

Issue 1

April–May 2025



WHALEY BRIDGE UNITING CHURCH

FAITH MATTERS

Welcome



Dear friends,

What have Easter eggs got to do with Easter?

Perhaps the shape of the egg reminds us of the large stone that was rolled across the entrance of the tomb where Jesus' body was laid, only to be rolled away three days later. Just as the stone was removed, revealing an empty tomb, the hollow shell of an egg can remind us of the moment Jesus' friends arrived and discovered that He was no longer there – He had risen!

Eggs are also a symbol of new life. When we think of baby chicks emerging from their shells, we are reminded of the new life Jesus embraced when he rose from the dead, offering us the hope of new life.

An egg can hold different meanings, but if it were to truly reflect the message of Easter, then they would be free! After all, the love of God is freely offered to everyone, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are invited to experience new life -not just for a season, but every single day.

As we celebrate Easter, may we remember that this gift of life and love is one that we can cherish and share throughout the year.

Every blessing to you through Lent and Easter. *Andrew*

EASTER EGG HUNT

EASTER SUNDAY

2PM

Memorial Park

**Near the Wheatsheaf Road
entrance**

**Sponsored by the Uniting
Church**



All welcome

Inside this issue

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Guest recipe

This month our guest is Charlie Winterbottom, Luncheon Club Michelin star cook. Charlie is known for his stupendous meat and potato pie. But today especially for us, he has baked this Easter Ginger Log. You will need:

1 pack of ginger biscuits

600 ml double cream

Cream sherry

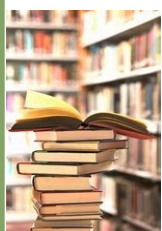
Recipe

Put the sherry in a bowl, and dip the biscuits, whip the cream and coat one side of the biscuits. Build a log on a suitable plate, cover with cream and decorate with Easter decorations.



In the 1500's most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and they still smelled pretty good by June. However as they were beginning to smell again, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour.

Who was the most successful obstetrician in the Bible? Moses because he delivered all the children of Israel!



This month's book reviewer is

Pat Mirams

Hi, I have just finished reading

Erica James -The Song of the Skylark

I have enjoyed it very much, it was a story of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. She introduces characters in the past and how it affected people in the present and future. This was my third to read of hers and I got them from Whaley Bridge Library.

Big changes to our millennium garden

Way back in 2000 Graham, Chris, Derek and Mr Chris set about transforming 5 tons of rubble into a garden, with dedicated benches for relaxation. Sadly with the passage of time everything became overgrown, despite employing a gardener to blitz it for 2 days. Then Robert and his trusty team of Graham and Rick put on their gardening gloves and returned it to a lovely place to sit once again. They have worked so hard to cut back the overgrown banking at the rear of the church and it looks splendid. Please do go outside for Sunday or Tuesday coffee when the weather gets warmer. It is a lovely peaceful place where birds sing and your soul can feel at peace. The photos are of the original 2000 garden.



A day in the life of a Country Doctor.

Dr. Robert Matthewson was born into a medical family. His Father and 5 of his Great Uncles being GPs and his Mother a District Nurse. His parents ran a practice in County Tyrone where Bob says he looked up and down the street and realized that if he wanted a decent job the only choice there was as a vicar, a banker or a Doctor— so he stuck to medicine as did his sister. When it came to choose where to study, Bob opted for Manchester as the course was shorter and he says, it was the furthest away from home!

After 4 years at Manchester he moved to Chester as a houseman. It was while he was at Chester that he met Sue and they were married before taking a job at Manchester Infirmary and doing his GP training at Handforth and then starting at a practice with an elderly lady, Doctor Barber, in High Lane. A good match as she hated computers and Bob loved them and he had finally completed his 9 years of training.

Six months later Bob found himself running the practice alone and this continued for a number of years. As the number of patients grew he took on part time staff to help. At the same time he had his eye on a piece of land that he thought would make an ideal surgery. And so began a long fight with the council for permission, until finally 14 years later building began ,and in 1999 his dream surgery was completed.

