

† LFC In Touch

Hi All,

Easter 2021

We hope this finds you well and looking forward to Easter and the celebrations, even if they'll be a bit different this year.

Enjoy the 2nd issue of LFC In Touch. Here's wishing you a Happy and Blessed Easter.



A Time to be Joyful

Older readers may remember The Byrds song 'Turn! Turn! Turn!' telling us that there is a time for everything. It is based on chapter 3 of the book of Ecclesiastes, in the Bible, where verse four gives us the options to cry or laugh, to be sad or ready to dance. Perhaps as we reach Easter, we might consider that we can lay aside our weeping and sadness and look for laughter and dancing; in short to be joyful.

Here in Britain we use hot cross buns as a reminder of Good Friday and Easter eggs, as a sign of new life, which can remind us of Jesus' resurrection, following his crucifixion.



Other countries have their ways of celebrating Easter. Many Spanish towns have their processions every evening of holy week. In Malaga this concludes with the Virgin of the Dolores being carried on the small but heavy throne through the streets to the sombre beating of drums. With the beating of those drums, those in the procession all robed, and the streetlights switched off, there is a strong sense of solemnity.



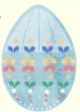
In Antigua, in southern Guatemala, the streets are carpeted throughout Holy Week in readiness for the Good Friday procession. The long carpets show scenes made from flowers, coloured sawdust, fruits, vegetables, and sand. The processions in the streets of many Mexican towns are a re-enactment of the first Easter in Jerusalem. In Florence in Italy, Mass on Easter Sunday is concluded with a firework display when the Archbishop ignites a cart of explosives that has been wheeled to a point outside the cathedral.

The first Easter began with sadness and crying for his followers, as Jesus was tortured, crucified, and buried. It became joyful when they discovered that he had come back to life and, for a short while, lived among them. They remained joyful when he left them to return to heaven, sending the Holy Spirit to be their support and Guide in the new lives ahead.

If we are Christians, we can rejoice in what Jesus has done for us. We can also be grateful for Spring, bringing us warmth, and new life in flowers, plants, birds and young animals.

We can celebrate moving forward towards our meeting up again and doing things together. While some are mourning the loss of loved ones, we need to continue to recognize the sacrifice that many made for our well-being, we can be thankful for the lives that we have and perhaps appreciate the little things better.

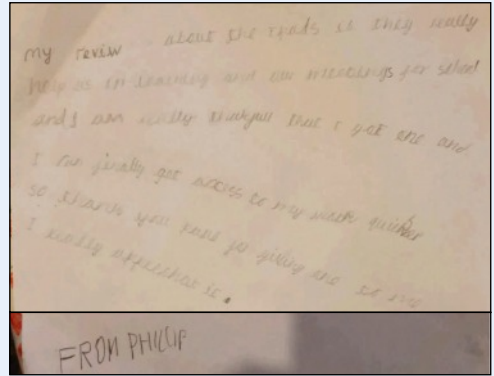
Have a Happy and Blessed Easter and enjoy Spring 2021!



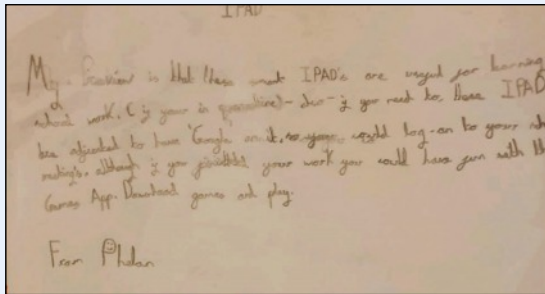
Home Schooling during Lockdown

As a Church fellowship we wanted to support our families and young people during the Latest Lockdown. So we have provided devices for those who needed them for their home schooling. Phillip & Phelan have kindly reviewed their devices for this edition of LFC In Touch.

Phillip said that the tablet really helped in his learning and ability to access lessons and that he was really thankful for it and appreciated its provision especially as he could access his maths quicker.



Phelan wrote that the tablet was useful for learning schoolwork and attending his school meetings. He also liked that he was able to access games when he had finished his schoolwork.



What You've been up to in Lockdown

There have been reports throughout the lockdowns that people are taking up new hobbies or revisiting old ones. So, we thought it might be nice to find out from you what you've been doing. Here are some of the responses.

Chris - Finished some sewing, patchwork and quilting left undone from years ago.

Sylvia - Taken up cross stitch and puzzles

Ingrid - Finished knitting a jumper from a few years back.

