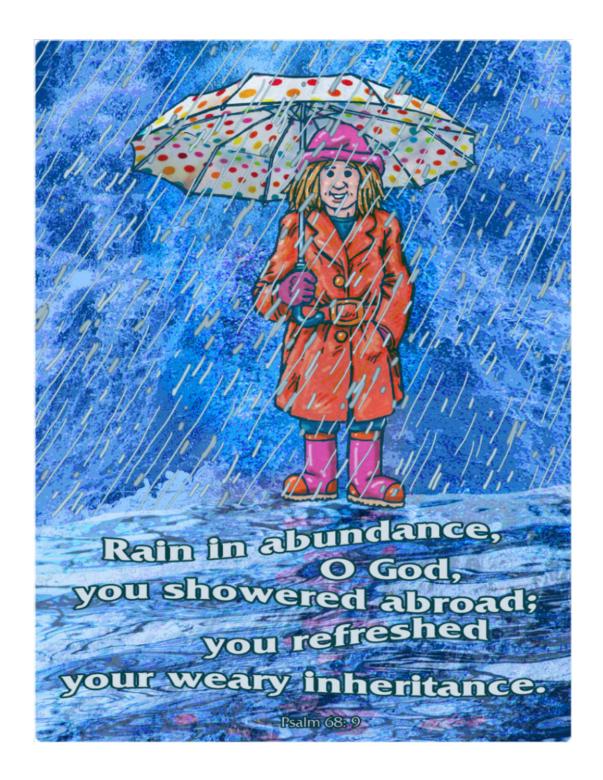
Christ Church Ramsbottom





Newsletter APRIL 2024

Church Services Sundays 10.30am

7th April	Cafe Worship	Rev. Stephen Crook
14th April		Susan Applegate
21st April	Communion Service	Rev. Stephen Crook
28th April		Rev. Stephen Crook
5th May	Cafe Worship	Rev. Stephen Crook

Regular Activities at Church

Tuesdays	Prayer Meeting (usually on Zoom)	7pm
Wednesdays	Little Stars Re-starts 17th April	9.30 - 11.30am
Thursdays	Drop-In Cafe	10am - 1pm



Little Stars broke up for Easter with a fun Easter themed sessionincluding an Easter egg hunt! For those not on Social Media here is a quick snapshot of the fun they had. Little Stars returns on 17th





Community Cafe

Don't Forget - this month's community cafe is on April 13th and will raise money for Stubbins Primary School.



From our Minister Stephen Crook

Happy Easter Everyone –well at least I hope it was!! Between writing the 'foreword' for March's newsletter and this one, Easter has been and gone (only just though).

Yesterday (as I write this), Palm Sunday heralded the beginning of Holy Week - a week of passion and pain that affected everyone in the world - and has done ever since. LESTWE FORGET THOUGH - THE 'Passion' was experienced by only one person - Jesus The Saviour and on behalf of the 'Whole World' - you and I had nothing to do with it thank goodness.

For some - me included, appreciate the comforting thought that the creator of all we know, God Eternal, sees us as 'all in it together'. He (Jesus) is 'with us all the way, through thick and thin - good and bad'.

'Life' is no respecter of age, no respecter of wealth, no respecter of social standing or position in life, no respecter of birth, attainment or achievement - no respecter of anything at all - we are truly 'all in it together' and all of us one day will enter eternity with or without Jesusby our side – our choice!

PSSST!!Whilst we're here - read these comforting words - Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Jesus, sees us all as individuals - He sees the person and not their position, their ability etc.

In his eyes we're all the same, with the same need - that of salvation.

- He ministered to prostitutes.
- He touched the 'untouchable' those with contagious diseases - lepers.
- He chose the average and <u>untrained</u> to be His apostles.
- He loved the 'unlovable' and mingled with social outcasts.
- He ate with the hated
- He fed the hungry and healed the sick

He didn't sign autographs, go on a preaching tour or have an established schedule.

