

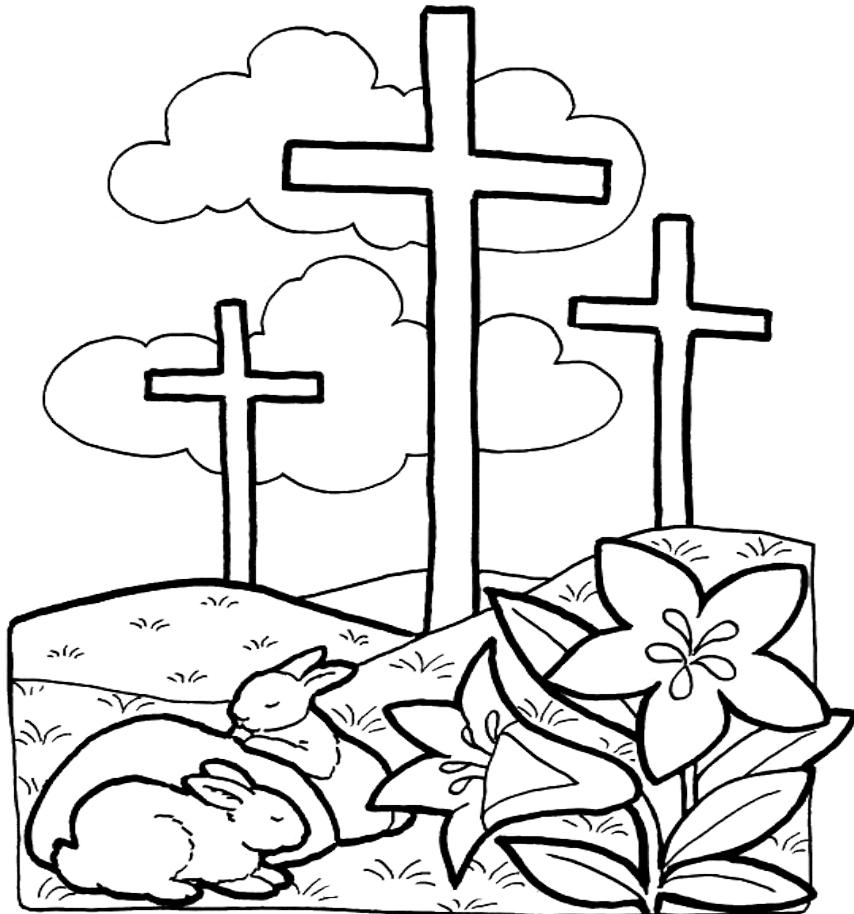


The
United
Reformed
Church



Halifax Group Magazine

Heath New Hope New Providence



April 2019

Our vision is to know, love, live and share Jesus, for a better world.

Letter from the New Manse

Dear Friends

French tightrope walker Blondin is particularly known for crossing the Niagara Gorge several times in the mid 1800s. His tightrope was 1100 feet long, 160 feet above the river, and only 3½ inches in diameter. Not content with just walking along it, he did it in different ways: pushing a wheelbarrow, blindfolded, on stilts and in a sack.

One day he was interviewed by newspaper reporters. He said that having just crossed with an empty wheelbarrow, he intended to do it again, but this time with a man in the barrow. “Do you believe I can do it?” he asked. “Oh yes,” replied one reporter, “I’m sure you can!” “Right,” said Blondin, “get in the wheelbarrow. Let’s go!” Apparently, the reporter left hastily! There’s a big difference between general belief and believing in something so strongly that you’re willing to risk your life for it.

At Easter the question is sometimes asked, “Did the resurrection of Jesus really happen?” The question is given added weight by a strand of theology which says that it’s just a story, a myth. However, there are many scholars who would put their reputations on the line by their insistence that Jesus did rise again.

Among the most compelling reasons for believing that Jesus really did rise again, is the disciples’ seemingly unshakeable conviction that they had seen Jesus alive, and that he certainly wasn’t a ghost, an illusion or a trick of the mind. This conviction gave them great joy, but it also led them into many dangerous situations. However, they didn’t sway from their belief, even when threatened with death, and many of them were killed for their beliefs. Their willingness to risk their lives

Letter from the New Manse

speaks louder than any words. They had a faith so sure that it was worth dying for.

