

The magazine of the Barnsley Group Pastorate



**SPRING 2014**





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Dear friends

Firstly, the answer to the riddle in the Winter 2013 LINK Magazine.

You will recall that all the answers end in **sting** and the whole word is obtained in the clues below. I gave you an example: A sting that cures fatigue - answer: **resting**

I'm sure you managed to work them all out. If you did then give yourself a pat on the back.

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <i>1. A sting that cures hunger</i>           | <b>Feasting</b>    |
| <i>2. A sting that cleans your room</i>       | <b>Dusting</b>     |
| <i>3. A sting that makes you laugh</i>        | <b>Jesting</b>     |
| <i>4. A sting that cooks your meat</i>        | <b>Roasting</b>    |
| <i>5. A sting that spoils your tools</i>      | <b>Rusting</b>     |
| <i>6. A sting that holds your attention</i>   | <b>Interesting</b> |
| <i>7. A sting that some observe in Lent</i>   | <b>Fasting</b>     |
| <i>8. A sting that cooks are always using</i> | <b>Tasting</b>     |
| <i>9. A sting that browns your bread</i>      | <b>Toasting</b>    |

As we approach, or are in, Lent, depending when you are reading this, number 7 in the riddle stands out above all the others for me. Fasting in Lent would be a very useful and demanding discipline for me. It is something I shamefully admit I don't do. But I suspect that I am not alone in this. We could certainly learn from our Muslim brothers and sisters, many of whom observe their holy month of Ramadan by fasting during daylight hours. You will probably be familiar with the passage of scripture which tells us about Jesus fasting and being tempted by the devil. (Matthew 4:1-11)

Below is a meditation - a liturgy - a conversation between four people. It was written by Heather Johnston. You may find it helpful to read and reflect on it during this season of Lent.

## **GIVING UP?**

**Voice 1:** What are you giving up for Lent?

**Voice 2:** I'm giving up meals out and take-aways, then the money I save will go towards a holiday abroad, and I'll get into that dress I bought in the January sales.

**Voice 1:** All this will be yours if you worship me.  
What are you giving up for Lent?

**Voice 3:** I'm giving up buying magazines, then the time I would have spent reading them I'll use to decorate the lounge, and the money I save will go towards new curtains.

**Voice 1:** All this will be yours if you worship me.  
What are you giving up for Lent?

**Voice 4:** I'm giving up watching TV and enrolling for a computer course. That should further my chances of promotion at work.

**Voice 1:** All this will be yours if you worship me.

**Voice 2:** The scripture says, worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.

**Voice 3:** Lord God, Please help us use this time of Lent wisely, as a period of preparation for Easter, spending more time reflecting on your word and praying for spiritual renewal. Instead of 'giving up', may we 'give out' and use our money, time and talents to serve others, so that your love may shine through us and be a reflection of you in our lives. **Amen**

**Voice 4**

Saviour Christ,  
You never gave up on anybody; you always saw goodness  
in people. We remember Mary Magdalene and  
Zaccheus, how you reached out to them and they  
responded, so that their lives were turned around.  
Thank you for the certainty that you will never give up  
on us.

**Amen**

**Voice 2**

Holy Spirit,  
You led Jesus into the desert and gave him the power to  
resist temptation. Be with us and make us strong when  
we are tempted to be economical with the truth, or  
when we want to put our own interests first, or when  
it is easier to stay silent rather than take the  
opportunity of speaking about our faith. Please fill  
us with your power, so that we are ready on Easter  
morning to proclaim the wonder of our risen Lord.

**Amen**

*Items for the Summer 2014 LINK need to be with me by  
Sunday 11 May). Thanks.*

Have a peaceful and blessed Easter.  
Your friend and minister

*Nick*

## Group Pastorate Services

We meet together for worship, fellowship and food three times a year. The next two services are:

**TRINITY - 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014**

**WEST MELTON - 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2014**

These services will start at 11.00am.

**YOU ARE ALL WELCOME.**



### **WEST MELTON'S GREEN TIPS CORNER**

By Helen Owen

Number 17 - KEEP YOUR KETTLE LIMESCALE-FREE



Remove limescale the easy way. Add a mixture of half water and half white vinegar to cover the element in your kettle and leave overnight. Empty out in the morning, then remove any odour by

boiling fresh water in the kettle-use the discarded water for washing up. Then use your shiny, clean kettle for your morning cuppa.

# Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood

Photos by Joanne Morfitt and Rev Nick



The Trinity Players presented their annual pantomime over two weekends in January. The show was a great success. Oh yes it was. It had a talented cast and every audience was thoroughly entertained. Oh yes they were! Rev Nick had the opportunity to use an



Aspergillum (Holy water sprinkler) to 'sprinkle' members of the audience. On one or two occasions he also used it to dampen some of the cast!



The director once again was Bob Willerton. His tirelessness and patience are outstanding. He is, obviously very skilled at

directing pantomimes and all the members of the cast, perhaps with one exception, Ruth (his wife!) hope that



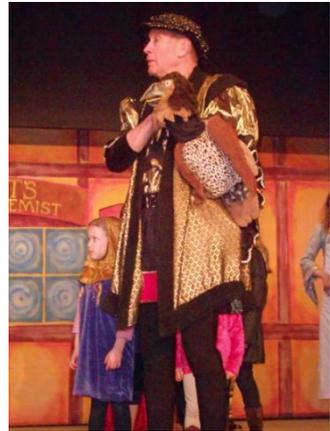
Bob will continue directing these wonderful shows for many years to come. Thanks, Bob, for all your hard work.



Every year people tell us that the panto is getting better and better. Perhaps, at some point in the future, we may be good

at it! Rehearsing and performing is hard work but to hear an audience laugh, boo and applause (in the right places, of course) is all the reward we need. It certainly does our egos good!

What will the next panto be? Who knows, the cast just hope there will be a next one. Oh yes we do!



Coming Next.....

**Trinity Players present**



**Home is  
where your  
clothes are!**

***A farce by  
Anthony Marriott and  
Bob Grant***

Directed by Karen Slater

Weds 14th to Sat 17th May

In Trinity Church Hall

and at the Wakefield Festival on Sunday 25th May.

To book your tickets visit:

[www.trinityplayersbarnsley.com](http://www.trinityplayersbarnsley.com)

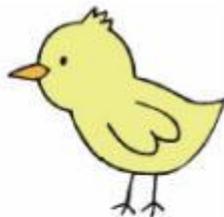
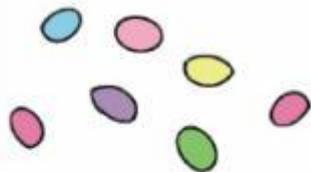
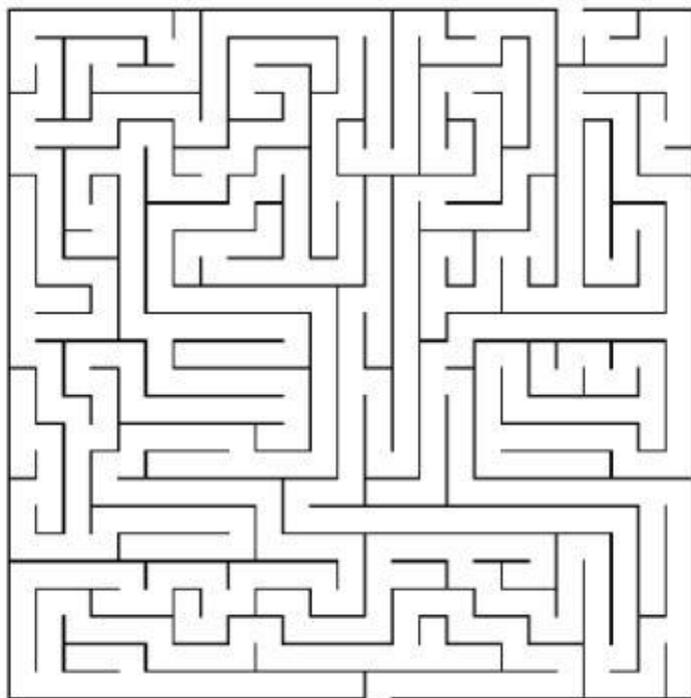
or phone: 07760735953

or email: [BoxOffice@trinityplayersbarnsley.com](mailto:BoxOffice@trinityplayersbarnsley.com)

Hello Kitty – A picture for you to colour



Can you help the chick find his friend?



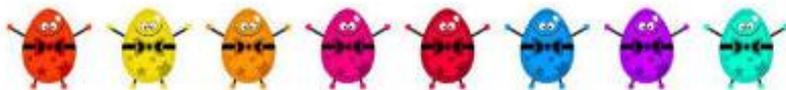


## Easter Sudoku



Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters E a s t e r. Don't guess - use logic

		E	r		
r					E
	E			a	
	r			s	
e					s
		a	t		



[www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk) - Keeping Kids Busy

Solution on page 15 (No Cheating!)

