

TO PROCLAIM, PREACH
AND LIVE THE GOSPEL
OF JESUS CHRIST



TROQUEER
PARISH CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

March 2022

The Minister

Dear friends,

I am writing this letter following the Presbytery Meeting last night that detailed the Presbytery Plan for our presbytery. The Presbytery has had a large number of vacancies especially in recent years with currently only 10 of the 20.9 posts we were allowed, actually being filled. As a result, most ministers and some elders are Interim Moderators, some for many years with the same charge and many congregations have had to adapt to working without a settled ministry. When preparing the new Presbytery Mission Plan, the Ministry and Resources Committee visited every congregation separately to discuss with them their work and worship as a community of Christ's church, what they saw as the challenges facing them, and who they saw as their natural working partners for the future.

In rural areas, particularly in Nithsdale, concern was expressed about the complete lack of young people who were involved in Church. Leadership was getting older and frailer and it was hard to encourage new people into leadership positions.

In Dumfries the different churches had all developed their own distinct theology and worship styles. The parish system, which is still very prevalent in the rural areas, is not nearly so prevalent in the town where the congregations are more gathered and members choose which church to worship in, not because of the parish they live in, but because the worship style and theology suits them.

Combining churches in Dumfries, which would seem sensible geographically, was not so sensible when looked at in more detail.

The Five Marks of Mission

1. Proclaiming the good news of the kingdom
2. Teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers
3. Responding to human need by loving service
4. Seeking to transform unjust structures of society, challenging violence of every kind and pursuing peace and reconciliation
5. Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth.

The draft plan with the mission narrative and ministerial resourcing was presented at the Presbytery meeting on 23 February. Congregations are requested to submit comments in writing, preferably by email, to the convener of the Ministry and Resources committee before its next meeting on March 30th. We are hoping that the buildings audit will also have been completed by then. A redrafted plan, including the designation of buildings will then go to Presbytery for its meeting at the end of April.

Draft Presbytery Plan for Dumfries and Surrounding Areas

St Mary's Greyfriars (3157) - congregation will be dissolved.

Caerlaverock (718) guardianship of 1 day a week plus Sunday

Troqueer (4754), left as is but with parish of **SMG** (3157), total -7911 - 1FTE

St Georges (3770) linked or united with **Northwest** (7930), linked with **Kirkmahoe** (2774) - total 14474 - 2 FTE

MaxWest (5691) linked with **Lochend and New Abbey** (899) total 6590 1FTE

St Michael's South (10,106) linked with **Irongray, Lochrutton and Terregles** (2375) total pop 12481, 1.25 FTE

(the figures in brackets is the population of the parish, 1FTE means one full time equivalent minister)

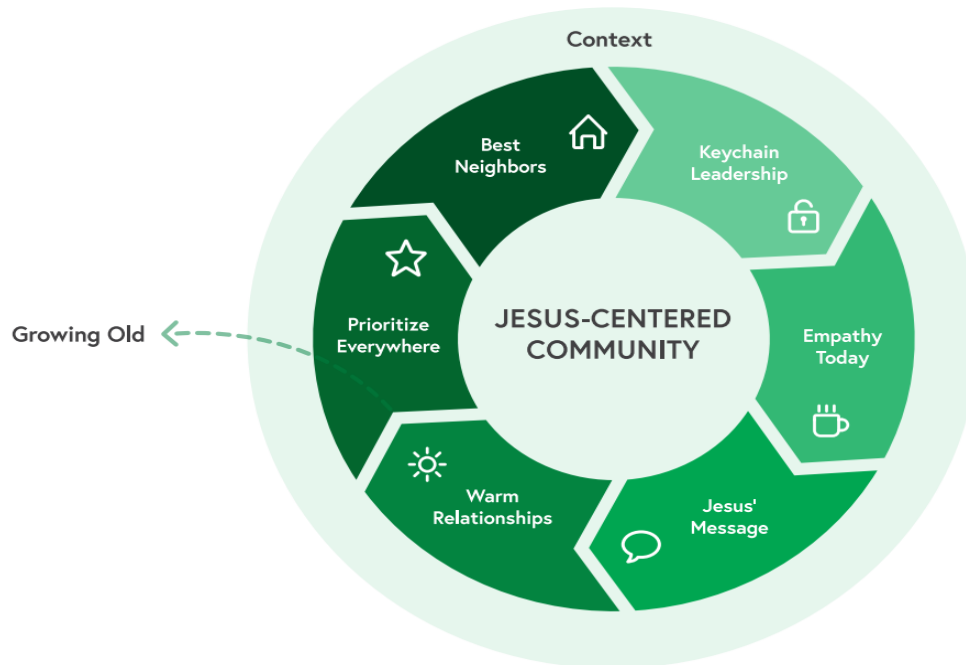
It should be remembered that this is a draft Plan and Kirk Sessions are encouraged to submit to the convenor of Mission and Resources their views. It should also be remembered that ministers in full status, which are all ministers in our presbytery, can't be forced to take on new responsibilities if they don't want to.

