should be issued to Revd Martin Ferris.

Due to the various restrictions being implemented / advised as a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic information was received from Revd John Proctor that although the meeting **MUST** go ahead and only the votes at the meeting would be used to determine if a call should be made proxy votes could also be obtained from those unable to attend and these could also be used to supplement the decision. Both sets of voting figures would be made available to Martin.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Abbots Road and the South Leicestershire Group (Oadby, South Wigston, Wigston Magna, Saffron Lane) and proxy votes were received from all of these plus Whetstone URC. The meeting was also attended by Syd Henderson (Interim Moderator) and Chris Ford (Ordained Ministries & Churches Group. ).

Cont.....

Everybody was provided with a voting paper on which to enter their own vote. Proxy votes had been received by the church secretaries in advance of the meeting.

The voting papers were collected up and the votes counted by 2 tellers (1 from Abbots Road and 1 from South Leicestershire Group)

The result of the vote by those at the meeting was

South Leicestershire Group -	YES - 17	NO - 0
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Abstention - 1

Abbots Road	YES - 14	NO - 0
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Proxy Votes Received

South Leicestershire Group -	YES - 21	NO - 0
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Abbots Road	YES - 8	NO - 0
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It was therefore duly agreed that a call be issued by the Abbots Road URC to Martin Ferris to become our Resource Minister. (It had been previously confirmed by Synod and Ordained Ministers and Churches Group that the "call" would be made by Abbots Road BUT the decision would be based on the votes from both Abbots Road and South Leicestershire Group of Churches.)

This result of the vote was to be reported back to Ordained Ministers and Churches Group by Chris Ford following which Martin Ferris will be advised.

On Saturday 21 March we received confirmation from Mr Geoff Townsend at Synod that Revd Martin Ferris had accepted the call to be our new Resource Minister.

**ALL SERVICES AND SOCIAL EVENTS HAVE BEEN  
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Olivia King (13)
- 13 Sheila Stephens
- 16 Harry Ward (9)
- 21 Bryoni Ling (11)
- 22 Alan Simpson
- 29 Jessica Crouch (12)  
George North (9)
- 30 Marian Daetwyler

**What does the Bible mean ??**

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly: "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!"

"OK" said his father "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, it stands for "Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

## COMMUNITY CINEMA FEBRUARY 18

We knew there would be a good crowd at this first film at Long Street for 2020 but weather forecasts predicting inclement days to come, we didn't expect too much. However nothing was going to stop both local and district folk from their goal - URC on Long Street, Wigston when Downton Abbey was showing on the screen. The Church was packed!! (and some).

People started arriving early and by the time late arrivals came many had sampled the delicious refreshments on offer and found a seat so that latecomers were obliged to sit in the eating area at the back of the Church, though fortunately still able to enjoy the film while having their hot drinks and food.

The film lived up to folks' expectations judging by the smiles and remarks at the end of the performance. There was a raffle prize as usual relating to the film after which folk were able to have a further drink and any of the few refreshments left.

Happy smiles and lively conversations were heard as folk left to go on their way, people determined to come earlier next time, promising to see one another in April.

A lovely afternoon spent busily but satisfactorily by both those who served and those who sat. Many thanks to everyone who made this afternoon full of friendship and joy!! Special thanks to our film operator who was brought in at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances!

See you next time folks,  
Grace

## FISH & CHIPS EVENING and QUIZ SATURDAY MARCH 7

Fun and fish & chips, that's what this evening was all about.

4 tables of folk arrived ranging in age from very young (7is) to a lot older (82ish) - 18 of us in all. You would think with all that age range there would be a lot of knowledge between us - ha, ha! We began the evening with a straight forward quiz, on a sheet, all about well-known landmarks around the local area. Only one person on our table had been brought up in Leicestershire so we were guessing. Judging by the laughter and banter between the tables most folk were doing the same. It was all great fun though and we did get some questions right!

Then it was time for the main attraction - collecting money for the fish delights etc. to be consumed by all and sundry. So off our trusty shoppers went to pick up our pre-ordered supper, while the rest of us waited in anticipation. When everyone was served we set to and munched. Everyone agreed everything was delicious with many different tastes catered for. After hot, and cold, drinks it was time to tidy up, wash up, dry up and put away. Many hands make light work and it was all hands to the pump, folk lending a hand wherever needed.

