



THE NEW WELLWYNDER

APRIL/MAY 2025

Visit us at www.newwellwynd.org.uk

Message from the Vestry:

My friends,

It hardly seems possible that 15 months have passed since I began my time with you as a probationer minister. (Some may say it's been too long!) They say time flies when you're having fun - or when you're busy, challenged, and deeply invested in a community that has welcomed you so warmly!

I'm writing this from Malta, a place with deep connections to the early church and, of course, to St Paul. The story of Paul's shipwreck and his time on the island (Acts 27-28) is one of resilience, unexpected hospitality, and God at work in surprising places. Standing in Rabat, near the grotto where tradition says Paul stayed, I couldn't help but reflect on how ministry is often a journey full of twists and turns yet always held in God's hands.

These past months have been full of learning, laughter and some tears as well as moments of deep faith. From Sunday worship to school chaplaincy, pastoral visits to new initiatives, I have been shaped by this experience in ways I will carry with me always. Thank you for your kindness, encouragement, and for allowing me to walk alongside you in faith.

Though this chapter is ending, I leave with gratitude for all that has been and great hope for all that is still to come in your life as a congregation. I pray that, like Paul and the early church, you continue to be a community of warmth, welcome, and witness.

Yours in Christ

Eleanor

Shipwrecks and Shorelines

The wind has blown, the tide has turned,
Fifteen months—how the time has burned!

Like Paul upon a foreign shore,
I stepped in faith and found much more.

You welcomed me with open hands,
A people rooted in God's plans.
Through prayers and laughter, work and rest,
I've seen the Church at its best.

Like Malta's fire that warmed the cold,
Your kindness shone; your love took hold.
And though the journey bends anew,
I leave with hope because of you.

For Christ still calls, the Spirit moves,
The road ahead holds light and clues—
Reminders that through storm and sea,
God's grace goes on for you and me.

So onward go—hold fast, stand tall,
The God who led will lead us all.

Eleanor

Eleanor's Ordination Service



The Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale have arranged the Service of Ordination for Eleanor on Thursday, 3rd April 2025 in Cairnlea Parish Church. The Service starts at 7.00pm and all are welcome. If you are able please come along to support Eleanor as she begins the next stage of her journey.

Locum Minister

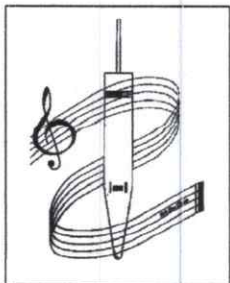
Rev. Les Brunger former minister of Uddingston Burnhead has been appointed Locum Minister by the Kirk Session and will start with us on 1st April, leading worship from Sunday, 6th April 2025. We look forward to welcoming Les into our fellowship in the coming weeks and months.



A Message from John Urquhart our new Church Organist and Choirmaster

Dear Members,

I have been asked to write a short piece for the magazine introducing myself as the new Organist, so here goes! My passion for organs began at an early age and I was always eager to make sure I got a seat at Church with a good view of the organ. As I got older and began piano and then organ lessons, I eventually got the chance to play the organ after services.



My first post as a pianist was with the Chaplaincy service at Crosshouse Hospital where I played the piano in the Chapel for short informal ecumenical services. I also spent 16 years as the Organist of Stair and Ochiltree Parish Churches. Sadly, Stair is earmarked for closure and Ochiltree will join with two other congregations. Given this, I took the opportunity to seek out a new challenge hence my arrival at New Wellwynd. Along with leading praise, I have been involved in the wider work of the Church including organising and running children/youth events, speaking at Guilds and representing the local Presbytery at the General Assembly.

I have appreciated the warm welcome to New Wellwynd and look forward to getting to know you all, over the next few months.

With best wishes,

John

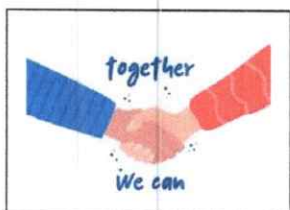
The Congregation's Finances – A Call to Action

As we continue to move forward in our journey together, it's crucial to take a moment to reflect on our financial position and the responsibilities that come with it.