## A recipe for you to try.

### Griddled artichoke and red onion paella (serves 4)

An easy vegetarian paella recipe. Try using it as a template and substituting your favourite seasonal vegetables. If you're a meat eater you can add chicken and/or shellfish.



## Ingredients

4 tbsp vegetable oil; 3 red onions, finely sliced; 2 garlic cloves, crushed; 400g/14oz paella rice, such as calasparra; 1 tsp ground turmeric; 1 tsp smoked paprika; 800ml/1 pint 7fl oz hot vegetable stock; 1 tsp finely chopped fresh rosemary; 200g/7oz cherry tomatoes; 150g/5½oz fresh peas; 125ml/4fl oz good quality extra virgin olive oil, preferably Spanish; 1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley, to serve; 1 x 400g/14oz can artichoke hearts in water, drained and rinsed.

## Preparation method

1. In a frying pan, heat one tablespoon of the vegetable oil over a medium heat. Add the onions and garlic and fry for 2-3 minutes, or until softened.
2. Add the paella rice, ground turmeric and smoked paprika and stir well to coat the vegetables in the spices.
3. Add the hot stock and chopped rosemary and bring the mixture to the boil, stirring well. Reduce the heat to a simmer and simmer the mixture, stirring occasionally, for 18-20 minutes, or until the paella rice has absorbed most of the liquid.
4. Add the cherry tomatoes and peas and continue to simmer for a further 4-5 minutes, or until the rice is just tender.
5. Remove the pan from the heat and drizzle over the olive oil, then stir until well combined. Stir in the chopped parsley.
6. Meanwhile, heat a griddle pan over a medium heat. Rub the drained artichokes all over in the remaining three tablespoons of vegetable oil. When the pan is hot, add the oiled artichoke hearts and griddle for 1-2 minutes on each side, or until golden-brown griddle marks appear on both sides (NB: Do not stir the artichoke hearts as you griddle them).
7. To serve, spoon the paella into the centre of four serving plates. Place some of the griddled artichokes on top of each serving.

s	e	E	r	t	a
r	a	t	s	e	E
t	E	s	e	a	r
a	r	e	E	s	t
e	t	r	a	E	s
E	s	a	t	r	e

## West Melton's Little Stars Fancy Dress Coffee Morning



On January 22<sup>nd</sup> the Little Stars (carer and toddler group) held a coffee morning to raise money for McMillan Nurses. Their efforts raised the fabulous sum of £400. These photos were taken by Margaret Swallow. (There are more on page 18).



## Encountering God in...

You may know that I am currently our Synod's link person and a member of the core group of the URC Retreats Group. I am helping to organise and lead an event at Westminster College, Cambridge. Details are below. It would be fantastic if some of you were able to attend what promises to be a really useful and relaxing time. *Rev Nick.*

Thursday 19th — Saturday 21st June, 2014

Join us in this exciting opportunity shared between the URC Retreats Group (which brings together members, elders and ministers from across the denomination) and Westminster College.

We invite you to two days to explore some of the ways in which we encounter God – in scripture, creativity, silence and the heart of Cambridge.

A time of refreshment to discover a new spiritual way or to reconnect with past journeys.

Only £210 including all meals accommodation, materials & resources.

(Arrive for afternoon tea on 19th depart after lunch on 21st)

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or email: [admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admin@westminster.cam.ac.uk)  
[www.westminster.cam.ac.uk](http://www.westminster.cam.ac.uk)

.....more photos from the Little Stars Coffee Morning

Joyce Jones as Hilda Ogden!



## News from around the world

### **Locked in church and killed: Christians among 138 dead in Nigeria**

Christians at a church service in Northern Nigeria were targeted in a day of horrendous violence by suspected Boko Haram militants that left at least 138 people dead. The attackers descended on the church, in Wada Chakawa village in Adamawa state, as the service on Sunday 26 January was coming to an end.

The attackers, armed with AK47 rifles, killed two police officers who were guarding the building and locked the congregation inside. They detonated bombs, shooting and cutting the throats of those who tried to escape.

The militants then went on a four-hour rampage in the village from around 10am to 2pm. They burnt down homes and seized residents, including women, children and the elderly, as hostages; some of them were later killed.

Around 53 people from Wada Chakawa are reported to have died, with dozens more being wounded.



**Entire villages are being razed in Boko Haram's terrifying campaign**

Later the same day, Kawuri village in neighbouring Borno state came under attack. The militants blew up a busy market and shot people, including children.