Then it was homeward bound for everyone with rides offered in cars to those who came on "shank's pony". A hilarious evening filled with laughter and friendly chat, well worth turning out for.

See you next time folks  
Grace

### RECIPE - APRIL: Chilled Lemon Flan (Serves 4)

Turn on oven 300 F, 150 C, Gas 2

Flan Case:           4 oz digestive biscuits ;  
                          2 oz butter  
                          1 level tablespoon of caster sugar

For the filling:   Quarter of a pint of double cream  
                          6 oz condensed milk;  
                          2 large lemons

For the topping; Lightly whipped double cream;  
                          Fresh or crystallised lemon slices.

- 1) Crush biscuits with a rolling pin.
- 2) Melt butter in a pan, add sugar then blend into the biscuit crumbs
- 3) Mix well then turn mixture into a 7 inch flan dish and press into place with the back of a spoon.
- 4) Bake in the oven for 8 minutes.
- 5) Remove from the oven and leave to cool.
- 6) Mix together cream, condensed milk and finely grated lemon rind. Slowly beat in the lemon juice.
- 7) Pour the mixture into the flan case and chill for several hours until firm.
- 8) Just before serving, decorate the flan with a whirl of lightly whipped cream and the lemon slices.

#### **Just a Thought for the Month Ahead**

The fishermen know that the sea is dangerous and the storm terrible, but they have never found these dangers sufficient reason for remaining ashore.

*Vincent Van Gogh*

## **GARDENING TIPS - APRIL**

- 1) Transplant evergreen shrubs, conifers and hedges.
- 2) Trim Winter heather.
- 3) Sow French beans.
- 4) Feed roses.
- 5) Prune plums and cherries.
- 6) Mulch Spring and Summer flowering perennials with garden compost, bark, shreddings etc.

## **DIARY - April**

Following government guidelines, services and meetings are all on hold at the moment.

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

6<sup>th</sup> Lauren Fretter

27<sup>th</sup> Mary Merry.

**The fruit of silence is prayer.**

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service.

The fruit of service is peace.

*Mother Teresa*

## South Wigston News

### PRAYER LIST, APRIL - Please pray for:

- 1 All those who are ill with the coronavirus, that they may make a steady recovery.
- 2 All those who are now in isolation because of the virus - especially those who live alone.
- 3 All who work in our hospitals.
- 4 Give thanks for those people who are helping their neighbours.
- 5 Our friends who are missing going to church today.
- 6 Those people we see living on the streets of Leicester.
- 7 All who work in our Emergency services.
- 8 Refugees trying to flee from danger.
- 9 That all people may work together for the good of others.
- 10 All who are facing a time of trial.
- 11 All who suffer from depression and despair.
- 12 CHRIST IS RISEN - ALLELUIA! Give thanks to the Risen Lord!
- 13 All who are having to work on this Bank Holiday.
- 14 Those living in war-torn countries.
- 15 Those whose families are far away.
- 16 Women who are expecting babies this month.
- 17 All who are suffering a bereavement.
- 18 Shop assistants struggling with the extra demands at this time.
- 19 All who are putting out the Christian message on line.
- 20 Those who give their time to work for charities.
- 21 Students worried about fitting in their exams this term.
- 22 All who are involved in child care.
- 23 The people of England on St George's Day.
- 24 People with terminal illness that they may know God's peace.
- 25 All who are hungry.
- 26 Those who are involved in the religious services on television.
- 27 Those released from prison, now having to rebuild their lives.
- 28 Give thanks for the beauty of Spring.
- 29 All who are having to re-build their businesses.
- 30 Give thanks for the blessings in your life.

## South Wigston News

### EASTER

We stand beneath the shadow of that awful cross  
Looking upwards to our saviour, knowing all we've lost  
He dies for us in agony, of body mind and soul  
Content to do the Father's will and reach the Holy goal.

It's we who caused the sacrifice of the only true good one.  
We were not satisfied until we saw his earthly life was done  
And still today we crucify him, every time we sin  
He weeps with sorrow as he knocks and we will not let him in.

Our fickle hearts continue to daily do what's wrong  
How can we, when we claim it is to Jesus we belong ?  
And so we come before him now in penitence & pain  
And promise, oh so lightly, not to sin again.

