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## HOW DO UKRAINIANS CELEBRATE EASTER?



**In Loughborough we are blessed to have a wonderful Christian bookshop owned by a Ukrainian lady called Liubov.**

When the Russians first invaded Ukraine, Liubov and her husband responded to the call to host people fleeing from Ukraine, by offering to take seven people to stay with them. They have a four bedroom house, but seven people are very grateful for the amazing hospitality offered to them in the Lords name. I asked Liubov how Easter traditions in Ukraine differed from our own.

**Easter is known as Velykden' (The Great Day) in Ukraine.** Easter - as well as Christmas and the Pentecost - is usually celebrated for three days. These are holy days and usually most people don't do any work. Special Easter services are held in churches and many families celebrate the day with a special Easter meal. Easter meals traditionally include the Paskha (a tall, sweet loaf of Easter bread, similar to Italian panettone) and a lot of brightly coloured boiled eggs. **The bread symbolises Christ who is our Bread of Life (cf. 1 Cor. 5:7) and the eggs represent new life and the resurrection of Christ.** The Orthodox

Ukrainians would take these symbols of Easter to church for a priest to consecrate them. At sunrise there would be a procession carrying the cross which circles around the church three times.

**The journey is made to symbolise the trip of the women to the tomb to anoint the body of Christ on that first Easter morning.** After the third passage, the procession stops in front of the church doors, **which symbolize the impossibility of being able to enter the Kingdom of God before the resurrection of Jesus Christ.** The priest sings the joyful Easter song "Khrystos Voskres" ("Christ is Risen"), then everyone greets each other with the same greeting, "Khrystos Voskres", and the others answer "Voistinu Voskres" ("He has risen indeed").

After Easter lunch, children would often play a game involving Easter eggs. There are many variations of the game. The simplest one would be to see whose eggs are the strongest. A child tries to crack an egg of another child and the last remaining un-cracked egg would win over all the eggs that had cracked. The winner is allowed to take all the cracked eggs home to demonstrate their victory.

**Ukrainian artists - as well as artists of other Slavic cultures - have a springtime tradition of decorating their Easter eggs with complex geometric designs using beeswax.** This art form is called *pysanka*. The word, *pysanka* is derived from the Ukrainian verb *pysaty*, which means "to write." The geometric forms on the eggs are imbued with meaning, for instance triangles represents the Holy Trinity, etc. With the right care, a *pysanka* can last a long time, years even. **Happy Easter!**



# CESA Caring for Life

## The Christian Ethics and Social Action Committee

(CESA) supports three Christian organisations. These are:

- Caring For Life
- The Christian Institute
- Day One Publications

We thought it would be useful to tell you about these organisations, what services they provide and how you can get involved or get more information.

We start with Caring For Life.

Caring For Life was set up in 1987 to share the Love of Jesus with vulnerable, hurting people. They are based at Crag House Farm in Leeds. Spring is a very special time for the farm. Pam Parkinson, Caring For Life's Support Co-ordinator, said that they look forward to the

lambling season at Crag House Farm and that caring for animals at the farm helps them to share Jesus' love with damaged and lonely people.

Pam said, "God's creatures are the most amazing therapists. Individuals who no longer trust other people are happy to reach out and care for the animals, stroke and cuddle them, and make sure they are fed and looked after. Pastoral workers can form bonds of trust through the animals, as they look after them together."

Their aim is to help people to gradually move on from past hardships and heartaches towards a happier future. As a Christian Charity, Christ's teaching and example underpins all that Caring for Life do.



Ultimately their prayer is that they can tell men and women about the God who loves them and who made these beautiful creatures for them to love and care for. They have seen many lives changed as people trust the One who created the animals and have come to know Him as their Saviour.



They welcome prayerful and financial support from individuals and churches alike who share their vision.

