



# **LAMBETH CIRCUIT 35/06**

**NEWSLETTER: ISSUE NO.47  
MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2025**

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# CIRCUIT NEWS & MESSAGES

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER

Dear Lambeth Circuit members

I am writing this letter to you whilst thinking about the Gospel reading for Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> – Luke 6: 17-26 – Where Jesus says ‘Blessed are the poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God’. I guess we would all like to be blessed and receive blessings from God! Often our blessings appear very mixed however. Some good things are given to us – and some hard things. I certainly feel blessed with a very good blessing as I approach my marriage to Antonia in early April.

The text however says – ‘Blessed are the poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God.’ It is specific and not a general statement about blessings. And unless we unravel it then we may misconstrue its meaning. For we could read it that being poor is a good thing and then we would not care about all those who are actually poor in our country and around the world. I do not think any of us think that. In our circuit Brixton Hill operates a food bank service to ensure that the poor of that neighbourhood do not go hungry.

Sometimes the word blessed is translated in modern bibles as happy. I’m not sure this is a good translation. I think, even if the word blessed seems a bit old fashioned, that it is a better word in this context. If you are poor, it is hard to go around smiling when you are hungry or homeless or in debt. Let us then link the word blessed with the promise given in the text – for yours is the Kingdom (Reign or Realm) of God.

Jesus is speaking to his disciples, even though there is a crowd around him, the text is clear he speaks to the disciples. They had given up their homes and work to follow Jesus, thereby becoming poor through choice.

The early church, as recorded by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, also suffered from poverty – and those who were rich gave up that wealth to the church. The poverty Jesus speaks of then seems to be a more voluntary choice to become poor – not to rely on worldly goods but to be followers of Jesus. Now, we see why Jesus says blessed are the poor – because they have

chosen to be poor in order that they might know the reign, the kingdom of God in their lives – this reign was understood to be both an interior spirituality where one draws nearer to God – but also a community experience of sharing and caring for each other. Now they live in the reign of God and are blessed because Jesus has shown them that this way of living is more wholesome, more holy than seeking riches and prestige and so on.

When God/Jesus says ‘Blessed are you’ what is meant is that God favours, God delights in, those who hear the Word and do God’s will. This applies to each individual believer and to each ‘society/church’. If we truly wish to be blessed by God – perhaps we might say become contented (a better word than happy) – we achieve this contentedness, this peace, this wholeness, by knowing that it is living by God’s way of love that leads us to that place of eternal life – not heaven after life on earth ends, but heaven on earth now, as our interior spiritual life grows and our church communities flourish in nurturing each other. In our society there are many who are poor involuntarily. There are still some Christian people who live in communities where whatever they own is shared. It was probably easier in Jesus’s world to give up possessions and professions and still survive.

In our world that is very hard to do – to have a home costs money whether we buy or rent – food has to be purchased and so on. I think Jesus might give us other ways of inheriting the Kingdom – of giving ourselves over to God’s reign in our lives – in this world today.

So, let us pray that God may give to each and every one of us grace to grow in holiness, in spiritual depth, in love; and enable us to look at our churches with honesty and integrity and to ask ourselves if our churches are blessed by God because we are following the Word made flesh, the Way, the Truth, the Life found in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

***Every Blessing – Revd Dr Andy Lyons***

## **Revd Lena's Lent and Easter Message**

As Christians, we are richly blessed with so many celebrations in the life of the Church. We have just celebrated Christmas, New Year and our Covenant Service. Some of us have put away the Christmas decorations, cards, gifts, etc. but I have noticed that in many Churches, the manger is still somewhere in the Church or vestry, the Christmas tree is in a corner waiting to be stored and the decorations lying around. Nevertheless, we are rapidly approaching the season of Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday 5th March 2025 with a 40-day-period of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and ends on Thursday 17th April 2025, also known as Maundy Thursday or Holy Thursday. This time, is often referred to as "Spring Cleaning for the Soul." Undoubtedly, Lent and Easter are ideal times for reflection, hope and new beginnings for all Christians.

