

# The Good News

Spring 2022



## North West Northants Pastorate

I mentioned at the beginning of the last issue; “Time and travels make some things seem long ago and distant”. But, just because something happened or was written down long ago does not in itself make it obsolete, impractical or untrue.

My grandmother’s (by now world famous) marrow chutney recipe was written down long ago. But it is still true, not obsolete (at least in my kitchen) and still works today.

Western Culture has among its foundations the ancient knowledge, ideas and writings of the likes of Homer, Plato and Aristotle et al.

Many festivals have among

their roots some practices of pagan origin; Easter not least of all, bringing together celebrations of springtime and fertility which in themselves are of course, worth celebrating.



Image: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.

But for Christians, there's more... The special thing about Easter for Christians? He [Jesus] told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day”...

“...and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

(Luke 24: 47-48 NIV)

# Inside this Spring Issue

The Joys of Spring!

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## **North West Northants**

### **Pastorate:**

#### **Minister**

Interregnum

#### **Long Buckby URC**

Brington Road

Long Buckby

NN6 7RW

Secretary: Lucy Faulkner

07738 156722

#### **Creaton URC**

High Street

Creaton

NN6 8NA

Secretary: Geoff Townsend

01604 821186

#### **Crick URC**

Chapel Lane

Crick

NN6 7TW

Secretary: Brenda Morgan

01788 822564

#### **Kilsby URC**

Chapel Street

Kisby

CV23 8XE

Treasurer: Val Janes

01788 822751

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**Editor** Andrew Bodsworth

[editor@longbuckbyurc.org.uk](mailto:editor@longbuckbyurc.org.uk)

Deadline for contributions to next issue: 16th May 2022

**Good News welcomes contributions from readers**, though publication is not guaranteed.

## Editorial

Whose Name is This?

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**Hello,**

Some amazing things happen in our churches, so don't be frightened, come on in!

Church is not a members club, so everyone can come along and be welcomed, familiar or stranger. You have a place waiting here. Yes you do...

It is wonderful that we are getting back on course with supportive activities and events, both within our churches and in our wider communities.

These important communal activities, which might include coffee mornings, social and charitable events, even beetle drives, charitable as they might be; do not to entirely define the Church.

Might they in fact be seen as the coming together of people, serving with love and mutual respect, to support the Spiritual work of the Church; as sometimes expressed in individual Church mission statements?

Like many of you, I have come to realise, church buildings (important facilities that they are) are just that, buildings.

We, are the Church, the people. It's stating the obvious, I know that now, but I am a bit slow sometimes... It is the people who express charity and love.

This brings to mind the words of the famous hymn often sung by choirs; "Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est".

That is; "Where there is charity and love, there is God"; frequently sung on a Maundy Thursday.

A reminder that after darkness and loss there is new birth and indeed resurrection.

His Name is Jesus.

But then you know that don't you?

Yes you do...

**Andrew.**



Image: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.

# A Message for All

From Rev. Liz Adams

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## Dear Friends,

It's been a long, hard winter, hasn't it? In fact, it feels like it's been winter for two years – a bit like Narnia! I feel like I've done funeral after funeral – both here, and in my last parishes. And mainly for people I knew or have begun to get to know. And everyone I know seems to have experienced the same. Several deaths or illnesses or other difficulties. We're all feeling exhausted from Covid, and its restrictions and drawbacks, and the world is not a happy place for other reasons too.

Thankfully, spring is springing. As I write, I've felt the heat of the sun despite the cold wind, the snowdrops are poking up out of the ground, and I know the daffodils and crocuses are on their way. I know, because it happens every year, without fail. God has set these things in place, I believe, to give us hope in the dark times.



Image: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.

## **A Message for All cont.**

From Rev. Liz Adams

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We know spring will come and summer will follow. The days will last for longer and the nights will be shorter. At the same time as all the deaths, we have heard of new life – new babies being born to children and grandchildren of our church and community, new babies being baptised in our churches, and new friends as groups start up again.

I'm writing this on Candlemas – the day the church celebrates Jesus as the Light of the World, being presented in the temple as a baby, 40 days after his birth.