We eat the bread remembering his body given up  
We remember his shed blood as we share the cup  
We are able to join him at his table here today  
Because he gave up everything for us on Calvary.

Lauren Fretter



### **Birthdays April**

16<sup>th</sup> Peter Clay

25<sup>th</sup> Mally Benham

### **Birthdays May**

6<sup>th</sup> Richard Eastman

14<sup>th</sup> Mackenzie Bloxham

★ **HAPPY** ★  
**BIRTHDAY!**

### **What has happened since the last magazine?**

March 6<sup>th</sup> Our World Day of Prayer service was held at St. Hugh's church at 2.00pm. There was a good turn out as 10 attended from our church. There was a choir of Zimbabwe ladies who also took part in the service. Afterwards with our teas we were given a table full of food which was prepared by the choir.

March 10<sup>th</sup> we held a Funeral service for a lady who came to the church as a child and teenager. She had requested to her family she would like to have her Funeral at Saffron Lane. Revd Richard led the service.

March 17<sup>th</sup> was planned to be our puddings evening but unfortunately this had to be cancelled.

## Saffron Lane News

### Woman's Fellowship Weekend 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> February

#### Friday

Sandra Clay and Elizabeth Richardson, Paddy Letts and Vera Mosley all packed their bags into the car and headed up the motorway to Swanwick in Derbyshire. Coming off the motorway at junction 28 we headed to Alferton to have lunch, and an afternoon of shopping. We had thought we were going to have to leave Elizabeth at home as she had had a very bad cold which had left her very weak but she was well enough to join us and we did the shops slowly so we did not tire her out. Then we made our way to the Hayes Conference Centre to join up with our other friends who we see each year.

Once we had our key fobs we made our way to our rooms to get unpacked, meeting up with Eileen Williams and Julie Slatford who were finding their way to their rooms. We all meet up for our evening meal and sat chatting till our first session which was "getting to know you", meeting new people who had come for the first time and the ones who had been coming over 40 years. We closed the evening with the epilogue and then made our way to the lounge to finish the evening with a drink.

#### Saturday

We started the morning with quiet time in the chapel and then early morning meditation. We then went in for a lovely cooked breakfast and more talking.

Our morning session was taken by Amy Boucher Pye from America who had settled in England with her English husband who she had meet while he was training in America. They have two children, and she manages to be a Ministers wife, and write and publish Christian books. She also gives talks to groups like ours.

## Saffron Lane News

Cont.....

She was a wonderful inspiring speaker leading us into Adventures with God. She quoted from John Newton.

Amy talked about a chrysalis that seemed hard and dead but within it so many transformations take place so that the butterfly can emerge in all it's glory.

"Lord, it's 40 years since my chrysalis days of building a wall to protect me from my desolation. As each brick was built into the wall, one may sometimes have fallen down. Nowadays, I am your butterfly, and bathe in the warmth of your loving arms around my shoulders. I rejoice in the sun, woods, fields and all of your beloved Nature. I still need your help Lord regarding tolerance and patience but trust with your strength, the butterfly will still emerge stronger than ever."

At lunch we all met up together and yet again we all managed to eat our lunch and puddings.

In the afternoon we split into groups to do one of the workshops. Elizabeth did creative writing, but the rest of our ladies went on a mini bus to see an ice cream parlour which we had been told about on the Friday night. It was set up by a Minister who was helping men and woman who had been trafficked into England to do bad things. He got them working in the ice cream parlour, and it had got them on the right track and was very successful. They now have two shops and the ice cream was good as well !!!!! We were able to send them £500.00 out of our collection.

We headed back in time to get our afternoon tea and cake.

Then it was time for our business session at which we made decisions and plans for our convention next year.

## Saffron Lane News

Cont....

After our evening meal our concert was taken by Abbots Road Church who had come all the way for the evening to sing "Joseph and Son". The collection for this raised £500.00 which will be sent to girls in Libya who wanted to train to be midwives. The evening closed with an epilogue then into the lounge for a drink of what you fancied.

### Sunday

We started the morning with quiet time in the chapel and then a morning meditation. Again we all met up for breakfast. I think it's the meal I enjoy most while I am there.

We had bible study which was very interesting. It was very light not hard to understand, and after coffee we had our Communion service which Sandra Clay led, assisted by Eileen, Julie, Vera, and Paddy. The collection of £500.00 went to the Ice cream parlour.