A recent meeting of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board highlighted the challenges we face, as well as the incredible potential that lies ahead. First and foremost, gratitude is expressed to each of you who has faithfully contributed through your offerings. Your generosity is the lifeblood of our church and plays an essential role in supporting our local activities and the broader mission of the Church of Scotland. Thank you to those who have recently revisited your giving or made one-off donations to sustain our vital work. Your commitment is deeply appreciated.

Inspired by the words of Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians, we are reminded that giving is not merely a financial transaction, but a reflection of our gratitude and joy in God's grace. The Macedonian churches thrived in generosity despite their hardships, demonstrating that true giving comes from the heart. Are we, too, willing to be that church – a community that wholeheartedly supports God's mission even during times of challenge? As we look at our financial outlook, we see some pressing challenges.

While we have benefited from a temporary reduction in our national contributions due to our vacancy, there are concerning trends that threaten our sustainability. Our costs, particularly for services like electricity and gas, are relentlessly climbing—totalling £17,000 last year alone. More alarmingly, our offerings have decreased by £9,000 compared to last year (to £117,000), reflecting an overall decline of 18% over the past six years. This drop is not just a statistic; it signifies the absence of 181 of our members in both participation and financial support. The congregation feels this loss deeply, as each individual brings unique gifts and blessings to our fellowship.



As we prepare to embark on the next stage of our vacancy, we are being called to rise to the challenge before us. It's time for each of us to reflect on our blessings and to acknowledge the love and generosity that God has shown us. Are we ready to step up and ensure our church can sustain its mission in Airdrie and beyond? Each of us is invited to participate, to pray, and to consider how we can collectively make a difference.

Let's show the same eagerness that Paul sought in the Corinthians by stepping forward in our giving, commitment, and service. Together, we can overcome these challenges and ensure a strong, vibrant future for our congregation. Let's respond to God's call with open hearts and hands, demonstrating our love for one another and our dedication to His work.

David Watt, Treasurer

Christian Aid Week 11th – 17th May 2025

Will you help fund vital tools and training, so farmers can support their community to escape hunger?

Amelia's Story

Amelia is a resourceful and determined 24-year-old farmer who lives with her husband and their two children, from the Indigenous Q'eqchi' community of the Alta Verapaz region in Guatemala.



As the local river runs dry and water becomes scarce, the vital crops that Amelia depends on wither and die before her eyes. It's a heart-breaking injustice, when no more than a mile away, industrial plantations are taking the last of the region's natural resources to feed the world's richest countries. Amelia's farm, first and foremost, feeds her young children. She tries to grow a range of crops and root vegetables that will provide her children with a balanced diet. In this way, she can protect them from malnutrition and the irreversible developmental damage it can cause.

But recent harvests have failed, and now the family's diet largely consists of rice and tortillas. Fruit and vegetables have become unobtainable locally, depriving the children of the vital vitamins and minerals they need to thrive and grow. The climate crisis is heaping layers of agony on Amelia's young family. It's testimony to her endurance and strength that through heat, hunger, crop failure and water shortages, she proactively set out to find solutions. Her story is one of resistance, and it's just beginning.

With funding from Christian Aid, Cong-coop support communities to return to Indigenous farming practices and adopt agro-ecological approaches that conserve their land, culture and livelihood. By joining Cong-coop, Amelia's gaining the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's planning planting schedules that will deliver multiple harvests throughout the year, making her own organic fertiliser, and constructing rainwater collection systems. By changing the way she farms, Amelia's pushing back against the climate crisis.

Amelia is also recognised as a leader in her community. Whatever she learns, she shares – confidently training other women to adapt their farming practices too. Thanks to Amelia, every member of her community can access this specialist approach that's a blend of ancient and modern wisdom.