It's the official end of Christmas, and as a church, we begin to look now towards Lent, and Jesus' death and Resurrection. Another example of sadness, turning to joy; of death into life; and of despair into hope. God has done this with us his people time and time again, throughout the Bible, through Jesus, and on into the church communities over generations in every nation.

Sometimes churches go through a time of quiet, of struggle, of loss. But they are always renewed, always resurrected, always grow again. The church has continued for generations in this place, it's been steeped in prayer and it's exciting to look back and see what God has done in the past, and we look forward with anticipation to see what God is going to do next in this place - both in terms of numbers but even more importantly, in our own lives.

[Cont...

## **A Message for All cont.**

From Rev. Liz Adams

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How will we grow in faith, understanding and love of God and each other? We look forward with hope.

Hope is everything.

May God bless us and give us hope this Lent and always.

### **Blessings.**

#### **Rev Liz.**

The Reverend Liz Adams is Minister of Northampton Pastorate, Castle Hill URC and Doddridge Memorial URC..

Synod has appointed the Revd Liz Adams as the Area Transitional minister for the churches of West Northamptonshire Long Buckby; Kilsby; Crick and Creton plus Duston from September 2021 to September 2022



Image from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.

Replenishing

Refilling, topping up

Whether it is faith or forgiveness

It might be love, trust, confidence, hope or even the forgiveness of sin

Some things just need constantly topping up

Give thanks for the cup and basket that overflow

Do you share the bread and wine?

Yes you do...

# Prayers

From Rev. Michael Bond

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## For Prayer

This quarter we are asked to think of, remember and pray for:

- Jesus said, “Love as I have loved you”. Do we need a vision of God rebuking us for the people we dislike without knowing the facts!?
- How should we spiritually care for people?
- A person said, “I fast, but I find it difficult to be quiet before the Lord”. Whether we fast or not, we should be quiet before the Lord sometime in Lent; what should that mean for us?

Give thanks. Always give thanks for an answered prayer.

Seen on a poster while on holiday in Spain: 9 out of 10 worries do not materialise.



Spiritual work of the Church along with its prayer reaches out  
Far beyond its buildings, seeping into a wider community and world  
A human reflection of the power of the Holy Spirit  
We cant help but try to reach out  
To shine back however faintly  
The life giving love  
Take hold the hand of God  
Be brought out into the shinning Light

# Long Buckby News

News from Peggy and Michael Bond

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**Hello from Long Buckby everyone!**

## **Our Flower Rota:**

March 6th	Peggy Bond
March 13th	Don Bird
March 20th	Lucy Faulkner
March 27th	Peggy Bond
April 3rd	Grace Mawby, Sue & Kath
April 10th	Marion Boucher
April 17th	Mary Bignell
April 24th	Kath Packer (24th)
May 1st	The Bruce Family (1st)
May 8th	Rita Stowe (10th)
May 15th	Gill Best
May 22th	Norman Chandler
May 29th	United Service at Crick URC



## **Birthday Wishes to:**

April	Don Bird
May	Dianna Babb, James Faulkner, Mark Ellison

## **Hope Centre**

Please remember the collection box for the Hope Centre in Northampton. Food, coffee, tee bags, cleaning materials and laundry detergents very welcome.

## **Coffee mornings**

The first Saturday in March for Dementia Café in Daventry

These Charity Coffee Mornings will be held every first Saturday for the rest of the Year. See the Notice board and Long Buckby URC web site for further information.

# **Andrew Howes Invites You; Fun, Fish and Chips**

The Beetles Are Back! (still not the Beatles (unfortunately))

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Long Buckby URC

## **Fish and Chip Lunch and Beetle Drive**

Saturday 26 March 2022 12.00 – 14.00

£7.50 to include lunch and dessert

There will be a Raffle.

Please contact Andrew Howes to book your place

07814076027

01327705115

[andrewhowes66@gmail.com](mailto:andrewhowes66@gmail.com)

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I remind you, some beetles do look like ants; like the 'Anthicidae' in fact, sometimes called 'flower beetles'. This particular example, for it is indeed one of these, seems not to like the look of those (disproportionately small) flowers opposite as on this occasion it (I am unsure of its gender) has turned its back!