Sarah - Taken up walking and started cycling again.

Claudette - Taught herself to play the recorder and flute and now learning Chinese.

Joyce - Delivering tracts whilst out walking.

Tanith - Gone back to painting by numbers.

Judy - Online quizzes with old school friends.

Myrtle - Doing crosswords

Gabriel - Learning both to play the guitar and design websites.

Grace - Walking and reading

Ann - Taken up making chutney and started bread making.

Wendy - Returned to piano playing.

Kim & Kevin - spending time with their grandson Theodore & jigsaw puzzles

Tony - Creative writing

Aileen - Art & Bible journaling.

2 And of Course everyone has been spending time learning to understand and engage with Zoom meetings, recording and improving their technology skills. 😊

The Frasers in Derby

Richard and Fiona Fraser left Langley some years ago to train with WEC as missionaries. They initially worked in BETEL rehabilitation centres before moving to Derby, where they live with their two daughters, to work with asylum seekers.

They moved into furniture restoration, using Richard's skills, to restore and provide furniture to those in need, including the formerly homeless. This led to the setting up of Hope City Furniture.

Fiona has sent us this update.



The purpose of Hope City Furniture is to provide good quality furniture free of charge to people who have been rehoused due to crisis and who are having to furnish a new home from scratch without the means to do so.

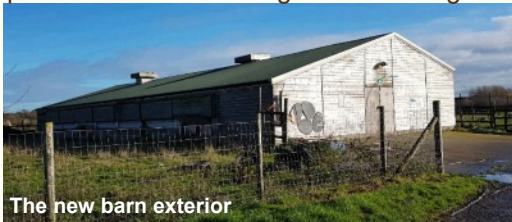
2020 was a pretty tough year for us in terms of ministry as Hope City Furniture was closed for nearly six months and our shop in Belper was closed for over four months. But 2020 was also a year of breakthrough where we have so much to be thankful for -

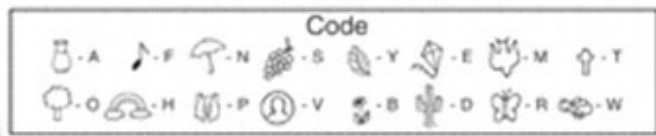
the provision of a fantastic new van for the charity in February; the provision of the long awaited and prayed for building in December; and God's provision for the charity financially despite our shop being closed for several months. We also had a really positive season of home schooling the girls which was something we never anticipated doing. But it went really well and the girls loved it! Although they are also happy to be back at school now!



Despite lockdown, this past year has seen Hope City Furniture continue to grow and develop. In 2020 we still carried out just under 100 referrals; gave away around 450 items of furniture; and almost 100 New Testaments and Bibles as well as many more tracts. We have had many opportunities to share our faith, distribute Bibles and tracts and pray for people in crisis, and have seen several ongoing relationships established through the referrals we have carried out.

A week before the girls were due to return to school on 8th of March we received the approval for the change of usage application that was submitted before Christmas for the barn. God's timing is so amazing. Now that the girls are back at school we can focus on starting the work of turning this amazing building into our new base of operations! Praise God for the finances that have already come in towards this, and the personnel - a construction project manager who is giving us his time for free, and an electrician who is willing to carry out the installation of the electrics to the office and workshop for free. Over this past year we have seen God's faithfulness, goodness and favour poured out upon us time and time again! He is so good!



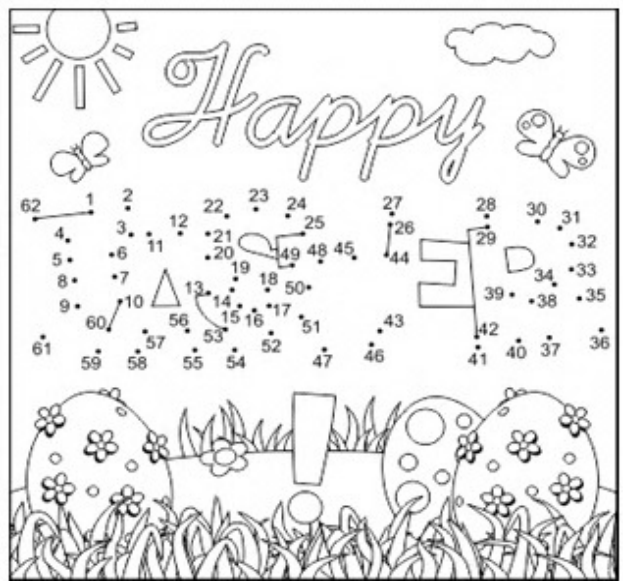


ACROSS

- 1 What Jesus washed during dinner
- 5 Where Jesus told the thief he would go
- 7 The disciple who was at the cross
- 8 Disciple who wanted to see Jesus's scars
- 10 Owner of the tomb where Jesus was buried
- 11 Dinner Jesus celebrated the night he was arrested
- 12 The Mary who found the empty tomb

