

# Winterbourne Churches' Newsletter

[www.fromesidechurches.org.uk](http://www.fromesidechurches.org.uk)

[www.salemchurch.org.uk](http://www.salemchurch.org.uk)



March 2024

## **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE

Rector: Rev Malcolm Strange, 70 High Street, Winterbourne  
Phone: 01454 775529  
Email: [m.strange@fromesidechurches.org.uk](mailto:m.strange@fromesidechurches.org.uk)

Assistant minister Rev Julia Chard - contact via Benefice Office

Churchwardens Chris Greef 01454 774479  
Derek Andow 01454 775024

### **BENEFICE AND PARISH OFFICE**

c/o The Rectory, 70 High Street, Winterbourne, BRISTOL, BS36 1JQ

Administrator Nessa Jarman Phone: 07594 976301

Email: [office@fromesidechurches.org.uk](mailto:office@fromesidechurches.org.uk)

Opening hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-1pm

### **WEDDINGS/BAPTISMS/CONFIRMATION/FUNERALS**

Enquires should be made to the Benefice Office - 07594 976301

### **PASTORAL VISITING**

If you need a pastoral visit or know someone who does, please contact Jo on 01454 775529 or Pearl on 01454 314184

**St Michael's Room Bookings** Watch this space!

## **SALEM METHODIST CHURCH**

Factory Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1QL

Minister Rev Leigh Maydew, 31 Quedgeley, Yate, Bristol, BS37.4JJ  
Phone: 07388 083488  
Email: [leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk](mailto:leigh.maydew@methodist.org.uk)

To whom enquiries for Weddings, Baptisms, or Funerals should be made.

Senior Steward Margaret Johnston Phone: 01454 773626  
Email: [123margaretjohnston@gmail.com](mailto:123margaretjohnston@gmail.com)

Hall Bookings Jayne Glass Phone: 07935 377790  
Email: [jaglass103@gmail.com](mailto:jaglass103@gmail.com)

## A message from Revd. Malcolm Strange

Last night my wife conjured up the most amazing 'Shrove Tuesday Fest' of both savoury and sweet pancakes, and with a Bottle of Prosecco it became our pre-Valentine's celebration. You should have deduced by now that I am writing my article this month on Ash Wednesday, which in 2024 happens to also be St Valentine's Day as well.



This makes for an interesting dilemma and challenge for the purist. Having to hold in balance a day when, especially in the secular world, we celebrate the wonderful gift of Love, alongside a day of fasting, penance and reflection, as Ash Wednesday is kept by the Church, marking the start of the season of Lent and the journey to the Cross and beyond.

The truth is that these two celebrations have more in common than divides them, with unconditional love being at the heart of both. On Ash Wednesday, Christians are marked on their foreheads with the sign of the cross, it helps them to **focus on God's unconditional love for his creation, a love** which leaves Jesus his son making the ultimate sacrifice for us all in his crucifixion on Good Friday. It is a cosmic moment **when all humanity is reconnected with the 'God of Love' for all eternity.** St Valentine knew this better than most and in the year 269, on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, made the ultimate sacrifice himself when martyred for his faith in Jesus Christ.



The truth is that 'Love' is at the heart of both celebrations so holding them in balance is fine, celebrating the love of someone special to us, in our Valentines Cards and acknowledging the love of God in the mark of the ash on our foreheads.



The Greek word for love 'Agape', is at the heart of the Christian faith and teaching. This is a tough and sacrificial love; it requires us being selfless rather than selfish, to act in a counter intuitive way when facing issues, putting ourselves second to the needs of the vulnerable and the marginalised; it is about going the extra mile to secure peace and reconciliation when people are divided; it is seeing good in others and rejoicing in their gifts rather than pointing out fault or blemish.



So, as we journey through the season of Lent once more this year, let's hold onto this gift of love, reflecting it to all whom we meet. In doing so our world will be blessed, at a very dark time in its history, with the spirit of a true 'Valentine Love' and hope, peace, joy and love will be in abundance for all people.

