

GROVE VINE

Online Edition

**The Magazine of
Grove Methodist Church
Horsforth, Leeds**

April 2020



The Grove Methodist Church is called to respond to the Gospel of love in Jesus Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship, service and mission

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Minister's letter

Dear Friends

We are all greatly shocked and confused by the events that are dominating our news bulletins every day. Suddenly the world looks a very different place. Some of the comfortable assumptions we have lived with for a long time are no longer tenable.

In face of all this what can we say? In a sense we can say very little, we grieve for those who grieve and we remember all those who are suffering from this virus in our prayers. There is little to say but we must say something.

One thing we need to say is that in spite of everything the power of good is stronger than the power of evil. The power of God, of good, of love, will never be destroyed. Good is stronger than evil even though it often doesn't look like that. So often good seems to be powerless in the face of evil in whatever form it takes.

Good and God are not absent even in face of a global pandemic. We can see good at work in even the most difficult of circumstances. We see the bravery of those who are fighting this epidemic and are likely to face even greater difficulties in the not too distant future. Good is not absent and neither is God. Sometimes we hear people say, "Where is God in all this?" God is here in the midst of it all, he is with those who are suffering, he is with those who are grieving. Let us remember all those facing up to their grief, loss and pain in our prayers.

Over the next few weeks we are not going to be seeing as much of each other as we usually do. We are going to need to discover new ways in which we can be good neighbours to those around us and particularly those who are lonely and isolated. Let us all play our part in showing that good really is stronger than evil.

With best wishes,

Mark

Thought for the month

Lord of time and eternity, I don't know what today may bring, but I know you're just round the corner. Thank you .

Eddie Askew.



Church Family News.....

Please remember in your prayers all those known to us who face a variety of difficulties; bereavement; health problems; anxiety about loved ones and loneliness.

Solution to March 2020 Spiral Puzzle

1 Pilgrim, 2 Miss, 3 Spirit, 4 Timbrel, 5 Lyre, 6 Easter, 7 Recanted, 8 Dhows, 9 Subdue, 10 Extremist, 11 Teacake, 12 Embracing, 13 Gammy, 14 Yore, 15 Esther, 16 Rubens, 17 Schubert, 18 Taizé, 19 Edict, 20 Tribe, 21 Erica, 22 Amends, 23 Step, 24 Pin, 25 Not, 26 Tea.

Easter Celebrations in Other Countries

1. Spain

In Verges town they have Holy Festival Week or Semana Santa. The culmination is Maundy Thursday which commemorates the Last Supper. The Festival is called The Dansa de la Morte (Dance of Death) and where people dress in luminescent skeleton costumes, performing dances while carrying clocks, scythes and containers filled with ashes. There is a procession through the town by hooded penitents with a 'Jesus and Mary'.



2. Greece

On the island of Chios, in the village of Vrantados, Easter is marked by its two churches - Agios Markos (St Mark) and Panagia Erethiani (Virgin Mary, Erithiani). The congregations attend Mass and then fire rockets (many home made) at each other's properties, to see which church bell receives the first hit. Rather dangerous! On Corfu there is a tradition of people throwing out pots and pans from their windows!



3. Ethiopia

The Ethiopia Orthodox Church celebrates Easter a little later than churches in the West. After a 56 day fast, following a largely vegan diet, families dress in white and gather for a 'doro wot', a spicy chicken stew with injera (a flat bread), with honey wine.



4. France

A French tradition is that the Easter bells (les cloches de Paques) are silent from the end of Maundy Thursday services. The bells are silenced to mourn the death of Christ and they remain silent until Easter Sunday. The French are rather like the British in that they then have decorated chocolate eggs and egg hunts.



5. Italy

In Florence they celebrate Easter with Scoppio del Carro (Explosion of the Cart). On Easter Sunday a cart filled with fireworks is pulled through the city square by oxen, followed by drummers and people dressed in historical costumes. When the cart arrives at the Cathedral the Archbishop lights a dove-shaped rocket 'the Columbina', which symbolises the Holy Spirit. The rocket then travels down a wire to hit the cart and ignite the fireworks.



6. USA

Many U S cities have an Easter Parade but the most famous is the one in New York. St Patrick's Cathedral is considered the best place to see the Easter Bonnet Parade. People of all ages wear their flamboyant, colourful bonnets in a procession down 5th Avenue, between 49th and 57th Street, Manhattan. This celebration was started in the late 19th century as people paraded down this route to see the wonderful Easter flowers decorating the churches at each end.



