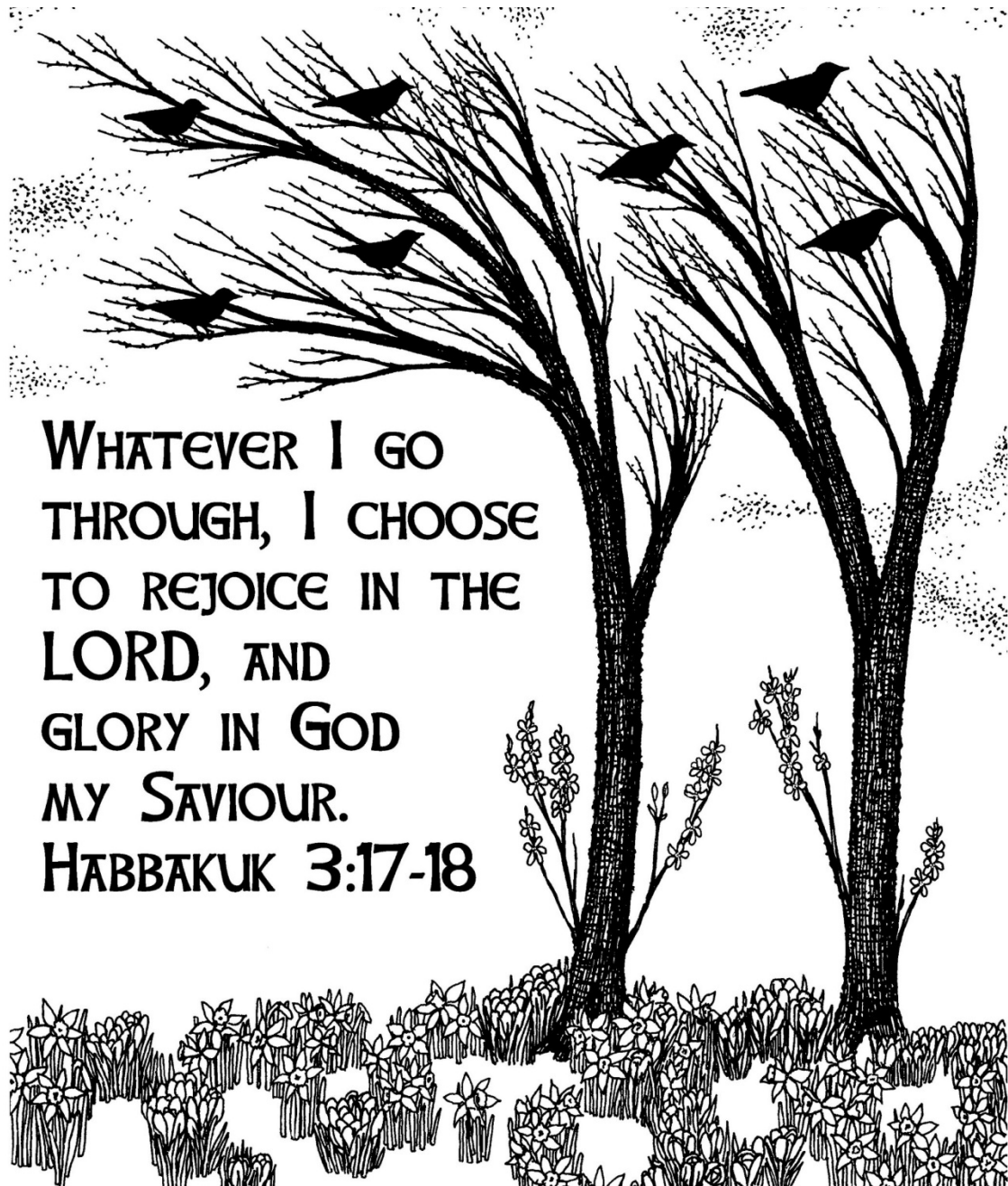


Parish Magazine

February 2023

30p



WHATEVER I GO
THROUGH, I CHOOSE
TO REJOICE IN THE
LORD, AND
GLORY IN GOD
MY SAVIOUR.
HABBAKUK 3:17-18

St. John's Parish Church

Rufford Road, Crossens

(A member of the North Meols Team Ministry)

