

Dunbar Parish Church

MAGAZINE



Minister

Rev Gordon Stevenson

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Dunbar Parish Church is a
charity registered in Scotland
No: SC000455

March 2020

FALLING LEAVES

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.
— Psalm 1:3 NIV

Apart from Jesus, all of our plans and efforts end up like dead, dry leaves that blow away in the wind. We need to get in God's plan for our lives, and there we will find good success.

Are you prospering in life? Spiritually too?
Does it seem like others have got it more than you?
Have you responded to God 100% or how much?
What unbelief do you need to bring before God?

Sunday & Special SERVICES in March			READERS	PRAYERS
1	11:00	First Sunday in Lent - Abimelek Privilege - Judges 9	Walter Cowan	Ian Coltart
8	11:00	Loser to Winner - Judges 10	Margaret Croft	Gordon
15	11:00	Warrior for God - Judges 13-15	Anne Creedican	Joan Hancock
22	11:00	Mothering Sunday Temptation - Judges 16	Ian Darling	Jonathan Idle
29	11:00	Moral Mess - Judges 17-21	Sandy Darling	Tim Greene

Magazine Theme : We need to respond rightly to the Gospel

Minister's Letter March 2020 : Responding rightly

In religious circles we talk about faith. It is understood in different ways by different people. Some lump and label all faiths in one box. Some mock at people *blindly believing* in something they conceive as foolish. Yet for Christians, faith is real, experienced and lived out in sweet relationship with our God and His people. Christian faith is sure and certain. Hebrews 11:1

People often have some element of caring for others in their make up. Humanists or atheists can have it too. In churches we have people who often have it in abundance. Some are compassionate and do what they can because it's nice and they can gift what they have to help others who are in need.

Sometimes people's spiritual understanding about caring for others is not very biblical, but when Christians **respond** biblically and selflessly, because they love God and serve Him, then it is a most beautiful and powerful thing.

There is a small but very good pastoral team in our church. Along with them there are individuals who pastor and serve others in various ways. Together we Christians are a family joined not by human blood ties, but by the blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

This past week I became aware of one of our members who had things in place to help her when she returned home from a medical procedure. However, her plans fell apart through no fault of her own. The solution was a contact with her church family, and very quickly a new plan was in place and working to help her recuperation. Well done all of you!

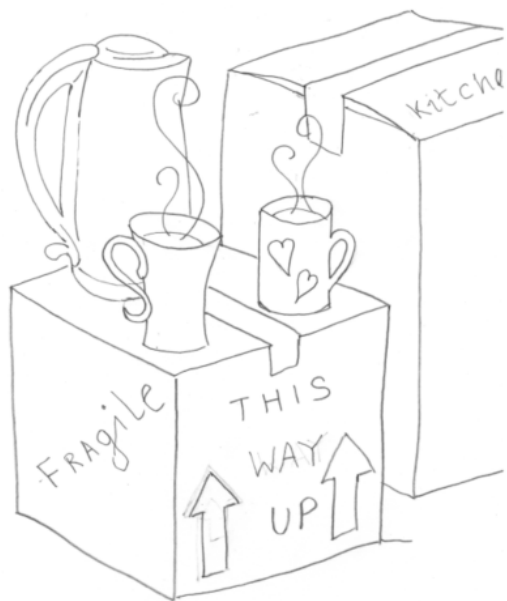
With the continuing illness of my wife, the manse family are experiencing the support and kindness of many within the church family too. It remains a frightful time for our family, yet with deep gratitude to God and our church family, we cannot conceive what it would be like for non-believers to go through this kind of thing without living faith in Jesus Christ.

Responding to God's word, hearing the gospel and **acting upon it** are the thing that can set us apart from others. We become salt and light. We have a flavour that surpasses other worldly human kindness or compassion.

In my spirit I am being urged to share Philippians 2:1-5 with you :- *If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, **if any common sharing in the Spirit**, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit**. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. ⁵ **In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. Wow what a call!***

Seeing God at work among us. Your brother in Christ Gordon

New neighbour?



If someone near you has moved into a new home, anywhere in our parish, please deliver a 'Welcome' leaflet through their door. This leaflet invites people to our church, tells them about it, why we are here and what we do. Ask Helen for leaflets and more details.

TALENT WANTED.....

Would you like to play, sing, tell a story, recite a poem or launch your stand-up career under cover of almost complete darkness?

