

St. Machan's News

From the Editor

Welcome to the Easter edition of the church magazine.

I would like to highlight the 'Friday Focus' organised by HOPE which encourages us to set aside time on Fridays to pray towards spreading the gospel. I give one example of their prayers below:

March 24th Matthew 22:39

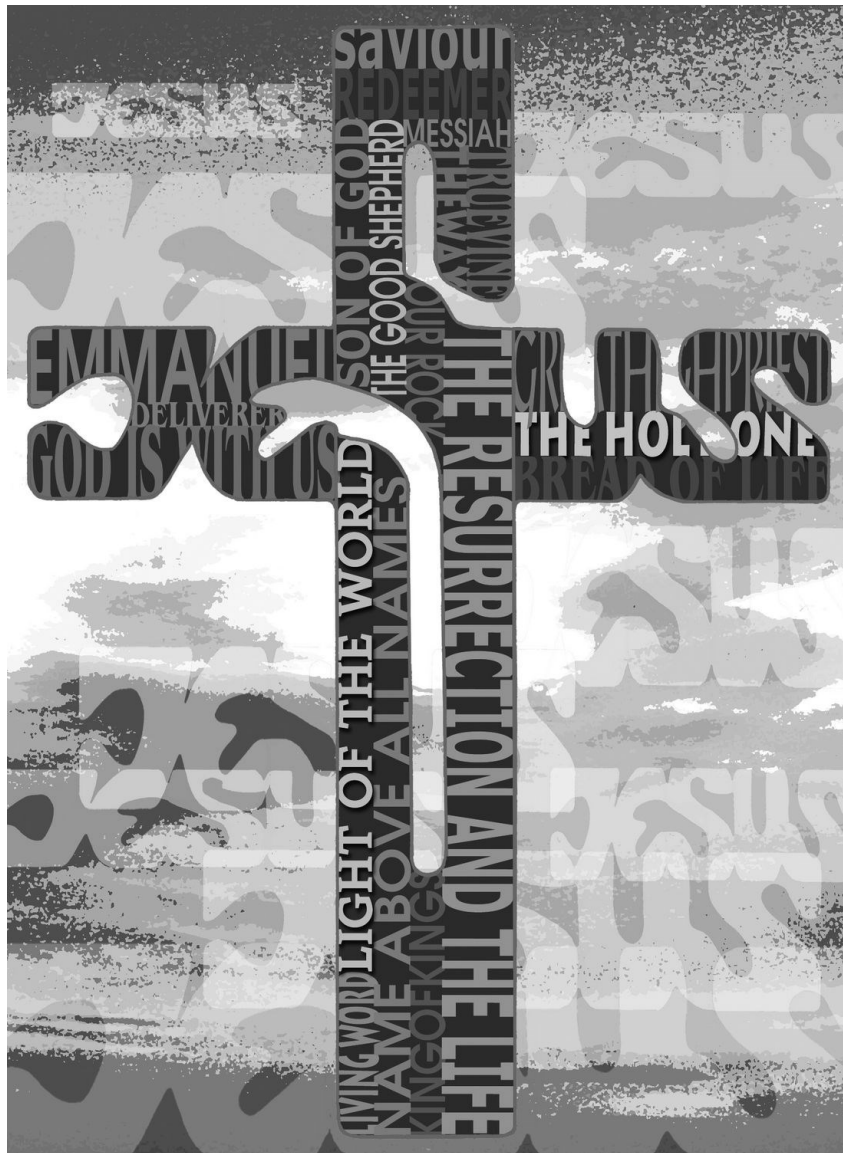
Loving your neighbours begins with sacrificing time to pray for them. Bringing five neighbours before God regularly, praying for them to become Christians, will lead to people getting to know Jesus for themselves. Will you join many others praying for their neighbours?

Father, we pray for (five names of neighbours), to have a life transforming encounter with you and to come to know you personally. Present opportunities for us to get to know our neighbours and to help them in times of need. Help us to live sacrificial lives, filled with love, that will point people towards you. Amen.

Free versions of this bi-monthly Prayer Focus are available to download: from www.hopetogether.org.uk/pray

Fay Allan

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EASTER 2017

View from the Manse



“You have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.”

(Philippians 1:5 – New Living Translation)

Dear Friends

How do we react when confronted by something for the very first time? When we saw our first rainbow, what wonder and awe filled our minds! When we experienced our first taste of chocolate, what delight as such incredible sweetness overwhelmed our taste buds! When we heard for the first time Jimmy Osmond’s “*Long Haired Lover from Liverpool*”, what unforgettable damage and shock impacted our sensitive ears!

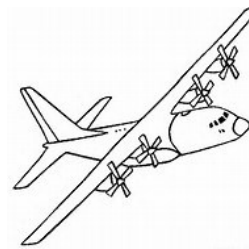


Many years ago my wife and I watched with great affection and amusement as my son experienced his first ever journey on a train. He was a small toddler standing on a window seat with eyes like dinner plates as he looked with complete bewilderment and amazement, back and forth, over and over again, between the moving scenery out of the window and his stationary feet. How hard it can be to find an

explanation for something that is completely outside of our experience and knowledge, and this isn’t just a challenge for us as children, it can confront us at any stage in life.

There are remarkable accounts that date from the early years of the

Second World War concerning some of the more remote islands of what is now known as the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu, which has become quite well known through its regular mention on the TV quiz show Pointless. When military aircraft made parachute supply drops onto these



islands it was the very first time that any of the locals had ever seen an aeroplane. It wasn’t till some time later that Australian government patrols discovered that this first encounter with aviation had resulted in the forming of a whole religious movement centred upon the worship of aircraft: The islanders built replicas of planes out of bamboo and wood, and spoke about a pilot (some called him John Frum) as being a

Messiah figure whom they waited for and expected to bring them food and supplies! Without explanation and guidance, first encounters can carry us in unusual directions and to strange conclusions!

As a little boy, my very first encounter with Easter happened when other family members; introduced me to the art of colourfully painting hard boiled eggs; took me to a local hillside early one Sunday morning; encouraged me to roll my masterpiece down the hill until it was shattered and ruined; coaxed me to then eat the inside of the egg! My family weren’t involved in a



church so I didn’t grow up in an atmosphere of Christian teaching that would have informed me about the rolling away of the stone to reveal an empty tomb: Christ’s death, Christ’s burial, and Christ’s rising again! Without this context it is perhaps not surprising that I came to the conclusion that Easter was all about painting, breaking and eating! As I grew up and was introduced to chocolate eggs, the concept of ‘eating’ became very much the main focus of Easter!

