

VINTAGE ADVENTURE

④ HOME

Easter



Caraway

Spiritually Resourcing the Older Person



Dear Vintage Adventure @ Home friends,

Welcome to the April 2026 issue of our monthly booklet, when we ponder on the momentous historical events, which took place over 2000 years ago in the Middle East, but have continued to impact countless lives across the world ever since.

I always look forward to Easter – it's such a welcome reminder of the triumph of Jesus over death and of the resurrection hope offered to all who trust Him. Our worship is provided by Dave Hendra, the Caraway Chaplain for Dementia, and followed by a short reflection by Janet Price, on the various days making up the Easter period. We are grateful to both, and especially to Janet who having contributed regularly to Vintage Adventure @ Home for several years, has kindly agreed to continue to write the occasional piece for us, even though she has moved away from Southampton.

We feature an extract from Pastor Colin Smith's book Six Hours that Changed the World, as well as some personal thoughts by Wendy Heap, on an Easter hymn, which is particularly meaningful for her.

One of our local readers, Jill Heard, shares the poignant true story of how the Lord Jesus has sustained her over more than 35 years, since the devastating and premature death of one of her sons at the early age of 22.

In addition, we have quizzes, puzzles and information of general interest to a range of readers. And for those of you who like poetry, we include another of Catherine Aldis's poems, entitled Thank God for Jesus!

So do relax and enjoy browsing the contents of our April VA @ Home and perhaps share some quiet time with God at this special season.

Happy Easter to each one of you!

With love and Easter blessings,

Cynthia and your friends at Caraway



Worship

Introduction

Do you ever feel alone? I do sometimes.

But we are not alone.

Someone powerful and kind is with us.

My brother once met a teenager from South Sudan. He shared an amazing story with my brother. One day a squadron of planes flew down from the North of the country to bomb targets in the South. This teenager was in the wrong place at the wrong time. As soon as he heard the roar and throb of the engines he knew what was coming. So, he ran. And jumped into the nearest cover he could find. It happened to be a very deep toilet pit. When the raid was over this lad realised that the pit was too deep for him to climb out. After yelling for a while, no one came. So, he did the only thing he could. In desperation, he closed his eyes and prayed. He asked Jesus to help. When the boy opened his eyes he was standing on the ground above, no longer in the pit.

On that day, in that way, Jesus was with that teenager.

Jesus helped when no-one else could.

What can we learn from this?

Jesus is with us, and Jesus can do things no-one else can.

Which I find comforting. Especially when I feel alone.



Prayer

We might want to pray this prayer ...

“Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
Help me fear no evil,
for You are with me, good shepherd,
please bring me the comfort of Your presence,
lead me beside still waters,
and restore my soul.”

(Adapted from Psalm 23)

Hymn

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

(Excerpt from Abide With Me by Henry F. Lyte)

Short Reflection

People who trust Jesus claim something amazing.



Around 1,993 years ago, probably on a Friday afternoon, a Jewish teacher, from a tiny nowhere town, was killed. Executed by soldiers of the hated super-power of the day - the Roman Empire.

Three days later, very early on Sunday morning (probably with the dawn chorus) some followers of Jesus (two women, and two men) went to His tomb to complete some funeral rituals.

But the body wasn't there. Eventually the was-dead Jesus, the now-not-dead Jesus, the standing up, walking, talking Jesus spoke to one of the women by name, "Mary". Then over a forty day period Jesus appeared to more than 500 of His followers.

But so what?

Some chap, from another culture, in another age, did something that hasn't been repeated since. So what? What does it matter to me?

One of the people who wrote about the events of Jesus' life was called Matthew. He might have been a tax collector. Matthew gives the very last words of his account to Jesus, Who says this:

Reading

"Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:20)



Last Thought

That's the "so what?" for Matthew.

Matthew wants anyone who hears about Jesus to remember this:

Jesus is God *with you now*.

