



**LAMBETH CIRCUIT 35/06
NEWSLETTER
MARCH TO MAY 2024**



Revd Dr Andy's Message

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been reminded that as a Christian, and as a minister of the church, I should set aside time to pray and to contemplate. As my life is very busy at the moment, I must confess that I often find it hard to set the time aside for these important activities. This week, as I am preparing for Sunday service, I have read the lectionary text - Mark Chapter 1 verses 29 – 39. Jesus has begun his ministry and has healed many people and many more are looking for him. He is busy! And yet, he gets up early in the morning and goes to a secluded spot where he might find the peace and quiet to pray. So, I guess if Jesus did this then I should too! (although I might not do it early in the morning).

One of the many blessings of church life is the liturgical calendar and we are entering the season of Lent (although by the time you read this we will be in Lent). Quite often we think of this as a time to give up something – but really we should see it as a time when we, in penitence, turn back to God, and take up some extra duties in our spiritual lives. So, I am going to try to commit during Lent to take more time to pray and to contemplate. As we also need to be focusing in our circuit on the Methodist Church's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy I will make this one for the main focus for my prayer and thoughts.

I count myself extremely fortunate to be serving the church currently in such a diverse circuit so even as I think about all our churches in the Lambeth Circuit and their members, I already have pictures in my head of all the diverse people that you are. I will pray that I treat you all with Equality, Dignity and Respect. I will pray that you all feel valued and respected by all our members and fully included in the life of the church.

Of course, when we contemplate the diversity of life in our world and universe, we can praise God even more.

I am always astounded by the fact that there are millions of different species of animals and plants, that every snowflake is different and so on. It truly is a wonderful world that God gives to us.

And that leads me to my other line of prayer and contemplation – that in this world the 'powers that be' can be malicious, unkind and evil. As we turn individually toward God and God's good purposes, we can also increase our communal prayer for all the peoples and all the life of the world – for the way things are often leads to destruction and pain – whereas God in Christ seeks peace and life for all.

When we arrive at Holy Week we will then see that Jesus, the one who healed the sick and welcomed the outcast and brought peace to those in turmoil, was violently opposed by the 'powers that be'.

We too take up our cross when we join with Jesus in bringing the needs of the world to God in prayer – but following on from our prayer and contemplation – will come action. And then the challenge will be what can we do for those in need, for our environment that is suffering from climate change, for the other non-human species that add to the diversity of life. If our prayer and contemplation is strong and true God will enable us to see the wonder of the creation, the beauty of each other, the needs of the world and will drive us into the action we can take.

My prayers are with you all as you journey through Lent. May God bless you.

Revd Dr Andy Lyons.



Revd Lena Ali's message

On the first Sunday of the year, the O.T reading came from Genesis 1: 4b; which states "And God divided the lightness from the darkness." It set me thinking of the light and darkness in our lives both spiritually and emotionally. As we said goodbye to 2023 and welcomed 2024, I was praying with a friend who asked me what I had asked God for. My reply was: "I did not ask God for anything. I just kept praising and thanking him for bringing me through a very difficult year from the 11th January to the 16th October and without His love, grace, protection and mercy, I could have suffered from severe mental, physical and spiritual exhaustion."

Without that darkness, I would not appreciate the light as much. Without these trials, I never realised that so much evil exists in the world which accounts for the way human beings could behave in the way that they do. Equally, I was deeply grateful to those who had stood with me and beside me, offering love, support and encouragement. God has richly blessed me. My Mom had a beautiful saying; "Everyone has his/her own cross to bear but God never gives us a cross which he himself did not carry." Her other favourite saying was: "Every heart has its own sorrow and no human being knew sorrow better than our Lord."

We all have had to face trials and tribulations in different ways, but we can be assured that we are never alone. Whilst we have friends and loved ones to stand with us, the Bible is overflowing with words of encouragement and assurance that God is always with us.

We read time and time again that we are never alone in whatever we may face. Yet it can be so easy to feel alone and to wonder not only whether God is there, but if He even hears or sees us. We can be encouraged that He is and He does! God is an ever-present help in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1.)

