

1946 - 2024



**CHURCH IS NOT
SOMETHING YOU GO TO,
IT'S A FAMILY
YOU BELONG TO.**

Broxburn Baptist Church Newsletter

- The church on your doorstep for 78 years

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He is not here, he has **RISEN** *Mark 16:6*

Spring forward!

Clocks
get set

**AHEAD
ONE
HOUR**

tonight!



Remember

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No. 201 30th March 2024

'We are ambassadors for Christ'

Some thoughts.....

They say that things come in three's, don't they? I've never managed to work out who 'they' are but whoever 'they' are they seem to be right. Well they were right yesterday – three of them died there, each on their own cross. The crowd were getting their money's worth – three for the price of one you could say? But most of them were there just to see the one on the middle cross executed. The other two were your 'run-of-the-mill' criminals, thieves I think, but it was the one in the middle who was the main attraction. Everyone who was there knew him – Jesus the preacher from up in Galilee, Jesus the terrorist some would argue, some even would say Jesus the Messiah (but not too loudly and certainly not in front of the priests).

Me? Well, when I had followed the crowds out of the city I hadn't really given him much thought. I had heard of him but I'm not into politics and if I'm honest I'm not into religion either – now before you get shirty I do all the things I should as a good Jew. I say my prayers, do the sacrifice thing, and read the scriptures – well probably as much as the next man. I like the routine, the ritual but I wouldn't call myself religious. If there is a God I'm not sure if he's interested in me – if I were God I wouldn't be!

But as things went on I felt something happening. I was close enough to see the look on Jesus' face – he was in agony, sure, but even when they were nailing him down – you know what he said – and I quote - "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And I could see in his face that he meant it. Then a bit later as they were hanging there he actually had a conversation with the two other guys One of them said to him "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" but the other turned to him and told him he didn't know what he was saying (my words) – we deserve this he said – he doesn't! Then these words between him and Jesus, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

When I heard this I knew this man Jesus was something special – I almost said out of this world! He died shortly after that – just before they broke the thief's legs.

You know - I've thought about nothing else today – what I witnessed yesterday wouldn't leave me. I can't shake it off.

Ah well, there's always tomorrow!

Robert

30th March 2024

Baptist Union of Scotland Prayer Calendar 2024

Here are the subjects for prayer this week..

W/c 1st April

Crieff Baptist Church
Crown Terrace Baptist Church
Culduthel Christian Centre
Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church



You can sign up for prayer points via Facebook at

<https://scottishbaptist.com/prayer/>

Luke 23:55 ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.

BMS Prayer Guide 2024

Many people in Cambodia welcome the message and messengers of Jesus Christ. Please pray that BMS World Mission's efforts and collaboration with our partners will lead to churches being planted, people becoming disciples of Christ and the gospel being preached in the power of the Holy Spirit.



SUNDAY 31

Praise God for the power that raised Jesus from the dead. Pray that through that same power God will empower BMS-supported disciple makers to plant 20 house churches by the end of the year.

MONDAY 1

Pray that God will strengthen BMS-supported evangelists Yiem Bros, Chea Kosoll and Sokea, working in three locations to disciple new believers. Praise God for blessing their efforts with more than 30 newly baptised disciples.

TUESDAY 2

Praise God for opening the hearts of six families in Tropeangrun village, who gather every Sunday to hear the gospel. Pray that God will enable each member of these families to become a disciple of Christ, and for the first church to be planted in the village.

WEDNESDAY 3

Praise God for the BMS-supported dormitory in Phnom Penh providing a safe place for students from rural areas. Pray that the students will thrive and experience God's transforming love.

THURSDAY 4

Praise God that Cambodia is open to receive skilled mission workers. Pray that we can recruit the right people to be trained and sent to work with BMS partner BCM.

FRIDAY 5

Give thanks for BMS-supported English classes providing free tuition to more than 40 children in rural Cambodia. Pray that the children and their families will experience God's love.