Amelia's story reminds us that even the most proactive, determined and ambitious amongst us, still need a helping hand in life.

Your support is urgently needed to ensure that Christian Aid can be there for Indigenous families who are bearing the full force of the climate crisis. It's vital that their programme with Cong-coop continues, so more farmers like Amelia can build their resilience to extreme weather and take back control of their harvests.

Your gifts can fund vital agricultural training and tools that unlock climate resilient farming methods.

Together, we can support people like Amelia to protect their families from hunger and malnutrition.

While giving praise for God's glories this spring, let's support our global neighbours, for whom the seasons are dramatically and dangerously shifting.

Christian Aid

WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY?

Airdrie Churches Christian Aid Group met in January to consider various local fundraising events -

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT: at end of August as usual hosted by Cairnlea Church.

SONGS OF PRAISE: Following last year's wonderful service at Coatdyke Congregational Church, Jackson Church is willing to host the service in early November this year.

CHOIR NIGHT: Possibly February 2026. Enquiries are being made with various choirs and singing groups in this regard.

More information for all the above re dates and venues will follow.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MATERIALS (envelopes and posters etc.) for 11th – 17th May will be available shortly.

HUNGER LUNCH here in The New Wellwynd to be confirmed.

Last year as a result of the various fundraising events our local churches CA Group was able to transfer £3,753.81 to Christian Aid. Huge thanks is due to all for the ongoing support.

Liz Riddell

Mary's Diary – A Story for Easter

Mary Magdalene witnessed the Crucifixion and burial of Jesus and was the first person to see him after the Resurrection. These two extracts from her diary describe what happened.



Dear Diary

I'm not really sure how to write about what I've just witnessed. The horror of it all is still too real. Yet somehow I don't want to accept that it happened. But these details need to be remembered.

We'd been with him from the beginning, and now it looks as if it's the end... of everything.

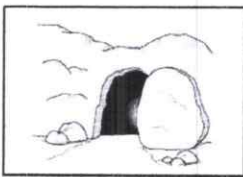
Last week, the streets of Jerusalem were ringing with shouts of praise to Jesus the King. But as we walked those same streets today, instead of praise people hurled abuse at him. Jesus was weak from being cruelly beaten and could hardly put one foot in front of another. We longed to run to his aid, to shout back at the crowd that they were wrong - that this man they were about to crucify WAS the special person they'd been watching and waiting for.

But it was impossible. It was as much as we could do to walk with the crowd, our cries of grief mingled in with their angry shouts. And so they nailed him to a cross, between two criminals in the place of someone called Barabbas, whom the crowd had set free.

Even in those last long hours, as we watched and waited, Jesus still surprised us. 'Forgive them, Father. They don't know what they're doing,' he prayed as he watched the soldiers throwing dice to win his clothes. Jesus was as forgiving in his dying moments as he'd been all his life.

Then at midday, darkness fell. Three interminable hours of darkness, as if heaven itself was grieving. You could almost feel the weight of the silence. At three o'clock the silence was broken by the sound of ripping material as the curtain of the temple tore in two, from top to bottom. Then the earth shook and rocks split - and Jesus spoke for the last time, in a loud voice: 'Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit!' And so he died, and with him any hope I'd had of seeing this new kingdom that he'd spoken about so often. I waited with the others until evening fell, to see what they would do with his body. As evening approached, a stranger arrived. He must have been a follower of Jesus - and a brave one at that - because he'd obviously been to get permission to take Jesus' body down from the cross. Then he wrapped the body in linen strips, and took it to a new tomb. Then the stranger rolled the heavy stone across the entrance and was gone.

Everything was done in a hurry as Shabbat approaches - a day of rest for us all. There was no anointing of Jesus' body, no tender kisses on his face as he was wrapped. So we'll wait until Shabbat is over to finish the job that the stranger started - to anoint the body of our Lord, serving him in his death as we'd served him in life.



