


Contact

March 2023

A photograph of a bald eagle in flight against a clear blue sky. The eagle is shown from a side profile, with its wings fully extended, showing the intricate details of its feathers. Its head is turned slightly towards the right.

*But those who wait for the
LORD shall renew their
strength, they shall mount
up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be
weary, they shall walk and
not faint
Isaiah 40:30*

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Contact Information

Please take great care when sharing these contact details with other people. This information will not appear in the version of Contact on the church website.

Church Secretary	Christine Thomas	
Treasurer	Sally Leggat	
Premises	Malcolm Hooke	
Children and Youth Work	Chris Sharrock	
Pulpit Supply	David Crick	
Music	David Crick	
Notices	Christine & Tony Thomas	
Flowers	Kathy Smith	
Catering	Ann Martin	
Contact Magazine	David Crick	

Worship in March (10.45 am unless stated)

5 th Mar	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>Parade Service</i>)
12 th Mar	Mr Martin Gage
19 th Mar	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>Mothering Sunday also including Holy Communion</i>)
26 th Mar	Mr Steve Ward
2 nd Mar	Rev Andrew Mudharara (<i>Palm Sunday</i>)

*God is here! As we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*

Fred Pratt Green

Minister's Letter

Greetings to the Church that Jesus died for and is interceding for from the right hand of God. We are a precious people of God and God desires us to have a close personal relationship with Him. God's arms are always open for us to fall into them should we choose to be that close to God.

This period of Lent could be a helpful time for us to invest time in strengthening our relationship with God. It is important I feel, that we take personal responsibility for the growth of our personal relationship. As we are looking at working towards growing the Church, we need to prioritise developing our personal relationship with God. God wants to partner with us in the mission, therefore, it is paramount that we draw closer to Him so that when God speaks to us concerning the way we are to go, we will be able to hear clearly what He is saying to us.

We have to create spaces in our hearts and minds to spend time with God in conversations with Him. It has to be intentional. We have to give ourselves time to spend with God. I should admit that it is not always easy to do that but it is important that we discipline ourselves towards spending time with God in prayer, listening the Spirit and reading the Word of God. We are encouraged to "... eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it', so I ate it and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth" Ezekiel 3:3. We need to feed our spirits with the spiritual food of the word. This time of Lent would be the best to try to put in place a habit of reading the word and spending time reflecting on what God is saying to us as individuals and hopefully as a Church.

Prayer and fasting are important disciplines to have as Christians. The process helps us to discipline ourselves to spend some time with ourselves and God. I would like to encourage us a church to develop the discipline of prayer and fasting for the sake of strengthening our personal relationship with God if our health allows us to do so. If we cannot fast, we can still set aside some time to spend with God in prayer or conversations. We have to create that space,

God bless us all.

Andrew

News of the Family

Sylvia E – whose knee op was cancelled, now has a new date 27th February.

Betty L – is recovering from her procedure.

We continued to think of all those with on-going treatment and investigations and all our friends being cared for.

We also think of:

Annette D, Beryl (Julie's mum), Betty H, Dennis, Ethel, Ian S, Jan and Brian B, Jean C, Joan, John P, Joyce, Joyce and Arthur, Keith G, Keith H, Lily S, Nanette S, Nessa, Muriel, Paddy, Pat J, Ruth, Sue D, Sue T and Wendy.

We remember also those who we know, not in the public eye, in need or receiving medical treatment or struggling with day to day living. Please contact me if you or someone you know is in need of prayer and would like to go on the prayer list, respecting their privacy and seeking permission first.

Contact me by email or telephone.

Sue Saunders

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Congratulations to all those celebrating birthdays in March:

Lily L (on the 4th), Dave B (5th), Ann B (7th), Janet W (8th), Christine T (15th), Marion H (17th), Heather C (21st), Andrew M (23rd), Betty L (24th), and Jan B (26th).

Apologies to anyone we may have missed. Thanks to Kathy for maintaining these records. If we haven't got your information, please speak to Kathy.

