


# Parish Magazine

April 2026

30p

**Hosanna!**  
**Crucify him!**  
**Finished!**  
**He is risen!**  
**Alleluia!**



## St. John's Parish Church

Rufford Road, Crossens, Southport  
(A member of the North Meols Team Ministry)

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## **Church contacts:**

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Dr Andrew Macdonald, 7 The Causeway, Crossens  
Treasurer: Mrs Louise James  
PCC Secretary: Mrs Chrissy Gregory

Rainbows: Mrs Nicola Macdonald  
Brownies: Mrs Natalie Flynn  
Guides: Mrs Tracy Boden. Tel: 228189

Mumford Room bookings:  
Mr Andrew Boden. Tel: 228189

## **Service times:**

### **Sunday (10am)**

Holy Communion: 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 31<sup>st</sup> May  
Morning Prayer: 10<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> May

### **Wednesday (10am, unless otherwise stated)**

Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

For later dates, please check the website: [www.stjohncrossens.co.uk](http://www.stjohncrossens.co.uk)

## A Letter from Rev Les Thomas

### WELCOMING THE STRANGER - A CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE

Of all the accounts in the Gospels of Jesus appearing to his followers after his Resurrection on that first Easter Day, for me, none is more appealing, and indeed, more convincing, than when He joins two of them on their way home to Emmaus.

These two, one of them named Cleopas, had been in Jerusalem. They had seen Jesus tried and put to death on a cross. Then, just as they were about to begin their journey home, they heard that some women were saying that Jesus was alive. (Luke 26:13 following).

As they walked back to Emmaus, they were feeling sad and confused. Along the road they were joined by a stranger. He approaches them and asks what they were discussing together with such earnestness. The stranger joins in the conversation and contributes an explanation as to why these events had taken place back in Jerusalem.

Then they reach their home, and the stranger moves on as if continuing his journey, but the two disciples invite the stranger into their home for some rest and hospitality. And it is at their meal table that the stranger blesses the bread and breaks it, and immediately they recognise the stranger as the Risen Jesus. Then they say to each other those wonderful words of discovery, "Did we not feel our hearts on fire as he talked with us on the road and explained the scriptures to us".

BUT.....what if these two disciples had said to the stranger,

"Sorry, but would you please leave us alone. We just want to get home and try to make sense of what has happened to us and our friends. You're intruding in our grief. Go away".

OR..... having tolerated the intrusion for some time, they then let the stranger go on his way, without that invitation into their home.

If they had responded to the stranger in these ways, they might well have missed meeting the Risen Jesus.

#### WELCOMING THE STRANGER.....

This is an oft repeated theme in both the Old and the New Testaments. It is one of the cornerstones in the teaching of Jesus. In just one example, Jesus says it all:

“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35).

This Christian virtue, taught by Jesus, is shown by a hospitality given with a loving and generous attitude to the stranger and the guest. Such people might be a new neighbour just moved in, a friend, or even an enemy, a homeless person, a refugee, an asylum seeker fleeing persecution, or a recently arrived immigrant.

Certain politicians and parts of the media would have us believe that Britain is changing and losing its identity by virtue of the influx of “strangers”. I have no doubt that this hot topic of immigration will feature largely in future elections, when to score points, myths and half-truths will emerge.

Of course, immigration into Britain has to be controlled, and somehow, illegal immigration has to be stopped. We live on an island with finite resources. It is how all this is managed that will speak volumes about the kind of people we are in this country. It is simply not acceptable to bunch a group of people together – the immigrants – irrespective of their circumstances, and label them as the “baddies”. In other words, demonise them.

There is a danger in going down that path, as the history of Nazi Germany sadly illustrates. These are challenging times for us who call ourselves the followers of Jesus. Jesus would have us be hospitable people, showing kindness and generosity to others, and especially the stranger and those in need. We follow this way because it is a reflection of God’s love and care for us.

We are called to be a “holy” people, and the root meaning of that word “holy” is “different”. Our calling as a Christian is to be different, and yes, maybe to have

different values, standards and approach from those around us. It is just as Jesus commanded when he said, “love your neighbour as yourself”

If we are to be true to our calling, then following the risen and ascended Christ will have a cost.

.....

