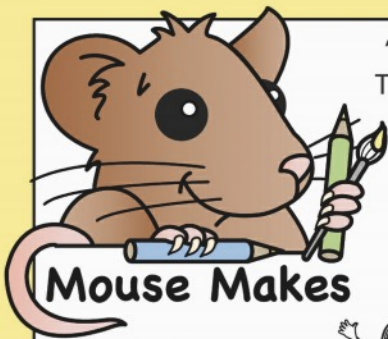


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**“LOVING GOD,
LOVING EACH OTHER,
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"I am the **resurrection** and the life.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."

John 1:25



READ the Bible
passages to find
the answers to the
crossword clues

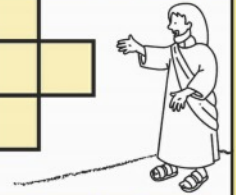
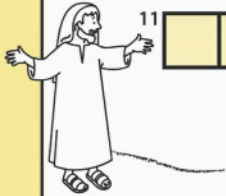
Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



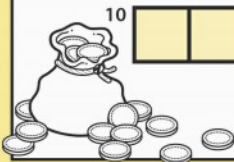
Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



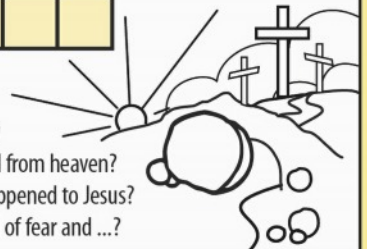
Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?



Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



A crossword puzzle grid with yellow squares for letters and white squares for empty space. The grid is partially filled with letters: 'K' in 4 across, 'S' in 6 down, 'A' in 15 across, and '8d' in 8 down. Numbers 1 through 19 are placed at the start of the clues. The grid is surrounded by various illustrations related to the Bible passages.



Sacred Scars

Someone recently shared with me the story of a little boy who used to bring friends home from school. They used to play in the living room. But his father began to notice that his son stopped bringing friends home to play. So he sat down on the stairs with his son, the place where they would chat. He said, "I've noticed you don't bring friends home to play anymore. Is it because of your mum?" His son nodded. "Is it because of her hands?" His son nodded again. "Let me tell you how your mum got those hands. One day, when you were a very little boy, she was next door and heard you screaming. You'd crawled into the fire. So she plunged her hands into the fire to get you out. But her hands were badly damaged. So when you see your mum's hands, you see how much she loves you." A week or two later the father noticed his son started bringing friends home again. And one day he overheard his son say to a friend, "You see my mum's hands? They show how much she loves me."

As we approach Easter at the end of this month and think again about the death and resurrection of Christ, this is how a Christian should feel about the eternally scarred hands of our Lord: "They show how much he loves me."

By the world's standards, it makes no sense to follow a Saviour who was crucified. Early Christians were ridiculed for worshipping 'God on a cross' (e.g. find online the famous Alexamenos image, with its grotesque donkey head). The apostle Paul described the idea of Christ crucified as "a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" (1 Cor. 1:23). Yet, once shameful wounds, when we understand their significance, become transformed into something we want to tell our friends about, just like the boy did at the end of the story.

You see, some scars can be worn with pride. When Princess Eugenie got married in 2018, she deliberately chose a wedding dress that would show off the marks of her spinal surgery, as a way of honouring the people who had treated her childhood scoliosis. Jesus didn't cover up his scars either. After coming back to life, he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and

put it into my side" (John 20:27). Even in heaven, it seems the Lord will forever bear the marks of his sacrifice, and be all the more praiseworthy for it (Revelation 5:6).

It is something distinctively Christian and deeply comforting to have a God who didn't stay in an ivory tower, but who got his hands dirty, and even had them bound and pierced. In 2007, the Christian writer Dale Ralph Davis was comforting his son as his 9-year-old grandson fought for his life in hospital. He reflected, "One can almost be numb with another episode of trouble. It helps, though, that the Hand that holds us has a nail hole through it." Similarly, when the philosopher, Nicholas Wolterstorff, wrote after losing his son in a climbing accident, "How is faith to endure, O God, when you allow all this scraping and tearing on us? If you have not abandoned us, explain yourself! We strain to hear. But instead of hearing an answer we catch sight of God himself scraped and torn."

This month, whatever you are going through, let me encourage you to picture the precious hands of Christ in your mind's eye. These are the hands that span the heavens (Isaiah 40:12), the hands that tightly hold God's people (John 10:28), the hands that will one day wipe away our tears (Rev. 21:4), and best of all, the hands that bear the sacred scars of sacrifice. Picture them and cherish them, thinking, "They show how much he loves me."

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TUESDAY 26 th	10am	PRAYER FOR THE SICK
	7.30pm	HOLY COMMUNION WITH HEALING
MAUNDY THURSDAY	7.30pm	HOLY COMMUNION
GOOD FRIDAY	9.30am	MEDITATION SERVICE
EASTER SUNDAY	9.30am	ALL AGE COMMUNION
		Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-23, 29-33, 14:5-29

God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)...

The Nile turned blood red (Hapi)

Frogs (Heket)

Gnats (Geb)

Swarms (Khepri)

Death of livestock (Hathor)

Boils and sores (Sekhmet)

Hail (Seth and Nut)

Locusts (Nepri)

Darkness (Ra)

..but Pharaoh still said 'No!'

God told the Hebrews to prepare to leave, and each family to kill and cook a lamb. He told them..



Mark your house door with the lamb's blood.



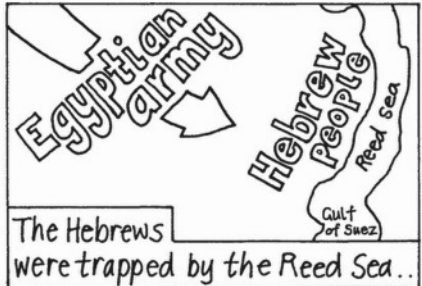
That night, in each un-marked house, the eldest son died.



The Hebrews left Egypt...



but Pharaoh followed with his army.



The Hebrews were trapped by the Reed Sea..

God made a cloud to hide them from the Egyptians..



and sent a wind. By morning the sea bed was dry and they walked across..



..but as the Egyptians followed, the water flowed back.



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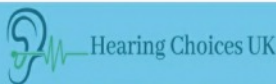
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