It might be argued that, in more grown up language, I had at least grasped that a beautiful gift had been given, that this gift had been bruised and broken, and that this gift provided a special provision. The seeds of the significance might have been there but without explanation and guidance I

had actually not yet had a true first encounter with Easter! The Apostle Paul speaks of the need for explanation and guidance when he writes, **“How can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them?”** (Romans 10:14)

Our world, our nation, our town, our streets, and our homes are full of those who have not yet had a true first encounter with Easter! They have not yet heard that Christ died on the Cross for them – Jesus is God’s gift that was broken for them that they might know forgiveness and freedom!

“He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

They have not yet received the Easter hope of heaven in their hearts – Jesus rose from the dead so that one day through our faith in Him we too shall rise to live with Him forever!

Jesus says, “...everyone who sees the Son and has faith in Him shall have eternal life and I will raise them up on the last day” (John 6:40)

Through our explanation and guidance many may have a fresh encounter with Easter this year and see its true significance for the very first time. May they echo in their hearts and souls the words found in John Newton’s great hymn *Amazing Grace*:

**‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

May the amazing, saving grace of the risen Lord Jesus Christ be with you this Easter!

Yours in Christ
Alastair McKillop

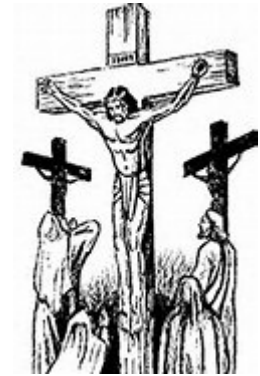


PRAYER

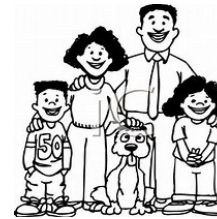
Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you for your love for us and that we are adopted into your family.

Thank you for Mary and her willingness to serve you as the mother of your Son.



Lord, it must have been so hard to see the suffering of her boy on that cross, however grown up He may have been and however much she knew He was yours as well. He was her baby! Please help those of us with children always to lift them to you in prayer whenever they have problems, remembering that when we can no longer pick them up and help them, you always can.



Thank you for our earthly families; for mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grand-dads, brothers and sisters - help us to lives of loving kindness. Help us to reflect your love in all our relationships.

In Jesus’ name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

From Parish Pump

Mr Bones

The orthopedic surgeon I work for was moving to a new office, and we, his staff, were helping transport many of the items. I sat the display skeleton in the front of my car, his bony arm across the back of my seat. I hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside me became obvious, and I looked across and called, "I'm delivering him to my doctor's office."



The other driver leaned out of his window. "I hate to tell you, miss," he said, "but I think it's too late!"

From Parish Pump

Pancake Morning

<u>MENU</u>		
Pancake (butter / jam)		50p
Pancake (plain)		40p
Coffee	cup/mug	60p
Tea		50p
Juice		10p

Frídáys 10.00am—12 noon

George Thomson: Hero's Journey *HOW MY ACCIDENT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE*



I had a severe asthma attack on the 26th of September 2014 where I couldn't breathe. I was taken to Wishaw General Hospital and 7 doctors gave up on me but one didn't Mr. Downie, to whom I was very grateful for saving my life.

My friends and family were called for as they were told I was critical and had less than one hour to live. They felt helpless and very distraught.

I was in a coma for about 4 months and had 3 heart attacks, I was given a complete blood transfusion, and the doctors then found that I had a hole in my colon, which is why I have a colostomy bag.

When I came out of the coma, I found that I couldn't do anything for myself and had to rely on others.

I couldn't walk, couldn't talk, couldn't eat or dress myself. Basically I couldn't do anything for myself and had to rely on others. I had ataxia which meant uncoordinated hand movements which shook a lot. I also had a tracheostomy and the only things I could swallow were pureed food and thick drinks.



One night I thought 'Why be sad', so I came to terms with my situation. It affected my family, my friends as I was a completely different person not able to do anything for myself, which I was not happy about because I had been a very independent chap, but now I had to rely on others for everything.

My wife, sons and the rest of the family were very stressed, especially

my brother who was going through a hard time of his own.

Being in a wheelchair I don't take life for granted. I was transferred to Murdostoun Brain Injury Unit in August 2015 where I began a long rehabilitation recovery. My physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, psychologists were helping me to adapt to everyday life. I learned how to make meals, wash myself, dress my top half, gardening, photography, exercises in the wheelchair, also my tablet which I use to communicate to the outside world.



My values are to put other people first, therefore being a different person now, I would like people not to just see the wheelchair but to see me, the person.

I listen to Christian TV and it strengthens my faith. I feel my faith has had a lot to do with getting me through this part of my journey and supporting me with what I intend to do in the future.

With my experiences of life so far, I intend to take my story and encourage people to become stronger.

At the beginning of the journey you may think that you will never make it, but believe me with sweat, hard graft and positivity **YOU WILL** get there.

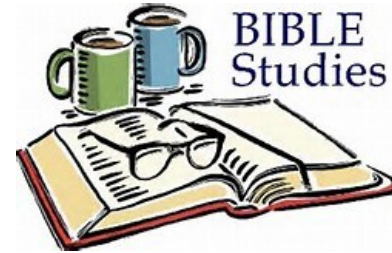
EVERY JOURNEY BEGINS WITH ONE STEP.

God Bless
GEORGE THOMSON



Nurture Committee

Bible Studies



BIBLE Studies

There are currently a few Bible Study groups in the church. This is not a dry learning process but groups of people enjoying a get together every couple of weeks, discussing a particular passage of the Bible. There is usually much laughter and a building of fellowship amongst the group and even getting a different perspective on a verse or passage. It depends on how God has each of us thinking about and understanding the reading.

It is our intention to get some more groups started in the not too distant future, so please consider becoming a bigger part of Christ's work here in St. Machans.

If you want further information or would like to join a new Bible Study group, please speak to John Kaprot, I'm in church most Sundays or telephone 887427, if I'm not available leave your name and number on the answering machine and I will return your call.