## ROTAS

### Sunday Coffee Rota

1<sup>st</sup> March Nicola & Andrew  
 8<sup>th</sup> March Brenda & Chris  
 15<sup>th</sup> March Louise J & Heather  
 22<sup>nd</sup> March Kath & Jane  
 29<sup>th</sup> 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

4<sup>th</sup> March Eileen & Trish  
 11<sup>th</sup> March Brenda & June  
 18<sup>th</sup> March Jean  
 25<sup>th</sup> March Chris & Janet  
 1<sup>st</sup> April Eileen & Trish

### Readings Rota

<b>5-Apr-2026</b>	Andrew	Easter Day	Acts 10.34-43
<b>12-Apr-2026</b>	Nicola	2nd of Easter	Acts 2.14a,22-32
<b>19-Apr-2026</b>	Simon	3rd of Easter	Acts 2.14a,36-41
<b>26-Apr-2026</b>	Chris J	4th of Easter	Acts 2.42-end
<b>3-May-2026</b>	Maggie	5th of Easter	Acts 7.55-end
<b>10-May-2026</b>	Louise J	6th of Easter	Acts 17.22-31
<b>17-May-2026</b>	Joey	7th of Easter	Acts 1.6-14
<b>24-May-2026</b>	Chris L	Pentecost	Acts 2.1-21
<b>31-May-2026</b>	Sylvia	Trinity Sunday	2 Corinthians 13.11-end



St John's  
Church,  
Crossens



**EASTER**

**COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**10-12 noon**

**Drinks & Cake,**

**Raffle and Stalls**

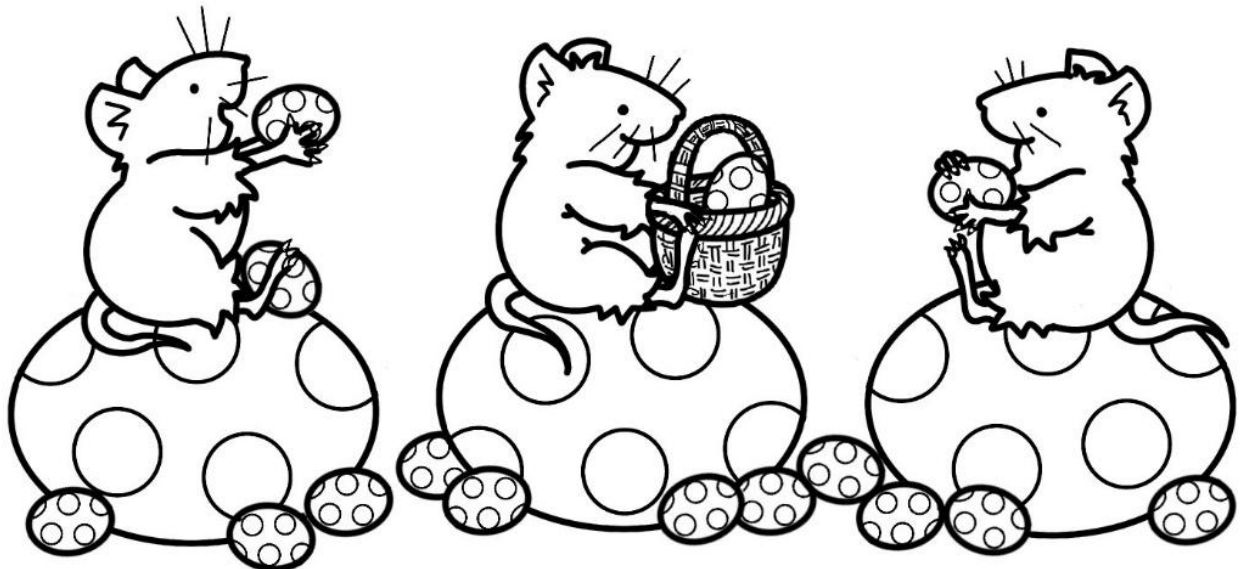
## Shining Brass

Once a month, if you would ever have the need to go into our vestry, then you would have found Brenda and Mavis rubbing and cleaning our brass and silver furnishings. They have regularly kept this work going for several years and we thank them most sincerely for it!



They now feel that it is time to stop, and they would be grateful to hand over to someone else.

If you feel that you would like to continue this work, then they would be very grateful. Please contact Chris Jowett if you would like to help in keeping our church well cared for.



# Puzzles – Sudoku

## EASY

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

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## MEDIUM

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

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## Sanctuary Flowers

April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Flowers

April 12<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

April 19<sup>th</sup> In memory of John Sutton

April 26<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you to all who supported our Flower Fund. E C B.



