

NEW**S** **&** **V**IEW**S**

APRIL –MAY 2021



GREENFORD

NORTHOLT

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay
down one's life for one's friends*

MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

Dear friends,

any of you know that I've been spending part of Lent gradually reading, praying and painting my way through the Holy Week narrative in Mark's Gospel. In the last couple of weeks this has led me to wonder about resurrection: what it might be and what we'd like it to be.

Some of you will know that I often think in songs. The one that has been coming to my mind as I've thought not only about resurrection but also about what's going on in the world is "Could we start again please?" From Jesus Christ Superstar. I've heard so many people longing to turn back time, to go back to the way things were but this is impossible. We cannot be the people we were 5 minutes ago, let alone a year or more ago. Each experience changes us. Countless Sci-Fi movies and books have been written where people try to turn back time, to erase memories etc - they all come a cropper in the end!

In the resurrection of Jesus, we don't see an erasing of the crucifixion. Jesus arrives still marked by its wounds. Instead of the crucifixion being undone, we find in the Gospels a faith in life born anew because of it. The marks of crucifixion become also the foundations of resurrection.

May God bless you all as you continue to be made anew by God's love

Rachel



OUR GOD IS THE WAYMAKER

Osinachi Kalu Joseph is an international award-winning Nigerian gospel singer, song writer and worship leader born in the south-east of Nigeria and is one of seven daughters. Osinachi is an Igbo name which means 'Comes from God' but she uses the stage name Sinach.

As a child, Sinach stated she had dreams, where she saw herself singing to large crowds, but did not actively pursue anything musically as a career besides joining the choir - at Love World Church - also singing for family and friends as a hobby. She studied Physics and graduated from university and almost left Nigerian.

Sinach had written many songs before she released her first album, Chapter One in 2008. Her song 'This Is Your Season' won the Song of the Year award in 2008. She has written 200 songs but the one that put her on the world stage is the WAYMAKER which has been covered by many Christian music artists including Darlene Zschech, Passion, Christafari. Michael W. Smith said that he was inspired to do a cover of this song after his daughter Anna talked about it being her go-to song. In response to the pandemic and Italian residents singing on the balconies Smith was asked to record an Italian version of the song.

It has been translated into over 70 languages and in March 2019 it hit over 100 million view mark. A record for the first Nigerian gospel singer-songwriter. The first of many 'firsts'. Among them, Sinach is the first singer-songwriter to top the Billboard Christian Songwriter chart for 12 weeks in a row. The first Nigerian to win Song of the Year at the Dove Awards.



There are many more accolades and awards since releasing Waymaker in 2015 including topping the Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) chart for several months - from June to December 2020.

It was the most played song in churches across the United States in 2020. In the first few weeks of Coronavirus lockdown several viral videos of large numbers of people singing the song in hospitals, parks etc. Waymaker was also sung at George Floyd protests in several cities.

<p>You are here, moving in our midst I worship you I worship you You are here, working in this place I worship you I worship you</p>	<p>Way maker, Miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who you are Way maker, Miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who you are</p>
<p>You are here, moving in our midst I worship you I worship you You are here, working in this place I worship you I worship you</p>	<p>You wipe away all tears, you mend the broken heart You are the answer to it all, Jesus</p> <p>You wipe away all tears, you mend the broken heart You are the answer to it all, to it all Jesus yeah!!! Way maker, Miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness</p>
<p>Way maker, Miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who you are Way maker, Miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who you are</p>	<p>My God that is who you are Way maker, Miracle worker, promise keeper Light in the darkness, my God That is who you are</p>
<p>You are here, touching every heart I worship you I worship you You are here, healing every heart I worship you I worship you You are here, turning lives around I worship you I worship you You are here, mending every heart I worship you I worship you</p>	<p>You are here touching every life I worship you I worship you You are here meeting every need I worship you I worship you</p> <p>WRITTEN BY SINACH 2015</p>

Sinach received a Bethlehem Hall of Faith Certificate of commemoration during her visit to Israel in 2017. Two years later becoming the first gospel artist from Africa to tour India, headlining concerts with thousands in attendance. She has also performed in over 50 countries including Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Canada, USA, the United Kingdom.

Throughout all these awards and recognition people have talked about admiring her humility. She gives credit to her Pastor Chris who saw the gifting in her and gave her the platform to showcase it and to minister the Good News. She uses her concerts to showcase other gospel musicians from Nigeria and throughout Africa. In particular, she chooses her wardrobe from Nigerian designers to support them.

But what inspired this song?

In an interview Sinach spoke about how she came to write the song Waymaker. She said when God wants to shut one door and take you through another door it is not easy, she was very nervous to leave her comfort-zone, but God made a way. Sinach began to seek His face and He reminded her of the life of Abram, he was told to leave his people and the only home he knew and the Lord would show him a new place, a land for His people. He would make him and his lineage prosperous, make his name known and make him great among the nations – all promises.

Abram did not know where he was going but he believed God and by faith he left everything and started the journey. That is when the Lord gave Sinach a personal revelation that His word would bring light to every dark situation and of course - HE works miracles. HE is the Chief Miracle. HE is a Promise Keeper. And that is how the song Waymaker came into being and is being sung around the world.

As of today, the original video has had over 170 million views.

View here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4XWfwLHeLM>

By Carol



SLEEPWALKING

Those of us who are old enough can remember Saturday morning pictures and “Looney Tunes”. In the cartoons a character would occasionally go sleepwalking, wearing a night cap, nightgown, and with their arms outstretched, performing various tasks without being conscious of their surroundings or actions.

During these lockdowns, I wondered how much sleepwalking I was doing in the realms of not thinking about things and just doing them by rote.

When I attended Church, was I really concentrating on the service and prayers, or was my mind wandering thinking of Sunday lunch, the shopping or other tasks? Was, I just sleep walking through the service?

During a local arrangement service, I decided to do the Lord's Prayer in "Makaton" sign language to make us think about what it means. It is so easy to sleepwalk through the Lord's Prayer.

Similarly, with reading the Bible. Do we just read it without pausing after each verse?

It reminds me of when I was revising for exams, putting the time in reading my notes, but I was not concentrating so nothing stayed in my memory. I was just sleepwalking.

