

St Thomas', Trowbridge and St John's, West Ashton Monthly News April 2026



God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung and bled and died, it was God saying to the world 'I love you.'

Billy Graham

St Thomas' Church – April Newsletter

Christ Focussed, Community Facing, Church Family

Dear church family,




As we step into April, we continue to live in the light of the resurrection. Easter reminds us that God is always bringing new life out of places that feel weary or uncertain. Our prayer this month is that each of us would experience something of that renewal — in our homes, our relationships, and our walk with Jesus.

Thank you for all the ways you serve, pray, give, and encourage. St Thomas' is a community shaped by grace, and it's a joy to journey together.

March was full of meaningful moments as we travelled through Lent together. Our small groups, midweek meetings, and Sunday gatherings were rich with conversation and prayer. A huge thank you to everyone who helped prepare for all our events — from musicians and readers to those who quietly set up, baked, cleaned, or welcomed. Not just across our 5 schools and 3 churches, the Easter account was proclaimed from Morning Break to Toddlers, across the whole town, no matter age or stage. Thank you all for enabling that to happen.

We've heard several encouraging stories of people finding fresh hope, reconnecting with church, or taking steps of faith. God is at work among us, and we're grateful.

Join us as we look back with gratitude and forward with faith as our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place on:

 28th April -  7:30 pm -  St Thomas' Church

This is an important moment in our church year. We'll celebrate what God has been doing, elect our churchwardens and PCC members, and look ahead to the coming year with hope and prayer. Whether you've been here for decades or have only recently joined us, your presence really matters.

The annual report will be available in advance — please take time to read and pray through it.

We'd love to see you there.

If you're new to church life, the APCM might sound a bit mysterious. Here's a simple guide:

What is it?

The APCM is the church's annual meeting where we review the past year, share updates, and elect key leaders.

Who can come?

Everyone is warmly invited. If you're on the Electoral Roll, you can also vote.

Why does it matter?

It's a chance to celebrate God's faithfulness, hear the vision for the year ahead, and play a part in shaping the life of St Thomas'.

Do I need to know anything beforehand?

Not at all. Just come along, listen, and feel free to ask questions.

It's a great way to understand how the church works and to feel more connected to our community.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who quietly supports others pastorally through visits, lifts, and prayer. These small acts of kindness are the heartbeat of our church family. I know many of you have been grateful recipients too. We reflected with many school children (who reenacted Christ washing their friends' feet) upon how good it is to serve and be served. Thank you, and may God bless you.

As we look forward, April is also a month of new beginnings — blossom on the trees, lighter evenings, and the lingering joy of Easter (do keep focussing on that joy!).

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" — Isaiah 43:19

God is always at work bringing renewal, even when we can't yet see the full picture. Sometimes His newness arrives quietly, like dawn breaking; sometimes it comes through unexpected people or surprising opportunities.

Wherever you find yourself this month, may you have eyes to notice the signs of God's grace growing around you. He is good, and with us *always*.

Amen.

Simon

**Deadline for May's magazine:
Tuesday 28th April.**

St John's Update

Here we are again - the Spring Equinox has gone and the clocks spring forward an hour - longer days prevail. St John's churchyard still has colour from daffodils and primroses and the churchyard has been mowed twice - first time was hard going!! Mothering Sunday on the 15th March saw 26 in attendance and the posies handed out to all ladies were beautiful. Thanks go to Jean Covington for providing such beautiful sprays. Some good news regarding the damp walls has been received from the DAC, Church Architect and Archdeacon - a site inspection and quotation will be scheduled in early April and hopefully the green light will be given to commence work. The school held their end of term service on 27th March and the Palm Sunday Service will be on the 29th. We head into Holy Week, please see service schedule for St John's. (Please note that St John's Easter Day Holy Communion starts at 10.00am. (The day the clocks go forward an hour).

After the Easter period, St John's next service (a Holy Communion service) would be on Sunday, 19th April. You would be very welcome.

St John's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Thursday, 30 April at 2.00 in the Church.

Easter is a time of faith, a reminder of God's unending love. It's a feeling of hope and renewal as we watch the world around us coming to life again.

Renew us in Your love - Refresh us with the sense of Your loving presence - Inspire us to appreciate anew the wonder of Your love. Bless us with a fresh start, a new beginning this Easter. Amen.