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PCC Secretary: TBC

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Brownies: Mrs Lynn Harrison Tel: 07595 423734
Guides: Mrs Tracy Boden Tel: 228189
Mumford Room Bookings:
Mr Andrew Boden Tel: 228189

Service times:

Sunday (10am)

Holy Communion February 5th, 12th, 19th
March 5th, 12th, 19th
Morning Prayer February 26th, March 26th

Wednesday (10am)

Holy Communion February 1st, 22nd (Ash Wednesday)
March 8th, 15th, 22nd
Morning Prayer February 8th, 15th
March 1st, 29th

PAUL, THE ORGANIST AT ST CUTHBERT'S, WRITES...

Dear Friends,

Early last summer I was coming home from my usual Sunday visit to St. Cuthbert's when, as I got off the 82 bus, I was accosted by two teenagers on cycles whom I did not know from "Adam".

"Give us the money in that box!", one of them exclaimed.

"It's not a box, it's a briefcase," I replied, at which point they started mocking my accent. I carried on walking, ignoring the teenagers, turning the other cheek and so forth. About fifty yards down the road, I turned on my heel and, yes, I threw an insult.

When I hurtled the insult one of the teenagers followed me, got alongside me and grumpily said: "What did you say, lad?"

"Dummkopf" (which means "idiot" in German), I replied.

The teenager did not, obviously, understand the word that I uttered and it was a deliberate strategy to throw him off my scent.

As I said the word "Dummkopf" I caught a glimpse of the teenager's face. It was a very, very hard face and he had very dark eyes. I knew then there was going to be no discourse between him and I, despite all my sincerely held Liberal Christian convictions. I continued across a field of wasteland, the teenager by this stage ahead of me on his bike, holding out his leg in a "kicking" gesticulation although I am pleased to report that he did not kick me. I stopped at the corner of the Close where I live and took out my mobile phone as if to ring 999, at which point the teenager rapidly vanished.

Well, where was God in this quite unusual experience I may hear you ask? There were three of us in this altercation. When I got home I thought, as you do, about the teenagers' possible backgrounds. Were there difficulties at home? Had they achieved anything with their lives? Was it avarice? Was it a contemporary manifestation of Frederick Nietzsche's "will of power"? Was it inherited sin or just sin? Did they target me because I dressed differently or spoke differently? The event has, of course, long been forgiven but it has not been forgotten.

After the event I re-read the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis chapter four. The message is well known. Cain murders Abel through envy and God is indicted because each of the offerings are not blessed equally. Even though we live in a profoundly secular society many of the debates around opportunity focus upon how certain people are blessed and others are not. Returning to the story of Cain and Abel, while God is indicted so too is Cain for not making anything of his offering. What application of the Gospel to this experience? Is not the Gospel about radical love for enemies and forgiveness? Of course it is! But Jesus is

equally the liberator, the one who breaks the chains of the oppressed, even when those chains are made by a sincere following of other aspects of his teaching.

So, if any of you have the unfortunate experience of being picked on just because you are different, maybe try the method that I used. Jesus the liberator can come through the insult! Jesus the liberator can come through the abstract foreign word! Jesus the liberator can come through practical utility of the mobile phone! And for that: Thanks be to God!