Perhaps the answer is not to fall into routine with our Faith, but to do things differently, to challenge ourselves. Sometimes controversy is a good thing, because we should ask ourselves why we do not like it.

In closing, may I ask you, next time you recite the Lord's Prayer, say it like you mean it, reflect and savour each word, and try not to sleepwalk through it.

By Richard Cotton



This year's Christian Aid Week appeal focuses on how climate change is affecting the people of Kenya. Droughts are more frequent and more intense due to climate change. Many struggle to get food and water.

Your gift this year could help a community build an earth dam, so that when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People need every last drop of water to survive. Every gift you make can change lives.

Please keep an eye open for how you can contribute this year, especially as we cannot have our envelope collections in church or social fundraisers. Carol will be selling cakes and we hope there will be a Circuit 'Just Giving' page. Other things may come on board.

Thank you!

Jane Bennett - Christian Aid Rep

HEAVENLY HAPPENINGS DURING HOLY WEEK

I read this story and thought that you would enjoy an imagined account of Holy Week as told by a frontline angel.

Michael Archangel here. Sometimes people refer to me as The Archangel Michael -- either is okay. I'm in charge of security for the Kingdom of God, commanding hundreds of battalions of warrior angels, the heavenly host. Pretty heavy responsibility, especially when critical battles rage on earth and in the spirit-world.

I've been asked to share with you about those crucial days -- Thursday through Sunday of Holy Week. Much is still classified, but here are the basics.

Upper Room

Thursday, Jesus meets with his disciples in the Upper Room. We have angels posted inside and out. He partakes of Passover with them, and then begins the practice that Christians have come to call the Lord's Supper.

During the meal, Judas leaves. We have known for some time that he has been compromised. His inherent greed has clashed with Jesus' basic generosity and grace on numerous occasions, and he sees that there is no advantage to be gained here. So Judas extracts money from Jesus' enemies in exchange for providing intelligence on the Master's whereabouts, so he can be captured at a time when there are no crowds to protect him.

After he leaves the meal, we track Judas's journey to his contact on the chief priest's staff, relaying that Jesus and his disciples will retire to the Garden of Gethsemane later that evening.



This triggers deployment of temple guards to make the long-awaited arrest. We've been watching, and have stationed thousands of troops in the Garden, unseen, but we are there in force.

To the Garden

Jesus adjourns the Passover supper with a hymn, and proceeds with his disciples to the Garden. We go on high alert as Jesus and his men enter.

He asks his disciples to pray, then takes the inner circle -- Peter, James, and John -- further into the Garden. Then he goes further still, kneels down, and prays.

I hesitate to share what happens next, but much of it has become public knowledge anyway. Jesus engages in an intense dialogue with his Father.

"Abba, Father. Anything is possible with You. Even changing our long-laid plans. So, I ask You to remove this cup, this destiny, from Me."

There is a long pause. Jesus is kneeling, sweat rolling off him like drops of blood. He listens for the Father's reply. Then we can hear him whisper, "Okay. Not My will but Yours be done. You know what You're doing!"



Arrest

In the meantime, the temple guard and some of the chief priest's functionaries are led by Judas into the Garden. They carry torches -- a dozen or two armed men at most. No problem. We're ready, awaiting orders to defend the Son, who is our charge.

Judas approaches Jesus. Nearby angels spring to intervene, but receive no order to do more, and hold back. Judas now kisses Jesus. The kiss is a predetermined signal to the temple guards to move in. We should be striking, defending right now! But our specific instructions are not to move without a direct order. So, we wait in anguish... watching events as they unfold.

Peter doesn't wait. He pulls a sword and starts slashing but is quickly disarmed by the guards. Then Jesus says something that surprises me, since he discloses classified operational details.

"Put your sword back into its place, Peter. Don't you know that I can call to my Father and He will instantly unleash 10,000 angels? But if I were to do that, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled?"

I am dumbfounded. Against my better judgment, I signal the troops to stand down. I've heard my orders, but I don't understand. Not at all!

Trial and Crucifixion

The soldiers arrest Jesus, and the next day parade him before chief priests, the Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod, and Pilate again.

You know what happens. The Son of God is brutally flogged within an inch of his life. My troops have surrounded the Roman barracks, tears flowing down our cheeks. We possess overwhelming force. Any moment we can rescue him and put down his captors, but we are forbidden to act -- still totally unaware of the reason.

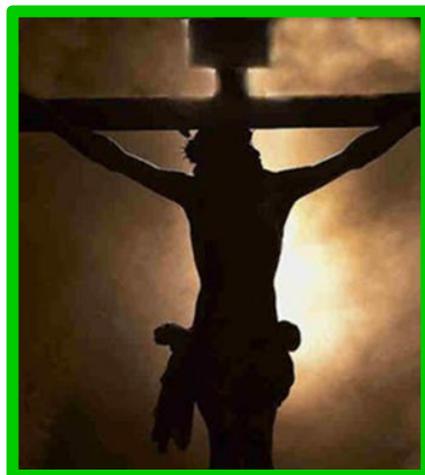
Jesus is marched up the hill outside Jerusalem, Golgotha, the "place of the skull. " Here he is crucified. I'm beside myself. Here I am, chief of security, watching them pound nails into the hands and feet of the Son of God himself. My troops are here too - - in force -- but we must just stand and watch, stunned. We have explicit orders to forbear. WHAT IS GOING ON?!

On the Cross

Jesus' cross is hoisted to a vertical position and he is left to die by slow torture. Severely beaten, he can't last long. He is fading.

We hear him speak. "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing."

Well, we don't know what the *Father* is doing either. We are shocked. Angry. Frustrated. All our training is urging us to take immediate defensive action. But we are angels under orders, and pride ourselves on our discipline. We weep, but don't move a muscle.



Hours pass. One of the others crucified that day asks to be with Jesus "When he comes into His kingdom." Jesus promises him in a weak but sure voice, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." What? The Son never lies. How can this be? What is the plan? We haven't been briefed!

It is dark now, though only midday -- a sign of the Father's sadness, I'm sure. We watch as the Son of God struggles to breathe. Finally, he whispers, "It is finished!" Then he summons all his strength and shouts out in a raspy voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

His chin drops to his chest. The Son of God is dead.