Shortly before His Ascension into heaven, Jesus promised in His final words to the disciples: Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:20b.

This was His final encouragement to a group of people whose world had been turned upside down and inside out! Praise God for these wonderful words of encouragement from which we can all feel carried, uplifted and firmly placed in God's loving care.

May God in His infinite love bless, guide, protect and shine his light in your life.

We are moving towards the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, and continues for 46 days (40 days of fasting and 6 Sundays) prior to Easter Sunday. Many Christians think that it is a time to give something up for Lent, but it is a time to do more for Christ. There are countless ways for doing so if we observe all that is happening in the world in which we live.

I wish you and all your families a Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Easter.

Lena.



Revd Kristin Markay's Message

At Brixton Hill, our **Bicentennial anniversary** is right around the corner! We'll be marking this significant occasion throughout the month of June.

Ever since the early 1820s, there has been a Methodist presence in Brixton. In 1822, a "little Methodist society" had humble beginnings, starting in a cottage on Cold Harbour Lane. This cottage meeting was later transferred to a small building at the top of Brixton Hill. If the ground could talk, it would tell of the laying of 3 cornerstones on this site. The first church building was too small for the growing Methodists. Its walls were expanded. Later, it was torn down to make way for a larger building. Sadly, this building was bombed during the second world war, with only the back schoolrooms still intact. Then, in 1957 another cornerstone was laid when the existing church building was dedicated.

If the ground could talk, it would tell of the worship that has taken place over the years. It would recount the number of voices raised in song across the centuries, praising God and strengthening faith.

The ground could tell of the ministers who served faithfully; the stewards and volunteers who were able to run Sunday Schools, a haven for Belgian refugees during the war, youth clubs, choirs, Foodbanks, luncheon clubs, prayer meetings...

In The Story of Methodism in Brixton, written in 1924 as a part of the Centenary Anniversary program, we find these words: "Our Church on Brixton Hill **seeks to keep the sacred fire burning.**" Our prayer in 2024 is that we keep the torch alive—the sacred fire burning. May we continue to be Christ's light on the hill for years to come.

We invite you, members and friends of the Lambeth Circuit, to join in our Bicentennial celebrations. You are welcome!

Peace, Kristin



Brixton Hill METHODIST CHURCH

200TH
ANNIVERSARY



'a light on the hill'

JUNE 2024

ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday 2nd June – 11:00 a.m.

Guest Preacher: Rev Nigel Cowgill
Chairman of the London District

*Followed by Barbecue and SLJO
brass band music*

Sunday 9th June – 11:00 a.m.

Guest Preacher: Rev Alison
Waterhouse

Saturday 15th June – 7:00 p.m.
Celebration Concert

Sunday 16th June – 11:00 a.m.

Preacher: Rev Kristin Markay

Sunday 23rd June – 11:00 a.m.

Guest Preacher: Lord L Griffiths of
Burry Port

Sunday 30th June – 11:00 a.m.

Guest Preacher: Rev David Musgrave

Circuit Children and Youth Christingle Service



On Sunday 10th December approximately forty young people gathered at Clapham Methodist Church for the Christingle Service. The youth music group played several Christmas tunes and it is great seeing them grow in confidence as they perform. We made Christmas cards based on the theme of trees using a variety of medium including shiny jewels, stickers and tree shapes.

After some refreshments the service, led by Revd Kristin took place. This included beautiful singing from Leticia, a church member from Stockwell, a video clip and the acting out of the story of the three trees. Three trees on a mountain dream of what they wanted to be when they grew up. One wants to be a treasure chest, another an ocean-going boat and the third a signpost to God. Their wishes come true in a way they never expected! One becomes a cradle, holding the most precious gift of all, Jesus.

Another a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee carrying Jesus and the disciples safely through a storm, the third become the cross on which Jesus was crucified. God has a plan for us. Each tree and in different ways ended up serving Jesus, His church, His people.

There may be times when we lose sight of our dreams and we may not understand things that take place in our lives. We must remember though that God loves us and has a plan for us. He is in control and we can trust Him.

