

**St Mark's Parish Magazine
March 2026**



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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from
2 April 2026

All contributions to the editor by
Tuesday 17 March 2026

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LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Dear Beloved Brother and Sisters,

I will start my thoughts by telling you something you may not know about me, I am an Elton John fan. My favourite song is Rocket man, and my least favourite is, "Sorry seems to be the hardest word". I never understood, in my youth, why sorry would be hard to say, but as I have gotten older, I get it. Sorry is easy to say, but changing the behaviour that led to having to say sorry is much harder.



Repentance or changing is not a simple thing. In Luke 14:28-30 Jesus asks us to count the cost of discipleship, but do we count the cost of repentance? Changing behaviours that are ingrained in us is hard and understanding why we need to change maybe even harder. It is not enough to say I am sorry, we need to do the soul searching that leads us to understand why we were wrong. People and institutions struggle when they have to own up to the sins they commit, whether intentionally or accidentally. Sorry is a hard word to say and change is even harder.

Lent is a season of repentance and reflection. It is a time when we should look within ourselves as a church and ask where have I gone wrong? Where do I need to change? How can I serve God better? It is easy to say I will give up chocolate for Lent to remember the fasting of Jesus the wilderness, but a lot harder to say I will reflect on my relationship with God and my fellow man and seek to make my relationship better. It is hard because as people and as a church admitting where we have gone wrong feels like admitting to failing.

In Romans 3:23, we are reminded that all have sinned and fallen short. We all need to repent. The true failing is denying our humanity, our brokenness, because in that brokenness we can meet God and grow.

Sorry is a hard word to say, but this Lent let us come before God and say sorry so that we can grow and become better people and a better church. Genuine repentance is hard because growth is hard but it is worth it.

Beloved, I ask you to have the courage to grow and become closer to God in this season.

May God's grace be with you,

Reverend Reg



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Church choirs receive £400,000 boost for programme to increase participation by children

More than 200 church choirs aimed at children and young people will be launched in a new programme

'The Choir Project', working in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), will engage children and young people with their local church choirs amid renewed interest in sacred church music.

The launch comes as campaigners press for English Evensong to be given World Heritage Status to ensure the centuries-old Christian choral tradition is recognised as an art form of global significance.

The number of cathedral choirs in England reached a record high of 207 in 2024, but 57% of local church choirs currently have no children.

The new programme will tap into the country's rich tradition of choral worship with a view to sparking a revival of local parish choir membership amongst Generation Alpha, engaging them actively with Christianity.

'The Choir Project' will support upwards of 200 churches across England to establish or renew choirs for children and young people, helping them rediscover music as a pathway to mission and discipleship.

It will draw on research which suggests that young people are more likely to remain active in faith communities when they are given meaningful roles, intergenerational relationships and opportunities for leadership.

The Church of England's Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board has agreed investment with RSCM of £400,000 to support the programme, as part of its 'Partnerships Funding' stream.

Hugh Morris, Director of the RSCM, said: "We are delighted to be launching this exciting new project. For generations, church choirs have been one of the most natural and joyful ways for young people to encounter faith, learn about worship, and grow in confidence and belonging.

"As we look to our second century of supporting church music and musicians, RSCM sees this investment in young people as a vital step to ensuring a bright future of music ministry, and fostering active discipleship across all backgrounds and socio-economic environments, for the rich heritage we inherit today."

The Bishop of Chelmsford, Guli Francis-Dehqani, who has a degree in music and is author of the Book *Listening to the Music of the Soul*, said: "The English choral tradition is unique and part of our rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

"The beauty of church singing speaks directly to people of all generations and from all walks of life. I am delighted to see this investment that will go to church choirs across the country."

Starting choirs has proven to attract engagement from young people in churches, for example, Loftus Parish, near Saltburn, has grown from two to up to eighteen children on a Sunday by starting a church choir.

A young chorister from Loftus Parish said: "Every Sunday that you come, you better yourself in your singing and you better yourself in your knowledge of Jesus and God."

Another said: "I love the stories about Jesus, seeing my friends and singing with the choir."



Loftus choir at Howden Minster

By creating resources for integrating faith discussions into choir sessions as well as musical performance training, RSCM hopes to engage 2,400 young people as new active Christians. Throughout three years of 'The Choir Project', 300 new leaders will be trained, and 500 volunteers will be mobilised, to tutor the choirs of tomorrow.