Dear Diary

I can hardly write for the joy I feel! **He's ALIVE!** We've seen him with our own eyes! It's hard to feel sadness now, but at the time, we went to his grave with heavy hearts, ready to be greeted once more with the harsh reality that Jesus now lay dead in a tomb.

We went out as soon as it was light, with spices to anoint Jesus' body. On the way we realised that we hadn't really thought things through - that heavy stone was going to present us with a bit of a problem... and we were so busy discussing what to do, we barely noticed that things were not as we'd left them... As we approached, we saw that the stone had been rolled back, and so we entered nervously, wondering what we might see. Two men, dressed all in white, gleaming like lightning, were sitting where Jesus' body should've been - one at his head, the other at his feet. There was nothing left except the strips of cloth, folded neatly. We were terrified... and fell to our knees on the floor. Then the men said 'Why are you looking for the living amongst the dead? He is not here - he has risen! Don't you remember what he told you? That he would be crucified and on the third day, be raised again? Well, it's the third day! Now go and tell the others!'

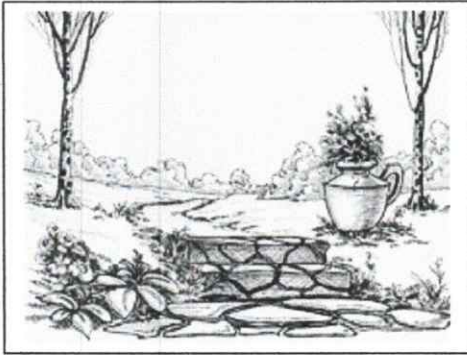
We hardly needed telling twice! And then it happened. Suddenly, Jesus was there with us on the road. We fell to his feet, hugging them, crying and laughing at the same time. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'Go and tell the others to go to Galilee and there they will see me.'

And so we're off to Galilee. Seeing Jesus again is almost too good to be true! I might be tempted to think I'd imagined it all... but I know for certain it's true because I've seen him with my own eyes and felt his feet with my own hands. And we'll see him again in Galilee! **Jesus is ALIVE!**

Rachel Boxer

King Jesus Hath a Garden

"*King Jesus hath a garden full of divers flowers...*" – this well-known Christmas carol beautifully describes the richness and variety of nature. At The New Wellwynd, we are blessed to have a wonderful garden space at the front and side of the church, where we can witness nature at work.



The Bible speaks of many gardens – the Garden of Eden, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Garden of Gethsemane - each with its own significance and story. Our own church gardens, though more modest, hold their own special place in our community. But how often do we take the time to stop and appreciate the work and dedication that goes into making these grounds so beautiful and welcoming?

Where else can you pause for a moment of peace, sit and reflect, listen to the rustling leaves, the birdsong, and watch the world go by?

None of this would be possible without our faithful team of volunteer gardeners, who work tirelessly week in and week out - trimming, pruning, planting, and tending to the grounds with care and skill. Their efforts ensure that our church surroundings remain a place of beauty and serenity for all.

We would love more hands to help! If you enjoy gardening, being outdoors, or simply want to lend a hand, we would warmly welcome new volunteers to join this dedicated team. Whether you can offer an hour now and then or more regular help, every little contribution makes a difference.

A Prayer for Our Gardeners

Loving God

We thank You for the beauty of creation and for those who tend and nurture it.

Bless the hands that plant and prune that weed and water that care and cultivate.

May our gardens continue to be a place of welcome, peace, and reflection?

A reminder of Your presence in all things.

Amen

A heartfelt thank you to our gardening team - you know who you are! Your work is truly appreciated.

David Walker

Senior Circle

It was way back in January when I wrote the last report on the activities of the Senior Circle – short days and wrapping up against the cold weather. How good it is now that we have longer, lighter days and the weather is getting a bit milder.