He didn't have a manager to set up high powered meetings with prominent leaders of society and the church.

He wasn't accommodated in the finest hotel suites or the luxury villas of the 'establishment'.

He's right here with you now in and through His Spirit – by your side – leading if you let Him – carrying you when necessary. You can of course say no to Him although I never understand why some do.

As we leave Easter behind and continue through the year perhaps you could get to know Him more and allow Him to walk by your side too – He can't wait for you to ask Him.

For even more encouragement read Footprints in the Sand again or even better searchthe 'Web' for the song Footprints by Leona Lewis.

Easter may now be over BUT 'next stop 'Pentecost'-fasten your seatbelts!!

Rev Stephen

What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Deuteronomy & Joshua

By Canon Paul Hardingham

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The 'shema' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These

commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.'(Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus'temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: 'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.' (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua ('The Lord saves') is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1–11).

Bury Hospice Fundraising

The Concert held on 23rd March by the "Monday Mondays" and "Monkuleles" raised £335 for Bury Hospice plus £132 from Rotary Duck Race ticket sales. Thank you all for your support in the production of this concert.



Happy Birthday

11th April Joan R.22nd April Mary

27th April Marjorie

To join the birthday scheme please contact Mary

The Treasure of Easter!

By Paul Hardingham

It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God 'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.' (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the reason for hope. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesussuffered, but by His resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it *'is kept in*

heaven for you' (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: 'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'.

On the other hand, this treasure is a source of joy. This unburied treasure fills us 'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'(8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, 'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.' (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus'character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof'!

Don't hesitate to use hearing aids

Here is something you didn't expect: using hearing aids if you are a bit deaf can be of great benefit to your overall health.

Crystal Rolfe, director of health at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said: "Hearing aids bring enormous benefits for people with hearing loss. Research shows that wearing hearing aids may reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and it is well known that they have positive effects on physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

According to hearing loss charity RNID, 12 million adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and an estimated seven million people could benefit from hearing aids, but only about two million use them.

The researchershope the findings, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity journal, will encourage more people to wear hearing aids. As one doctor said: "If you have hearing loss, get hearing aids. The benefits could be limitless."

God in the Sciences- Scienceand Society: How Can We Approach New Ethical Issues?

by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.

See www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churchesand http://www.cis.org.uk

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we ought to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the 'yuk!' or 'wow!' These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The consequentialist approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the Ten Commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks 'What can I get away with?' Also, what happens when rules collide? For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit.

There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are 'made in the image of God' which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances.

So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? The five Cs bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

Clarify the facts and key questions.

Consider our choices: what could we achieve?

Constraints:

External - what must we do?;
Internal - how should we behave?
Compare the pros and consof each approach.

Choose what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His Word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes - so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

God in Music: 'Glorious the song when God's the theme': Allegri's Miserere

The Rev Michael Burgess continues a year-long series looking at great works of Christian music.

In the 1980s thanks to Godfrey Smith, a columnist for The Sunday Times, there was a series of letters about particular pieces of music that have the TQ –the Tingle Quotient. As we listen, the music sends a shiver of excitement up and down the spine and opens out for us a new world of beauty and wonder.

The letters started with a novelist writing about his travels across the Sahara. In moments of desolation and loneliness he would think of music that meant the most to him and which he thought he might never hear again. Then a schoolmaster in Rochesterwrote of a production of 'Romeo and Juliet' where the funeral scene virtually brought the house down. Juliet entered a darkened school hall, lit only by glimmering candles with music sung that brought the audience to tears.

For both novelist and schoolmaster, the work that had that TQ factor was Allegri's Miserere. It provided consolation in the cold desert nights, and it created the impact in that production of Shakespeare's play. Other readers supplied their list of TQ music, and always the Miserere was in the top five. I suspect that this music strikes the TQ for many of you as well.

Why is it, I wonder? We can provide an answer by talking of the contrast between the plainsong sung by the men's voices and the responses from the choir that lead to that small group of solo voices where the treble or soprano reaches a high C and comes down the scale to the cadence. We can point to the intriguing history of this work for the setting by Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) was the exclusive possession of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. To copy

the music was a crime punishable by excommunication.

