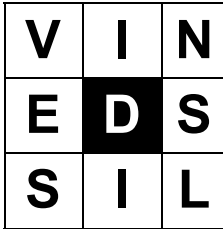


TARGET

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".



This month's Target: Good: 17, Very Good: 19, Excellent: 22+
[See Page 3 for solution]

BOOK REVIEW



Resilient
Your Invitation to a Jesus-Shaped Life
Sheridan Voysey

Proverbs 4:23 tells us, "Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life".

Sheridan Voysey believes that if you have a heart for God, you can build a solid foundation to withstand life's storms.

Using the Sermon on the Mount as a starting point, Voysey delivers 90 readings that help you recalibrate your heart to that of Jesus, who lived out everything He preached.

£10 Paperback, 240 pages, code TW828

Available from *Our Daily Bread Publishing*,
PO Box 1, Millhead, Carnforth, LA5 9ES.
Tel: 015395 64149

GIFTAID If you are a tax payer you can help increase the Church's income with no extra cost to yourself by **Gift Aiding** offerings and donations. Please consider this method of giving. Details from D. Reed or J. Whatton.



BUSINESS MEETINGS

ALL Church members are entitled and encouraged to attend the Meetings.

Come along and have your say in the running of **YOUR** church.

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, 12th May at 7.30pm

Emergency Contacts



Minister: B Hart—215745
President: J Whatton—215394
Vice-president: B Hart—215745
Secretary: M Whatton—07553 948008
Treasurer: D Reed—594832

Services in April 2025

Apr 6 J. Aspey **LS**
Apr 13 N. Bradshaw
Tuesday **Easter Meditation ***
Apr 15 at Clowes—7.30pm
Apr 18 **Good Friday**
at LHG IM Church
Apr 20 **Easter Day**
B. Hart
Apr 27 **Sunday School Anniversary**
Staff and Scholars



WA Speakers April 2025 Tuesdays at 7.30pm

Apr 1 Open Meeting
Apr 8 C. Ormerod
Apr 15 **Easter Meditation ***
at Clowes—7.30pm
Apr 22 L. Thomson
Apr 29 S. O'Nions

BETHEL INDEPENDENT METHODIST CHURCH
NEWTOWN, WIGAN

Worthy is the Lamb

AUGMENTED CHOIR EASTER CANTATA

GOOD FRIDAY

18th April at 7pm



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE
FREEWILL OFFERING IN AID OF THE STOREHOUSE FOODBANK
REFRESHMENTS SERVED



Mount Zion

Independent Methodist Church & Sunday School,
Ormskirk Road, Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 8ET.
Registered Charity 249330

Minister: G. Barry Hart B.A e.mail: minister.mountzion@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER April 2025 EASTER ISSUE

Please submit Items for next issue before 20th April 2025 Thanks

Why did Jesus Die?

What have been key events in your life? Most of us can think of events (which may have been good or bad at the time) which were turning points in our lives.

Historical events, too, often prove to be the turning point for a whole country. During the next few days we will be considering an event which happened in the Middle East nearly two thousand years ago, but which was the single most important event in the whole of history and a turning point in the relationship between God and the human race.

Jesus' death was a planned event. The whole of the Old Testament pointed towards it, both through the way that God dealt with his people, and through prophecies such as in Isaiah 53. Jesus himself knew what was ahead, and spoke of it to his followers.

Jesus' death was also an event with a purpose. As a result of it we are saved from the punishment we deserve for our sin and freed from sin's power over us, and our relationship with God is restored.

However, although we know that it was planned and had a purpose, Jesus' death is also a mystery to us; in this life we will never understand completely how his death can result in our forgiveness.

How important is Jesus' death to you? We may know in our heads that it is important, but do we genuinely believe it to be such a key event in our lives? How does it affect your reactions to other key events such as finding a new job, getting married, having a child or surviving a serious illness? In 1 Corinthians 15:12—19 Paul writes about how futile our faith and our lives would be if Jesus' death and resurrection had never happened. Without these events, our sins would not be forgiven (1 Corinthians 15:17) and we would have no hope beyond death (1 Corinthians 15:18). As you read about Jesus' death over the next few days, think about its importance to you, and its significance for other events which have had a major impact on your life.

Adapted from Daily Bread (Scripture Union) April—June 1998

What's on at Mount Zion

Regular Activities

Sunday, 10.45am
Family Worship and Sunday School
(Holy Communion—1st Sunday)
Tuesday, 7.30pm
Women's Auxiliary Ladies' Meeting
Thursday, 10.00am noon **Coffee Morning**

For your diary

Saturday, 21st June, 2.00—4.00pm
Cream Teas,
Saturday, 30th August, 2.00—4.00pm
Sausage Sizzle,
Saturday, 27th September, 2.00—4.00pm
McMillan Coffee Event,

The history of Easter

Easter commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, although the word 'Easter' actually has nothing to do with Christianity.

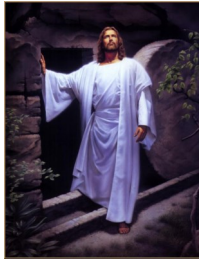
For Christians, the resurrection of Jesus is a foundation of their faith. Jesus was crucified on a Friday and rose from the dead on the following Sunday.

The book of Acts, records the words of Peter, one of Jesus' closest followers and an eyewitnesses to his resurrection. He tells a crowd, '*You handed him over to be killed and you disowned him before Pilate.... You killed the author of life but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.*'

Because the resurrection took place on a Sunday, the first Christians soon adopted Sunday as the day of the week when they gathered to pray together and worship God. But it took much longer for Easter Sunday to emerge as an annual day to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Christians in different countries marked it at different times and in different ways. Churches use Easter Day to praise God for raising Jesus from the dead and remember Christian martyrs – believers put to death rather than give up their faith.

In some traditions it was also the day on which new converts to Christianity were baptised, usually dressed in white.



The timing of Easter

Because the birth date of Jesus is not known, it is commemorated on Christmas Day which is always 25 December, although Orthodox Christians, however, celebrate it on 7 January because they have a different calendar.

The date of Jesus' death and resurrection were not recorded and, as a result, Easter is not fixed—it can fall any time between 22 March and 25 April—because it is linked to the Jewish festival of Passover, which depends on the cycles of the moon.

As the Feast of the Passover was taking place when Jesus died, this date was adopted for Easter.

In the 4th century church leaders agreed that Easter would always be on the Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox. But to add to the complexity, they referred to the mathematically-calculated 'Paschal' full moon which is not always the same day as when the moon appears full in the sky!

When the Western and Eastern (Orthodox) Christian churches decided to use different calendars in the 18th century Church leaders and governments have tried to settle on a specific date for Easter in April but no agreement has been reached.

How Easter got its name

In most countries, the name for Easter is derived from the word *Passover*.

The word '*Easter*' comes from the name for an Anglo-Saxon pagan goddess, *Eostre*, who was celebrated in Spring. In Germany, however, the festival is called *Ostern* because there the goddess is named Ostara.

The association of eggs with Easter is very ancient and the origins are not clear: eggs – and rabbits – are thought to be symbols of new life at springtime and Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection and the new life or fresh start that people receive when they become Christians.

'The History of Easter' Retrieved 25 March 2025, from <https://www.christianity.org.uk>

A PICTURE TO COLOUR



Check out Exodus 2: 1—10

This baby boy was placed in a basket by his sister.

God protected the baby.

Who was he, and what happened to him?

Answer: _____