A Flurry of Commands

Suddenly, orders begin to come quickly from on high, one after another!

Tear the curtain of the temple "from top to bottom," we are commanded. We're on it. Angels rip the curtain that separates the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. Now anyone can access the very presence of God. Amazing! Who could have anticipated this?

Next, earthquake. Shake the earth, break the rocks around Jerusalem. Cracks appear in buildings, in the wall. People are crouching in fear. Awestruck, the centurion in command says, "Surely this was the Son of God!" Yeah! We could have told him that!

Next, we get orders to open the graves of devout believers, some of whom that have been dead for centuries. My angels comply, and suddenly the Almighty's resurrection power hits the bones, the decaying bodies. They rise, now whole, and begin to walk around the city, causing terror and consternation.

Earthquakes? Long-dead saints? What is happening? What is happening, indeed?



Disarmament

Humans can't see it, but our intelligence network is now alive with reports that Satan's high-ranking leaders -- principalities and powers around the world -- are suddenly disarmed, plundered of weapons they would never lay down voluntarily. Somehow, what has happened on the cross this day has shaken the spirit-world. Nothing is the same. Suddenly, Satan's forces have been stripped of their power.

Escape Plan

My intelligence analysts gradually surmise what is happening. The clues have been there, but we couldn't figure it out -- and neither could the enemies' spies. Maybe that's why it was kept so secret until now. My team reminds me of two important facts:

1. John the Baptist has pointed to Jesus and prophesied: "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
2. Jesus has declared, "The Son of Man came ... to give His life a ransom for many."

Oh! I get it! The cross serves as a kind of sacrificial altar in the cosmic scope of things. Jesus is the sacrifice for the sins of the world. He makes atonement for their sins on that very cross. The Son of God's life in exchange for that of mere men. And his death, his shed blood, is a kind of ransom paid to set free the slaves. All of them!

How could I have missed it? In one fell swoop, the Father and Son have released all the sin-prisoners Satan holds captive. Shackles are broken, bonds are cut, gross sin is wiped away as if it never happened. Now the prisoners are free to walk away. All they need is faith enough to stand up and walk towards the Son. They're all free! Suddenly! Amazing!

Secret Plans

Paul later explains: "None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." Hey, if we warrior angels had understood this, we wouldn't have second-guessed our command to stand down when Jesus is arrested and crucified!

No wonder it is a secret! Satan thinks he has won by crucifying the Son of God, but by the same act -- in a kind of spiritual jujitsu -- Satan's treachery brings about his own defeat! Incredible!

I doubt that Satan really understands this for a few days. He knows his forces have been weakened, yes. But it isn't until Sunday morning -- when Jesus rises from the dead and walks out of the Garden tomb into the Father's bright new world -- that Satan realizes he has been tricked. Too late. Much too late.

Still on High Alert

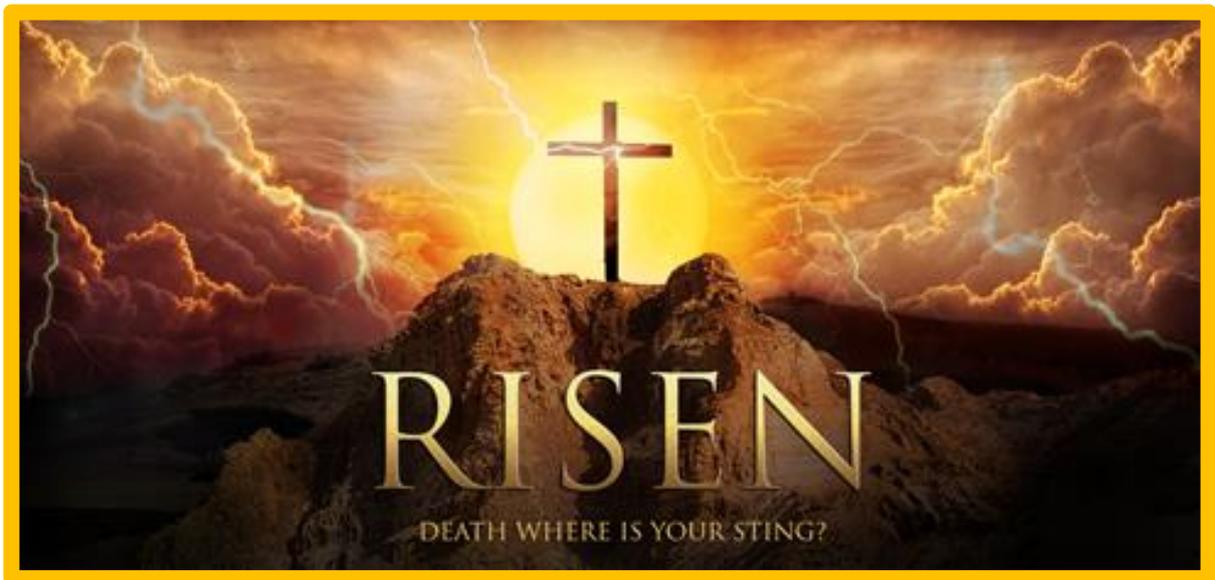
Of course, we warrior angels are active to this day. After all, their hate and envy still cause Satan and his demons to hurt and deceive and destroy. But they know it is only a matter of time. So, we're still there to fight them every day, every skirmish around the world. And we post a protection detail on every believer 24/7, ready to defend every man, woman, and child in our care.

Yes, we're here and will be until the day when the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of Our God and His Christ. On that day, Christ will return and throw Satan to his final doom. But in the meantime, we're on the job.

Michael Archangel here, at your service.

Of course, this story is a work of fiction. But it is based on the teaching of Scripture, especially the Gospel narratives, and Mark 10:45; John 1:29; 1 Cor 2:8; Col 2:15; and Rev 12:7.

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Your goodness is not what you have, but what you give.

GREENFORD NEWS

GREETINGS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT NORTHOLT **MAY THIS SEASON REMIND US OF THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH HIS SACRIFICE AND RESURRECTION**

Birthday greetings and best wishes to the following at Greenford. Please let Angela Barnes know if there are any amendments or additions to this list.