Speak to Lorna or Tim if you would like to fill a vacant slot in the candlelit section of this year's Earth Hour celebrations, or if you would like to contribute vegetarian soup, bread, or home baking for the meal.

The event runs from 7pm on Saturday 28th March, with entertainment from 8.30 - 9.30pm.

2021 Date for your diary

5-6 March 2021

Women Walking with God



DUNBAR CHURCHES ECO-GROUP

Dunbar Churches Eco-group has started meeting regularly, in response to the Climate Emergency and we have a belief that God calls us to be good stewards of His Earth. Representatives from Churches across Dunbar (Episcopalian, Church of Scotland, Catholic and Quaker) have been discussing our response together, and look forward to a year of **prayer and action**.

We plan to hold events open to all throughout the year. This will include a candlelit evening to mark Earth Hour on Saturday 28th March, a Climate Conference afternoon at St Anne's on Sunday 7th June, and hopefully an ecumenical environmentally themed Service one evening in October.

We also hope to meet with our elected political representatives to continue to press for the urgent response needed for the Climate Emergency facing us, and seek to keep our own houses in order too.

We will continue praying for God's guidance, mercy, and loving help, individually and when we meet together in our congregations. All are invited to join quiet prayers for Climate Action and Climate Justice at St Anne's Church, Dunbar on the First Sunday of the month 8.30-9.30am.

For further information please contact Lorna McLeod or Tim Greene

PASTORAL TEAM

Do you know anyone who could use some pastoral help? Perhaps someone infirm, lonely, or grieving for a loved one? Maybe an illness, operation or another blow has knocked you a bit? Members/adherents who is interested contact Moyra Wright (tel. 863316) directly or via Church members.

The pastoral team are genuinely interested in your well-being.

CHURCH PRAYER MEETINGS

2nd & 4th
Wednesday's
at 7:30 pm

Hall Bookings

Please Contact: Sonia Young she keeps the master diary and updates the hall one.
email bhraggie@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone: 07874 816326

Sermon's are available on the Church website. Use the link on the Home page
(www.dunbarparishchurch.org)
to access them

HOME GROUPS

Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.

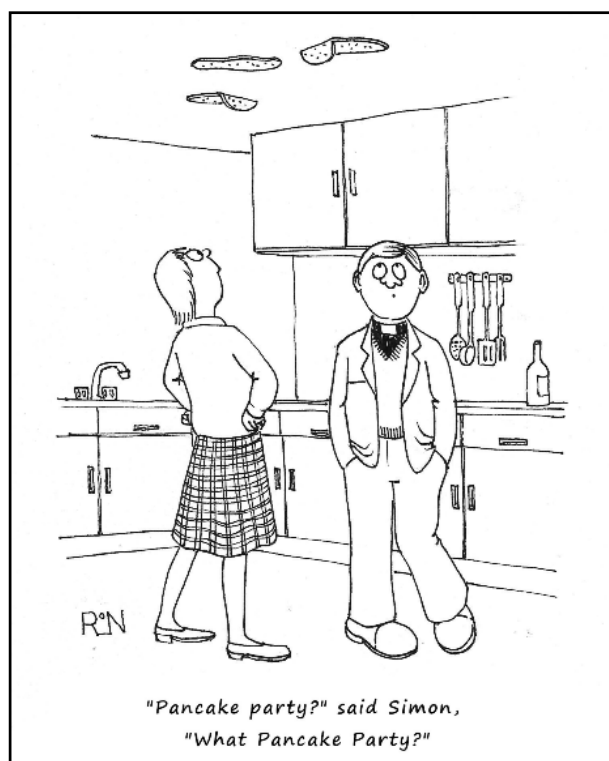
Contact *Ian /Jenny Manning*
2 Temple Mains Cottages,
Innerwick 01368 840334

Jonathan and Christine Idle
4 Salisbury Walk, Dunbar
01368 860922

[See Calendar for dates](#)

BASICS BANK BUDDY SCHEME

If you are not already part of the Buddy Scheme please drop an email to basicsbankbuddy@gmail.com and you will be kept up to date with a weekly email and shopping list. Due to increasing demand the Basics Bank would appreciate more folks to 'put a tin in the bin'
Thank you!



