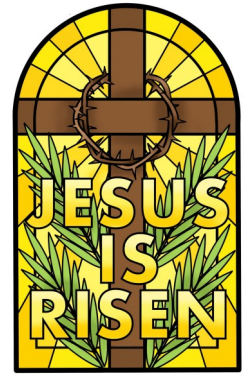


Stockport Sunday School

April 2026 Newsletter 70



If you were asked 'What is the most important event in the Christian Calendar?', what would your response be?

Most people would probably say Christmas, - it is certainly the one most popularly observed.

But if you are a churchgoer, the answer should really be Easter Sunday, the day we celebrate Christ's Resurrection from the dead. Without that event, Jesus would probably only be remembered as a notable Jewish prophet, as He is indeed recognised by the Muslim faith.

Nevertheless, for our Easter Service this year, the order for our worship was based on our traditional Christmas Day format, consisting of Hymns together with relevant Bible readings covering the events of Holy Week, following Jesus entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

The four writers of the Gospels have much in common in their narratives. But they address the events from different viewpoints.

So, in reading the various versions together, it was interesting to see what events the writers considered were significant, or which might prompt us to pause for thought.

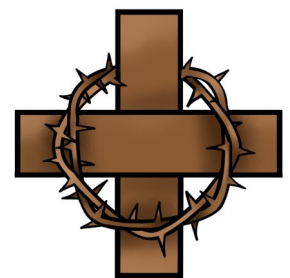


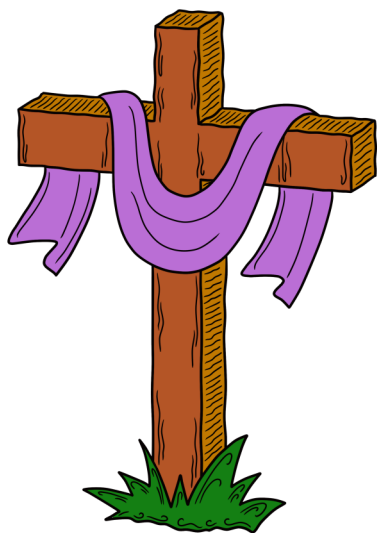
Palm Sunday of course was notable for the hero's welcome the people gave to Jesus, believing He had come to save them from the oppression of Roman rule and that of their own religious authorities. Yet five days later, the crowds were demanding Jesus be crucified!

Why? Well perhaps we only need to look at present day events in Iran to appreciate the situation more fully

When the Iranian people went out on to the streets, like the Palm Sunday crowds, they were hoping for a change in the governing regime, - freedom from the oppressive rule of their religious leaders.

The Iranian government response was immediate and devastating, with thousands of people being killed by the government forces. Then, in later days there were demonstrations taking place in Tehran in support of the government crackdown. Some were supporters of the government response, others probably just fearful of a total breakdown of law and order.





This was the kind of situation facing the Jewish authorities in Jesus time. He was seen by the Sanhedrin, the ruling Jewish religious leaders, as usurping their authority, and even worse, He was claiming to be the Son of God, the long awaited Messiah. Blasphemy in their eyes!

In response, Caiaphas, the High priest, declared that the death of one man was necessary and justified, to save the death of many. Is it possible he was motivated by concern for the safety of the population? Or more likely, was he just ensuring the Sanhedrin's authority and his position as High priest.

Ironically, his words, if not his thinking, were in fact correct. Jesus did die, but to save all mankind, not just the Jewish

hierarchy in a time of potential unrest.

Another incident which had significance was when one of the two convicted criminals being crucified with Jesus, hurled insults at Him.

But the other man rebukes him, accepting that they deserved their punishment. In effect repenting of his past sins. He then asks Jesus to remember him when He comes into His kingdom, to which Jesus replies 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.' The first receiver of Jesus saving grace !

And then the Resurrection. The account in Luke's Gospel of Jesus appearing to Mary is, I feel, one of the most moving moments in the Bible. She had been a faithful follower of Jesus since He had cast out the demons who had been governing her life. That she, a humble woman, would be the first person to encounter the risen Christ was surely a message that all people are of the same status in the eyes of God, whatever their standing in society



Something particularly relevant now we have a woman as our new Archbishop of Canterbury!