'The Choir Project' builds on other recent strategic investment from the national church in music ministry, such as in Blackburn Diocese, where 9 choirs have been started in schools.

Meanwhile, investment in Hull Minster has helped re-establish its chorister division, welcoming 45 young people and their families to the choir and church, leading four parish churches in the area to start re-establishing a choral tradition.



Youth Choir at St Mark's Church

Our Youth Choir is open to all children who enjoy singing, regardless of experience. It is a wonderful opportunity to build confidence, make friends and be part of our church community. For further details please contact Susannah Dyde - susannahshuck@hotmail.com



SMOATathon

A date for your diary – on 22 March 2026 we will be holding our SMOATathon, an afternoon of music, open to everyone (of all ages) to come and listen, or regale us with your music! If you play an instrument or love to sing, then please drop me an email chair@smoat.org.uk and we will find you a slot, whether it is two minutes, five minutes or twenty minutes! It will start at around 11.30am and finish sometime between 3.00pm and 3.30pm. If you are simply coming to listen, you can come and go as you please and there will be drinks and homemade cake available all afternoon. We will be supporting a Child Health Programme in Cambodia.

Barbara Perkins
Chairman



Brockham Choral's Concert

Brockham Choral's Concert of 'ELIJAH' by Mendelssohn is on the 28 March Musicalat at 7.30pm in St Martin's Church, Dorking, RH4 1UX.

Musical Director David Swinson with the British Sinfonietta Orchestra.
Solists Soprano Katherine Fuge, Mezzo Soprano Natalie Brezinska, Tenor Gareth Edmonds, Bass Alex Jones.

Admission: Adults £20. Children, Students under 18 in full time education £10

Ticket purchase: <https://ticketsource.co.uk/brockham-choral/t-njomlqp>

More information visit: www.brockhamchoral.org



Ian sadly passed away on 12 December 2025, but he has left us with unpublished articles. These articles he had planned to be included in the magazine.

Hands

How lucky we are to have two hands. How otherwise would we be able to carry out so many tasks we tackle each day. How difficult it would be to use our hands for good or ill were they to be missing. So much work we do is manual and even if we fall we stretch our hands out to save us from harm. It is so good that the thumb can enable us to grasp things and as tiny children we learn to count with our fingers. At my age it's my fingers that are so cold, especially in this winter weather.

We shake hands when we meet someone and use them to applaud others whom we appreciate. Holding hands can be the start of the relationship with someone to whom we are attracted to. Of course, the opposite can apply if we strike another person, but that is to be discouraged. It is good to receive a hand if we are in difficulty and even more so, a hand-up if we have fallen.

We give and receive gifts through our hands, and they are useful at the end of our arms when we give each other a hug. Those gifted enough need their hands to provide the rest of us with lovely music and artists and sculptors need them so often.

Clearly some 500 Years ago Albrecht Durer painted such beautiful hands that we still love that drawing today.

More recently they used to sing and dance to: "Hands, Knees and Boomps-a-Daisy" in which they bounced their bustles together.

From the ridiculous to the sublime Jesus must have received his Baptism at the hands of St John the Baptist and in his work as a carpenter. Sadly, his hands were nailed to the Cross when he was crucified.

It is interesting to think that blessings are given by clergy, using their hands in the process and now we receive the Bread in our hands at the Altar in Holy Communion.

Ian Archer



Disorientation

Although one experiences this condition most often at the beginning or end of our lives it can occur at other moments of distress, too. It is comfortable for things, situations and people to continue as they have always been. By doing things in the same way day by day and by things being in the same place we can often feel more comfortable. We often want others to act as they always have, but situations and other pressures can inevitably take place. This can surprise us, or anyway it all happens to us against what we would have preferred.

Such disorientation can occur through changes in our wealth, our situation, our health or in such changes in the lives of others we love. As far as our health is concerned, medication can often cause us to be unsteady or upset. We need to adjust to such changes or at least, if possible, have our prescriptions, if any, reviewed. If we are lucky enough to have carers to help us, family or others, we must allow for other demands on their time as well as what they are kindly doing for us.

It can be that the smooth running of our day might be disturbed by a need to help someone else. We need then to break into our happy methodical way to help that person in greater need, creating our own disturbance.

No doubt in the Gospel story the Samaritan will have had prior plans for his day which had to be set aside to help where it was more urgently needed. From what we read about Jesus, he was always happy to break away from what he was doing to help others.