The church exists primarily for two closely correlated purposes: to worship God and to work for his kingdom in the world ... The church also exists for a third purpose, which serves the other two: to encourage one another, to build one another up in faith, to pray with and for one another, to learn from one another and teach one another, and to set one another examples to follow, challenges to take up, and urgent tasks to perform. This is all part of what is known loosely as fellowship. NT (Tom) Wright

News from the Vine

Tuesday 2nd March is World Book Day (WBD). This is a day where all school children are given a £1.00 book voucher and books appear in most bookshops that are especially released for WBD that are sold for £1.00. As we are a specialist bookshop the WBD books are not relevant to us so instead we stock a small selection of regular sized books for just £1.00 each (with or without a voucher). There are some real bargains to be had for both children and adults so do come and have a look at our special display. This is a lovely chance to bless our customers with quality bargains!

Fairtrade Fortnight begins on Monday 27th February and runs till Saturday 11th March. The focus this year is on the effect climate change is having on crops that we rely on like cocoa, bananas and coffee and how buying fair-trade goes a long way to protecting them. Despite changes that the collapse of Traidcraft has caused we will continue to stock fairtrade chocolate, coffee and tea as well as many other food items. Check out the Fairtrade Foundation's website for online activities during the fortnight. To mark the occasion our Fairtrade jute bags will be on offer at just £5.50 (usually £6.25).

From now until Easter we will be serving hot cross buns as an addition to our menu. Our full range of Easter cards, books and Easter eggs are now in stock.

We are still recruiting both paid and voluntary staff at the moment – if you, or someone you know would be interested in joining our team for one (short) day a week please do get in touch

– thevinehinckley@hotmail.co.uk 01455 612345.

God Bless,
Jessica Harrison Manager

Advance Notice – Easter Breakfast Communion

On Easter Sunday, April 9th, there will be a short communion service at 9.00am, followed by a breakfast. Please come along if you are able. After breakfast, we will all join together for our morning Easter worship celebration at 10.45.

Fellowship Walk

A few of us met for a walk between Market Bosworth and Carlton on a lovely sunny afternoon in February. The snowdrops were beginning to show their heads. Although we had binoculars not many wild animals were seen other than a very inquisitive llama who watched our progress - and was not very wild! The next walk will take place on **Tuesday 7th March** at 10.00am, venue to be arranged. Please speak to Tony if you are interested in coming along.
Tony T

Fairtrade Fortnight 27th February to 12th March

This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: choose **Fairtrade** now and help save our favourite foods.



Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on the shelves in shops?

Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

But here's the good news.

More of us choosing **Fairtrade** means extra income, power, and support for those communities, as they work to build sustainable and prosperous futures.

Choosing **Fairtrade** now can help save the future of our favourite foods. But it's not just food. You can find out all about different **Fairtrade** commodities on the [Buying Fairtrade pages](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade/) on the Fairtrade Foundation website at <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/buying-fairtrade/> everything from tea, coffee, bananas, chocolate, cold drinks and juices, to wine, herbs and spices, clothes, beauty products, flowers and gold !

Alternatively, when out shopping look for the logos (the black logo tells you that all the contents of the product are Fairtrade accredited, and the white logo indicates that some of the content of the product is Fairtrade accredited).

Phillip Lindley

Fairtrade Breakfast

Join us for a **Fairtrade Breakfast** buffet at Hinckley URC on Sunday, **5th March, from 9.30am – 10.30am**. No need to book a place ... just come along. The breakfast is free, but donations for the Fairtrade Foundation (registered charity no.1043886) are welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

Carole Wallis and Phillip Lindley

Christian Aid News



Saturday 11th March at the URC 9.30 to 11.30 am, light breakfast from 9.30 with presentation at 10.00am

Christian Aid awareness meeting with a presentation by Jeremy Gowers-Cromie, Church engagement and fundraising Officer for CA East Midlands. To conclude by approx. 11.30. Please attend if you can.

The local annual CA quiz sheets for 2023 are available at the rear of the church and have the theme of 'colours' Suggested minimum donation of £1. Please help by encouraging your friends and family to take part.

