

# Parish Magazine

February 2024

30p

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

## St. John's Parish Church

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

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## Church Contacts:

Team Rector: Rev'd Rebecca Clarke, [revdrebecca@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:revdrebecca@hotmail.co.uk), 01704 233738

Reader: Mrs Karen Corbett, 40 New Lane, Crossens. Tel: 220192

Churchwardens: Mr Bill Donohoe, 145 Rufford Road, Crossens, Tel: 231434  
Mrs Chris Jowett, 25 Brook St, Crossens. Tel: 227507

Treasurer: Mrs Louise James

PCC Secretary: Mrs Chrissy Gregory

Rainbows: Mrs Nicola Macdonald Tel: 233580

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 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 11<sup>th</sup> Feb, 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Morning Prayer 25<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### Wednesday (10am)

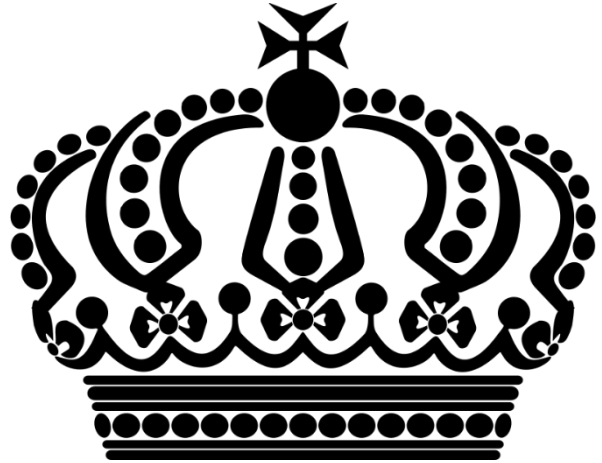
Holy Communion 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 6<sup>th</sup> March

Morning Prayer 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 28<sup>th</sup> Feb

Please note that there will be no morning service on Ash Wednesday.

*Paul, the organist at St Cuthbert's , writes*

During the past two years, we have seen two large events that have focussed the spotlight onto this country - the late Queen's death and funeral and the new King's accession and coronation. Those two events were events that, undoubtedly, most of us will remember where we were and what we were doing when they occurred, together with our own personal life events that our lives are weaved through with. Queen Elizabeth, for me, was the archetypal mystical figure: someone we came to know through her appearances on television, on our stamps and on our currency as well as the person we did not know - fully-understated, never shouty, and her public statements were usually succinct. She was, of course, surrounded by the mechanics of the state and a person who is equally as understated, that is an ordinary citizen, is not afforded the same kinds of privilege.



The second spotlight, for me at least, was the worship, and there was one thing that unified both of the events. They were not everyday occurrences with crowns and jewels that went back to Edward the Confessor, music that was affirmatively and identifiably mostly traditional church music, and a funeral plan that went back to the 1960's. There certainly was an awe to both the coronation and funeral. You could say that there was an element of familiarity about the events (we have known the two figures through television) and there was an otherness or transcendence to both of the events.

Coming back to our own worship and culture in North Meols. How much does our worship and culture try and capture both the familiarity and the absolute otherness of the divine life? Perhaps it is a question that one muses over during Lent? Lent is popularly thought of as being a time when people give things up. Perhaps we might think of it this year as taking something up instead: a grumble that could be expressed as an encouragement? a seeking out of all sides and perspectives on an issue? sitting in an unfamiliar seat in church?

The following prayer, called the Trisagion, one of my favourites, is used during the Lenten liturgies and in the Greek Orthodox Church and tries to express the familiar and otherness of the divine:

“Holy God, Holy and immortal, holy and strong, have mercy on us”.

Have a thoughtful Lent.

Paul.

## A prayer for February 2024

Father, In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. In his name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*



Time to see what our three Churches are up to in the weeks leading up to  
Christmas

by signing in to our Team's YouTube Channel  
"NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT"

The full team service where we welcomed the new Bishop of Liverpool is  
currently available on the team's YouTube channel.

# ROTAS

## SUNDAY COFFEE ROTA

4 <sup>th</sup> February	Brenda & Mavis
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Chris D & Bill
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Chris J & Bill
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Kath & Jane
3 <sup>rd</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

7 <sup>th</sup> February	Jean & Mavis
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Brenda & June
21 <sup>st</sup> February	Chris & Janet
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Eileen & Trish
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Jean & Mavis

## Readings rota

February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Maggie	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	Colossians 1.15-20
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Joan	Sunday next before Lent	2 Corinthians 4.3-6
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Chris J	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	1 Peter 3.18-end
February 25 <sup>th</sup>	Nicola	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent	Romans 4.13-end

***Thank You from Chrissy Gregory...***

Dear friends at St. John's. Many thanks for all the cards at Christmas, and all the kind thoughts and words sent my way. Although I haven't been attending as often as before, I still feel very much a part of our lovely church family, and your love and support continues to hold me up. Thank you again, love from Chrissy and family. xx

**Sanctuary Flowers**

February 3<sup>rd</sup>                      In memory of Yvonne Fee  
February 11<sup>th</sup>                     Mrs J Navin.