Back in January we had a visit from Rabbie Burns (aka George Randall) who regaled us with tales of the Bard. Our next meeting took us back in time too. Alex Cunningham (a member of Jackson Church) brought along some DVDs – the first one was of the old Templeton Carpet Factory in Glasgow. The second one was from 2010 about the building of the new station at Drumgelloch and the work on the railway and some bridges to reinstate the railway line from Airdrie to Edinburgh. Both of these DVD were very interesting along with some old clips of Rev I M Jolly.

In February, one of our own members, Maureen Paterson, gave a really good talk on Airdrie Arts Centre which prompted a lot of memories from other members of the group. At our first meeting in March Avril Cockburn and Helen Fettes had us all doing some Easter crafting which we all enjoyed.

We are now looking forward to our last two meetings of the session –

25th March Colin and Lesley McPherson – tales of treks

8th April Allister Weighton and others – musical entertainment

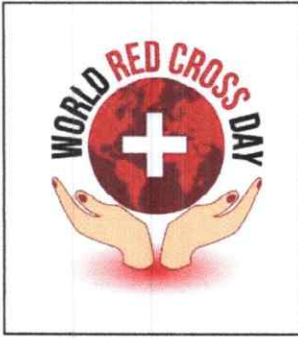
We have already started planning for next session and if any of the congregation know of any speakers or feel that you would like to volunteer yourself to come and speak to us with an interesting topic, please let me know.

Anne Learmonth

Nearly New

Can you help? The Nearly New Team are looking for donations of Kitchen items and Bric-a-bac!

Liz Hannah



World Red Cross Day takes place on 8th May every year, serving as a reminder of the vital humanitarian work carried out by the Red Cross movement worldwide.

This significant day remains constant on the calendar, allowing communities to come together annually in recognition of the invaluable contributions made by volunteers and staff.

Established to commemorate the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), World Red Cross Day honours his pioneering efforts in advocating for humanitarian aid and promoting the welfare of those in need.

Since its inception, the Red Cross has been a beacon of hope, providing assistance during times of conflict, natural disasters, and other emergencies, embodying the spirit of compassion and solidarity.



Prayer Points

- Pray for all involved in the work of NWPC that we might continue to share in a partnership and bring others to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the time of reflection in the Season of Lent that it might enrich faith, strengthen fellowship and inspire outreach.
- Pray for peace in all the troubled areas of our world.
- Pray for the united witness of all churches in the town and surrounding areas.
- Pray for all young people preparing for important exams.
- Pray for the continual work of the church in local schools.
- Pray for the personal witness of all Christians that through “gossiping the Gospel” more will come to a full knowledge of the love of God in Jesus.

General Assembly 2025

The 2025 General Assembly will take place from Saturday, 17th May to Thursday, 22nd May 2025, at the Assembly Hall on the Mound, Edinburgh. As the Church continues to navigate key issues and initiatives, the upcoming Assembly will provide another opportunity for members to shape the future direction of its mission and ministry. General Assembly reports and the order of proceedings will be made available online as they are completed from the week of 22nd April 2025. The Public Gallery will be open on a first come, first served basis from around 8.45 am daily. The only entrance to the Public Gallery will be from the Lawnmarket (Royal Mile) at the door opposite the roundabout at the top of Johnston Terrace. Members of the public will NOT be allowed to enter by way of the New College Quadrangle. The Assembly Hall, with the exception of the Public Gallery, will only be open to commissioners with the appropriate ID. Members of the public will, therefore, be restricted to the public gallery and the adjacent toilet facilities.

Rev. Rosemary Frew, minister of Bowden and Melrose Parish Church in the Borders, is the Moderator Designate for 2025-26. Mrs Frew, who previously served as minister in Fife, will be installed as Moderator on Saturday 17th May 2025 to preside over this year's General Assembly, marking the start of her duties as the public face of the Church of Scotland.

Church mice



A Visit from the Moderator

On Sunday, 16th March we welcomed into our church The Rt. Revd Dr Shaw J. Paterson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.



In his all age address he explained the reasoning behind his Moderator's Challenge which was to raise funds to purchase solar lights for learners in Malawi. The idea was sparked during his visit to Malawi last autumn. He was struck by the determination of the people there, and particularly within the Church, to ensure education at all levels becomes available and accessible to all.