Being with another person is such a powerful thing: I have been amazed at what happens when people living with the earlier stages of dementia have time to chat with other people in the same position. Just being together, sharing experiences, brings such self-confidence, comfort and joy.

That's the general principle. Humans thrive together.

But the truly incredible thing is that God wants to be with us.

Jesus is God *with you now*.

The reason to be with someone is for a *relationship*.

You may want to "actualise" that relationship now. Remember Jesus is with you. Always and now. Thank Jesus for being with you.

Begin (or continue) a conversation with Jesus.

Not to get stuff from Jesus, but just to be with Jesus.

Blessing

May goodness and mercy follow you,
all the days of your life

May you know God with you forever.

REFLECTION



When we think about Easter it has so many different facets to it.

There is **Maunder Thursday**, the day of The Last Supper with Jesus' friends and then His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, and His appearing before Pilate.



On **Good Friday**, when goaded by the Jewish priests, Pilate handed Jesus over to the riotous crowd. He was ridiculed and made to carry His own cross. The nails were hammered in and finally death came on the cross.

Saturday was probably a day of disbelief, did it all really happen? How could this Jesus have been put to death when He had healed so many?

The hours, till that **Sunday** morning arrived, were long and sad, filled with grief. Then slowly the news filtered through that He was not in the tomb where He had been laid. People saying, "He is risen!" Could this be true?



The truth is that Jesus' death and resurrection were in God's plan before the creation of the universe. God knew that humankind would not be faithful to Him, even though God had created us in love to share in His beautiful world. Because God knew it would all go wrong He formed a plan for the redemption of the world.

I wonder if you have ever thought of the cross being in place before the world began. Psalm 90 was written as a prayer of Moses, the man of God, verses 1 & 2 say

*Lord, You have been our dwelling-place throughout all generations.
Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.*

May God bless us all this Eastertide. Amen.

The Gift of Forgiveness

Taked from Colin Smith Six Hours that Changed the World. Used with permission.

When they came to the place that is called the Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:33-34



The men who nailed Jesus to the cross, didn't think they were doing anything particularly wrong. They didn't have a bad conscience. They didn't feel that they needed to ask God for forgiveness. They were committing the most terrible sin in the history of humanity and Jesus said that they did not know what they were doing.

This tells us that we cannot know what sin is from our own feelings about right and wrong. If we trust our own intuition, we will sin and won't even know it. ... We need God to tell us what sin is and He does that through the Bible.

The soldiers who nailed Jesus to the cross, would live a few more years on earth and then enter eternity. A thief crucified with Jesus seized his opportunity, reaching out in faith, "Remember me, when You come into Your kingdom!"

Sin brings sorrow in this life and judgement in the life to come. ... God always acts in perfect justice, and no one will be judged for a sin they did not commit. But God will judge each person for each sin in proportion to the weight that it has before His eyes.... Sin is more than breaking a moral code. It is an offence, an affront, an insult against God Himself.

Jesus could have prayed, "Father destroy them." But He didn't. Instead, when Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them", He was building a bridge over which the worst sinners could come in repentance to the Father. How is this possible?

Jesus knew judgement had to come, but He cried out to the Father, "Don't let it fall on them. Let it fall on Me and **on Me alone**. Let Me be the lightning rod for Your judgement. Let Me be the sacrifice for their sin."

This is the heart of the gospel. Jesus stood under judgement for sins others had committed against God. He asked the Father to divert the judgement away from His enemies and absorbed it into Himself. And in this way, forgiveness was released.

Prayer

Thank You for the gift of Your forgiveness through Jesus. Father, when I am tempted to sin, help me to see how great an offence this sin is to You. And when I do sin, help me to turn quickly to You. Amen.