APRIL:

- 2nd Michael Obri-Darko
Jeffrey Dymond
- 3rd Michael Brown
- 6th Rose Edwards
- 10th Rosebud Forbes
- 23rd Ancia Burke

MAY:

- 2nd Margaret Barnes
- 22nd Elizabeth Burke
- 24th Lola Morgan
- 31st Lola Brown



NEW CORONAVIRUS VACCINATION CENTRE OPENS IN GREENFORD



Greenford Methodist Church has recently opened its doors.

On this occasion to deliver a new Coronavirus Vaccination Centre in conjunction with NHS England London Team and Roxannes Pharmacy.

After almost twelve months of isolation during closure of the building, it once again has a beating heart which is welcoming people as they receive their vaccine.

A warmth and spirit of the church premises is now very evident as up to 200 people visit us each day.

It was an exciting opportunity for the church to support the NHS initiative to provide the focus for a local centre for vaccination with ease of access and good transport links.

The vaccination hub opened on 25 February 2021 following extensive fitting out and installation of equipment for the infrastructure and technology to ensure the success of this venture.

From the beginning of February negotiations had been underway to provide with the NHS and Roxannes Pharmacy assistance in the local delivery of the Coronavirus vaccine.

This was to become part of a critical step forward in improving the availability of the service and the church site is ideally located to assist in this to the local community.

The centre is available seven days each week from 8.00 am – 8.00 pm.

Many people from the wider church family have given up their time to volunteer and support the day-to-day running of the venue. This has ensured a smooth and successful start to the service.

The picture shows Mr Shamir Patel and his team from Roxannes Pharmacy welcoming to the centre Mr James Murray – Member of Parliament for Ealing North.



The overall timescale is uncertain at present however the initial agreement with the NHS is for a six-month period from February 25 until the end of August 2021.

Everyone involved has responded in such a positive way to this new initiative for the church’s role in helping to serve the local community.

Thank you to all those who have provided time and support and generously given their prayers and blessings to this new arrangement.

By Michael Brown



IN MEMORIAM



Memories of Mr Scotley Stern Malcolm



Mr Scotley Malcolm was a very devoted member of Greenford Methodist Church family.

In the early days, the family, his wife Veda and daughter Valerie now both deceased, along with their other children, Judith, Peter and Beryl; devoted mother-in-law Viola Baxter; and fostered children all of whom attended Greenford Methodist Church.

Scotley, like the family of Jesus, was a carpenter and he willingly and skilfully displayed his gifts in the maintenance of our church. On some occasions in the early hours of the following morning.

He was well known for carrying his great bunch of keys and bag in his role as a church steward.

Also his other qualities were well displayed along with his little smile..!

There are some very great momento items present in our church which were donated by Scotley and his family. There are also many occasions and times of thoughtfulness shared in his presence.

His quiet nature and exemplary voice.

On behalf of all our Methodist Superintendents; Ministers; Congregations, especially Greenford, we all join in spiritual words of gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of Scotley's life and for allowing us to be part of his life story.

..' Well done thou good and faithful servant '...

Rest in Peace

Yvonne Hill and all Greenford Methodist Church family

Scotley Malcolm

I have known Scotley since first coming to Greenford Methodist Church back in 1984. I will always remember on a Sunday morning the lovely, colourful ties he would wear to accompany a brilliant white shirt!

I soon became friends with him and his wife, Veda. It was a joy to see them receive an award from Ealing Council in connection with their years as fostering parents.

Scotley was a true Christian; helping out at church, using his skills as a carpenter. When he became a Church Steward, he would attend meetings such as the Family, Mission and Service committee. I shall always remember his kindness. - **Elizabeth Burke**

Remembrance of Scotley

Scotley, thank you for all you have done within the church surrounding.
You were truly blessed and committed to the church life.

We shall miss you.

You will never be forgotten, especially your late night painting of the outside foyer.

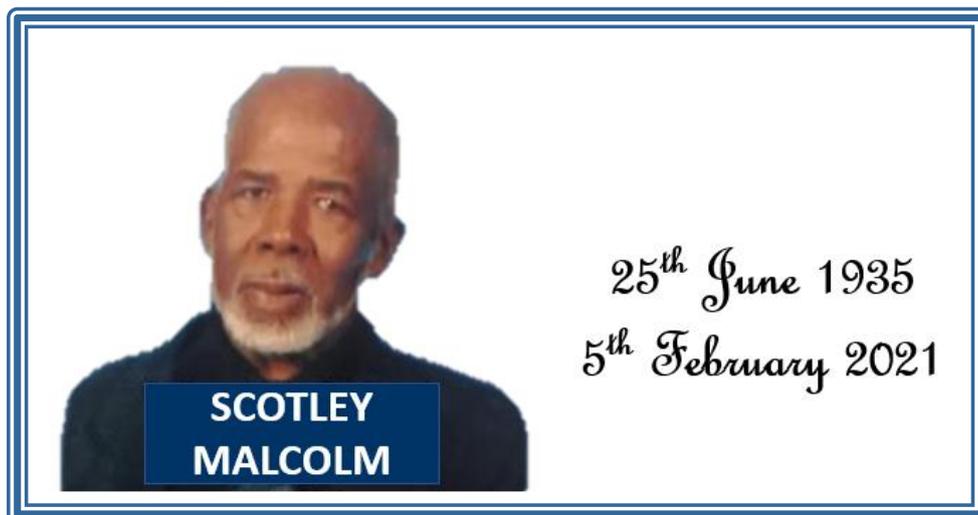
Hi..! also your favourite words:

..' Count your blessings '

May you find perfect peace ..

..' To God be the glory '..

Olive Fearon and family



Scotley Malcolm

Scotley attended Greenford Methodist Church for many years with his family.
He was such a quiet, humble man.

Scotley was a fixer...!

Whenever anything needs repairing at the church who would you call ...?

Scotley ...!

More often than not, he was already on the case before being asked.

Scotley and his late wife Veda, were generous people, opening up their home to a number of foster children, all who benefitted from being part of a loving family.

He was a traditionalist in the sense that he wanted his children to be educated and to follow Christian principles.

Scotley was a person that understood the meaning of, and lived the words from, Micah Chapter 6 verse 8

..’ the Lord has told you what is good,
and this is what he requires of you:
to do what is right,
to love with mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God ‘.. .