We then went for lunch and after saying our goodbyes we made our journey home. This year we did not get lost once !!!!

All I can say to people reading this is why don't you try the weekend next year 2021 ??? It is really enjoyable. Please ask any of those who went this year for more information about it.

Sandra Clay with additional information from Elizabeth Richardson



# Whetstone News

## Band Concert

A big thank you to Janet, David, Jenny, Jon, Bernard and Jean for spending a whole morning cleaning the Church, hall and toilets in preparation for the Band Concert.

And what a wonderful night we had on Saturday 29th February when our friends from St. Peter's Church joined us for an evening's entertainment and supper.

The Church Girls and Boys Brigade were fantastic and it was lovely to see so many young people in the Band. The whole Band looked very smart in their uniforms and were all a credit to their Leaders and also to Paul who led them.

A delicious supper of jacket potatoes, ham, cheese and salad followed by assorted cakes was served halfway to give the band a breather.

We also held a Bumper Raffle, with lots of prizes.

We raised £340 for our Church and £340 for St. Peter's Church. A wonderful effort!

Thank you who to all who supported and helped us! Special thanks to Janet, Pam and Jean, who along with Norma, Carol and Trish from St. Peter's, arranged and served the supper.



## Whetstone News

### Future Events

Our next planned event is our Sponsored Organ Playing and Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th May from 10am til 12 noon. Requests for hymns/songs welcome!

**Please check with Jean Warner 0116 2752405 nearer to the date to confirm if this is going ahead.**

Services at the Church have been cancelled for April but our planned preachers for April were:

5th- Mrs. Judith North (Holy Communion)

12th- Rev. Richard Eastman (Easter)

19th- Mr. Paul Baxter

26th- Mrs. Eileen Williams

For more information about services contact Jean Warner.

### Our Prayers

Our thoughts and prayers to all those who are concerned or affected by the current Coronavirus situation. Let us remember that God is with us: He is our strength and refuge and He will guide and protect us through this difficult time. May God bless each and every one of us as we continue to do God's work and share the Good News that is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**ALL SERVICES AND SOCIAL EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

For more information about events please contact the Church  
Secretary - Pauline Hudson 0116 2712913

**A Prayer for these difficult times**

O God,

Thank you that there are such places as hospitals, infirmaries and nursing homes.

Thank you for those who have the skill to find out what is wrong and put it right again.

Thank you for those who, throughout the day and night attend to those in discomfort, distress and pain.

Thank you that there are places where the weak and the old find loving care and attention.

Thank you not only for doctors and nurses, but for the people who do the many jobs which have to be done, if the work of the hospital is to go on.

Help all those who work in hospitals to remember what Jesus said: "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me".

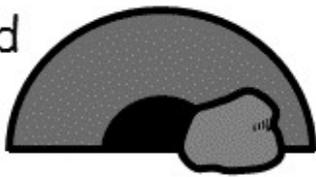
Amen.

William Barclay

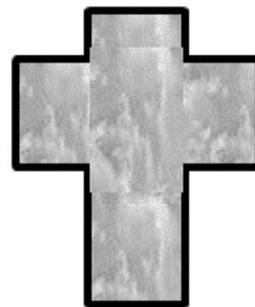
# Easter Word Search

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

alive  
believe  
betrayed  
bread  
cross  
crucify  
died  
donkey  
empty  
forgiven



Gethsemane  
guards  
hosanna  
life  
nails  
palms  
Pilate  
prayed  
risen  
rooster



sacrifice  
sin  
son  
stone  
thorns  
tomb

## Lectionary Readings

### **April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 50 4 - 9a

Psalms 31 9 - 16

Philippians 2 5 - 11

Matthew 26 14 - 27 & 66 or Matthew 27 11 - 54

### **April 12 - Easter Sunday**

Acts 10 34 - 43 or Jeremiah 31 1 - 6

Psalms 118 1 - 2 & 14 - 24

Colossians 3 1 - 4 or Acts 10 34 - 43

John 20 1 - 18 or Matthew 28 1 - 10

### **April 19**

Acts 2 14a & 22 - 32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1 3 - 9

John 20 19 - 31

### **April 26**

Acts 2 14a & 36 - 41

Psalms 116 1 - 4 & 12 - 19

1 Peter 1 17 - 23

Luke 24 13 - 35