Wishing you all a Peaceful and Joyous Easter. (With hopefully some chocolate!).

Jean R



Colourful Mothering Sunday posies at St John's



Primroses in St John's churchyard looking towards the village school.

ST JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH, WEST ASHTON



Warmly invite you to worship and witness the following Easter Services

PALM SUNDAY, 29th March, 2026

Join us in our Palm Sunday Service - 10.30am

GOOD FRIDAY, 3th April, 2026

An Hour by The Cross - 2.00pm

The reading of the Passion of our Lord's Death on the Cross.

There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.
We may not know, we cannot tell, what pain he had to bear.
But we believe it was for us, he hung and suffered there.

EASTER SUNDAY, 5th April, 2026

Communion Service

Please Note New Time 10.00am.

The Day of the Resurrection
Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed – Alleluia
We remember the first Easter Day
Bringing a New Beginning and Hope to God's People



Good Friday is a time of sadness, Easter is a time of gladness. On Good Friday Jesus died, but rose again at Eastertide

All Thanks and Praise to God.

The Island

The Island team are looking for one or two more volunteers to help after Gwen and Fiona move. Harriet & Geoff Heard and Mandi Archer help every week, Paul Edwards and John Chettleburgh take turns once a fortnight and Martyn Whittock and Ivor Saxby help once a month. We are looking for someone to help serve hot chocolate, donuts and Val's homemade goodies and wash up mugs afterwards. If you enjoy playing boardgames, table tennis, badminton or snooker that would be beneficial but not essential. A heart for young people and the ability to listen with interest is essential however.

We meet every Tuesday in term time at Holy Trinity to set up at 14.30 and pray before the children arrive from 1500. They leave at 16.45 and we are normally all packed up and had a final time of prayer by 17.00. If you're not physically fit enough to move chairs and tables that is fine -we have enough helpers to do that. There is always a very happy relaxed atmosphere and it doesn't feel like a burden. Please speak to one of our existing helpers if you are interested and you are welcome to come and visit us before offering to help. Anyone volunteering on a regular basis would need to have a DBS check completed.

We are so grateful to Gwen and Fiona who have only had a couple of weeks off since we set up the Island 3 years ago with them. They will be hugely missed by the young people for their warmth and kindness and by the rest of the team for being such faithful servants and a joy to work and play with.

From the Finance Team

Well, where have the last two months gone? Last time we wrote an article we set you the challenge to name the new card reader that is now available in St Thomas'. David Bowater won the bar of chocolate – Fairtrade of course – with the name 'Card"N"all Virtue'. It made Lyndsey smile. The card reader is being used every Sunday which is great to see.

We are also pleased to announce that Andy B has agreed to join our Finance Team to carry out the day-to-day church business when Lyndsey is away. So, if you normally hand receipts to Lyndsey and she is away, please give them to Andy and he will deal with them in the usual way.

This week Lyndsey was asked "What is the preferred way to give regularly to the work at St Thomas'?" So, after careful thought, this is it. It is preferable to make a bank transfer into the St Thomas' bank account monthly (rather than weekly) using the reference TITHE or GIVING. If you are a taxpayer, then please fill out a Gift Aid declaration form and return it to either Esther or Lyndsey. Gift Aid is a UK government scheme allowing charities to reclaim basic rate tax (25p for every £1) on donations made by taxpayers, increasing the gift's value by 25% at no extra cost to the donor. For example, a £10 donation becomes £12.50.

If you do not currently give this way, we are kindly asking if you could change to our preferred way, as this makes processing the payments easier for both Lyndsey and Esther. However, if that's not possible, then feel free to leave it as it is.

Our bank details are:

Account Name: The Parochial Church Council of the
Parish of St. Thomas the Apostle
Trowbridge

Sort Code: 40 44 33

Account Number: 00649120

At the APCM on 28th April, we will be sharing details of our Church finances in 2025 and looking at what is planned for 2026. We look forward to seeing you then.

If you have any questions, please email us at treasurer@stthomastrowbridge.com

The Finance Team,
Lyndsey and Esther



ChurchSuite – an Update

I wrote in the February Monthly News about ChurchSuite, the church management software that we are introducing at St Thomas'. I thought it would be helpful to update you on what has happened since then, and what will be happening next.