In spite of this, a 14-year-old Mozart heard the piece in 1770 and wrote it down from memory, paying another visit to verify some of the notes he had copied down. The Emperor, Leopold 1, the king of Portugal, persuaded the Pope to grant him a copy. When it was performed in his own imperial chapel, he was disappointed. He even thought the Pope had palmed him off with an inferior work. Then he realised that the beauty and magic of the music lay in its being sung in the Sistine Chapel where the plainsong and the high C cadences could ring out among the pillars and arches of that great building.

The Miserere, or Psalm51 is the heart-felt cry of the Church for mercy. As one of the penitential psalms, it is a very personal expression of sorrow for sin and a moving appeal to God for mercy and restoration.

In Allegri's setting that high C is reached as the individual acknowledges his sin, and again as he cries for mercy and finally as he proclaims that his tongue will sing of God's grace and righteousness. A single voice in the music scales the heights of heaven to represent all of us as we turn to God with that same awareness of sin, that same plea for mercy, and that same affirmation that we will then turn to God with thanksgiving and the offering of a humble and contrite heart.

And so with the psalmist and with Allegri, we can pray 'Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness.'



Connie Butterworth

On 17th March Richard Selby led a short service whilst Connie Butterworth's ashes were scattered on the Memorial Garden.



Connie had expressed a wish that she would be able to come back to the church she always loved.

A Camellia was planted in

her memory and placed next to the flower placed in memory of her close friend Jim.



Called to be Fools!

By Paul Hardingham

April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement. He had an influential role in the court, because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a 'fool for Christ' (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

A foolish message:

'For the message of the crossis foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.' (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Crossof Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

A foolish community:

'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'(1:27). The churchin Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful.God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

A foolish ministry:

'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.' (2:4,5). Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

'A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.' (William Shakespeare).

THE EQUIP SERIES



TUE 12MARCH
WED 17APRIL
THU 16MAY
MON 10 JUNE
TUE 16 JULY
WED 14 AUGUST
2024

MONTHLY
ONLINE EVENTS

HOSTED ON ZOON

7.30 - 8.30PN

(ARRIVE FROM 7.20PM FOR A 7.30PM START)

Come along to these information evenings and be equipped as we move towards the launch of the North West England District These evenings will include:

- Devotions
- An update from each sub group, to increase our knowledge and understanding of how the new district will look and fee
- Q and A session

These events will run on a monthly basis, and you are invited to attend any/all of these sessions. To Join

https://zoom.us/j/94658927054

pwd=ZmNKUGI3SWdIeXJsckZyZW5tT3MrZz0

(Meeting ID:946 5892 7054 Passcode: 125750

To access via phone dial 0203 4815237 or 0203 4815240 and follow prompts.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE EMAIL NWEDCOMMUNICATION@OUTLOOK.COM

NWED LAUNCH EVENT

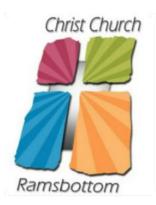
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This event is an opportunity to celebrate as five districts become one, to form the North West England District. Starting at 230pm, the event will include the welcome service for Rev. Dr. James Tebbutt, our District Chair (subject to Methodist Conference), and will also welcome the wider District Team. The President of Conference will be preaching, along with the Vice-President and Secretary of Conference in attendance.

April Prayer Diary

Please take time each day to pray for the event or the person mentioned in the diary. If you are unsure what to pray or are unsure who the people are, then simply pray that God might bless them and keep them safe.