Interruptions to the pattern of our routines can be disturbing but nevertheless important to the future of our lives, as well as the lives of others.

Ian Archer



Prayer for March 2026

Lord,

In these weeks leading up to Easter, many of us spend time reflecting on what Jesus has done for us and how he can help us live our lives.

But we live in a harsh, confusing world, where traditional values are upended and we can hardly believe some of the things we hear from powerful world leaders. Truth seems to be lost in the darkness.

Lord, your word tells us that, *whoever lives by the truth comes into the light*. Jesus says He is *the Truth*. He also says He is the *Light of the world*. Help us to hold fast to these facts. Help us to remember that Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble – so we shouldn't be surprised – but that He has overcome the world – so we should be encouraged.

Whatever is going on in the troubled world around us – we can live by the real Truth – and in the real Light – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, who will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you so much.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

Daphne Kitching



Earth Hour 2026 – a time to turn off your lights

The Earth Hour 2026 takes place on Saturday 28 March, when at 8.30pm in their local time millions of people worldwide will turn off their non-essential lights for one hour.

Organised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the 20th anniversary of this global initiative will aim to raise awareness of the earth's climate crisis, and to encourage environmental action through sustainable, actionable lifestyle changes.

The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney, Australia, on 31 March 2007, and has since become a global movement. The 2025/26 theme is 'Giving an Hour for Earth' is encouraging people to adapt sustainable habits in their daily lives.

And while our lights are off for an hour, Earth Hour will encourage us to spend the time in nature, or stargazing, or engaging in environmental, educational, or sustainable activities.

More info at: <https://www.earthhour.org>

Parish Pump



Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday - the fourth Sunday of Lent - offers families an opportunity to honour the women who have nurtured them. Lots of different streams and traditions have come together to make today's Mothering Sunday the special day that it is.

In the Middle Ages it was an occasion for everyone to visit their 'mother' church – the place where they had been baptised. Later, an opportunity for those who worked away from home to visit their mothers became added to the mix of reasons to make it a special day.

Today we honour all women who have in one way or another been special to us, and in church this is usually signalled by small bunches of flowers for every woman present.

Treating mums and grans to Sunday lunch, chocolates and flowers is also part of the present mix. And will there be a simnel cake to be seen – a tradition from ages past – with its rich layers of marzipan, and eleven balls of marzipan on top, reminders of the 11 disciples who remained faithful to Jesus?

Not everyone has enjoyed a wonderful or enduring relationship with their mum, so lest we get carried away on a wave of love and sentimentality, there is usually space in the Mothering Sunday church service to reflect on and pray for those whose relationships with their mother were not all they might have been.

Also, there are the families blighted by the lack of, or death of a child; families remembering a mum who died tragically young; women who never had a child but would have dearly loved the opportunity; all these and more are a recognition of the imperfections of human love, human life.

These imperfections can be brought in prayer to the God who mothers us. In the Old Testament, Isaiah speaks of God comforting His people like a mother hen. In the New Testament, both Matthew and Luke bear witness to Jesus expressing His desire to gather His people as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Yes, God has strong maternal qualities which He invites us to discover and enjoy!

Have you discovered the mothering, nurturing, maternal qualities which God offers to all people? It's lovelier than flowers, more long-lasting than simnel cake, better than a visit from family, and it's free to everyone who wants it – it could be yours!

Rev Roy Shaw, Parish Pump

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2026

| | |
|--|--|
| Sunday 1st March | 2nd Sunday of Lent (<i>Green Sunday</i>) 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in the Hall 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in the Hall 4.00pm Family Service – in the Hall |
| Wednesday 4 th March | 9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales |
| Thursday 5 th March | 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church |
| Sunday 8th March | 3rd Sunday of Lent 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00 am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 1.00pm Community Lunch |
| Wednesday 11 th March | 9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales |
| Thursday 12 th March | 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church |
| Sunday 15th March | 4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Messy Church |
| Tuesday 17th March | St Patrick |
| Wednesday 18 th March | 9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales |
| Thursday 19th March | St Joseph 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church |
| Saturday 21 st March | 8.00pm Social Dance |
| Sunday 22nd March | 5th Sunday of Lent 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online |
| Wednesday 25th March | The Annunciation 9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales |
| Thursday 26 th March | 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church |
| Sunday 29th March | Palm Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 6.00pm Taizé Prayer |
| Monday 30th March | Monday of Holy Week 8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline |
| Tuesday 31st March | Tuesday of Holy Week 8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline |

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2026

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| Wednesday 1st April | Wednesday of Holy Week 8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline |
| Thursday 2nd April | Maundy Thursday 8.00pm Sung Eucharist and Liturgy |
| Friday 3rd April | Good Friday 10.00am Messy Church 1.30pm Liturgy of Good Friday |
| Saturday 4th April | Holy Saturday 8.00pm Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter |
| Sunday 5th April | Easter Day 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 9.00am Prayer Meeting 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church |
| Wednesday 8 th April Thursday 9 th April | |
| Sunday 12th April | 2nd Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00 am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 1.00pm Community Lunch 9.00am Prayer Meeting 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church 8.00pm Social Dance |
| Wednesday 15 th April Thursday 16 th April Saturday 18 th April | |
| Sunday 19th April | 3rd Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Messy Church 9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales |
| Wednesday 22 nd April | |
| Thursday 23rd April | St George 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church |
| Sunday 26th April | St Mark – Patronal Festival 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 6.00pm Taizé Prayer 9.00am Prayer Meeting 3.25pm T-Time Tales |
| Wednesday 29 th April Thursday 30 th April | 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church |

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.



Portraits

Artists have for centuries created portraits of people who are famous, or sufficiently interesting enough for them to think that person's picture needs to be preserved. Except in rare cases such as with identical twins, we all look different. How wonderful that is? Even if we are a twin our personalities are likely to be different so in French we might say "Vive la difference" as how muddling it would be if we all looked alike?

The value of portraits has been recognized for years, and we have the National Portrait Gallery in London. There are even portraits of people on the walls of prehistoric caves and in the pyramids. Cartoonists have also had great fun depicting people in humorous ways to the joy of many.

Of course, nowadays we have so many photographs depicting us all, whatever age we are. We may not like how we have been portrayed. Early portraits might be lovely but often are not labelled and so we no longer know who they are. I have been struggling to dispose of so many old photograph albums and to decide what to keep and what to save is very difficult. More recently photos are taken on mobile phones but rarely preserved thereafter.

But an oil painting or a statue can express far more in the hands of a great artist. Jennifer Ford, the wife of Peter, a former Reader at St Marks, was a superb portrait artist. Years ago, she told my wife, Jenny, that most people wanted to have their portrait as soon as it was completed so she was unable to display it. Jenny said she didn't want a portrait so she, Jennifer Ford, could paint my Jenny if Jennifer Ford wanted to. It took some time, but when completed it was displayed in the Mall Gallery in London entitled "Mrs. Ian Archer" and only when Jennifer Ford left with her husband, years later, to live in Germany, was I able to buy it and it graces the wall above our mantelpiece to this day.

How amazing that now we can keep portraits on our mobile phones and then send them to others who might be interested. Also, nowadays cine films and videos can bring the memory of those we love, or have loved, back to us. How lucky we are.

Ian Archer



All in the month of March

It was:

175 years ago, on 11 March 1851 that the premiere of Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Rigoletto*, was held in Venice.

150 years ago, on 10 March 1876 that the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Graham Bell used his telephone to call his assistant, Thomas Watson, after spilling acid in his laboratory. The first words ever spoken on a telephone were: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you."

100 years ago, on 30 March 1926 that Ingvar Kamprad, Swedish businessman, was born. He founded IKEA, the furniture retail company, in 1943, when he was just 17 years old. (Died 2018) **90 years ago**, on 4 March 1936 that the German airship *Hindenburg* made its first flight. It was the largest airship ever constructed, and was destroyed in a fire in May 1937, ending the era of airship travel.

80 years ago, on 25 March 1946 that London's Heathrow Airport first opened as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow Airport in 1966.

75 years ago, on 15 March 1951 that Dennis the Menace first appeared in the British children's comic, *The Beano*.

40 years ago, on 3 March 1986 that Queen Elizabeth II signed the Australia Act, severing Australia's remaining legal ties with Britain and granting it full independence.

30 years ago, on 13 March 1996 that the Dunblane Massacre took place in Scotland. Thomas Hamilton, a former Scout leader, entered Dunblane Primary School, shot dead 16 children and a teacher, wounded 15 more, and then committed suicide. As a result, the private ownership of handguns was banned in the UK.