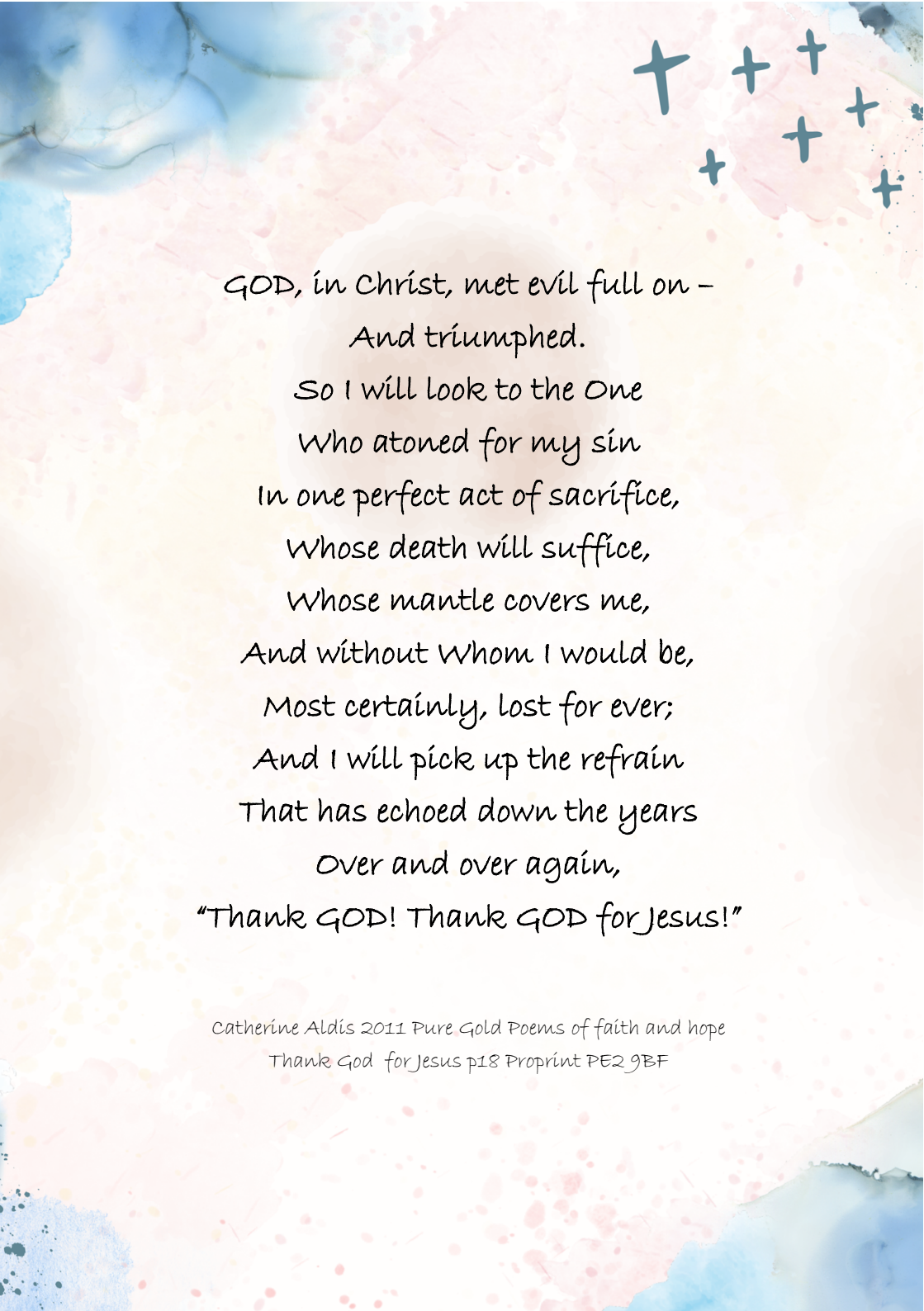




Thank GOD for Jesus

What would happen to me
If I were to come into the presence
Of the living GOD today?
And what could I say in my defence
When standing vulnerable and alone
Before the eternal throne
Of the King of kings,
The Judge of all the earth,
Who from before my birth
Has known all there is to know,
And seen all there is to see
About me?