Christian Aid Fayre at St. Mary's church on Saturday 15th April 9.30-1.30.

Items wanted for the stalls:

Plants for the plant stall run by the URC

Good Bric-a-brac

New or unwanted gifts

Toys and games.

If you can help with any of these, and/or help on the stalls on the day please contact Malcolm Hooke

Christian Aid Week May 14 – 20th

As usual at the URC we will be having the CA envelopes for our church collection that can be given during the month of May. At a national level Christian Aid has put out an urgent appeal for funds due to the adverse effect of cost-of-living crisis that has impacted it's ability to fund last year's projects.

Malcolm Hooke

A Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus for forty days and nights you faced temptation in the desert - to seek worldly goods, to compromise your calling, enticement to put yourself first- and yet you refused.

You came to serve and minister to many - and throughout your ministry you faced threats, rejection, hatred - yet despite this you carried on with your mission and your message of hope and love.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, you wrestled there with the prospect of a disciple's betrayal, a disciple's denial, and the prospect of suffering and painful death, but once again you remained sure and steadfast putting God's will before your own.

What you said and what you did were always one, each testifying to the other.

Lord Jesus Christ, we fall so short of that goal, words coming easily, actions to match rarely coming at all.

Forgive us and help us to show in our lives the things we proclaim with our lips, to your praise and glory.

World without end. **Amen**

Rev Daniel Cheyne

Tuesday Lunch Event: Tuesday 14th March 2023

March's Church lunch will be on Tuesday 14th at midday and will be sausage and mash.

Thank you very much to all who donated so generously to January and February's lunch. We have donated £310 to the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal.

Please let me know if you would like to attend, thank you.

Sue S

Rotas *If you can help on the Door Steward rota, please see David Crick; if you can help on the Coffee rota, please see Ann Martin. **If you are unable to fulfil your duty, please arrange a swap.***

	<i>Duty Elder</i>	<i>Door Steward</i>
<i>Sunday 5th Mar</i>	David Crick	Sally Leggat Ann Martin
<i>Sunday 12th Mar</i>	Roger Moseley	Jacqui Brown Heather Crick
<i>Sunday 19th Mar</i>	Sue Saunders	Kathy Smith Sue Thain
<i>Sunday 26th Mar</i>	Karen Jones	Richard Benham Sue Saunders
<i>Sunday 2nd Apr</i>	Christine Thomas	Paul Deeming Julie Payne

	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Flowers</i>
<i>Sunday 5th Mar</i>	Christine Thomas Ann Martin	J Payne
<i>Sunday 12th Mar</i>	Karen Jones Jacqui Brown	-
<i>Sunday 19th Mar</i>	Marilyn & Crawford Payne	J Brown
<i>Sunday 26th Mar</i>	Sylvia Ellis Chris Sharrock	-
<i>Sunday 2nd Apr</i>	Carole Wallis Ruth Griffiths	R Benham

Wednesday at One

1 st Mar	Pas Derek Marvin	Trinity Lane Church, Hinckley
8 th Mar	Rev Daniel Cheyne	Hinckley URC
15 th Mar	Rev John Berry	The Beacon Church
22 nd Mar	Mrs Anne Hayward	Holy Trinity, Hinckley
29 th Mar	Mr David Crick	Hinckley URC

Warm Space Drop-in (Thursday pm)

Mar 2 nd	Chris and Phillip
Mar 9 th	Sue and Sylvia
Mar 16 ^h	Ruth and Ann
Mar 23 rd	Kathy and Phillip
Mar 30 th	Sue and Sylvia

Worship

We are blessed in our church with a rich source of people to call on to lead our worship Sunday by Sunday, both from within our congregation and visiting preachers from other churches. The Worship Team that plans our services tries to provide a variety of styles of worship but we would really appreciate comments from yourselves as to what works well in our worship and what areas could be improved. We would like your views on the service format, the content, the music, even (*especially?*) on what the preacher said in his / her sermon! We appreciate that we all have different preferences with regard to style of worship, styles of preaching, we all have different needs, and it is not possible to please everyone all of the time. But it would be good to get feedback – positive or negative - on our Sunday services so that together we can strive to draw us all closer to God in our worship.