Fr Malcolm Strange  
Rector of the Fromeside Benefice



# LENT LUNCH ON FRIDAY

1st March	12.00	Zion Church
8th March	12.00	Salem Church
15th March	12.00	St Peter's Church
22nd March	12.00	St Saviour's Hall

# SUNDAY WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCHES

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

3rd March	10.30	Parish Communion
10th March	10.30	Parish Communion
17th March	10.30	Parish Communion
24th March	10.30	Parish Communion
31st March	10.30	Parish Communion

also 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays Holy Communion at 8am

See page 17 for details of special events  
& pages 11 & 13 for Holy Week & Easter

[www.fromsidechurches.org.uk](http://www.fromsidechurches.org.uk)

Recorded services are available on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
on the Benefice website

[www.fromsidechurches.org.uk](http://www.fromsidechurches.org.uk)

where details of all services in the Benefice can be found.

## SALEM METHODIST CHURCH

### SUNDAY SERVICES at 10.30

3rd Mar	Rev M Strange (Holy Communion)
10th Mar	Mr Adam Biddlestone
17th Mar	Mrs V Lamont
24th Mar	Miss N Sharpe
31st Mar	Rev Leigh Maydew (Holy Communion)



Further details on the website [www.salemchurch.org.uk](http://www.salemchurch.org.uk)

## SALEM PAGE

Lent and Easter come early this year so it is time for a reflection upon the passion of our Lord. Our faith as Christians is that God is most fully revealed to us in the life and death of Christ.

In other religions, God is remote, distant, above and beyond us but our belief is that he is intimately with us, even in the very worst that life can do.



**The prophet Isaiah prayed to God, ‘O that you would tear open the heavens and come down’. This is the one prophesy of the Incarnation to be found in the Old Testament. It goes beyond the earlier messianic prophecies in anticipating not the divine sending of a special liberating king but the actual direct intervention of God Himself meeting us in the midst of all that life can do.**

One of my favourite activities is to search old hymns, particularly of Charles Wesley that, sadly, are no longer in our current hymn book. No one sings more **fervently of the incarnation and passion of our Lord. Mercifully, we still have, ‘O Love divine, what hast thou done?’ (Hymns and Psalms 278).**

**I will cite a gem from Wesley’s Hymns (1877), the hymnbook that my grandfather knew - indeed I have his copy of it). The two key verses are these.**

**‘Vouchsafe us eyes of faith to see  
The Man transfixed on Calvary,  
To know thee, who thou art,  
The one eternal God and true;  
And let the sight affect, subdue,  
And break my stubborn heart’.**



Then comes the prayer for salvation.

**‘The veil of unbelief remove  
And by thy manifested love,  
And by thy sprinkled blood,  
Destroy the love of sin in me,  
And get thyself the victory,  
And bring me back to God’.**





Here we are confronted with the most wonderful, the most extraordinary thing that has ever happened, God the eternal Son of God entering into our very life and suffering one of the cruellest deaths ever devised, entering into the depths of the worst that human life can ever experience, and all to bring us back to God and give us the peace and salvation He offers if we turn to the way of Jesus and like him become able to empty ourselves of all but love, becoming like Him, 'meek and lowly of heart.

Wishing you all very blessed Passiontide and glorious Easter from Salem,  
David..



**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024**  
**FRIDAY 1 MARCH**  
**A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!**