Just to be clear, the presbytery is suggesting that Troqueer Church will not be involved in any readjustment, but its parish will be extended to take in the parish of St. Mary's Greyfriars, which ceases to be a congregation (it will be dissolved) As Bob Dylan says 'The Times They Are a Changing'

John

Growing Young

The 6 Core Commitments of Churches Growing Young



The team started the year remembering Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3 - that they (and we) may know the love of Christ, and be filled with the fullness of God so that there would be glory to God in the church. And this is not of our own strength (thankfully) but that God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. We have been taking part in an exercise to consider a 'Vivid description' of what it would be like if we woke up in 2025 and all our hopes and dreams about our congregation had come true. What things would we see and hear? What would that feel like? Our evening service congregation helped with some input into this on 13 Feb. Some of the things we have been hearing really are BHAGs!* Watch this space - you will be hearing more soon! The team was encouraged by the fact that our draft was chosen to be sent to all the other congregations taking part. Our first project - The Christmas Jumper Swap event - raised £356.70 for Cancer Research plus a small amount raised at the Christmas Services £43.30)- £400 in total. By the time you read this our second project - marshalling at the Junior Parkrun on 6 March- will have taken place (and we're now naming these projects 'Community together' in line with our together theme).

COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Opening the doors



Our team is meeting on 2 March, and we then have a summit with FYI and the other congregations on 26 March - please pray for us!

As we move forward, we realise more and more that Growing Young needs the active support and participation of the whole congregation. We have been thinking about the concept of opening doors, especially doors of different types of serving, with the hope that people will be open to the prompting of the Spirit, choosing to walk through. Keep a lookout for a door of service opening for you!

*Big Hairy Audacious Goals

Rwanda Update

The Kigali City Council which is the top most organ of the city has finally signed off the resolution for the transfer of land title to DDM.

On January 2nd, 2022, which was the first Sunday of the year the DDC Kigali congregation was able to meet and worship together again since March of 2020.

We have forged an MoU with the Evangelical Friends Church to use their facility on Sunday afternoons. Please pray for us that the government won't interfere with this arrangement.

Blessings

Joel

Donations for the Ukraine

With the current situation on Ukraine there is a need for essential items for those fleeing their homes.

OPIR and MOOL are working together in Dumfries to gather donations for the Ukraine. They plan to take a convoy over to Poland to deliver essential items to refugees from the Ukraine on 21st March.

They are asking for boxes for mother and babies along with everyday items for other adults and children.

Mother and Baby boxes

Babies

Baby clothes up to 1 year old

Dummies

Blankets

Wash cloths

Carriers

Warm clothing

Hats and mittens

Women

Packets of new underwear

Breast pads

Hats and gloves

Thermal clothing

Muslins

Slings for carrying babies (not bulky carriers)

Everyone

Shoes, trainers

Towels

Blankets

Sleeping bags

Toiletries

Solid soap

Toothbrushes

Hairbrushes

Combs

Please put in a note of love and support - or even a picture - we want people to know that we really thinking about them!

For the next three weeks items can be dropped at MOOL:

Marchmount Depot
Marchmount Drive
Dumfries
DG1 1NT

Turn off Moffat Road, up Marchmount Avenue, up by the High School. Follow the road round, past the Water Board building on your right and keep going round to the end of the road where you'll see a brick warehouse on your right.

There's a storage box at the back of the depot where you can leave things undercover and we'll pick them up when we get in. The box lid opens without needing to undo the padlock.

For the next two Sundays anyone wishing to donate any items from the list can also pass these to Vanda.

If you have any queries please contact Vanda.

Calling all bakers!

Sharing food together has always been very important to us here at Troqueer! If you enjoy home baking or cooking for us at any church event, please note that anyone doing so must have at least the REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene certificate*. The Church of Scotland is currently offering this for free. This course will take approximately 2 hours to complete, is interactive and participants will be encouraged to reflect on their food safety knowledge and skills. There are no tests or exams during or after this course. This course is delivered through a third party training partner and is entirely online.

If you would like access to the course at home, please let me know and I can send you a link.