25 years ago, on 26 March 2001 that the UK Post Office was rebranded as Consignia, at a cost of around £2million. The name was so unpopular that the following year it was renamed The Royal Mail Group.

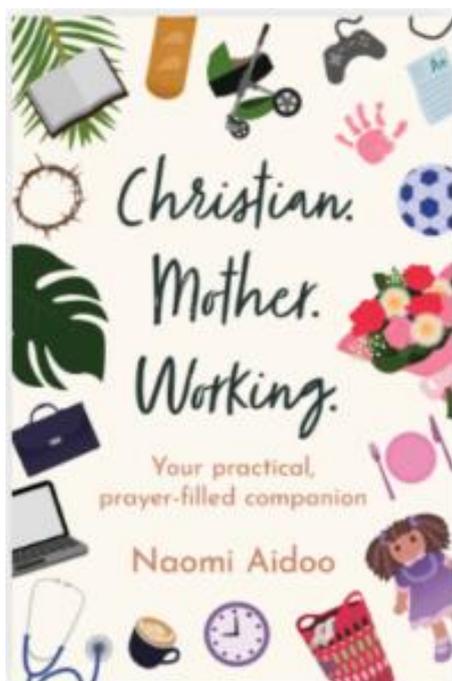
20 years ago, on 21 March 2006 that Twitter, the online social networking/micro-blogging service, was founded. Its website went live on 15 July that year.

10 years ago, on 31 March 2016 that Ronnie Corbett, Scottish films and tv comedian, actor, screenwriter and broadcaster (*The Two Ronnies*) died.

Parish Pump



Book Reviews



Christian. Mother. Working: Your practical, prayer-filled companion **By Naomi Aidoo**

This book considers how family and faith impact our work in each of life's seasons. With more and more mothers in the workforce, it shows how working motherhood is something to be celebrated. Through work we can display the call on our lives into areas which extend beyond our families, and which can also bring flourishing and fulfilment.

Life Beyond Suicide

Reflections on Loss and Love

Samuel Wells, Ann Feloy
and David Mosse



Life Beyond Suicide – reflections on Loss and Love **By Samuel Wells, Ann Feloy, and David Mosse,** **Canterbury Press**

No loss is more difficult to comprehend than suicide. Those left behind often struggle to find support, and the questions suicide raises – about faith, suffering, and meaning – can remain heartbreakingly unanswered.

Bringing together voices from pastoral care, lived experience, and theology, this book offers a compassionate, practical resource for all affected by suicide. Grounded in honesty, empathy, and hope, it is

a vital companion for anyone seeking understanding, healing, and a path toward life beyond loss.

*Have you recently read a good book? Tell us about it.
Email office@stmarksreigate.co.uk with your book review.*



A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church

Leaving a legacy

Legacy gifts can make a huge difference to churches. Each year, gifts in wills, ranging from £100s to £100,000s are received. Faithful witnesses leaving generous legacies have enabled churches to invest in their buildings, pioneer new ministries, and sustain a welcoming presence in their communities.

Why should you write a will?

Writing a will means you choose:

- How you would like to share your property and possessions;
- Who you would like to look after any children under the age of 18;
- How to support any charities or churches that are important to you.

Without a will, these decisions will be made according to pre-ordained rules, and by the courts, which may be different from your wishes. Leaving a will gives you peace of mind and lifts a burden from loved ones after you are gone.

To make it easier the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the UK's favourite will-writer, so anyone can write a simple will online for free, in as little as 30 minutes. You can find out more by visiting <https://farewill.com/southwarkdiocese>

We strongly advise seeing a solicitor for more complicated wills, or for people wishing to review their existing will or add a codicil.

A gift for future generations

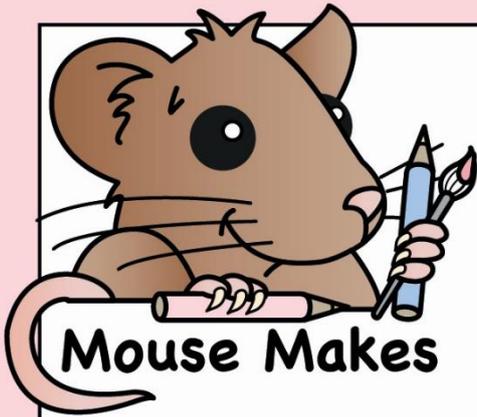
After you have made provision for your family and friends, we hope you'll also consider leaving a gift in your will to St Mark's. A legacy is a valuable expression of how meaningful a church has been during your time there. It's a way to give thanks - a lasting testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God.