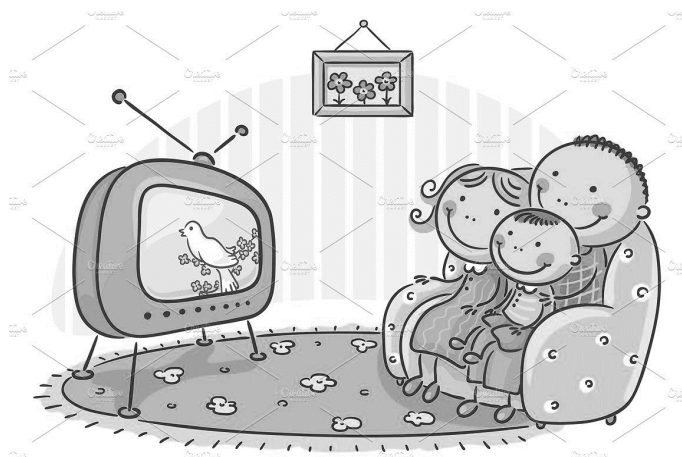
Paul Jones.



Our Team Ministry's

On-Line

Quarterly Magazine



Check out the latest magazine

on our YouTube Channel

& the St. John's Web Site

(www.stjohncrossens.co.uk)

Church events...Local

history...Interviews

Christian reflections

and Christian Action...Diocesan

News...

Topical and Local Interest Items

and much more

YouTube Channel:

"North Meols Team Ministry Southport"





*Keeping
a Holy Lent*

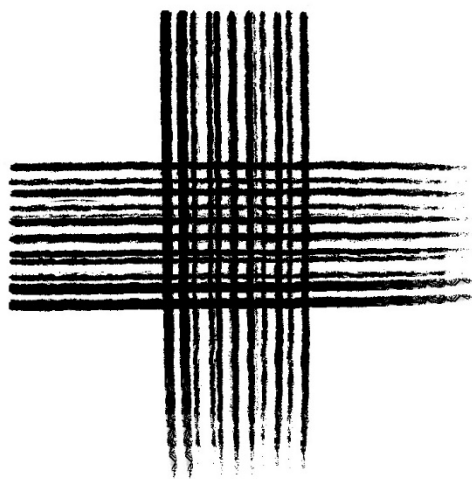
ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22ND 2023
SERVICES ACROSS THE NORTH MEOLS TEAM

ST CUTHBERT 10.30am HOLY COMMUNION
AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ST JOHN CROSSENS 10.00am HOLY COMMUNION
AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ST STEPHEN IN THE BANKS 7.30pm HOLY COMMUNION
AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US ON THIS HOLY DAY



LENT
2023



THE NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY
WEDNESDAY EVENING LENT TALKS 7.30pm
FOLLOWED BY COMPLINE 8.00PM
HELD AT CHURCHES ACROSS OUR TEAM

THEME 'PSALMS FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY'

MARCH 1ST St CUTHBERT CHURCHTOWN
REV REBECCA CLARKE

MARCH 8TH
ST JOHN CROSSENS
REV JAN FRASER

MARCH 15TH
ST STEPHEN'S IN THE BANKS
REV MARTIN ABRAM

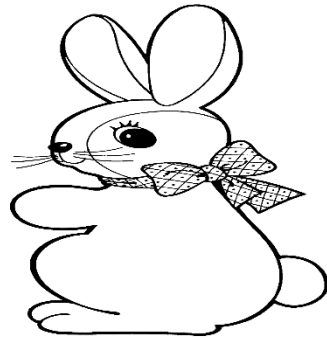
MARCH 22ND
ST CUTHBERT CHURCHTOWN
FR NEIL BRUNSKILL

MARCH 29TH
ST JOHN CROSSENS
REV REBECCA CLARKE

ALL VERY WELCOME TO COME AND JOIN US!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT REV REBECCA CLARKE:
ON 01704 233738/ EMAIL revdrebecca@hotmail.co.uk