To find out more about Caring For Life, go to their Facebook page, or visit their website at [www.caringforlife.co.uk](http://www.caringforlife.co.uk) Alternatively you can email them at [info@caringforlife.co.uk](mailto:info@caringforlife.co.uk) or phone them on 0113 230 3600

## DATES

### Presidential Visits:

19th March	Bradford
26th March	Sheffield
2nd April	Bakewell (Curbar)
16th April	Hazlemere
30th April	Ashby (New Swannington)

### General Meetings:

21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 (Jump Church)

### Conference 2023:

12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June (Swanwick)

## THIS SERIES OF STUDIES IS BEING PREPARED FROM A BOOKLET ENTITLED "READ MARK LEARN"

Study number five—Mark chapter 2:13-28 (Please read)  
**PRESSING ON**

**Today's reading contains quite a mixture of incidents, but you can pick out several important points as you press on in your Christian lives.**

First we see -

**OBEDIENCE.** As soon as Jesus called him, Levi "*got up and followed him*" (verse 14). He could never have guessed what lay ahead but he was prepared to trust Jesus for every step of life's journey, whatever the cost. We know that Levi took his gift of writing (*he was a tax collector*) and consecrated it to the Lord's service, eventually writing the first book in the New Testament. You too have special gifts and abilities (*see Ephesians 4 verse 7*). Make sure that they are available for use in God's service.

Then we see -

**OPPOSITION.** The Scribes and Pharisees criticised Jesus for mixing with people they classed as undesirables (verse 16). His answer was that He had not come to call those who felt that they were already good enough (verse 17).

Then the disciples were criticised for not fasting (verse 18). Jesus answered that for His disciples to be mournful while He was with them was as unthinkable as for special guests to be miserable at a wedding (verse 19). The Christian life is meant to be a life of joy. Look up Romans 14 verse 17 and Philippians 4 verse 4.

And then we see -

**OBSERVANCE** Verses 23 to 28 deal with Sunday observance. There were many traditional Jewish laws about the Sabbath, many of them quite ridiculous. For instance, some Pharisees taught that it was sinful to pick a single ear of corn on that day! Jesus cut across all these regulations by saying "*the Sabbath was made for man...*" (v. 27); but note what He added in verse 28! God has given you one day in seven as a special day of rest and worship. Look up Christ's own example in Hebrews 10 verse 25. Make sure that you spend God's day in God's way!

**"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it Holy" (Exodus 20:8)**

*Prepared by David Shuttleworth  
Jump WR Church*

# THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



## OBITUARY Dorothy Bailey (Fife Street Church, Nuneaton)

Sadly, our friend Dorothy Bailey, a life-long member of our church, has now gone to be with the Lord. She passed away peacefully at the end of January, a week before her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

She started in our Sunday School when she was four years old. She was an active and faithful member at

**Fife Street Church Nuneaton.** She served the Lord as a Sunday School teacher, and hosted many of our visiting preachers for Sunday Lunch etc. Our prayers are with her daughter Ann and her husband and the family and friends. She will be greatly missed by us all.

*Pauline Downing*



# COLLECTORS CORNER



As I look out into our garden most things, at first, look in a sorry state but as I look more closely, **I'm pleased to see the signs that Spring is definitely on its way.** A variety of bulbs are poking out of the ground at different heights promising a colourful show of flowers in a few weeks time. **I'm lucky to have kept a few crockery "treasures" decorated with an array of flowers and fruits** once belonging to my grandma and then my mum and even though today they'd not be considered anything special or have much of a monetary value, I love them.



Many artists **took their inspiration for design and decoration from nature** for example this beautiful **Moorcroft vase** aptly

called Seasons showing images of flowers found in each of our four seasons, costing a mere four thousand pounds!

**Then we have the quirkiness of Clarise Cliff**



**Rennie Mackintosh**



**and Susie Cooper**

Most of these artist/designers put their mark, code, symbol or

signature on their work so that they can be recognised as the authors of their creations. As we enjoy the beauty of our spring flowers and marvel at their arrival after winter let's remember and give thanks that we have an author of our creation and show our Author's "signature" in the way we live our everyday lives.

As the song says,

***All creation holds together by the power of Your voice.  
Let the skies declare Your glory;  
Let the land and seas rejoice!  
You're the Author of creation;  
You're the Lord of every man;  
And Your cry of love rings out across the lands.***

ALL LADIES WELCOME

Wesleyan Reform Union

Women of Action

***He Restores My Soul***

Psalm 23:3

*A morning of teaching, reflection  
discussion, worship & prayer*

**Saturday 11th March**

**Mt Hermon Wesleyan Reform Chapel**

**138 Main Street Addingham**

**Ilkley LS29 0LY**

To book your free places call or email

Jan: 07954 992874 janpotter@blueyonder.co.uk

Doors open 10 am Start 10.30

Refreshments and lunch provided

# Simnel Cakes

Simnel cakes have been known since at least medieval times. Bread regulations of the time suggest they were boiled and then baked, a technique which led to an invention (around since the 18<sup>th</sup> century) whereby a mythical couple, Simon and Nelly, fall out over making a Simnel. One wishes to boil it, one to bake it and, after beating each other with various household implements, they compromise on one which uses both cooking techniques.

