



The Messenger
Easter 2026

The Church of Scotland



GLANCE FROM THE MANSE

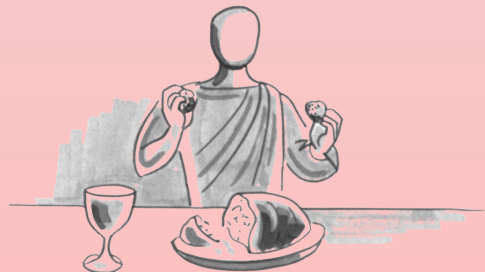
I had the privilege of visiting Lennoxton Primary School's Scottish Celebration at the end of January and was delighted when a number of the pupils exclaimed, "I remember you!". They were thinking back to the Christmas service, and the daft song I'd played on my guitar - and maybe even that I spoke about Jesus!

Sometimes I'm walking the dog here in Milton of Campsie when older pupils get off the bus from High School. One or two will say "Hi!" (not much more; they're teenagers after all!) - but they're expressing the same thing. I remember you - when you came into my class, when you led a Holiday Club, when you took my granny's funeral.

Being remembered is special. However, I'm sure you've been in the situation when you've bumped into someone whilst with a friend, and you can't introduce them to one another because you simply cannot recall the person's name. Recently I saw a photo from my Primary School on a Facebook post - I could name some of the folks there, but not all. I had only vague memories of them.

In the final 24 hours of Jesus' life, there are two mentions of remembering. On the Thursday evening, Jesus shared a meal with His closest friends and gave them every day triggers for remembering Him. Bread and wine, the ordinary things of the dinner table. We've to remember Him, and what He has done for us, every day - not just on high days and holy days, not just Sundays, or at school services, but every day.

Jesus broke the bread in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."



Luke 22: 19

Within 24 hours, Jesus was hanging on a cross – He hadn't been forgotten by those friends, but He had been abandoned by them. You can read this for yourself in Luke 23, but that Gospel account tells us that there were two criminals crucified at that time, one of either side of Jesus. Whilst one insulted Jesus, the other simply said: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.

Did Jesus ask the dying man to prove he really had faith? If he had repented and changed his ways? If he was ready to live for God? No! Jesus simply responded, through His own agony, with these words: I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.

That man was remembered by Jesus. He had done nothing to merit a place in the Kingdom – other than cry out to Jesus. And that's the story of Easter. I cannot work my way into heaven, earn enough Brownie points to impress God, ever be good enough to have a relationship with One who is so holy. But I can, and I have, cried to Jesus: Remember me.

I was 8 years old when I bought my first Bible. It was from the Summer Mission bookstall in Girvan, and it was the Good News edition – with line drawings. 45 years later, I am still captivated by those line drawings, which I now know were done by Annie Vollotton.

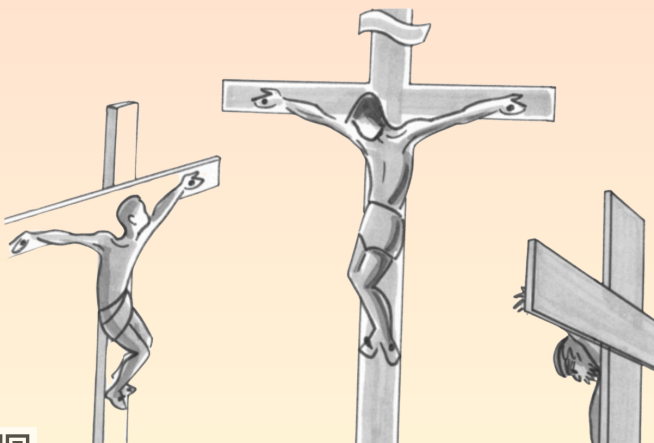
More importantly, that was the summer I asked Jesus to remember me – and I promised I would remember Him. Easter hope – right in the middle of July! Maybe this March, this April will be the time when you, too, simply ask Jesus to remember you.

I'm praying it is so.

Your friend:



“Jesus, remember me
when You come
into your Kingdom”



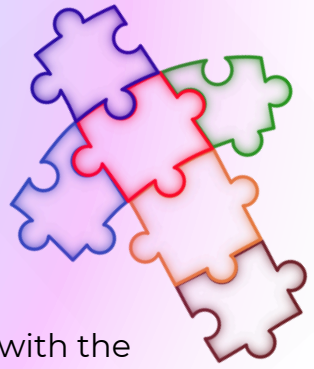
You can listen to the hauntingly beautiful Taize chant “Jesus, remember me” by following this link.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0c26YYDQMQ>

Jigsaw

Jigsaw (Sunday School) is on a Sunday morning at 11 a.m



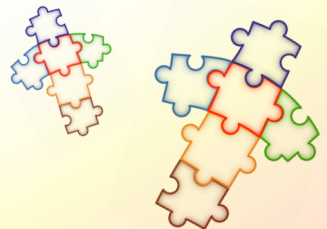
We start our morning off in church along with the congregation. After Family Time, led by Julie, we (along with Epic & Crossover, youth groups) move to various parts of the Church Centre to carry on our morning together.