EASTER COFFEE MORNING

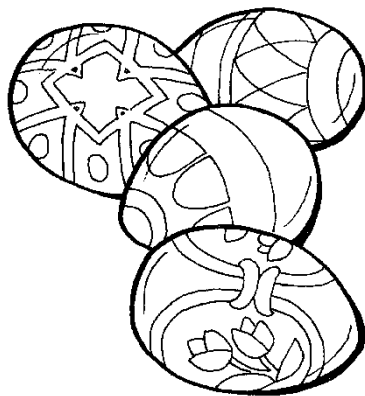


SATURDAY 8th APRIL

10AM - 12 NOON

**COME FOR A COFFEE AND START TO
CELEBRATE EASTER!**

**THERE WILL BE CAKES, GOODIES
AND A RAFFLE!!!!**



ROTAS

SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

5 th February	Brenda & Mavis
12 th February	Chris D & Eileen
19 th February	Chris & Bill
26 th February	Kath & Jane
5 th March	Nicola & Andrew



Help is urgently needed to maintain a weekly rota. If you are willing to volunteer, please see me. Chris Jowett

WEDNESDAY COFFEE ROTA

1 st February	Jean & Mavis
8 th February	Chris & Janet
15 th February	Brenda & June
22 nd February	Jean & Mavis
1 st March	Chris & Janet

Sanctuary Flowers

February 5 th	In memory of Mrs D Jackson
February 12 th	In memory of Mrs Sheila Harding
February 19 th	_____
February 25 th	Lent. No flowers.

Thank you for all support of our flower fund. ECB.

PUZZLES - SUDOKU

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

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Easy

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

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Medium

"SCHOOL - RESCUE ME!"

As part of their work to support charities, school are supporting an animal rescue centre called "Rescue Me". The children have been asked to collect postage stamps from envelopes, unwanted foreign currency and any pre-decimal or pre-euro currency people may have hidden in old socks!!!

If you have any such items, please can you pass them to Karen Corbett and she will take them into school.

Churches Together

(in North Meols)

Tuesday, 14th February 2023

7.30 p.m.

at Cornerstone Methodist Church

**Everyone is very
welcome!**

The meeting will be led by:

Cornerstone Methodist Church

"Be completely united, with only one thought and one purpose."

[1 Corinthians 1: 106]

WORDSEARCH

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40, where Simeon makes his great declaration of faith and recognition of Jesus. Simeon's 'Nunc Dimittis', is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer.

