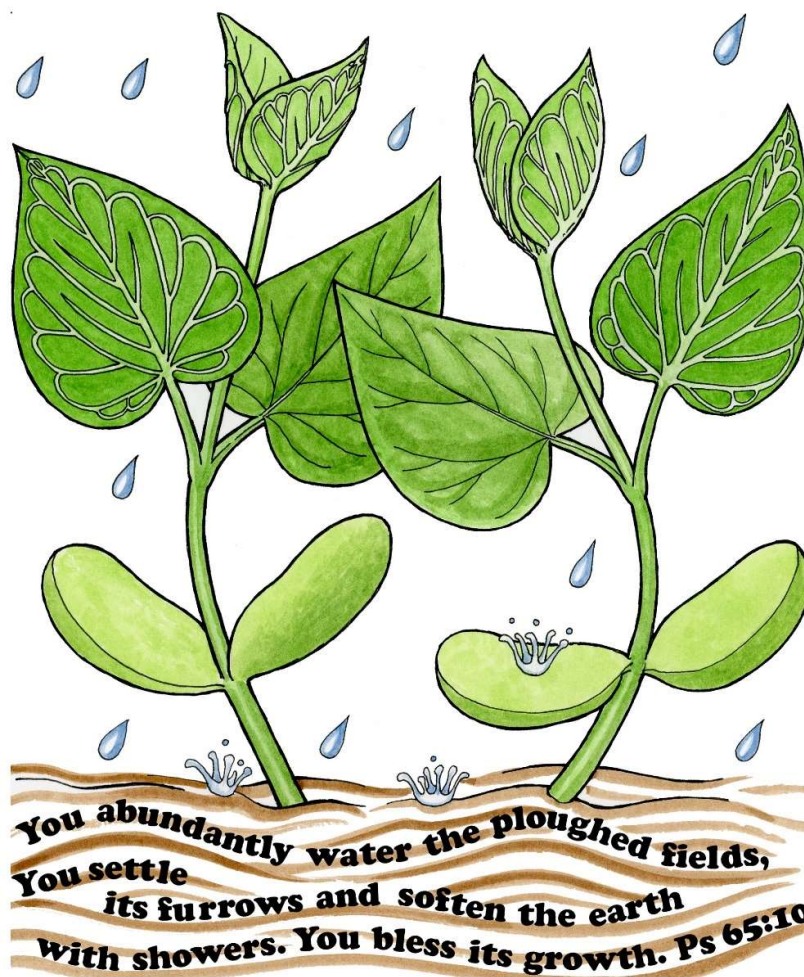




'Sharing the love of Jesus every day'

Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC



**You abundantly water the ploughed fields,
You settle
its furrows and soften the earth
with showers. You bless its growth. Ps 65:10**

April 2024

Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC

**83 Baginton Road
Coventry
CV3 6FP**

In this month's magazine

Dear Friends.....	3
From the Archives	4
Poetry Café.....	4
Notes from Elders' Meetings.....	5
Fun and Games.....	5
News in Brief from Around the UK and Beyond.....	6
No Easy Answer	7
Poem – The Gardener.....	8
Coventry Rocks – What's on in Coventry this Spring	9
Warwick Road Centre and Café – April Update.....	10
Open Doors Café menu – April 2024.....	10
Knitted Bible Exhibition.....	11
Puzzle Pages.....	12
Mouse Makes	14
Connections – May 2024 issue deadline	15
Worship at Baginton Road URC – April 2024	16

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Dear Friends

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. [Luke 24: 1-3]



Many years ago, I came to church with a question: What is it all about and why is it so important? I was fascinated by the dominance of a carpenter's son on the way we live today, two thousand years after his death. What was it about Jesus that influenced my life? Even in my ignorance I knew that Jesus's life affected my holidays (Christmas and Easter), my education, my healthcare, my justice systems ("promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help me God"). Thus began my conversion to Christianity.

And I suppose that after many years of study, prayer and worship, I have a basic grasp of what Jesus is all about. In my humble opinion, it is quite simply love. St John quotes Jesus as saying "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" [John 13:34-35]

St Matthew writes: "*Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*" [Matthew 22:37-39]

The classic questions we pose in life are: who (Jesus), what (death on a cross), where (Jerusalem), why (love), when (2000 years ago) and finally, how (resurrection)?

