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Mouse Makes

THE GREATNESS AND AMAZING DETAIL OF THE EASTER STORY

He is risen!' sounds through our congregations on Easter morning, with the response 'He is risen indeed!' The cry is ingrained in believers' souls.

Jesus' death and resurrection was the most crucial event in the entire history of the universe. Our Christian faith not only depends on it but is imbued by it. The account in John's Gospel (20) shows the power of the risen Christ and the compassion of His heart. **For He interrupted the most sacred journey of all time to comfort and reassure a grieving woman, one of His closest followers.**

Mary Magdalene could not let go of Jesus. She had found her life and her worth in Him. **Jesus had been the centre of her life her rock, and now not only had He been murdered, but His body stolen.** Peering into the tomb she saw angels sitting where his body had been, but she was not overwhelmed by them. Then Jesus appeared behind her, and said her name, 'Mary.'

She was ecstatic, and He had to prevent her holding on to Him. Don't touch me," He cautioned, "for I haven't yet



ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them that I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God,' (John 20:17). Some commentators say that He was warning Mary not to hold Him back, and others point to the commandment in Haggai 2:13 about the rules when presenting the sacrificial blood of atonement. He was preparing to enter the heavenly temple with His own blood to obtain eternal redemption for us. **But whichever way you look at it, whatever the reason, the fact is that He paused to give hope to a woman with a broken heart.**

Every story in the Bible is there for a reason. I believe that this one is the pathway to one of the greatest hopes – that **the One who rules the universe will never let us go and will meet us at the point of our deepest need.**

Louise Morse

ENDS

Louise Morse is a Cognitive Behavioural Therapist and author of several books, including 'What's Age Got To Do With It?' (Lion Hudson and SPCK). She is a speaker and writer with the Pilgrims' Friend Society.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW



FAITH SHARP (Completed by her Daughter, Deb, as Faith is now living with Dementia)

Where do you live now?
St Ives in Cambridgeshire

Are you still involved in the Union?
No, not directly

If not, for how many years were you involved in the Union?
Around 72 years

Where do you currently worship?
St Ives Free Church (URC)

Describe your current church.
The Free Church is one of the oldest non-conformist churches in the country; tracing its history right back to the 1630s when Oliver Cromwell lived in the town. It provides a space for

personal and public worship and enriches the spiritual and cultural life of the community. It is warm and welcoming but sees mainly over 60's in attendance, with a few families occasionally. It is a fair trade church that is passionate about global peace and justice, fair trade and ecology. It is very present in the community, with a care, fair-trade shop and meeting space used by a variety of groups. It hosts daily liturgical prayers and weekly Sunday morning worship which is fairly traditional.

Which of the following do you prefer and why?

Organ, piano or music group?

Piano

Pews or chairs

Chairs

Lectern or pulpit?

Lectern

Refreshments before, during or after the service?

After (although she'd drink tea at any time, to be fair!)

Other than the Bible, which book has influenced you the most?

C.S. Lewis

Who would you most like to have supper with (dead or alive, actual or fictional)?

Family

What is your favourite Bible verse?

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock..."

What is your favourite hymn or song?

Father, I place into your hands

What is your favourite memory of your time in the Union?

Too many to choose from... her father, my grandfather was Charles Mackinder and she talks fondly of days in St Just in Cornwall when she was a little girl. She has fond memories of singing with her mum at churches in Wellingborough Circuit. Her most treasured memories are all of people that have been true friends throughout the years, I won't start naming them as I'll miss people out... the WRU has truly been a lifetime of blessing for her!

ADVERT

WOMEN of ACTION

Prayer, discussion
AGM & more

Saturday 30th April
Coal Aston Church S18 3AL
10:30 - 3:30
(10am coffee)

All ladies are welcome to attend the day, please come and join us and be a part of what God is doing through the Women of Action in our Union of churches.