The circuit choir also took part in the service. All the young people enthusiastically made their Christingles and we lit the candles as we sang a Christingle song.



A big thank you to members at Clapham for hosting the event and helping with the preparation and clearing up. Also, thanks to church members from around the circuit who joined us and to Revd. Andy Lyons.

The next Circuit Children and Youth event will take place at Brixton Hill Methodist Church on Sunday 7th April. Also it is planned to have another day at Wey Island, probably in July.

Submitted by Pat Ashworth



Railton Road Methodist Church

Greetings in the name of our Lord to all our brothers and sisters in the Lambeth Circuit and special thanks to all our Ministers who worked very hard to make the Christmas and New Year celebrations meaningful, enjoyable and blessed in many different ways. We all missed our Superintendent, Revd Andrew Dart and we continue to pray that God will bless him with better health and strength. We started off the New Year with a Covenant Service led by our own Minister, Revd Ali and it is good for us to follow in the footsteps of all those who have gone before us and led us to faith in Christ.

Following our Quinquennial Report, it was decided that we need to look at redeveloping our Church Building and in November 2023, our Acting Superintendent, Revd Dr. Andy Lyons wrote to two companies that specialise in redevelopment. We are awaiting their response.

Our members have started returning to Church and are keen to work hard and collaboratively by supporting each other and trying to build up our membership. We hope that by keeping our Notice Board up to date with news of Sunday Services and Social Events, etc, we would attract newcomers and local residents to RRMCM.

We have been blessed with a new arrival, a baby girl born to two of our members. Congratulations to the proud parents and welcome to this beautiful baby girl.

Sadly, two of our long-standing members since the 1960's died on the 2nd January. We pray for their soul to rest in peace and for their family in their bereavement.

On Ash Wednesday, we will be having our Ash Wednesday Service to which all are welcome and it will be led by our Minister, Revd Lena. During Lent, we will try to observe the three traditional pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

During this journey we hope to develop a closer relationship with God. Many of our members are old and frail so we might have to move the goal posts and persevere with God's help.

We are also looking forward to our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Services which are always spiritually uplifting.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our Ministers and all members of the Lambeth Circuit a Happy, Peaceful and Blessed Easter.

Members of Railton Road Methodist Church



Clapham Methodist Church

Christmas is over and we are now in a very cold and wintry January. However, the daffodils and the tulips in the supermarket remind us that spring is on the way. Christmas at Clapham was a very happy time. The Saturday Sunbeams celebrated, watching a Christmas video and learning some simple carols before enjoying a good tea and giving Father Christmas a great welcome. The evening carol service was a Church family occasion. The Junior Church performed a nativity play, the music group played, the Men's fellowship and the choir sang Carols and the Ghana fellowship had our feet dancing. At the end of the service Solomon thanked the music group for their enthusiasm and the good progress the young people were making, especially those who had passed music exams during the year. The New year was celebrated with a full church for the Watchnight service. The Junior Church joined with the congregation for the Covenant service.

Last night a group met with Revd Andy for our first evening communion service at the Church. This service will be held on the third Sunday evening in each month at 6pm. Do come and join us. We wish all the members of the circuit every blessing during 2024.



Circuit Dates for your Diary

World Day of Prayer @ Clapham

Friday 1 March 2024 – details to follow.

Service of Music and readings for Palm Sunday
at Clapham Sunday 24th March at 6pm

Easter Circuit Event for Children & Youth –
Sunday 7 April 2024 from 3:00-5:00 @ Brixton Hill.



Circuit Pentecost Service:

Sunday 19 May 2024 6pm @ Tulse Hill:
Hymns and Songs from Around the World.

Brixton Hill Bicentennial Celebrations:

June 2024 (see details in the article)

EVERY 2nd SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Circuit Choir meets at Brixton Hill at 4pm.
Everyone is Welcome



LAUGH OUT LOUD

Gone

Husband: I'm such an idiot...

Wife: Really! What have you done now?