Simnel cake is a fruitcake widely eaten in the United Kingdom, Ireland, associated with Lent and Easter. It is distinguished by layers of almond paste or marzipan, typically one in the middle and one on top, and a set of eleven balls made of the same paste. It was originally traditionally made for the fourth Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday



(when the 40-day fast would be relaxed and the custom of live-in apprentices and domestic servants going home to visit their mothers on Mothering Sunday started, checking that their families were well and taking food or money if needed. This was a time of year when food stocks were low, and the high-calorie simnel cake was useful nutrition). It is now more frequently eaten on Easter Sunday.

Different towns had their own recipes and style of the Simnel cake, but the recipe usually includes white flour, spices dried fruit and candied peel. Sometimes orange flower water is used in the cake mix or to flavour the almond paste. Marzipan or almond paste is

used as a filling in the cake and as a decoration on top. Conventionally, 11 marzipan balls are used to decorate the cake, symbolising the 12 apostles, minus Judas. Sometimes 12 are used, representing Jesus and the 11 apostles. Nowadays people sometimes add small sugar Easter eggs and /or chick decorations as symbols of new life.

- Fancy making one?
- Do you know whether there is a particular recipe in your area?

Many recipe books will include a recipe, or you can find recipes on the internet. If you have a go at making one be sure to send us a photograph.

*Muriel Stonehewer*

# TETE A TETE OR KING ALFRED?



How much do you  
know about  
daffodils?

Just where the daffodil got its name is unclear. The name is possibly derived from the Old English word “affodyle”, which **means “that which comes early” or “early comer”**. This makes sense, given the way the flower usually blooms early.

The yellow daffodil is the most popular of all daffodils. **It is the trumpet that announces the arrival of spring.** Yellow daffodil is the one that blooms right after the winter and some people say that the daffodil is the herald of the spring. It announces to the other plants and flowers that the spring has arrived and that’s why it’s shaped like a trumpet. So, a positive daffodil meaning is **good news**.

The meaning of daffodil flower is also symbolic to the **Warsaw Ghetto Uprising**, which was the largest Jewish uprising during World War II.

Every year on April 19th, the revolt is honoured and many wear yellow paper daffodils to show their respect. Daffodils are another frequent bloom found around Easter.

**In China**, daffodils are symbols of good fortune and prosperity.

**In Japan**, they symbolise joy and mirth.

**In France**, daffodils are symbols of hope.

The daffodil is of course the **national flower of Wales** and the symbol of a number of cancer-related charities around the world.

We recognise that the beautiful poem, **“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”** by William Wordsworth, was inspired by a walk with his sister Dorothy in April of 1802. They came across a vast array of daffodils as they wandered in the forest.

**You may not ‘wander lonely as a cloud’ but may you be encouraged to look afresh at the daffodils and reflect on all that they might teach us.**

*Muriel Stonehewer*



# JOHN WESLEY'S NEW ROOM

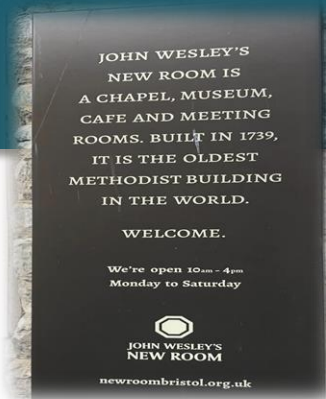
After the cold dreary months of winter many people begin to plan their holidays... maybe jetting off to sun kissed beaches, perhaps a camping trip or a city break, something to look forward to. My friend and I often share coach holidays and we were looking forward to a "tinsel and turkey" break to Scarborough last December, however the company cancelled that tour and offered us Weston-Super-Mare instead. After a quick discussion we agreed, Weston it was!