We work on the same material that is being used for worship within the congregation. We do this through storytelling, game, craft and usually we manage to involve cake at some point too, it's great fun!

Age range for Jigsaw is age 3 - P5, it would be lovely to welcome anyone who would like to join us, please do not hesitate to contact me for more information if required.

At some point in our term time we have a Bake Sale, along with Epic & Crossover, the proceeds of which go to a chosen charity. Our recent sale raised £361 which has gone to the work of Compassion. We have sponsored a child (Alison) through this charity for a few years now and these funds go towards her education and also helping out her family. The proceeds of our next bake sale will go towards another nominated charity.

Rhona 07950763536



Epic/Crossover Report



Each Sunday our young people join us in the church sanctuary for the first part of worship and family time before moving through to the other areas of the church complex to explore the bible passage through games, crafts and discussion.

Epic : P6+P7

Crossover : S1- S6 and Uni age

We are all a friendly bunch and have plenty of laughs, camaraderie and snacks (very importantly).

We have had a busy time during and since Advent, with the ABBA nativity which was brilliant!

Our joint Christmas movie afternoon with Jigsaw, enjoyed by all, especially the pizza, juice and snacks, and our recent Bake sale which has raised £361 for Compassion, one of our church charities, and Alison, the girl who we sponsor in Ecuador and correspond regularly with via letters learning about her family, faith and school, and we reply with news regarding our youth groups and life in our church.

We always have room for more to join us, so why not give it a go? If you would like any more information, please contact Gillian Murphy on (07854 160757), Kirsty Lynch (07557 470679) or Jen Love (07923 621223)

The Church Rehoming Project



A huge thank you for your ongoing donations of good quality household items that you no longer need; bedding, towels, kitchenware, clothing (all ages), coats, shoes, toys, books and small items of furniture. Your donations are a real help to folks and they are extremely grateful.

I am happy to uplift your items and deliver them to the Pantry, a community shop in Ruchazie. You can contact me, Ann on: 07952 838 860.

Thank you also to those of you able to deliver directly to The Pantry at 435, Gartloch Road, Ruchazie G33 3TJ.

Opening hours for donations are Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 4pm. Its best to ring first in case they are closed. The shop is staffed by local volunteers. Tina the manager is based next door in the Fireclay Café, a community café. The Pantry phone number is: 0141 237 4900

If you have good quality large items of furniture to donate, here are a few charities you could contact:

The Salvation Army: 0141 334 7253

Chest, Heart and Stroke Glasgow Helps: 07435 785 998

Shelter: 0141 332 8505

To donate baby and children's items you might like to contact Babes In The Woods, Bishopbriggs
Phone: 0141 258 7500 for further information.

Let's keep this going! Thank you for caring and making a difference.



TAKING IT FURTHER (TIF)



Many people in church congregations would love to give their feedback on the Church services they attend. Here, in Milton of Campsie Parish Church we can do just that!

Anyone coming to our church services can come along to a TIF meeting. We usually meet after church on the 1st Sunday of the month. It's a good opportunity to look back at the previous month's services and discuss the hymns, readings and sermons with Julie and Phyllis.

Bring a packed lunch and enjoy a tea or coffee and chat informally about any aspects of the services. At Taking It Further, you are welcome to 'Gie It Laldie.'

Prayer Walk on Maundy Thursday (2nd April)

Meet at 11:30am at St Paul's; walk to the Bowling Green, the Cross, Battlefield Park, Cottonmill, then the Parish Church for refreshments.

At each "station", we'll sing, read Scripture and pray.
Come and go as you please.

Photo: Matt Barton (Unsplash)



The Guild



The second half of the Guild session has already been busy with the group recalling past adventures and incidents when they were younger and an evening with speaker Elaine Duncan, CEO of the Scottish Bible Society, talking about Bibles for Bairns, the Guild project.

Members of the Fellowship were invited along and the evening was well supported and enjoyed.

Upcoming events include a concert for Guild funds led by the Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra with Esther Moody treating us to some songs and Scott Glen keeping the Scottish theme going with some tunes on the bagpipes.

At the end of each year, money is distributed from Guild funds to a variety of charities often supporting the different people who have given talks on their specialist area throughout the year. We have a group of four members going to Perth in the Spring to represent Glasgow Northern Guilds Together in the National Quiz. Well done to the team and we wish them well in the final.

We finish our year with the AGM, a fish lunch and a Bring and Buy Sale. We would love to see as many people as possible coming along to Guild. It's so important the we as a church support this very important part of the National Church and all the work that it carried out in its name.

Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May 2026

Just a quick reminder that Christian Aid week will be on us before we know it. You'll receive an envelope through your door with an address near you where it can be returned easily.

We would like to say a VERY big thank you to Jean McDonald who has organised the Christian Aid week for the last 25 years. This will now be taken over by the Transform Team who can only endeavour to be as organised as Jean was each year. Thank you Jean.



Hobbies Group

We meet most Monday afternoons 2-4 pm in the Church hub (However we will be off on Easter Monday 6th April 2026).

Our group is mostly Ladies but we would certainly welcome gentlemen who would like to join us. We have had male members in the past who have brought different hobbies to the group.

We are always interested in new and different hobbies, and look forward to welcoming anyone who would like to join us.

Louise Fraser 01360 311 819



Fellowship Group



We at the Fellowship have experienced and enjoyed a good season of talks from visiting speakers and a couple from our own members.

Planning for the new season September 2026 to April 2027 has started and we cordially invite you to come along and join us. We meet at the church complex on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. The meetings start at 7.30pm and finish around 9pm. We have speakers who deliver their talk for roughly an hour and then we adjourn for a cuppa and a chat with other members. A great way to spend those autumn and winter nights. Come along, bring a friend, you will be made most welcome.

C.S. Lewis once said ““The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.” That sums up our Fellowship Group. Come along and enjoy.

Easter greetings to you all.

good times café
Dementia Friendly Café

1:30-3pm, 3rd Friday of each month
March - June

Milton of Campsie Church Centre
Locheil Drive G66 8ET

A dementia-friendly group with
tea/coffee, cakes, chat, music, games
and fellowship - open to all.

Spread the Word!

Good Times Café

We're excited about our good times café.
We need YOU to spread the word.
See you on 20 March at 1.30 pm!



1:30-3pm, 3rd Friday of each month

March - June

Milton of Campsie Church Centre

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A dementia-friendly group with
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and fellowship - open to all.



Welcome to St Faithful's,

a fictional church in the fictional village of Havnot. Oh, the adventures they have - just like any other church, just like mocpc. Here's a wee story from the Techie Team (& it's dedicated to OUR Techie Team):

When Rev Dr Tim Keen approached me last Sunday wearing a grin the size of Easter Day and clutching a USB stick, my stomach performed a small but meaningful somersault. We were minutes away from the start of Church, and it had already taken me the better part of a week to wrestle his latest service into PowerPoint.



“Ah, David,” he beamed, as though about to bestow a blessing. “I had an epiphany last night. I wondered if you could just pop this short video clip into the service. It’s wonderfully inspirational.”

Short, in church terms, is a very flexible concept.

Sadly, the church laptop was already past its prime when I inherited it. I’m fairly sure it runs on Windows 8, though it could equally be powered by hope and prayer.

The laptop and I do not enjoy a healthy working relationship. Each Sunday I nursemaid it through the service, emerging from my corner just in time to see the final congregants finishing their coffees. It's a lonely ministry.

As the congregation began to arrive, I was busy trying — and failing — to get the video to play. Reginald, who sits at the back and watches my every move like a hawk with opinions, suggested helpfully that I turn it off and on again. I did not share his sense of humour.

It was now 11.00 am. Rev Tim was smiling at me expectantly. I did not share his optimism either. It was 11.01. I said a silent prayer of desperation and briefly reconsidered my life choices. all again.

Suddenly, the video started... without sound. In my panic, I had forgotten to plug in the audio cable.

Finally, success. The congregation was transfixed. Even Reginald approved. My blood pressure, however, did not return to safe levels until well after the final hymn.

Rev Tim bounded over, glowing. "I never doubted your ability for a second!" he said. "Absolutely wonderful." I packed away the laptop, projector, and screen, and headed to the hall for a much-needed cup of coffee. As usual, most people had already gone home. Reginald was still there. He patted me on the shoulder. "Well done, lad. Your prayers were answered in the end." I smiled back. "They were indeed."

And next Sunday, of course, I'll be there to do it all again.

Craft Corner - Build a Boat!

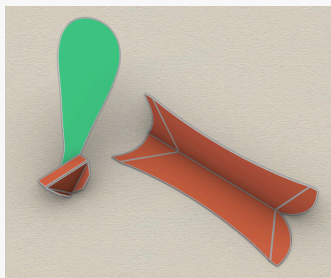
After Jesus came back to life, he visited his disciples. They had stayed out fishing all night, but they hadn't caught anything.

"Throw your net over the other side," he shouted. They did, and when they pulled it up again, it was so full of fish it nearly broke!

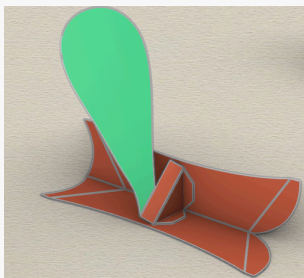
Peter recognised Jesus, and was so excited to see him, he jumped in the water and ran to meet him. Together, they had a breakfast of grilled fish on the beach. (John chapter 21)

Would you like grilled fish for breakfast? It might seem strange, but fish is delicious when it's fresh from the sea.

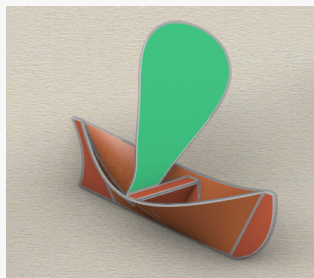
To build your own Galilean fishing boat, cut out the two shapes on the next page, then follow the instructions to build your boat. Use a glue stick to stick it together.