As we look at the news on our televisions and read our newspapers; we realise that hardship, pain, terrorism, injustice, tragedies, war, displacement, famine, natural disasters and the senseless murders of so many young people are leaving families fearful, grieving, homeless, to name but a few of the negative effects families are experiencing. How are we meant to celebrate Easter in such difficult circumstances? At Easter, we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and the message of the empty tomb is a sign that the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ brings us life, hope, and love. "It tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ." What does Lent and Easter mean to us?

### **Lent**

Originated from an Anglo-Saxon word, Lencten, meaning, "spring," the time of the lengthening of the days. Lent is the forty-day period beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). The period is actually 46 days, but since Sundays are feast days and to be celebrated, they are not included in the count. Lent is intended to be a period of preparation and penitence marked by fasting, praying and charity. It is a time for self-examination and a time to grow spiritually.

### **Purple**

The Liturgical colour used in the season of Lent is Purple which signifies penitence and preparation

and reminds us that this is a special time of the year and focus our attention through the events of Holy Week on to Christ's work of Redemption.

### **Ash Wednesday (Day of Ashes)**

The Wednesday marking the beginning of the season of Lent, usually observed with a period of fasting and spiritual preparation. In the Ash Wednesday liturgy, the Minister makes a sign of the cross with ashes on a person's forehead as a mark of their mortality saying "Remember (man) that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." or "Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel" ["good-news"]) The ashes are burned palms saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.

### **Palm Sunday**

The Sunday before Easter, where Jesus' Final and Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem is observed. Real palm branches or crosses made from palms (or both) are blessed and distributed to the congregation usually after a short procession.

### **Holy Week**

The week preceding Easter -- the last week in Lent. Holy Week is one of the most important period of the church year, observed with many special services, beginning with Palm Sunday and concluding on Holy Saturday. Holy Week includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

### **Maundy Thursday**

The word "Maundy" is originated from the Latin word called "Mandatum," which means "commandment." This day is named after Jesus' commandment to his disciples to love one another. Maundy Thursday demonstrates the importance of humility and service by remembering Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. The command is closely tied to another "Commaund" given by Jesus at the same time: "Do this in remembrance of me." Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday) was the day on which the First Lord's Supper, the Last Supper, was celebrated with the 12 Disciples.

### **Good Friday**

The day in Holy Week in which we remember Christ's Arrest, Passion, Crucifixion and Death on a cross. It is unclear where the name "Good Friday" originated. Some have said it is a corruption of "God's Friday," Others say it is called "Good" because of the great benefits given to humanity by Christ's Death and Resurrection.

## Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, we commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, on the third day after he was crucified. Easter is a movable feast, which means it does not always fall on the same day each year. Easter is always the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox (first day of Spring). By this calculation, Easter could occur anytime from the 22nd March to the 25th April. The Easter Season, spans for 50 days (six Sundays) after Easter to Ascension Day.

We may be tempted to give in and give up the world as it is today. However, because we now share in the powerful resurrection of Jesus, we are to live our daily lives full of Easter hope. As Christians, we must never look like people who have just come back from a funeral! Death has been beaten but as disciples of Christ, and even amongst the pain and suffering, we can be filled with the light, joy, life, and the hope of the Resurrection of Jesus. Let us on Easter Sunday 20th April 2025 sing aloud our "Alleluias" and proclaim "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Alleluia!

Wishing you and all your families and loved ones a Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Easter.

Lena Ali

## Revd Kristin's Message

### Psalm 95:1-7

O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

<sup>6</sup> O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup> For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

Over the centuries, the Psalms have been the musical songbook for people of faith. Some of the Psalms are in a major key—they speak of praise and joy and thanksgiving to God. Some are in a minor key, with discordant melodies- the laments, where the Psalm writer asks the difficult "WHY" questions and entrusts his extreme sadness and grief to God. "How Long, O Lord...?" Psalms are meant to be sung during all of the seasons and shades of life.