St Machan's Offering Rota April to June 2017

	<u>DOOR</u>	<u>ASSISTING</u>		<u>WELCOME</u>
April	<u>J Reid</u>	S McKnight	I Ogston	2nd S McKnight
	L Reid	<u>M Law</u>	H Taylor	9th I Ogston
				16th M Law
				23th H Taylor
				30th S McKnight
May	<u>R Gibb</u>	M Gibb	M Bruce	7th M Gibb
	<u>R Hamilton</u>	V Elder	J McKinney	14th V Elder
				21st M Bruce
				28th J McKinney
June	<u>J Gilroy</u>	F Sandeman	J Smith	4th F Sandeman
	M Laird	<u>J Kellighan</u>	P Colligan	11th J Kellighan
				18th J Smith
				25th P Colligan

“All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3: 16-17

Friendship Circle



The Friendship Circle have had a busy and entertaining term. The guest speakers have included Mr Jim Reid who gave us a light-hearted but at times a serious insight into his time in the police force starting as a constable and before he retired as a Superintendent.



Mr John Gilroy also gave very amusing and sometimes upsetting stories of his travels in India, China, Russia and other areas abroad and in the UK during his time as a mining electrical engineer.



Mrs Riobhna Wilson gave a talk on CHAS (Children's Hospice Association (Scotland)). She told us about the work which takes place in Robin House and Rachel House and also about the fundraising efforts of the charity.

On 28th February a Singalong and a Quiz will be enjoyed whilst on the 14th March a presentation from Guide Dogs will be given and at our final meeting on 28th March when hopefully the Salvation Army will be entertaining us (though at the time of going to print this has still to be confirmed).

The outing at the end of April has still to be arranged but we think it will be a trip to Loch Lomond and Lomond Shores. The

Friendship Circle offer friendship and fellowship for an hour and a half on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday's of each month from October until April at 2pm. We are a small group now and it would be wonderful if we could get new members to come along at the start of our new session in October. Further details will be available in the next edition of the Magazine.



Fiona Sandeman

The taxi



The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the pavement, and stopped inches from a department store window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said,

‘Look mate, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!’

The passenger apologized and said he hadn't realized that just a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, ‘You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years.’



From Parish Pump

Everychild

After 10 years as co-ordinator of Everychild, Moira Bruce has decided to step down. We offer our sincere thanks to Moira for her unstinting work on behalf of Everychild. Moira's diligence and dedication together with the generosity of our church family has enabled many children to experience God's love



The Bible tells us " Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth " (1 John ch 3 v 18) If you do not already donate to Everychild, please consider

doing so. It's so easy. Just set aside your small change and periodically put it in the jar at the back of the church. If you are unable to attend church and wish to join in, please give your donation to your Elder. There are no expenses incurred in the administration of Everychild. Every penny you donate goes to the children who need our help.



It has been decided to find new recipients for our donations. This will give us the flexibility to respond to situations as they arise and only bona fide childrens charities will be chosen. You will be kept informed of where your donations go.

Let us continue to help the innocents. Let us shine our light



in the darkness of the children affected by hunger, conflict and disease.

With the support of our caring and compassionate church family, we will continue the work of this very worthwhile cause.

Thank you for your support

Ramsay Gibb

VICTORY

In the garden His sweat was as great drops of blood,
Knowing the ordeal that lay ahead.
When He came from eternity into time
'It's to do Thy will, not mine', He said.



The hour had come, He must drink the cup
Fulfilment of scripture would start that day
When He who was sinless would forfeit His life,
Unblemished the Lamb who would take sin away.

His miracles had touched so many lives
But the crowd had turned, it had come to this –
An arrest by the chief priests with lanterns and swords,
Led by a friend and betrayed with a kiss.

He bore the cross - a victory shout!
God's wisdom now for all to see,
'If I be lifted up', He said
'Then I will draw all men to me.'



By Megan Carter

From Parish Pump

Men's Club

The Men's Club has had a very good session which finishes on Monday 27th March 2017 with the A.G.M. and social.

The St Andrew's Night Concert on Monday 22nd November proved a great success when the popular "Dukes of Uke" ukulele band provided the entertainment. The club's thanks go to the Guild for their assistance with the teas/ coffees etc.



The Christmas Concert, a first, held on Friday 9th December again proved to be a great night of entertainment. The guests that night were the "Stonehouse Male Voice Choir" and "The Coalburn Silver Intermediate Band", including younger members. Remember the young DRUMMER!!



The club, after paying the various expenses, were able to donate almost £1,300 toward Church Funds.

Our speakers have again proved to be interesting and entertaining and the Club appreciate their input and commitment.

Like a lot of other organisations, the Club's numbers are dwindling and we really need more men to come along in order that the Club may progress. At present, we have an average of 20 men coming along with almost half coming from other churches.

The club was delighted to welcome a new member, James McAllister, who is blind. James has enjoyed his time with us and we hope he will continue to come along to our meetings.

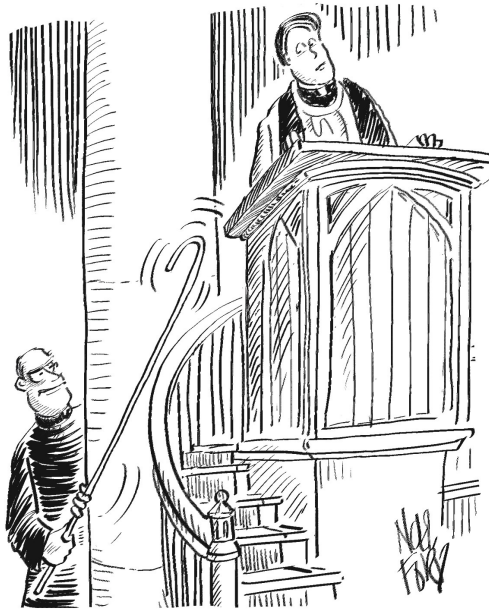
Unfortunately our Vice President, Alan Curtis, has had to retire due to ill health. We would like to thank him for his contribution to the Club.

By the time you read this, the concert on the 6th March with “The St John’s Singers” will have taken place and hopefully a good contribution will have been made to Church Funds. Again we would like to thank the Guild for their support and their assistance with teas and coffees.

The Club would like to express its appreciation for the support given by the congregation and friends to the concerts held over the past year.