Scotley’s commitment to his faith never wavered
Having experienced the heartache of losing his daughter Valerie at such a young age,
he continued to give years of service to Greenford Methodist Church.

Simply, the world is a little sadder because we have lost a truly humble, decent and caring man and in today’s times that is a great loss.

Grace to you Scotley, and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. - **Joyce and Errol Scott and family**

Scotley Malcolm was a member at Greenford. He was a very practical man, a skilled joiner. At Greenford he adapted pews to make room for wheelchairs, and the computer table. He made his own furniture, including dressers and display cabinets. He was both a Church Steward and Property Steward. Professionally he was in building maintenance.

When I dismantled the Northolt pulpit to make room for the piano, I did not know that Scotley had made it, but I now know why it was such hard work to take to pieces. Scotley did things properly!

He was a kind, gentle, humble man, soft spoken with a gracious chuckle. He and Veda had 4 children, Judith, Peter, Beryl and Matthew. They were also foster parents, so looked after many other children. Scotley was deeply affected when Veda died of lupus in 2005.

Kip Bennett

*Precious in the sight of the
LORD is the death of His saints.*

DEADLINE ARTICLES:

APRIL / MAY issue – you can include inspiring stories, book reviews, any news, prayers etc. Variety of writers and articles are greatly welcomed.

All articles must be submitted by the 25 May 2021

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH – TESTIMONIES

Employ Your Whole Power Upon Me

**Probius
Roman Empire
Circa 250 A.D.**

Probius was whipped until the blood flowed, then laden with chains and thrown into prison. A few days later, he was brought out and commanded to sacrifice to the heathen gods. He knew that he would be tortured and killed if he refused. Still, he courageously said:

“I come better prepared than before, for what I have suffered has only strengthened me in my resolution. Employ your whole power upon me, and you shall find that neither you, nor the Emperor, nor the gods you serve, not even the devil – who is your father, shall compel me to worship idols.”

Probius was sent back to further tortures and eventual death by the sword.

No Longer Doubting

**Thomas
Jerusalem, Israel
34 A.D.**

Thomas knocked on the door of the upper room with the secret knock. It was immediately opened. He stepped inside and shut the door behind him. He was suddenly surrounded by his friends who were all talking at once. It was impossible to understand any of them!

“Thomas! Thomas! What Mary Magdalene said was true. He is alive!”

“Thomas, we’ve seen Him.”

Thomas waved his hands, “Shh! I can’t listen to you all at once! Peter, what has happened?”

“Thomas, we saw Jesus. He stood right here in the room with us. He talked to us.”

Thomas frowned. “Peter. We have all been under a lot of stress. We haven’t really slept since Jesus died. You must be imagining things.”

“All of us, imagining the same thing at the same time? I tell you we saw Him! He walked right through the locked door.”

“He walked through the locked door?” Thomas asked. Everybody nodded.

“That explains it. It was a ghost! You didn’t see Jesus you saw a ghost.”

“Thomas, we know we saw the Master! He showed us the wounds in His hands and His side. Our hearts could feel it was really him.”

Mary spoke up, “Oh Thomas, if you’d have been here, you’d know it was Him.”

Thomas shook his head. “Did any of you touch Him? No. Then you can’t know whether or not it was just a ghost. Believe what you want. But unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hands into His side, I will not believe it.”

A week later, Thomas was gathered with the rest of the disciples in the house with the doors locked. Suddenly Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace to you!” Jesus focused His attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine My hands. Take your hand and stick it in My side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.”

Thomas fell to his knees. He didn’t have to touch the wounds. He knew it was Jesus. He cried out, “My Master! My God!”

Jesus smiled, “So you believe because you have seen with your own eyes. Good! But better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”

Thomas never doubted Jesus again!

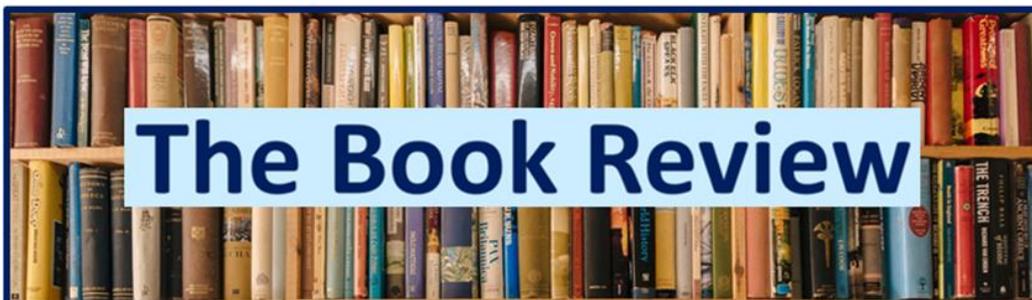
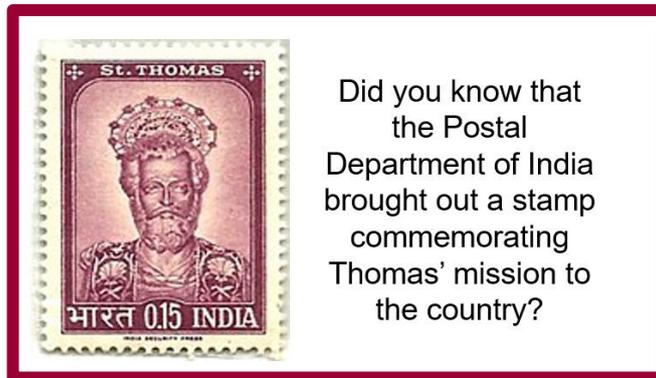
Later, when the disciples travelled throughout the known world to preach the Gospel, Thomas was chosen to go to India and North Africa. Although he dreaded living among these savage tribes, God strengthened him, and he was able to convert many in these countries.

Around 70 A.D, he went to Calamina, India, where the people worshipped an image of the sun. Through the power of God, Thomas destroyed the image and put a stop to their idolatry.

The sun god's priests were furious. They accused him before their king, who sentenced him to be tortured with red-hot metal plates and then thrown into a glowing furnace.

To the amazement of all, the fire did not hurt Thomas – he was still alive in the midst of the furnace! When the priests saw this, they were angry, they threw spears and javelins into the furnace at him. One of the spears pierced his side. He fell there, dead.