Lunch is provided so please call 07981413291/01933312919 with numbers attending



JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Matthew 21 Verses 12 - 17 (Please read)

This act of cleansing the Temple was the second one recorded in the gospels, for in **John chapter 2 v 12 to 25** we have the first cleansing which took place at the beginning of his ministry just after the wedding in Cana. This second cleansing took place at the end of his ministry after the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. **It is not surprising that this happened on more than one occasion because Jesus attended the major festivals in Jerusalem from a young age.** At 12 years old he was found by Mary and Joseph sitting with the teachers of the law and questioning them. So these two incidents are rather like book ends of his ministry, one at the beginning and one at the end. On this occasion the Temple was once again defiled by the religious leaders. This "market" most likely took place in the court of the Gentiles. It was a place where Gentile men could go and be instructed about the one true God, the God of Israel. It was part of the outreach of the Temple leaders. The market began as a service and convenience to foreign Jews where they could exchange money for the temple coinage and purchase animals and birds for sacrifice. **But the religious leaders had turned it into a lucrative business, charging exorbitant prices, and no one could compete or oppose them.** Therefore, the religious leaders were ignoring their responsibility to their witness and stopping the Gentiles from hearing about God. They were putting a stumbling block in their way. **They were not putting God first in their lives. They were more interested in money than they were in God.** Commentators and historians tell us that Annas,

a former high priest was the manager of this enterprise. No wonder that Jesus was angry at what he saw happening.

The scriptures say that we can't serve two masters. We either put God first in our lives or we put material things first. We can't do both. **So, we have to make the choice, is it God first in our lives or material gain.**

When Jesus called the Temple 'my house', he was affirming that he is God. When he called it 'my house of prayer', he was quoting **Isaiah 56 v 7**, this chapter in **Isaiah** denounces the unfaithful leaders of Israel. The phrase 'den of thieves' comes from **Jeremiah 7 v 11**, and is part of a speech that Jeremiah gave at the gate of the temple rebuking the people for the same sins that Jesus saw in his day.

Why did Jesus call it a den of thieves? Because the place where thieves hide is a Den. **The religious leaders and some of the people were using the temple and the Jewish religion to cover up their sins.** What does God want in His house? **He wants praise and true prayer, for this is evidence of our dependence on Him and our faith in His word. He also wants His people to tell others about Jesus, to be true witnesses for Him, that others might come to Him and own the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.** The needy should feel welcome and find the help they need. And there should be the Power of God working to change people.

David Shuttleworth
Jump WR Church



A Prayer During Covid



Loving Heavenly Father,

We come to You as we have done so often during the current Coronavirus Pandemic. We have been through so much uncertainty and change, false dawns only to be thwarted by new variants, times when we have been isolated from our friends and families and when our churches have had to close their doors. Many have lost their lives, and every passing leaves those behind who mourn. Businesses have been affected and jobs have been lost. Our children have had their education greatly disrupted. **Would you comfort the sad and lonely and restore hope for those who are**

struggling in any way.

We thank You for the way that we have seen in many ways our society at its best. For all those who are part of the National Health Service and other caring agencies and organisations who have faced unprecedented pressures. For those in the education sector who have urged and inspired our children. For those frontline workers who have been very much in the public eye and for those who have quietly cared for friends and neighbours. **We continue to pray for our Government and its Advisors, that decisions they take may be just and for the benefit of the whole of society.**

Our prayers are also for Your Church and our churches. We give You thanks that what we have always proclaimed, that the church is the people not the building, we were able in many ways to show in practice for

although our buildings were closed Your church is still alive and living – learning new ways of being Your people, embracing technology and showing loving care. **We do remember though the churches who have struggled to cope with the changes that needed to be made, and challenges we have faced.**

Above all, we thank You that we have been encouraged by Your Word and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. **You have been our refuge and strength, our ever-present help in trouble – the Lord Almighty always with us and the God of Jacob our fortress. ***

In the precious name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***Psalm 46 v 1 and 11**

Rev Phil Hearson

IN OUR LIVES FIRST: Meditations for Counselors

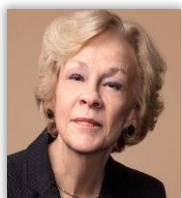
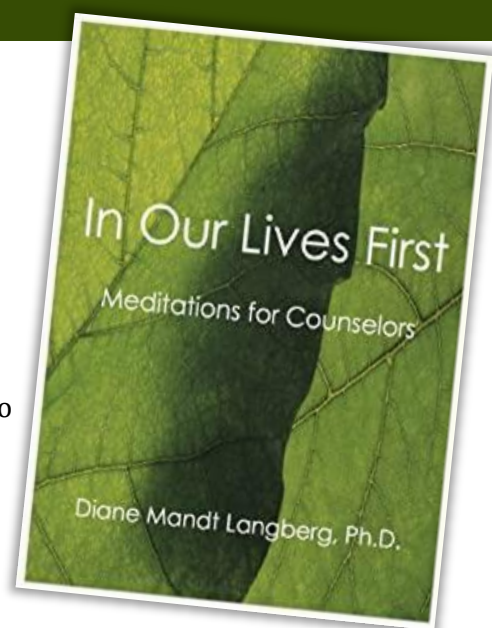
Book by Diane Langberg