SATURDAY 6

Praise God for the visionary leadership of mission worker Pastor J. Pray for protection for his family and for BCM mission worker Kimi, and ask that their ministries will raise up male and female evangelists.

Bible Reading– the whole Bible in 2 years.

31 st	<i>Exodus 40:16-38; Leviticus 1:1-17; Leviticus 2:1-2</i>
1 st	<i>Leviticus 2:3-16; Leviticus 3:1-17; Leviticus 4:1-8</i>
2 nd	<i>Leviticus 4:9-35; Leviticus 5:1-6</i>
3 rd	<i>Leviticus 5:7-19; Leviticus 6:1-20</i>
4 th	<i>Leviticus 6:21-30; Leviticus 7:1-34</i>
5 th	<i>Leviticus 7:35-38; Leviticus 8:1-35</i>
6 th	<i>Leviticus 8:36-36; Leviticus 9:1-24; Leviticus 10:1-14</i>



A Thought from Charlie

"Keep yourselves in the love of God..."
(Jude 21)

Husband and wife were visiting an orphanage where they had hoped to adopt a child. In an interview with the boy they wanted, they told him in glowing terms about the many things they could give to him. To their amazement, the little boy said: "If you have nothing to offer except a good home, clothes, toys and the other things... that's what most children have..... I would just as soon stay here".

"What on earth could you want beside those things?" The woman asked. "Well", replied the little boy... "I just want someone to love me".
There you have it.

Even a little boy knows that "man shall not live by bread alone".
Our deeper yearnings and longings can be met only by a renewed fellowship with the one in whose image we were created..... And that is God.

Duty Rota Preaching Door Vestry Prayer Communion Prayer

<u>Duty Rota</u>		<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Door</u>	<u>Vestry Prayer</u>	<u>Communion Prayer</u>
EASTER	31	Donna	Kevin	Mary	
April	7	Archie	Isobel	Jen	Jim B.
	14	Archie	Phyllis	Eddie	
	21	Donna	Linda	Linda	
	28	Andy	Bill	Bill	
May	5	Donnas	Mark	Robert	Bill



Church This Week

Sunday 31st

11.00am Easter Day Worship – Donna

To join on zoom just click the link below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85227893884>

Thursday

No Zoom Prayer – use the prayer wall for personal prayer.

Friday

No Lighthouse this week

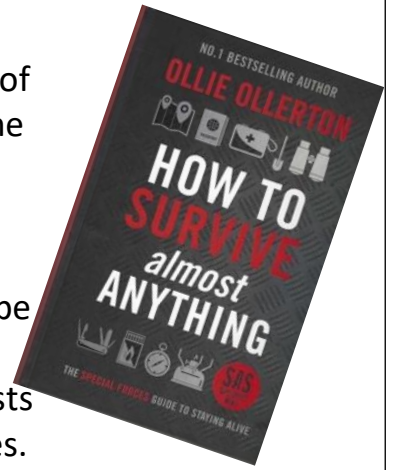
The Faberge Egg known as "1913 Winter Egg" is considered the most expensive Faberge egg ever sold at \$9.6M (£7.6) in 2002



'We are ambassadors for Chri

'How to Survive Almost Anything 11.'

We move on to Part 2 of the book headed 'Essentials' the first part of which links with last week as it is about 'Back to Basics'. It pushes the need to *'learn to adapt to whatever situation you are placed in.'* He says we have to *'embrace it, don't resist it.'* In the sentences before he talks about how water flows to take the shape of its container - it adapts. If you put it in a flowerpot it becomes the shape of a flowerpot, if a teapot then a teapot. It has not changed. It is still water. It can run and flow and do what water can do. He suggests that to survive we have to adapt to our surroundings like water does.



When I read this I was reminded of the words of Paul on 1 Corinthians 9 when he said ²⁰ *To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law ... so as to win those under the law.* ²¹ *To those not having the law I became like one not having the lawso as to win those not having the law.* ²² *To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.* ²³ *I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.*

As Christians let's take up Paul's challenge of adapting to the changes we see every day in our world so that we might share the truth of God's love in order to win those around us.