These Biblical events took place nearly two thousand years ago.

So what is the message for us in our day and age.

Well, the evils of oppression , desire for power and privilege still exist in a fallen world. As followers of Jesus, we are called to oppose them where we can; to speak out for what is right and true to our Lord's teaching.

The Installation of Archbishop Sarah took place on the day when the church celebrates the feast of the Annunciation - when the Angel Gabriel tells Mary she is to be the mother of Jesus.

Mary accepts her role with the words 'Here I am.'

And it was with those words that the new Archbishop Sarah accepted her responsibilities as the leader of her church, as she has done at other important stages of her life.

We don't aspire to such a demanding role in our own journeys of faith, but we do sometimes face challenges in our own lives where we have to show we are on the Lord's side.

May we do it faithfully and confidently, trusting in God's supporting grace.

And so, at this special day in the year, let us once again celebrate the rising of our Lord Jesus with joy and thanksgiving and a renewed commitment to serve God our Father in whatever way He calls us to do.

With best wishes from the SSS Officials to one and all for a very Happy Eastertide!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday wishes this month to:-

Beryl Manley - 12th April

and

Judith Hadfield - 2nd May

DON CURRY

We were very sorry to learn of the passing of Don Curry.

He and Judith met at Heaviley Sunday School when a friend invited Don to join, especially the Youth Club and the Cricket Club. They both sang in the choir, the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and took part in the pantomimes. Eventually they became joint leaders of the Primary Department. Don also became Captain of the School's Tennis Team. A keen sportsman throughout his life, other sports he enjoyed included hockey and bowling.



Although not a weekly attender at Compass Point, he would attend special services and was extremely supportive of Judith in all her activities for the School. For example, at Sunday School Rose Fête At Homes he would run games for the children to enjoy.

In later years, he and Judith took on the role of running the Christmas Fair, which involved a lot of work behind the scenes for months in advance, that people did not see, to ensure the smooth running of the fair on the day. He would plan out where everyone's stall would be and produced signage to direct visitors and for above the stalls.

Judith and Don had two children, who were both scholars of the School, Helen who very sadly passed away a few years ago, and Jeffrey, who also supported his mum and dad at the fair and their work for the School.

Don's funeral will be held on 21st April at the Rowan Chapel at 11.30: Judith, Jeffrey and all their family are in our thoughts and prayers during this extremely sad time.

KNIT 'N NATTER SPRING FAIR

The Knit and Natter group held their Spring Fair on Tuesday March 31st from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. As always, it was well attended and raised over £830, with possibly more donations still to come in. This year the event was held in aid of Stockport MIND, a local mental health charity which provides support and information for individuals and their families when they are experiencing mental distress. In a time when the NHS is stretched to it's limits providing care for people, this is a very much needed charity. Well done ladies and gentleman for all your hard work in putting on the fair.



It is His long-term policy, I fear, to restore to them a new kind of self-love - a charity and gratitude for all selves including their own; when they have really learned to love their neighbours as themselves, they will be allowed to love themselves as their neighbours. - *CS Lewis*

Be simple; take our Lord's hand and walk through things. - *Fr Andrew SDC*



SERVICES



SUNDAY 8TH MARCH

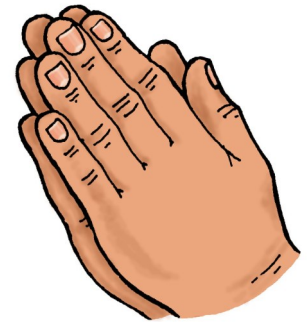
Margaret Forster had planned this service with reference to the 2025 World Day of Prayer service.



Margaret and Joyce Darvil led the service. The Bible reading was Psalm 139 verses 1-6.

Cath Brown, Judith Hadfield and Wendy Hill read the stories of three women and how God worked through their lives and work.

The hymns were 'Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace', 'God Moves In A Mysterious Way', 'Praise To The Lord, The Almighty' and 'The Day Thou Gavest'.



We sat in a circle for the service and everyone agreed that this was a good way to share our worship, we also discussed whether we should move our Sunday Services to the Lounge.