DOWN

- 2 What the soldiers used to make Jesus a "crown"
- 3 The disciple who denied Jesus three times
- 4 The hill where Jesus died
- 6 The man the crowd set free instead of Jesus
- 9 Where Jesus was arrested



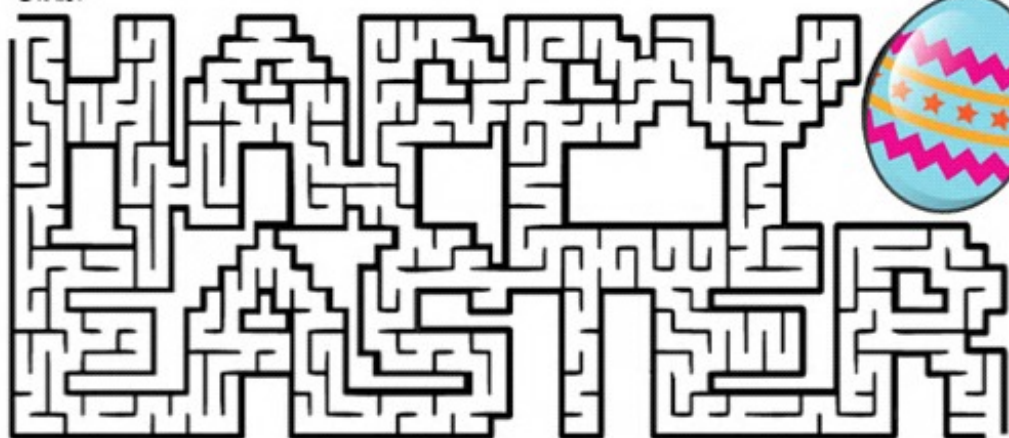
Find 6 differences between pictures.



R	R	N	S	S	B	E	U	T	Y	L	T	T	S
J	N	E	G	U	N	O	B	J	E	S	U	S	O
D	L	S	N	N	S	U	Y	E	S	P	I	S	C
N	A	N	R	M	N	E	A	S	T	E	R	R	E
B	Y	S	A	S	Y	C	N	C	T	S	O	J	N
O	C	G	L	E	R	I	S	E	N	S	E	S	C
I	H	S	S	G	C	B	C	B	S	N	R	U	T
O	O	L	P	G	G	R	T	C	L	E	A	N	S
S	C	J	E	S	E	T	O	M	B	N	Y	D	S
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- EGGS
- RISEN
- BUNNY
- CROSS
- JESUS
- SUNDAY
- TOMB
- CHOCOLATE
- LENT
- SPRING
- JOY
- PALM
- BUNS
- EASTER