7. Germany

Like many European countries, Easter is recognised as the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is also seen as the coming of spring. In Germany, trees are decorated with embellished eggs, called Ostereierbaum - or Easter Egg trees. There are similar customs in Austria, Hungary, Ukraine and the Czech Republic.



Calderdale, West Yorkshire

Pace Egg Plays used to be part of rural culture throughout the country, but now practiced only a few areas - notably West Yorkshire and East Lancashire. The tradition is kept alive in Heptonstall and Midgley. The word Pace is derived from a Latin word for Easter (paschal). It takes the form of a drama being between a hero and a villain where the hero is killed and brought back to life. In some versions, St George smites all challengers.



in

Gordon Mellor

Tony Orton has very kindly suggested a hymn that we can all sing.

A Hymn for the month of April

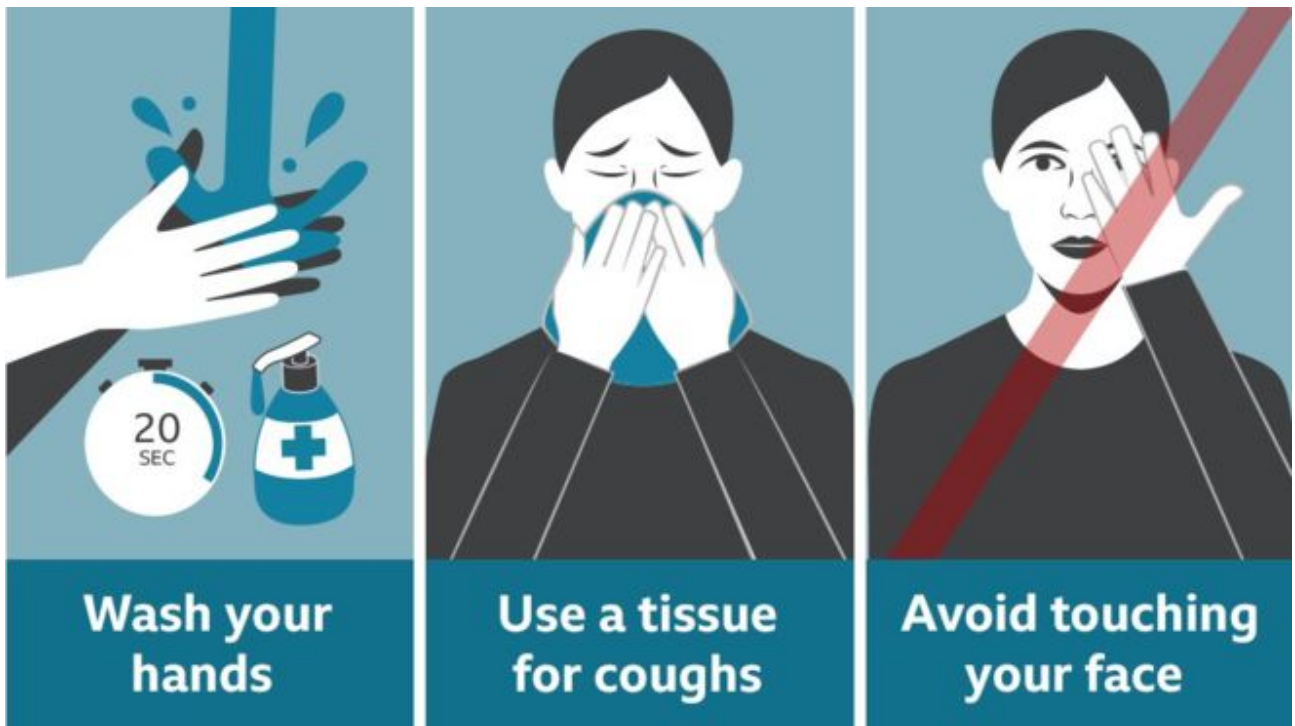
1 Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won ;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay :

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.*

2 Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb ;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom ;
let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth,
death hath lost its sting :

3 No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life ;
life is naught without thee :
aid us in our strife ;
make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love ;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above :

A toi la gloire, O Ressucité, by Edmond Budry (1854–1932), translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939) and first published in a mainstream hymn book in *The Methodist Hymn Book* (1933). The tune that we know so well is from Handel's *Joshua* (1747), retrospectively added to the earlier *Judas Maccabeus* (1746).