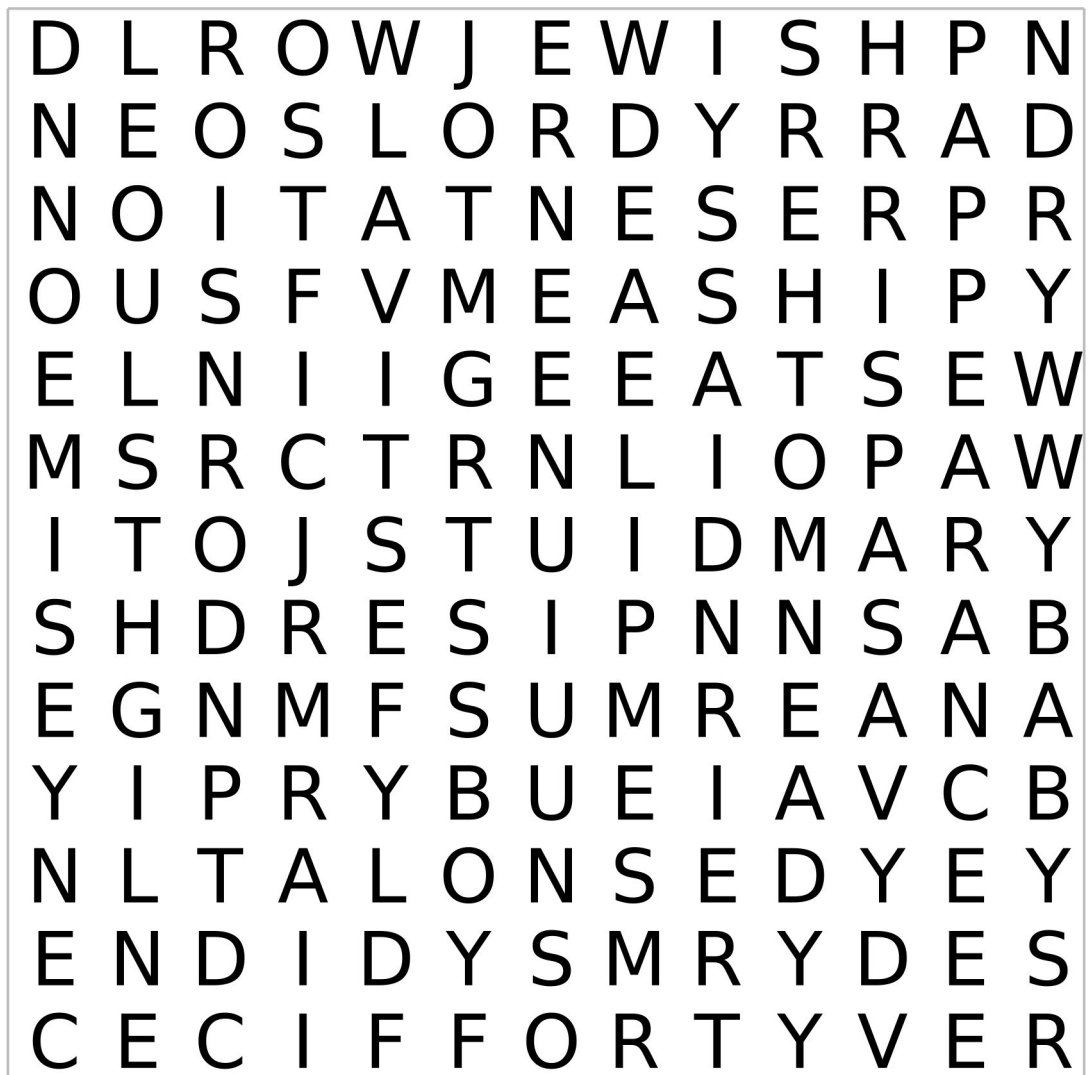
Forty
Days
Baby
Boy
Public

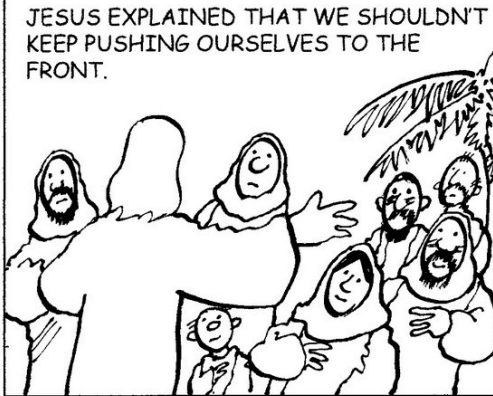
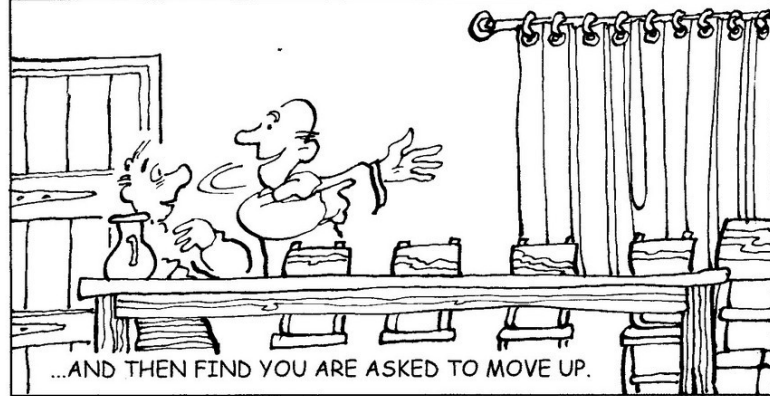
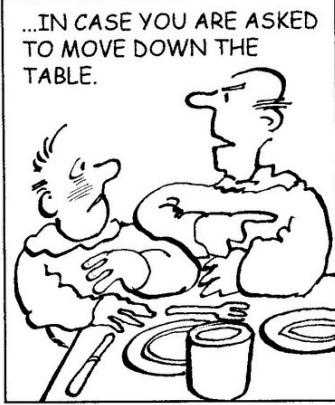
Appearance
Mary
Jewish
Mothers
Temple