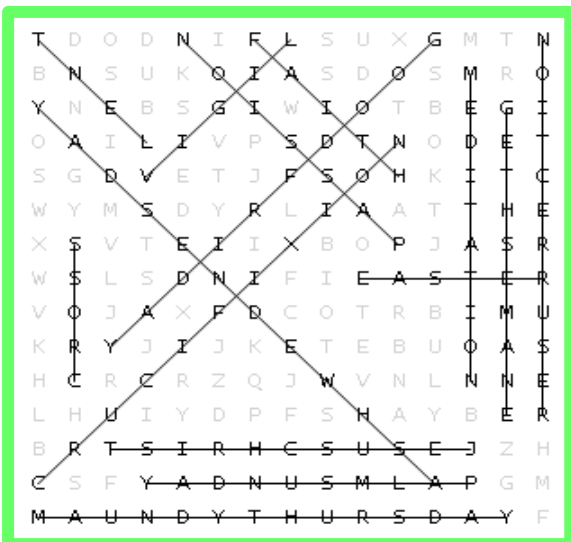
We have all had experiences of life in a major key- times of assurance and joy. And we have all known when life has turned into a minor key with times of distress, discouragement and sadness.

We believe that God "accompanies" us throughout our lives. God has gifted us with Christ, whom we are told sang Psalms before going to the Mount of Olives.

Our God, the great conductor of life, our Good Shepherd, walks with us in life and even through the valley of the shadow of death. During this time of Lent and Eastertide, we pray for the grace to keep singing. May we entrust our life melodies to God.

I would like to share the words of a modern Psalm, written by Natalie Sleeth. I invite you to carry this "Hymn of Promise" with you as we move with Christ to the cross and beyond.

## ANSWER TO WORDSEARCH



'In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.'

*Peace in Christ, Kristin*

### SOLUTION TO SUDOKU

#### Sudoku 21

6	2	9	7	3	4	1	8	5
3	4	8	5	9	1	6	7	2
7	5	1	2	6	8	3	9	4
8	7	3	1	4	6	5	2	9
4	9	6	3	5	2	7	1	8
2	1	5	8	7	9	4	3	6
9	3	2	4	1	5	8	6	7
5	8	7	6	2	3	9	4	1
1	6	4	9	8	7	2	5	3

#### Sudoku 22

3	6	5	4	1	7	9	8	2
1	2	8	6	9	5	3	4	7
4	7	9	8	2	3	1	5	6
8	9	7	5	3	2	6	1	4
2	1	6	9	4	8	5	7	3
5	3	4	7	6	1	2	9	8
7	5	3	1	8	6	4	2	9
6	4	1	2	7	9	8	3	5
9	8	2	3	5	4	7	6	1

### SOLUTION TO LENT QUIZ

- When does Holy Week begin?
  - Palm Sunday
- What was laid down on the floor for Jesus to walk over?
  - Palm Leaves
- What was the reaction of the crowd when they saw Jesus riding on a donkey?
  - They praised Him & shouted Hosanna
- On the Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus and his friends had a meal, what do we call it?
  - The Last Supper
- How many people attended this meal?
  - 13
- What did Jesus do before the meal?
  - Wash the feet of his disciples
- The prepared meal represented Jesus'...
  - Body and Blood
- Where did Jesus go after the meal with His Disciples?
  - Garden of Gethsemane
- Whose ears were cut off by Peter during the arrest of Jesus?
  - Malchus
- When a large crowd of people turned up to see Jesus arrested, how did Judas betray him?
  - He kissed him
- Jesus was put on trial to see if he was guilty. What was the name of the man who questioned Jesus?
  - Pontius Pilate
- Jesus was not found guilty but the people wanted him to be crucified anyway so they released a prisoner to keep the crowds happy. Who was released?
  - Barabbas
- What was Jesus last word just before he died?
  - "It is finished!"
- After the tomb was found empty, one of the women who came was very upset, who was she?
  - Mary Magdalene
- Jesus appeared to his disciples but they didn't recognise him, how did they know it was Him in the end?
  - He took the bread and thanked God for it

### CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN Year C – MARCH 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES		2	9	16	23	30
		Sunday before Lent Poverty Sunday	First Sunday in Lent	Second Sunday in Lent	Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday
CHURCHES	TIME	Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13 4	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Luke 13:31-35	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
<b>BRIXTON HILL</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	Markay HC Circuit Service @ 5pm	Oyeledun	Amoah-Arko	Markay	Smyth
<b>CLAPHAM</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	Shortman HC	Markay	Lyons B	Lyons	LA - AA
<b>Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356</b>	<b>6:00pm Zoom Service open to all Circuit Members</b>	Fellowship Zoom	CTIC	CTIC	CtiC	CTIC
<b>LAMBETH WALK</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	Ovenden	Lyons	Shortman HC	Oyeledun	LA
<b>MOSTYN ROAD</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	X	X	X	X	Markay HC
<b>RAILTON ROAD</b>	<b>11:00am</b>	Ali HC	LA	King	Amoah-Arko	Lyons
<b>SPRINGFIELD</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Amoah-Arko	King HC CA	LA	King	Ovenden
<b>STOCKWELL</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	King HC	Gyesi	Ovenden	Cofie	King MWBA
<b>STREATHAM</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Smyth	Shortman HC	LA	Moore	Shortman
<b>TULSE HILL</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	Lyons	Ali HC	Markay	Tackie-Yarboi	Oyeledun

### OTHER SERVICES IN THIS QUARTER

Circuit Service - Intro to Lent Devotions 02/03/2025	Brixton Hill 5 pm							
Ash Wednesday 05/03/2025	RR. 11.00am	CMC 7.30pm						
Maundy Thursday 17/04/2025	RR. 6.00pm	CMC 7.30pm						
Good Friday 18/04/2025	Streatham 10.30am	SW/SF joint service 10.30 @ Stockwell	Brixton Hill 11am	Clapham 3pm	Streatham 10.30am			



### CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN Year C – APRIL 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES		6	13	20	27
		First Sunday of the Passion	Second Sunday of the Passion	Easter Day	Second Sunday of Easter
CHURCHES	TIME	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	/ Palm Sunday Entry into Jerusalem Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12 6	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	King HC	Markay	Markay HC	LA
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Ashworth HC	Lyons B	Lyons HC AA	Lyons
Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356	6:00pm Zoom Service open to all Circuit Members	CTiC	CTiC @ Clapham MC	Fellowship Zoom	Lyons HC
LAMBETH WALK	10:00am	Shortman HC	Lyons	Shortman HC	Lyons
MOSTYN ROAD	11:00am	x	x	x	Markay HC
RAILTON ROAD	11:00am	Ali HC	Smyth	Ali HC	Ali
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	Amoah-Arko	Gyesi	King HC	Cofie
STOCKWELL	10:30am	LA	King	Oyeledun	King HC
STREATHAM	10:30am	Oyeledun	Shortman	Ashworth HC	Shortman
TULSE HILL	10:30am	Cofie	Ali	Dean HC	Kyei

### CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN Year C – MAY 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES		4	11	18	25
		Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter
CHURCHES	TIME	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Aldersgate Sunday Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Markay HC	Markay	Shortman	LA
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Lyons HC	Ovenden	Oyeledun	Lyons AA
Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356	6:00pm Zoom Service open to all Circuit Members	Fellowship Zoom	Rush Zoom	Fellowship Zoom	Lyons HC
LAMBETH WALK	10:00am	Shortman HC	Gyesi	LA	Lyons
MOSTYN ROAD	11:00am	X	X	X	Markay HC
RAILTON ROAD	11:00am	Ali HC	LA	Ali	Oyeledun
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	Oyeledun	Ashworth HC	LA	Smyth
STOCKWELL	10:30am	LA	Lyons HC	Smyth	Tackie-Yarboi
STREATHAM	10:30am	Reddie	Shortman HC	LA	Odofin
TULSE HILL	10:30am	LA	Ali HC	LA	Moore

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## NEWS FROM RAILTON ROAD

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Happy New year to you all. I do hope you enjoyed the festive period along with your family and friends.