Dr. Bob or just Bob, as he is known to his patients (although he laughs that he will answer to anything) is clearly well loved and respected—and it is this mutual respect that makes him one of the most popular doctors for many miles around (although Bob wouldn't say this). He has grown older with his patients, has known many of them, and their families, for over 40 years. Bob says that the worst thing about the job is the sheer amount of paperwork which is constantly changing, but the best thing is the rapport he has with his patients, that they are grateful and listen, take notes and more importantly take their medication and can pay for it— which is a bonus. (Personally I think it is also his Irish sense of humour and friendliness that endears people to him).

Bob says he has seen many changes in medical care in his years as a doctor, for example years ago there were only 3 or 4 drugs for heart-related illnesses - now there are 20, and of course stents and by-pass surgery are now quite common. Sadly, he says, it is a constant battle to get people through the system.

I asked Bob how he distanced himself from peoples' problems and he admits he couldn't have been a psychiatrist but the variety of work makes it easy to find a balance. One minute he can have someone trying for a baby, and then the joy of becoming pregnant, the next an incurable cancer patient or someone suicidal. He says it is important to stand back and be objective, which he finds difficult when he has known people for so long. In particular he finds it very hard with patients on end of life care as they have become friends over the years.

Nowadays Bob enjoys tinkering with his tractor to relax. As we speak he is sitting on it in the field with lambs around him which is just as he likes it. He loves their home in Kettleshume and as he drives over to High Lane as the sun come up he is so thankful to be living in such a lovely, peaceful place. He says he can't see himself retiring if he and Sue remain well, and that they will continue to go on their 'special' and completely different holidays - but he is mindful that many of his colleagues are not here any more. He feels he is at the top of his game and that his patients are fearful of him retiring. However he assured me that he would never leave until he could be absolutely sure that his successor would maintain the same standard of care.

You wouldn't find many doctors with such a dedication. Bob's day starts at 5am and he is at the surgery around 6am to do a couple of hours computer work, reading test results until his surgery starts and then home by 3pm. He then allows himself an hour to relax before working on the computer until bedtime. Now I call that true dedication to a lifetime's work—and the more important caring— of Doctor Bob.

The tale of the little old church

In the USA there was a small white painted wooden church with a high steeple in a small village in the countryside. One Sunday the pastor realised that the church was badly in need of a paint. So the next day he went into town and bought a gallon of white paint. Later in the day he started to paint the first wall

but he soon used up half a gallon of paint. Reluctant to buy any more he decided to be creative and let down the last half gallon with some .thinner that he found in his shed. It worked great. He finished the other three sides and then went home to bed.

That night it rained very hard and the next morning he got up to admire his work. The first side looked good but the paint had washed off the other three sides.

He looked up at the sky and cried "What shall I do?" and a voice came from heaven "Re-paint and thin no more!"



The Shepherd

***How sweet is the Shepherd's sweet lot!
From the morn to the evening he strays;
He shall follow his sheep all the day,
And his tongue shall be filled with praise.
For he hears the lamb's innocent call,
And he hears the ewe's tender reply;
He is watchful, while they are in peace,
For they know that their shepherd is nigh.***

William Blake

John 10 v 11-18

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Lambing time on the farm.

Yes it's that time of year, spring is in the air and you can hear the bleating of new lambs and the yawning of tired farmers, as they struggle to stay awake after a night of lambing.

Every year we had several cade lambs on the farm- these were bottle fed, perhaps because the ewe had died or because she had more lambs than she could feed.

Nearly every night Dad would bring a poorly lamb into the house. We had what they called a bungalow range with an oven in the top and the lambs would be put in there overnight, after a tot of brandy and a good rub down! (We didn't use the oven of course - nor did we have lamb for dinner!)

Sure enough we were woken by loud bleating and then the joy of hourly feeding would begin! But it was worth every minute of it to see a poorly lamb well and jumping for joy, full of life in the field, blessed to be alive in the spring sunshine. Absolute joy!

Happy birthday, have a lovely day

April

6th Carol Peasland
7th Eunice Baldwin
13th Karen Cridland
15th Robert Williams
21st Liz Tonge
28th Enid Winterbottom
28th Chris Mellor

May

3rd Sue Callister
3rd Hazel Thompson
9th Sam Vesey
23rd Jennifer Mulholland

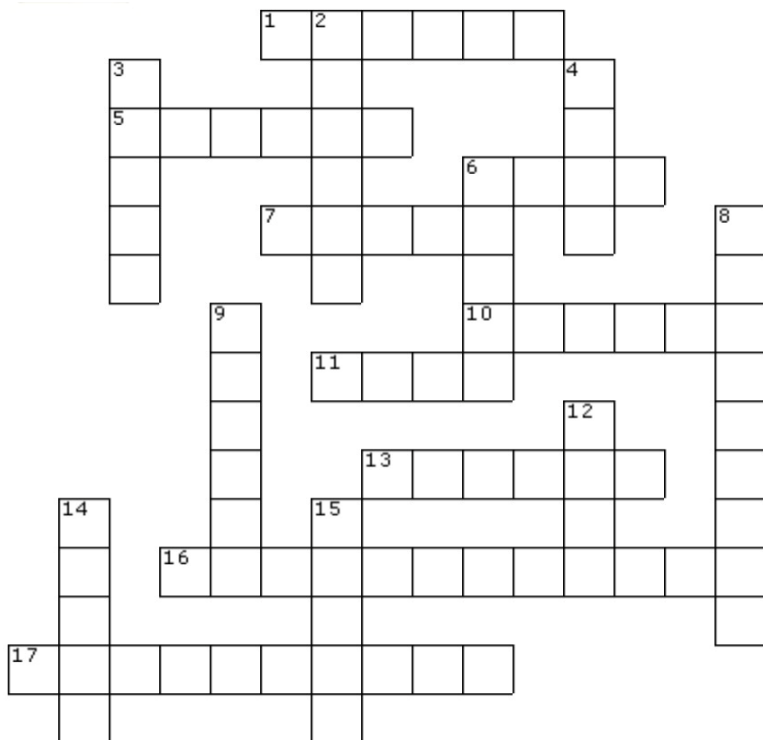


Community news—keeping you informed

Another charity shop is coming to Whaley, it will occupy Finders Keepers old shop.

The Coop will be closing for 6 weeks for refurbishment. At this moment they are unsure if it will be June or September.

Over the Road is planning a pop up shop on the day of Whaley Carnival.



EASTER CROSSWORD

Answers next issue

Across

- 1 Jesus
- 5 Doubting
- 6 Jesus rode on a ...into Jerusalem
- 7 Disciple who denied knowing Jesus
- 10 Easter season
- 11 Made from chocolate
- 13 ... of Gethsemane
- 16 Easter celebrates the of Jesus
- 17 Sunday before Easter

Down

- 2 Jesus ascended to
- 3 An angel rolled this away from the tomb
- 4 People waved these branches
- 6 Where Jesus died
- 8 Mary..... Discovered Jesus had risen
- 9 ... sentenced Jesus to die
- 12 Season before Easter
- 14 ... betrayed Jesus

Always in our prayers

Joyce Clayton
Dorothy Hulme
Bill Jackson
Jean Mellor
Anne Reeves
and get well wishes to all our friends



Good luck in
your new
home Lynn T

Where are they now?

Barbara and Graham Jukes retired in 2001, moving from Whaley to Blidworth near Nottingham, to be nearer their family. Many of you will remember them from Church. Graham was a keen member of the singing group, took part in many of our shows and made scenery and props for them all. On March 23rd they celebrated their Diamond wedding and Chris and I attended a lovely service at their Methodist church. Graham and their singing group had been given permission by Raymond Smith to sing one of his songs we sang in a musical at WBUC. They send their love to old friends.

May the road rise up to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.



God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing -
And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power-
And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
lying dormant in our hearts,
And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words
Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair-
'Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in His care'.