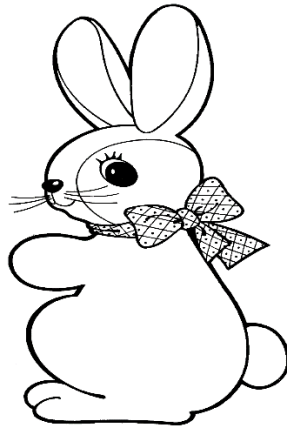
No flowers in Lent.

Thank you to all who support our Flower Fund. ECB.

***Thank You from Brenda Jagger...***

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank our friends, across our three churches, for their messages of love and sympathy after the sudden and totally unexpected, death of Mark. Your prayers, cards, flowers and good wishes have been a great comfort to us during these difficult days.  
Brenda Jagger

# **EASTER COFFEE MORNING**

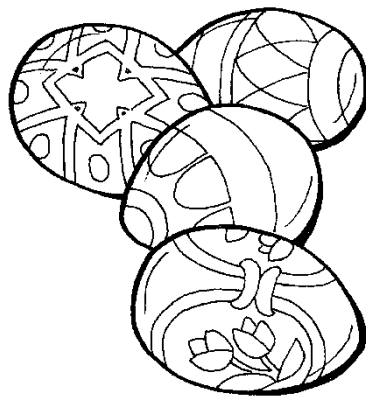


**SATURDAY 30th MARCH**

**10AM - 12 NOON**

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

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



# Lent Services

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



## Ash Wednesday 14th February

7.30pm Team Service St Cuthbert Church Churchtown

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

## Tuesdays Evenings in Lent

7.30pm Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer

Held at these churches:

20<sup>th</sup> February St Stephen in the Banks

27<sup>th</sup> February St John Crossens

5th March St Cuthbert Churchtown

12th March St Stephen in the Banks

19th March St John Crossens

**Come and join us for the season of Lent leading us into Holy Week and then the glories of Easter.**

# PUZZLES - SUDOKU

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

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

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*Easy*

*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, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024***

***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

February is the month of romance. Millions of Valentine cards will be sent in the next week or two, as we celebrate our romantic love for that special person in our lives. But there are other kinds of love to celebrate: and on Candlemas we remember Mary and Joseph taking their baby son to the temple to present Him to God. Jesus' whole life was a loving present to us from God. Through His death for us on the cross, and His resurrection, His love can now transform anyone's life. Romances can die, but God's love for us is always there. But it won't do us much good - unless we accept it!

Valentine  
Rose  
Romance  
Love  
Present  
Restaurant  
Hearts  
Kiss  
hug  
girlfriend  
boyfriend  
fiancé  
worship  
repentance  
angels  
baby  
temple  
Mary  
Candlemas  
presentation

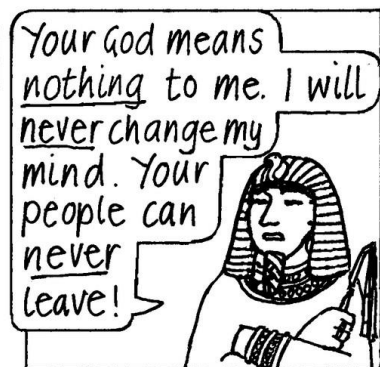
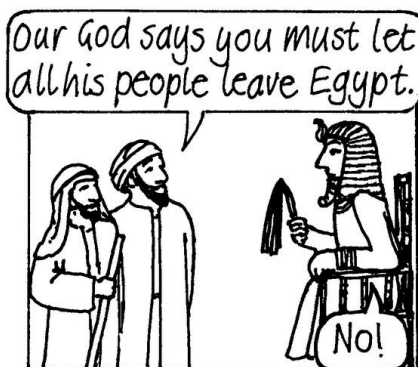
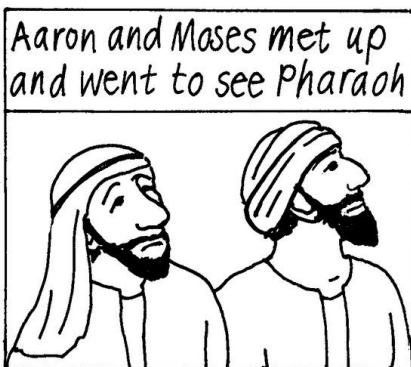
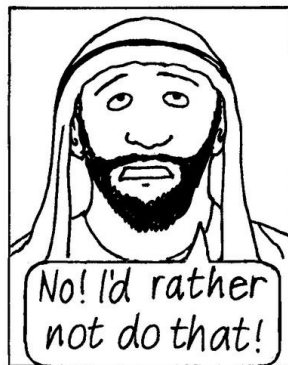
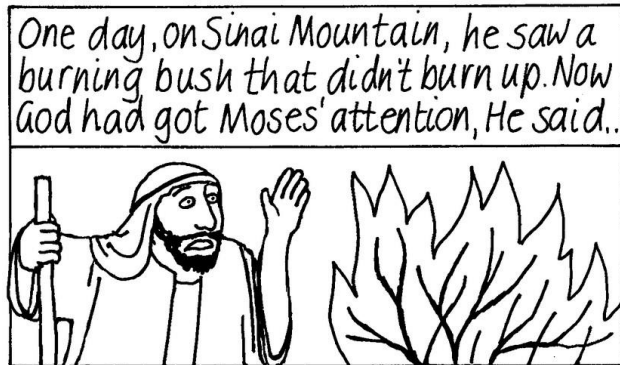
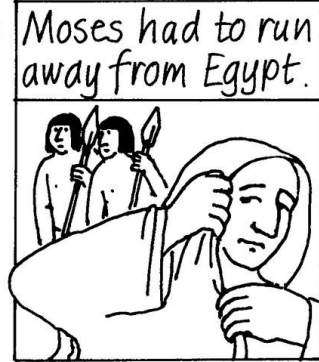


# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Exodus 2:13-4:23, 4:27-5:2



Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and hid the body.



# The gardener and the Vine

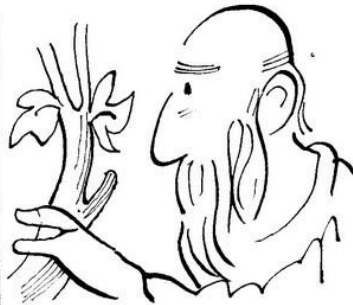


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS


ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS TO CARE FOR THE VINES

HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH BRANCH CAREFULLY...

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD FRUIT...


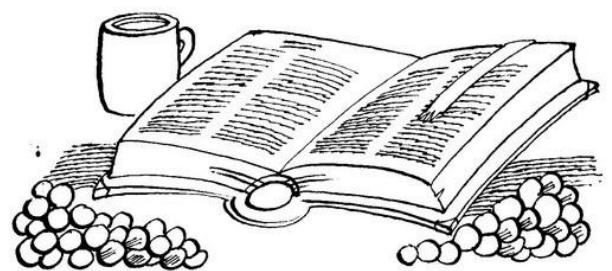



...OR NO FRUIT AT ALL...

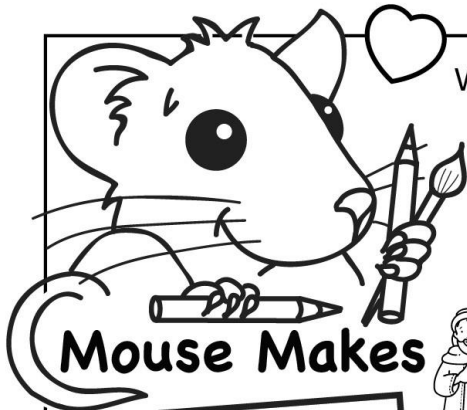
... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN THE FIRE!!



JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.

YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



Who were the first couple?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

\_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 1:5

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

- ADAM      ELIZABETH
- ABRAHAM      MARY
- ISAAC      HANNAH
- JACOB      PRISCILLA
- BOAZ      EVE
- ZECHARIAH      RUTH
- ELKANAH      REBEKAH
- AQUILA      RACHEL
- JOSEPH      SARAH

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 16:3

**FIND THE BIBLE VERSE**

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
 MFU OPU NBO  
 TFQBSBUF.

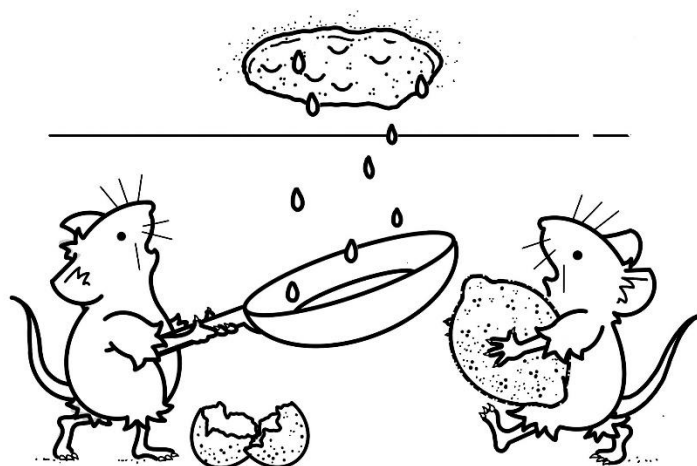
NBSL  
 UFO WFSTF  
 OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God  
 See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

Some colouring for all ages....



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