2020 Dunbar Parish Church Magazine

Magazine Month	Articles by Friday	Magazine out Sunday
APRIL	20 March	29 March

Magazine Input:

Please send your items in by **Friday 20 March** for the **April Magazine** - out on 29 March or if you would like a regular E_Magazine

Contact Denise: Tel: 862903 or email: dmburton@gmail.com

Weekly Notices: Contact Denise

DATE	SUNDAY DUTY TEAMS	FLOWERS in CHURCH	PRAYER BREAKFAST ROTA LEADERS
MARCH 1	MARCH Moyra Wright Moirra Anthony Val Collin Will Collin Christine Idle Jonathan Idle	Convenor: Anne Creedican Mrs F Martin	Tim
8		Mrs M Affleck	Mike with Alison
15		Mrs M Low	Fraser
22		Mrs S McKenzie	Ian M
29		VACANT	Jim with Catherine
APRIL 5	APRIL Denise Brunton Margaret Croft May Low Lena Glass Joan Hancock Ian Manning Lorna McLeod	Convenor: Kath Ellis Mrs K Ellis	Tim
12		Mrs M Dempster	Alison
19		Mrs M Wright	Fraser
26		VACANT	Gordon

We have Flowers in Church vacancies on the following dates for 2020

29 March, 26 April, 14 & 21 June, 6 & 27 December

Please speak to May Low if you would like to put flowers in the church on the vacant Sundays or for special anniversaries

Transport to the Church: We can arrange for someone to bring you to church and take you home each week. Please phone **Jenny Manning** by the Thursday evening, on **013688 840334**. If you could offer someone a lift, even occasionally, you could be a reserve driver, please let Jenny know, it would be greatly appreciated.

Your Elder

All members and adherents should contact their elder if they know of any pastoral needs. If you don't know who to contact, ask Alan Low

Opt - ins : Serving

There are many ways that you can serve with us.

Your service is wanted. Just let us know where you would like to serve? Here are just some of the possibilities:

Coffee/Tea rota

Sunday Bible reading rota

Sunday **prayer** rota

Prayer Breakfast leader rota

Prayer Breakfast catering rota

Article Series 9 (pt 20) Human Responsibility

Pray and read Romans 9:30-10:21 Righteousness and Proclamation

The last few verses in ch 9 told us that we can become **righteous** by faith and not by works as we considered last time. Yet they go further urging us to take **responsibility** given that "Israel's unbelief" was their **irresponsible** failing. Having a **right standing before God MUST** concern us. v31 says that the Jews were not weak in effort and their pursuit of God's word was good. Lack of faith and trying to earn it by works v32 was their problem, and so they stumbled v33.

Paul's passion to save Jews is clear v1-4. In this chapter, like the previous one he is concerned about their error concerning **righteousness**. Faith in Christ is the answer and the way that is required, rather than through the effort of trying to keeping the law - that has been superseded v4. Jesus can make us **righteous**.

In v5-13 explain the nature of this **righteousness** by faith. No heroic effort to bring Christ up or down can do it v6,7. Paul leads on to speak about the word (gospel) being near, and with faith it can awaken **righteousness** in our hearts - the perfect type that God graciously gives to those who **respond** rightly to it.

That requires belief and **proclamation** of this belief v9 God reveals himself to all for our eternal salvation. (However, the heart here is not the seat of our emotions, it is the seat of our intellect and will). This faith gifts us eternal salvation and we will never look back in disappointment v11. It is free to all v12, 13

From v14-17 the **hearing** of this Good News is central. Grace is the level playing field for everyone. Preachers are sent by God, grace is proclaimed, **hearing** the message is possible if one is willing to **go and listen**, and believing this truth. These are the four steps we can all benefit eternally from v14-17.

And, no excuses, the Jews did hear the gospel message v18.

So did the Jews not understand v19? Well there are both physical ears, and spiritual ears. The Jews went *their own* wrong way. God gave them an advantage, yet they got stuck in *religion* rather than being devoted to God.

So Paul quotes them Holy Scripture v19, 20, 21. "No people" are the Gentiles who the Jews saw as less than themselves spiritually. The term make angry v19 is a divine judgment because the Jews have rejected God's way by choice. The Gentiles lacked this advantage, did not let it hold them back from grasping this **righteousness** in faith and by grace. So the Jews had no excuse.

The quote from Isaiah v20, makes it even clearer. God becomes known personally to other nations. The **reactions** of both Jews and Gentiles are different. That is echoed in the third scriptural quote - the Jews have been obstinate and disobedient, "all day long", every day... have we?

The power of scripture; preaching of the gospel; hearing and **responding rightly** are all key for us to discover the **righteousness** of God through faith. It is a gift we cannot ever earn. When we truly have it, we must act accordingly, **believe** and **proclaim** it for the benefit of all others that we can reach. Does that sound like your Christianity or are your ears not opened properly either?