Across the world many Christians resolutely face persecution and even death for their beliefs, either through their countries' legal structures or because others in their community can't tolerate their faith. They're able to do so because they have a faith that's worth dying for. I'm left wondering whether, if faced with similar challenges, we would be faithful and stand firm, or whether we would back off as quickly as Blondin's reporter. We can't know what we would do, until the situation arises, and I hope we'll never find out. However, I also hope we would have the same resolve as Jesus, who prayed in Gethsemane, saying to his Father, "Not my will but yours", and who then faced his accusers and death on the cross.

We say that we believe that Jesus died for us and then rose again. The question is, do we have a faith worth dying for? If our faith really is worth dying for, all the challenges of being a Christian in our context will feel less demanding, less costly. We'll be able to give of our time and our resources; we'll be willing to take a stand for Christian values, even if this sets us against people we know; we'll be ready to share our faith with others, even at the risk of being rejected. In doing these things we'll be embracing and living the new life that was made possible by Jesus' death and resurrection.

This Easter may we share in the joy of the resurrection, and may it make a real difference to our lives day by day.

Love, Heather

Letter from the New Manse

Good Friday

Our friends at Luddenden Foot URC have agreed to host a group service at 10.30am on Good Friday. They have kindly offered to serve coffee, tea and hot cross buns from 10am, so please arrive in good time to enjoy refreshments and a time of fellowship before the service begins.

Going on an egg hunt.

I'm on the hunt for Easter eggs.
My basket's in my hand,
It's empty now, but not for long,
I have a master plan.

I'll look beneath the flowerpots
All lined up in a row,
And then I'll go out to the shed,
And look both high and low.

I'll poke around in tufts of grass
And by the roots of trees,
But I'll be extra careful
Not to bother any bees.

I hope to find the golden egg,
The one that holds the prize.
Oh wow! Oh look I see it now!
It's super-duper size!

Lill Pluta

Pulpit list

Heath URC, Free School Lane. 10.30am

April

- 7 Mr Martin Pollard
- 14 Rev Daphne Hull – Palm Sunday
- 21 Rev John Jenkinson – Easter Sunday - Communion
- 28 Rev Heather Pollard

There will also be a Group Service at Luddenden Foot at 11.00am on Good Friday 19 April. Refreshments will be served from 10.00am including hot cross buns!

Activities in April

Saturday 6 April – 10.30am - Spring Fair and Lunch

Thursday 11 April – 7.30pm Thursday Club – AGM – Games and Hot Cross Buns

Sunday 14 April – 4.00pm – Messy Church

Tuesday 16 April - 10.30am - Community Coffee Morning

Weekly Events

Monday

- 9.15am Toddlers (term time only)
- 2.00pm Sing for Fun – Singing Group
- 5.45pm Beaver Scouts 5-8yrs
- 6.30pm Cub Scouts 8-10yrs

Friday

- 7.00pm Scouts 10-14yrs
- 7.30pm Explorer Scouts

Hello Folks, your resident Heath Parish Nurse here,
How are you doing?

Well done for putting more thought into eating healthily
these last few months.

Please see my board on Healthy Eating at the Manor
Drive entrance. Thank you.

Prayerful thoughts are the beginnings for us achieving
our goals and the plans and purposes the Lord has for
us.

Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights.
Then he commenced His marvellous ministry.

Yet Satan tried and tested Him during and after. Matthew
chapter 4. Jesus always replied to him:

"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that
comes from the mouth of God."

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

Then Satan left Him a while but came back as can be
seen in Matthew 16:23 and Jesus answers "Get behind
me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not
have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human
concerns."

Have we made any adjustments to our eating during
Lent? Or done any fasting? If we have done so we will be
tried and tested also.

(Fasting can be dangerous if not done correctly and if
you have a medical condition you may not be able to fast.
So if you want to fast but are unsure about fasting, please
contact me.)

The effects of fasting lasted Jesus all through his ministry
and he did marvellous things. This is the same for us too.

Satan will also try and test us but we have the answer "Get thee behind me Satan - in Jesus Name!". The enemy attacked Jesus, so don't be surprised about attacks in any shape or form, particularly if we have fasted or cut down on food for the Lord. Stand firm as Jesus did.

Whether we have made changes to our eating or not. Trust in the Lord and your breakthrough will come. In brokenness, the Lord can breakthrough. It may not be as we envisaged but He can, because He is the great I AM.

And finally for now: 3 John 1:2 So dear friends, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

Wishing you a very Happy Easter because "He is risen!". With many blessings and please don't hesitate to call me if you need to 07803295002. Please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Dawn Weald Parish Nurse, Heath Church. (Scripture from NIV and King James Bible).