Monday	1	Edith
Tuesday	2	Gina & Jake
Wednesday	3	Slimming World as they use our building
Thursday	4	Barbara & Michael
Friday	5	Pray for the street where you live
Saturday	6	Margaret
Sunday	7	Our Servicetoday led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	8	For those attending Pilates within our building
Tuesday	9	For the work of Rammy Pantry
Wednesday	10	Joan S.
Thursday	11	For our Drop-In Cafe
Friday	12	Jean
Saturday	13	For a successfulCommunity Cafe in aid of Stubbins Primary School
Sunday	14	Our Servicetoday led by Susan Applegate

Monday	15	For Messy Play as they use our building
Tuesday	16	Elaine
Wednesday	17	Little Stars
Thursday	18	Recorded Music Society as they use our building
Friday	19	Sue & Lynn
Saturday	20	Baby Ballet as they use our building
Sunday	21	Our Servicetoday led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	22	Debbie, Chris, Zach, Connor, & Sophia-Mai
Tuesday	23	Jo Jingles as they use our building
Wednesday	24	Susan
Thursday	25	Rammy Pantry Clients
Friday	26	For Street Pastors, Bury
Saturday	27	For those who live in the Great Eaves Area
Sunday	28	Our Service today led by Rev. Stephen Crook
Monday	29	Steve & Diana
Tuesday	30	For those who are struggling and waiting for life to change

Christ Church Ramsbottom



Saturday Coffee Momings for Charity 9.30am - 12.30pm

February-May 2024

Date Charity Amt Raised

February 3rd Boaz Trust £160

March 2nd Red Nose Day £200

April 13th Stubbins Primary School

May 4th Christian Aid



Sudoku

Sudoku is a number puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The object is to place the numbers 1-9 in the empty squares so that each row, column, and 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

2			6				3	
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© 2008 KrazyDad.com

CROSSWORD

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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 Philippians (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 sonswill prepare for war and —a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)

- 4 'Let not the —stringhis bow' (Jeremiah 51:3)
- 5 Name of the RiverThames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity ——himover' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful ——overGod'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 and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him ——ofbroiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we ——andthrew I 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)

WORDSEARCH



St George of the Golden Legend

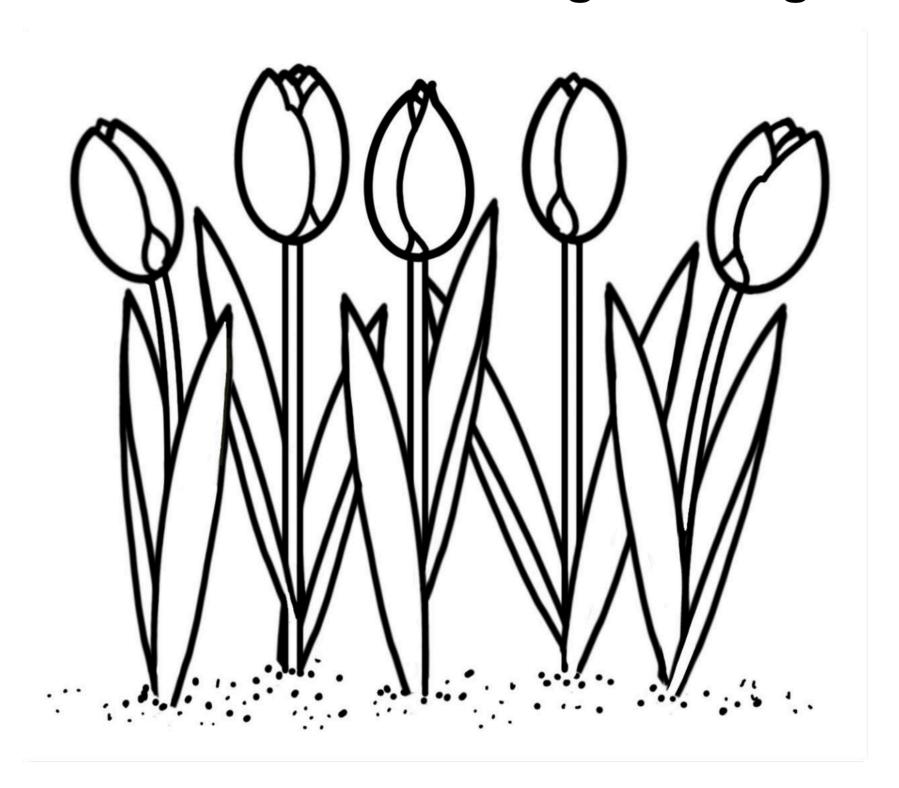
St George is Patron Saint of England, but he never actually came here. He was a Christian officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror. George was therefore martyred in Palestine about 300 AD. His courage became legendary, and St George became the example 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 rescuethe people of Sylene in Lybia 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.