I would also like to know of anyone who would like to complete the course together in the Church Centre soon. Please give me your name and a date will be organised.

Stuart Notman

Jock and Katy Hughes.

As many of you will realise, we are still in the UK. We had thought we might be able to make a trip to Dobo, in the Aru Islands of Indonesia, in February and March, but because of Covid and restrictions for entry into Indonesia, this hasn't been possible. The main reason for making a trip was to do the final Bible Translation consultant check of four books of the Dobel New Testament - 2 Corinthians, 1 & 2 Peter and Hebrews. The consultant, Kathy, who was going to do these checks was available to travel to Dobo between mid-February and mid-March. There had been a ban on people from the UK entering Indonesia until mid-January. They then lifted that, but there was an 8-10 day compulsory quarantine on arrival in the country. It would take time for us to get a visa, and we realised that by the time we and Kathy actually got to Dobo, there wouldn't have been enough time to do the checks before Kathy had to leave, never mind the huge costs involved. As things turned out, it seems that the Omicron variant of Covid reached Dobo in early February and there have been many cases, resulting in schools being closed, and possibly there would have been restrictions on getting the number of people together needed to do the checking.

This doesn't mean though that the check isn't going ahead. We had a Zoom meeting with Kathy to discuss other ways to do this final check. She had recently done some checking successfully using audio recording sent on WhatsApp. After listening to those, she sent back questions and the answers were recorded. So, Kathy suggested we try something like this. Jock and the Dobel team decided to try this new way doing a check of 2 Peter, which is the shortest of the four books needing to be checked. The Dobel team started by reading short passages from 2 Peter to people from the Dobel-speaking community, and then reading just a verse or a sentence or two, and asking people to retell what they heard in their own words. This is what was recorded and was sent to Jock. By listening back, Jock can highlight things that may have been misunderstood or may not have been translated accurately, and he translates the retellings into English and then he sends them to Kathy. Between them they will send questions back for the Dobel team to ask those doing the check. It's a much longer process than if everyone was in Dobo and doing the check face-to-face, but until that is possible, this is a good alternative and means things can progress.

We are very thankful that, to date, we haven't had Covid and we have had both vaccinations and the booster. We've enjoyed some lovely times with our family - at Christmas with all our children and their families, and in February with all Jock's siblings and their spouses.

For those of you who pray for us and our work, thank you so much.

Remembering Mothers

The honouring of mothers goes back to Roman times. Each Spring, a pagan festival honoured Cybele, supreme Goddess of Fertility and Mother of all the Gods. Other celebrations paid tribute to Mother Earth. From the Middle Ages, in England, it became traditional for outdoor labourers and craftsmen to have a day off in Lent. Later, domestic servants were also given short leave to visit their mother and family.

These brief holidays became opportunities to go to church. This might have been their home church or their nearest cathedral. The Services at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. The term 'Mothering Sunday' dates from the 16th century. This year it falls on the 27th March.

'Mother's Day' is a secular festival. It originated in 1908 after a woman called Anna Jarvis held a church memorial service for her mother in West Virginia, USA. She was a peace activist and a nurse. She founded Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna wanted people to honour the mother of the family, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. Before she died Anna regretted the commercialism that followed and expressed that this was never her intention.

Many mothers are mentioned in the Bible along with interesting stories about them. These include Eve, Hagar, Leah, Ruth and Bathsheba, to mention only a few. A few times God enabled childless women to have a baby: Rachel, Rebekah, Manoah's wife (unnamed) and Hannah who eventually gave birth to Joseph, Jacob, Samson and Samuel respectively. There was also Sarah, wife of Abraham, who aged 90 became the mother of Isaac.

It is possible that these miraculous births were remembered by the Virgin Mary. She was certainly aware that her elderly relative was



Christian Aid

As this newsletter goes to press we are reflecting that it is almost two years from the last Lent lunch. With the current Covid situation it is looking difficult for this year's lunches to go ahead but we have the situation under review. Hopefully, the local Christian Aid fundraising events will be able to bring churches across Dumfries together before too long. To this end, we are planning an extra event of a Coffee Morning to mark Christian Aid week in May - watch out for details.

Even without the Lent lunches we can use lent to focus on Christian Aid's work with a weekly podcast from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. The theme is **Walking humbly through Lent - This is from Micah 6:8**

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God"

See the Christian Aid website (or ask Alison) for more details [UK charity fighting global poverty - Christian Aid](#)

Fairtrade

Fairtrade fortnight (22nd Feb to 6th March) will be coming to an end as the Newsletter is published. Did you see any publicity in town or local supermarkets? The theme this year is **Choose the World you want**. Choosing Fairtrade fights for improvements in producers' livelihoods with collective strength through co-ops and their bargaining power, the protection of a Minimum Price and Fairtrade Premiums.