Thank you, Margaret, for arranging this interesting service and also to all those who took part.

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026, MOTHERING SUNDAY

Walter welcomed Shiela Hulme, our speaker for this special service.

Shiela began her address by listing some of the many jobs a mother undertakes for her children; teacher, helper, friend, comforter, cleaner, provider of clean clothes, all things we take for granted.



Sheila has been following the TV series, Our Yorkshire Farm, and she told us about the farmer's wife, Amanda. Apart from helping her husband run their large farm, she was also a wonderful mother to their nine children. She always had time to listen to them and answer their questions, to care for them and to teach them.



One day she had taken them into a barn to show them a barn owl and told them all about it. Back in the house she had taken out a book so they could read about it. Every day she talked to them and

taught them in a way that made learning fun.

All the children had jobs to do on the farm, even the youngest fed the chickens and collected the eggs and they cared for each other and their mother cared for them. Her training had helped her eldest daughter at 15 get a place at university to study medicine and her eldest son to run his own business.

In another story, Sheila told us how a son, away from home at university is with little money, wanted to send his mum a special gift. He couldn't afford a floral bouquet, but he knew his mother's favourite flowers were daffodils. So, he packed some in a box wrapped in moist paper and posted them. When they arrived, they were dead, but his mother knew they had been sent with love, so she put them on display in her bedroom. She was prouder of them than her neighbour's expensive flowers from a florist.



Thank you, Sheila, for such a meaningful service. At the end of the service everyone present received a bunch of daffodils. Thanks to Cath Brown for preparing them.

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2026

Walter Stead has always been interested in singing and has sung in many choirs. When he was at Primary School, he joined the Maia choir's teaching scheme.



This afternoon, he spoke about Handel's Messiah. Handel wrote the music but the text was written by Charles Jennens, based on biblical references to the life of Jesus.

It was first performed in front of King George II in 1742.

Walter played some of the music from The Messiah' relating to Lent and Jesus' ministry and passion.

The first piece was 'Behold the Lamb of God' based on John chapter 1 verses 19-34, Jesus baptism.

The second 2 pieces refer to the Old Testament prophecy in Isaiah chapter 53 verses 3-6.

He is despised.

The reading of Psalm 68 verses 11 and 12 in which the psalmist is celebrating a military triumph.

The piece, 'The Lord Gave The Word', is a short lively piece from 'The Messiah.'

The next reading from Revelation chapter 19 verses 4-7 - 'Let Us Rejoice And Be Glad And Give Him Glory.'

These words led to what is probably the most well-known part of 'The Messiah', 'The Hallelujah Chorus.'

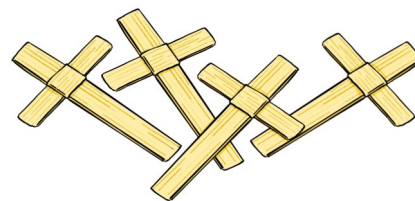
Thank you, Walter, for this musical service, explaining which part of the Bible the various parts of the Bible 'The Messiah' is based on.



SUNDAY 29TH MARCH, PALM SUNDAY

Judith Higgins led the worship today for Palm Sunday. She reminded us that Palm Sunday marks the start of Holy week taking us through to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

Judith explained that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey on Good Friday, a symbol of humility, as opposed to riding on a camel which only the rich did and horses which were associated with war, conquest and oppression. Palms were used as they symbolised victory and reverence, in ancient culture they were used to honour royalty and heroes.



During the service, she showed us how to make a cross using paper. Everyone had a go at making one using instructions Judith put up on the screen. She explained that palm branches were used in the early church, especially on Palm Sunday and that it was probably in the eighth century that the palm crosses started to be woven and symbolises the last week of Jesus's life, his triumphant entry into Jerusalem up to the death of Jesus on the cross. She explained that the Palm Cross project was started in 1965 by Rev Alan Talbot who as an ordained priest who from 1963 worked in a remote area of the

Masasi Diocese in southern Tanzania. He learned from two English botanists that the reeds growing round the village were in fact palm and he saw that it could be a way of the villagers making extra money to supplement the work they did with farming by making the palm crosses. The money raised would later also fund education and health projects. He sent the crosses back to friends to sell and they became popular that more had to be sent. Although he returned to the UK in 1969 but the project continued right until today where the crosses are sold right around the world.