But he also noticed that there were barriers for students who were keen to learn. For children, without lights in their homes they could not study after it became dark. Similarly, for students at Zomba Theological University they were frequently dealing with power outages, something the Moderator witnessed first-hand. Therefore his challenge was to help students at both ends of the academic spectrum – primary school learners and those at university.

He saw an initiative at Thondwe CCAP Primary School which he believed the Church could help replicate, creating 'light libraries' in schools. This would allow pupils to borrow small solar lights to take home, allowing them to complete homework, potentially making a difference to their whole future. The light also becomes a resource for others in the household. Before, children were studying by using candles or kerosene lamps which are both expensive and dangerous or indeed not studying at all. The challenge will help to keep lights shining and give all students an opportunity to shine as they seek to enhance their learning.

Here in The New Wellwynd we have currently raised in excess of £3200 for the challenge! Many thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way to this amazing sum.

The Editor

Thank You

Shona White would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received. They were very much appreciated.

Margaret Duncan would like to thank the congregation and friends for the lovely flowers and best wishes on the occasion of her 90th Birthday.

Edwin and Isabel Craig would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received during Edwin's illness and time in hospital. They were very much appreciated.

Margaret Winning would like to the congregation for the lovely flowers received when she fell and broke her ankle.

Joan Booth would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers, cards and best wishes received during her recent stay in hospital. They were very much appreciated.

Ann and Scott Halliday would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received after the passing of Ann's Mum Sadie and her Uncle Wull. They were gratefully received and very much appreciated.

Richard and Susan Forrester would like to thank everyone at New Wellwynd for the lovely flowers received.

David Snowdon would like to thank all for the lovely flowers received on his 90th Birthday.

Ann Clark would like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers received following her recent hospital stay. They were very much appreciated.

Isobel Paterson would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received after her stay in hospital. Thanks also for the cards and phone calls which were greatly appreciated.

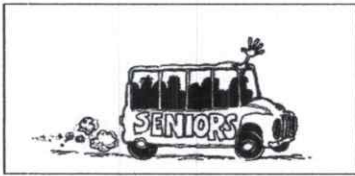
David and Elizabeth Robertson would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful flowers received following David's surgery and stay in hospital and for all the many good wishes for his recovery.

Home Comforts Christmas Appeal

I am delighted to report that through your kindness and donations of 219 items and £202 were raised for the charity. We also had two special offerings uplifted at the Christingle and Watchnight Services which also raised a total of £355.95 Thanks to everyone who donated.

Maggie Weir

Seniors Outing 2025



The Seniors Outing this year will take place on Saturday, 26th April. The destination is Broughty Ferry. Buses will leave from the Church at 10.30am and will return around 7.30pm. We will depart from Broughty Ferry at 4.00pm and make our way to the Royal George Hotel in Perth for High Tea at 5.00pm. The cost of the Outing is £15.

All those wishing to participate should complete an application form, which must be returned no later than Sunday, 13th April. Further information and forms are available from members of CAMEO. You can also contact Jean Kinniburgh on 01236 754784.

Jean Kinniburgh

"In Stitches"

For the past few weeks we have been knitting/crocheting baby layettes and shawls to help the Mission Group at the Ebenezer Evangelical Church, with which, I have been associated for many years. My thanks go to all the ladies in the class and others in the congregation for the magnificent response. These knitted goods are now on their way to Missionaries in Africa for distribution. The ladies in the Mission Group greatly appreciated our help which has enabled them to carry on with their own dedicated work. The In Stitches craft group meet in the session room every Wednesday from 10am to 12 Noon. If you are interested, please come along, you will be made most welcome.

Helen Fettus

Church Notices

Morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am.