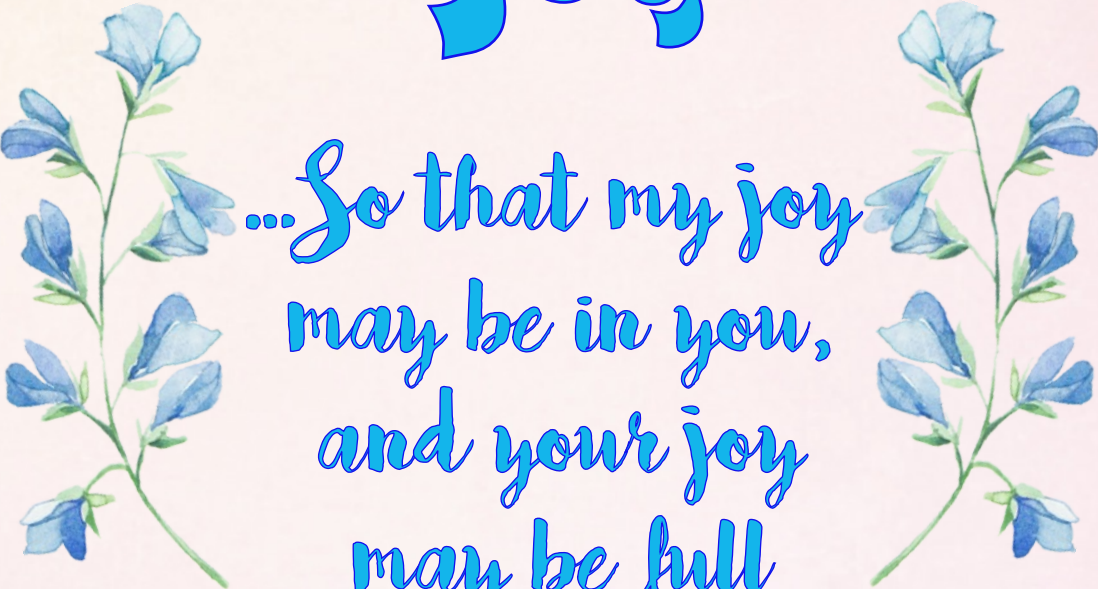
START



END



Choose Joy



...So that my joy
may be in you,
and your joy
may be full

John 15:11



Message from Pastor John

Dear reader,

The central belief of our Christian faith is that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion. That is why we, as believers celebrate Easter. It is easy to get distracted from the central message of Easter, because of the commercial society in which we live. It can be tempting to become caught up in the feasting and Easter eggs and miss its true significance, although now as we are in lockdown we can't be with family and friends we can perhaps be more focused than we would normally be. I have had members tell me that they have been reading their bibles more during lockdown. In the story of the Fall in Genesis we are told that humans have free will, the ability to choose between right and wrong, between God's path and a selfish, ego-centred way. The rest of the Bible assures us that even when we turn away from God and sin, that God always invites us back into relationship with Him, just as he did the people of Israel. This Biblical account of God's saving action also tells us that God will stop at no lengths to save us. We are told that He even becomes one of us in the person of Jesus. Jesus, fully human and fully divine, enters the human experience with all of its joys and sorrows. In the crucifixion Jesus confronts evil head on. The innocent victim, he does not avoid suffering, but embraces it to save us from sin, and ultimately from death.

And so for those of us who have excepted Jesus as our Lord and saviour I think it is important to ask ourselves, "Are we keeping Christ alive in our lives?" The verses from Galatians below remind us that he took away our sins on the cross and has given us new hope, new life and a new relationship with our heavenly father through Christ, Hallelujah!

'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!'

Galatians 2:20-21

God bless you all, I pray that you will have a really blessed Easter.

From Pastor John

Rejoice! It's Easter!

Let not your heart be troubled
Let not your sole be sad
Easter is a time of Joy
When all hearts should be glad

Glad to know that Jesus Christ
Made it possible for men
To have their sins forgiven
And, like him, to live again

So at this joyous season
May the wondrous Easter story
Renew our faith so we may be
Partakers of 'his glory!'

*May Your Easter be
Filled with Blessings!*



LFC In Touch 'Notices'

We have an online service each Sunday at 10:30am on Youtube. Just go to Youtube & type in Langley Free Church to access or go to our Facebook page and follow the Link. It is also available throughout the week at www.langleyfree.org.uk

Weekly Activities via Zoom:

- Monday Lunch Club
- Wednesday afternoon OASIS fellowship time
- Thursday evening group, 'Jesus through Old Testament Eyes'
- CHATCAF coffee time alternate Saturday mornings

You can also find out about our activities on the website or the Langleyfreechurch Facebook page. If you want to know more about any of these activities contact us at intouch@langleyfree.org.uk

We wish to extend a warm invitation for you to join us for our Easter Services (We have decided not to reopen the Church building until after Easter. Currently our services are pre-recorded)

28th March 10.30am – Palm Sunday All Age Service

1st April 7.30pm - Maundy Thursday Communion Service

2nd April 10.30am – Good Friday Service

4th April 10.30am – Easter Sunday Service

17th century EASTER CAROL

*The whole bright world rejoices now:
With laughter and cheer, with boundless joy.
The birds do sing on every bough.
Allelujah.*

*Then shout beneath the racing skies:
With laughing cheer, with boundless joy.
Jesus has risen that we may rise.
Allelujah.*

*God – Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
With laughing cheer, with boundless joy.
Our God most high, our joy, our boast.
Allelujah.*

If you enjoyed LFC In Touch you can let us know by sending us an email.

Or if you would like to contribute to our next edition email us at

8 intouch@langleyfree.org.uk