Jesus
Purified
Present
Lord
Festival

Presentation
Light
World
Candlemas
Simeon

Nunc
Dimittis
Office
Evening
Prayer
West



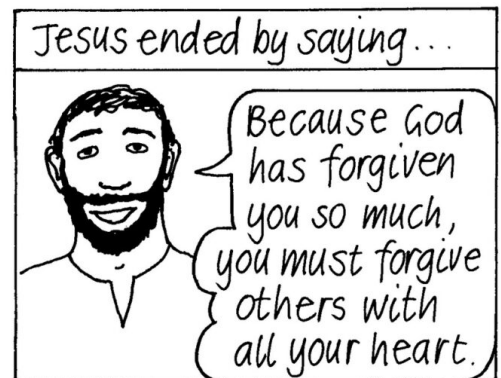
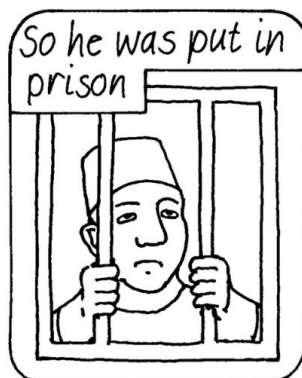
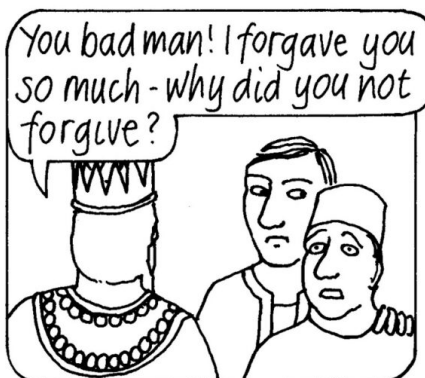


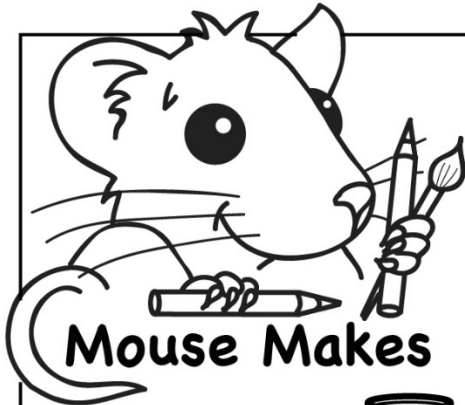
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 18 verses 21-35

Jewish teachers used to say you only had to forgive people three times before getting revenge, so Peter asked Jesus..





What was the special meal
Jesus was preparing to eat?



Matthew 26:18

What did Jesus take,
bless and break?

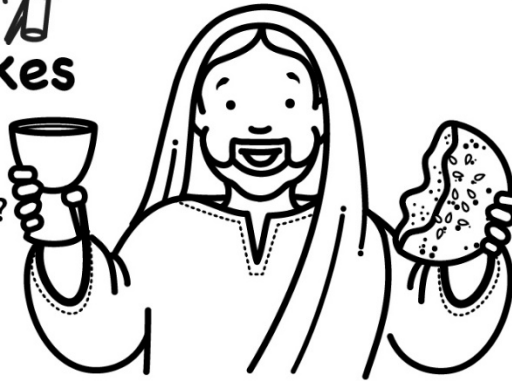
Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus give
thanks for and share?

Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say
this represented?

His -----
Matthew 26:27-28



What did Jesus say
this represented?

His -----
Matthew 26:26

Jesus instructed his disciples to continue
to break bread and share the cup "in



of me."