No Beetles will be harmed during this event (although some fish might be)

## **Creaton News**

News from Margaret Anderson

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**Hello from Creaton everyone!**

### **Our Mission Statement:**

Worship God joyfully  
Offer Christ faithfully  
Promote growth hopefully  
Serve others lovingly.

### **Pilots**

Meets on Monday nights led by Marion Heard

### **Poppies Coffee Shop**

Is open from 10.00am to 12 noon Wednesday and Friday.

Poppies is closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Everyone is most welcome to come, and people in the village are very pleased that it is back open.

### **Mothering Sunday**

Service with the URC and St Michael's Parish Church at the URC Chapel at 11am; with Rev Geoff Townsend taking the service and Rev Alison Twigg preaching.

**Margaret.**



# **Kilsby News**

News from Val Janes

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**Hello from Kilsby everyone!**

## **Our Mission statement:**

The purpose of this church is to provide a warm welcoming place for all people, of any age, to worship and to learn about faith.

## **Services are on Sunday mornings at 11am**

You can find our list of Services and Preachers in the Preaching Diary.

## **Pancake Day Event**

March 1st 4pm; all welcome

## **Lent Course**

Journey to the empty tomb; by Paula Gooder

March 8th towards Jerusalem

March 15th the last supper

March 22nd gethsemane

March 29th the crucifixion

April 5th the empty tomb

Meeting at the chapel on a Tuesday afternoons at 2pm. Everyone welcome.

## **Good Friday Walk**

April 15th; leaves St Faiths Church at 10am, then the walk around the village and then back to the chapel approximately 11.30am for hot cross buns etc.

## **Community cafe**

Every Monday and Thursday at 9am until 12noon everyone is welcome.

## **Scrabble**

Every Wednesday at 1pm everyone is welcome.

## **Sewing**

Every other Friday at 2pm until 4pm everyone is welcome.

**Val.**

## Diary of Church Services March 2022 to May 2022

Date	Long Buckby All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	Creaton All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
06/03/22	Martin Buckby	Rev Geoff Townsend With Holy Communion
13/03/22	Margaret Hooper	Jon Heard
20/03/22	Eric Nixon	Lindsay Cole
27/03/22	TBA	Rev Geoff Townsend and Rev Alison Twigg; Mothering Sunday Service
03/04/22	Rev Michael Haighton	Rev Geoff Townsend
10/04/22	TBA	Jon Heard Palm Sunday With Holy Communion
17/04/22	Andrew Howes With Holy Communion	Rev Geoff Townsend With Holy Communion
24/04/22	Rev Liz Adams	Rev Ann Jack
01/05/22	Clive Leakey	Rev Geoff Townsend With Holy Communion
08/05/22	TBA	Rev Tim Huc
15/05/22	Barbara Haighton	Rev Liz Adams
22/05/22	John Perkins	Vaughan Griffiths
29/05/22	Rev Craig Muir Pastorate Service at Crick	Rev Craig Muir Pastorate Service at Crick

## Diary of Church Services March 2022 to May 2022

<b>Date</b>	<b>Crick</b> All services at 11am unless otherwise stated	<b>Kilsby</b> All services at 11am unless otherwise stated
06/03/22	TBA	John Perkins
13/03/22	Wally Mullar	Songs of Praise
20/03/22	David and Pat Biddle	Cecil Gill
27/03/22	John Rogers	Rev. Craig Muir
03/04/22	Ray Smith	TBA
10/04/22	Rev. Geoff Townsend With Holy Communion	Trevor Boys
17/04/22	Dawn Margetts	Cecil Gill
24/04/22	Bobbie Wakeleigh-Jones	Rev. Liz Adams
01/05/22	TBA	Tony Cervantes
08/05/22	Cecil Gill	Andrew Howes
15/05/22	Tony Cervantes	Cecil Gill
22/05/22	Andrew Howes	David and Pat Biddle
29/05/22	Rev Craig Muir Pastorate Service at Crick	Rev Craig Muir Pastorate Service at Crick

## **Crick News**

News from Jenny Goodger

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### **Hello from Crick everyone!**

The purpose of this church is to provide a warm, welcoming place for people of all ages to worship God and to grow in faith.