I think this final question (how) is why people lose their faith because they cannot explain how it happened. People today are so used to demanding and getting answers that they cannot accept that something is beyond their understanding. Everyday on the news we hear about another public inquiry into this scandal or that failing, such as the Post Office / sub-postmasters inquiry which is currently front-page news. And it is right that we do get to the bottom of such injustices and failings, put right the errors and learn from such events. It is important to understand how these things happened so that they are not allowed to re-occur. The demand for answers for every question seems to be greater than ever.

But, how does the empty tomb work? How does physical resurrection work? How was Jesus able to walk into a locked room, eat fish with his disciples, following his death on the cross? No public inquiry has yet been able to explain these things. Once again, I look to the Bible to help me answer these questions: "*Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.'*" [Mark 10:27]

Hence, I have stopped worrying about how, and I need to accept some things are a matter of faith. A faith in God for whom all things are possible, including (for the scientists out there) the Big Bang.

I do, however, still concern myself with why? Once again, I look to the Bible to help me answer this question: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* [John 3:16]

May I wish you all every blessing and deep peace this Eastertide.

Revd Peter Kimberley

From the Archives



Three odd shepherds visit the manger at Warwick Road URC, Christmas Eve 2005. L to R: Barry Stelfox, George Drake and Colin Enstone.

Poetry Café

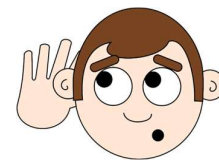
Poetry Café meets each month in the Open Doors Café at 2.30pm. Meetings are normally on the first Thursday of each month but this is sometimes changed so please check beforehand with Warwick Road Centre Office: 024 7622 0299.

We each share two or three poems – these are usually on a set theme but don't have to be! All are welcome. The next meetings are:



Thursday, 4th April, Theme: 'Drink'

Thursday, 2nd May, Theme: 'Eyes & Ears'



For more information, please contact David Lathbury: david@dlathbury.co.uk.

Notes from Elders' Meetings

March Elders' Meeting



- Elders discussed what needs to be done prior to Sherry taking up her post. Her office will be created in the Vestry.
- Amendments were made to the arrangements for the Knitted Bible Exhibition in view of the proposed alterations to the Apse.
- Transfer of membership for DM from Baginton Road URC to Holyhead Road URC agreed.
- Elders decided against endorsing support for the God Loves You Tour due to attitude of the Billy Graham Evangelical Alliance toward non-Christian faiths.
- Elders discussed what arrangements need to be made to prepare the Sanctuary for the redevelopment work.
- Reports were received from Finance, Communication and Pastoral groups.
- Agreed a request to retain the WR choir stalls until after the Apse redevelopment is completed, to decide whether they will be of use.

Pauline Luckett, Church Secretary

Fun and Games



On Saturday 16th March, after a thrill-packed quarter final game between Coventry City and Wolves, about 30 children, young people and adults gathered in the Large Hall for their own fun and games. There were some familiar faces, but we were pleased to welcome some new people who came along to see what the afternoon was all about.

There was a variety of games on offer: bagatelle, knocking down numbered tins with a ball (both games could win a prize for the highest score), Connect4, Jenga, Twister, dominoes, board games, card games, various versions of Bingo and many more. Whilst playing, there were plenty of table snacks available to enjoy, including crisps, cheese straws, sausage rolls, cheese, savoury biscuits and popcorn along with a cup of tea or coffee or cold drinks.



Everyone enjoyed the afternoon and thanks are expressed to the Social Committee for their organisation.

Pauline Luckett on behalf of the Social Committee

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

The Trussell Trust have stated that 1.5m emergency food parcels were provided to families between April and September 2023, up 16% from last year.

Cursive writing (joined-up handwriting) was abandoned by many in the USA in 2010 following Barack Obama's White House decision that this was no longer needed due to the influence of keyboards. In January, California became the 23rd State to reverse this decision and so handwriting is now compulsory for 6 -12 year old pupils.