A fresh awakening spiritually is a beautiful thing. Grace in Jesus to you. Gordon

RESPONSIBILITY

We are morally **responsible** to God because we are made in the image of a moral Deity. *E. H. Andrews*

Some people grow under **responsibility** while others swell. *Anon*

Every **responsibility** is a privilege, and every privilege is a **responsibility**
John Blanchard

Initiative is our own personal **responsibility**. We cannot lay this upon any other person.
E. F. Hallock

There are far too many people who assert their rights who are not ready to assume their **responsibilities**. *Vance Havner*

If God were less than Sovereign, man would be less than **responsible**. Since

God is absolutely Sovereign, man is wholly **responsible** to Him. *R. B. Kuiper*

Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why little **decisions you and I make** every day are of such infinite importance. *C. S. Lewis*

Let it be a settled principle in our religion, that man's salvation, if saved, is wholly of God; and that **man's ruin is wholly of himself**. *J. C. Ryle*

Mankind are free to decide their own moral choices, but they are also **under the necessity to account to God for those choices**. *A. W. Tozer*

Responsibility brings accountability.
Ken Robins

It is easy to dodge our **responsibilities**, but we cannot dodge the consequences of dodging our **responsibilities**.
Josiah Stamp

To be a **responsible** person is to find one's own role and then, funded by the grace of God, **to fill this role** and to delight in it. *Cornelius Plantinga*

My 1st Book of
questions and answers!

Section 12

The Fifth Commandment

77 What does the fifth commandment tell us to do?

Answer:

To love and obey our parents and all people in authority over us. Colossians 3:20

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Smile Lines...

A senior moment

I made a list. I checked it twice. I left it at home.

Wet

Physics Professor: "What happens when the human body is immersed in warm water?"

Student: "The telephone rings."

Communion



The next Communion is:
11:00 am
Sunday 12th April

DPC Verse for 2020

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

Free Will Offering Envelopes and Gift Aid

If you would like to use FWO envelopes for your tithes or offerings, please speak to Denise Brunton on 862903 or email: dmburton@gmail.com
Gift aid forms are also available as well as Standing Order forms

Forty days of prayer and fasting
Forty days of hunger and thirst;
Forty days to put self behind us
Forty days in Jesus immersed!
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
Come to know that Jesus comes first.

May we come through Lent's forty trials
To a truly God-centred place!
May we cease obsession with mirrors
Come to look, instead, on Your face
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
May we all encounter Your grace.

May our hunger not be for manna
May we thirst, instead, to be blessed.
May our hunger be for justice –
Justice for the poor and oppressed.
In this Lenten time we hunger for God
Come to know that Jesus knows best.

Dates for Lent

Ash Wednesday 26th February until

Maundy Thursday 9th April

Holy Week Begins on 5th April (Palm Sunday)

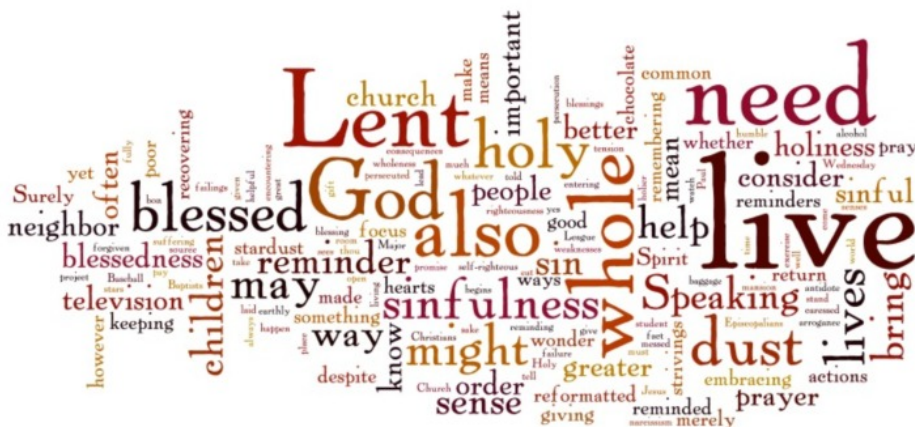
Easter Sunday: 12th April

***Talk on Tuesday 10th March at 7:30 pm
in Dunbar Parish Church***



Most of you will have seen the exhibition panels in the apse telling the story of Dunbar Parish Church. They were put together by Moyra Wright, Pauline Smeed, Jim Thompson, Walter Cowan and Will Collin. They had access to the considerable resources of Dunbar & District History Society. As a 'thank you', DDHS have been invited to a talk by Will in our Church on **Tuesday 10 March**. He says that hopefully this will 'fill in some of the gaps in the story'.

