



GREASBROUGH UNITED CHURCH

April 2018

April's Fool

April Fool's Day – a time for playing practical jokes on people, until noon that is! It's also Easter. The last time Easter fell on April Fool's Day was in 1956. The next time will be in 2029.

On April Fool's Day 1957 by the BBC Panorama programme ran a hoax story showing a family in southern Switzerland harvesting spaghetti from the family "spaghetti tree". At the time spaghetti was relatively unknown in the UK, so many people didn't know that it's made from flour and water. In fact, a number of viewers contacted the BBC for advice on growing their own spaghetti trees!

People said Jesus was a fool. Crowds were coming to hear his message about God's love. Sick and crippled people came to him to be healed. The Pharisees and teachers of the Law were shocked by his disrespect for their religious laws and traditions. They couldn't understand him; so they plotted to dispose of him quickly and quietly. They handed him over to the Romans to be crucified.

But the ultimate foolishness was yet to come. A few days later his followers claimed he had risen from the dead. They said they had seen him, spoken to him, eaten with him. A dead man, a dead messiah – living!

Talk about spaghetti trees and April Fools. Only a fool would believe that a dead man had come alive again. Jesus' followers were bigger fools than Jesus.

And that's right, Jesus does seem a fool and those who believe in him now appear even bigger fools. How can a man dying 2,000 years ago forgive our sin in 2018? How can a man claim to be God who created the world?

Paul said: *The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.* (1 Corinthians 1: 18)

Happy Easter!

Phil



News

Hello my friends, may I take this opportunity to wish you all the Blessings of Easter, remembering our Saviour Jesus Christ gave his life for each and everyone of us.

We all pray that our friends and family and those friends that we have not met yet will come to know Christ as their own Lord and Saviour, to become a member of his loving family.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Simon and three of the elders went to Bolton Villas church on Saturday 24th March for a follow-up to the LYCIG (Leading your Church into growth) conference that a few of us attended some while ago.

The emphasis was firmly placed on prayer to God to lead us and that we walk a close path with him. If this is done in our church, it will lead naturally into servanthood and in time this will ultimately lead to a growth in our church membership.

I pray that we may all play a part in the future of our church.

Jean

Prayer this month

We ask that you pray, at this Eastertime, that those within our community may know Jesus as their risen Saviour and Lord.

An Easter Promise

*If we but had the eyes to see
God's face in every cloud,
If we but had the ears to hear
His voice above the crowd,
If we could feel His gentle touch
In every Springtime breeze
And find a haven in His arms
'Neath sheltering, leafy trees...
If we could just lift up our hearts
Like flowers to the sun
And trust His **Easter Promise**
And Pray, "**Thy Will Be Done**",
We'd find the peace we're seeking,
The kind no man can give,
The peace that comes from knowing
He Died So We Might Live!*