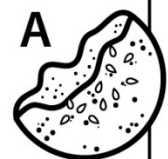
1 Corinthians 11:24-25



SUPPER
LAMB • LORD
DISCIPLES
TOGETHER
EVENING
ROOM • JAR
WATER • TWELVE
JESUS • CHRIST
NIGHT • TOOK
THANKS
BLESSING
BROKE • GIVEN
COVENANT
DRINK • EAT
FORGIVENESS
SINS • HOLY
COMMUNION
EUCHARIST

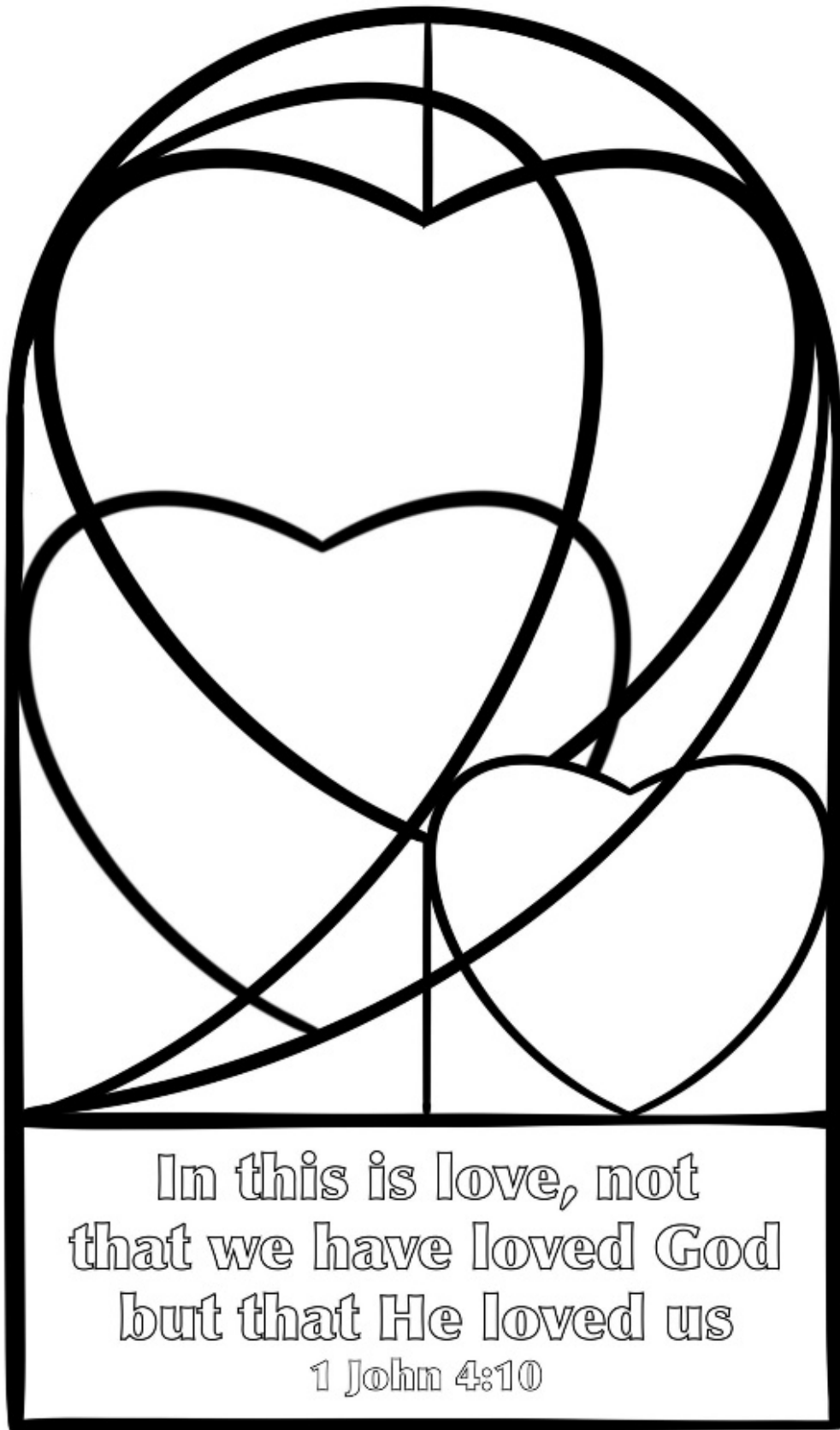
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T	E	G	J	E	S	U	S	E	E	R	E	T	I
M	U	I	N	A	N	E	S	L	V	I	S	O	S
L	C	V	C	D	E	C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T
B	H	E	O	C	I	N	V	E	N	K	B	I	B
L	A	N	M	W	A	T	E	R	I	L	L	G	O
O	R	E	M	E	M	B	R	A	N	C	E	H	D
O	I	S	U	P	P	E	R	I	G	O	S	T	Y
D	S	S	N	M	U	G	I	V	E	N	S	H	D
E	T	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	I	N	S
B	S	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	W	N	A	
T	H	A	N	K	S	K	L	A	M	B	G		