That's why, on a cold, breezy, rainy day, the planned daily outing delivered us into Bristol for a few hours, to explore it's delights. We



didn't have a map and had no idea what we might do but we saw an old fashioned arcade that offered some protection from the weather and headed into it, browsing. With great surprise I noticed the sign, a museum, a cafe. We decided to go inside and look around.

There were very few visitors at first, so the curator gave us a very interesting and very informative tour and explanation of the old John Wesley Chapel explaining why the windows were so high up, a safety measure against attack from mobs. The building being designed so it



was difficult for any mob that broke in to reach the preacher quickly! Dangerous times indeed! Preaching God's Word could be a very dangerous occupation!

It was practice day for the choir and we were invited to be honorary guest choir members. First, we undertook some deep breathing exercises, then came some vocal tongue twister warm-ups which made us giggle and then the real singing. Even though I'm sure we weren't in tune, no-one grumbled, and we had a very enjoyable interlude. If you are ever in Bristol, a visit here is a must. I can't promise you'll be invited into the choir... but you never know.

Christine Ogden,  
Staincross Christian Fellowship

## SHOULD WE REFER TO GOD IN A NON-GENDER WAY?

Would you believe that the Church of England is considering whether they should use gender neutral terms to describe God? Theologians tell us that the question of God's gender has been a hotly-discussed topic for thousands of years! REALLY!

It seem that the project has been created because the Rev Joanna Stobart wondered whether it was time for a "more inclusive language" to be used in church of England services. Of course, at present, God is generally spoken about in masculine terms and referred to as our Father and additionally, Jesus is also traditionally represented as masculine.

The Rev Dr Michael Ipgrave has announced that the project to consider these theological questions will begin in the Spring and continue for FIVE years! I wonder how much that will cost!

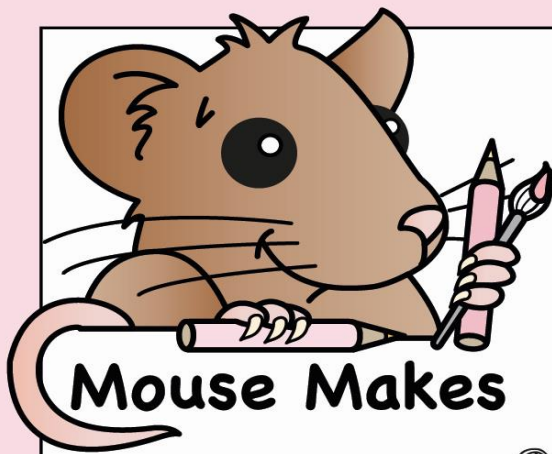
Interestingly, back in 2018, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, very wisely said "God is not male or female. God is not definable."

We take our lead from Scripture and from the beginning of the Bible, from Genesis all the way to Revelation, God refers to Himself as male. There are at least 170 references to God as the "Father". Jesus also referred to God as His Father 160 times. In John 10:30, Jesus very clearly stated, "I and the Father are one".



I can't help thinking that the theologians in the Church of England would do well to remember their core aims. It plays a vital role in the life of the nation, proclaiming the Christian gospel in words and actions and providing services of Christian worship and praise. Those five years of discussion would be better used in sharing the Gospel to hell-bound sinners whilst the days of grace are still with us.

*Daphne Hodkinson*



## BIBLE MOTHERS

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

— — — — —  
Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

— — — — —  
Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

— — — — —  
1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

— — — — —  
Ruth 1:1-5

Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

— — — — —  
2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

— — — — —  
Exodus 6:20

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.



**M** — — — — —

Matt 1:16

**O** — — — — —

2 Tim 1:5

**T** — — — — —

1 Kings 1:11

**H** — — — — —

1 Sam 1:20

**E** — — — — —

Gen 34:1

**R** — — — — —

Gen 30:22

## WHO IS MY MOTHER?



CAIN

ELIZABETH

ISAAC

HANNAH

JESUS

RACHEL

JACOB

REBEKAH

TIMOTHY

EVE

JOSEPH

MARY

SAMUEL

SARAH

JOHN

EUNICE

Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search

REBEKAH  
ELIZABETH  
EUNICE  
RUTH  
MARY  
RACHEL  
LEAH  
ZIPLAH  
MOTHER  
MUM



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