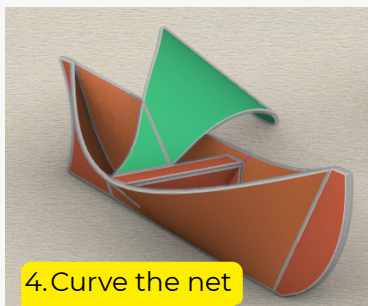
1. Fold along the dotted green lines



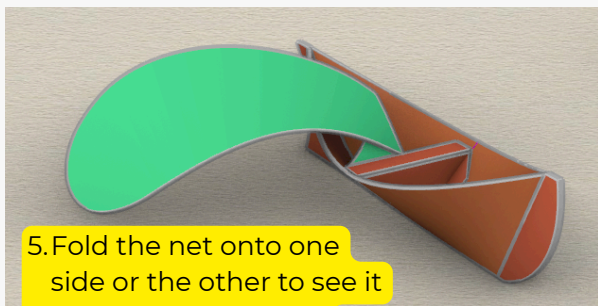
2 Stick the bench in the middle of the boat



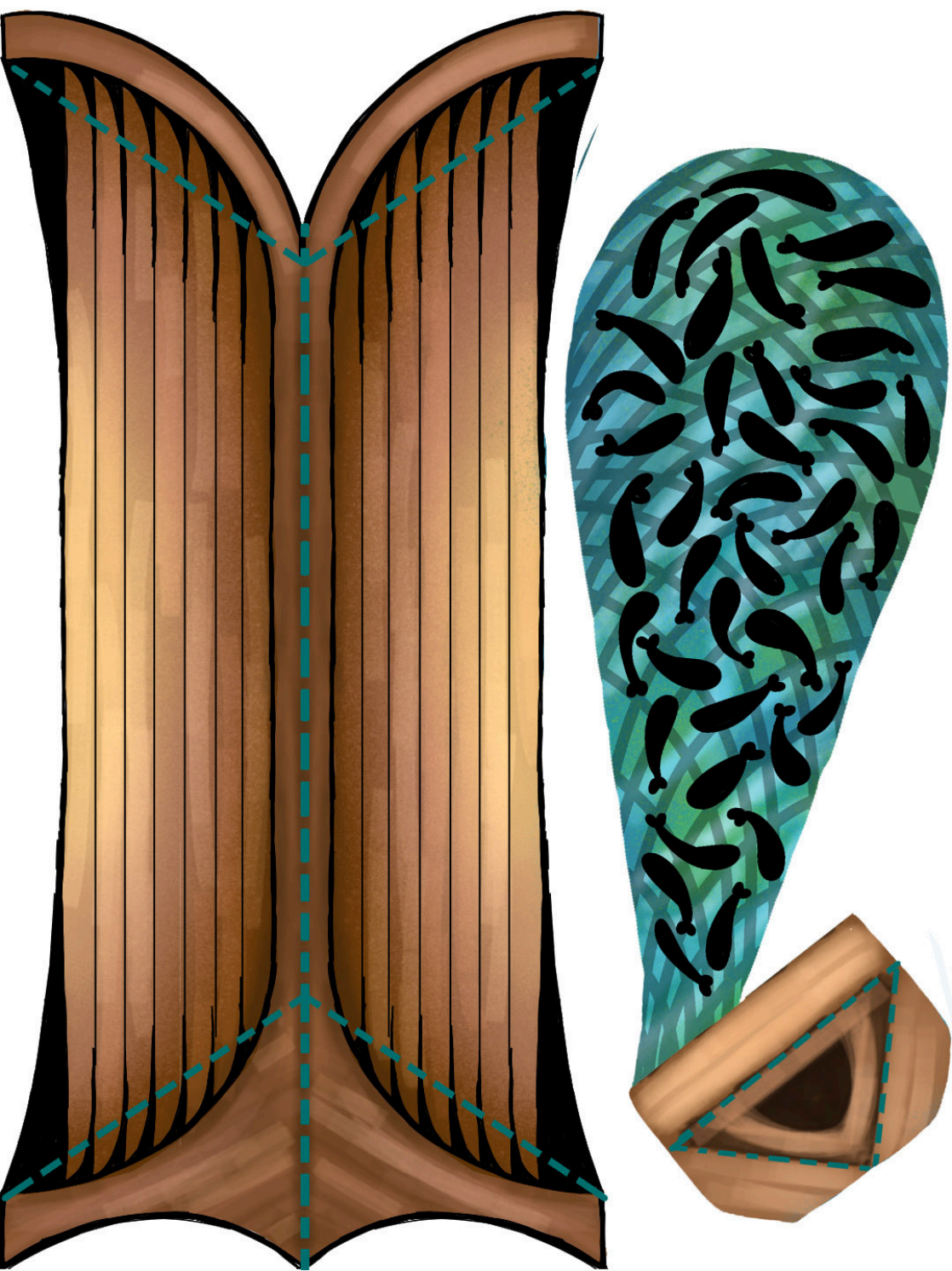
3 Stick the ends of the boat together

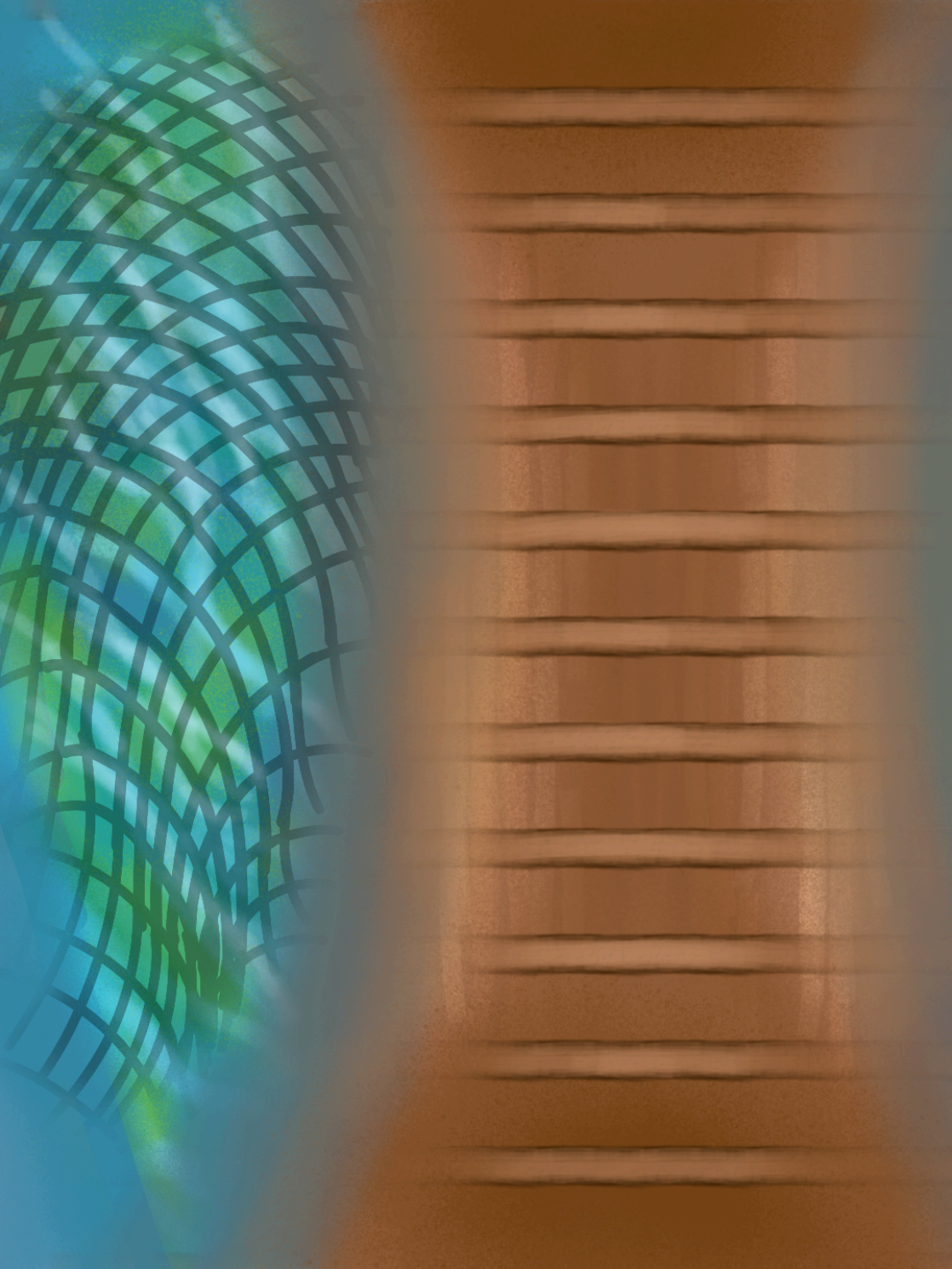


4. Curve the net over the side



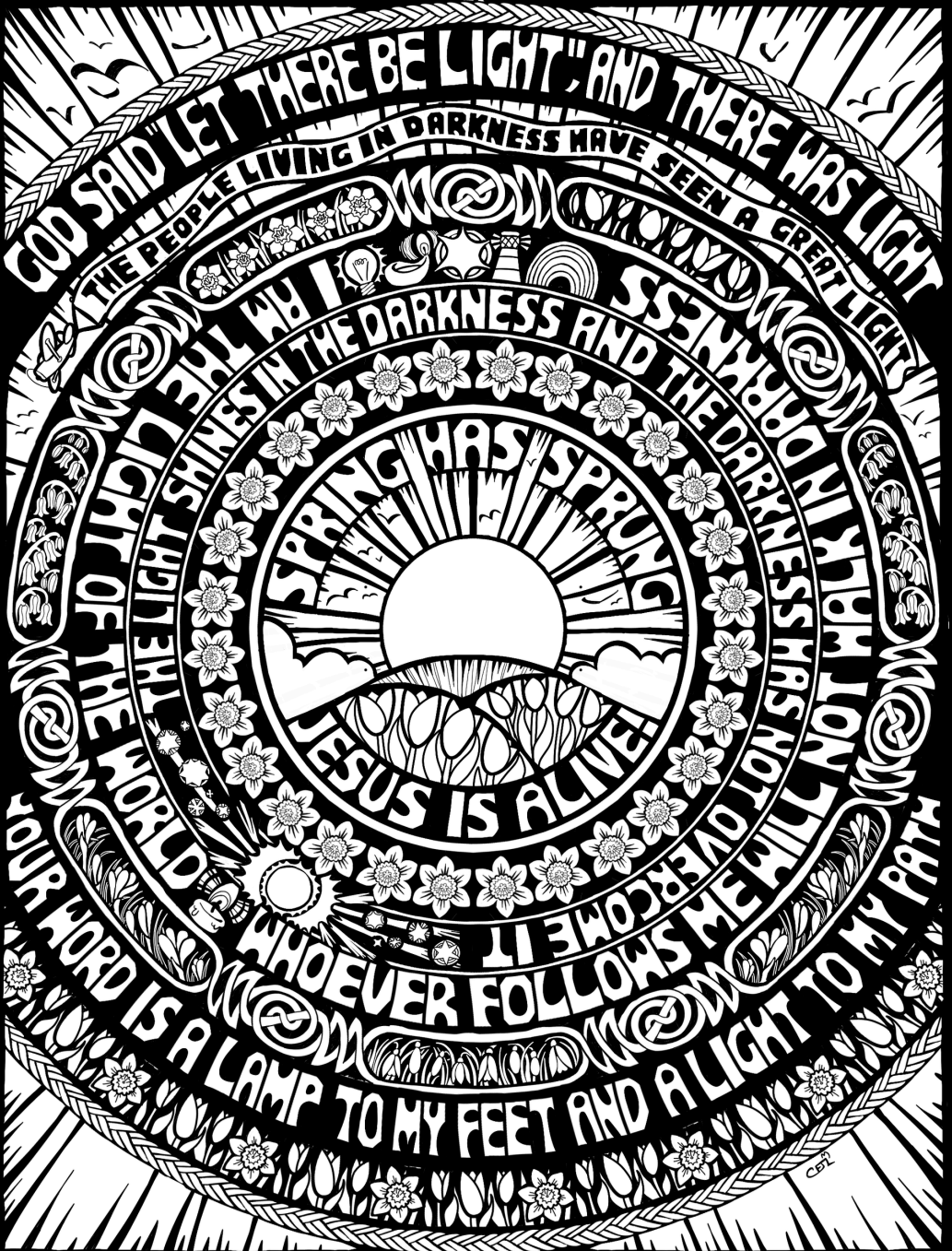
5. Fold the net onto one side or the other to see it empty, or full of fish!





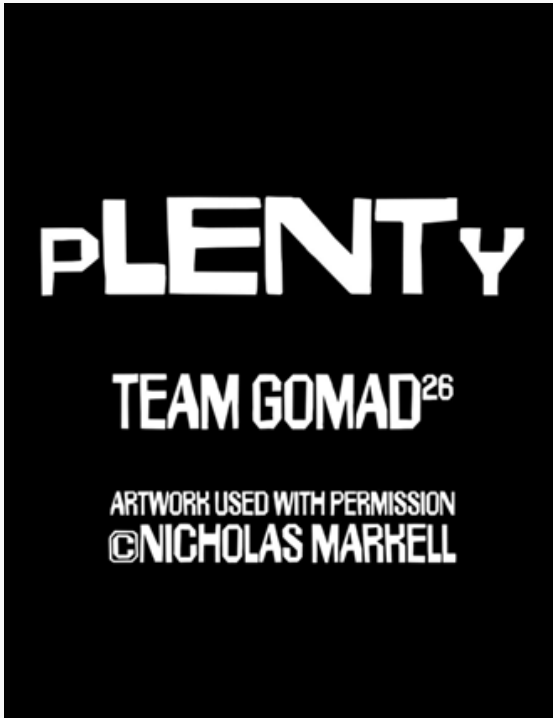
Colouring Page

You don't have to be a kid to have a go!



Go MAD Xtra

After the recent TW3 event we're planning another Go Mad Xtra for children of all ages, watch out for details as we lead up to GoMAD which begins on Sunday 26 July (Dedication Service) and culminates in our Charity Concert on Thursday 6 August.



Our GoMAD Team have really “gone mad” this year.

During Lent & continuing right up to Easter, they’ll be posting 15 two-minute slots on Instagram & Facebook.

The “slots” trace Jesus’ journey to the cross, & feature the artwork of Nicholas Markell. The music is a recording of The Team singing “Have you seen Jesus my Lord?”

Huge thanks to Jenni, our artist-in-residence. who has used her skills to produce a very professional job.

Have a look! 15 short & snappy reflections by the young people we treasure so much!



PLENTY

**REFLECTIONS
ON THE CROSS**

 @gomadteam

 Team Go Mad



Meantime, our GoMAD Home Team keep us going with GoMAD Xtras - & what a job they do!