Honey, can you hear me

An old man was wondering if his wife had a hearing problem. So one night, he stood behind her while she was sitting in her lounge chair. He spoke softly to her, "Honey, can you hear me?"

There was no response.

He moved a little closer and said again, "Honey, can you hear me?"

Still, there was no response.

Finally he moved right behind her and said, "Honey, can you hear me?"

She replied, "For the third time, Yes!"

Pulpit Supply

April 2019

- Apr. 7th Mrs. Juliet Foster (Church AGM after Service)
- Apr. 14th Rev Heather Pollard
- Apr. 21st Mr. David Truswell
- Apr. 28th Mrs. Juliet Foster

Friendship Hour at 2.15pm

We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays most months to enjoy each others company, have a cup of tea, coffee and biscuits and meet new friends. The meeting on April 10th will be 'More comedians of the good old days' with Trevor Moody. The meeting on 24th will be 'Handcraft' with Norma Riley.

Boy's Brigade company at New Hope,

It will be our annual presentation night on Saturday 13th April, at 7.00 pm. to approx. 8.30 pm. This is the evening when the boys get the awards they have worked for over the year, everyone is welcome and hopefully it acts as a recruitment drive as well.

Colin Walker, Captain of the Boy's Brigade company New Hope.

Ladies Exercise Class: Wednesdays at 7.30pm
Boys' Brigade: Mondays from 6.30pm

The Mad Rant

The writer is amazed by how little effort at Church goes into God. When Churches were invented they were built to the Glory of God and took many people many decades to build. These people worked for a pittance for fear of the pearly gates closing on them. Now these buildings have to be maintained, in many cases by people who do not fear the pearly gates closing on them.

We are not in charge of how the work is done, since, regulations must be recognised. Not only that, but inspections must be undertaken to ensure that the regulations are adhered to. If not and disaster strikes, an electrical fire, a gas leak exploding, someone tripping and falling, a ceiling falling on someone, etc. The insurance system and the Health and Safety Executive steps in and ensures financial devastation.

For the Church to comply with all this, it must do non-God things, which are euphemistically referred to as Mission in the Community.

Basically we are just a low cost venue for non-God activities. It looks like the people who enable all this to happen are working for even less than the Church builders of yesteryear. In the hope of the pearly gates opening for them at the appropriate time.

Mike Riley

NEW PROVIDENCE

Pulpit Supply

APRIL

- 7th....Alison Dobson
- 14th....Mrs. Juliet Foster
- 18th....Mrs. Juliet Foster (Maundy Service)
- 21st....Rev. Heather Pollard (Easter Day Communion)
- 28th....Mr. Andrew Mitchell

New Providence Diary

APRIL

- Friday's – 6.30pm Brownies at New Providence
- Friday's – 6.45pm Boy's Brigade / Girl's Association at Carlton Centre
- Thursday 18th 7.30pm - Maundy Thursday Service
- Monday 22nd 7.30pm – New Provi Circle

Thursday 18th April 7.30pm Juliet Foster is leading our Maundy Service to which everyone is welcome.



About St George's Day

St George was born sometime around the year 280 in what is now Turkey. He was a soldier and rose up through the ranks of the Roman army, eventually becoming a personal guard to the Emperor Diocletian. He was executed for being a Christian on April 23, 303, and is buried in the town of Lod in Israel.

St George is most widely known for slaying a dragon. According to legend, the only well in the town of Silene was guarded by a dragon. In order to get water, the inhabitants of the town had to offer a human sacrifice every day to the dragon. The person to be sacrificed was chosen by lots. On the day that St George was visiting, a princess had been selected to be sacrificed. However, he killed the dragon, saved the princess and gave the people of Silene access to water. In gratitude, they converted to Christianity. It is thought that the dragon represents a certain type of pagan belief that included the sacrifice of human beings.

St George's Day was once celebrated as widely as Christmas. But the celebrations waned by the end of the 18th century after England had united with Scotland on May 1, 1707. In recent times, there has been a push, involving campaigns and petitions, to make the day a public holiday in England.

St George is the patron saint of a number of other places, such as Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Portugal and Russia. He is also remembered in some regional holidays,

such as in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador in Canada and among the Gorani people who live in a mountainous area in the Balkans and were converted to Islam many centuries ago, but still observe St George's Day. Around the world, a number of days are devoted to St George, including April 23 and dates in November and December of the Gregorian calendar.

Jelly Bean Prayer



Red is for
the blood
he gave.



Green is for
the grass
he made.