Husband: I saw our neighbour Mrs. Miller at Sainsbury's today, being neighbourly I ask her 'How's your husband doing? She said, "he's gone". I thought she meant he'd gone on a trip, so I said "Why didn't you go with him?"

Wife: Oh no! How could you – he's dead!

Husband: I didn't know he'd died...

Senior's Prayer for Good Health

Lord, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do and the eyesight to tell the difference.

By the Dozen

It always irked my single mother that her grocery store didn't sell eggs in packages of six—just by the dozen. Then one day, her wish came true. She walked into the grocery and found fresh eggs in cartons of six. "I was so excited," she told us later, "that I bought two!"

Like a Baby

Two old guys from a Senior Centre were sipping lemonade on the porch.

One asks the other, "John, I'm 92 years old and even my aches have pains. You must be close to my age. How are you feeling?"

John says, "Like a brand new baby."

"No kidding! Like a brand new baby?"

"Yep. No teeth, no hair, and wet diapers."

Senior Moments

An elderly man had dinner at a very nice restaurant. After he finished his wine, he went to the men's room, then walked out through the bar.

It was a beautiful evening, so he decided to leave his car in the parking lot and walk home.

When he arrived at his front door, he realized he didn't have his keys. He finally figured they must be in his jacket pocket, which was still hanging in the restroom of the restaurant.

He walked back to the restaurant, found his jacket in the men's room, and realized he'd left his hat on the table.

He strolled back to the dining room to retrieve his hat, and when he got to his table, his wife asked, "Is anything wrong? You took such a long time in there."

God's love doesn't stay in the lines

Charles Wesley's Hymn 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' describes Jesus' love for us as *Unbounded Love*, and this is the theme of the Lent campaign of the Methodist Church in 2024 – holding together our commitments to be a justice-seeking church, and a people who experience and proclaim the good news of God's uncontainable love.

Throughout Lent we are sharing daily email reflections that explore the theme of *Unbounded Love*.

Sign up at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/unbounded-love/>

What to expect? A range of resources that connect the Gospel readings from the Sunday lectionary throughout Lent to weekly themes, each one a line lifted from "Love divine, all loves excelling".

What will be available? Forty daily discipleship prompts, delivered straight to your email inbox every day of Lent, excluding Sundays. Daily emails will include Bible studies, creative activities and challenges to take an action.

The themes are:

Week 1 - "Unbounded love"

Week 2 - "Visit us with thy salvation"

Week 3 - "Pure and spotless let us be"

Week 4 - "Finish then thy new creation"

Week 5 - "Changed from glory into glory"

Week 6 - "Till we cast our crowns before thee"

Holy Week - "Lost in wonder, love, and praise!"



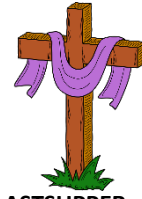
BIBLE QUIZ

Can you guess who I am?

1. I anointed Jesus with an expensive perfume...
2. I betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver...
3. I was the High Priest who accused Jesus and wanted him dead...
4. I found no guilt in Jesus when they brought him to me for trial...
5. I denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed...
6. When Jesus was on the cross, He asked me to take care of His mother...
7. I was the High Priest's servant whose ear had been cut off...
8. I carried the cross for Jesus when He could no longer...
9. I laid Jesus in my own tomb...
10. I went with Joseph to bury Jesus in the tomb...
11. I went early to the tomb and saw the stone rolled away...
12. I saw Jesus after His resurrection on the road to Emmaus...



WORDSEARCH



CRUCIFIXION	LASTSUPPER	PENTECOST
EASTER	LENT	RISEN
GOODFRIDAY	MAUNDYTHURSDAY	SACRED
HOLYCOMMUNION	PALMSUNDAY	TENEBRAE
JESUSCHRIST	PASSIONWEEK	TOMB