Many caring jobs place a heavy burden on the carer. As you listen to the lives and fears of others, you cannot help but be affected, disturbed, saddened or tempted yourself. To carry other people's burdens can sink you in mire of despair, or even leave you tainted by the sin confessed or witnessed. I have worked alongside social workers, I've worked in a rehab unit and with young offenders. Now as a Pastor, preparing funerals, or sitting with those in their last days, can carry very heavy burdens. I have a friend who is a barrister, who after working in court, comes home and sits alone reading a

Psalm to almost cleanse his mind of what he has dealt with at work. As carers we must look after our own minds, soul, spirit and conscience.

I have found this book by Diane Langberg incredibly helpful and insightful. It is thoroughly Biblical in its approach, yet very easy to read. You could use it as a daily devotion, with each meditation ministering into our own personal souls, through the light of scripture and the gospel.

Pastor Andy Wilcock
Hampden View Church



Dr. Diane Langberg is a practising psychologist whose clinical expertise includes 35 years of working with trauma survivors and clergy. She speaks internationally on topics related to women, trauma, ministry and the Christian life.

Her wisdom and experience is invaluable for the Christian carer, councillor or pastor.

A Different View of Life

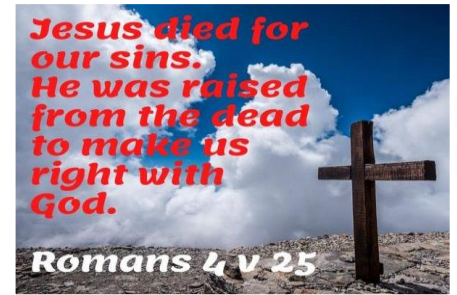


The renovation was finished at last, and all the rubbish was piled into the skip. This was my skip! Bought and paid for with my hard earned cash! Now...I find that someone has been dumping their rubbish in it! A mattress, some garden chairs and a black sealed bag of rubbish! Carelessly deposited in my skip!

Yes... I know there was room, but that's not the point... MY money paid for MY skip for MY rubbish!

Why did they dump a mattress? Did they save it on the off chance there would be a convenient skip to offload it into? Or did they see MY skip and rush out to buy a new mattress, knowing they could dispose of the old one? I didn't even want to think of what the black bag could contain!

IT WASN'T MINE! NOT MY RUBBISH! So... why should I have to pay for someone else's rubbish!



But then of course I remembered... Romans 4 verse 25. **JESUS** paid for the rubbish in our lives. No questions. No ifs. No buts. He paid for it all. Everything! He even paid for the black bag in our life that we don't want to remember and certainly wouldn't want anyone else to look into it. Paid in full!

"The Viewer"



Sharing Your Faith Simply Session 4 *Prayer & Outreach*

PASTOR ANDY WILCOCK
WRU DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH CONSULTANT

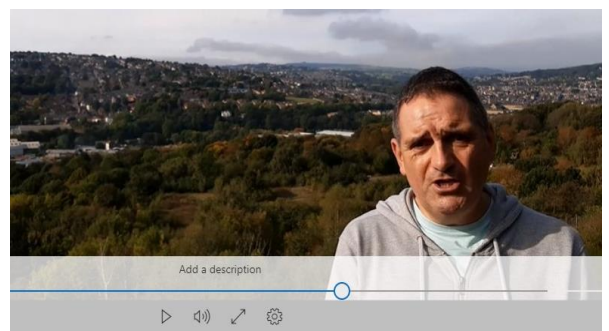
There are now six short videos and PowerPoints on the WRU website looking at sharing your faith with the communities around your Church. Michael Hedley and Andy Wilcock have recorded their thoughts to support your church in doing outreach. These short clips are designed as a starter, to provoke discussion, encourage prayer and ideas for evangelism. You could use them as part of Sunday Worship, in a leaders group or Bible Study.

Andy is very keen to visit your church and support you in any form of outreach, from a Holiday Club, Craft Day, Family Fun Evening, All age service / Messy Church, Park Events or maybe starting a regular activity like a Toddler Group or Kids Club. He can also help in producing publicity, speaking at an evangelistic event or storytelling. Please do get in touch with Andy by email andymarkw@gmail.com.