In a siege that lasted from 5pm until 1am the next morning, the entire village, including 300 homes and seven mosques, was burned down. An imam and two people praying in one of the mosques were among 85 people known to have been killed in the onslaught. Around 40 people were hospitalised with serious injuries.

The attacks took place in two of the three states, the other being Yobe, that have been under a state of emergency since May 2013. The measure has not been enough to contain Boko Haram's insurgency. Over 200 people are estimated to have died in terrorist violence in Nigeria in January. The fighting is forcing thousands of Nigerians to flee their homes. In just ten days last month, nearly 6,000 people fled to Cameroon and Niger.

Boko Haram is fighting to establish an Islamic state in Northern Nigeria. Their chief targets are Christians, the security forces and state institutions, as well as Muslims who oppose their radical agenda.

*(<https://barnabasfund.org/Locked-in-church-and-killed-Christians-among-138-dead-in-Nigeria-attacks.html>)*

### **Vulnerable Christians of Homs in dire need.**

The plight of a group of Christians trapped in Homs who are dying of starvation and disease illustrates the gravity of the crisis facing the Christian community in Syria.



**Collecting a food parcel**

Homs has been a key battleground in the Syrian civil war and has seen some of the most destructive fighting. The Old City area, which used to be home to 60,000 Christians, is under rebel control. Churches and other Christian institutions have been destroyed.

While many residents have fled, a couple of thousand remain, among them a few dozen Christians whose number is gradually dwindling as the lack of food and medicine take their toll. The Old City has been cut off for nearly two years. The fighting over Homs has displaced 600,000 people.

The needs are vast. The UN estimates that more than nine million people in Syria are now in need of humanitarian assistance.

*(<https://barnabasfund.org/UK/News/Latest-emergencies/Vulnerable-Christians-of-Homs-in-dire-need-Barnabas-providing-aid.html>)*

## Wath Churches Together FOOD PARCELS

Just a short update on this service to the community.

As you may know, the Tuesday Kitchen has finished as it was not meeting a need. Instead we have been running a weekly Wednesday lunchtime session since June of last year. Free tea and coffee, a friendly chat or listening ear and food parcels are provided. We are now getting about 20 people each week, some of whom have been coming for several months.

Tinned food is provided by several Wath churches including our own and fresh food is donated by Costco

Wholesalers. On Christmas Eve last year we provided turkey sandwiches, food parcels and toys to those with young families. The chocolates given by our church were included in the parcels and several of the beneficiaries told me later how much they were enjoyed and how welcome they had been. We shall be continuing this service for as long as there is a need and so tinned and non perishable food continues to be needed to make up the parcels. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all at West Melton URC for your wonderful generosity over the last year.



Helen Owen

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCHES

### Clayton West

Sunday	Worship every week at 3.00 pm. Communion is included in the service on the 1 <sup>st</sup> first Sunday of each month
Friday	Baby and Toddler Group 1.00pm - 3.00pm ( <i>in term time</i> )
Saturday	Coffee Morning on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturday each month 10.00am

### Trinity (Barnsley)

Sunday	Worship every week at 10.30 am. Communion is included in the service on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> third Sunday of each month
Tuesday	Bible Study at 7.30 pm
Wednesday	Age-Well ( <i>over 50s club</i> ) every week 10.30am-1.00pm Trinity Players every week at 7.30pm

### West Melton

Sunday	Worship on the 1 <sup>st</sup> ( <i>inc. WHIZZ KIDS</i> ) and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10.30am and on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 3.00pm. Communion is included in the service on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month
Wednesday	Little Stars 9.30am every week ( <i>in term time</i> ) Praying Hands ( <i>prayer group</i> ) 7.30pm - 8.30pm on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month Fellowship evening ( <i>varied programme</i> ) 7.30pm on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month
Saturday	Men's Breakfast at 8.00am on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday each month



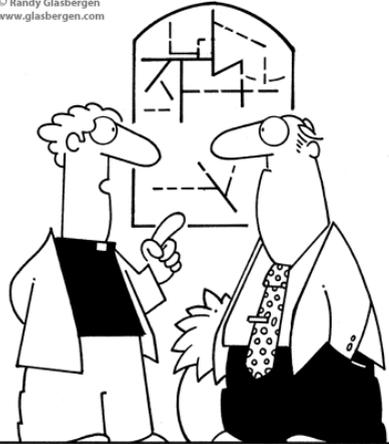
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**WEST MELTON:**

Mr. John Paskell. *(As above)*

[www.urbarnsleygroup.org.uk](http://www.urbarnsleygroup.org.uk)