Real followers of God know Jesus. Though they may not have seen Him with their eyes, they have felt His power, His love and His joy in their lives. He is the Living Word and is so real to them that they would never deny Him, no matter the cost.



Book - Isaiah's Daughter

Author - Mesu Andrews

King Ahaz was a blasphemous tyrant of a king who sacrificed his firstborn son unto pagan god Molech leaving his son Hezekiah in anguish and daily torment from what he saw.

Ishma is ripped away from her family at a tender age and brought to the land of Judah. Hezekiah, upon succeeding to the throne, amazingly turned out to be a good king, tearing down idols from the land and reinstated worship of the One True God.

Now, you may be wondering where is Ishma in this story? She is in right in the mix. Being raised by the prophet Isaiah. She has no qualms in holding her husband to

account when he is does wrong, giving him insightful wisdom when he is perplexed. Suffering multiple miscarriages and feeling the heaviness of her barren womb she even tells her husband to take another wife. BUT she still held onto her faith. A formidable woman standing by him through thick and thin.

Isaiah would often come to the king with prophetic words from Almighty God. When asked, why is prophecy given even when you don't fully understand it – is given so that we can watch God's sovereignty and power unfold. This is still true today.

A time came that the king sinned, this after a warning from the prophet, bringing catastrophe after catastrophe on his people. In the midst of a devastating invasion by the barbaric and fearsome Assyrians God struck Hezekiah down with a putrid flesh-eating plague. Why?

The prophet came yet again to the king with a word from God that he was going to die for his disobedience.

What is their background story? What traumas did she experience as a child? How did she become Isaiah's daughter? How did their paths cross? What is life like for a queen? Does King Hezekiah cry out for mercy knowing that death is imminent?

You probably already know the ending of this story but if you want to be taken to another time in history thousands of years ago, this is the book for you. 400 pages. Let me know if you want to borrow my copy – 4/5****

	<p>Author, Mesu Andrews, spent six years researching for this novel and interweaves fiction with historical and biblical facts wonderfully. Each chapter is told from Ishma and Hezi's perspectives. Having read several of Mesu's novels, I know she is an author I can trust to write an engrossing book. There are 400 pages and wanted to get to the end of the book, I still wanted more. Signs of a good book.</p>
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By Carol

NORTHOLT NEWS

GREETINGS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT GREENFORD
MAY THIS SEASON REMIND US OF THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST
THROUGH HIS SACRIFICE AND RESURRECTION

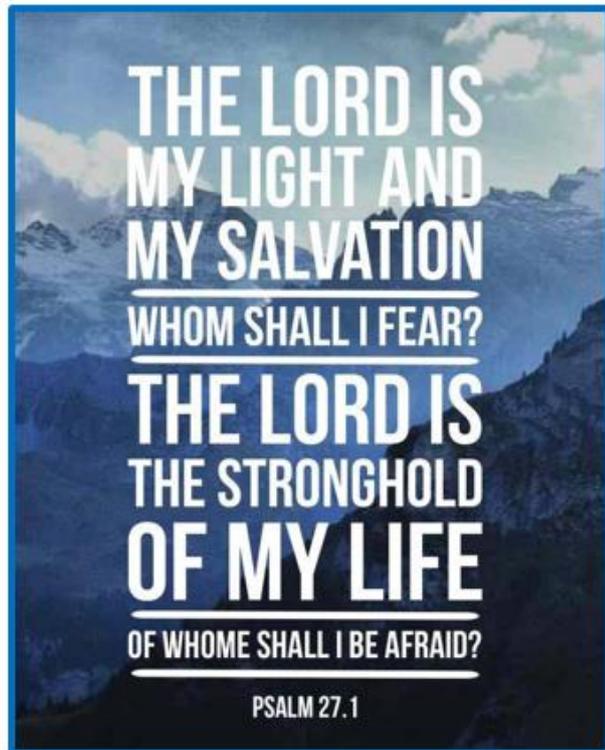
Birthday greetings and best wishes to the following at Northolt. please let Lorna Bailey know if there are any amendments or additions to this list.

APRIL:

14th Damayanthie George
17th Mitch Mitchell
18th Rainatu Habib
24th Xena Cyrus-Durrant
29th Kevin McCarthy

MAY:

3rd Kaleia Guthrie-Robinson
6th Yvonne Budu-Manuel
13th Charity-Mae Parsons
17th Basheba Prempeh
20th Anthony Doyley
23rd Marius Agbaku
28th Lyn Sallows



PROUD MUM

My daughter Catherine has now completed her Girl Guiding Leadership Qualification, which was presented to her via a virtual ceremony that was attended by members of our County and was held by our County Commissioner. It has taken her a few years to complete because of lockdown things have taken longer - she has also achieved a 5-year badge as a volunteer.

Rachel is now working on her Girl Guiding Leadership Qualification so watch this space on her progress.

Joe, in 6th form, has been coping so well with online learning. My children have been my inspiration to keep going.

Karen

The next step of my Brownie/Girl Guiding adventure!

On the 16th of February I was invited to the Girl Guiding Middlesex South West Presentation Evening where I would finally receive my adult leader qualification! I began working on this qualification once I had turned 18 after achieving my young leader qualification and set myself the goal of becoming a qualified Brownie leader at the age of 21. I managed to get signed off just in the nick of time but COVID-19 but a spanner in the works, leading to the awards and presentations being delayed significantly. So, after years of hard work I finally received my award and certificate virtually while sat on a Zoom call with countless other members of the organisation including my lovely Mum who was my Brownie leader (Brown Owl) and supported me every step of the way! I also received my 5 years of service award which I couldn't quite believe, however seeing as some of the ladies at the awards night were given their 50 years of service awards there is a long, long way still to go!

Volunteering with the Brownies over the world has been a great help to me and I find myself a much more confident person now than when I first joined as a rainbow when I was 5. It is a rewarding experience for the girls and leaders alike and I don't know where I would be if Brownies wasn't a part of my life, I have met so many wonderful people and have had so many amazing experiences. Now as a fully qualified Leader, aka Fluffy Owl, I have started volunteering at a brand new Brownie Unit in Colchester while I continue my studies and I am loving every second, especially with the prospect of resuming face to face meetings with the girls on the horizon, and I would recommend it to anyone!