The Indoor Bowls Section continues to flourish and the 2016/17 Session will finish on the last Monday in April

John McLean
President



The verger was on hand to support the vicar's resolution to keep sermons down to not a second longer than 20 minutes

Flora & Fauna

As there was no response to my appeal in the Christmas issue for someone to take over the administration of the Flower Fund etc, the matter is to be put to the Business Committee for their consideration and hopeful resolution.



In the meantime, I will continue as normal so any donations, requests, etc can be directed to me.



On behalf of the church, the recipients and personally , grateful thanks to all contributors who give monetarily, in kind or of their precious time to this ministry. It is much appreciated.

Love and God bless
Moira Bruce

COIN JAR

I would like to thank Ramsay Gibb for his immediate response to my request for someone to take over the Coin Jar donations. I am sure you will be hearing from Ramsay in due course.

My thanks to all who have contributed over many years. I would encourage you to keep 'coining in' the money and support Ramsay in this venture. 'Take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves' as the saying goes. We are not proud of course - the jar will accept any denomination of coin, etc.!

'Signing off'
God bless

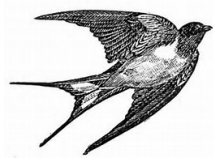
Moira Bruce

In quiet contemplation,
I sought a picture for meditation
To calm the mind, to sooth the soul,
To ease the stress of life.

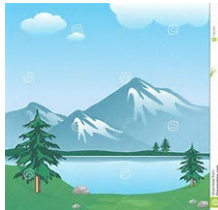


I looked around and I did see beauty
In God's creativity.

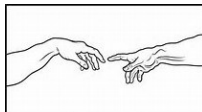
Autumnal colours of the leaves
Ruby reds, hues of green and gold,
Ancient trees their history left untold.
Lilac clouds in a silver sky
Larks gliding noiselessly on high.



Draped o'er the landscape a cloak of magical mist,
Lawns and gardens by crystal dew are kissed.
Restless waves on the shore flow and ebb
Shifting sands on the deep sea bed.
Mountains high valleys low
Purple peaks capped with snow



Twinkling stars a waxing moon
Winter flowers delicate bloom
A pale golden sun behind a cloud of white cotton
A loved ones smile remembered, never forgotten.
These wondrous sights before me
Created by God's hand and given free.



Pauline Field

When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?

Christian Aid



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14TH – 20TH MAY 2017

St Machan's Christmas appeal for Christian Aid raised £461.
Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously.

Christian Aid week is as above and I would like to hear from anyone who can help with door to door collections or a two hour slot with a can in the Co-op. Christian Aid week unites 20,000 churches and needs us all to play our part to help make it an annual success. Last year, supporters delivered more than 7 million envelopes and raised millions of pounds for those in need.



In Greece, the charity's partners offered stoves and cooking facilities for families stranded in refugee camps. For people far from home, cooking their own meals is an important shred of normality in an otherwise uncertain world. Just £285 could buy a refrigerator for a community kitchen in a refugee camp.



The Malawi Appeal launched in 2016 raised £267,000 through Christian Aid Scotland. Drought, erratic rainfall and devastating floods have led to failed harvests and soaring food prices. Cash was provided to help families pay for water, meals and other essentials.

The Ethiopia Drought Appeal launched in April 2016 raised

£50,000. It provided one meal a day for 4000 children and access to safe drinking water for 700 children.



The Nepal Earthquake Appeal launched in April 2015 raised 4.2 million. This enabled Christian Aid partners to provide shelter, water, food and sanitation to more than 400,000 people and continue to work there.

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has deteriorated significantly. More than 3 million people have been displaced out of a population of 11.6 million. About a third of the population are severely food insecure (1 million more than 2015), and this is likely to worsen in 2017. The looting and destruction of villages means people are fleeing from their homes in search of safety.



Cholera, measles and malaria are rife. The price of food has sky-rocketed due to hyperinflation and people are struggling to feed their families. Natalia Chan, Senior Advocacy and Policy Officer for East Africa says 'South Sudan is on the brink, and at times in 2016 it has felt like all hope might be lost. But when you speak to our partners, who are providing urgent humanitarian assistance against all the odds, their defiant hope reminds you that we must never give up. I am thankful for the hope the churches have brought, in setting out an alternative, positive vision to chaos and destruction. The case is stronger than ever for us to continue our support.



Another generation cannot be lost to war'.

With our fundraising we do make a difference, so let us continue to support Christian Aid in it's vital lifesaving work. Thank you for all the support you give me and I look forward to working with you again this Christian Aid week

Grace McGhee

Whenever your kids are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to God's kids.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing he said was:

'Don't.'

'Don't what?' Adam replied.

'Don't eat the forbidden fruit.' God said.



'Forbidden fruit? We've got forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve... we've got forbidden fruit!'

'No way!'

'Yes!'

'Don't eat that fruit!' said God.

'Why?'

'Because I am your Father and I said so!' said God, wondering why he hadn't stopped after making the elephants.

A few minutes later God saw his children having an apple break and was angry.

'Didn't I tell you not to eat the fruit?' the First Parent asked.

'Uh huh,' Adam replied.

'Then why did you?'

'I dunno,' Eve answered.

'She started it!' Adam said.

'Did not!'

'Did too!'

'DID NOT!'



Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own. Thus, the pattern was set and it has never changed.



But there is reassurance in this story. If you have persistently and lovingly tried to give them wisdom and they haven't taken it, don't be hard on yourself. If God had trouble handling children, what makes you think it would be a piece of cake for you?

Advice for the day: If you have a lot of tension and you get a headache, do what it says on the aspirin bottle: take two and keep away from children.



From A box of delights J. John & Mark Stibble,
Monarch Books

Palm Sunday Pilgrimage

Short Service 1.45pm &

Leave Chalmers 2.00pm

Holy Week Services

Tuesday Youth Night Chalmers Parish Church

Wednesday 5th April to Friday 7th April

Trinity Parish Church at 7.30pm

The Guild



As we are getting to the end of our programme for this session, there are a few important dates for your diary:

6th March -Joint Fundraiser with the Men's Club,

The St. John's Singers

21st March –Guild Fundraiser, Book Sale and Coffee Morning.

Book Sale



We would be very glad of your support.

The details of our Summer Outing have still to be finalised but, at the moment, the date is 9th May and the destination is Edinburgh.

We have the largest Guild in Larkhall but we really need new members as we lose members with the "Passage of time".