I beg you, bear with  
one another in love

**10.30am**

**ZION CHURCH**  
Woodend Road, Frampton Cotterell

This service has been prepared by the women of Palestine  
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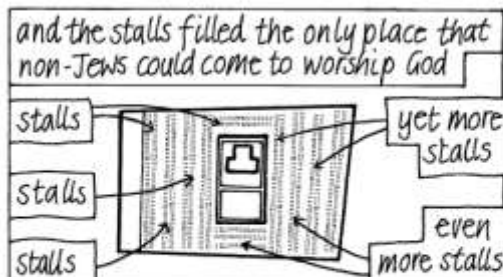
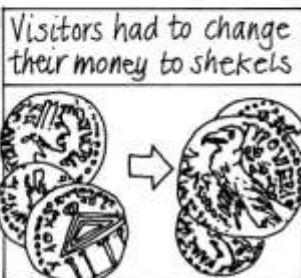
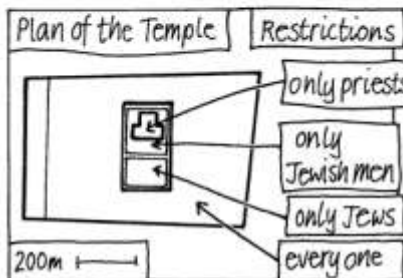


# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19: 45-48

When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...





This month I'm thinking about plastics. I try to save creating plastic waste with the mantra Reduce, Reuse and Recycle but even so I find my black bin, the contents of which go to landfill, is full of single use, non-recyclable plastic. I find this frustrating and maybe you do too. There are also increasing concerns about the health impacts of so-called nano-plastics, tiny bits of plastic resulting from the breakdown of plastic products. They are so tiny, they get everywhere, in products we buy and even in our bloodstreams.

So what can we do about it? In the long term our manufacturers need to find ways of not using so much plastic and this probably requires government action to move them in the right direction. We can do something about this by lobbying our MPs and making manufacturers aware of the issues by writing to them directly and preferentially buying products with a smaller waste stream.



There are also lots of things we can do as individuals to reduce the amount we throw into the black bin. Try some of these:

- Go to a shop that sells refills. For some, you take your own container.
- If you like to have bottled water with you when you are out and about, make **sure you have a refillable water bottle so you don't have to keep buying throw-away plastic bottles.**
- **If you prefer a coffee or tea when you're out, buy yourself a reusable cup.** This will reduce the number of plastic and paper cups thrown away and an increasing number of places will give you a discount if you bring your own cup.
- Avoid buying fruit and vegetables wrapped in plastic – **try it for a week, I know it's difficult.**



- Find one (or more) products you buy regularly and switch permanently to a plastic-free alternative.
- Learn more about those people most severely affected by plastic pollution, notably in parts of the developing world that do not have effective waste collection schemes. Use this knowledge to help you pray for them and redouble your own efforts to reduce the problem.
- Encourage your friends, family and any organisations you are a member of to be more plastic conscious.
- Go on a litter-pick.
- **Whenever you do anything, just ask yourself 'Can I do this in a more environment-friendly way'!**



Chris Greef



**EASTER  
SUNDAY  
31st March**

**Join us  
to Celebrate**

**ST MICHAEL'S  
CHURCH**  
Winterbourne

**at 10.30**

**Parish Communion**

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We meet on the first Wednesday and the third  
Thursday of each month  
Come and join us, we'd love to see you.

Further information from Edna Snaith 07789 662694

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A relaxed class for Over 50s combining movement with music to help:

- Improve posture, balance & co-ordination
- Increase mobility and muscle tone
- Stimulate health of body and mind
- Enhance quality of life
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After the session, sit and chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

When: Every Friday 9.30-10.30

Where: Fromeside Gymnastics Club,

Watleys End Road, Winterbourne, BS36 1PW

Telephone: 01454 776873

Email: [office@fromesidegym.co.uk](mailto:office@fromesidegym.co.uk)