Drones have identified problems with the 29 metre (95 ft) tall, 63 tonnes of bronze, gold and wood canopy that stands over the main altar at St Peter's Basilica, Rome. Pope Urban VIII commissioned this work in 1624, built on top of the simple pit dug in the soil by early Christians to bury St Peter. Problems of dust, grime and grease over the centuries are not helped by the estimated 50,000 daily visitors who alter the temperature and humidity in the building. The canopy depicts cherubs, dolphins, bees, lizards and scorpions plus four angels, each weighing two tonnes. These angels are decorated with seven layers of gold leaf. The cost of restoration is estimated at £700,000 which will be paid by the Catholic Order of the Knights of Columbus; the work is estimated to be finished by the end of this year.

The Office for National Statistics has advised that in 2021, just over 50% births were to women outside marriage and 99% of marriages were with someone of the opposite sex. Latest statistics give the average age of a first-time bride as 33 years and the groom 35 years, a decade older than it was in the 1970s.

The Edict of Milan was granted by the Emperor Constantine for tolerance to the Christian religion in Rome. He was also responsible for a statue of himself that he had adapted from a statue of the god Jupiter by having the beard chopped off, as Constantine was clean shaven. The remains of this statue (head, chest, two feet, elbow, a shin, wrist and hand) have been collected over the years and are displayed in the Capitoline Museum, Rome. A 3D 13m (42 ft) re-creation of the statue has been made by 3D scanning of the original parts to show the Emperor seated, holding a staff with a cloak over his shoulder. Plans are being made for a copy for Binchester, Co Durham where the Romans built a fort. Constantine was deployed to the area before being proclaimed Emperor in York in AD306.

The Lakewood Church, Houston, Texas USA announced in January that it had paid off its 2005 \$100m loan which was for transforming the former Houston Rockets baseball site. The church holds services each Sunday in English and Spanish, plus an online service. Pastor Joel Osten's book, *Your Best Life Now*, sold so well that he stopped taking a salary in 2005. Cash donations each Sunday from an estimated 46,000 congregation are over \$1m, thus needing a security company.

Barry Stelfox

No Easy Answer

If we are trying to follow the teaching of Jesus, then we should show compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves - those we might call 'the dispossessed'. Do we in fact know who 'the dispossessed' are? At times it is fairly obvious, but not always.



Image from iona.org.uk website

Turning to the present horrific war between Israel and Palestine: what Hamas did to the Israelis on 7th October last year was barbaric beyond measure, and going on past experience they must have known that Israel would retaliate with many times the force they had used to start the war. Knowing this, Hamas must bear some responsibility for what has happened since.

Going back in time to just after the Second World War, the Jews who had survived the Holocaust were 'the dispossessed' and it was generally agreed that they deserved a home of their own in the Holy Land, and so Israel was born – even though this meant taking land from the Palestinians, dispossessing them of land they had lived on for generations.

Thanks to the help received, and still being received, especially from the USA, Israelis are no longer 'the dispossessed' and now treat the Palestinians as 'second class citizens'.

The result of all this is that the serpent of antisemitism has raised its ugly head in many countries, including Britain. Jews in Tower Hamlets, London and in many other parts of the country are going about in fear of their lives. Many people think that Israel has gone too far in retaliation to the Hamas invasion, but if anyone says they support Palestine, they have to take on board what Hamas did to start this war in the first place.

British Jews are not to blame for what is going on in Israel and Gaza. Everyone in Britain should be able to lead their lives in safety, regardless of what religion or none they aspire to. I am with our Prime Minister when he said: 'You can be a practising Hindu and a proud Briton, as I am. Or a devout Muslim and a patriotic citizen as so many are. Or a committed Jewish person and the heart of your local community, and all underpinned by the tolerance of our established Christian church'.

The Iona Community has made a statement on its position on the Israel/Palestine conflict which reads: 'A just future for Palestinians and Israelis is only possible through the establishment throughout Palestine and Israel of equal rights irrespective of religious and ethnic background and identity'. There doesn't seem

much chance of this happening in the present climate – but war never solves anything, all it leads to is more people killed and more property destroyed.

I have printed copies of letters that appeared in Reform magazine between 2014 and 2022 dealing with the Israel/Palestine situation – they are thought-provoking. Let me know if you would like a copy.

George Drake

Poem - The Gardener



In 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul uses the analogy of planting and watering, making the point that, whether planting daffodils or churches or anything in between, nothing we do will be productive unless God makes it happen. And, as we celebrate Easter, consider that when Mary misidentified the risen Christ as the gardener, maybe she was closer to the truth than she realised.