Such an encounter with holiness
I would not survive
Were it not for another encounter,
Where, nailed to a tree,
Dying a criminal's death
In humiliation and agony,



GOD, in Christ, met evil full on -
And triumphed.

So I will look to the One
Who atoned for my sin
In one perfect act of sacrifice,
Whose death will suffice,
Whose mantle covers me,
And without Whom I would be,
Most certainly, lost for ever;
And I will pick up the refrain
That has echoed down the years
Over and over again,
"Thank GOD! Thank GOD for Jesus!"

Catherine Aldis 2011 Pure Gold Poems of faith and hope
Thank God for Jesus p18 Proprint PE2 9BF

JESUS WITH ME

Jill Heard



I became a believing Christian in my teens, when I realised that Jesus' death on the cross brought me a personal salvation and His resurrection gave me new life for this world and the next. I naively believed that He would protect me from all life's trials. I had to learn that Jesus never promised His followers an easy ride, but did promise He would be alongside us all the way. He was there to see me through the biggest nightmare of my life:

In 1991 our eldest son, Adrian, (aged 22) went missing, whilst mountaineering in the Alps. For a short while we clung to the faint hope that he would be found alive somewhere. His body has never been found, so we still don't have any answers. The shock and the not knowing what happened could have sent me insane. I resolved a) to cling to my faith (whom else could I possibly turn to?), b) never to depend on sedatives or drugs, c) never to spoil life for our other two children, by fixating on my own grief. I have been given the strength to keep to all three of these. To start with, I would take our dog out at night to a quiet wood nearby and scream out loud, "Why did You let this happen to me, Lord?!" I was so angry and felt He had let me down. Gradually I had to realise that if God had had to sacrifice His Son for our sakes; then I had to learn not to say, "Why me?", but rather "Why NOT me?"

I have found great comfort in the first three verses of Psalm 40 (I quote from the Good News Bible):

I waited patiently for the Lord's help; then He listened to me and heard my cry. He pulled me out of a dangerous pit, out of the deadly quicksand. He set me safely on a rock and made me secure. He taught me to sing a new song, a song of praise to our God.

The Lord did listen. He did help. He did pull me out of a bottomless pit of despair. He did give me a safe footing on The Rock. He has taught me to sing a new song of praise!

In 1991 we lost our son, in 1992 my 50 year old sister (my only sibling and one of my best friends) lost her fight with cancer. Two years later my beloved Mum died. The early 90s were devastating. However, I don't believe I now come across as a miserable person, but rather as someone who has had a song of joy in her heart for the past 35 years!

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when striving cease
My Comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone Who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Brought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home -
Here in the power of Christ I stand.
Stuart Townend & Keith Getty Copyright © 2001 Thankyou Music

My Favourite Hymn

Wendy Heap



Wendy has recently returned from two years at a Christian Retreat Centre on Cheung Chau, one of the larger islands of Hong Kong. Wendy says,

I have many favourite old hymns, although I think In Christ Alone has always spoken so much to me. It reminds me of Christ's free love, His sacrifice, He did it all. On the cross was an outpouring of His love for me and everyone. We can't do anything in our own strength: it is only through Christ's life, death and resurrection that we are saved.

Life is not always easy, and I have been through such difficult times recently, through family illnesses and my husband's death. However, I know that Jesus has always been there with me, seeing me through all of this and is giving me peace.

Discover more!

Here are details of three short paperback books written by Pastor Colin Smith, founder of the Christian charity Open the Bible.

This month's article 'The Gift of Forgiveness' is an extract from *Six Hours that Changed the World*.



The story of the thief on the Cross told from his perspective is recounted in *Heaven how I got here*.

If you have a grandchild (aged ten or over) or know a young adult, the graphic novel *Heaven how I got here* appeals to youth, especially boys, as well as men.