If you're interested in volunteering with Girlguiding UK and the opportunities it could hold check out the link: <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-volunteer/>



By Catherine W



I wanted to say a great big Thank-you to **Carol** for providing us with an amazing cake each week which has kept all the staff going. Even our 2 nurses who are redeployed to ITU and NNU have come down to have a piece of cake.

So Thank-you from everyone on The **David Harvey Children's Unit** at Hammersmith Hospital we really appreciated it.

Karen Whitehouse
(Play Specialist)



NORTHOLT'S GARDENING DAY

**SATURDAY
15TH MAY
10AM – 2PM
BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS**

christian aid week
10-16 MAY

In aid of Christian Aid Week I will be making cakes for sale. Orange, lemon or Victoria sponge cakes. Please place your orders by 10th May. They will be ready for collection from church between 12-1.30pm (or we can make a special arrangement) This is on a first come basis as there is only so many that I can bake at any one time. 😊

IN MEMORIAM

Evelyn was a “Silver Surfer” embracing and enjoying modern technology, Facebook, internet searches, crafting, producing the Church anniversary booklet and Quizzes.

These gave her great pleasure but not as much as her Faith and church fellowship. She was an enthusiastic member of Bright Hour and would enjoy guest speakers. At Knit and Natter in between knitting Evelyn would like to discuss cricket and how England could improve.



It is Richard behind the mask

A supporter of Q.P.R to the extent her bin was painted blue and white so that when it got blown down the road, she could easily identify it.

I also remember her husband Ron, who was always immaculately dressed, and a true gentleman, they made a perfect couple.

Reunited together in Heaven.

From Richard

Evelyn took my family under her wing and became our 'third granny' and she truly loved us and treated us as though we were family. I'll miss her warm hugs and enthusiasm for life (and passion about Strictly too!) She was one of a kind and I'm blessed to have known her.

Rachel W

I first met Evelyn, in my First school, Northolt Park it was called back then. But Evelyn was Mrs Phillip's to me, and as most of the adult staff to a child, she was a teacher, regardless of her official role. There are very few teachers I remember from that time, and she was one of them, always walking about in a fast manner in her soft shoes with her skirt always blowing in her breeze.

She was a very kind teacher and I remember her in many different roles within the school, she seemed to be the teacher that could do everything. She was very kind and

gentle unless you tested her patience then you would hear her bellowing voice that would stop you in your tracks, (I'm sure she was actually the school secretary... but always stepped in to cover xx).

Fast forward, I had had my son and started attending Northolt church, I saw Evelyn and couldn't believe that she looked the same decades later, but I thought there is no way she will remember me. Then after the service, she came up to me and asked me if I remembered her!! Of course, I replied, I never thought from the thousands of children that she had known that she would remember me, we reminisced for a while and she talked about other teachers that I knew. Through church she watched my son grow and would share stories at times with him.

Evelyn was very creative, and I will always remember her with fondness.

Michelle



My Memories of Evelyn,

Evelyn is such a sweet natured person. She approached the children on our first visit to Northolt, they took to her instantly. She used to have a laugh with them, even involved Joe in one of her magic tricks at Northolt's Got Talent.

The highlight of our year was always a Strictly Final Party which would always fall on Northolt's Christmas Carol service so we would all end up at Evelyn's house with Fish & Chips which I picked up on my way. We would have a great evening all voting for our favourites.

We would also invite Evelyn over for one day over Christmas, she would come over for a meal and have a game of Monopoly which she would always say Joe or Matt was cheating - we had a good laugh.

She will be sadly missed by whole family. Sleep well Evelyn x - **Karen**

Evelyn was always very supportive of the Local Arrangement services, regularly encouraging all the participants. When we first installed the Audio Visuals at church Evelyn was our go-to person because she had been trained by RNIB. When she wasn't able to hear the service, she kept us on our toes by waving a stick, with a butterfly attached to the end of it. Sometimes the problem was solved by turning up the volume or moving the speakers' mic a little higher or reminding speakers to face forward and not to cover their mouth. So, because of Evelyn we had to improve.

Carol



Tribute to Evelyn.

I have known Evelyn for many years, a much-loved member of Northolt Methodist Church. Evelyn was much loved member of Bright Hour, she had a great sense of humour and she would do funny jokes, a lover of cricket and a very good craft person – Evelyn made beautiful cards, also she would dress up the church windows at Christmas and at Easter.

Evelyn was very much loved - she will be deeply missed by all, may her soul RIP.

By Anne

Tribute to my 'Granny Evelyn'

Summing Granny Evelyn up in a few words is such a difficult thing to do. From the day I arrived at Northolt she took me under her wing and became, as she called it, my pseudo-Granny. I have so many memories with this wonderful lady - from card marking days at her house during the holidays to watching the Strictly Come Dancing final each and every year on her MASSIVE TV with fish and chips and many, many other precious moments, far too many to name.

One particularly special one was when I was having a hard time in year 11 and she'd invite me over to her house and soothe my mind with her kind words and was

committed in helping me when it came to choosing a sixth form. Evelyn was such an important member of my family and she'd be involved with our family activities from birthdays to Christmases, even if she would always lose at Monopoly!

I loved my lovely Granny Evelyn so much and will never forget her cheeky laugh and smile, her presence will be missed and very hard to forget!

My partner and I walked 12 miles back in September to raise money for Brain Tumour Research in Evelyn's name and hope to do some more fundraising in the future to keep Evelyn's name and memory alive.

Catherine W



Evelyn Phillips

I first met Evelyn in September 2007 when I walked nervously into Northolt Methodist Church. She immediately noticed how nervous I was and came over to speak to me before the service began. We discovered that we had something in common. We both worked in a primary school office! Evelyn had retired but I had three months to go.

Evelyn was one of the kindest and most generous people I have known and took a large part in the running of the Church. Her main concern was the pastoral care of the congregation and for many years was the secretary of the pastoral committee until her loss of hearing made it difficult for her to attend meetings. She always played a major role in any fund-raising event and contributed using her crafting skills.

Crafting was a great love. What she could do with a piece of paper or two was amazing and a lot of us have treasured cards either personally from her or from the Church (by her hand). In fact, she turned a room she had made from her garage into her craft room with so many gizmos and gadgets that I would have no idea what to do with. She would laugh at my pitiful attempts to emulate her!