Just come along on the 7th March when John Milligan is talking on "Historic Scotland".

You will find a warm welcome and a cup of tea.

One of our guest speakers said that our Guild was warm, welcoming and very friendly. It's very nice to know that this is the experience of visitors.

Elsbeth May

DEDICATION



When Bill Mackie passed away at the age of 95 he was one of the St Machan's longest serving elders. The Church was an enormous part of his life and he served St Machan's not only as an Elder for sixty-four years under six ministers, but as Session Clerk for forty years before he retired from the role in 1995.

When he died his family wanted to mark how important the Church was to him, and have donated a new pulpit fall and communion table cloth in his memory. The pulpit fall features the St Machan's logo "Our home in Christ and Christ in our home". These were dedicated at the service on 15th January 2017 and put in place by his widow May, son and daughter Ronald and Lorna, and grandson Cameron.



The family felt it appropriate that even after his passing Bill could still contribute something to the well-being of St Machan's, which was so important to him in life. The pulpit fall carries the church's new logo, again appropriate as Bill, although a traditionalist, was always keen to see the church moving forward.



SING A NEW SONG

Last night I watched for the first time the music video of 'Man in the Mirror' by Michael Jackson and, in my opinion, is one of his best works. Entirely shocked by the images of humanity at its worst, one message rang through repeatedly: "I'm going to make a change, for once in my life".

Praise Band



As newly appointed Praise Band leader, I enjoy making changes to further the progression of modern day worship. My first experience of worship led by a praise band was in 2002 when I attended an evening service at St. Machan's called 'Shout'. Wondering what 'Shout' was about and what it meant I finally concluded it was because we sang 'My Jesus, My Saviour (Shout to the Lord)'. Whether this was true, I like to think it was. This was the first time I had heard and sung this song and I loved it! Not only did I love the song but also the arrangement, the instrumentation and the overall atmosphere that was created in the church.

I was truly mesmerised by the musicians and the changes they had brought to worshiping God. Singing worship songs to the accompaniment of guitars, keyboards, drum kit and backing vocals I was inspired and wanted to be part of it. A few years later this came true and I finally joined the Praise Band of St. Machans.



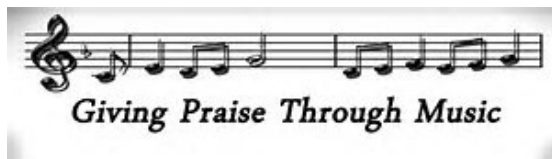
Over the years, I have enjoyed playing with like-minded and talented musicians all coming from varying musical backgrounds. From joining in 2005, I immediately 'upped my game' to keep up with what we were playing from month to month. Initially I did not know all the songs we were playing so I had to 'go with the flow'. I

soon became used to the new material and I got to know the newer worship songs. It took time. However I got there and I enjoyed it and still do.



Now, twelve years later and leading the band in modern worship, my skills are being tested in new ways. I have never, until now, had to conduct an ensemble and lead a whole congregation in worship and it scares me. However, I enjoy it. I worship God through music I enjoy playing and singing.

It makes me think that at one time many years ago, hymns such as Praise My Soul the King of Heaven or Thine Be The Glory must have been introduced to congregations and in time became firm favourites. We in the Praise Band truly hope that some of the modern praise will in time become favourites of yours. After all, in Psalm 96 verse 1 of the Good News Bible, it states: 'Sing a new song to the Lord, Sing to the Lord all the world.'



Jennifer Matthew

The following appeared in the magazine of the Light Music Society:

Agnus Dei was a woman composer famous for her church music –*schoolchild's essay.*

Most composers don't live until they are dead – *child's essay*

Sign on door of music shop: Gone Chopin, but have Liszt, so Bach in a Minuet!

Property Convenor's Report

Hello everyone, We are now in to March and still await the winter snow. And I'm quite sure it will still come.



The snow drops and crocus are now flowering in the garden, and the daffodils are ready to burst out, so here's hoping we have missed it all.

Over the winter months we have still been picking away at outstanding repairs .

Up at the Manse the faulty front door has been replaced and a further security light has been installed to the rear of the garage. We have also managed to carry out some other minor repairs.



Otherwise, work at the Manse has been kept to a minimum due to Alastair and Lorraine's recent bad health, however, we now hope to get on with some decoration which has been outstanding for some time.

And so to the work completed around the Church since the last edition of the magazine:

Further to my last report on the water ingress at the vestibule area, we have now completed our remedial work to the outside walls and we still have the de-humidifier in the vestibule area and Graham Duncan reports that the internal walls are drying out fine. This will allow the vestibule decoration to be Completed. Unfortunately, it seems we are still having some water ingress from the clock tower area which we are investigating.

The Church security / fire alarm system has again been upgraded by the installation of an additional aerial in the corridor area in order to improve the mobile network signal, and this seems to have been a success.

The recent problem with the sound system has been identified and rectified.



Due to a request from one of our senior members, we have installed a hand rail from the front gate all the way up to the entrance doors and we hope to lay a row of slabs when the better weather comes. Further to an initial donation of £100, I have received a donation of £500 to go towards the cost of this.

The final notice board has now been erected with all information now up to date.

You may have noticed that we have had all the hall and kitchen lamps replaced as well as a replacement in the loft area.

The hot water urn in the kitchen has now gone faulty and hopefully by the time you read this, we should have a replacement fitted.

Up at 2 Marshall street, since the new rear roof has been completed, we have completed the dampness repairs to the internal wall in the back office and finished off the painting. We have also cleaned all the carpets.

We are now addressing problems with the hot water system and a faulty storage heater.

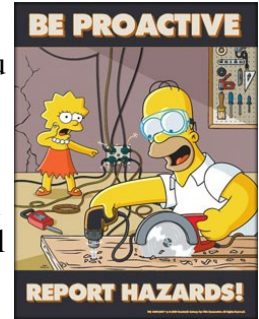


And so to our ongoing work.

Jim Reid, Walter Kean and John McLean have agreed to deal with Health, Safety, Security, Fire Precaution etc. They have been working on a document which will be posted on the notice board before being presented to all organisations and users of the buildings. This is further

to correspondence from Church of Scotland in Edinburgh and Hamilton Presbytery with relation to “Safe Buildings” and Risk Assessment..