The Easter Legend of the Dogwood Tree

The legend goes like this..... *in the days of Christ, the Dogwood tree was a much larger, strong- trunked tree, much different from the smaller trees we are so fond of now. The story continues that when Christ was crucified His cross was made of the sturdy bark of the Dogwood tree, and God both cursed and blessed the Dogwood tree the day His Son died.*

He cursed it by making it much smaller than it was and blessed it by having it bloom every year during the Easter season as an additional reminder to the world of Jesus' love.

Each bloom on a Dogwood tree has four petals, symbolizing a cross (as the legend tells it). At the end of each petal, there is a small indentation to remind us of the nails that pierced Jesus' hands and feet. The centre of each flower on the tree has a nubby look to it, reminding us of the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head at the time of His crucifixion. And many times on the Dogwood flower, there are colours of red dotted on the bloom when you look closely, reminding us of the blood Jesus poured out for us.



Journey to Jerusalem

Some time ago the Scottish Bible Society produced this series of 10 Bible Studies for use running up to Easter. I include them and trust you will find them useful.

Easter Sunday 31st March

READ MATTHEW 28: 1-20

Early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary make their way to “look” at the tomb. What they see, and what the petrified Roman guards see, is an empty tomb guarded now by an angel of the Lord come down from heaven, whose arrival is announced by an earthquake. The angel’s repeated message is transformative, “He has risen.” To these women, come to look at a tomb, the angel issues the invite, “Come and see”. The angel then commands the women, “Go and tell,” with the



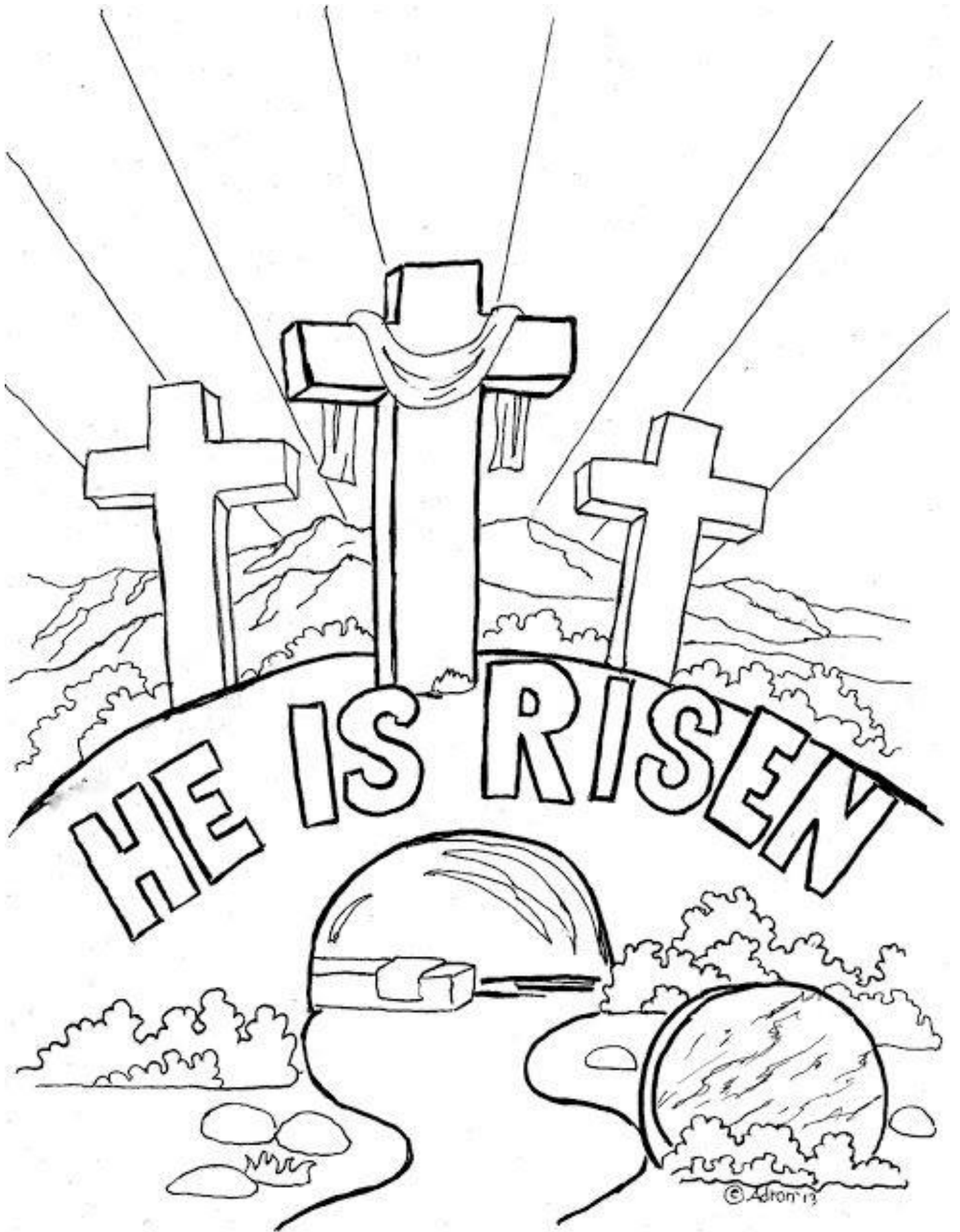
promise that, “You will see him.” As they go to fulfil the angel’s commands they meet and see the resurrected Christ. Christ himself repeats the angel’s commands to these terrified women, “Do not be afraid ... go and tell,” with the promise that his disciples will meet and see him in Galilee.