There have been a great variety of online events organised by the Fairtrade foundation [Online Festival: Choose The World You Want festival 2022 - Fairtrade Foundation](#).

Locally the Fairtrade group held a catch-up - if you missed this you can keep in touch via Facebook

[\(20+\) Dumfries Fairtrade Group | Facebook](#)

Powerhouse News

We continue to follow the Sunday morning Bible passages in Luke's gospel and regularly do dramatic readings to bring events to life.

We hope you have enjoyed learning new songs with us in Church most recently [God is good \(with actions and lyrics\) - Nick and Becky Drake - YouTube](#) and re-learning "Faith is like a mustard seed". Special thanks to Amanda for leading the actions

We are starting to hope it will be possible to run a holiday club this summer - please speak to Alison to find out more.

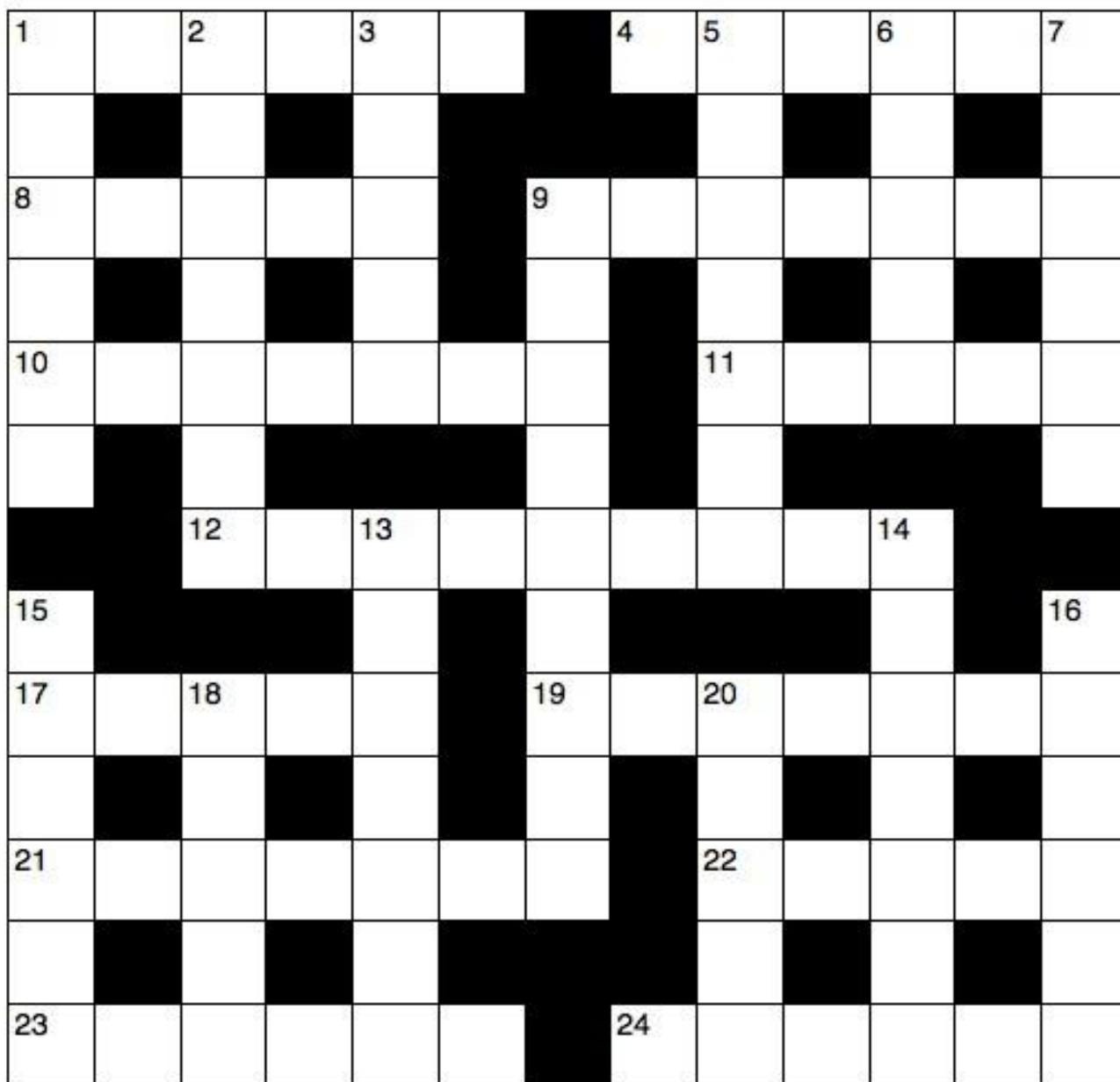
Youth Fellowship

What would you miss about Social Media if we didn't have it? What wouldn't you miss about Social Media? These are two questions we recently asked at YF recently and while there was a lot young people would miss keeping in touch with family or friends all over the world, seeing what our friends are doing, seeing the news etc. There were parts that people wouldn't miss e.g. bullying, peer pressure and bad news were among some of the these. In this age of technology and social media, do we know what our young people are looking at or being exposed to? It's something most of us didn't have when we were their age so we may not fully understand how they can struggle at times.

Do we let our young people know that there are safe places for them if they are struggling, being bullied or receiving things they shouldn't?

Take time to think of our young people and how Social Media can affect them, and what we can do to help and support them and please pray for them.





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)

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 15:11-32

Jesus told stories about a lost sheep and a lost coin, then one about a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father...

I want my share of what I'll inherit from you now!



So the father divided his property between his sons.

The younger son took his money and went to another country.

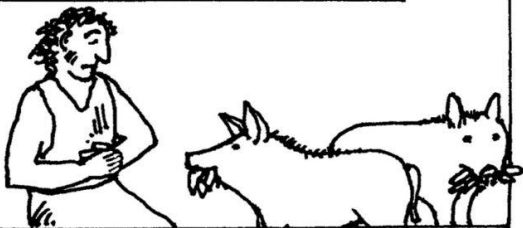


Then his money ran out and there was a famine.