Andrew, Lesley, Crawford, David

Commitment for Life Prayer for the month

Poem for black lives matter

By Karen Campbell, Global Intercultural Ministries

Black

If the night sky wasn't inky
Could the stars shine so bright?
And if there wasn't darkness,
Tell me, how could light be light?
No dark depths of earth -
How would the flora grow?
Black is essential, don't you know.

You tell me black is no good –
The shade of evil, shade of sin;
How do I then make sense
Of the blackness of my skin?
The skin I didn't choose
No more than you could choose your own;
The skin that I was gifted –
Only skin I've ever known.
Black is what I am; it's who I am;
It is my pride.
It's the strength on which I stand –
Where I refuse to be denied.
Black speaks of where I'm going –
How the world relates to me;
Black speaks of where I've come from –
Heritage and history.

But it's hard not to internalise
The message all around –
Before a word is spoken
That in Black offence is found;
Explicit or implied.
Yet from your view you cannot see
The shackles to be broken
Until Black lives full and free. **Amen**

TEN LITTLE CHRISTIANS

*10 little Christians went to church when it was fine,
But it started raining - then there were nine.*

*9 little Christians stayed up very late,
One overslept himself - then there were eight.*

*8 little Christians on the road to heaven,
One joined a rambling club - then there were seven.*

*7 little Christians heard of Sunday 'flicks',
One thought he'd like to go - then there were six.*

*6 little Christians kept the place alive,
One bought a television - then there were five.*

*5 little Christians stayed loyal to the corps,
The pastor reproved one - then there were four.*

*4 little Christians argued heatedly,
Over ceremonial – then there were three.*

*3 little Christians sang the service through,
Got a hymn they didn't like – then there were two.*

*2 little Christians disputed who should run
Certain organisations – then there was one.*

*1 small Christian knowing what to do,
Asked a friend to come to church – there were two.*

*2 small Christian each brought in one more,
So their number doubled – then there were four.*

*4 sturdy Christians simply couldn't wait,
'til they found four others – then there were eight.*

*8 eager Christians searched around for souls.
Praying, working, witnessing brought others in by shoals.*

*Shoals and shoals at every service, cramming every pew.
O God, supply the grace and zeal and put me in there too.*

Thanks to Lesley Moseley for sending this in, she thinks she may have originally received it from Hazel!

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday is a bit like Marmite - you either like it or hate it. If you are a Mum, then you may feel special for a day, you may receive chocolates and flowers.

If the children are not local, you may receive a phone call, text message or even see them on Skype.

In days gone by, servant boys and girls were allowed on this day to see their mother whom they may not have seen since this time last year.

But I wonder is Mothering Sunday only for MUMS, is it so 'exclusive'?

If you are a MUM, you're in and if not you're out. I HOPE NOT.

Unfortunately, that is the view of the secular material world: the media, the adverts, all wanting us to buy into this mythical family of Mum, Dad and 2.4 Children. They have even changed the name from Mothering Sunday to Mother's Day.

It's difficult to find a card that says, 'Mothering Sunday'.

No, the church of all institutions, knows that no 'feast day' can or should be exclusive to just one group of society. I find it difficult when people say to me, 'I shan't attend church on Mothering Sunday it has no meaning to me'. Surely, we all have had or have mothers.

Of course, most people would agree that motherhood is not always idyllic, from the tantrums of the terrible twos, to the slamming doors and looks of the sulky teenager. No, motherhood is not always wonderful. How often have mothers said, 'I will always love you this is for your own good'?

Remember the panic of Mary as the 12year old Jesus stays behind in Jerusalem, not for a moment thinking that his parents might be worried.

But, of course, the church is only too aware of those in their congregations who do not have children, the hurt of couples who would have loved to have children but for whatever reason could not; those who are single without children, the divorced who may have problems to access their

children, the lone Dads doing their best to being both Mum and Dad, the children who have lost MUM, the Mums who have lost children.