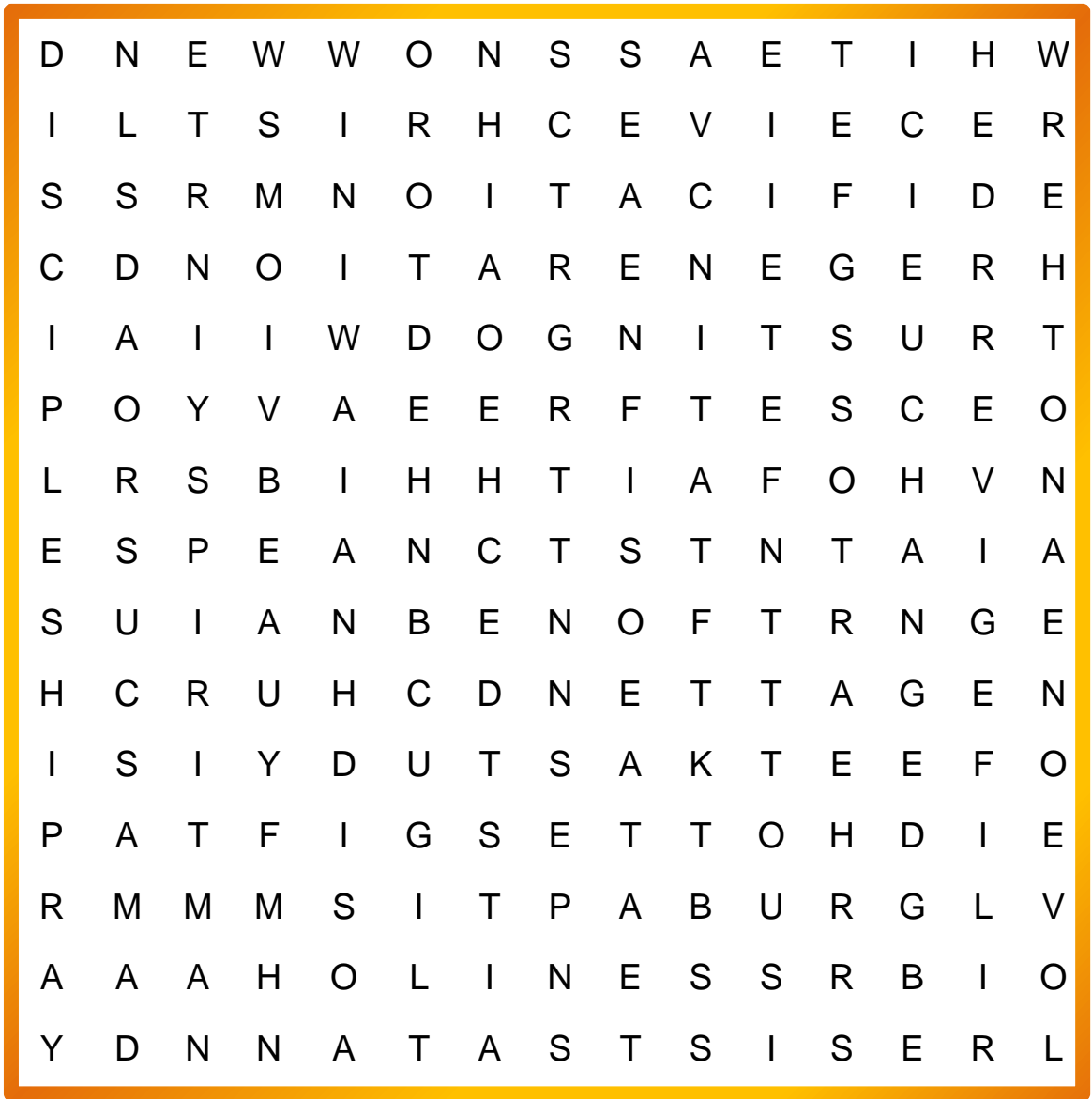
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

Helen Steiner Rice

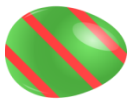


WORDSEARCH



New Life

Find these words in the grid above. The words may be in any direction – forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards or diagonal. After you have found all the words, use the leftover letters to form a mystery answer.



Answer: _____



Attend Church
Baby
Baptism
Broken Chains
Changed
Confession
Damascus Road
Discipleship
Divine Nature

Edification
Faith
Gift
Heart
Holiness
Life Giver
Light to the World
Love One Another
Pray

Receive Christ
Regeneration
Resist Satan
Set Free
Spirit Man
Study
Trust in God
White as Snow

I was there

I just couldn't believe it
My friend, going to the Cross
He didn't deserve to be punished
No gain but so much loss.

They beat Him until He was bleeding
They questioned Him all through the night
What could I do to help Him?
I felt helpless, this just wasn't right.

With heart in my mouth I just followed
As they led Him to Calvary's hill
The crowds did yell and abuse Him
No mercy, they wanted a kill

I watched as He hung there in sorrow
His mother, how did she feel?
He'd been such a wonderful teacher
What was happening was surely unreal.

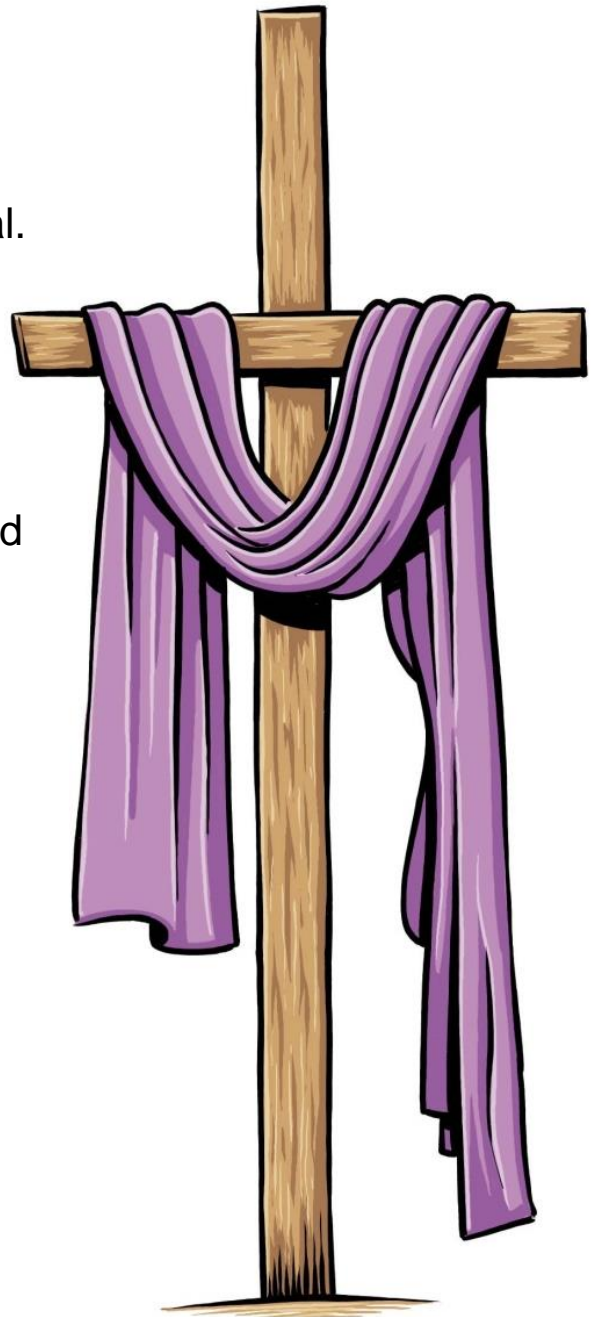
At last He cried out 'it is finished'
His life simply drifted away
The future seemed so uncertain
For me there's no reason to stay.