Your safety is most important to us and if you see any hazard which requires attention, please let us know as soon as possible.



With reference to the ongoing problems with the roof windows in the main hall, we are still investigating how we can solve the problem of continual drips on a permanent basis.

This is proving to be a slow exercise, but we will get there.

Please remember, if you notice anything around the Church which needs attention, please contact one of the property

committee a.s.a.p.. and we will attend to it, and please keep dropping a white fabric envelope in to the plate as this helps to maintain our fabric fund balance. You will find these envelopes scattered around the Church. If you can't see one, please ask me for one



John Gilroy

Tel: 886935 Mobile: 07956 107883

Wedding



Ann Hinshelwood & Colin Dunn

21/01/2017

It has not been possible to record all the deaths during Alastair's illness but we can now begin with those since Alastair's return last December.

Funerals: Jesus said:

Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:1-2

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Robert Ballantyne	84	18/12/2016
Cecilia Allan	89	23/12/2016
Janetta Moran	86	15/01/2017
Greta Cook	87	21/01/2017
Joyce Cronan	67	25/01/2017
John Horne	80	05/02/2017
William "Patesy" Paterson	81	05/02/2017



St Machan's Book Club



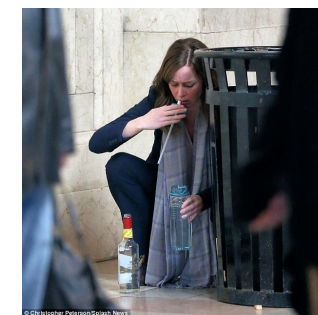
The Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month. The books we have read so far since Christmas include:

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins. A really good read and would recommend it. Here is a short resumè:



Rachel is on the same train every day and catches regular glimpses of the seemingly perfect life of a couple she calls 'Jess and Jason'. Her life has been something of a mess it seems and these guys represent a form of perfection. Things very quickly fall apart for all concerned in this much-hyped thriller.

We've been here a few times before in thrillers, in the world of the unreliable narrator. This time, we have three, and every one of them is untrustworthy in some respect. Rachel is living out a fairly miserable existence; she's out of work, has a serious drink problem and is spending an unhealthy amount of time obsessing about her ex-husband. The fantasy worlds she's creating means we've got to judge what's real and what's playing out in Rachel's head. She admits suffering from blackouts which mean her own memories are wiped out entirely, as if they'd never happened. I found myself rooting for Rachel even though she's wallowing in a fair amount of self-pity and her behaviour often seems quite destructive.



Each of the three narrators have their own heavy anxieties and the story is split extremely well between the three women. They've all got very different issues with their respective relationships and

we're given just enough information from each to keep us hanging on edge and it makes for a really addictive read. I can't say I had much liking for the others involved but it makes for a delightfully despicable cast of characters.

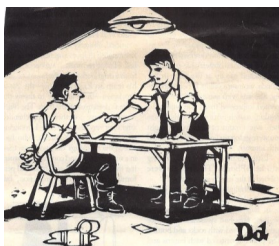
The book we are now reading is entitled 'The Secret Life of Bees' by Sue Monk Kidd and will be discussed at our next meeting on 27th February.

Forget the title - this is a heart-wrenching, beautiful book and I urge you to read it, whatever your usual reading matter. The narrator of this novel, Lily, grows up unloved and believing that she accidentally killed her mother at the age of four. She starts her story "the summer I turned fourteen", and Sue Monk Kidd perfectly captures the awkward restlessness of the teenager, longing for love, yearning to discover the truth and fearful of what will emerge. The casual references to racial attitudes in South Carolina in 1964 are shocking, and the unique beekeeping sisters she finishes up with stay with you and haunt you long after you finish the book. Poignant and humorous by turns, the tale brought tears to my eyes on several occasions, something which has never happened before in my wide reading history. An added bonus are the wonderful facts you will learn about bees... I really can't recommend this book strongly enough!!!



The next read is entitled 'Child 44' by Tom Rob Smith

In Stalin's Soviet Union, crime does not exist. But still millions live in fear. The mere suspicion of disloyalty to the State, the wrong word at the wrong time, can send an innocent person to his execution.



Officer Leo Demidov, an idealistic war hero, believes he's building a perfect society. But after witnessing the interrogation of an innocent man,

his loyalty begins to waver, and when ordered to investigate his own wife, Raisa, Leo is forced to choose where his heart truly lies.

Then the impossible happens. A murderer is on the loose, killing at will, and every belief Leo has ever held is shattered. Denounced by his enemies and exiled from home, with only Raisa by his side, he must risk everything to find a criminal that the State won't admit even exists. On the run, Leo soon discovers the danger isn't from the killer he is trying to catch, but from the country he is trying to protect



If you wish to come along anytime please do please give me a call. 07928819908. We meet at 10.30 am at 14 Saltire Crescent where we discuss the books while we have a cup of tea or coffee. You will be made very welcome.

Fiona Sandeman

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world....



then he made the world round and laughed and laughed...

Men and women

Three men were hiking through a forest when they came upon a large raging river. Needing to get on the other side, the first man prayed, "God, please give me the strength to cross the river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs and he was able to swim across in about two hours, having almost drowned twice.



After witnessing that, the second man prayed, "God, please give me strength and the tools to cross the river." Poof! God gave him a rowboat and strong arms and strong legs and he was able to row across in about an hour after almost capsizing once.



Seeing what happened to the first two men, the third man prayed, "God, please give me the strength, the tools and the intelligence to cross the river." Poof! He was turned into a woman. She checked the map, went one hundred yards up stream and walked across the bridge.

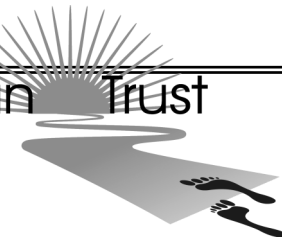


Wednesday Morning Prayer and Worship Services

Prayer Service 10.15 am Worship Service 11am

Tea and fellowship after Prayer Service

Machan Trust



The Machan Trust Easter programme 2017 has something to suit all ages. We have a games day in Chatelherault for all P1 to P6 on Tuesday 11th April. A stay awake on the 11th April in St Machan's Church hall from 9pm until 9am for anyone P7 and S1 upwards.