A friend in our badminton group has shared the following:

And when this is all over

We'll knock on our friends' doors
And go to every party
And say "I love you" more.

And when this is all over
Through bad, we will see the good
Because wherever we are together
We'll appreciate it, as we should.

And when this is all over
And we are no longer in this pain
We'll know to never take for granted
Those little things again.

Mary Mellor



50 Years Ago
Methodist Recorder, March 12, 1970

Blind local preacher bids for city council place

BLIND local preacher, 22 year-old student David Blunkett, a member of Southey church in the Sheffield (North) circuit, has been chosen as Labour candidate for Southey Green in the Sheffield municipal elections. If elected, he will be the youngest member of the City Council. "My politics," he says, "come directly from my religion. As a Christian I see myself as a Socialist; not exactly a Donald Soper, but that way inclined."

The ward is a Labour stronghold so Mr Blunkett, who has represented Sheffield at Young Socialist conferences, is obviously optimistic about his chances, feeling he can convince the voters that his blindness is no handicap to his ability to serve them – the first totally-blind person to win a university place in a course (Modern History and Politics) designed for fully sighted students, he hopes to become a lecturer.

Mr Blunkett, who has been blind from birth, gets to his preaching appointments with the help of his guide dog, Ruby, and his fiancée, Ruth Mitchell, aged 19 – they plan to marry in July. He has to choose his hymns and readings carefully so as not to be weighted down with too many volumes of braille. He is also local Christian Citizenship secretary.

Another preacher who uses Braille while conducting services is Philip W F Coleman, who was recently received on to full plan at Chandler's Ford church in the Eastleigh circuit. The charge was given by the Chairman of the Southampton District, the Rev Donald R Lee, who first met Mr Coleman at Worcester. Mr Lee was then a circuit minister and chaplain to Worcester College for the Blind.

Selected and supplied by the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History.

Self-Isolating in 1666

Everyone must have been affected in some way by Coronavirus. Self-isolation has been seen as a vital means of controlling the spread. Containment in this form is not new, however.

There is evidence of lead mining in Derbyshire from Roman times (coins bearing Roman Emperors' names). The village of Eyam had become a centre of lead mining and its parish church (St Lawrence) dates from the 14th century, though there is further evidence of an earlier church (Saxon font and Norman window).

But in 1665 Eyam became the centre of a deadly plague. The way in which the people dealt with the plague now sets a well known example of self isolation. It seems that a flea-infested bundle of cloth arrived from London for the local tailor. Within a week his assistant was dead and more people in the house died soon after.

As the disease and its effects spread, the villagers turned to their Minister, the Rev'd William Mompesson and a Puritan Minister, Thomas Stanley, for guidance. These two introduced a number of precautions to slow the spread. From May 1666, families were to bury their own dead. Church services were relocated to an open air amphitheatre (allowing villagers to stand apart so as to reduce the risk of infection).

The best known decision was to place the entire village of Eyam in quarantine.

The plague ran its course over 14 months. It is believed that only 83 of 350 villagers survived. The church in Eyam records 273 victims of the plague. Survival appears to have been random - some who lived had had close contact with others who had died. For example, Elizabeth Hancock survived despite having buried her husband and 6 children in the space of 8 days. The village grave digger had handled many infected bodies - yet survived.

Isolation/quarantine was maintained by "plague stones" marking the boundary. Villagers and outsiders could not cross that boundary. Food and medicines were brought from an adjacent parish and left for collection by a boundary stone. Money for these items was placed in a hollowed-out boundary stone, the coins placed in a pool of vinegar as a means of purification.

As a footnote to this last point, a Sheffield professor reported recently that he does not use credit cards, etc. but that his *cash* payment at a local charity shop was not acceptable!