This Easter day, as we celebrate again the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, may we follow in the footsteps of these faithful women. May we journey with them to that empty tomb, may we come and see the evidence that he has risen, and as on this day we encounter afresh the risen Christ, may we heed his command, given to all his disciples in every day and generation, “Go and tell!”

- ***What did you like and dislike about this passage?***
- ***What did you notice about humanity and what did you notice about God?***
- ***Which part impacted you most?***
- ***Who do you know that needs to hear about this today?***

Did you know that about 1.5 million Cadbury Creme Egg eggs can be made every day at the Bournville factory. They're made in two halves, both filled with white fondant and one additionally filled with yellow fondant; the two halves are closed together quickly and there it is – a Cadbury Creme Egg!





The Prayer Wall

Dear Lord,

As I look back over the past week I can see times when I have been true to what I believe and other times when I haven't been the person I should be. As I think over these times please forgive me and give me the strength not to make the same mistakes again.

In Jesus' name

Sunday

Lord, thank you for the reality of Easter Morning, the stone rolled away, the grave clothes discarded, the tomb empty and Jesus risen.

Hallelujah!

Amen

Lord, I think of those I know who are struggling with ill-health. Be near them, guide the doctors who are treating them, bring them back to health.

Amen

Lord, I look at what we have done to the world you have given us and I understand why you have promised us a world made new when you return. Until then help me to do what I can to care for the one which has sustained us so far.

Amen

Lord, thank you for your word and the freedom to own it and read it. Help me to get into the habit of reading it regularly. Amen.

Lord, I remember the Baptist Union of Scotland and those who work on our behalf at the centre. Give them wisdom, insight, and a vision for a Baptist family that will make a difference to our country.

Amen

Lord, thank you for spring and the joy of new life and growth. I pray for the church I attend and ask that we might see new life and growth,

Amen

Lord, as our schools and colleges have a break over the easter period give rest and refreshment to staff and students alike. For our own young folk who are making decisions about their future, guide them.

Amen

Then on the third at break of dawn
The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King
O praise the Name of the Lord our God
O praise His Name forevermore
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

<https://youtu.be/LqBpifDpNKc>

Father, as I look forward to another week help me to live for you, to tell those I meet about your love for them, and honour you in everything I do.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV