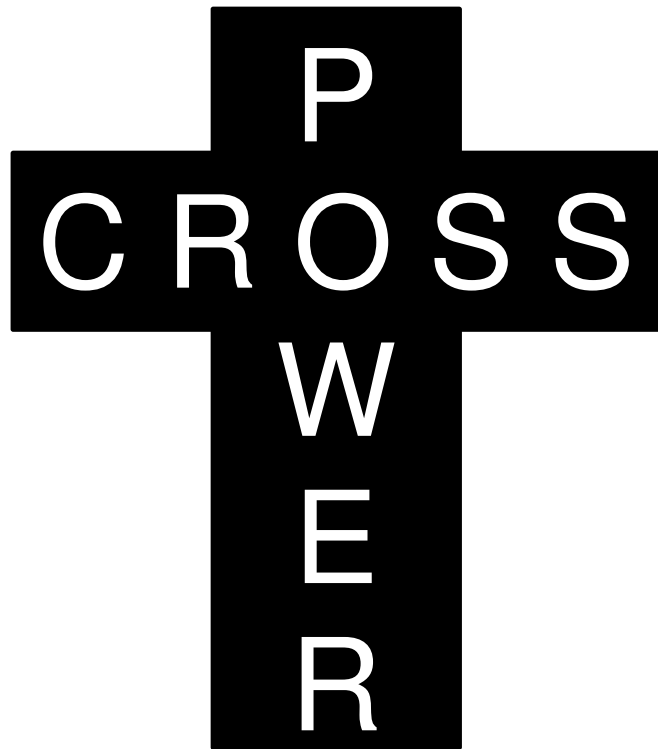




Newsletter

SPRING 2018



*The power of the Cross
Draws people to Jesus*

Jesus is Risen!



Pastor's Page



has sprung!

This phrase always makes me think of one of my mother's favourite joyous little rhymes (to be read with a New York accent) – she has a penchant for such things:

Spring is sprung, the grass is riz.

I wonder where the boidie is.

They say the boidie's on the wing.

But that's absoid. The wing is on the boid.

I read a better definition of the expression "spring has sprung", which is somewhat less 'absoid!' It means that, 'all of a sudden, it has stopped snowing, the days are warmer, the grass is green, the trees are blossoming, and everything seems to have new life. It is a time of renewed hope after a bleak, cold winter.' I am writing this when, at the beginning of March, Knaphill is covered in snow! I am writing this in anticipation of the inevitability of the seasons changing, of the bulbs that are just coming through bursting forth into glorious life and colour. As God said to Noah, *'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and*

winter, day and night will never cease' (Genesis 8:22). Through the lean, barren deadness of winter comes the fresh, new life of spring.

As we go through the lean time of Lent, we know that Easter is coming! When through the deadness and darkness of Jesus' passion, comes the light of the Resurrection and the hope of eternal life. As we enjoy the beauty of nature, it is but a picture of the spiritual life and hope that we have in Jesus Christ. *'Now, if anyone is enfolded into Christ, they have become an entirely new creation. All that is related to the old order has vanished. Behold, everything is fresh and new'* (2 Corinthians 5:17 – The Passion Translation). Unlike Narnia under the grip of permanent snow because of the White Witch, winter does give way to spring, death is replaced by life. Because of Jesus, spiritual death is replaced by spiritual life. *'God raised Jesus from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him'* (Acts 2:24) and *'just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may life a new life'* (Romans 6:4). So with a spring in our step and joy in our hearts, we anticipate the new season with renewed hope because of Jesus.





Editor's Ramblings

OVER THE FENCE

is the title in my weekly garden magazine. As I write this looking over my neighbours fence their gardens are as neat and tidy as mine! Are there references in the Bible to the word fence?

There are four, two in Job, one in Psalms and one in Isaiah.

In Psalm 62 Good News Bible actually uses the word FENCE. "How much longer will all of you attack someone who is no stronger than a broken-down fence".

Job talks about division. Isaiah 5 talks about walls and hedges.

Fences confine boundaries, divide between properties.

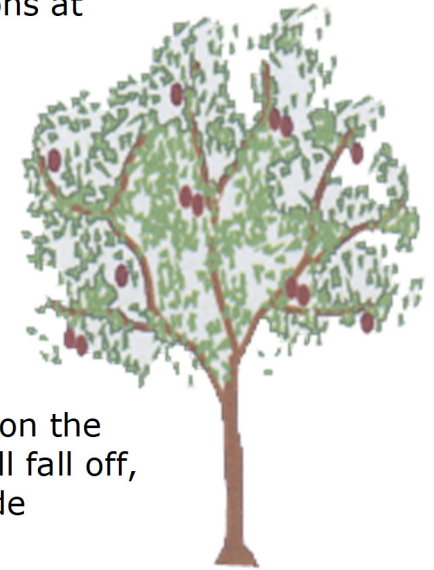
In my garden magazine it tells you how to look after them, what you can grow up and against them. Cats and squirrels like walking along them and the birds sit and have a good chat on them.

Little boys (big) like to jump up them to see what's on the other side. Which reminds me of a story told of a young lad who wanted to get at the apples in next doors garden. It meant climbing the fence. He did, balanced on the top, overstretched to reach the apples and lost his balance. Unfortunately or fortunately he fell on the wrong side and landed in next doors compost heap!

On some fences there may be a sign saying Danger or Keep Off the Fence. We ignore instructions at our own peril.

But what about you and me?
From a Christian point of view you have heard the gospel message. How are you going to respond to it? Not sure, can't make up your mind?

Well, you can't SIT ON THE FENCE. There is no middle with Jesus. It's decision time, if you sit on the fence of indecision too long you will fall off, and it might not be on the right side



At the Cross

Standing by the cross of Jesus "John puts the scene into focus. We do not see many of Jesus's followers there. It was just too dangerous to be identified with a condemned criminal. Such recklessness could land you on the next cross, but the following women were there:

Mary, the mother of Jesus
Salome, the rebuked (Mary's sister)
Mary, the wife of Clopas
Mary Magdalene

These Women, at no small amount of personal risk, continued to identify themselves with the Master, even as he died for them.



Well, Spring has come! As the snow cleared we saw signs of new life and the bulbs raring to go.

Reminds me of the flower ministry of the church. What a joy to receive flowers knowing that you are loved and not forgotten.

So thanks to everybody who supply the flowers week by week and to those who distribute them.

Keep an eye on the flower list at the back of the church - thank you.

The Ministry of Transport

Church, that is. I have been transporting people and children to church for nearly thirty years. Now we ourselves are dependent from time to time to ask for a lift.

So thanks to Sohan, Margaret, Linda, Graham and Ruth who willingly supply much needed lifts to church. Thank you.

Fellowship News

On Sunday 28th February Frank, Debbie, Lisa, Sam and Mariam were received into the membership of the church. Miriam wasn't well enough to attend and will be received in later on.

We wish God's blessing on all these friends as they share the future with us.

Some Good News

There will be a Baptismal service on 8th April when our friend Caroline will be baptised.

Book this date and bring others to share this great occasion.

Some Sad News

We received a letter from Switzerland from our friend Lotti Siegrist saying that her husband Walter had been called home to be with his Lord. He died last October, it was sudden and unexpected.

We sent our condolences to Lotti and the family.

Prayer of PRAISE

Why do we praise Jesus Christ? Because He is the best that man can be, and because He makes known to us what God thinks about us, and how we ought to think about God.

We praise Him because when He lived on earth there was love in everything He said and did, and because in our heart God shows us that love is right and good.

So if we follow Jesus we are living in the way our heavenly Father means us to live. But we praise Him also because when we fail to follow Him He does not turn us away, but forgives us and puts us right and goes on loving us whatever happens.

When we praise Jesus Christ we become part of a huge crowd, far too great to count, who are praising too, Everyone here belongs to that great company; so we belong to one another. Young and old together, we are His servants. We have the same Lord; and together we pray in His Name.

Easter in My Hand

There's a rainbow in my hand
Full of colors that are bright
They remind me of the Savior
Who was born on Christmas night

He left his throne in Heaven
To forgive the sins of man
The candy from this egg
Will reveal his mighty plan

The purple one reminds me
Of the sin that's in my heart
It separated God from man
And drove them both apart

The red candy reminds me
Of the blood that Jesus lost
When he went up on the hill
And he died upon the cross

Then Sunday morning came
And the stone was rolled away
By the orange light of sunrise
Christ arose on Easter day

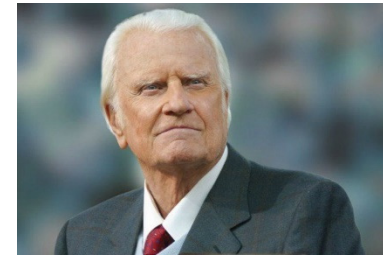
Green is the color of the
New life in the spring
It tells me of the new life
That knowing Jesus brings

Yellow is the color of
The gold that lines the street
In Heaven up above
Where Jesus we will meet

The rainbow in my hand says
That Jesus died for me
The Savior in my life says
That now my heart is free



A Short Tribute to Billy Graham



Who died peacefully at the age of 99 on 21st February.

He gave his life over to God in 1939.

Graham kicked off his international mission by speaking in large areas on a visit to London in 1954. The trip was a risk because the British were not nearly such ardent churchgoers as the Americans. But the response was rapturous.

Graham sited his first full scale UK 'crusade' next to a greyhound track at Harringay Arena in north London, filling it every night for three months. For his grand finale at Wembley Stadium, 120,000 people came to listen to him.

Returning to Britain in 1966, he addressed vast crowds at Earl's Court, where Sir Cliff Richard made his first public commitment to Christianity.

The Story Lives On

In 2007 he had built a new centre (picture below) which was called THE LIBRARY.



The Library will proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to multitudes of visitors by taking them on a journey through the life, ministry and the message of Billy Graham.

Ruth's Page

Sadly, a day doesn't go past without some sort of crime being reported in the News, but you don't have to read very far into the Bible to find that our predecessors did some pretty awful things to each other as well! This quiz is all about Biblical Crime and Punishment.

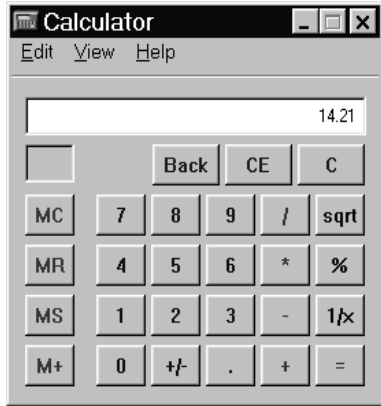
How many can you answer?

1. What is the first murder recorded in the Bible?
2. Under what pretext was Paul the apostle thrown into prison while in Philippi?
3. What three punishments did God give the serpent for deceiving Eve?
4. How old was Joseph when his brothers threw him into a pit?
5. What were the two crimes that Barabbas was reported to have committed?
6. Which two towns in the Old Testament were considered so corrupt that God completely destroyed them?
7. Why did Herod arrest John the Baptist?
8. Which New Testament writer tells his readers, "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it"?
9. Which King had Daniel thrown to the lions for praying to God?
10. What is the sixth commandment?
11. Which famous New Testament figures was present at the stoning of Stephen?
12. What did Jesus tell people to do if they had their cloak taken away from them?
13. How did Peter escape from prison after King Herod had ordered four squads of soldiers to guard him?
14. What was the name of the supreme law court of the Jews?
15. In the parable about the landowner who leased a vineyard to tenants, what did the tenants do when the landowner's son went to collect his father's harvest?
16. What is the eighth commandment?
17. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, who were the two people who passed by the robbers' victim without helping him?
18. At which feast was it the custom for Pilate to release a prisoner chosen by the people?

1. Cain's murder of his brother Abel (Genesis Ch4:v8); 2. It was claimed Paul was advocating customs that were unlawful for Romans to practice. (Acts 16 19-21); 3. The serpent had to crawl on its belly, eat dust and have mankind as its enemy (Genesis Ch3:vs14-15); 4. 17 years old (Genesis Ch37:vs2,23-24); 5. Murder and taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem (Luke Ch23:v19); 6. Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis Ch19,vs23-29); 7. Because John rebuked Herod for his marriage to Herodias and all the other evil things Herod had done (Luke Ch3:vs19-20); 8. James (James Ch2:v10); 9. King Darius (Daniel Ch6); 10. You shall not murder (Exodus Ch20:v13); 11. Saul, later known as Paul (Acts Ch7:vs59-60 Ch8v1); 12. Do not stop them from taking your tunic (Luke Ch6:v29); 13. An angel caused his chains to fall off and led him out of the prison and into the city (Acts Ch12:vs1-11); 14. The Sanhedrin; 15. They killed him (Mark Ch12:vs1-12); 16. You shall not steal (Exodus Ch20:v15); 17. The Priest and the Levite (Luke Ch10 vs30-33); 18. The Feast of Passover.

From The Treasurer's Calculator

Having travelled a fair bit over the years, I'm always reminded of the British propensity to talk about the weather. Maybe it's because we get so much variation that there's always something different to talk about. There isn't much to talk about when the weather is the same every day for weeks on end, not something of which you can ever accuse the British climate!



How did the recent bad weather affect you, or the church? Were you able to show some Christian love to your neighbours. Did you clear the pavement outside your house and the house next

door? Were the elderly people near you OK? Did you offer to do their shopping. Did somebody help you?

All of these things are Love in Action, the same as supporting the Food Bank, volunteering in a charity shop or being a Street Angel, and the fact these days that so few people do care about their little local community can make our actions really stand out.

As a church we've committed ourselves to being "Caring Christians at the Heart of the Community". That means continuing to challenge ourselves, both corporately and individually, constantly searching out new opportunities to serve and to show His love; "taking the temperature" of those around us and ministering wherever and whenever we can to relieve the pain and difficulty. Do you go about your daily life in and around Knaphill with your eyes and ears wide open?

And so to our finances: at the Church Meeting in January we reviewed our accounts and looked at the budget for 2018. Like most Baptist churches, we receive no external funding from our denomination, in fact we contribute to its running costs. As members, we accept the responsibility to sustain the church financially as part of our mutual commitment to each other in membership. It now costs about £52,000 to run the church for a year, covering Stipend, buildings costs, materials for our worship and work and our own donations to the wider Christian family. The target figure, made up of gifts in the weekly offering bag, offerings through the bank and one off donations, is £843 a week. Split over the 35 or so members, that equates to an average of about £100 a month each. Now some are simply not able to be that generous. So there is a real need for those that are able to give more.

You are probably asking why the figure isn't £1,000, £52,000 divided by 52? Because of the remarkable scheme called Gift Aid. This allows the church to reclaim the tax already paid on the donations you make. So if you're a tax payer (income and capital gains only, I'm afraid, not VAT or council tax) you SHOULD be taking advantage of this. I make no excuse for going on about this – the tax reclaimed is nearly 15% of our total receipts.

Ask me for a form if you've not already signed up. We can make it really easy to ensure your gifts all count and work harder for the Lord, through weekly envelopes or regular bank transfers.

Finally as we look forward to the wonder of the Easter season, I'd like to wish you a warmer Spring and plenty more to talk about, not just the weather – but what's happening around you in the community.

Eric

Our recent offering figures...Thank you.

	Aug '17	Sep '17	Oct '17	Nov '17	Dec '17	Jan '18	Feb '18	YTD
Actual	£754	£703	£858	£667	£788	£705	£645	£675
Target	£833	£833	£833	£833	£833	£843	£843	£843