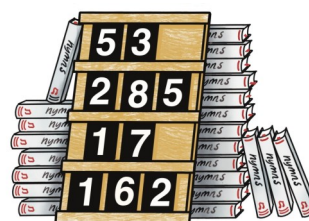


take away.

At the end of the service, everyone was given a palm cross to

SERVICES

5 th April	No service
12 th April	Walter Stead
19 th April	Judith Higgins
26 th April	Walter Stead
3 rd May	Judith Higgins



THINKING OF YOU

As always, those members who are unable to attend our services or who have been ill or in hospital, are in our thoughts and prayers.

LANCASHIRE HILL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Recipe

Finnish salmon soup

Serves 4

- 1 tbsp butter*
- 1 leek, thinly sliced*
- 1 litre of fish or vegetable stock*
- 3 medium potatoes, diced*
- 2 large carrots, sliced into thin rounds*
- 200ml single cream or milk*
- 400g salmon fillet, skinned and cut into chunks*
- Large handful of dill, chopped*
- ½ lemon, juiced, plus extra wedges to serve*



Melt the butter in a large pan over a medium heat and cook the leek for 5 mins until soft and fragrant but don't let it brown.

Pour in the stock, toss in the potatoes and carrots, and bring to a simmer. Cook for 10-12 mins until the potatoes are just tender.

Pour in the cream or milk, then tip in the salmon and poach for 5-6 mins over a low heat until just cooked through and flaking.

Taste and adjust the seasoning as required, then add the dill. Squeeze over the lemon, then serve with extra lemon wedges.



Tomorrow's history has already been written... at the name of Jesus every knee must bow.

- Paul E Kauffman

Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.

- Anon

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord.

- Anon

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point.

- Anon

"A TIPSY TEACHER!"

Having been a Primary School teacher for 30 years, I have dozens of memories tucked away in my 'Memory Box.' I hope that you enjoy this one.

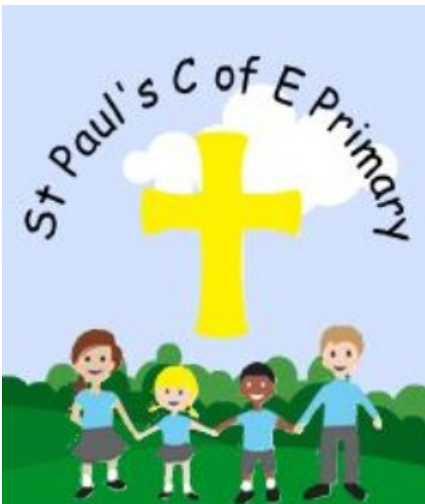
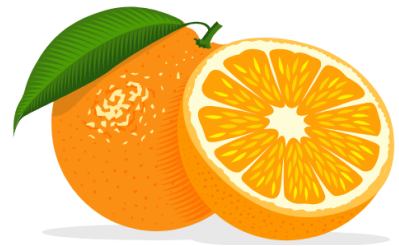
For many years, when I was teaching at St Paul's Brinnington Rise, I used to cycle from Heaviley each day. It was certainly a lot quieter than it is today, but was a very stiff climb up Brinnington Rise. Our caretaker was Mr Pointon and was a very useful and important part of St Paul's Infants. When I arrived at school each morning, very breathless from the climb up the steep hill, he would appear with a cheerful, "Hello, Miss Morris, I'll put your bike down the cellar for you". It was whisked away safely, much to my relief!



When I was ready to go home, Mr P would appear as if by magic, carrying my bike and presenting it to me with a big smile and "Here you are, Miss Morris. Safe journey." What a very helpful man!

Years later, when Mr Pointon was retiring, the school was giving him a little farewell party in the evening, and as Mr P was providing the drinks, he asked us all about our favourite one.

In those days, on special occasions, I used to enjoy a rum and orange with lots of orange and a very small amount of rum. Imagine my horror, when at the party, Mr P presented me with a tumbler two thirds full of rum and told me that he hoped that I would enjoy it. There was no orange to be seen!