The only job he could get was feeding pigs.

He was so hungry he would have eaten their food.



Then he came to his senses -

I'll go to my father, say sorry, and ask him for a job as a workman!



He set off for home.

His father saw him coming, ran to him and hugged him.



Father, I am so sorry. I am not good enough to be your son...



But his father sent servants to get clothes for his son and prepare a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son came back from work and heard the noise.



Your brother has returned and your father is having a feast

The older son was so angry he wouldn't go into the house..



so his father came out to see him.

For years I've slaved for you and you've given me nothing. He returns after wasting your money and you give him a feast!



My son, all I have is yours, but we should celebrate because he was lost and now he has been found.

The gardener and the Vine

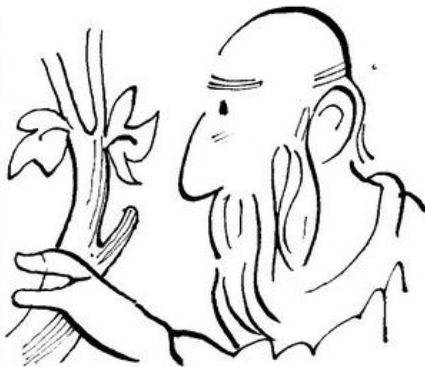


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...



...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...

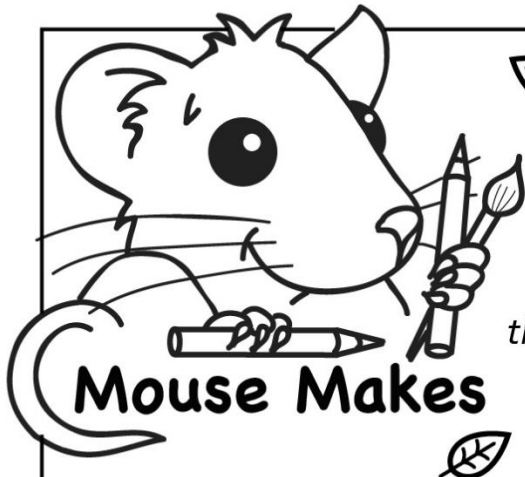


...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.



GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

*"No good tree does not produce bad fruit,
nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each
tree is known by its own fruit..."*

*...Good people bring good things out of the good
they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil
things out of the evil they stored in their hearts.
People speak the things that are in their hearts."*

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus
say we should
treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31

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

Do

_____ to everyone
who asks you
Luke 6:30

_____ to those that
hate you
Luke 6:27

_____ for those who
are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

_____ those who
curse you
Luke 6:28

_____ and you will be
forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

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

ACROSS: 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge. 12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 24, Beggar.

DOWN: 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten. 9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.