We can all agree that it was a challenging 2024 for many of us. But despite this, there is still hope for the future and plenty of reason to be optimistic about the new year.

On the 15th December we held our Carol service which was led by our own minister Revd Lena Ali. The Carol Service was very successful with members and some of the congregation taking an active part in the service. We prepared the church on Saturday prior to our Carol service with some beautiful Christmas decorations and setting out tables and chairs ready for our bring and share after the service.

As usual our bring and share was great, it always comes together with generous contributions of a combination of different cultures of food which is always appreciated and enjoyed by everyone. We remembered those who were unable to join us in the celebration due to ill health. Loss of a family member, making it a difficult and sad time or may have travelled for the festive period.

The congregation is small but we always come together on occasions as one and support each other. We now look forward to a new year of growth, taking advantage of any opportunity to raise funds for our church.

We pray this year with the grace of God, it will be a strong, positive and a productive year for everyone, as we try to be more resilient to all the strains and stresses of life. Let our faith be bigger than our fears this year and trust in God's plan for us. Let's look forward with hope, know that God's grace is with us always.

We thank Revd Lena Ali for her positive leadership and support. May she continue to do Gods work.

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## NEWS FROM STREATHAM

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### **The joy of Children at Streatham**

We are very blessed at Streatham with our children and young people. It has been a great joy to watch them grow both physically and spiritually supported by their birth families and the wider church family. Most weeks we have Junior Church and the whole congregation are blessed by the children sharing what they have learnt. Towards the end of the service the children return to the main church and standing at the front they sing and speak about God's love for them and remind us all of stories from the Bible. We see them grow in confidence and understanding Often we are amazed at their perception and the whole congregation learn new things.

Some of our older young people are now helping at Junior Church and using the Children's Bible lead the story telling section with the younger ones.

During the Carol Service the children enacted the Christmas Story. The children were proud to dress up and take part and parents took photos. The whole church congregation were happy to see the story through the eyes of the children and were reminded of times when they too took their place in the telling of the story of God's great gift. After the service the older young people spend time talking with the older members of the congregation. The younger children play together and the sound of joy and laughter fills the church. We are truly a family church at Streatham.

### **One of our favourite Action Songs**

Wide, wide as the ocean  
High as the heaven above  
Deep, deep as the deepest sea  
Is My Saviour's love  
I'm oh so unworthy  
Still I'm a child of his care  
For his word teaches me  
And his love reaches me  
Everywhere

*Pat Ashworth*



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LENT QUIZ

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**1. When does Holy Week begin?**

- a. Good Sunday
- b. Palm Sunday
- c. Easter Sunday
- d. Christmas Day

**2. What was laid down on the floor for Jesus to walk over?**

- a. Sand
- b. Flowers
- c. Palm Leaves
- d. Carpet

**3. What was the reaction of the crowd when they saw Jesus riding on a donkey?**

- a. They praised Him & shouted Hosanna
- b. They booed
- c. They walked away
- d. They threw things at him

**4. On the Thursday of Holy Week, Jesus and his friends had a meal, what do we call it?**

- a. The First Breakfast
- b. The Next Lunch
- c. The Best Dinner
- d. The Last Supper

**5. How many people attended this meal?**

- a. 11
- b. 12
- c. 13
- d. 14

**6. What did Jesus do before the meal?**

- a. Change his clothes
- b. Wash his hands
- c. Wash the feet of his disciples
- d. Pray

**7. The prepared meal represented Jesus'...**

- a. Head and Body
- b. Body and Blood
- c. Ears and Eyes
- d. Blood and skin

**8. Where did Jesus go after the meal with His Disciples?**

- a. The Synagogue
- b. Garden of Gethsemane
- c. The Temple
- d. A quiet place

**9. Whose ear was cut off by Peter during the arrest of Jesus?**

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LENT QUIZ

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- a. Stephen
- b. Malchus
- c. Bartholomew
- d. Judas