I spent the rest of the evening after one or two tiny sips, looking for a potted plant or suitable place where I could deposit this drink, un-noticed. I eventually managed to place it unobtrusively under a chair, which was lucky, as later, Mr P announced, "And now I'm going to ask Miss Morris to entertain us with a song."

I don't know what kind of song it would have been had I drunk the offered rum before I started to sing!!

Thank you, anyway, Mr Pointon, for all your kindness, help with my bike and for keeping our school so immaculate. A special memory to share.

Margaret Morris Jones

It costs to follow Jesus Christ, but it costs more not to. - Anon

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it. -Anon

26TH APRIL: MARK, DISCIPLE, APOSTLE, WRITER OF THE SECOND GOSPEL

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.



Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion, and is much in evidence in Venice.



QUEEN ELIZABETH II 100TH BIRTHDAY

On 21st April 2026 Queen Elizabeth II would have been 100 years old. Sadly she passed away on 8th September 2022 at the age of 96. As a much loved Queen and becoming the longest reigning monarch in British history she is the only monarch that most people had known until King Charles III took the throne. The royal family will be marking what would have been her special birthday by a series of events, ranging from an exhibition of many of her outfits from throughout the years at Buckingham Palace, Queen Elizabeth II Garden in Regent's Park will be opened by the Princess Royal, centenarians who share the same birthday as the Queen will receive a special birthday card and some will attend a garden party held by the King and Queen.



SMILE LINES

Nice

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.



Fake?

"The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never be sure they are genuine." - Winston Churchill.

Cured

A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."



Sidesman

Sidesman to newcomer at church door: "Good morning. How far down do you wish to sit?"

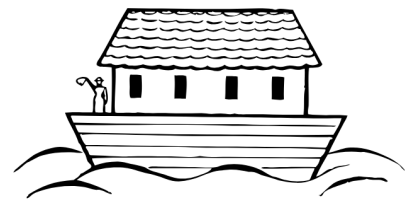
Baffled newcomer: "Well, all the way, of course."

Family pride

"Yes," boasted the woman to the visiting American priest, "my family can trace its ancestry back to William the Conqueror."

"I suppose," said the American, "You'll be telling me next that your ancestors were in the Ark with Noah."

"Certainly not. My people had a bigger boat of their own."



Stargazing

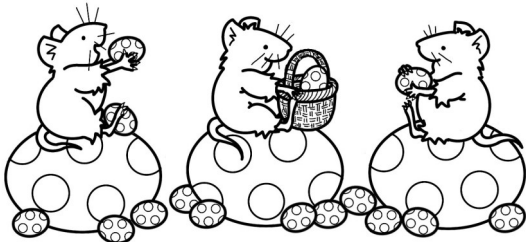
I can see how astronomers figure out the distance of the stars and their size and temperatures and all that. What really gets me is how they find out what their names are!

PUZZLES

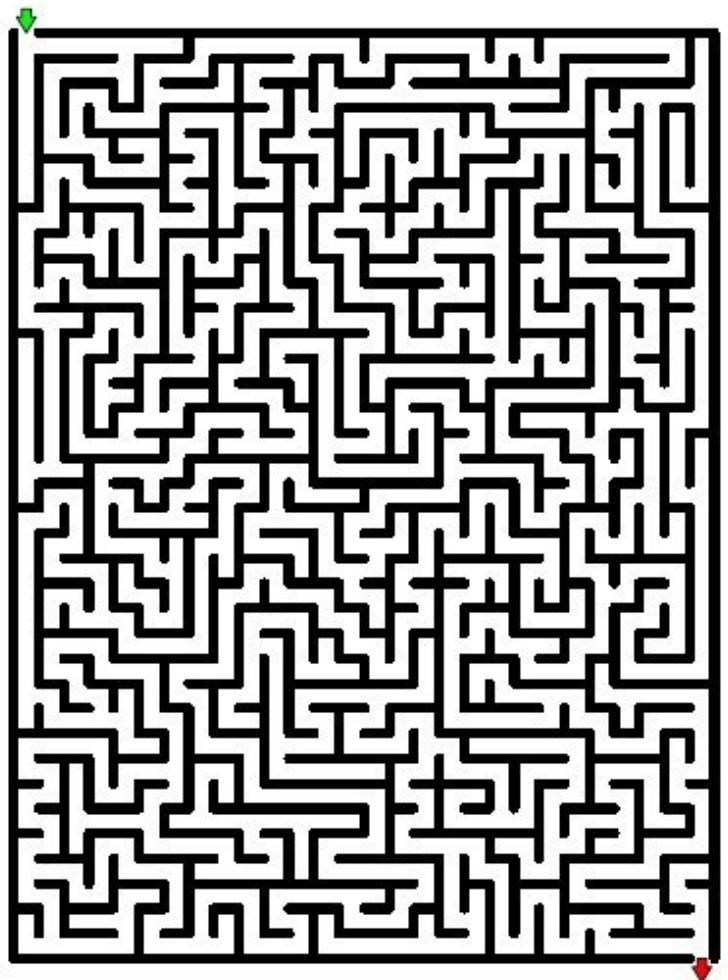
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Sudoku