The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund additional mission or development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Circumstances change over the years, so church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss the most appropriate use of the legacy in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (for example, children and youth, music, buildings).

You may also receive tax benefits for including a gift to St Mark's in your will. A gift in your will to a charity is free of inheritance tax and may also reduce the amount of tax payable on the rest of your will. <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>

Please consider leaving a legacy to St Mark's.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer

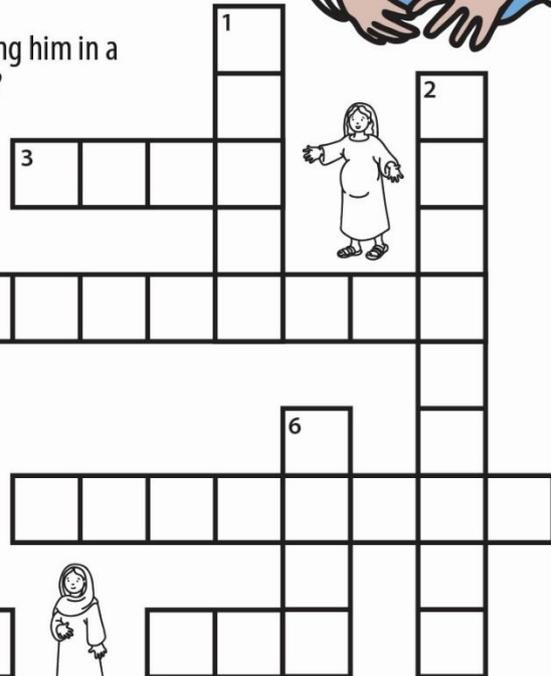


The Bible has many stories of mothers who had great faith in God. With their love, care, encouragement and prayers their children grew up to be great people of God.

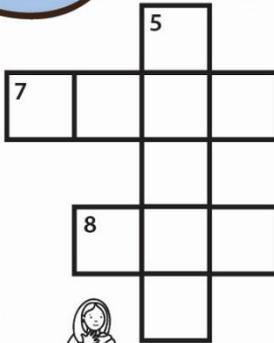


Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 2:1-3 and 6:20



Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?
Genesis 17:19



Across

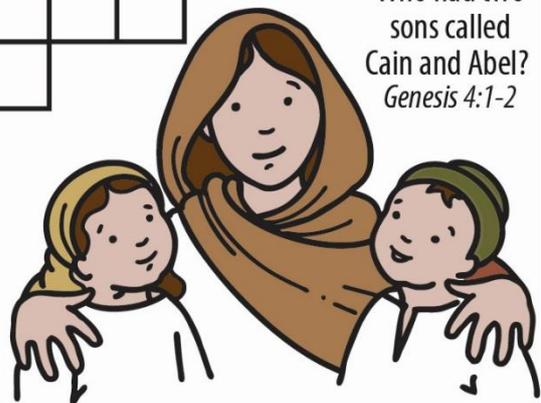
- 3. **Obed's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 4. **John's** mother
Luke 1:57-60
- 7. **Reuben's** mother
Genesis 29:32
- 8. **Joseph's** mother
Genesis 30:22-24
- 9. **Jesus' mother**
Acts 1:14

Down

- 1. **Boaz's** mother
Matthew 1:5
- 2. **Solomon's** mother
1 Kings 1:11
- 4. **Timothy's** mother
2 Timothy 1:5
- 5. **Ishmael's** mother
Genesis 16:15
- 6. **Jacob and Esau's** mother
Genesis 25:21-26