# **JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK TOGETHER...**

**Monday 25th March**

**8pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**All Saints', Winterbourne Down**

**Tuesday 26th March**

**2.30 HOLY LAND VIDEO & REFLECTION**

**St Saviour's Hall, Coalpit Heath**

**8pm COMPLINE**

**St Michael's, Winterbourne**



**Wednesday 27th March**

**8pm TENEBRAE**

**St Peter's, Frampton Cotterell**

**Maundy Thursday 28th March**

**8pm BENEFICE EUCHARIST**

**St James, Iron Acton**



**Good Friday 29th March**

**2pm THE CROSS OF CHRIST**

**St Peter's Frampton Cotterell**

**Saturday 30th March**

**8pm EASTER VIGIL**

**All Saints, Winterbourne Down**

**Also on GOOD FRIDAY**

**9.15 Services at All Saints, St James & St Saviour's**

**10.30 Family Service at St Michael's**



**See website for more details  
[www.fromesidechurches.org.uk](http://www.fromesidechurches.org.uk)**

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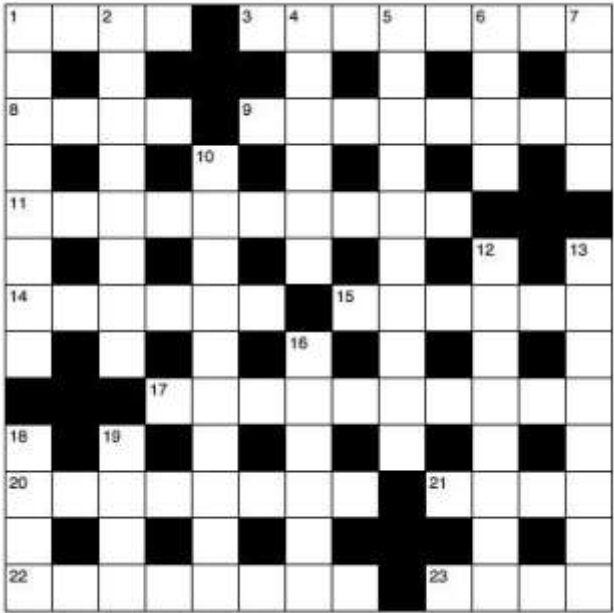
## Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 **‘You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don’t go very far from it. All of you be on — — ’ (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)**
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ’s burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 **‘A city on a hill — be hidden’ (Matthew 5:14) (6)**
- 15 He inherited Elijah’s mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed **‘Not as I will, but as you will’ (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)**
- 20 **‘Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour’ (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)**
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

Answers on page 27

## Down

- 1 Can’t grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, **‘You also were with that — , Jesus’ (Mark 14:67) (8)**
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the **‘obvious’ acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)**
- 7 **‘I preached that they should repent and — to God’ (Acts 26:20) (4)**
- 10 **‘ — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me’ (John 14:19) (6,4)**
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: **‘ — — of my sheep’ (John 21:16) (4,4)**
- 16 The centurion said, **‘Surely this man was — — of God’ (Mark 15:39) (3,3)**
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 **‘Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him’ (Handel’s Messiah) (4)**



Our regular events for March are:-

Coffee morning on Wednesday March 6th

Film afternoon on Tuesday March 12th

Bacon Butty Coffee morning on Saturday March 16th

**Women's Fellowship on Tuesday March 27th**

*Everyone is invited to share with us - Do come along*

During Holy Week there are special services as follows

March 28th 7.30p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion meal  
Numbers required - please tel 773626

March 29th 10.30a.m. Good Friday reflections

March 30th 4 p.m. **Children's Easter Egg Hunt & activities**

March 31st 10.30 a.m. Easter Sunday Communion  
with cross of flowers

The cross of flowers will be placed outside the church door after the service.

A Lent Study course is taking place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30p.m. Please phone 773626 if you would like to attend

(numbers required to ascertain venue)



Lent lunches are being held on Fridays across the Together4Fromeside area and Salem will be hosting the lunch on Friday March 8th

# Special events this month in & around St Michael's

Friday 1st March at 10.30  
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
Zion Church, Frampton Cotterell  
see page 7



Saturday 16th March from 10-1  
THE BIG BREW  
Zion Church, Frampton Cotterell  
see page 18

Saturday 16th March  
from 3.30-5.15  
MESSY CHURCH  
in St Saviour's Church Hall