Yellow is for
the sun
so bright.



Orange is for
the edge
of night.



Black is for
the sins
we made.



White is for
the grace
He gave.



Purple is for
the hour of
sorrow



Pink is for
our new
tomorrow

The Easter Story

Jesus came to compensate
For all the wrongs we do.
He came to earth to die for us,
So we'd be born anew.

"This bitter cup, let it pass from me,"
He cried, in a plaintive voice;
"Yet not My will, but Thine be done;"
He said, in His faithful choice.

The Judas kiss would seal his fate;
He faced a hostile crowd;
The governor, Pilate, saw through it all;
Jesus' guilt he disavowed.

"I wash my hands of all of this,"
Said Pilate, "Let Him be."
But the crowd yelled "Crucify him now,
And set Barabbas free!"

Pilate yielded to their wish;
And Jesus was led away.
The soldiers beat him, and mocked Him, too,
Yet He continued to obey.

A crown of thorns lay on His head,
As His sentence was carried out;
His hands and feet were pierced with nails,
But He did not scream or shout.

"Father, forgive them for this crime;
They know not what they do."
He said this despite His torment, because,
He was thinking of me and you.

"It is finished," he sighed in His anguish and pain,
As His body gave up to death.
The curtain tore, and darkness fell,
After He took His last breath.

The best of the story is the very last part;
It's why on Easter we're filled with pleasure:
Death could not our Savior hold;
His power is beyond all measure.

He rose from the grave, and was seen all around;
Ever since, He's inspired devotion,
And we'll be with Him for eternity,
When we get our heavenly promotion.

That's why Easter is a major event:
He suffered and died in our place.
He rose and forgave us and loves us still,
Our Savior of matchless grace.

By Joanna Fuchs

The Palm Sunday Prayer

Almighty God, father of us all,
we remember how our lord, your only son Jesus Christ
was hailed and glorified as he rode
into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

He came not at the head of an all-conquering army.
Not aboard a magnificent chariot.
Not astride a great warhorse,
but sitting upon that most humble of beasts – a donkey.
He who is the greatest of us all came in humility and in
peace.

His followers that day were not dressed for battle;
they were not trained in the arts of war.
Yet he came with the greatest weapon that this world has
ever known:
the person and the word of God.

We remember how the cheers and hallelujahs that
greeted our lord that day turned all too soon to the cries of
hate and ridicule that only he and you knew were to lead
to his predestined agony.
And yet he came.

For generations unborn, he came;
for those who had gone before, he came;
for the sinners, he came;
for the innocent, he came.
For us, he came.

And for that, lord we give our thanks.

We thank you for the courage and selflessness of your son who came as a man to ride a donkey to certain agony, death and glory.

Almighty God, we pray that you will help us as we strive to be worthy of the great torment that our lord so willingly rode to face that day.

Graham J Evans.

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Do You Remember

Grandma and Grandpa were sitting in their porch rockers watching the beautiful sunset and reminiscing about "the good old days". Grandma turned to Grandpa and said, "Honey, do you remember when we first started dating and you used to just casually reach over and take my hand?"

Grandpa looked over at her, smiled and obligingly took her aged hand in his. With a wry little smile, Grandma pressed a little farther, "Honey, do you remember how after we were engaged, you'd sometimes lean over and suddenly kiss me on the cheek?"

Grandpa leaned slowly toward Grandma and gave her a lingering kiss on her wrinkled cheek. Growing bolder still, Grandma said, "Honey, do you remember how, after we were first married, you'd kind of nibble on my ear?" Grandpa slowly got up from his rocker and headed into the house. Alarmed, Grandma said, "Honey, where are you going?"

Grandpa replied, "To get my teeth!"

NORM'S WORD SEARCH

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

Easter	Resorection	Chocolates	Flowers
Crucifixion	Cross	Eggs	Lambs
Good	Jesus	Chicks	
Friday	Palms	Rabbits	
Jerusalem	Rejoice	Spring	

When all the words have been found work out the message with the left over letters