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?
1 Samuel 1:20

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?
Genesis 4:1-2



Answer the questions then put them into the crossword

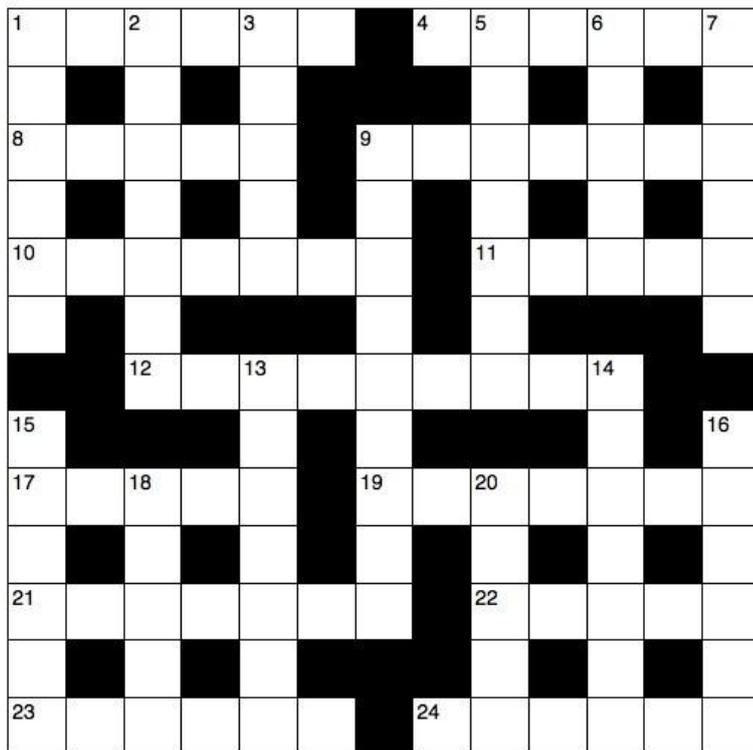
Mar26 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

March Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
 8 "They — — , " you will say, "but I'm not hurt!" (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
 10 Jewish (7)
 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
 12 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
 19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
 21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
 23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)



Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
 18 Donkeys (5)
 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

February answers

ACROSS: 1. Credit 4. Tackle 7. Cain 8. Kenaniah 9. Strength 13. Beg 16. Salvation Army 17. ARC 19. Every day 24. Admonish 25. Dire 26. Sneeze 27. Bronze

DOWN: 1. Cock 2. Epistolical 3. Taken 4. Tenet 5. Cane 6. Leave 10. Erase 11. Guide 12. Honey 13. Barbarian 14. Guys 15. Asia 18. Rod in 20. Voice 21. Rahab 22. Hope 23. Mene

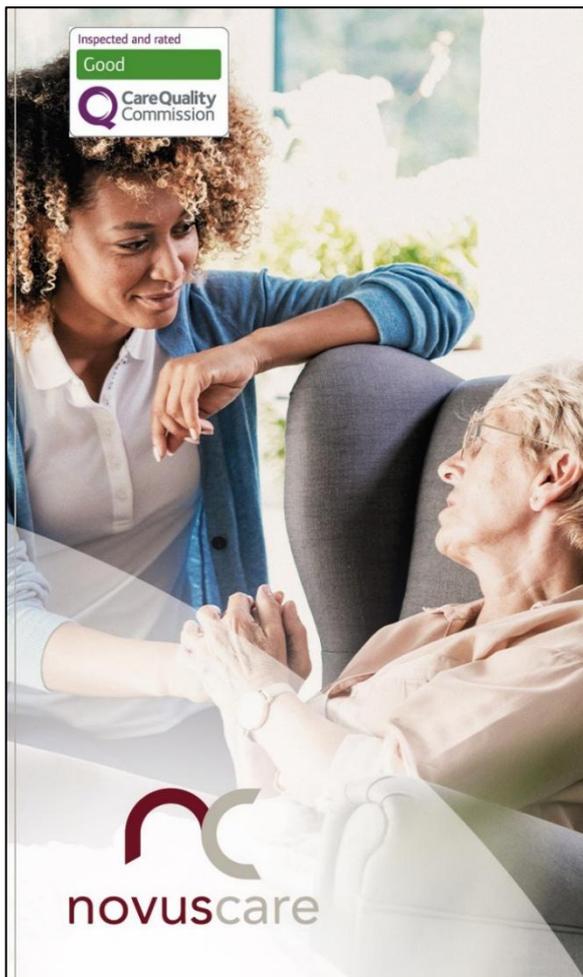
Puzzles

March Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | | 9 | | | | | 8 | 3 |
| 5 | 4 | | 9 | 3 | 1 | | | |
| | | | 2 | | | | | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | | | 1 | | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| | 6 | | | | | | 3 | |
| 8 | 9 | 2 | | 6 | | | 4 | 1 |
| 9 | | | | | 3 | | | |
| | | | 5 | 8 | 6 | | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 3 | | | | | 2 | | 8 |

February Solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| 8 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 6 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 3 |



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