Spring's a time for planting in the warming earth
Seeds and saplings growing at this time of birth.
Carefully we tend them, pulling out each weed
Watering and weeding every plant and seed.

Yet we are just helpers – nothing done alone
For without our Father, nothing will be grown;
He's the Creator, He alone can bring
Growth into our gardens each succeeding spring.

Let us praise our Maker who makes life appear,
Praise Him in the springtime, and throughout the year;
Praise Him for all nature – ev'ry tree and flower
Gaze upon the garden, praise Him every hour!

God the gracious gardener cares for more than plants
As to us, His children every breath He grants.
He that for salvation gave His only Son,
Do not fail to praise Him for all that he's done.

If you want to sing it, the tune is Noel Nouvelet, the tune normally used for 'Now the green blade riseth'.

by Nigel Beeton, from Parish Pump



← scan me!



WHAT'S ON IN COVENTRY?



There are some amazing family friendly events and activities coming up in and around Coventry this Spring...

Fireman Sam at The Albany Theatre | Thurs 4th April

Norman wants to go on an adventure to impress his friends and it's up to Fireman Sam to save the day! Family friendly fun at The Albany Theatre.



Draycote Water Easter Trail | 23rd March - 14th April

The Easter Bunny has left a trail of eggs around the Country Park at Draycote Water. Follow the route, get some fresh air and claim your prize at the end!

Spring Makers Market at FarGo Village | 6th & 7th April

A whole weekend filled with the finest independent makers, artists, and designers, both local and from afar.



Charlie Cook's Favourite Book | 4th - 7th April

Come and delve into a range of books with Charlie Cook at Warwick Arts Centre this Easter. Brought to life with puppetry and enchanting songs, perfect for ages 3-8.



Midsummer Night's Dream | 24th - 27th April

Take a trip to The Belgrade Theatre and step into a world of magic, mischief and mayhem, where fairies dance in moonlit glades and lovers' destinies intertwine.

Family Sundays at Warwick Arts Centre | Starts 5th May

Every Sunday, drop-in for free creative workshops across visual arts, dance, drama, spoken word and music. Spend time together as a family making, exploring and having fun.



Earlsdon Festival | Mon 6th May

One of Coventry's biggest community organised events, pop along for stalls, entertainment and family fun.

FOLLOW US AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY!

There are thousands of local parents following us Social Media, and we'd love for you to join in! Just search Coventry Rocks and like our page!

www.coventryrocks.co.uk



Warwick Road Centre and Café - April Update



- The Open Doors Café remains busy and as always, we would welcome new volunteers. Please get in touch with the Office if you have an hour or two a week to spare to help.
- It's hard to believe it is now over two years since negotiations began on the sale of Warwick Road Church to Mosaic Church. We hope this sale will soon be concluded; in the meantime, we continue to work closely with our friends from Mosaic. They use the Church Centre regularly each week for a variety of functions and events. When the sale (hopefully) goes through, we look forward to continuing and growing the relationship.
- We are delighted to report that the tenants of Flat 9 have extended their tenancy for a further 12 months.

Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Open Doors Café menu – April 2024

Opening Times: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Snacks and Drinks: 10am – 11:30am; Hot Meal: 12noon – 1:30pm (last orders 1pm)

Main course £5, Pudding £2.50, Meal Deal (Main and Pudding, served with tea or coffee) £7.50. Telephone orders: 024 7622 0299

Tuesday 2 nd	Chicken Dinner Sticky toffee sponge and custard
Wednesday 3 rd	Beef lasagne and salad Lemon meringue pie
Friday 5 th	Cumberland sausages and ratatouille Eve's pudding and custard
Tuesday 9 th	Corned beef hash and cauliflower cheese Treacle sponge and custard
Wednesday 10 th	Steak in ale pie, potatoes and vegetables Jam & coconut sponge and custard
Friday 12 th	Hunter's chicken, potatoes and vegetables Mincemeat & apple tart and custard
Tuesday 16 th	Cottage pie and vegetables Apple crumble and custard
Wednesday 17 th	Chicken & vegetable casserole Fruit salad and ice cream
Friday 19 th	Savoury meat balls with bubble & squeak Banana sponge and caramel sauce
Tuesday 23 rd	Smoked haddock, potatoes, peas and parsley sauce Peach cobbler and cream
Wednesday 24 th	Lamb & vegetable casserole Coffee, date and walnut sponge and custard
Friday 26 th	Minced beef & onion pie, potatoes and vegetables Creamy rice pudding
Tuesday 30 th	Pork with mushroom & stilton sauce, potatoes and vegetables Mixed berry mousse