At time of printing, we're looking forward to GoMAD Xtra on 8 March, which will be a happy memory by the time you're reading this. Remember the TV programme "That Was The Week That Was", was aired in the early 60s – a late-night satirical show that aimed at the establishment.

Our "Week That Was" is the last week of Jesus' life, looking at E for Entry, A for Anger, S for Supper, T for Trial, E for Execution & R for Rising.. Lots of crafts & activities, games, tuck, aerobics & of course singing.

We'll fit in one more Xtra before the summer, but meantime it's "all systems go" for the big GoMAD ecumenical event beginning Sunday 26 July. Want to help? Speak to Jim McVean, our Safeguarding Lead, who'll update you on our Church of Scotland Safer Volunteer Recruitment procedure.



We are many, God's great diversity,
yet we are one in Christ.

Different faces, different races,
yet we are one in Christ.

Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers,
single, married, broken, carried,
yet we are one in Christ.

The happy, the clappy, the barely out of nappies,
the ancient, the modern, the famous, the forgotten,
yet we are one in Christ.

A broken body, torn apart,
mars God's image, breaks God's heart.
And yet our Father knows how the end will be,
when all his kids will sing in harmony,
the bride will dazzle, her branches bloom,
so add your voice to hymn the tune
that we are one in Christ.

adapted from Engage Worship

Photo by Clay Banks on Unsplash



Churches Together

Carol Singing at the cross, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, GoMAD Xtras and World Day of Prayer - Oh how good it is when the Churches worship and work together!

Holy Week Services

Monday 30th March 7pm

Tuesday 31st March 7pm

Wednesday 1st April 7pm

Thursday 2nd April 7pm

Friday 3rd April 7pm

Come and we will walk the path to
the Cross together

Photo by saira on Unsplash

A Mighty Lion Has Fallen

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a towering figure in the Civil Rights Movement and a close associate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., died on February 17, 2026, at the age of 84.

Here are the key details regarding his passing and legacy:

Connection to MLK: Jackson was a protégé of Dr. King and was present at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, when King was assassinated on April 4, 1968.



Photo: Rob Potter (Unsplash)

Cause of Death/Health: He passed away Tuesday morning, having recently been under observation for progressive supranuclear palsy, according to reports.

Following King's death, Jackson positioned himself as a successor, continuing the fight for civil rights, economic justice, and voting rights.

He founded Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, which focused on economic empowerment for marginalized communities.

He mounted historic, ground-breaking presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988.

He was a noted international diplomat, negotiating the release of hostages in Syria, Cuba, and Iraq.



Tributes: Following his death, he was remembered by figures such as President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris as a "true giant" and a "towering icon".

Bernice King, daughter of Martin Luther King Jr., noted his passing by sharing a photo of Jackson with her father, stating, "Both now ancestors".

Jesse's wife declared – **"A mighty lion has fallen"**.





Nonagenarians



In our last issue, we celebrated the 90th birthday of Alex McFarlane & Elizabeth Taylor. Here we celebrate another four: Irene McFarlane, Betty Smith, Bill Forrest & Fred Soulis. Much love to you all.



**BLESSINGS ON
YOUR BIRTHDAY!**



Rewind, Replay, Repeat - a story

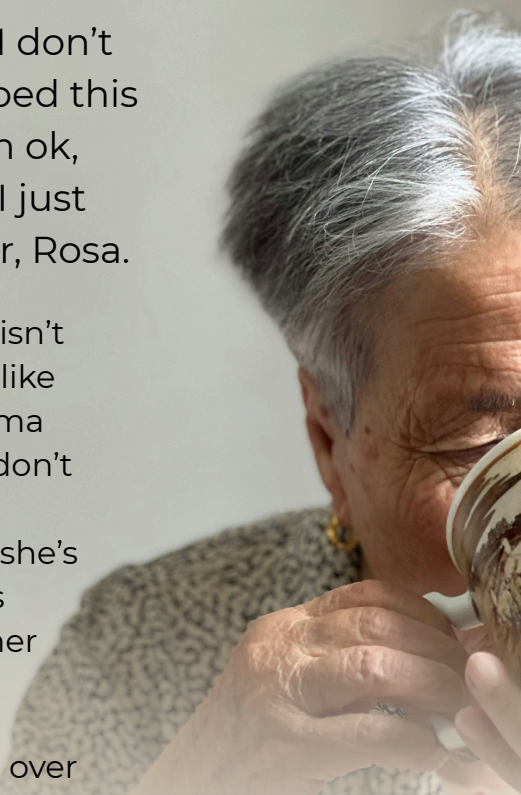
Thanks, dear. No, no, my dear, I don't want to get up, I'm staying in bed this morning. No, honestly, love, I'm ok, really. Yes, I am sure, honestly. I just want to think. Ok. See you later, Rosa.

She's a good girl, Rosa. Her English isn't great, but she's kind and sensible. I like people to be sensible. No more drama queens in my life, please. And no, I don't feel like going to the day room this morning. Maisie in the next room – she's the one I chat to most – her son has taken her out for the day. So I'd rather stay here and think.