## "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.

Nexus

# Churches Together

*(in North Meols)*

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April

At Cornerstone Methodist Church  
7:30pm

**Everyone is very welcome!**

*“A new commandment I give unto you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”*

*John 13:34-35*



## **COME AND JOIN US THIS HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

### **March 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**

- **St Cuthbert Churchtown**
  - 10.30am Holy Communion / Blessing of the Palm Crosses
- **St John Crossens**
  - 10.00am Morning Prayer / Blessing of the Palm Crosses
- **St Stephen in the Banks**
  - 10.30am Morning Prayer/ Blessing of the Palm Crosses.

### **March 30<sup>th</sup> Holy Monday**

- **St John Crossens**
  - 7pm The Stations of the Cross

### **No Service on Holy Tuesday**

### **April 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Wednesday**

- **St Stephen In The Banks**
  - 7.30pm Service Led by Christian Endeavours

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup> Maunday Thursday**

- **St John's Crossens**
  - 7pm Team Service Of Holy Communion

### **April 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday**

- **St Cuthbert Church**
  - 10.00am Walk Of Witness from the Village Church To St Cuthbert's service to follow
  - The Last Hour 2pm-3pm Service of Reflection
- **St John Crossens**
  - 10.00am Service of Reflection For Good Friday
  - The Last Hour 2pm-3pm Prayers And Music

- **St Stephen In The Banks**

- 10.30am Service For Good Friday
- The Last Hour 2pm-3pm Service Of Reflection

### **April 4<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday**

- **St John's Crossens**

- 6.30pm Easter Concert And Lighting Of The Easter Candle

### **April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**

- **St Cuthbert Churchtown**

- 10.30am Holy Communion

- **St John Crossens**

- 10.00am Holy Communion

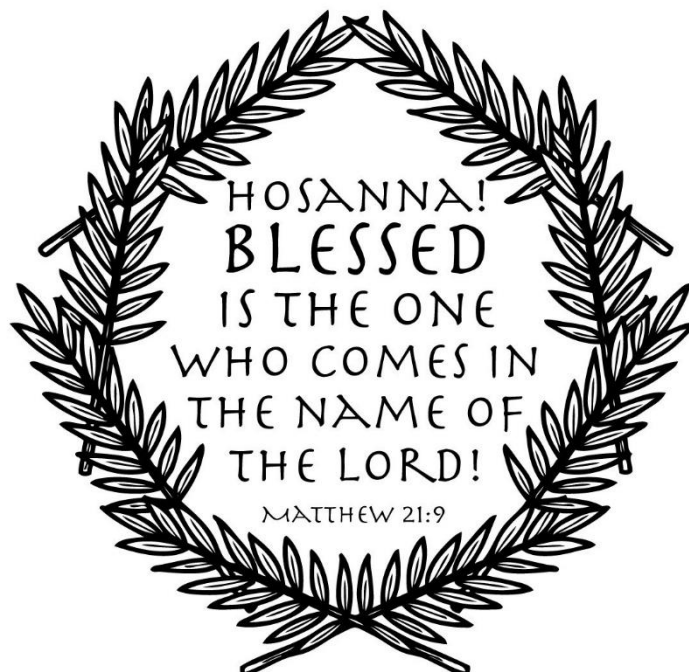
- **St Stephen In The Banks**

- 8.00am Book Of Common Prayer Holy Communion
- 10.30 All Age Worship For Easter Morning

For more information contact

Rev Rebecca Clarke 01704 233738

email [revdrebecca@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revdrebecca@hotmail.co.uk)



# WORDSEARCH

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with his disciples, he warned them he was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and his blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup might be removed from him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.

Jesus

Ate

Last

Passover

Meal

Disciples

Warned

Betrayed

Bread

Blessed

Wine

Thanks

Drink

Covenant

Law

Old

New

Body

Blood

Gethsemane

Cup

Removed

Will

Easter

Approach

God



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating  
the Passover with the special meal.  
The disciples were bickering again.

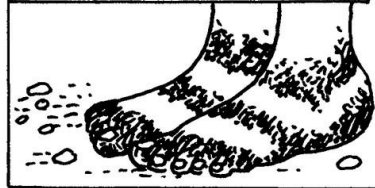
I'm most important because  
I've known him the longest

But I'm the oldest!  
I've given up the most  
to follow him!



There was a  
reason why  
no-one wanted  
to be the least  
important - the  
roads were mud  
and everyone's feet  
got very dirty.

It was the job of the  
least important  
servant to wash  
everyone's feet...



The disciples didn't have  
a servant, and none of  
them wanted to do the  
feet washing...



Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a  
towel around his waist.



He filled a large bowl with  
water and started washing the disciples' feet.