### **Chapel Birthdays**

Happy birthday wishes to Joan Saunders and Beth Stanley who have birthdays around this time.

### **At The Last Joint Service**

What a pleasure to join friends from all churches in the pastorate at the joint service at Long Buckby [last] Sunday [30/01/22] and to hear from both Liz Adams and Craig Muir. Thank you, Long Buckby, for hosting us.

### **Coffee Mornings**

Coffee mornings are now back as a regular feature on the first Saturday of the month.

Although we have had limited opportunities to meet, (we all know why!) we have managed to make these donations: £100 each to Crick Rainbows and Crisis at Christmas in 2020; £140 to Breast Cancer Now and £100 to Crisis at Christmas in 2021. This brings our donations to various charities since 1999 to a splendid total of £17,989.34

Thank you, 'regulars' for all your generosity. We look forward to a more sociable year in 2022.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

Crick URC is delighted to be hosting this service once again, at 7.15 pm on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> in the schoolroom. We will serve tea and coffee after the service, please come and join us if you can.

**Jenny**

## Lent Course Opportunities

In Person or on Zoom (Purchase of the book is not required)

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### Meeting at Kilsby URC Tuesdays at 2pm

Led by Rev Craig Muir and following the book written by Paula Gooder

Paula Gooder, Journey to the Empty Tomb (Canterbury Press, 2014)

Journey to the Empty Tomb

March 8th Towards Jerusalem

March 15th The Last Supper

March 22nd Gethsemane

March 29th The Crucifixion

April 5th The Empty Tomb

All meetings at the chapel on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

OR

### Meeting on Zoom Wednesdays at 7pm

Led by Rev Liz Adams and following the same book written by Paula Gooder:

Paula Gooder, Journey to the Empty Tomb (Canterbury Press, 2014)

Journey to the Empty Tomb

March 9th Towards Jerusalem

March 16th The Last Supper

March 23rd Gethsemane

March 30th The Crucifixion

April 6th The Empty Tomb

**To join Zoom meetings, follow this link:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82126278422pwd=REZjRFZsbEdpSHFOUmZoOEZQUFpnQT09)

[j/82126278422pwd=REZjRFZsbEdpSHFOUmZoOEZQUFpnQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82126278422pwd=REZjRFZsbEdpSHFOUmZoOEZQUFpnQT09)

**As a clickable link can be found on the Long Buckby URC website front page.**

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**Something for you to give up for Lent; your worry, fear and doubt.**

“Leave it there, leave it there  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there  
If you trust and never doubt, he will surely bring you out,  
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.”

Refrain from the hymn;  
'If the world from you withholds its silver and gold'  
Charles Albert Tindley, ca.1906

**You may want to do this for Lent and beyond**

**Yes you do...**

## The story behind the hymn

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go — Contributed by Norman Chandler

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You know the one, yes you do...

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

George Matheson was the eldest of 8 children, a brilliant student at school; however at Glasgow University he began to go blind and was advised that there was no cure. Upon hearing the diagnosis his fiancé decided that she could not marry a blind man and broke off the engagement.

With the help of his sister, who incidentally learned Greek, Latin and Hebrew, he was a brilliant student and she continued to assist with his pastoral responsibilities in parishes in Glasgow and Edinburgh. He continued his theological studies obtaining a Doctorate of Divinity and a LL.D. (Doctor of Laws).

Twenty years after graduation on the eve of his sister's wedding, his shock rejection resurfaced. His own account stated that; "My hymn was composed in the manse of Innellan (which is on the Firth of Clyde) on the evening of the 6 th of June 1882 ... Something happened to me, which was known only to myself, and which caused me the most severe mental suffering.

The hymn was the fruit of that suffering. It was the quickest bit of work I ever did in my life. I had the impression rather of having it dictated to me by some inward voice than of working it out myself.

## The story behind the hymn

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go — Contributed by Norman Chandler

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I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes and equally that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction. I have no natural gift of rhythm. All the other verses I have ever written are manufactured articles; this came like a dayspring from on high.”

The four verses begin with the key words Love, Light, Joy, and Cross. These are names attributed to Christ.