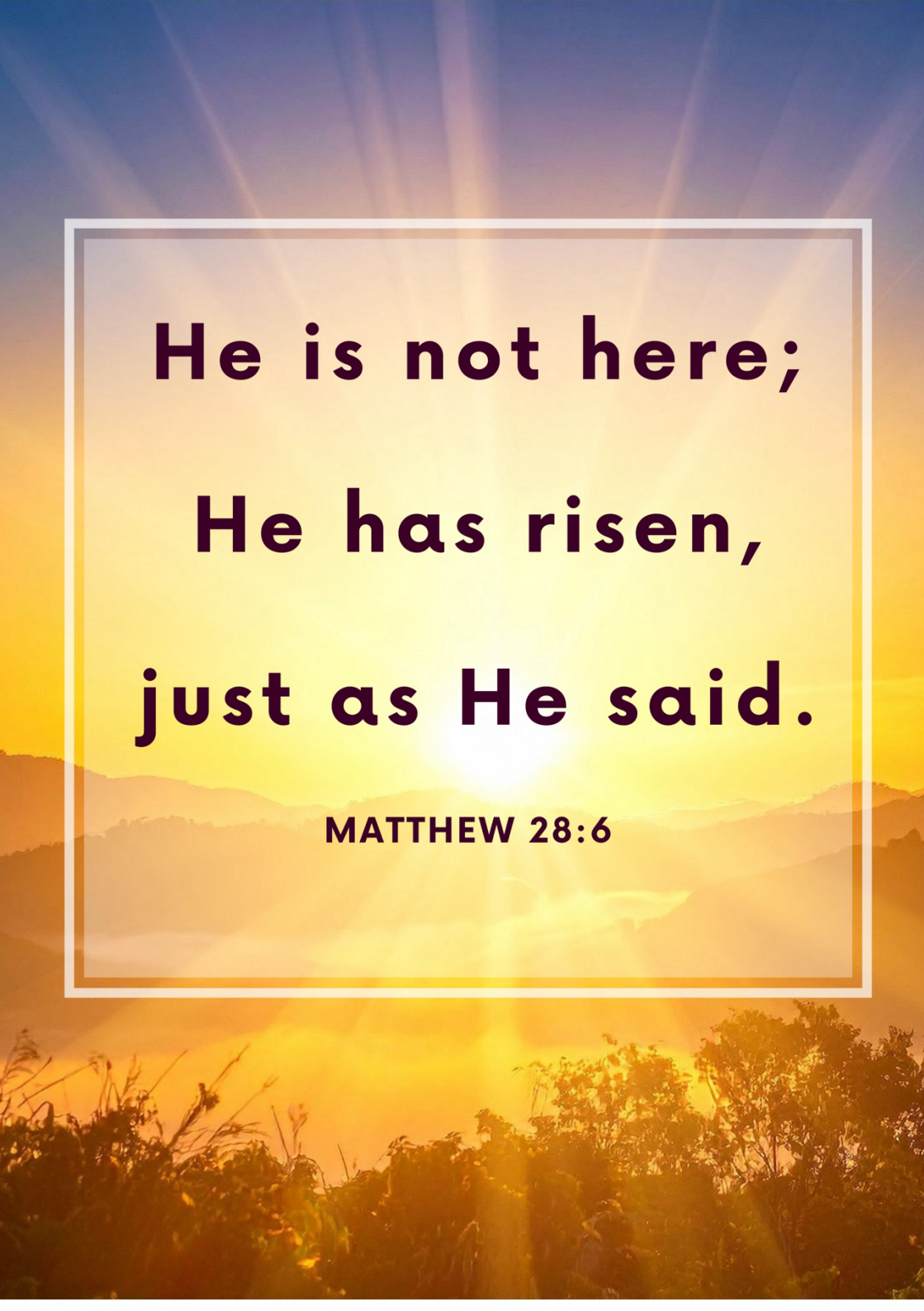


All three are published by Open the Bible UK and are available from <https://uk.10ofthose.com> Telephone: 0330 22 33 423

If you would appreciate encouragement throughout the year, why not try *Bible reflections for older people* published by the Bible Reading Fellowship three times a year.

These are short and in a larger font suitable for those of us in later life. You can buy the May-August 2026 issue from www.Eden.co.uk Telephone: 0345 222 3336





**He is not here;
He has risen,
just as He said.**

MATTHEW 28:6

Down Memory Lane



April, often the month of Easter and of course, spring flowers and warmer weather.



Do you remember any April Fools' Day tricks that made the news?

What Easter eggs do you remember receiving as a child?



Did you ever wear an Easter bonnet on Easter Sunday?

This Day in History.....



1st April 1957 The BBC broadcasts the spaghetti tree hoax showing spaghetti harvested from trees. It is regarded as one of the best April Fools' jokes ever.

6th April 1974 19th Eurovision Song Contest: ABBA for Sweden wins singing *Waterloo*.

8th April 1766 The first fire escape is patented. It was a wicker basket on a pulley and chain.

14th April 1912 RMS Titanic hits an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sinks – over 1500 people died. It is one of the worst peacetime maritime disasters.

19th April 1956 Grace Kelly marries Prince Rainier of Monaco.

21st April 1509 Henry VIII is crowned King of England. He is known mainly for his six marriages, two of which ended with his wife's execution.

23rd April 1564 William Shakespeare is born. He went on to write numerous plays and invent dozens of English words and phrases.

25th April 1953 Two Cambridge University scientists publish an article explaining the structure of DNA for the first time.

Something to make you smile



- What do you have to do to have a party in space?
You have to Planet!
- Hung a picture up on the wall the other day. Nailed it.
- Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
- Why can't you play badminton in the jungle?
Because there are too many cheetahs.
- Why don't oysters share their pearls?
Because they're shellfish.
- Isn't it scary that doctors call what they do "practice"?

Easter Quiz



1. What event does Easter celebrate in Christianity?
a. The birth of Jesus b. The Last Supper c. The resurrection of Jesus
d. The ascension of Jesus
2. What is the 40 day period before Easter called?
a. Advent b. Lent c. Passover d. Pentecost
3. Which animal is commonly associated with Easter?
a. Chicken b. Lamb c. Rabbit d. Deer
4. Which flower is considered the traditional flower of Easter?
a. Rose b. Easter Lily c. Tulip d. Sunflower
5. Which country is believed to have started the tradition of the Easter Bunny?
a. England b. Germany c. France d. Italy
6. What is the name of the meal Jesus had with His disciples before His crucifixion?
a. The First Feast b. The Lord's Dinner c. The Last Supper d. The Final Meal
7. Which country is credited with creating the first chocolate Easter Egg?
a. Switzerland b. Belgium c. France d. United Kingdom
8. What does the Easter egg symbolise?
a. Good luck b. Renewal and new life c. Prosperity d. Friendship
9. Which apostle betrayed Jesus?
a. Peter b. Judas c. John d. James
10. Which part of the Bible tells the story of Jesus' resurrection?
a. Genesis b. Psalms c. The Gospels d. Revelation
11. In which city was Jesus was crucified?
a. Rome b. Nazareth c. Jerusalem d. Bethlehem
12. What does the term 'Easter' originate from?
a. A Roman festival b. A Germanic goddess c. A Hebrew word d. A Greek myth
13. What is the name of the disciple who doubted Jesus' resurrection?
a. Thomas b. Matthew c. Simon d. Andrew
14. What is the name of the Easter candle lit during Easter services in churches?
a. Advent Candle b. Paschal Candle c. Resurrection Candle d. Eternal Light

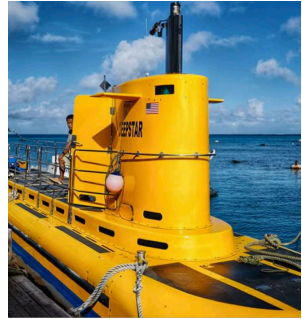
Name the boat!

For those who receive this booklet and live in Southampton, I'm sure many have seen boats of all sorts travel up The Solent. How many of these types of boats can you name?

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8





True or False Easter Traditions

1. In France, a giant omelette is cooked in the town square on Easter Monday.
2. In Poland, Easter Monday is known as Wet Monday and involves water fights.
3. Chocolate eggs were first made in Switzerland.
4. In Haiti, Easter is celebrated with colourful kite flying.
5. In Norway, people read crime novels during Easter.
6. In Spain, Easter is celebrated with giant chocolate sculptures.
7. In the United States, the White House hosts an annual Easter Egg Roll.
8. In Germany, Easter trees are decorated with hanging eggs.
9. In Greece, red eggs are used instead of chocolate ones.
10. In El Salvador, streets are decorated with colourful designs for Easter.
11. In the United Kingdom, Simnel cake is a traditional Easter dessert.
12. In Ethiopia, Easter is celebrated after a 55-day fast.
13. In Switzerland, people throw pots out of windows.
14. In the Philippines, Easter Sunday includes a joyful ritual called Salubong.
15. The word Easter comes from the Latin word for resurrection.
16. In Uganda, Easter is celebrated with picnics and dancing.
17. In Venezuela, people roller-skate to church at Easter.
18. In the Netherlands, Easter is celebrated alongside tulip season.
19. In Brazil, Easter includes parades of giant rabbits.
20. In Hungary, Easter Monday includes sprinkling water or perfume.
21. In Papua New Guinea, Easter trees are decorated with food and tobacco.
22. In Italy, Easter is more important than Christmas.
23. In Denmark, children send anonymous rhyming letters at Easter.
24. In the United Kingdom, Easter eggs were once made of wood.
25. In South Africa, Easter includes a national egg-rolling contest.
26. In Romania, Easter eggs are dyed black.
27. In Colombia, Easter includes street theatre and music.
28. In Japan, Easter is a major national holiday.

Answers to True or False Easter traditions

1. True. In Bessières, locals prepare a massive omelette using thousands of eggs.
2. True. Known as Śmigus-Dyngus, it is a playful tradition for good luck.
3. False. They first appeared in France and Germany in the 19th century.
4. True. Kite flying symbolizes joy and freedom.
5. True. This tradition is called Påskekrum.
6. False. Spain is known for solemn religious processions.
7. True. The tradition dates back to 1878.
8. True. These are known as Ostereierbäume.
9. True. Red eggs symbolize the blood of Christ.
10. True. Coloured sawdust designs honour Holy Week.
11. True. It is topped with marzipan balls representing the apostles.
12. True. This is observed by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians.
13. False. This happens in Corfu, Greece.
14. True. It celebrates the meeting of Mary and the risen Christ.
15. False. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostre.
16. True. Families gather for joyful outdoor celebrations.
17. False. This is a Christmas tradition.
18. True. Tulips bloom in spring.
19. False. Celebrations focus on church and family.
20. True. This symbolizes cleansing and renewal.
21. True. These items are offered near churches.
22. True. It marks the resurrection.
23. True. This tradition is called Gækkebrev.
24. True. Wooden or cardboard eggs were used before chocolate.
25. False. Egg rolling is more common in the United States.
26. False. They are dyed red.
27. True. Holy Week features performances and cultural events.
28. False. It is not widely celebrated.

Spot the Difference – 10 to find!



9-LETTER WORD PUZZLE

For those who like word puzzles, here's a new one. Try to make as many words as you can using the letters in the grid. Words must contain the middle letter. There is at least one 9-letter word!

G	L	N
E	T	A
M	E	N

Word Search

EASTER



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

Chocolate

Angels

Resurrection

Chick

Palm Sunday

Fertility

Tradition

Christ

Forgiveness

Eggs

Rebirth

Equinox

Bunny

Lamb

Jesus

Egg Hunt

Bonnet

Cross

Good Friday

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Cynthia Martin

Messy Vintage

from The Bible Reading Fellowship 