3 days of activities in Craigbank PS on the 5th, 6th and 7th April starting with breakfast at 10am and including lunch with a finish time of 3pm, transport is available if you live out with Strutherhill and have no transport. If you know anyone who would like to take part, please call into the office at 2 Marshall Street to book a place and complete a consent form or call the office on 01698 305674 for more information or to volunteer at any of the activities.

The 5th March saw 45 volunteers of the Machan Trust meeting at the Radstone Hotel for a Celebration Event which included lunch, 3 short training sessions and a time to visit different resource tables. There was also time taken to acknowledge 8 of our volunteers with long service certificates.



The Machan Trust is nearing its 19th birthday and without the hard work and commitment of our volunteers we would never have reached this birthday.

Ask children about angels...(and this is what you get!)

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. - Daniel, age 9



When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. - Reagan, age 10

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. - Sara, age 6

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. - Jared, age 8



All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. - Antonio, age 9

God doesn't command sinners to go to church, but he does command the church to go to sinners.

Things My Mother Taught Me

To appreciate a job well done: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside - I've just finished cleaning!"

Religion: "You'd better pray that will come out of the carpet."

Time travel: "If you don't tidy up that mess, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

Logic: "Because I said so, that's why."

Further logic: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the shops with me."

Foresight: "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

Irony: "Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

Osmosis: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper!"

Contortionism: "Will you 'look' at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

Stamina: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is finished."

Weather: "It looks as if a tornado has swept through your room."

Physics problems: "If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming toward you, would you listen *then*?"

Hypocrisy: "If I've told you once, I've told you a million times -don't exaggerate!"

Behavior modification: "Stop acting like your father!"

Envy: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do!"

Anticipation: "Just wait until we get home."

Receiving: "You are going to get it when we get home!"

Medical science: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way."



Puzzle Corner

1. Each puzzle begins with a blank 9 x 9 grid. A coordinate system—with the letters A through I across the top and the numbers 1 through 9 down the left side—will help you place the "givens," or starter numbers, generated by the Bible trivia questions.
2. For each puzzle, trivia questions will be answered by the numbers 1 through 9. The coordinates with each question (for example, *A1*, *C9*, *H3*) indicate where you should insert that particular answer into the sudoku grid. If you don't know the answer and want to find out from the Bible, references are provided.
3. Once you've inserted the givens into the grid, you can solve the sudoku puzzle. The goal of sudoku is to place the numbers 1 through 9 in each row, each column, and each of nine 3 x 3 minigrids (the shaded areas) within the larger puzzle. Numbers can never be duplicated in a row, column, or 3 x 3 grid—so use your skills of deduction to determine what numbers can or can't go into a particular box.

For A1, E3, D6, C7

How many years could one have a Hebrew slave serve them? (Jeremiah 34:14)

For B1, D4, H7, E9

How many languages did the world's people speak when they started building the tower of Babel? (Genesis 11:1-9)

For D3, A6, G9

How many sons did Jesse have? (1 Samuel 17:12)

For E1, I5

How many thousand people were killed in Revelation's earthquake in Jerusalem? (Revelation 11:13)

Think ahead: "If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job."

Humour: "When that lawnmower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

Become an adult: "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

Sex: "How do you think you got here?"

Genetics: "You're just like your father."

Roots: "Do you think you were born in a barn?"

Wisdom of age: "When you get to be my age, you will understand."

Justice: "One day you'll have kids... and I hope they turn out just like you!"

From *Bursting at the Seams*, Killy
John & Alie Stibble, Monarch Books



How God works

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"



Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, he must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

For F1, A2, I3, G7

How many thousand men did Joshua use to ambush enemies near Ai? (Joshua 8:10-12)

For G1, C2, I4, E7, A8

What number in the list of the fruit of the Spirit is joy? (Galatians 5:22-23)

For G2, A4, ES, H6, F7, C9

In Jesus' parable, how many years had a fig tree produced no fruit before its owner threatened to cut it down? (Luke 13:7)

For H1, E4, GS, C6, B8

How many months (plus twenty days) did it take Joab to make a census of Israel and Judah? (2 Samuel 24:2, 8)

For I1, C3, B4, D7, H8, A9

How many rows of stones were on the breastplate of judgment? (Exodus 28:15-17)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	■	■	■	□	□	□	■	■	■
2	■	■	■	□	□	□	■	■	■
3	■	■	■	□	□	□	■	■	■
4	□	□	□	■	■	■	□	□	□
5	□	□	□	■	■	■	□	□	□
6	□	□	□	■	■	■	□	□	□
7	■	■	■	□	□	□	■	■	■
8	■	■	■	□	□	□	■	■	■
9	■	■	■	□	□	□	■	■	■

The Bible version used in the crosswords is the NIV.

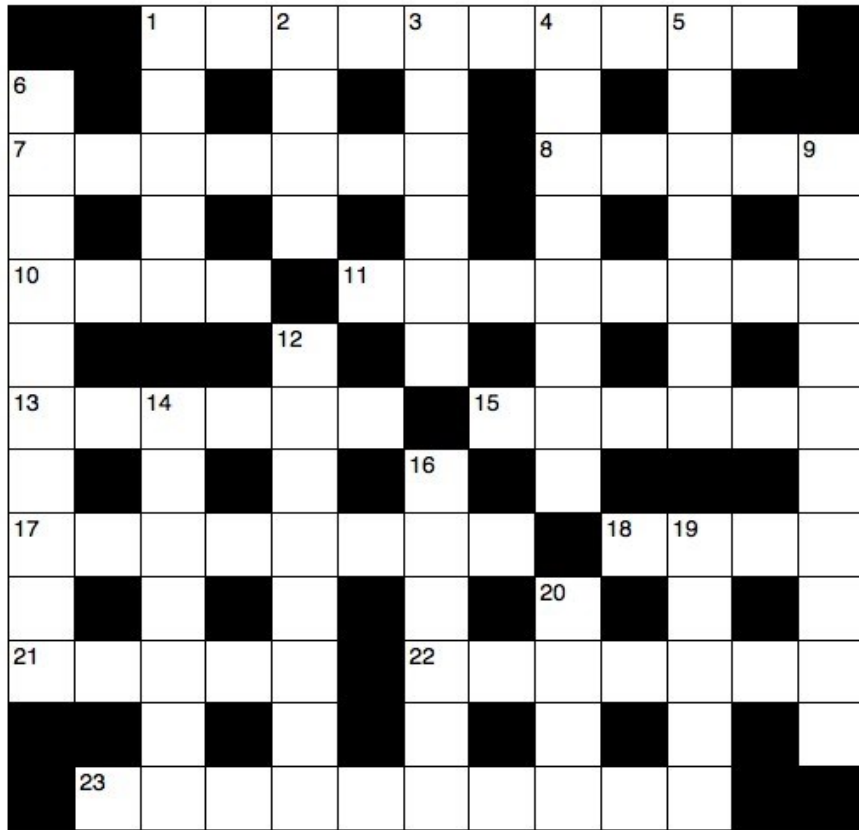
Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
- 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
- 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
- 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
- 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
- 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
- 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
- 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
- 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
- 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
- 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
- 14 See cape (anag.) (7)