Crossword Clues

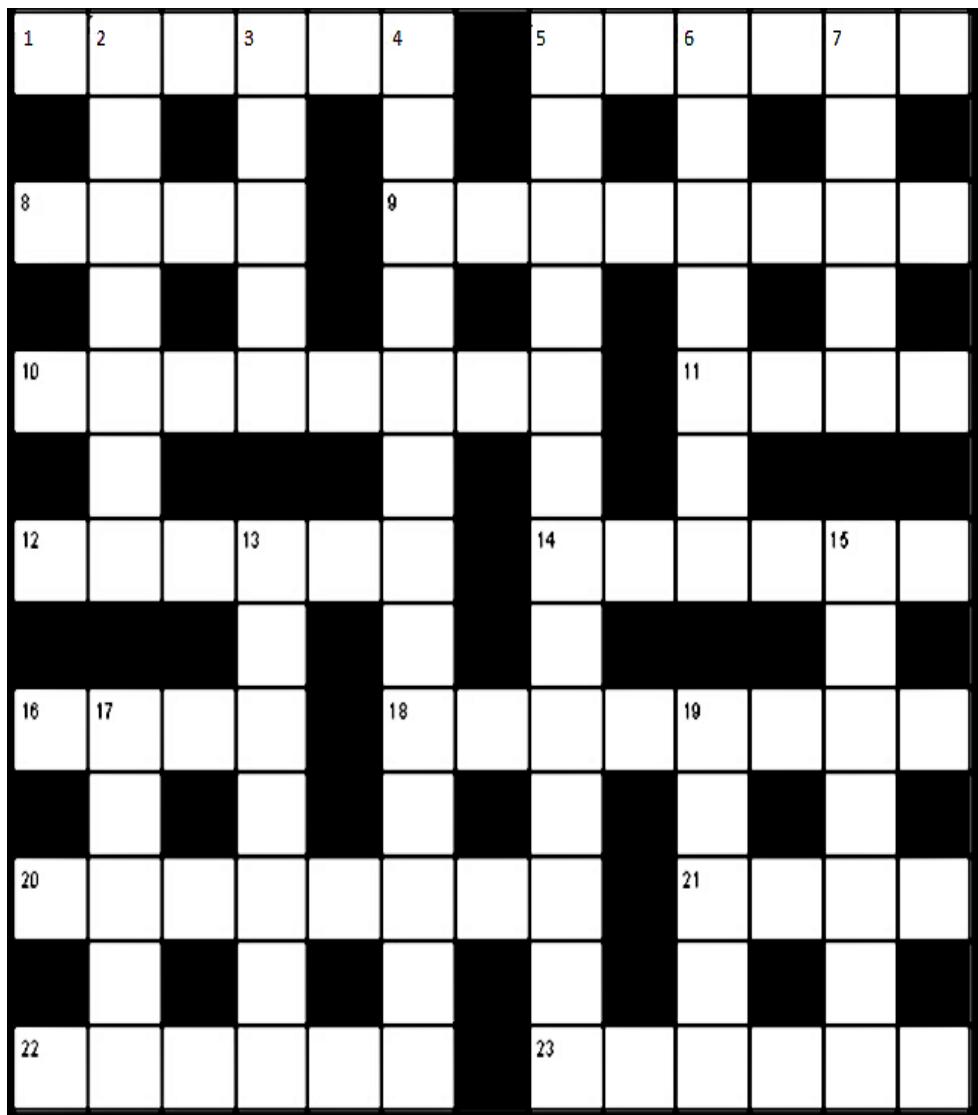
Across

1. A high-ranking Christian cleric, usually in charge of a diocese.(6)
5. Archbishop of Canterbury, assassinated in Canterbury Cathedral. (6)
8. King of Israel, husband of the infamous Jezebel. (4)
9. "The ----- firmament on high, With all the blue ethereal sky" hymn (8)
10. A quarter note equal to two quavers. (8)
11. "Seven for a secret never to be ----" children's rhyme (4)
12. "----- around the grounds until you feel at home, And here's to you, Mrs. Robinson, Jesus loves you more than you will know." (6)
14. "And the ----- answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?" (6)
16. One of the minor prophets of the Old Testament who prophesied while Uzziah was king of Judah. (4)
18. "Hail to the Lord's -----, great David's greater Son!" hymn.(8)
20. To free from or relieve of a load or a trouble. (8)
21. "For He is our childhood's pattern; Day by day, like us, He ----;" hymn (4)
22. "And as they came out, they found a man of -----, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross." (6)
23. "The sun was shining on the sea Shining with all his might He did his very best to make the billows ----- and bright" Carroll - Walrus and the Carpenter (6)