Then down from the cross He was lifted
He was laid in a borrowed tomb
The crowds to their homes now drifted
For me all was doom and gloom.

I felt so forlorn and empty
I just didn't know what to do
So I went in search of the others
They too were all feeling blue.

Then early next morning it happened
Right at the break of day
He's alive, He's alive, He is risen
He's back to show us The Way.

Patricia Critchlow



**Hands that flung
stars into space,
to cruel nails
surrendered.**



**"I MUST SAY, I AWAIT YOUR EASTER MESSAGE
WITH ANTICIPATION, TREVOR..."**

Sunday Services

Held at 10.30am every Sunday.

Preachers

1 st Apr	John Haycox
8 th Apr	Rev Barbara Savage
15 th Apr	Alan Taylor
22 nd Apr	Rev Simon Copley
29 th Apr	Pat Critchlow
6 th May	Judith Garthwaite

Friendship Group

Held at 2.00pm every Wednesday.

Speakers

4 th Apr	Karen Dunn
11 th Apr	Wayne Ashton
18 th Apr	Rev Lynn Broadhead
25 th Apr	Rev Simon Copley
2 nd May	Alan Taylor

What's on

Care home services –
19th Apr @ 2.00pm

Social event –
23rd Apr @ 6.30pm

Church Meeting –
26th Apr @ 7.00pm

Bible study and prayer group

These are held at 34 Green Street on Tuesday mornings at 10.00am and are a valuable time of learning and sharing God's Word. It is a very relaxed gathering and all are welcome.

Contact us

If you would like to know anything about the church please contact:

- Rev Simon Copley (01709 814471)
- Phil Critchlow (01709 555704)

Email: Greasbrough.United.Church@sky.com

Website: www.greasbroughunitedchurch.org.uk

Meet the disciples: Philip

Like Peter and Andrew, Philip was a native of Bethsaida on Lake Galilee. The likelihood is that he, too, was a fisherman. He also was among those surrounding John the Baptist when the latter first pointed out Jesus.

On the day after Peter's call, when about to set out for Galilee, Jesus met Philip and called him as a disciple with the words, "*Follow me*". Philip obeyed the call, and a little later brought Nathaniel to Jesus.

Philip is only mentioned in passing in Matthew, Mark and Luke's Gospels. The Gospel of John goes into more detail about him.

In the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus tested Philip by asking him where they could buy bread for so many people. Limited by his earthbound experience, Philip replied that eight months' wages would not be enough to buy each person one bite.

Later he appears as a link to the Greek community. Philip bore a Greek name, may have spoken Greek, and may have been known to the Greek pilgrims in Jerusalem. He advises Andrew that certain Greeks wish to meet Jesus, and together they inform Jesus of this.

During the Last Supper, after Jesus spoke about knowing and seeing the Father, it was Philip who said, "*Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.*" Jesus said, "*Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?*"

Stories about Philip's life after the resurrection can be found in the anonymous *Acts of Philip*, probably written by a contemporary of Eusebius. This book recounts the preaching and miracles of Philip. Following the resurrection of Jesus, Philip was sent with his sister Mariamne and Bartholomew to preach in Greece, Phrygia, and Syria.

Included in the *Acts of Philip* is an appendix which gives an account of Philip's martyrdom in the city of Hierapolis. According to this account, through a miraculous healing and his preaching Philip converted the wife of the proconsul of the city. This enraged the proconsul, and he had Philip, Bartholomew, and Mariamne all tortured. Philip and Bartholomew were then crucified upside down, and Philip preached from his cross. As a result of Philip's preaching the crowd released Bartholomew from his cross, but Philip insisted that they not release him, and Philip died on the cross.