**10. When a large crowd of people turned up to see Jesus arrested, how did Judas betray him?**

- a. He shook his hand
- b. He kissed him
- c. He used a sword against him
- d. He kicked him

**11. Jesus was put on trial to see if he was guilty. What was the name of the man who questioned Jesus?**

- a. Marcus Aurelius
- b. Pontius Pilate
- c. Caiphas
- d. Caesar Augustus

**12. Jesus was not found guilty but the people wanted him to be crucified anyway, so they released a prisoner to keep the crowds happy. Who was released?**

- a. Barabbas
- b. Dismas
- c. Joseph
- d. Gestas

**13. What was Jesus last word just before he died?**

- a. "It is time to die."
- b. "I must go now."
- c. "It is finished!"
- d. "The end is near."

**14. After the tomb was found empty, one of the women who came was very upset, who was she?**

- a. Mary the sister of Martha
- b. Mary Magdalene
- c. Salome
- d. Sarah

**15. Jesus appeared to his disciples but they didn't recognise him, how did they know it was Him in the end?**

- a. When He took the bread and thanked God for it
- b. He told them his name.
- c. He knew their names
- d. He spoke about God

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## JOKE ONLY

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### 100 points

A man dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates.

St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay" the man says, "I attended church every Sunday"

"That's good, says St. Peter, " that's worth two points"

"Two points?" he says. "Well, I gave 10% of all my earnings to the church"

"Well, let's see," answers Peter, "that's worth another 2 points. Did you do anything else?"

"Two points? Golly. How about this: I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's certainly worth a point, " he says.

"hmmm...," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

"THREE POINTS!!" the man cries, "At this rate the only way I get into heaven is by the grace of God!"  
**"Come on in!"**

### Knowing the Colours

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued...

At last, she headed for the door, saying, "*Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colours yourself with grandpa!*"

### How Old

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." He replied "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

### A Little boy's Prayer

"Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my

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## JOKE ONLY

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mommy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and my cat and me. Oh, please, please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to you, we're all gonna be in a big mess."

### The substitute Organist

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building.

Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently.

"But you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected, and we need £4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge

£100 or more, please stand up."

As soon as the substitute organist heard this he played the National Anthem and everybody got up...

... and that is how the substitute organist became the permanent organist!

### Old Bible

A collector of rare books ran into an old friend who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it.

"Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector.

"Yes, that was it!"

"Do you know what you have done? You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!"

"Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anywhere close to that," replied his friend. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

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## SUDOKU

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**Sudoku stimulates your mind: It works on your logical thinking process as you are absorbed in solving a puzzle and eventually improve your number skills. Solving Sudoku involves executive cognitive functions, most importantly problem-solving and decision-making, keeps your brain active and reduces the risk of Alzheimer's, a most common cause of dementia that affects a person's thinking and behavioural skills.**

The rules to play Sudoku are quite simple. Fill in the blanks so that each row, each column, and each of the nine 3x3 grids contain one instance of each of the numbers 1 through 9. Can you do it?

### Sudoku 21

6	2			3		1	8	
	4							2
7		1						
8		3	1					9
		6			2	7		
	1		8			4	3	
9	3			1				7
5			6					4
				8		2		

### Sudoku 22

3		5				9		
	2					3		7
	7			2	3		5	6
			5				1	4
2		6	9					3
	3			6				8
	5		1	8				9
6		1						
	8	2	3		4	7		

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## SHORT STORY

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### New Life

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and a slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool, and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy just irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents and asked them to come in for a consultation. As the Forresters' entered the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students."

Mrs. Forrester cried softly, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." Doris sat for a long time after they had left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters, after all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family" she thought. "Lord, please help me be more patient with Jeremy." From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller" he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other students snickered and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-why that's very nice, Jeremy. N-now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the

**SHORT STORY**

children a large plastic egg. "Now", she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life". Do you understand?" "Yes, Miss Miller" the children responded, enthusiastically, all except for Jeremy. He listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

That evening, Doris' kitchen sink got clogged. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse, and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk.