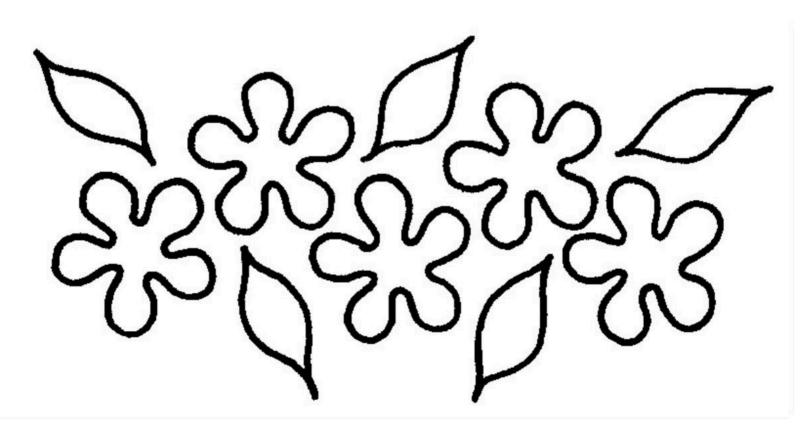
Princess

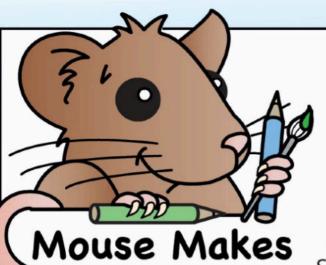
converted

George	Roman	Palestine	Soldier
Patron	Army	Courage	Hero
Saint	Diocletian	Example	Golden
England	Terror	Helper	Legend
Officer	Martyred	Evil	Dragon

Mindfulness Colouring for all ages







How many times

had the risen Jesus

revealed himself to the

Read

John 21:14

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!"

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

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



RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS Colour in all the fish

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Puzzle Answers

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Sudoku Easy

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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

Sudoku Medium

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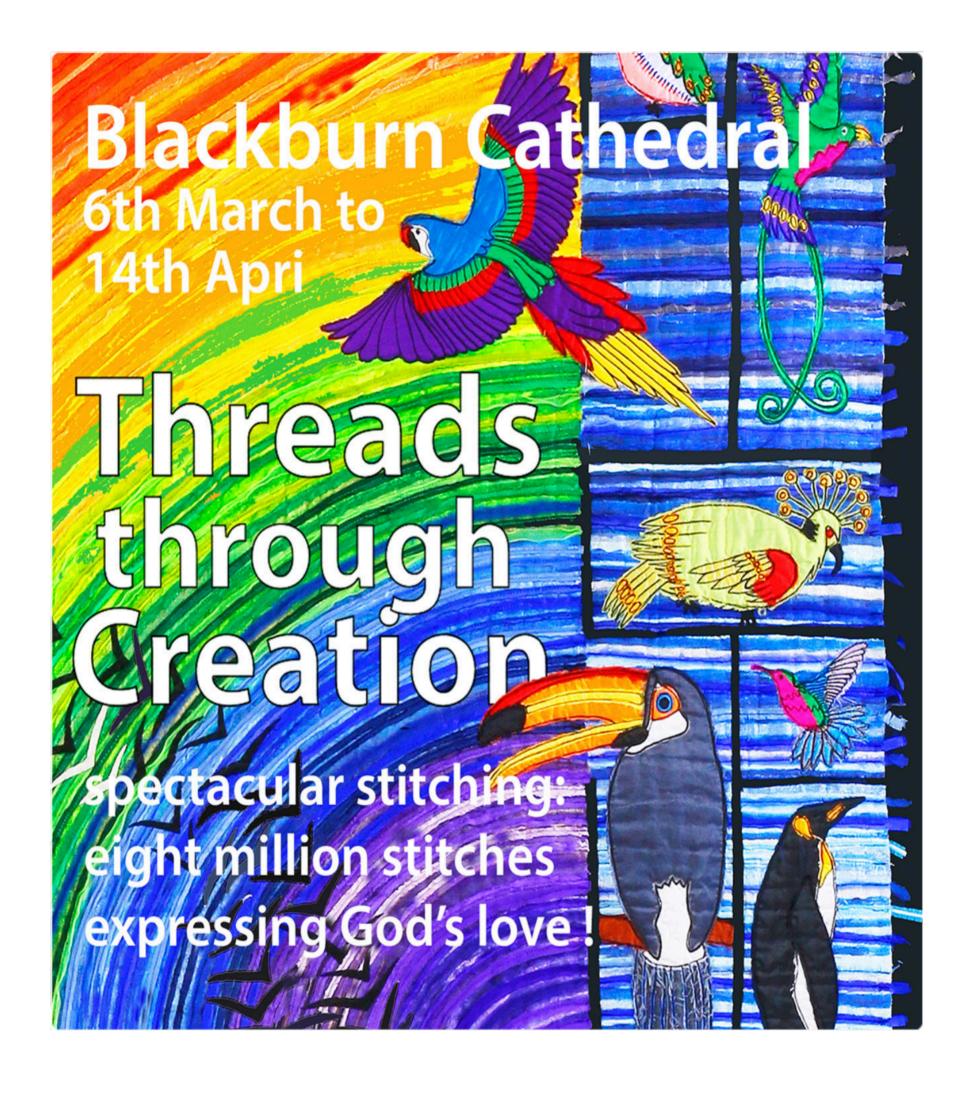
April Rotas

	Sundays											
2024	Chairs Opening up Door Closing		Closing	Vestry	Refreshments	Communio n						
7th Apr	Joan & Bill	Joan & Bill	Julie	Joan & Bill	Joan H.	Joan & Bill						
14th Apr	Diana & Steve	Diana & Steve	Steve	Diana & Steve	Bill	Diana & Steve						
21st Apr	Louise & John	Louise & John	John	Louise & John	Susan	Louise & John	Joan & Bill					
28th Apr	Susan & Joan H.	Susan	Tom	Susan	Joan R.	Joan H. & Lesley						

Thursday Drop in Café								
2024	9am	9am	Baker1	Baker2	11.45-1.30p m	12-1.30pm		
	Set up 1	Set up 2	2 x cakes	X cakes	Help with washing up	Help to close1	Help to close 2	
4th April	Joan H.	Julie	Joan H.	Joan H.	Joan H.	Stephen	Joan H.	
11th April	Susan	Julie	Judith	Judith			Susan	
18th April	Susan	Julie	Joan R.	Louise		Stephen	Susan	
25th April	Susan	Julie	Diana	Diana			Susan	

Little Stars						
Date	Lead	Helper 1	Helper 2	Kitchen		
17th April	Louise	Judith	Carol	Julie		
24th April	Judith	Louise	Carol	Joan H		
1st May	Louise	Judith	Carol	Lesley		

Junior Church					
14th April	Louise	Joan H.			
21st April	Diana	Judith C.			
28th April	Louise	Julie			



Christ Church Officials

Pastor: Stephen Crook <u>minister@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk</u>

Tel:07795432996

Church Secretary: SusanApplegate <u>secretary@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk</u>

Tel:07814173027

Church Treasurer: John Leyland <u>treasurer@christchurch-ramsbottom.co.uk</u>

Tel:01706 827253

Church Telephone: 01706 821803