Down

2. "The meek shall ----- the earth". (7)
3. Monk or nun's clothing. (5)
4. Lit during the Easter vigil as a sign of Christ's resurrection. (7,6)
5. To walk the boundaries of the parish and to pray for protection and blessing of the land at Rogationtide. (4,3,6)
6. Site of Bristol's Roman Catholic cathedral, consecrated in 1973. (7)
7. "Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heaven.....where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one ----- light;" Donne (5)
13. Deficient in light; indistinct. (7)
15. There have been fourteen Popes of this name, the last one died in 1774. (7)
17. The love of it is said to be the root of all evil. (5)
19. Meaning black in Spanish and Portuguese, a number of rivers have this name. (5)

CROSSWORD



CAN YOU FIND AT LEAST 15 DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THE 2 PICTURES



Answers

Crossword

Across 1. Bishop 5. Becket 8. Ahab 9. Spacious
10. Crotchet 11. Told 12. Stroll 14. Eunuch 16. Amos
18. Anointed 20. Unburden 21. Grew 22. Cyrene
23. Smooth

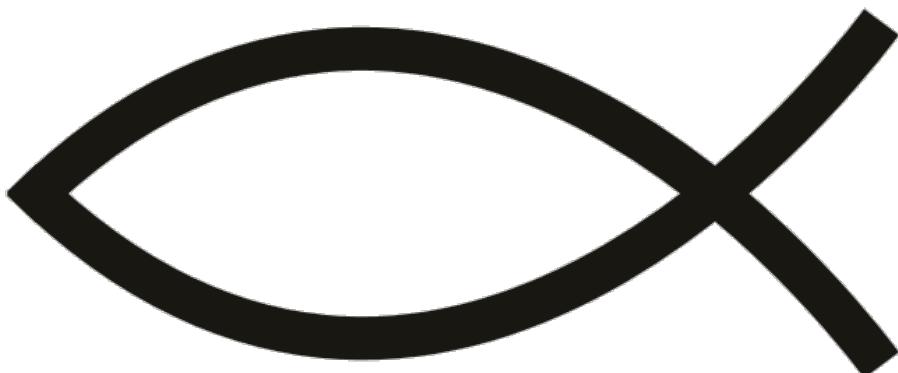
Down 2. Inherit 3. Habit 4. Paschal Candle 5. Beat The
Bounds 6. Clifton 7. Equal 13. Obscure 15. Clement
17. Money 19. Negro

Norma's Wordsearch looking forward to the summer
months and the holidays.



GROUP CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>What's on</u>
<u>April.</u>			
Sat. 6 th	10.30am	Heath	Spring Fair & Lunch
Sun. 7 th	After morning Service	New Hope	Church AGM
Wed. 10 th	2.15pm	New Hope	Friendship Hour
Thu. 11 th	7.30pm	New Providence	Thursday Club AGM
Sat. 13 th	7.00pm	New Hope	B.B. Presentation night
Sun. 14 th	4.00pm	Heath	Messy Church
Tue. 16 th	10.30am	Heath	community coffee morning
Thu 18 th	7.30pm	New Providence	Maundy Service
Mon 22 nd	7.30pm	New Providence	New Provi Circle
Wed. 24 th	2.15pm	New Hope	Friendship Hour



PREACHER PLAN

HEATH URC, MANOR DRIVE, 10.30 AM

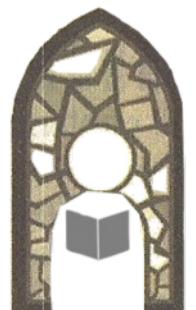
- Apr. 7th Mr. Martin Pollard
- Apr. 14th Rev Daphne Hull
- Apr. 21st Rev John Jenkinson
- Apr. 28th Rev Heather Pollard

NEW HOPE URC, WARLEY ROAD 10.30 AM

- Apr. 7th Mrs. Juliet Foster
- Apr. 14th Rev Heather Pollard
- Apr. 21st Mr. David Truswell
- Apr. 28th Mrs. Juliet Foster

NEW PROVIDENCE URC, KEIGHLEY ROAD 11.00 AM

- Apr. 7th Alison Dobson
- Apr. 14th Mrs. Juliet Foster
- Apr. 18th Mrs. Juliet Foster (7.30pm)
- Apr. 21st Rev Heather Pollard
- Apr. 28th Mr. Andrew Mitchell





Useful Numbers

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Mr D Truswell (New Hope) 883908

Mrs S Wolfenden (New Providence) 244402

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Yorkshire Synod www.urcyorkshire.org.uk

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May Deadline



All contribution need to be in by **THURSDAY APRIL 11th** please. These can be either handed in to your church reps or stop press direct to the editor at:

robertbrook@sky.com

Late submissions may not be inserted.

Thank you.