I do a lot of thinking these days. I go over things. Scenes from my life. It's like a video I suppose – rewind, replay, repeat. Funny how when you do that, you see patterns you never noticed the first time. Like footsteps in the sand. You don't notice them till you look back. Don't see the pattern they make.

We all went to church back then, you know. Every Sunday. Folks did that then. Like brushing your teeth. It had to be done whether you felt like it or not.

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild. What a bore. I liked folk with a bit of spark. A bit of fight in them. Still do, I suppose.



So I pass the time in church picking my fingernails and wondering what Granny will give us for dinner – we always visit Granny after church. She smells of disinfectant, and her glasses have big sort of wings on them.

Then the bullying starts at school. Maybe it's because I wear specs, who knows. I curl up inside myself. Whoever I am, they don't like me. But who am I and who can I change into to make them like me?

I'm bored. I pick up this bible. And he wasn't meek or mild. He was tough. He said what he thought, was friends with whoever he wanted, regardless. And he got bullied. And he kept going. So I take a deep breath, stick out my chin, just being me. Like he was.

Oh, Rosa dear. Yes, I'd love a cuppa. Thanks. The cup with that sort of straw in the top, remember? Thanks.

Now where was I – rewind, replay, repeat. I'm eighteen. I've met Jack. Six foot of rugby playing muscle. Neck like a bulldog. Only later I find he's got a bite like a Rottweiler and a punch to match. Twenty and there's two babies. He's at the rugby club most nights. It turns out the rugby club is 36-24-36 with legs up to her shoulders.

I'm alone with the babies now. But not alone. Meek and mild? No, determined and benign. You can do it, he seems to say. We can do it together.

don't find another husband – I don't want one. The sex comes at too high a price in angst, and the friendship I can get elsewhere.

I've found a church, just a wee one, round the corner. I'm surprised at myself for going to a house group. These folk don't have problems like me, on my own, with two freedom fighters for kids. My life is a war zone on a daily basis.

But there's Judy, who has depression and cries all day. There's Alan, who's lost his job and his wife walked out. Helen, whose mother has dementia and hits her with her umbrella because she doesn't recognise her. We're all struggling. And we're all clinging onto Jesus. I can say his name now. Not ashamed of my secret relationship with an invisible person anymore.

Oh, Rosa, thanks, dear. Just put the cup there. No, it's ok, I can reach it.

Rewind, replay, repeat. Lily and Liam are adults now. Lily has four toddler kids and no husband – history repeating itself. I babysit a lot. The kids are wild, but I'm an expert at terrorist children now. Jesus points out to me that the tough times taught me how to do that. It wasn't wasted. I tell him I'm grateful, even though I'm a bit late realising it.

Liam is into computers. People ask me what he does. I have no idea, but he seems to get paid a lot, and he's always jetting to New York or San Francisco. He's got an American girlfriend I think. He showed me a picture, long wavy hair and sunglasses. Oh there's Rosa in the corridor. Hey! Rosa! Could you plump up my pillows? I've sort of slid down and I can't get straight. Thanks, dear.

Rewind, replay, repeat. Lily's kids are teenagers now. Liam lives in California with the girlfriend - she's called Shaney-Lee or something. I've had a little stroke and I've been in hospital. Struggling to walk and numb all down one side.

Lily comes round every day to help out. Not easy with four teenagers to keep an eye on, all of them kicking off on a daily basis.

I know she's shouting down the phone at Liam. He's not 'pulling his weight'. I realise I'm the weight. Jesus says it's time to do my own thing again. So I insist on coming here. I know it's the Last Chance Saloon. There aren't really any chances, so I suppose it's just the Last Saloon. But I'm ok with that, actually.

'But you could live with me!' says Lily. No, I couldn't. 'You'll be all alone' says Lily. Actually, no I won't. Really, I won't. Footsteps in the sand. I can see the pattern now.

Footsteps in the sand – two sets, side by side.

by Meg Lindsay

On the day of Pentecost...

...(which we read about it in Acts 2), the folks of Jerusalem wondered what was happening as folks sang and praised God - in a myriad of languages.

One of Jesus' friends, Peter, stood up to speak and addressed the huge crowd in that city. He told them about Jesus, whom many would have seen crucified just 7 weeks before.

He called on those listening to recognise who Jesus was, the part they had played in his death, and the new life He was offering.

The message would have been raw ... but it WAS dubbed into their mother tongue and over 3000 people decided to follow Jesus that day!





Photo: Patrick Hendry (Unsplash)

Pentecost Praise

**on Sunday 24 May
2.00 pm
in Battlefield Park or the
Parish Church.**

**More details to come - watch
this space!**



Afternoon Communion

There will be an Afternoon
Communion hosted by the
Tend and Teach Teams
Sunday 10th May 2.30pm
in the church.

All are welcome.

Photo by Jez Timms on Unsplash

SAVE THE DATE!



SUMMER 2026

26TH JULY - 6TH AUGUST

Dedication Service Sunday 26 July
Charity Concert Thursday 6 August.
Special daily events for children,
young people and adults.