Can you find your way safely around the maze, starting from the green arrow and exiting at the red arrow?



WORDSEARCH

Even as **JESUS ATE** that **LAST PASSOVER MEAL** with his **DISCIPLES**, he **WARNED** them he was about to be **BETRAYED**. He took the **BREAD**, **BLESSED** it, broke it and gave it to them; he took the cup of **WINE**, gave **THANKS**, and gave it to them to **DRINK**. The Old Covenant, based on **LAW**, was ticking away its final hours; the New **COVENANT**, based on Christ's **BODY** and his **BLOOD**, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in **GETHSEMANE** that this fearful **CUP** might be **REMOVED** from him, but even more, that God's **WILL** might be done. And it was. From **EASTER** onwards we can only **APPROACH GOD** through his Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.

Can you find the words shown in bold capitals above in the grid?
They can be found in any direction.



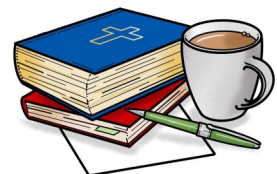
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A QUIZ FOR EASTER

(This is based on Matthew 27)

Questions

1. Who planned to have Jesus executed?
2. To whom did they go for help to 'catch' Him?
3. What did they give in return for Jesus?
4. What did they do with Jesus?
5. What did Judas do then?
6. What did the governor ask Jesus?
7. What was the name of the other prisoner?
8. Why did Pilate wash his hands?
9. Who helped Jesus carry His cross?
10. What was the written charge?
11. When did darkness come over the land?
12. What did Jesus cry to God?



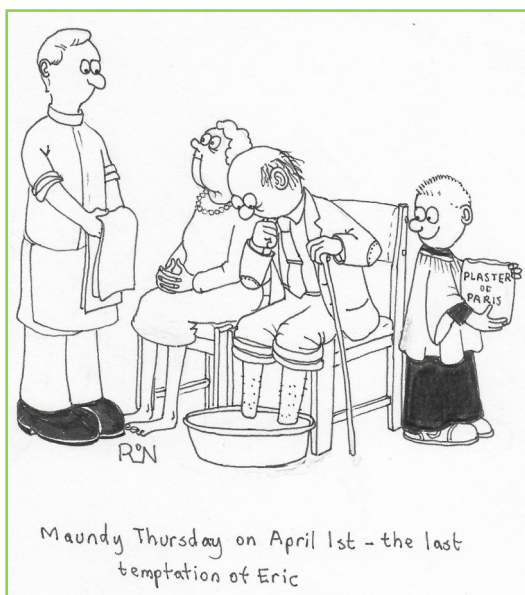
ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

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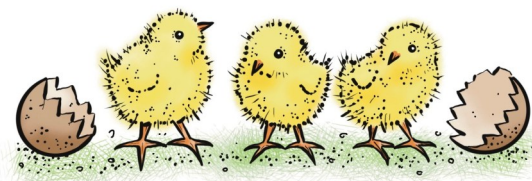
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SUDOKU ANSWERS



WORDSEARCH ANSWERS



Thank you to Parish Pump who provide some of the articles and artwork