Palm Sunday - Sunday, 13th April

Easter Sunday - Sunday, 20th April

Sacrament of Baptism – Sunday, 4th May

Sacrament of Holy Communion – Sunday, 1st June

Tea and coffee will be served in the Church Hall after morning worship.



Holy Week

From Monday, 14th April to Friday, 18th April 2025 there will be joint Holy Week Services with Jackson Parish Church, St Columba's and The New Wellwynd.

Monday, 14th April - New Wellwynd 7.30pm (Rev. Les Brunger)

Tuesday, 15th April - Jackson 7.00pm (Rev. Kay Gilchrist)

Wednesday, 16th April - St Columba's 7.30pm (Rev. Margaret Currie)

Thursday, 17th April - New Wellwynd 7.30pm (Rev. Les Brunger)

Friday, 18th April - St Columba's 7.30pm (Rev. Margaret Currie)

Delve in at Twelve - Wednesday Services at 12 noon

Our midweek service on a Wednesday at 12 noon will continue during the spring months. The service is followed by tea and coffee.

Useful Contacts

Locum Minister: Les Brunger 07427881877

Session Clerk: David Walker 01236 747075

Treasurer: David Watt 01698 853921

Roll Keeper: Moira Gartshore 01236 761001

Organist: John Urquhart 07725832088

Hall Convener: John Clydesdale 07512912016

Gift Aid: David Walker 01236 747075

Magazine Editor: George Randall 01236 763102 or 07738089762

Easter is a time to celebrate Jesus!

God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. While He lived on earth, Jesus did many wonderful things. He made sick people well. He showed them how to be kind to each other and love one another. He taught God's truth to everyone He met, and He forgave the bad things people did to Him and each other. But the best thing Jesus ever did was die on the cross to save us from our sins.

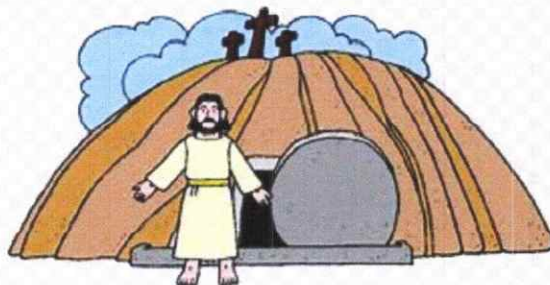


All His friends, called disciples, loved Jesus and believed He was God's Son. But other people hated Jesus. They didn't like to hear the truth He shared because they liked doing things their own way. They wanted to hurt Jesus and make Him go away. After Jesus ate supper with His disciples one evening, He went into the garden to pray. The men who didn't like Jesus sent soldiers into the garden to arrest Him. The soldiers hurt Jesus and sent Him to die on the cross.

After Jesus died, they placed Him in a dark cave called a tomb and rolled a heavy stone in front of the cave entrance. Jesus's disciples were very sad that they could not see Jesus anymore.