Find the words from the questions too!



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Some colouring for all ages....



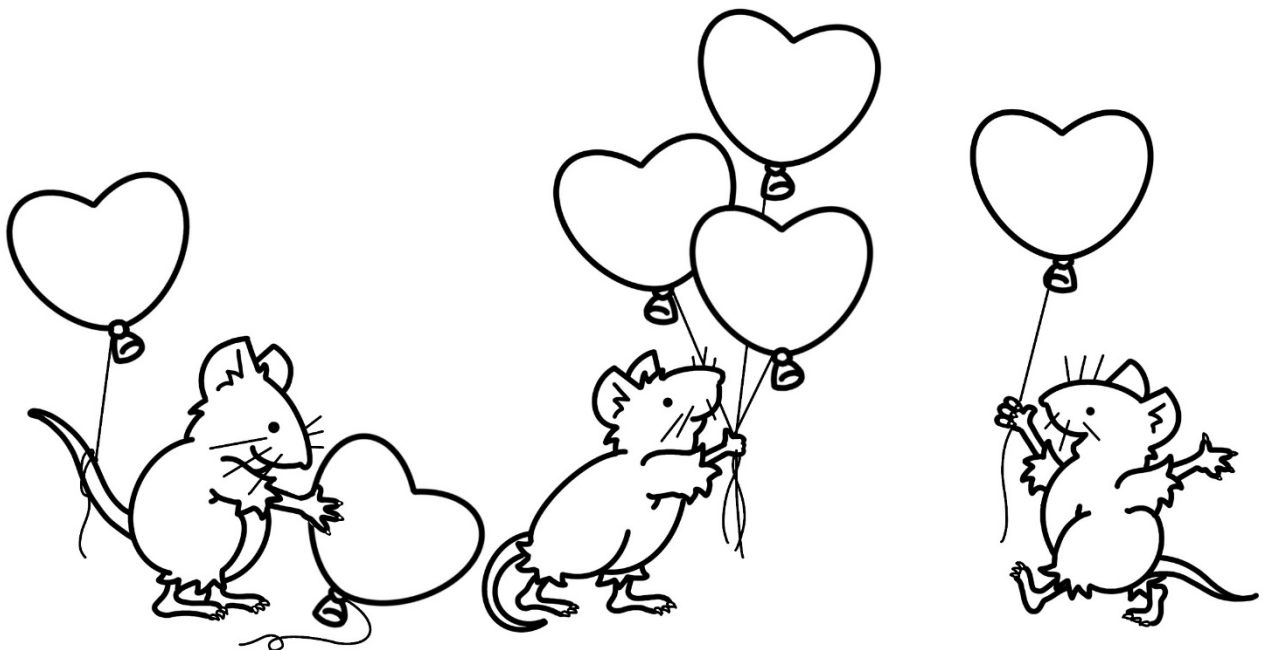
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