Sharing Your Faith Simply - Video Clips

- 1) Sharing Your Faith Simply - Introduction
- 2) Know Your Community and be known by them
- 3) Relationship Building
- 4) Prayer & Outreach
- 5) Personal Testimony
- 6) Outreach Events

These video clips are available on the Union's website www.thewru.co.uk At the moment they can be found under Departments on the **Home Missions page**.





**He is not here,
He has risen!**

Matthew 28:1-7 (NIV)

Easter is the most important and the most joyous of all the festivals. Through the death of Jesus on Good Friday we have forgiveness of sins. In his resurrection on Easter Sunday, we have a new life forever.

I was brought up at the local Baptist Church which was on the next road to where I lived. When I was 9 my sister Pauline aged 12 was missing her friends who had gone to secondary school, so she took me along to the old Hampden View church. Mr Porton who was the Superintendent at the church made us really welcome and I quickly settled there. Every Easter Sunday morning people from Hampden View walked over to Philadelphia Church as it was their Sunday School Anniversary. We would all sit up in the balcony and the first hymn they sang was always,

*Christ the Lord is Risen today, Hallelujah!
Sons of men and angels say Hallelujah!
Praise your joys and triumphs high, Hallelujah!
Sing, ye heavens, thou earth reply. Hallelujah!*

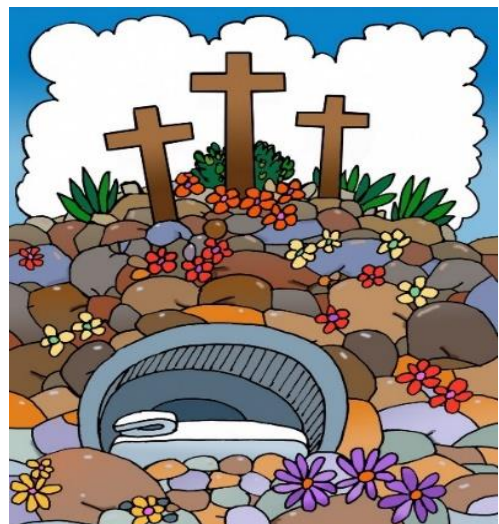
I had never heard it sung like that before and even now 69 years later it remains one of my favourite hymns. Shortly after I began attending Hampden View, I became a Christian and have tried to serve Jesus ever since. I married Edwin from Philadelphia Church in 1963 and God has blessed us with two children and four grandchildren.

When Covid restrictions started to ease, Hampden View joined with Philadelphia in their building to worship together on a Sunday as we

were able to spread out and felt very safe. It has been really good for both churches to share together again like we often did almost 70 years ago, with the same message that the Lord Jesus is risen.

The day we have been waiting for has dawned, Jesus has burst out of the tomb and is alive forever. The events of over 2000 years ago are brought alive once more. Easter day is not just about chocolate, Easter eggs, egg hunts and the Easter Bunny - all exciting things - and family time spent together, but being able to celebrate the empty tomb and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Jesus conquered death and is alive for evermore. He lives in my heart; does he live in yours?

**Julia Hodson,
Hampden View Church**



THE NEW NORMAL (Part 1)

I suppose how we feel about how things are today is governed by so many things; our health maybe, or where we live, how wealthy or otherwise we are etc.

Here in the country it's easy to find ourselves relatively undisturbed by the pandemic that surrounds us, because - at the moment at least - we are in pretty good health and for the main the sun is shining.

And that set me thinking about getting back to normal. In every respect but one (or two), I quite like the new normal. I seem to have more time, I'm not rushing around driven by the calendar, and I'm able to savour the world around and each other's company, even if at a distance.

Is that selfish thinking? Maybe.

Of course, I know that, living where I do is a huge privilege

and that for many if not most people, these are days of anxiety and stress caught in a trap of close confinement and concern.

So what can I do that makes best use of my new 'normal'?

Paul wrote to the Colossians church, *"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."* (Colossians 3:14-17)



And maybe that should be my new normal

- To take more time to meditate on the things of heaven in order that I might prayerfully encourage those around me.
- To not lose sight of those who have such great need
- To pray and to practice

And in all of this, whatever I do or say, *"do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."*

Cliff Darby

ADVERTS

Overseas Missions "Minibus Project"

Come and hear more about this year's Minibus Project from a representative of "Love Russia"

**Wednesday 9th March 2022,
7:00 pm**

At Jump Wesleyan Reform Church, Church Street, Jump, Barnsley S74 0HZ, **Contact - Ian Sykes 01226 211860**



THE WRU CONFERENCE 2022

We are looking forward to seeing you at our 173rd Annual Conference.