Love, is a haven for a “weary soul” and is as deep as the “ocean”

Light, our “flickering torch” is strengthened by the “sunshine’s blaze” of Christ, the light of the world.

Joy, a joy that seeks for us “through pain” like a rainbow promise of hope following rain.

Cross, following suffering the “blossoms red” are formed that lead to the birth of new life.

This hymn was chosen for inclusion at the request of a member. If you would like to know about your favourite hymns origins please contact the editor.

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### **Let us remember of our hallowed buildings and practices:**

“...if these holy places, things, and days cease to remind us, if they obliterate our awareness that all ground is holy and every bush (could we but perceive it) a Burning Bush , then the hallows begin to do us harm.”

C. S. Lewis, Letters to Malcolm; Chiefly on Prayer (Geoffrey Bles, 1964)

# Thinking About the Lectionary

## The Seasons of a Church Year

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The seasons move on! From Lent through Easter and on toward Pentecost; but what did all these things mean and for whom? What do they mean for us, here today?

For many, these words are archaic, even arcane (just like those words). But, let us briefly consider Lent; no, it's not what the bank did with our savings, it simply refers to the time of year, when the days lengthen. In other words, spring.

Lent (spring) has long been associated with fasting, abstaining perhaps from meat on certain days but (ironically later) consuming grain, for example in the form of bread. (Choose your period of history and denomination).

In later Christian times, some have it that this might have been to resist temptation; remembering the temptation of Christ in the desert for forty days and nights before he began his ministry. (Refusing to turn stones into bread).

But enough of bread and stones, after all there are plenty of people in the world that would, and do, offer us stones for bread even today; without the merest hint of irony...

Again, perhaps we should remember; these seasons, traditions and rituals of the Church; these activities and events, are not the Church.

Again for some people they might however, be the activities and events that serve to support the Spiritual work of the Church. Seasons that give structure and variety; a variety that it might be hoped covers the whole cycle of the year.

This Lent season serves us well if it reminds us that; "It is written: man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God". Matthew 4:4, NIV.

Easter and Pentecost? Oh yes, with the renowned, lightening speed of the Church, I will come back to these, perhaps next year, or the year after...



Image: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorgood © Neil Thorgood/United Reformed Church 2016.

## Lectionary Readings

March 2022

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### **First Sunday in Lent**

March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

### **Second Sunday in Lent**

March 13

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

Psalm 27

### **Third Sunday in Lent**

March 20

Isaiah 55:1-9

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

March 27

Joshua 5:9-12

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Psalm 32

### **Weaving Sacred and Secular March**

1st Shrove Tuesday

2nd Ash Wednesday

8th International Women's Day

22nd World Water Day

26th Earth Hour

27th Mothering Sunday

## Lectionary Readings

April 2022

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### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

April 3

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Psalm 126

### **Palm Sunday**

April 10

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 19:28-40

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

### **Easter Day**

April 17

Acts 10:34-43

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

### **Second Sunday of Easter**

April 24

Acts 5:27-32

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

Psalm 118:14-29

### **Weaving Sacred and Secular April**

7th World Health Day

15th Good Friday

17th Easter Sunday

22nd Earth Day

23rd St. George's Day

## Lectionary Readings

May 2022

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### **Third Sunday of Easter**

May 1

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

Psalm 30

### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

May 8

Acts 9:36-43

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

Psalm 23

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

May 15

Acts 11:1-18

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Psalm 148

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

May 22

Acts 16:9-15

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 5:1-9

Psalm 67

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

May 29

Acts 16:16-34

Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21

John 17:20-26

Psalm 97

### **Weaving Sacred and Secular May**

3rd World Laughter Day (worth looking up)

15th—21st Christian Aid Week

22nd Aldersgate Sunday

26th Ascension Day

## A Late Night Reflection: And The Page Fell Open...

Coming Together, Drifting Apart and Moving On

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Here I am again, late at night, I pick up the Charcoal Gospel booklet once more and start to look, the page falls open, I start to read; sometimes enough is said.

### **Meditation**

Mary,

Love and faithfulness have brought you here.

You come to honour the dead,

to do what gentleness and respectfulness require.