Is the church ignoring all these today? I would hope not. The role of the church, after worshipping God, is the care of all those within its boundaries. And in doing so, the church hopefully, does its best to reflect the love of God, the Father, in sending Christ His Son for the redemption of the World. So, what should Mothering Sunday mean to us today, whether we are lucky to be mothers or not?

We are Christ's hands and feet in this community'

We are the church, not the building.

Encouraged by the Holy Spirit, we may not be able to save our material, celebrity society, but we can all do our bit to mother those around us. Is there someone we lost touch with, who would welcome a call or a letter, an e- mail?

Is there a neighbour who would welcome a visit or an invitation to coffee?

In this overfed society, have we brought a little extra to go in the Foodbank to meet other's needs?

Make this Mothering Sunday be the start of our mothering to those we come in contact with. And if one life is changed, then thanks be to God.

Rev Daniel Cheyne

Foodbank update



The latest Foodbank donation contained 17.7kg of food with an estimated worth of £41.95 plus a £10.00 donation. Thanks to everyone who contributes.

Hope into Action



We hope that the purchase of the Hope into Action House will be completed in the near future. The house will then have to be furnished before the residents can move in. Below is a list of things needed. If you are able to donate something please sign against the item on the list on the noticeboard in the front vestibule. Items marked with a cross have already been promised. Unfortunately, we don't have anywhere to store items so would ask that you keep them at present. Donations of money are also very welcome as some things will have to be bought. These can be given to Richard.

If you want any further information please ask *Karen, Richard, Lesley or Carole*.

Kitchen

Washing machine
Fridge
Cooker
Pans
Cooking utensils
Kettle X
Crockery X
Cutlery X
Tin opener
Glasses
Casserole dishes
Chopping boards
Jug
Mixing bowl
Ironing board X
Iron
vacuum cleaner X

Lounge

Seating (1 armchair already donated)
Small table
Cushions
Bookcase/
sideboard
TV and TV stand X
Table and chairs (4 chairs donated)
Place mats/
tablecloth

Bathroom

Waste bin
Toilet brush

Bedrooms

2 Beds and bedding (one bed frame donated)
2 Chest of drawers
2 Wardrobes
2 bedside cabinets (1 donated)

Belief is a truth held in the mind. Faith is a fire in the heart.

Joseph Newton

Recalling the Ministry for Jan - Feb 2023

(As largely seen on the Church Web Site as THE WEDNESDAY WORD)

In reflection on the message for Sunday 22nd January 2023.

Call to worship: Psalm 127 **A Song of Solomon.**

**Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in
vain,**

1 Corinthians 1:10-25 **A Church Divided Over Leaders.**

Sermon: **Christ's Message of Love is Eternal.** We all age as the years go by, e.g. our hair becomes white; we lose "fitness and beauty". Our church ages and we try to be radiant still. (The only Perfect Church is in Heaven.) Everything seems to change with time. In the bible reading, Paul encourages us to remember the central message of Christianity. Christ's age-old message remains constant. Even in these modern godless times, Christ's message is one of Constant Love for His People. The Cross and God's Love should shine constantly and be central in our lives.

In reflection on the message for Sunday 29th January 2023.

Call to worship: Psalm 15

Luke 4:21-30 **Jesus Rejected at Nazareth**

Extracts from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 **Love is Indispensable.**

Talk: **Outside the box with Love.** In our lives, we experience a repetitive routine of events which become commonplace and stereotyped in our minds. We develop an unchanging viewpoint of matters and events in which we are involved. So, in the Luke Reading, the Nazarenes see Jesus simply as Joseph's son and not as the promised Saviour of the Jews. They could not see the Love, 'outside the box', beyond their preconception of Jesus. **We must step outside our comfort box** to see that Jesus's Love is much deeper and stronger than we thought. Paul guides us about Jesus's Love in his verses in 1 Corinthians.