DPC doors will open at 7 pm and the talk will begin at 7.30 pm. The event is open to all and DDHS have extended a special invitation to DPC members and friends to join them. Admission is **free**.



Coffee Plus

meeting every Friday in the church 10.30-12 noon

Come for a chat and a brew

...growing friendships...



Spring is on its way....

Spring is definitely coming. The snowdrops and daffodils are starting to come through the soil, the days are getting longer, Easter eggs are in the shops and Coffee Plus has a new programme for the coming months.

From March until Easter we are going to be celebrating:

- The work of Marie Curie by holding a special coffee plus to raise money to support this amazing charity (6 Mar.)
- Spring by making Easter cards (20 Mar.)
- Easter through different craft and baking activities (10 Apr.)

If you have never been along to Coffee Plus, why not make it one of your New Year resolutions for 2020? We welcome all ages for a coffee and blether.



THE GUILD

Meets on
3rd March

Dental help in Cambodia
with Dunbar Dental Practice

17th March
Speaker from the Guild Office

2:30 pm in the Halls
All welcome!

BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Meeting Friday 20 March
7:30 at Catherine's house

Book: Identity Theft: reclaiming the truth
of who we are in Christ
Melissa Kruger (ed)

Any questions please speak to Lorna

The Way of the Cross

'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.' (Luke 9: 23)

These words of Jesus are spoken at a turning point in the gospel. Jesus challenges the disciples about His identity and their commitment to Him: *'who do the crowds say I am?'* (18). It is at this point that He *'resolutely set out for Jerusalem'* (9:51). On our journey through Lent, as we look to events of Good Friday and Easter, what are our priorities as Jesus' disciples to be?

To deny ourselves: this means to saying *No* to ourselves and *Yes* to God, as we humbly submit our will to His. Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane *'not My will*

but Yours be done.' (Luke 22:42). It means putting Jesus first in everything: our work, family, ambitions, possessions, marriage, finance and future. We will not be guided by self-interest, but by allowing God to show us how to live in His way.

To take up our cross: this reminds us that the disciple is not immune from suffering, as we follow Jesus along the way of cross. Just as He carried His cross to Golgotha, we cannot avoid experiencing suffering in a fallen world. Every day we are to live in way that demonstrates to everyone that we have died to ourselves, our selfish ways and ambitions, and seek to live for God. It means breaking old selfish habits and ways of thinking, as we allow God to renew us by His Spirit.

In all of this we cannot lose, because like Jesus, it is only through death that we find God's new life. *'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.'* (Jim Elliot)

HOLY DAYS: 19 March - St Joseph the Carpenter: gracious descendant of King David

Many people know that Joseph was the father of the most famous man who ever lived, but beyond that, we know very little about him. The Gospels name him as the 'father' of Jesus, while also asserting that the child was born of a virgin. Even if he wasn't what we call the 'biological' father, it was important to them that he was a distant descendant of the great King David - a necessary qualification for the Messiah.