Knitted Bible Exhibition

at Baginton Road URC

March 24th – April 7th 2024

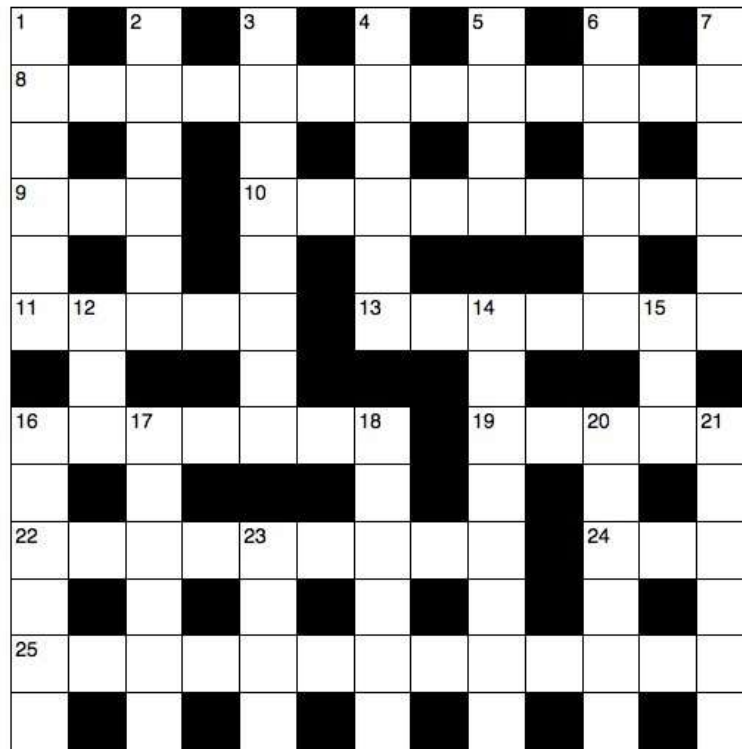
Over 30 knitted scenes from the Old and New Testaments taking you through familiar Bible stories



Open daily. You can also look at the exhibition after the morning services on 24th, 31st March and 7th April.

Please contact the church office for specific opening hours or to book a special visit
office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk
024 7641 9927

Puzzle Pages



Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
 13 Muslim holy month (7)
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks & nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

SUDOKU (EASY)

2			6				3	
		1			2	5	4	7
	4			5				
4	9			8	3		5	
			2	1	4			
	2		5	6			7	8
				7			9	
9	1	4	8			7		
	7				6			4

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SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

				6				3
		1		7				
		5	2			4		
7	6				3			1
		8		9		2		
9			1				7	4
		3			7	5		
						9		
1			9					

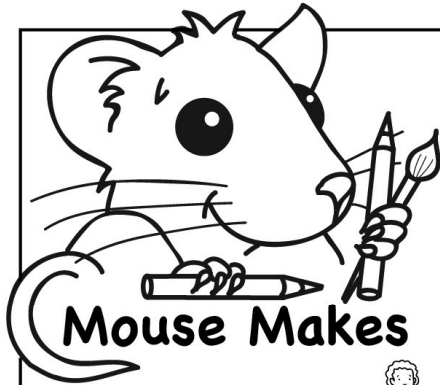
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Solutions on p. 15

WORDSEARCH

St George is Patron Saint of England, but he never actually came here. He was a Christian officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror. George was therefore martyred in Palestine about 300 AD. His courage became legendary, and St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages. In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine tells the story of how St George helped rescue the people of Sylene in Libya from a dragon, especially the princess, who had been offered to the dragon as a sacrifice. With the dragon dead and the princess returned to her father the King, the people of Sylene converted to Christianity.