Sunday 17th March  
at 4pm  
HEALING SERVICE  
in St Michael's Church

DON'T FORGET LENT LUNCHES - SEE PAGE 4



Palm Sunday at 10.30  
PARISH COMMUNION  
with Blessing of Palms  
at St Michael's Church  
  
at 6pm  
AGAPE MEAL  
at St Saviour's Church Hall  
More details in churches



FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER SEE PAGES 11 & 13

**Big  
Brew  
2024**



# Coffee Morning

with Craft Stalls

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

**10am – 1pm**

**Zion United Church  
Frampton Cotterell**

**To book a stall  
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# Stay & Play

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**BIRTH – PRESCHOOL  
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**Every Tuesday  
during term time  
9:30am – 11:00am**

## Why we should be like donkeys

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a **budgie**, but **most of us don't own a donkey!** Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They can survive on poor fodder, can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

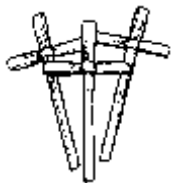


There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And **although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story**, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So, Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the **Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy** concerning the Messiah.



Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work He has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!



Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.



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### *Monthly Talks*

Talks at 7pm, doors open 6.30pm. Some talks also live-streamed on Zoom.

Medieval Wall Paintings in Local churches - Thursday 21st March, 7pm

During the Middle Ages churches were decorated with wall paintings of Bible stories and the saints, to instruct the largely illiterate congregation. Dr Steven Blake will explore surviving examples in local churches, including St. Michael's.

Bristol's Lost City - Tuesday 16th April, 7pm

The Bristol International Exhibition of 1914, was part trade fair and part theme park, costing **£110m in today's money. It was an extraordinary venture that few** local people are aware of.

### *Live Shows*

Witty Ditties : 400 Years of Comic Song - Sunday 24th March, 7.30pm

From bawdy Restoration ballads through to Sixties satire, this show includes songs by Noel Coward, Tom Lehrer, Flanders and Swann, and many more.

Another hilarious and entertaining evening from top musicians Chris Green and Sophie Matthews. Book online.

### *For Children in the Easter Holidays*

Easter-themed family craft sessions - Saturday 30th March, for children under 11.

Fused glass mosaics for ages 8-18 - Thursday 11th April. Make a glass masterpiece!

### *Hands-On Learning Activities for Adults*

Sewing Workshop : Make a Shoulder Bag - Friday 15th March

Learn basic sewing machine skills and make a professionally-finished shoulder bag with lining and pockets, in just one morning.

### *The Story of Our Barn : Medieval to Modern*

Thursdays 7th March, 4th April, 2nd May, 4th July, or 1st August

Book for these events from the website:

[www.winterbournebarn.org.uk](http://www.winterbournebarn.org.uk)

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne BS36 1SE

For further details about Winterbourne Medieval Barn Trust

see [www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk](http://www.WinterbourneBarn.org.uk)

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## Reflecting Faith: Memorial Stones

Last month we began to look at the outside of the church building. When you last visited a churchyard with very old memorials, what did you notice?

The oldest stones probably just had the name of the person, date of death and perhaps their age. But the slightly more recent stones may well have included where the person had been born, lived, their occupations and who they had married. These stones probably belonged to the wealthier people, as they needed



to be large, to include all this information! As for the poorer folk, as cheaper **stone became available, they also wanted to mark their loved one's place of rest**, even with just the bare details.



With the advent of the railways, a firm in Scotland started a business for shaping the stone with recessing, into which a local stone mason would be able to carve the words. This is why you will see many similar shaped stones in every churchyard in England, Wales and Scotland for that period. In different areas of the

country, both locally sourced stones and the availability of the stonemason create very different looks – whilst within that area are many reproductions.

**Also, the 'floweriness' of the inscriptions grew over the years.** What started with just the name of the person later had added before the name, **'With affection'**, then **'With great affection'**, then, **'Greatly loved'** and so on. It was almost as if people were trying to outdo each other on who loves who most.

Meanwhile, by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century many churchyards were **'full'**, and if adjoining land was available this was consecrated, *(as with St Michael's in 1947 and again in 2001)* but otherwise separate land was purchased – which became a **'cemetery'** and was usually not the responsibility of the church. A churchyard, on the other hand, is by definition under the auspices of **'the church'**, whether open or closed. Because people continued to want to be interred in **'holy land'**, eventually all cemeteries were set aside and consecrated by and for the different religions and denominations, reflecting the needs of the local communities.



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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

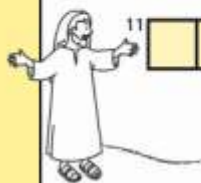
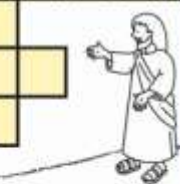
Matthew 21:1-11

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?



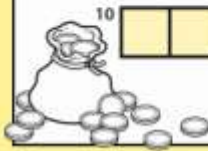
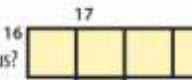
Matthew 26:36-75

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



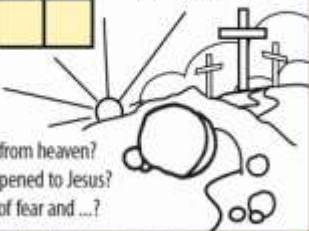
Matthew 26:14-16

- 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 ...?



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# St Michael's C of E Primary School

*Learn • Care • Enjoy*

Linden Close, Winterbourne  
Headteacher Mrs. Kirsty Robson  
Phone 01454 867105

St Michael's Primary School welcomed back its pupils after the Christmas break with a fun celebration of music!



Children (and staff) were treated to a live funk band performance and learned all about the different musical instruments being played.

Some of the children in Year 1 commented:

***"They were excellent and I really liked the electric guitar."***

***"I learnt that the drums can be a really loud sound and were amazing to look at because they were sparkly."***

***"I really liked the electric guitar because you look like a rock-star."***

***"I loved it all!"***

In Year 5, children said:

***"I liked the drum set because I enjoy the range of sounds it plays. It held low sounds and that created a steady beat for the rest of the instruments. It was repetitive and I enjoy this."***



*"I liked the bass and drum set as they work in harmony together."*

*"I enjoyed the variety of high pitch notes that the electric guitar plays. It plays the familiar melodies that we all enjoy and know so well."*

*"I loved listening to live music and a range of songs."*

*"The songs they played varied in genre and were upbeat to make our bodies move in some way."*

*"We enjoyed watching a band of people work together to produce a piece of music."*

We were lucky enough to have some musical parents and staff who visited our classes to play and sing for us.

In Reception, one of the mums played the cajon (drum box) and Mrs Ithier played the flute.

Children shared some wonderful musical talents with their classmates. Emma and her family entertained us with their guitar playing, and Freya played her violin. Other children brought in their ukeleles and guitars to show us what they have been learning at home.



During the day, each year group class practised a whole class musical piece to perform in our school celebration assembly the next day. Reception class **explored percussion instruments, and learned how to play "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" using chime bars.**

Years 4, 5 and 6 learned how to use Boom-whackers by following the musical notes to create a whole class performance.

Year 3 impressed us all with their recorder performance, show-casing what they have been learning in their music lessons in the Autumn term.

Thank you to our Music Coordinator Mrs Ithier for organising the day. It was such a fun way to overcome the January blues and start back to school this term. To **quote one of our children, "The vibe across the school made everyone happy!"**

#### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot.

15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Styne.

DOWN: 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.



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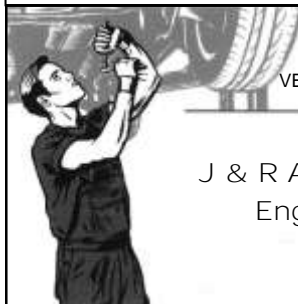
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Please send contributions for the April Newsletter by email to Gill Greef ([gill@gillgreef.com](mailto:gill@gillgreef.com)) or deliver them to the temporary Office at the Rectory, 70 High Street by Friday 15th March