- 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)



Present

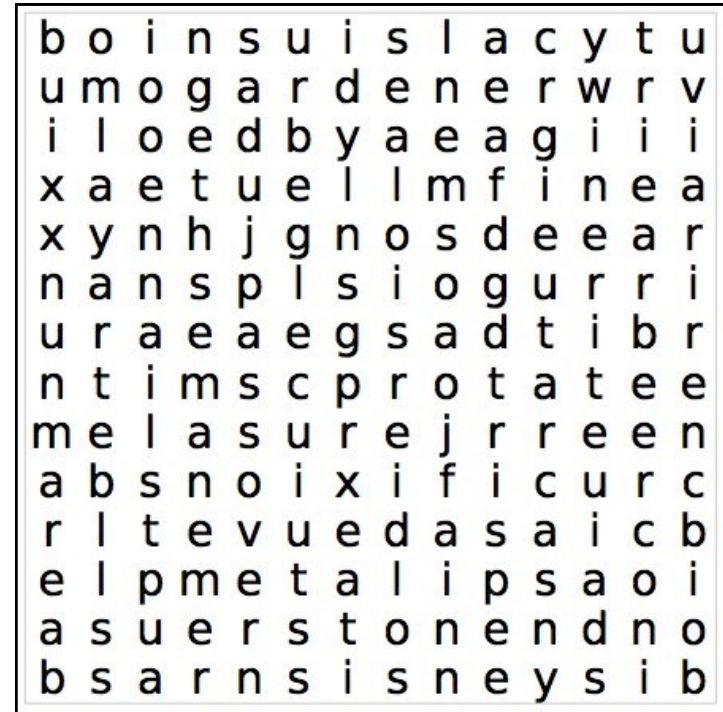


For the elderly minister's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. He was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, and said: 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

WORDSEARCH

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|----------|----------|
| passover | jerusalem | soldiers | tomb |
| bread | pilate | cross | angel |
| wine | judas | nails | stone |
| body | gethsemane | vinegar | risen |
| blood | trial | temple | gardener |
| betrayal | crucifixion | curtain | Mary |



Children's Pages

Colour in

JESUS IS ALIVE!

1. **Into Jerusalem** (Matthew 21:1-11)
2. **Jesus betrayed** (Mark 14:1-11)
3. **The last supper** (Mark 14:12-26)
4. **Jesus prays** (Mark 14:32-41)
5. **Jesus is arrested** (Mark 14:43-50)
6. **Jesus and Pilate** (Mark 15:1-15)
7. **Jesus is mocked** (Mark 15:16-20)
8. **Jesus is killed** (Mark 15:21-39)
9. **Jesus is buried** (Matthew 27:57-65)
10. **Jesus is alive!** (Luke 24:1-53)

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life."
John 3:16

©deborah.noble@parishpump.co.uk

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-11, Lk 19:28-38, Jn 12:12-19

Thousands of people went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast each year. This year Jesus and his friends went too.

Two miles outside Jerusalem Jesus said to two of his friends
"If anyone asks, say 'The Lord needs it.'" and they found it as Jesus had said.

Go into that village and bring back the donkey you find there. Why are you taking our donkey?

So off they went...

The Lord needs it. They brought it back to Jesus, and made a saddle from a cloak. They spread more cloaks on the road to make it a way fit for a king.

That's alright then

Others cut palm branches and waved them. God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord! As they got closer to Jerusalem the crowd grew!

They shouted the traditional welcome to the Passover feast

Everyone shouted to welcome Jesus as king. The teachers of the laws were angry. But Jesus replied.

Teacher, you should stop them calling you 'king'! What they say is so true that even if I made them stop, the stones would shout!

Wordsearch

j	a	n	y	o	n	e	z	p	v	x	h
w	e	l	c	o	m	e	t	a	c	k	z
b	b	r	a	n	c	h	e	s	r	f	m
y	l	j	u	m	b	g	d	s	o	f	i
n	e	e	d	s	a	n	f	o	w	k	l
t	n	o	s	l	a	f	r	v	d	i	e
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s	h	o	u	t	s	i	d	e	d	m	n
t	e	a	c	h	e	r	s	l	v	f	e
c	l	o	a	k	d	o	n	k	e	y	s

king	anyone	feast
bless	Jerusalem	stones
name	saddle	cloak
thousands	donkey	road
Passover	teachers	branches
village	friends	God
needs	Lord	crowd
miles	outside	welcome

Church Information

Minister: Rev. Alastair McKillop
Tel: 01698 321976

Session Clerk: Mrs Linda Turnbull
Tel 01698 881123

Vision Development Worker: Mrs Ann Tennent
Tel: 07925643222

Magazine Editor: Mrs Fay Allan
Email: st.machans.magazine@googlemail.com

Church Website: www.stmachansparishchurch.org.uk

Puzzle Answers

Starter numbers in order
6,1,8,7,5,2,3,9,4

		P	R	I	E	S	T	H	O	O	D		
P		A		N		H		U		U			
R	E	P	L	I	C	A		G	E	T	U	P	
O		A		T		L		U		I		E	
C	A	L	F		G	O	V	E	R	N	E	R	
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n	t	i	m	s	c	p	r	o	t	a	t	e	e
m	e	l	a	s	u	r	e	j	r	r	e	e	n
a	b	s	n	o	i	x	i	f	i	c	u	r	c
r	l	t	e	v	u	e	d	a	s	a	i	c	b
e	l	p	m	e	t	a	l	i	p	s	a	o	i
a	s	u	e	r	s	t	o	n	e	n	d	n	o
b	s	a	r	n	s	i	s	n	e	y	s	i	b