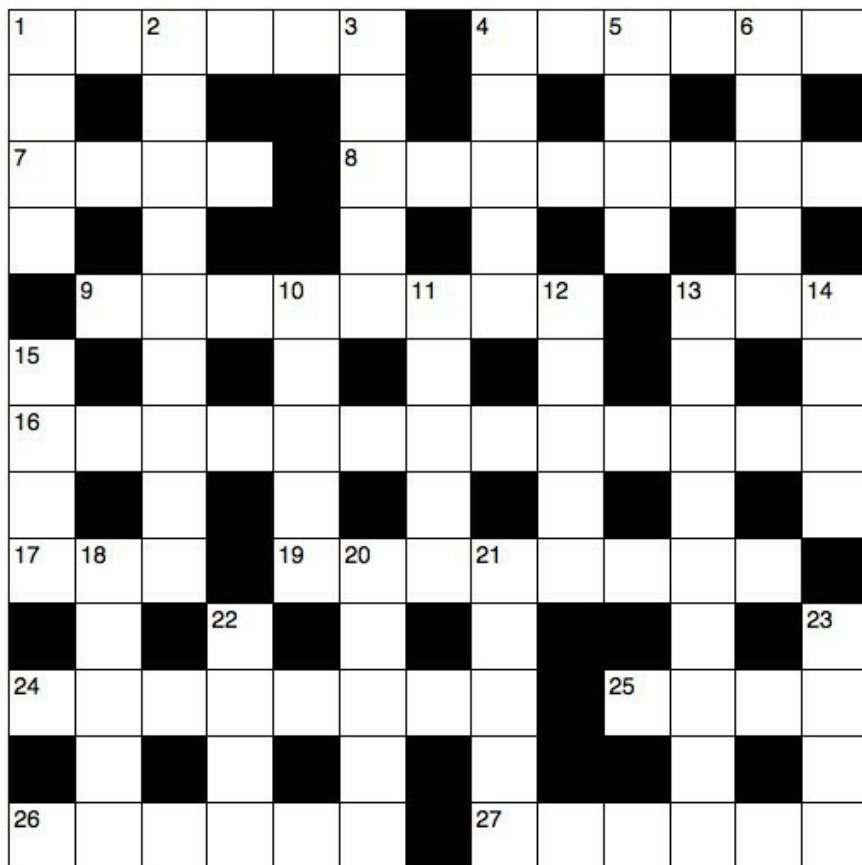
It's obvious that Joseph (usually described as a 'carpenter') was not wealthy, because he was allowed to offer the poor man's sacrifice of two pigeons or turtle doves at the presentation of his infant son. No one expected eloquence or wisdom from this man's son. Jesus was born into an unremarkable family, with a doubtless hard-working artisan as His father. There would have been few luxuries in that little home at Nazareth.

Matthew begins his birth narrative with the bald statement that Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together she became pregnant 'with child from the Holy Spirit'. Joseph was not apparently privy to the divine intervention in her life, and drew the obvious conclusion: it was another man's child. However, he was not the sort of man who wished to disgrace her publicly, so he resolved to 'dismiss her quietly' - end their engagement without fuss, we might say.

However, at that point Joseph had a dream in which he was told by 'an angel of the Lord' not to hesitate to take Mary as his wife, because the child conceived in her was 'from the Holy Spirit', and that the baby was to be named 'Jesus' ('saviour') because He will 'save His people from their sins'. On waking, Joseph did as he had been instructed and took Mary as his wife.

So far as Joseph himself is concerned, we can be pretty sure of a few things. In human, legal terms he was the father of Jesus, he was a carpenter and he had probably died before Jesus began his public ministry. The little we are told suggests a devout, decent and sensitive man, one who shared Mary's anxiety when the 12 year-old Jesus went missing in Jerusalem, and who presumably taught his son the trade of a carpenter.

Joseph has become an icon of the working man - there are many churches nowadays dedicated to 'Joseph the Worker'. He can stand in the calendar of saints for the 'ordinary' person, a straight-forward craftsman who never expected or chose to be in the spotlight of history. He did what he could, and he was obedient to everything that he believed God required of him. To do the 'ordinary' thing well, to be kind, caring and open to guidance: these are great gifts, and Joseph seems to have had them in abundance.



MARCH CROSSWORD

Answers in the
April magazine!

Answers to the February Crossword



Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable —, eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)

- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I —, I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

MARCH 2020 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event	Location
1	09:30	Prayer Breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Abimelek Privilege	Church
3	14:30	Guild: 'Dental help in Cambodia' Dunbar Dental Practice	Halls
4	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
6	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus... Daffodil Coffee Morning	Church
8	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Loser to Winner	Church
10	19:30	Dunbar & District History Society - DPC Talk with Will Collin	Church
11	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
13	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
15	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Warrior for God	Church
17	14:30	Guild: Speaker from the Guild Office	Halls
18	19:30	Home Group	Idle's
19	19:00	Property Committee	Eden Room
20	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus... Making Easter Cards	Church
	19:30	Bible Book Club	Catherine's
22	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Mothering Sunday - Temptation	Church
	18:00	Sunday Fellowship	Church
23	19:30	Congregational Board Meeting	Eden Room
24	8 to 3	Easter Decoded	Church
25	19:30	Prayer Meeting	Eden Room
26	12 to 2	Ploughmans Lunch	Halls
27	10:30-12:00	Coffee Plus...	Church
28	19:00	Earth Hour Celebration	Halls
29	09:30	Prayer breakfast	Eden Room
	11:00	Morning Service: Moral Mess	Church
	After service	Annual Stated Meeting	Church

*Sunday Fellowship
22 March at 18:00 in the Church*



LENT 2020
God in this Place