<https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>

P	D	P	B	E	R	V	N	L	Y	P	R	G	Y	J
Y	A	M	V	I	A	C	D	A	G	E	E	B	A	T
Z	O	S	S	F	Y	K	D	S	H	N	T	B	D	K
T	F	E	S	A	R	I	C	T	E	T	S	I	S	N
N	N	J	K	I	R	B	Z	S	Y	E	A	R	R	H
K	O	N	E	F	O	Q	N	U	G	C	E	X	U	H
L	T	I	D	S	C	N	H	P	V	O	F	Z	H	H
K	E	O	X	L	U	S	W	P	G	S	F	E	T	B
Y	O	Y	E	I	G	S	O	E	E	T	D	A	Y	N
G	F	N	Y	B	F	V	C	R	E	M	G	R	D	Y
H	T	I	W	S	J	I	D	H	U	K	Y	B	N	M
D	E	R	C	A	S	C	C	Z	R	C	U	E	U	V
H	O	L	Y	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	O	N	A	U
O	T	J	D	X	H	V	U	C	R	M	S	E	M	M
P	A	L	M	S	U	N	D	A	Y	C	U	T	S	Q

<https://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku/>

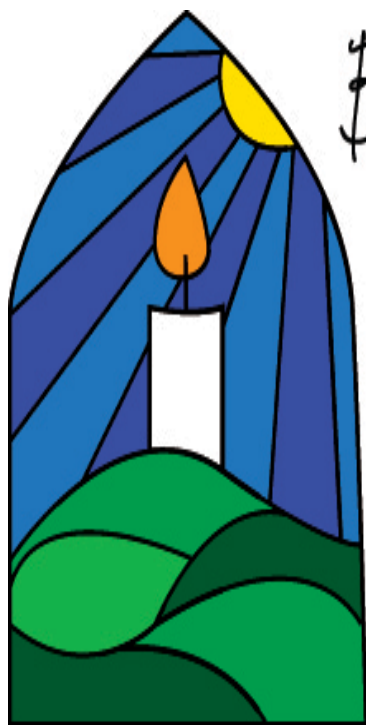
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2	4		7					
				1	2	3		5
3	2				7			
7				5		6		
	8		4	6		7		3
	5		3		4		6	7
9	6					8		

MARCH 2024						
SUNDAY SERVICES		03	10	17	24	31
		Lent 3	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	First Sunday of the Passion	Palm Sunday	Easter Day
		Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22	Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16 Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33	Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8
CHURCHES	TIME					
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Markay HC	Gyesi	Smyth AAW	Markay/Kyei HC	Moore
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Forecast HC	Amoah-Arko WFS	Markay	Oyeledun	Lyons HC
Evening Service open to all Circuit Members Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356	6:00pm Zoom	Lyons - Lent Zoom	Lyons - Lent Zoom	Lyons - Lent Zoom	Lyons IN CHURCH	No Service
LAMBETH MISSION	10:00am	Yates HC	McHayle	Lyons HC	Ovenden	09.30 Lyons HC
MOSTYN ROAD	11:00am	@BH	@BH	@BH	@BH	Markay HC
RAILTON ROAD	11:00am	Dormon	LA	Ali HC	Dormon	Ali HC
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	Lyons	King HC CA	Oyeledun	Ashworth	Dormon
STOCKWELL	10:30am	King HC	Ashworth	Dormon	Lyons	King HC
STREATHAM	10:30am	Cofie	Lyons HC	LA	King	Amoah-Arko
TULSE HILL	10:30am	Amoah-Arko	Markay HC	King	Ali	Smyth

APRIL 2024						
SUNDAY SERVICES		07	14	21	28	
		Second Sunday of Easter	Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter	
		Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1 – 2:2 John 20:19-31	Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	
CHURCHES	TIME					
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Markay HC	McHayle	Markay AAW	LA	
CLAPHAM	11:00am	Garwood-Warren	Lyons	LA	Lyons	
Evening Service open to all Circuit Members Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356	6:00pm Zoom	No service	Smyth	Lyons HC In Church	Lyons	
LAMBETH MISSION	10:00am	LA	Cofie	Lyons HC	King	
MOSTYN ROAD	11:00am	@BH	@BH	@BH	Dormon	
RAILTON ROAD	11:00am	Fadugba	Ali HC	King	Ashworth	
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	King HC	Gyesi	LA	Smyth	
STOCKWELL	10:30am	Ovenden	King	Ali	Fadugba	
STREATHAM	10:30am	Harms	Ashworth HC	Oyeledun	Ali	
TULSE HILL	10:30am	Ali HC	Markay	LA	Moore	