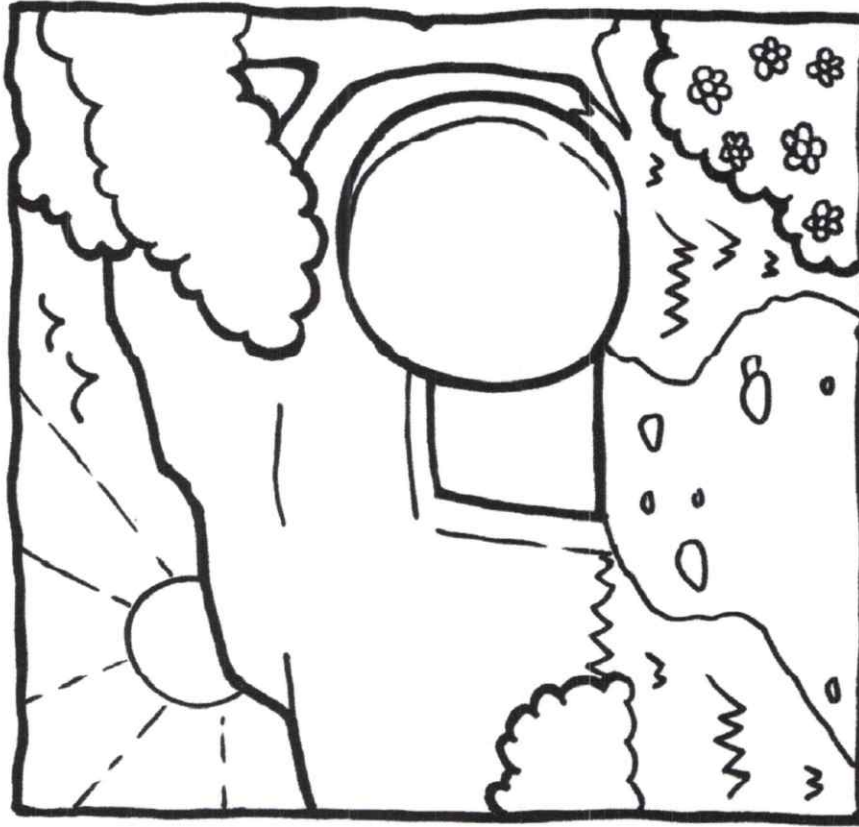
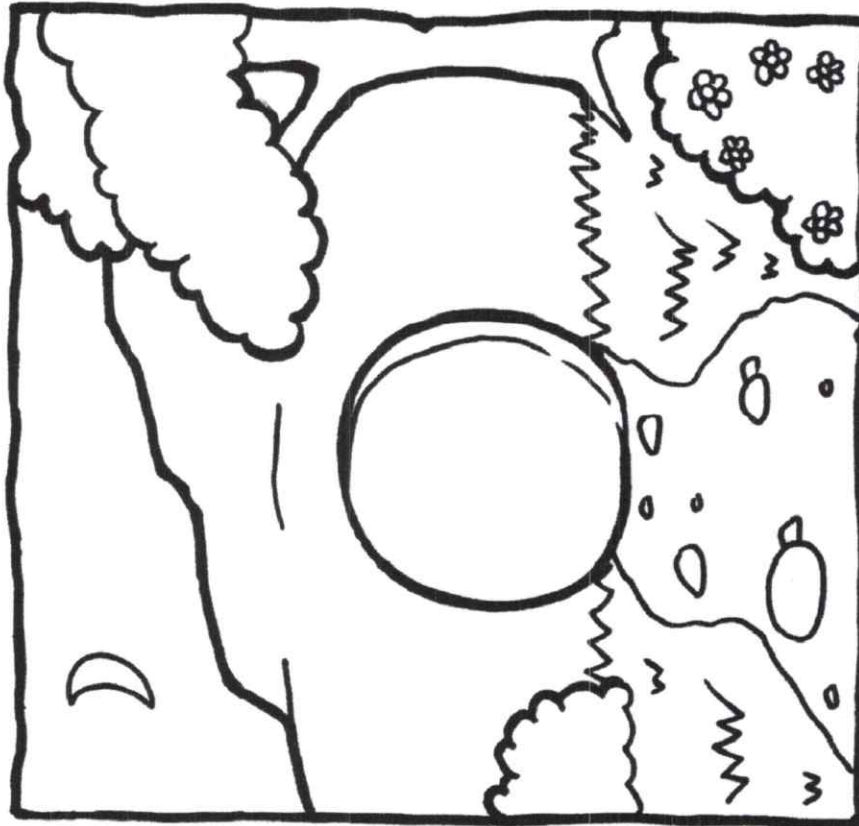
On the third day after His death, some of His friends went to the tomb and were shocked to find that the stone was rolled away, and the dark cave was empty! His friends were scared and sad because they didn't know what had happened to Jesus's body. But then an angel appeared and told them that Jesus had risen from the dead! Their fear and sadness turned to excitement and joy. Jesus was alive! And He never died again.

He is still alive today!



Spot the difference

Can you find 5



He is risen!