GEORGE	COURAGE	E G E N L E G E N D S N N R G C A E P L R R Y E H E E O O I A I E P O M E E D I E U T V R R M M R S E L D A R E C I F F O A R I O L O A L N G D M I Y X E G N L G C E I R N T L L E T L C E O D E T R E V N O C I S R I I E A S X R N E E S G D D N M N H E L P E R E R L A D T E N G L A N D N O G A R D H R O M A N E S R O E L R L I L E D P O
PATRON	EXAMPLE	
SAIN T	HELPER	
ENGLAND	EVIL	
OFFICER	SOLDIER	
ROMAN	HERO	
ARMY	GOLDEN	
DIOCLETIAN	LEGEND	
TERROR	DRAGON	
MARTYRED	PRINCESS	
PALESTINE	CONVERTED	



Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing.

They fished all night but caught nothing.

As the sun rose a man on the shore asked;

"Have you caught anything?"

"Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them *"Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some."*

So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man,
"It is the Lord!"



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read
John 21:14



**How many disciples were there?
Who were they?**

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch?
Read John 21: 11



READ
the story in
John 21

A large illustration of a fishing net filled with fish. The net contains a word search grid. The words to be found are listed at the bottom of the page.

Word Search Grid:

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

Words to Find:
DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET
RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

Apr24© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

2	5	7	6	4	8	1	3	9
8	6	1	3	9	2	5	4	7
3	4	9	1	5	7	6	8	2
4	9	6	7	8	3	2	5	1
7	8	5	2	1	4	9	6	3
1	2	3	5	6	9	4	7	8
6	3	2	4	7	1	8	9	5
9	1	4	8	3	5	7	2	6
5	7	8	9	2	6	3	1	4

SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

2	7	9	4	8	6	1	5	3
4	8	1	3	7	5	6	2	9
6	3	5	2	1	9	4	8	7
7	6	4	5	2	3	8	9	1
3	1	8	7	9	4	2	6	5
9	5	2	1	6	8	3	7	4
8	9	3	6	4	7	5	1	2
5	2	7	8	3	1	9	4	6
1	4	6	9	5	2	7	3	8

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 8 Transgressors. 9 Out. 10 Ephesians. 11 Throb. 13 Ramadan. 16 Nearest. 19 Neath. 22 Childless. 24 Ant. 25 Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1 Utmost. 2 Easter. 3 Assemble. 4 Archer. 5 Isis. 6 To hand. 7 As a son. 12 Hoe. 14 Monastic. 15 Apt. 16 Nuclei. 17 A piece. 18 Tied up. 20 Ararat. 21 Hatred. 23 Dome.

Connections - May 2024 issue deadline

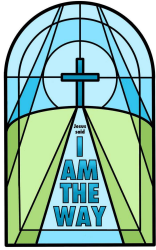
News, articles & other items to be included in the May 2024 issue of *Connections* should be sent by email to the editor Claire Booth (clairehbooth@hotmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 17th April 2024**.

Items should ideally be no more than 1 page in length (about 450 words) and definitely no longer than 2 pages.

Connections is published in digital format ten times a year and emailed to subscribers. You are also able to view it on the church website and Facebook page. If you want it emailed to you, please contact Kevin Bodsworth at the Church Office: office@bagintonroadurc.org.uk.

Thanks,
Claire

**The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily
the views of the URC or its congregation**



Worship at Baginton Road URC - April 2024



Morning service: 10.30am; Evening service: 6.30pm
(unless otherwise stated)

Date	Time	Preacher	
7 th April	am pm	Sherry Owolabi Sue Matthews	Holy Communion
14 th April	am	Sherry Owolabi	
21 st April	am pm	Revd Peter Kimberley Sherry Owolabi	Holy Communion
28 th April	am	Guy Willcock	Leprosy Mission
5 th May	am pm	Sherry Owolabi Revd David Spriggs	Holy Communion

As Sherry will be joining us on 1st April, we are pleased that she has offered to take some of our services in April and will be asking those on the plan to stand down. We are sure they will understand. We are very grateful for their willingness to lead our services and no doubt we will be contacting them again in the future.

Worship Subgroup





St Andrew's House
19 St Andrew's Road, Earlsdon
Coventry CV5 6FP
Residential, respite or short stay care
in a Christian home.
St Andrew's can help!
Telephone Lesley 02476 673745
www.standrewshouse.org.uk