ChurchSuite contains a lot of functions, some of which we want to use at St Thomas' and some of which may be less interesting, at least in the short term. Quite a lot has been going on in the background to understand the main functions we want to use straight away, and also to prepare our church membership data for import into ChurchSuite. There are four areas we want to give highest priority to: the membership database – importing and managing it all in ChurchSuite; our group e-mails (weekly mailings etc) – sending them through ChurchSuite; our calendar – providing clear information on our calendar of church events; and our room bookings (both internal and external). Some of these functions are linked.

In terms of managing membership data, we have successfully imported a test set of people, and they have been able to start using the My ChurchSuite app to access an online address book and to see the calendar. We are close to being able to import all of the remaining membership data, but just have a few queries to sort out before we do.

In terms of our bulk e-mails, this will be the first thing we focus on once the membership data has been imported. We will manage this transition from the current system carefully, to try to ensure that the same people receive communications after the change as do currently.

For the calendar, we have now got information on all of our services to the end of June loaded into ChurchSuite, and we've set up a dynamic link on our website so that the 'services' page now shows an up-to-date list of all of the upcoming services at our two churches. If you click on a service you can get more information. Do

have a look at this if you haven't already, and do keep using it now that it is live. Once we've got other church events also loaded into ChurchSuite we will be able to replace the current content of our website's 'calendar' page with a simpler calendar showing all of our church events, without the clutter of external room bookings.

Finally, for the room bookings (which are linked to the calendar), Frankie has been learning how to set this up and to use the ChurchSuite tools to help with this aspect of the office's work. She expects to use ChurchSuite as the main tool for room bookings from soon after Easter.

These are the four main goals to achieve as soon as we can now, and hopefully by the end of April. In parallel we're starting to explore and experiment with some of the other tools, like the management of rotas. We'll provide information on new features or ways of accessing information as they become available.

Paul E

Answers to last month's posers

1. One way would be that son bought 18 cows, 5 horses and 100 sheep.
2. There were 14 horses in the stable and 8 stable lads
3. Odd one out—Exeter. All the others begin with a letter that represents a Roman numeral.

The Big Story of the Bible

- What are the names / titles of all the books in the Bible?
- Can you recite them?
- How many different books make up the Bible?
- What types of literature are in the Bible?

If you can answer all those questions, well done!

Some of you will know that the Bible is really a library of 66 different books. There are 39 in the first part of the Bible, the Old Testament, and 27 in the second part of the Bible, the New Testament. Amongst those books, you find books on history, 'wisdom', prophecy, some letters and the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

I certainly can't recite all 66 book titles in order, neither can I necessarily remember them all. I even struggle to pronounce some of them! But there are some folks in St Thomas's who can recite them all in order, certainly quite a few of the young people can! Now, there's a challenge to some of us older folks!

Whilst all that may be interesting, what is much more important is understanding how all the different parts of the Bible fit together, and what is God's Big Story that is told through the whole of the Bible.

How many of us could easily and quickly tell a friend about God's Big Story in the Bible, from the beginning to the end? That's not just 'the WHAT' but also 'the WHY'.

To help us get on top of that, starting on Sunday 19th April, through to Sunday 21 June, everyone, young and old, in St Thomas's will be learning about God's Big Story, the WHAT and the WHY! Seekers are ahead of the rest of us as they have already started.



Our Sunday sermons and Small Groups will be following *The Bible Course* published by The Bible Society. The younger children will be following related themes each week, so there should be plenty to talk about in families at Sunday lunchtime!

The Bible Course
NEW EDITION

From Sunday 19th April – 21st June

We are running *The Bible Course* New Edition, and you are invited to join.

biblesociety.org.uk/thebiblecourse

St Thomas' Church
Knowledge

If you want to follow *The Bible Course* digitally, some of the material can be accessed free at the Bible Society's Bible Course digital hub. There is also a plan of daily Bible readings accompanying the study material. You can explore it here: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course>

However, we think that *The Bible Course* **book** is a really useful companion and guide to all that we will be learning. It contains lots of useful diagrams, articles to read, Bible passages to study etc with space to make notes. Some folks have already said they plan to bring their copy to church each Sunday to make notes in the sermon.

If you are in a Small Group, you will already have been asked if you want to buy a copy of *The Bible Course* book. Maybe, couples or families could share a copy.

Most people will find the book useful to keep to refer to, its certainly got some interesting things in it! So if you are not in a Small Group and would like a copy, please email alisonfarnell30@gmail.com as soon as possible, but by Easter at the latest, so that we can order your copy.

The Bible Course
NEW EDITION

From **Sunday 19th April – 21st June**

We are running *The Bible Course* New Edition, and *you are invited to join.*

➤ **8-week course**

➤ **Order the guidebook £10 ... £5 ... or free**

 biblesociety.org.uk/thebiblecourse 

The books cost £9.99. Some of us can definitely afford that, after all, that's about the same as the price of 3 cups of good coffee! But, we appreciate that some of us might struggle to pay that much.

We don't want anyone who will use a book to go without because they can't afford it.

So, we suggest that:

- Those who can afford the full price, please pay £10.00.
- If that is too much for you, can you manage £5.00?
- If even that is unaffordable, we want you to have a copy free.

However much you are paying, you must order a book, even if you'd like a free one.

If you are in a Small Group, your group leader will have placed your order before Easter. If you are not in a Small Group, by 8th April to place your order.

Once you have ordered your copy, if you are in a Small Group, please pay your leader with cash. Otherwise, pay Alison F with cash on Sunday 12th April in church. No cheques, please. If you prefer to do a bank transfer into the church account, please reference it 'BIBLE BOOK'.

If you'd like to join a Small Group for the 8 sessions of the course, either speak to a Small Group leader to see if they can accommodate you temporarily, or email Alison Farnell, the Small Group Coordinator and I'll see where there might be space.

Get your order in now and we'll all be ready to start the journey together on Sunday 19th April!

Alison F, Small Group Coordinator

My Trip to Uganda

As you know I had the privilege of returning to Uganda this February with the charity Ugandaid who support the work of Nile Vocational Institute (NVI) and sponsor students to take part in courses there. I've visited 4 times before with my joint Ugandaid representative Pauline B but not since 2018 so there was much that was different but much that was the same. The same has got to be the wonderful Ugandan people, their love, generosity and hospitality has not changed at all.

The differences would be the change of leadership at NVI. The previous Director Eddison who became a friend of Ugandaid has moved on and at the moment has been replaced by Acting Director Isaac Opolot also other members of the NVI leadership team are new. We thought there would be even more changes as Joseph Kaninga who is the Student Representative and effectively looks after the Ugandaid students and acts as link to the Ugandaid team was due to leave in May. Fortunately after much prayer and a change in circumstances Joseph has been able to stay on. Everyone was delighted. We received the most amazing welcome at NVI. Our formal meeting in the Board Room from the Institute leadership team which began with singing To God be the Glory all together unaccompanied will be a lasting memory and you could tell we all meant every word.

Each year a practical project is taken on and over the years the Ugandaid team have taken on the renovation of various departments and this year we moved on to one of the girl's dormitories, the one occupied by between 25 and 35 Diploma students.



Girl's dormitory empty and ready to paint



The dormitory looked much better, painted and complete with curtains which were paid for by fundraising by St Thomas' Seekers' Group and made by NVI Textile Department.

Ugandaid was able to take on 25 young people to take courses this year including Mary who is the 1000th young person to be given this opportunity.

Picture on the left:



Mary is the student with the orange balloon, notice the scarf, it was only about 26 degrees that day and Joseph Kaninga on the far left.



Your kind generosity was also used to provide each new student with a Gift bag containing essentials like soap, toothpaste and brush, underwear, notebook, pen etc. We also bought all students who didn't have one a metal trunk complete with a pad lock to keep their possessions safe. They also had a flask for hot drinks, a

cup and some tea bags We had a fun afternoon giving out all the gifts and providing craft materials for the students to decorate their trunks and flasks.



Funds raised at the Games Evening and Cake Sale were also used to buy each girl in the dormitory a pillow and pillowcase, unheard of luxuries.

As most of you know St Thomas' has sponsored three young

people to attend and take courses in practical subjects at NVI. I was able to meet up with Mary Faith who was our first student and who still lives locally and to meet our present student Pius for the first time. It was so lovely to meet Mary Faith again and to hear how her life is going. She is married to Paul and they have a lively nearly 2 year old called Elijah. Although Paul is not working at the moment Mary Faith is doing Admin work in a local charity and Paul takes on much of the child care, not typically Ugandan. Mary Faith also has some Hairdressing clients. She has grown into an amazingly strong woman of God and she and Paul minister to other young couples in their Church. I was delighted to also meet



Pius, he is a lovely young man studying for a Motor Mechanics Qualification and working very hard. He proudly showed me his exam results and hopes to be taken on to do the Diploma course to gain a higher qualification. He is desperate to do well to support his Grandmother who has brought him up since his parents died and his sister who is younger than he is. I had the huge privilege of introducing Pius to Mary Faith who has now taken him on as her brother and already telling him the importance of staying close to Jesus and working hard.

It was a delight and privilege to go to Uganda again and I'm so grateful to my St Thomas' family for all the love and support you have given me and of course your huge generosity which enabled so much good work to be done by Ugandaid.

Jane B

Some more posers

1. A family had 9 children 18 months apart. The eldest is 5 times the youngest. How old is the oldest?
2. If a brick weighs 1Kg and half a brick, how heavy is the brick??
3. If Susan is 10, Arrabella 20, Shaun and Neil 5, how old is Jennifer??
4. Which is the odd one out----Nurse, Sister, Doctor, Matron??

That is it for now

Y NoT

Ushuaia Report Section 2

Well next day, the Monday, I thought I would be spiritual and not have any food as I was promised that I was going to be taken to a mountain to pray by Pastor Javier. I was picked me up and, not knowing where I had walked the previous day, Javier drove me to the exact spot where I had finished walking the day before (God Knows). It was quite a hard climb, on the way up I had a chat with a single lady and later on a young couple who showed me it was ok to drink the water from the stream, which I needed. As I was getting near the top I was seriously running out of energy, not having eaten, fortunately I had a muesli bar in my bag and some glucose tablets, I was also encouraged by a mother and daughter who passed by. At the top of the walk there were quite a lot of people and it was a bit noisy so I got as out of the way as I could and, after a while I was able to still my mind. I then said a prayer of repentance and felt God say –

“This is where man meets God, up the mountain of the Lord. This is where I speak to you. Listen carefully because I will say this only once.

Man is going to meet God in these days.

I will meet man in the street, in the bars, in the home and the churches. But you don't always listen to me in the church building because you have your own ways.

I want to speak to you in a different way, in a new way, in My way.

You must stay very close to Me in these times, these perilous times of war and famine.

This word is for all my people all over the world.

You must be still and let me work much more through you all. There is so much I want to do; I love you my children so much. It hurts My heart when you are hurting, it hurts My heart when you are sick. It is never too late to come to Me.

Many people in church are not finding Me.

Some churches will die while others will explode with the power and love of My Spirit.

I have almost finished what I want to say except for, 'Come all you who are weary and I will give you rest.' AMEN"

I walked back down, was picked up by Javier, went home and had a good meal, passed the word on to Javier and the WhatsApp group and slept well.

Next day, I had a more relaxing morning, booking a catamaran tour on the Beagle Channel for Wednesday. In the evening, I went up to the Church Prayer and Discipleship meeting at 7.30pm. I was told they wanted me to speak. I gave the testimony of why I came to Ushuaia. Dylan, my interpreter, read out the word I had been given and I also spoke a little on what God had been showing me about the Holy Spirit, Wind and Breath. I also finished by singing "Breath on Me, Breathe of God".

WIND – Like the wind, the Spirit is uncontrollable, moves powerfully, and brings change

John 3:8 NKJV -

[8] The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The wind is a Biblical sign and manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1–2 -

On the day of Pentecost, all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

Like the wind, the Holy Spirit comes in suddenly and from seemingly nowhere - He whirls about the atmosphere and changes everything.

He can be like the wind, He moves wherever He wants and is often, unpredictable.

I will repeat John 3:8

Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.

SPIRIT - Genesis 1:2 NKJV

[2] The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. [3] Then God said “Let there be light”, and there was light.

You have the Spirit hovering over the waters, waiting for the Word, so that He can create something.

When we share the gospel, the Word of God, with someone, it gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to come and create something, to bring someone from darkness into the light, to create in them a new birth.

BREATH – Ezekiel 37:3-5, 9

[3] And He said to me (the Lord) “Son of man, can these bones live?”.... [4] Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them.” ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.’ [5] Thus said the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause BREATH to enter into you, and you shall live.”

So, if we listen to the voice of God and speak, it gives the Holy Spirit an opportunity to come and bring life where there was none before.

I prayed for at least 3 people after the service, a young man said that he agreed with what I said about the Holy Spirit being like a wind, which was very encouraging. I got a lift home with Javier and arranged to speak with him after my Beagle Channel tour.

I had a great time on the catamaran along the Beagle channel, seeing sealions and small penguins along with a few seabirds and the fin of a dolphin (I think). I sat opposite a retired lady from Istanbul, Turkey, who was extremely interested in my Christian faith, although a Muslim. Over the few hours of the trip, I gave her the fullest testimony of my salvation and walk with the Lord, along with an explanation of different Christian denominations. I also prayed for her that her hunger for God would be fulfilled. When I returned, I messaged Javier and arranged to go to the Emerald Lagoon the next day.

The Emerald Lagoon was a difficult trek, mostly through muddy forest for two hours each way. It was well worth it and while at the stunning lagoon, I had a beautiful moment where a couple of colourful chaffinch-like birds came to share crumbs from my lunch. I could have made more of the moment, but I was too keen on trying to take pictures of the birds at my feet.

Next day, Friday, I arranged a much more restful walk through a nature park just a little way up the coast. I had prayed to God that I could have another chance at being at one with creation. When I got there, I could have stayed just looking out at the sea across the Beagle Channel to Chile. It was a beautiful place, and I decided to have a gentle walk through the wood right by the sea. After a short time, I really had a special moment with the Lord, where I felt in touch with His creation. It wasn't far through the wood and when I came out into a clearing, I saw an inviting track down to a little pebbly beach. Just before I walked down, I saw two large black birds of prey, which I later found out were Turkey Buzzards. I went down to the beach across a buttercup meadow, and spent a peaceful time there. I wandered back through the wood following some chaffinches, and then some slightly larger birds. I felt that I must return to this spot and have a bit of a swim.

On Saturday I expected Javier to have some spare time, but he said that he and some men from church were helping a needy lady build an extension to her home. I thought that this is too good an opportunity to miss so asked to come along. He gladly accepted and we had an unforgettable day working and enjoying each other's company. One of the guys spoke a bit of English and with my very broken Spanish we got on well. We had a homemade barbeque at lunch time and I tried the local tea-like brew, mate, out of a gourd with a metal spoon. We got back home after a full day tired but happy.

Next day was Sunday and I didn't have to go to church till 7.30pm. I wanted to go back to that special place and have a dip. It was too far to walk, but I could cycle it. I found a place to hire a bike just a block from my apartment and set off. It was another

lovely day and it took about 40 minutes to get there. I locked up the bike, walked through the wood down to the little beach. The water was quite cold so I thought that I would just have a quick personal baptism. It was really refreshing and the small pebbles were more painful than the cold water, but I felt good. On the way back I had a good chicken and chips from a burger caravan I had visited before and went home to prepare for the evening service.

I had asked if they wanted me to speak and Javier said yes. They already had a visiting speaker so my bit must be concise. A message from Trowbridge and England. Then Anglican Missionaries. Finishing with a short encouragement of People of the Light, which God had given me. When I arrived, I was met by Javier who spoke two words of English to me for the first time, "Good afternoon!" He said, then he told me, in Spanish, that I actually had a 15-minute timeslot.

I sat next to Ally from Buenos Aires who was helping organise the visit of Franklin Graham, son of Billy who was coming to Ushuaia on 14th and 15th of Feb. He spoke really good English and would interpret. I was able to speak after the main speaker, to bring love from St Thomas's Trowbridge and England. Then I shared a bit on the Anglican missionaries in the 19th century and Allen Gardiner's prayer as he was dying from starvation on the beach – **"Grant O Lord, that we may be instrumental in commencing, this great and blessed work; but should You see fit in Your providence to block our way, and that we should even languish and die here, I beseech You to raise up others, and to send forth labourers into this harvest. Let it be seen, for the manifestation of Your Glory and Grace, that nothing is too hard for You."** After that I brought some encouraging scriptures on light (being the light of the world etc). Finishing with sharing a picture that I had in the worship of the Red Sea opening and felt that this time God's people would cross over, not wander for years, but enter God's rest. Judy Wright, a new minister, had given me a word before I left that I would have my "Red Sea moment". God is good! I prayed for two couples and some men after the service then got a lift home from Javier.

On Monday, my last day, I prayer walked on a street around my apartment, bought a few things, including some Mate, a gourd and straw to take home. Javier took me to the airport, we had a lot of fun on the short journey singing, then said adios with a hug. The line was long and not moving, so had to walk to the front. Flew 3 hours to Buenos Aires, had all night in the airport, then flew to Heathrow via Rio. Sat next to a Scottish lady who had been living in Brazil and gave her my testimony. Also, I had a good chat with a guy on bus From Heathrow to the next stop then arrived in Bath and got picked up by Deborah, my wife.

Pictures: Below – Emerald Lagoon.
Right – Work party.

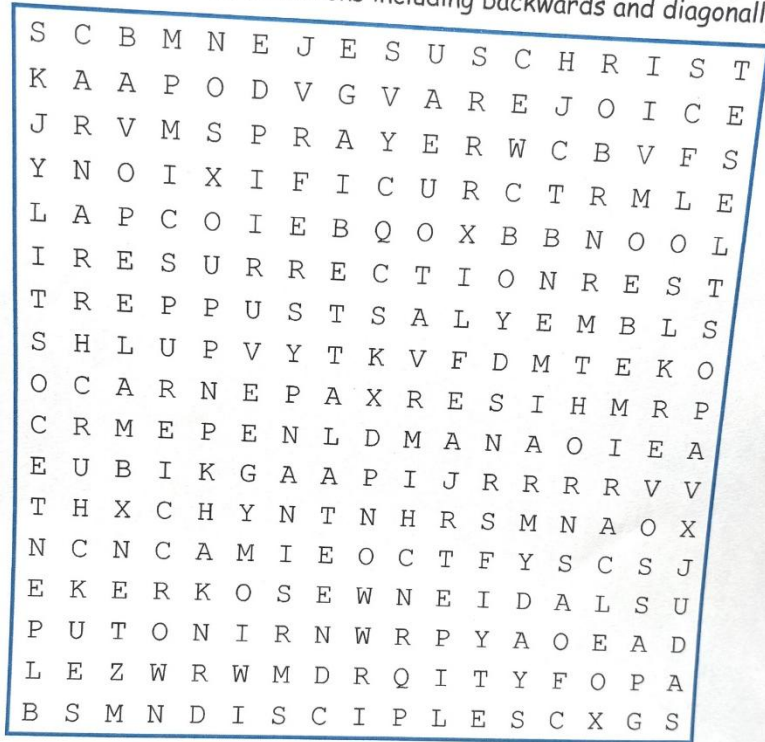




Easter Story

WORD SEARCH

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



APOSTLES

BETRAYAL

CAVE

CHURCH

CROSS

CROWN

CRUCIFIXION

DISCIPLES

FAITH

GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST

JUDAS

LAMB

LAST SUPPER

LENT

MARY

MIRACLE

PASSOVER

PENANCE

PENTECOST

PRAYER

REDEMPTION

REJOICE

RESURRECTION

RISEN

SAVIOR

SON

THORNS

TOMB





**Salsbury Sudans
Partnership**

Sudans Day 2026

St. Francis' Church, Salisbury SP1 3PN

Saturday 16 May

10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Updates on current development, political and security initiatives in Sudan and South Sudan and the work of our medical, educational and deanery partnerships.

Our emphasis this year will be on humanitarian needs, and our keynote speaker will be Patrick Watt, CEO of Christian Aid. Other contributors will be drawn from international organisations and from within the Diocese.

Attendance is free but donations would be gratefully received on the day.

Free tea and coffee will be available, and do bring a packed lunch.

**Please email us if you plan to come:
sudan.secretary@salisbury.anglican.org**

saliburysudanspartnership.co.uk