Gordon Mellor

Puzzle Page: Bible Names Wordsearch (A)

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

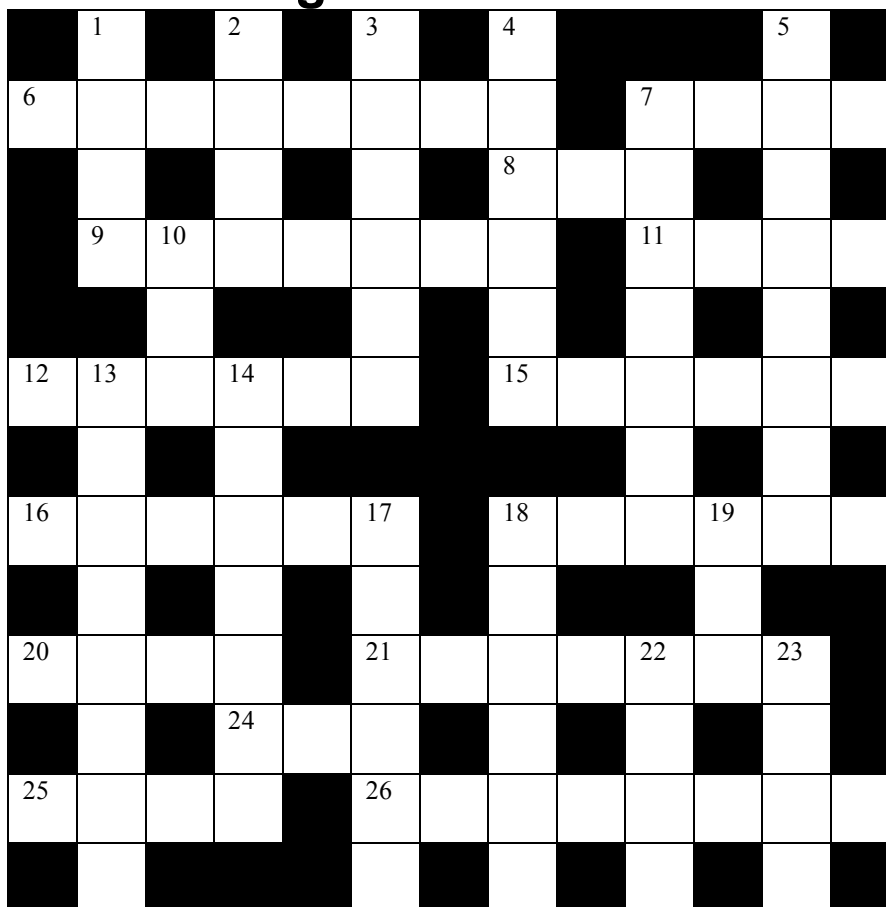
There are 25 names from the Bible in the grid, all beginning with the letter A. How many can you find? What did all these people do?

Word Sudoku Puzzle

I		U	A		H	M		R
	M						L	
		R	L		M	I		
	A			H			R	M
		H				P		
R	P			L			H	
		L	M		U	A		
	U						P	
H		I	P		T	L		U

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3×3 box contains the letters of the word TRIUMPHAL

Puzzle Page: Small Crossword 1



Across

- 6 Where Ananias came to Saul (8)
- 7 Edge, or b-edge (4)
- 8 Rider Haggard wrote this book (3)
- 9 A letter, or even a book (7)
- 11 '----, ---- as the ocean, high as the
heaven above' (4)
- 12 Source of advice or prophesy (6)
- 15 OT book named after a queen (6)
- 16 Lively or briskly in music (6)
- 18 Rift, estrangement (6)
- 20 The first garden (4)
- 21 Books to sing from in church (8)
- 24 High priest who trained 18 down (3)
- 25 Sustained repeated sounds (4)
- 26 Where Peter baptised Cornelius (8)

Down

- 1 Wise plant (4)
- 2 They travelled westwards (4)
- 3 Use this to keep the grass down but
watch your feet (6)
- 4 Member of ancient Jewish sect (7)
- 5 A fruit of the Spirit (8)
- 7 Captivate, entrance (7)
- 10 Contained in a pod (3)
- 13 Sounds like wet weather darling (8)
- 14 'Make me a ----- of your peace' (7)
- 17 Moral principles (6)
- 18 Prophet, son of Hannah (6)
- 19 Not well (3)
- 22 Jezebel's husband (4)
- 23 '---- ye first the kingdom of God' (4)

Tony Orton

From the Editorial Group

Note that the Editorial Teams alternate..... n.b. the May issue will be prepared by Gill and you should send items to her - no later than 5pm on Wednesday 22nd April. Please include events and details up to 7th June.

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Email (or copy as an attachment) would be appreciated!

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