In reflection on the message for Sunday 5th February 2023.

Call to Worship: 1 Samuel 30:1-8. God helps David to Overcome His Foes.

1 Chronicles. 12:16-18. Warriors Join David.

2 Samuel 23:8-17 David's Mighty Warriors.

Sermon: **Who is going to make it happen?** What! We ask? Yes! Who will bring about the Growth of The Church? Many recent sermons have asked the same question. E.g., Last week, it was *we must step outside our comfort box*. Other Sundays, it has been *go outside your comfort zone*. The “mighty warriors” who join David’s raiding band are doing that, according to the Bible Readings. “*For your God will help you,*” say the warriors. The warriors wanted David to win, and in partnership with God, they were successful in their battles. In the readings it is stressed that warriors did mighty deeds individually, with the strength of their faith in God bringing each to successful outcomes. So, which “mighty warrior” in our church, will make the leap of faith which will start the process of Growing Our Church?

In reflection on the message for Sunday 12th February 2023

Isaiah 61:1-11 The Year of the LORD's Favour

Matthew 4:18-25. Fishers of Men.

Talk: **Invitational Jesus.** The word Jesus uses frequently is “Come”: “Come Follow Me”; “Follow me, and I will give you rest – help bear your burdens – provide when you are in need, etc.” These benefits are promised if we offer up our lives to him – become a Christian. The Isaiah reading details God’s benefits, promised to the Jews, at that point in their history. God’s “Good News” for their future, is reflected into Christ’s time and ours.

Thanks to Brian Beagley for summarising these services for us

World Day of Prayer

A service for the World Day of Prayer will be held at St. Catherine's church Burbage on Friday 3rd March at 2.00pm

Preliminary Notice

The **Wigston and District Male Voice Choir**, and a guest guitarist, will be in concert at Hinckley United Reformed Church on Saturday, 18th March at 7.30pm. Tickets are available in advance from Phillip Lindley at £10 each, and at the door on the night.

The concert is a fund raiser for Hinckley and District Museum (registered charity no. 1015922).