Peter couldn't believe  
what he was seeing!



Are you really going  
to wash my feet?

You will understand later  
why I am doing this.



I can't ever let you  
serve me like this!

If you don't let me, you  
will no longer be my  
disciple



Then wash all of me!

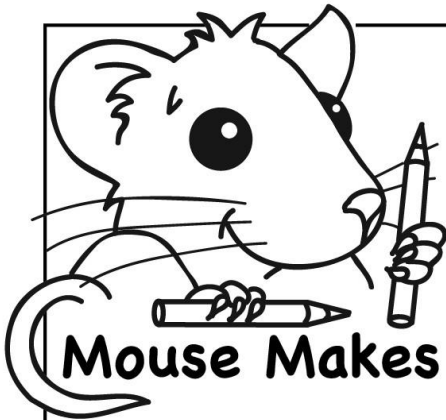
If you've had a  
bath, then you  
only need your  
feet washing!



Once Jesus had washed  
all their feet, he put his  
robe back on and sat down.



Do you  
understand  
why I, your  
teacher, did  
this? I am setting  
you the example of how  
you are to serve each other.  
Do it, and God will bless you.

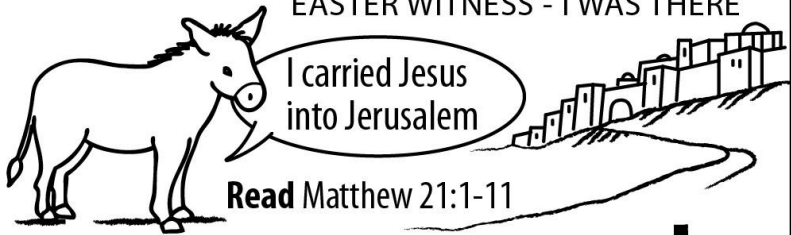


G O O D N E W S  
 O H O S A N N A  
 D E A T H Q B V  
 V N C O E E U I  
 U A H N A A R O  
 M I R E V S Y U  
 A L I V E T D R  
 R I S E N E O K  
 Y O T H O R N S  
 P A L M S Q K A  
 R P I L A T E N  
 C R U C I F Y G  
 R H I Q U A K E  
 O C J E S U S L  
 S T O M B V D Y  
 S R Y E M P T Y

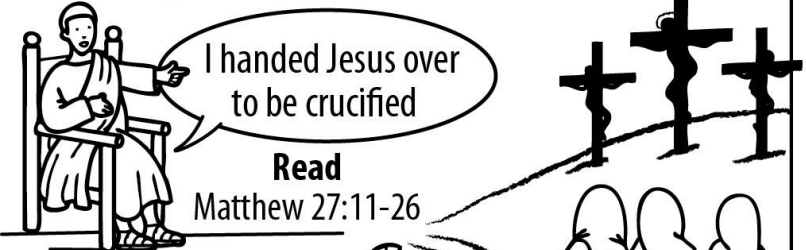
JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS  
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS  
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS  
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY  
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY  
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN  
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD  
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST  
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE



Read Matthew 21:1-11



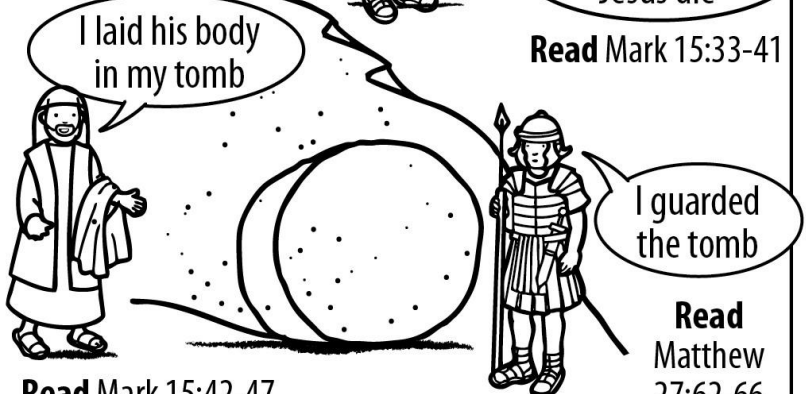
Read Matthew 27:11-26



Read Mark 15:16-32



Read Mark 15:33-41



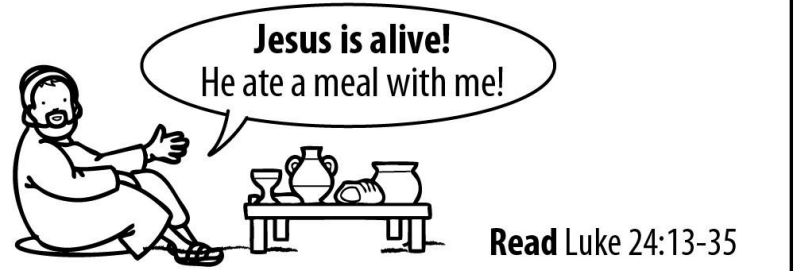
Read Mark 15:42-47



Read Matthew 27:62-66

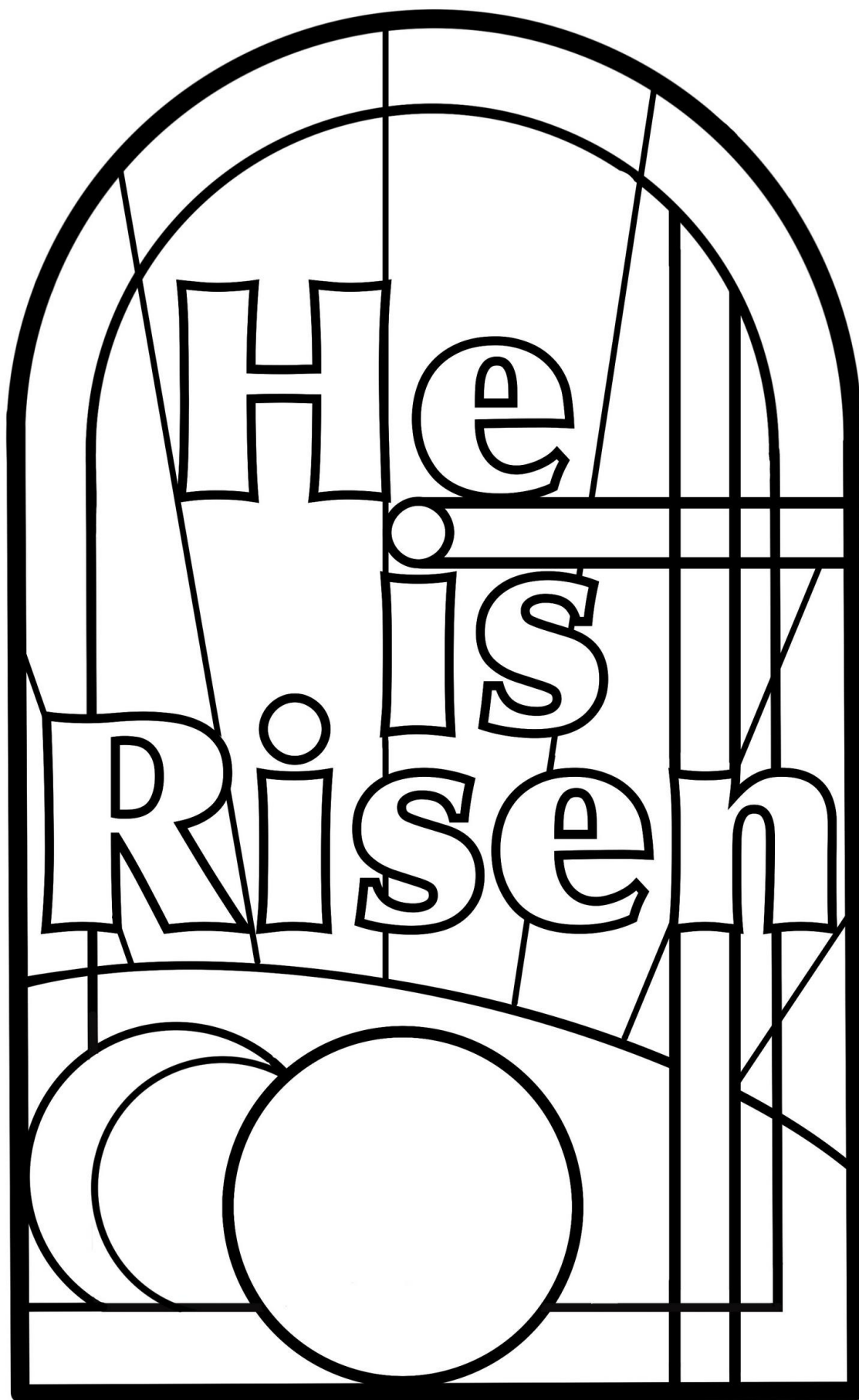


Read Matthew 28:1-10



Read Luke 24:13-35

Some colouring for all ages....



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