After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life." she said. "When

plants peek through the ground, we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg, Miss Miller" she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that's new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine." Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom, "My daddy helped me," he beamed. Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty. Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another.

Suddenly, Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy, your egg is empty." He looked

**SHORT STORY**

into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too." Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh, yes." Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up." The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the schoolyard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket ... all of them empty.

**Author: Karen Janota**

*Acknowledgement:*

<https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>

<https://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku/>

<http://www.christianuniverse.com/estories/eold.htm>

**WORDSEARCH**



**Holy Week 2025**



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|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| ASHWEDNESDAY | GETHSEMANE     | MEDITATION   |
| CROSS        | GOODFRIDAY     | PALMSUNDAY   |
| CRUCIFIXION  | JESUSCHRIST    | PASSION      |
| EASTER       | LENT           | RESURRECTION |
| FAITH        | MAUNDYTHURSDAY | VIGIL        |



## CIRCUIT PREACHING PLAN Year C – MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2025

SUNDAY SERVICES		MARCH 2025					APRIL 2025				MAY 2025			
		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25
		Sunday before Lent Poverty Sunday	First Sunday in Lent	Second Sunday in Lent	Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent Mothering Sunday	First Sunday of the Passion	Second Sunday of the Passion	Easter Day	Second Sunday of Easter	Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter Vocations Sunday
		Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 4:2 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13 4	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 Luke 13:31-35	Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	/ Palm Sunday Entry into Jerusalem Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12 6	Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Psalm 30 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19	Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30	Aldersgate Sunday Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35	Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5 John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9
CHURCHES	TIME													
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Markay HC Circuit Service @ 5pm	Oyeledun	Amoah-Arko	Markay	Smyth	King HC	Markay	Markay HC	LA	Markay HC	Markay	Shortman	LA
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Shortman HC	Markay	Lyons B	Lyons	LA - AA	Ashworth HC	Lyons B	Lyons HC AA	Lyons	Lyons HC	Ovenden	Oyeledun	Lyons AA
	6:00pm	Fellowship Zoom	CTIC	CTIC	CtiC	CTIC	CTIC	CTIC @ Clapham MC	Fellowship Zoom	Lyons HC	Fellowship Zoom	Rush Zoom	Fellowship Zoom	Lyons HC
LAMBETH WALK	10:00am	Ovenden	Lyons	Shortman HC	Oyeledun	LA	Shortman HC	Lyons	Shortman HC	Lyons	Shortman HC	Gyesi	LA	Lyons
MOSTYN RD	11:00am	X	X	X	X	Markay HC	x	x	x	Markay HC	X	X	X	Markay HC
RAILTON RD	11:00am	Ali HC	LA	King	Amoah-Arko	Lyons	Ali HC	Smyth	Ali HC	Ali	Ali HC	LA	Ali	Oyeledun
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	Amoah-Arko	King HC CA	LA	King	Ovenden	Amoah-Arko	Gyesi	King HC	Cofie	Oyeledun	Ashworth HC	LA	Smyth
STOCKWELL	10:30am	King HC	Gyesi	Ovenden	Cofie	King MWBA	LA	King	Oyeledun	King HC	LA	Lyons HC	Smyth	Tackie-Yarboi
STREATHAM	10:30am	Smyth	Shortman HC	LA	Moore	Shortman	Oyeledun	Shortman	Ashworth HC	Shortman	Reddie	Shortman HC	LA	Odofin
TULSE HILL	10:30am	Lyons	Ali HC	Markay	Tackie-Yarboi	Oyeledun	Cofie	Ali	Dean HC	Kyei	LA	Ali HC	LA	Moore

*Preachers unable to fulfil an appointment should arrange for an accredited substitute and inform the Superintendent Minister. Blocked dates JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2025 & articles to the Circuit Office by 14 April 2025.*