Your spices will stave off the corruption of his corpse,

for a while.

'Mary.'

A million tellings must not blind us to the miracle of this moment.

You come expecting death;

and life greets you.

Life breaks the tomb,

crashes the stone,

hurtles into history.

Christ is risen!

(Meditation: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.)



Image: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorogood © Neil Thorogood/United Reformed Church 2016.

## **Tearfund Lent Appeal** Michael Bond asked you to consider this;

Poverty Isn't Part of Gods Plan. You Are.

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### **When the coronavirus pandemic struck Rwanda, it pushed many people further into poverty. Take Laetitia's community...**

Laetitia is a farmer in Rwanda, where life has been tough. She struggled to earn an income and provide for her children, as did many in her community. But then Laetitia heard about a self-help group – set up by Tearfund's local church partner. 'Before I joined the group, life was tough. As a woman these days, when you don't have a source of income, life gets hard.'

These groups bring together people from across the community to read the Bible, support each other and save money for the future. Being part of the group also gave Laetitia the skills and the confidence to start her own small business raising chickens. 'We were able to sell eggs and get money to meet basic household needs and buy food for our children.' shares Laetitia.

By donating to our Lent Appeal you will be helping more people around the world, like Laetitia, lift themselves out of poverty. And stay there.

Things were going well. But then the pandemic hit and there was no market for the eggs. Laetitia's business – and those of others in her community – came to a standstill. But self-help groups like Laetitia's mean that when times are difficult, people have the support they need. This pandemic has taught us that we need each other – and that we all need a safety net.

'The advantage we had over others as group members [was] at least we managed to share what we had in our treasury to feed our families during this terrible period,' shares Laetitia. 'We used that money to prepare for the lockdown . 'We didn't suffer like most people in our community who did not belong to self-help groups. The utmost importance of this group to me is love. We sit and discuss and learn about love and the word of God. We find ways to support one another and at the end of the day, you find yourself benefitting the way you didn't before.'

During lockdown, Laetitia's group spent time making handicrafts and even won a competition, giving them a cash prize to invest in their community. They are now working to build their businesses back up. Through joining together, they can beat poverty. 'With God's support, I will one day get the needed money to start again,' says Laetitia. 'God does miracles. If God enables me to get some money, I will immediately start-over again with the poultry business. It's the business that allows me to make profit, and which is easy for me at my age.'

**To donate or find out more search: Tearfund Lent Appeal online.**

## Thanks, Afterthoughts and Mission Statements

### Wandering From Whence We Came, What Do We Leave Behind?

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As Humphrey Littleton (had he known of the Good News magazine), might once have said:

'So as the contents of the Good News magazine of destiny, try to burst out of the constraints of its 24 pages of delight; and as the printers of repentance, struggle to keep it within it's 24 pages or less. Now is all done, all that remains, is give thanks to the gratefully relieved'.

And so:

Many thanks to all Good News contributors; writers, sifters and wranglers of content, proof readers, printers and distributors.

All those that collaborate across time and travels, in all sorts of ways to produce and deliver all of the wonderful resources into which we dip and find treasures to share.

Most of all, thank You, for reading this magazine. Now you want to share it with someone.

**Yes you do...**

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Image: from Charcoal Gospel by Neil Thorgood ©  
Neil Thorgood/United Reformed Church 2016.

Far away amidst waving palms, looking out across the beautiful myriad colour tropical sea and sky, I was in a place that looked like paradise. It was hot, I stood on the beach and reflected upon my visit to the local school that afternoon. The sun beat down; that days fresh catch of fish was drying on the ground to my left.

I was conscious of the security staff with their firearms never more than a few steps away from me; and the apprehensive locals who watch me closely.

I thought of the desperate Mission Statement painted on the school wall, shining and reflecting the transient hues of the sea and sky:

"Our mission is to keep as many children as possible in school each day, for as long as possible, so that they are fed and not raped on the beach and drowned in the sea."

Ubi caritas et amor...

Tears ran down my face. The men stood around could see no reason why the Ferengi [foreigner] was crying... What, I wonder, did I leave behind?

**Think on; some of you dear readers, believe me, live in paradise.**

**Yes you do...**