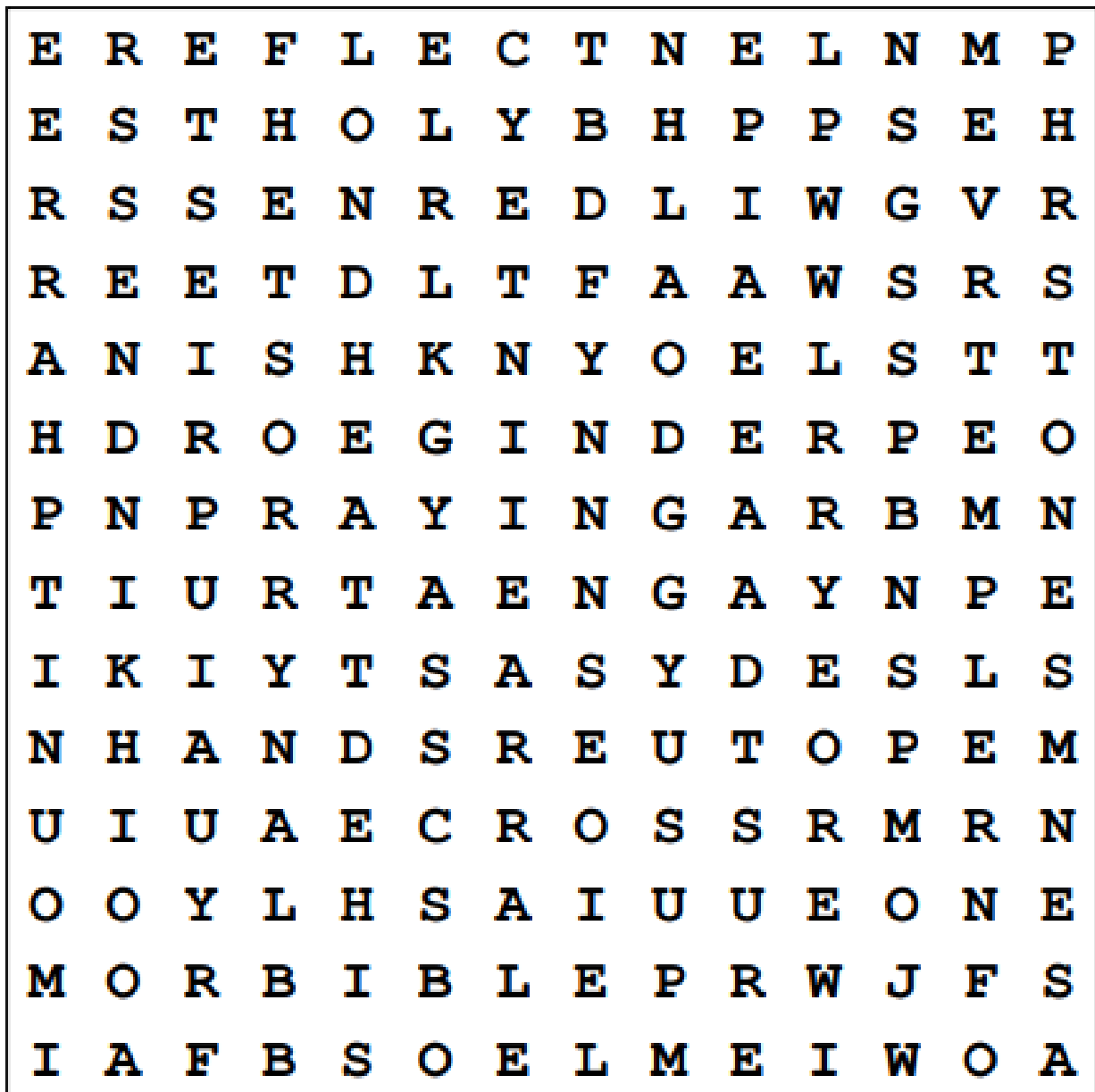
Free Church Choirs – Advance Notice

The next *Free Church Choirs Festival of Church Music* will be on **Saturday 14th October** at St Albans Cathedral. If you would like to take part, please speak to *David Crick*. The anthem books are now available at a cost of £12.00. If you would like to be in the congregation more details will be available later in the year.

The first lesson in Christ's school is self-denial.

Matthew Henry

Lent Wordsearch



ANGELS
ASH
BIBLE
BREAD
CROSS
FORTY DAYS
FORTY NIGHTS
HANDS
HOLY
JESUS
KINDNESS
KINGDOM
LENT

LISTEN
MOUNTAIN
PRAYERS
PRAYING
PRIEST
PURPLE
REFLECT
SORRY
STONES
TEMPLE
WEDNESDAY
WILDERNESS

Dates for your Diary

Friday 3rd March 2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service at St Catherine's Church, Burbage

Sunday 5th March 9.30am Fairtrade Breakfast

Saturday 11th March 9.30am Christian Aid Awareness meeting with breakfast

Thursday 7th April 7.00pm Maundy Thursday Communion

Sunday 9th April 9.00am Easter Breakfast Communion

Saturday 15th April URC 50th Anniversary Celebration at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

Regular Meetings

Every **Monday** Chat and Prayer session on Zoom - log in after 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start and ending about 8.00pm

Tuesday Weekly Bible Study Group – see Richard Benham for details

Wednesday-at-One – Wednesday 1.00pm

Wednesday Monthly House Group

Next meeting Wednesday 1st March 7.30pm at the Crick's

Thursday – Prayer meeting for future of the church 11.00 Front Foyer

Thursday 7.30 Music group practice - all welcome

Friday Prayer Group 10.00am (in the church).

If you need any help using Zoom, please contact Tony Thomas.

Please submit material for the April edition of Contact by Sunday 19th March. Articles can be emailed. The next edition of Contact will be available by Sunday 26th February

Thank you to everybody who has submitted articles this month. It is my hope and intention that the April edition of Contact will be my last as Editor, can someone please volunteer to take over this role? David