13-15th June 2022

The Hayes Conference Centre

We will continue with Online Booking Forms. Information will be sent to all Church and Circuit secretaries shortly.

For any queries, please contact Alina by email admin@thewru.co.uk. Thank you.

OBITUARY

PANSY SPEARING 1927-2021 Fritwell Chapel

Pansy was a true Christian and worshipped at this chapel for 85yrs.

She was an organist, Sunday School teacher and for many years she sent all members birthday cards also flowers or fruit to people who had been ill and was always pleased to help with our special events.

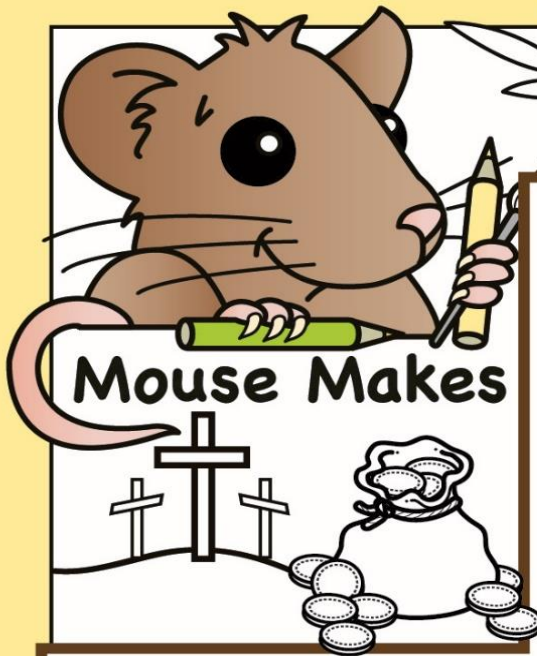
She would visit and help anyone in need.

For several years she was the village post lady going round the village twice a day on the old GPO bike.

She also joined in with organisations in the village and for a time was WI president.

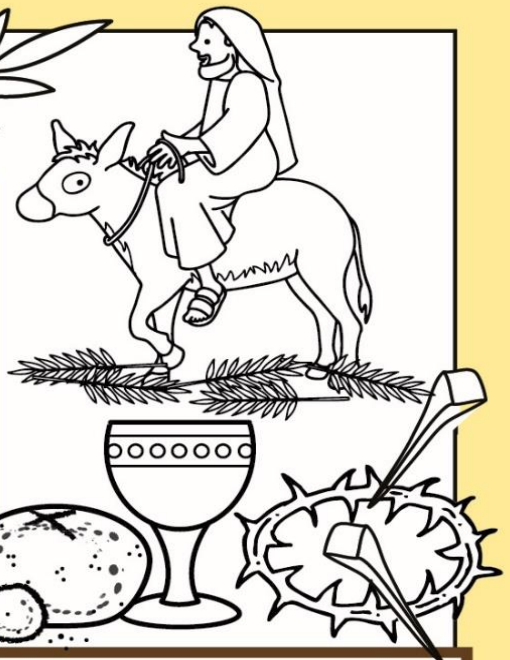
A well-respected person and loved by all who knew her. Her Christian faith was a light to all.

Don Walker



Mouse Makes

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- DONKEY • COLT • SAT • COATS
- ROAD • CROWD • CUT • PALMS
- BRANCHES • KING • HOSANNA
-  DISCIPLES • ROOM • PASSOVER
- FEAST • EAT • DRINK • BREAD
- WINE • SON • MAN • BLOOD • CUP
- MEAL • JEWS • PLOT • KILL • COINS
- GETHESEMANE • PRAY • WILL
- BETRAY • KISS • ARREST • MESSIAH
- CHRIST • CRUCIFY • JESUS • CROWN
- THORNS • ROBE • TREE • NAILS
-  CROSS • SPIRIT • DARKNESS
- TEMPLE • DEATH • LOTS • DICE
- TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
- BURY • GUARD • THREE DAYS
- DAWN • MORNING • ANGEL • TELL
- HEAVEN • GOOD NEWS • LORD
- GOD • RAISED • JOY • PEACE
- PRaise • SAVIOUR • EASTER 



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