MAY 2024

SUNDAY SERVICES		05	12	19	26
		Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Pentecost	Trinity / Aldersgate Sunday
		Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17
CHURCHES	TIME				
BRIXTON HILL	11:00am	Lyons HC	Markay	Ashworth AAW	Kyei
CLAPHAM	11:00am	R Jackson HC	Gyesi	Ovenden	Lyons AAW JCA
Evening Service open to all Circuit Members Zoom Sign-in Details: 934 1927 0108 Password: 121356	6:00pm Zoom	Lyons Bible Study	Oyeledun	Circuit Service @Tulse Hill	Lyons
LAMBETH MISSION	10:00am	Yates HC	Dormon	Markay HC	Lyons
MOSTYN ROAD	11:00am	@BH	@BH	@BH	Markay HC
RAILTON ROAD	11:00am	Ali HC	Fadugba	Oyeledun	Smyth
SPRINGFIELD	10:30am	Zihle	King HC	King	Moore
STOCKWELL	10:30am	King HC	LA	Tackie-Yarboi	Oyeledun
STREATHAM	10:30am	Ovenden	Lyons HC CGM	Sackey	Dormon
TULSE HIL	10:30am	Cofie	Ali HC CA	McHayle Circuit Service 6:00 pm	Ashworth



Brixton Hill **METHODIST CHURCH**

200TH
ANNIVERSARY



'a light on the hill'

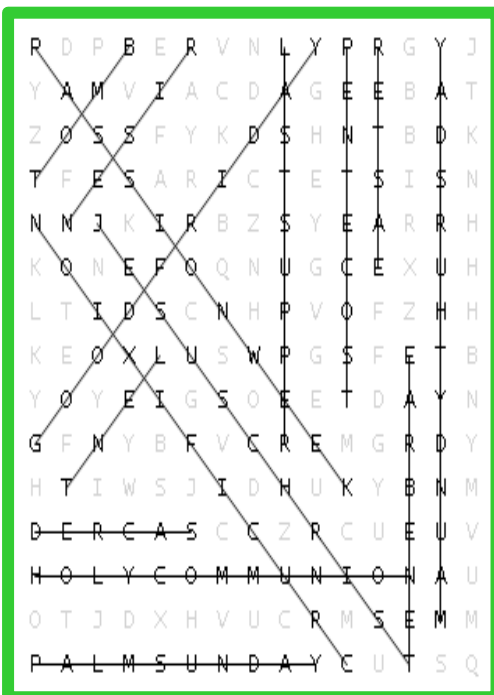
JUNE 2024

SOLUTION TO SUDOKU

1	3	5	9	4	6	2	7	8
2	4	8	7	3	5	9	1	6
6	7	9	8	1	2	3	4	5
3	2	6	1	8	7	4	5	9
7	9	4	2	5	3	6	8	1
5	8	1	4	6	9	7	2	3
8	5	2	3	9	4	1	6	7
9	6	7	5	2	1	8	3	4
4	1	3	6	7	8	5	9	2

Sudoku stimulates your mind: It works on your logical thinking process as you are absorbed in solving a puzzle and eventually improve your number skills. Solving Sudoku involves executive cognitive functions, most importantly problem-solving and decision-making, keeps your brain active and reduces the risk of Alzheimer's, a most common cause of dementia that affects a person's thinking and behavioural skills.

ANSWER TO WORD SEARCH



ANSWERS to BIBLE QUIZ

1. ---- John 12:1-8
2. ----- Matthew 26:14-15
3. ----- John 11:49
4. ----- John 19:4
5. ----- John 18:15-27
6. ---- John 19:26
7. ----- John 18:10
8. ----- Luke 23:26
9. -----
- Mark 15:43-44
10. ----- John 19:39
11. ----- John 20:1
12. ----- Luke 24:18

<https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/Easter-quiz.html>