Evelyn had a wonderful sense of humour and used to start many Bright Hour sessions with jokes she had found from different sources.

Evelyn and I became good friends and would attend things together. We went to quizzes, the theatre, Christmas parties and always enjoyed the company of others when I sometimes had to explain things as she could not hear clearly if there was a lot of background noise.

She became part of my family and my grandchildren adopted her as another grandmother, naming her Granny Evelyn. They shared a love of Strictly Come Dancing with messages to each other during the shows and finally a Strictly party on finals night. This involved Karen, Matthew and the three children all descending on Evelyn with a fish and chip supper to watch the show.

I know that we will all miss her and the little butterfly on a stick that she used to wave in church when the microphones were not loud enough for her.

May God be with you as you leave us for a better place where there is no pain and you can be with Ron.

God Bless You my friend – **Lyn X**



Evelyn as well as I joined the church about 35 years ago.

Her husband, Ron, was such a lovely gentle and quiet man Ron and Evelyn always said that she and Ron never ever had a cross word. I was Ron's Pastoral Carer. Gwen's sister Pam used to work with Gwen in the office – she often went home with them and would play the piano, they had in their front room. Evelyn was a jolly sort of person who was always happy. She was so good at doing things with a willing heart even as a young lady she had never changed who she was.

Evelyn was a very clever woman and was so clever at many things; one time she was church treasurer; she was the card maker for all occasions making them all by scratch; she gave people lifts throughout the years up until a few years ago when she became ill; she loved knitting and joined the Knit & Natter group making many things for charities and hospitals. Evelyn was always at Bright hour and became the secretary -

we used to have a large group in Bright Hour. She would get up and speak about many different things. One time she spoke about when she had been bombed out during the war, another time she would teach us a little sign language; and many interesting topics. Oh! She could talk and she was very good at it too, kept you engaged.

If there was a special occasion, for example at Christmas. Gwen I would fill my car with food, and we would set out a large buffet in the hall and Evelyn always did the desserts. The husbands would come and there would be about 30 of us.

I remember Elizabeth would have us all around her home, Margret D (her neighbour), Leila, Linda and Evelyn and cooked halibut for the regular 'Halibut Evenings'.

Evelyn would come to my home 3 or 4 with Mitch, Margaret and Kevin, to celebrate my birthday, we had a lovely time.

Evelyn, Gwen and I did outreach work representing NMC, when we were Friends of Wimbourne Court – this used to belong to the Shaftsbury Society, a Christian organisation. There were about 10 different churches that were part of the Friends, including Deans Church and Hope Church. Doreen Lippiat and Myra Gerrett lived there.

We would put on Christmas dinners; Easter bonnet making competitions - decoration the place with daffodils and judging the winner; having regular afternoon teas in the style of the Savoy - we would dress in black and white. These were fun times until changed hands and the new owners of Wimbourne Court didn't want the 'Friends' anymore.

Evelyn was so willing to do anything for anybody and glad to do it too all so joyously. She didn't do it as a favour, she would want to do it. Evelyn was like that when she was younger just happy in herself. I will miss her very much – **Ivy**



Attributes of God

Here are some words to describe God. What words would you include on the list?

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

almighty
eternal
good
immutable
jealous
loving
omnipotent
perfect
redeemer
truth

creator
faithful
gracious
infallible
judge
merciful
omnipresent
powerful
righteous

divine
forgiving
holy
infinite
just
omnibenevolent
omniscient
provider
sovereign

SAY WHAT YOU SEE



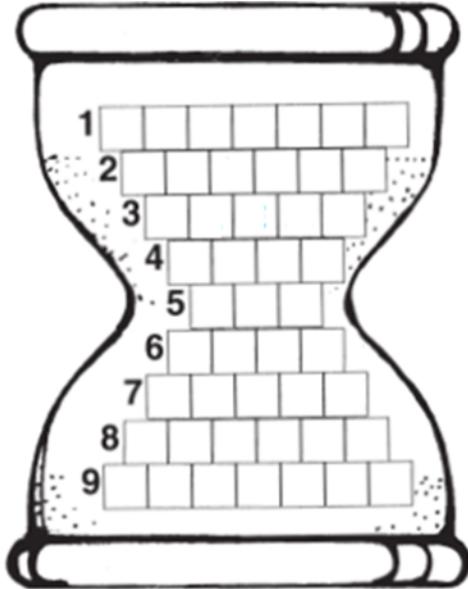
QUIZ

1. What is the capital of Azerbaijan?
2. How many Marys appear in the Bible?
3. What is the senior citizen version of Childline?
4. What is the shortest book in the Bible?
5. What is a nimbostratus?
6. What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
7. What is the biggest killer in the UK (after Covid)?
8. Who voiced the cartoon character Count Dukula?
9. Who presents Good Morning Britain for most of the week?
10. What has been crowned as the cutest breed of dog in the world?

By Lyn

Egg Timer – 8

To answer the clues, you remove a letter from the previous answer and, if necessary, rearrange the letters to get the next answer. When you get to clue 5 you just do the opposite by adding a letter each time.



1. One who uses oils or watercolours
2. Part of the eye
3. To bury
4. Religious ceremony
5. Neckwear
6. Article
7. Inflict damage upon
8. Fate, destiny
9. Error

QUIZ - ANSWERS

1. Baku
2. 6, Mary mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Mary of Bethany, Mary the wife of Clopas, Mary the mother of Mark and Mary the mother of James.
3. Silverline
4. John 3
5. A raincloud
6. Psalm 117 (This is also the middle chapter of the Bible)
7. Coronary heart disease
8. David Jason
9. Piers Morgan & Suzanna Reid
10. The Dalmation

SAY WHAT YOU SEE – ANSWERS

1. JUST IN CASE
2. A SLAP ON THE BACK
3. WET BEHIND THE EARS
4. SPOT CHECK
5. CRAWL BEFORE YOU WALK
6. CHOP SUEY
7. AN UPHILL STRUGGLE
8. A TEABAG
9. HOT UNDER THE COLLAR

Egg timer 8 - answers

1. Painter
2. Retina
3. Inter
4. Rite
5. Tie
6. Item
7. Smite
8. Kismet
9. Mistake