

Services in May 2024		
May 5	Barry Hart	LS
May 12	TBA	
May 19	Allister du Plessis	
May 26	Richard Waller	



Womens' Auxiliary Speakers for May 2024	
May 7	Open Meeting
May 14	Julie Smith
May 21	Lisa Green
May 28	Open Meeting



A record of thankfulness

In difficult times it is encouraging to recall a history of past blessings.

Our list of reasons to thank God is endless, but sometimes we might have difficulty thinking of those reasons, because the challenges of this life seem so overwhelming that we can't see past them to the amazing deeds God has done for us.

With notoriously short memories, humans can struggle to regain the sense of wonder at answered prayers. Too often we can regress from joy and faith one moment to hopelessness the next, when something doesn't seem to happen as we anticipate. Keeping a journal of some sort in which to record miracles or examples of God's favour and help in our lives can be an encouragement at such times. It helps us to remember all our Heavenly Father does for us.

Good Friday and Easter

Both Special Services were led by our minister, Barry Hart.

On Good Friday, friends from Loch St. IM and Clowes Methodist Church joined with us in posing the question, "What's Good about Good Friday?"

On Easter Day we were happy to welcome to our Resurrection Celebration service both granddaughter and great grand daughter of Frank Jones, one of the Elders who, on Easter Day 1934, (90 years ago), laid one of the Foundation Stones for the "New Church" building. A Blessed time for all present.

Home Prayer and Communion

Would you, if you are unable to get to church for Services, like to have Holy Communion brought to you at home? Please contact Minister to make arrangements. Thank You

Fellowship and Bible Conference

The well attended Conference provided a blessed time of Study and Fellowship for all who met at the Garstang Country Hotel & Golf Centre on 19th & 20th April.

Chaired by Roger Stone (Connexional President Elect), Speaker, Paul Baxendale, who is full-time Teaching Elder at Park Street Church, Kendal, took the theme "The Invisible Hand of God as found in the Book of Esther"

Over four sessions, we studied the 10 Chapters of the Book of Esther from which many similarities and parallels between that period and today's were drawn.

GIFT AID

If you are a tax-payer and have not yet "signed up" to the Scheme, please consider, at no extra cost to yourself, doing so, as the Church can claim Tax Relief on them. Church has benefitted by Tax Relief of £2800 this year from our gifts. Thanks to all who support the Scheme. For further details contact David Reed or Jack Whatton.

Mount Zion Independent Methodist Church & Sunday School

Ormskirk Road, Pemberton, Wigan, WN5 8ET.
Registered Charity 249330
Minister: G. Barry Hart B.A
Email: minister.mountzion@gmail.com

Newsletter

May 2024

Please submit items for next issue before 21st May 2024 Thanks

Contact Details

Minister—G. Barry Hart—215745
President—Jack Whatton—215394
Vice-president—G. Barry Hart—215745
Secretary—Michael Whatton—07553948008
Treasurer—David Reed—594832
Lettings Officer—Janet Reed—594832

Activities at Mount Zion

- * Sunday, 10.45am **Family Worship and Sunday School** (Holy Communion—1st Sunday of Month)
- * Monday, 1.30pm (Fortnightly) **Ichthus Group Bible Study and Prayer Meeting**
- * Tuesday, 7.30pm **Women's Auxiliary Ladies' Meeting**
- * Thursday, 10.00am to noon **Coffee Morning**

Forthcoming events:

June 8th, Cream Teas
August 31st, Sausage Sizzle
September 28th, McMillan Coffee

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Other activities as announced

CONFORMED OR TRANSFORMED?

'Do not be conformed...but be transformed.'
Romans 12:2 NKJV

Part 1 of a 4 Part Series

[Adapted from: [Word for Today](#) (UCB) with Permission]

Chuck Swindoll said, 'We like to imagine ourselves a race of rugged individuals – the Patrick Henrys, Davy Crocketts and Lone Rangers. The truth is, we hate to appear different lest we be ostracised, branded fanatics and rejected. So, we conform. You'll see it in the child eager to please; the adolescent aligning with peer pressure; the adult breaking their back to keep up with the Joneses.' Just being different for its own sake is likely to be worthless, even counterproductive. What God wants from us is our willingness to be radically transformed. 'Therefore, I urge you...to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind' (vv. 1–2 NIV).

Here are two important observations to help you reach that goal. 1) *Transformation* belongs to believers. The unbeliever can't break the world's control over them without Christ, but believers are promised: 'the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world' (1 John 4:4 NLT). God's indwelling Spirit enables you to resist the world's pressure to conform you to its ways. 2) *God's appeal is urgent.* 'I urge you.' Words like beg, plead, beseech are used in some translations because the appeal isn't secondary or optional. It's vital, a divine imperative! God is seeking for surrendered vessels that are ready to be transformed for His use. Are you willing to say, 'Yes, Lord, use me'?

ALL Church members are entitled and encouraged to attend the regular Church Business Meeting Meetings. Come along and have your say in the running of **YOUR** church.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING—MONDAY, 3rd June at 7.30pm

Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ



The **Feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ** [also called the **Solemnity of the Ascension of Jesus Christ, Ascension Day, Ascension Thursday, or sometimes Holy Thursday**] is shared by many ecumenical Christian church denominations and ranks with the feasts of the Passion and Pentecost. Ascension Day commemorates the Christian belief in the physical Ascension of Jesus into Heaven, following the account of Acts 1:3 that the risen Jesus appeared for 40 days prior to his Ascension and is traditionally celebrated on a Thursday, the fortieth day of Easter, although some Christian denominations have moved the observance to the following Sunday, [sometimes called **Ascension Sunday**].

The day of observance varies by ecclesiastical province in many Christian denominations, as with Methodists and Catholics, for example.

Ascensiontide refers to the ten-day period between the **Feasts of the Ascension** and the **Pentecost**. The Sunday within that period may be referred to as the Seventh Sunday of Easter or the Sunday in Ascensiontide.

HYMN WRITERS AND THEIR HYMNS

ELLIOTT, Charlotte 1789—1871,



Charlotte Elliott was born in Clapham, on March 18, 1789, where she lived for 32 years, writing light verse. When she met Cesar Malan, an evangelist from Geneva, her life was completely transformed and she devoted herself thereafter to religious and philanthropic pursuits. She corresponded with Malan for 40 years, celebrating the date of their meeting as her soul's birthday. Her first hymns were published in 1834, her last in 1869, for though an invalid from around 1820 to her death, she continued a prolific literary career that produced 150 hymns. She lived in Brighton for a number of years, and died there on September 22, 1871 at the age of 82.

Just as I am without one plea1836

What Did You Expect?

Redeeming the Realities of Marriage

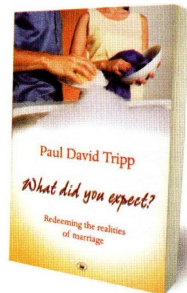
Paul David Tripp

This compassionate and insightful book contains helpful advice both for those dreaming of marriage and those whose marriages don't live up to the dream. This is a book that everyone contemplating marriage will find hugely encouraging.

Paperback, 288 pages, code XX4749

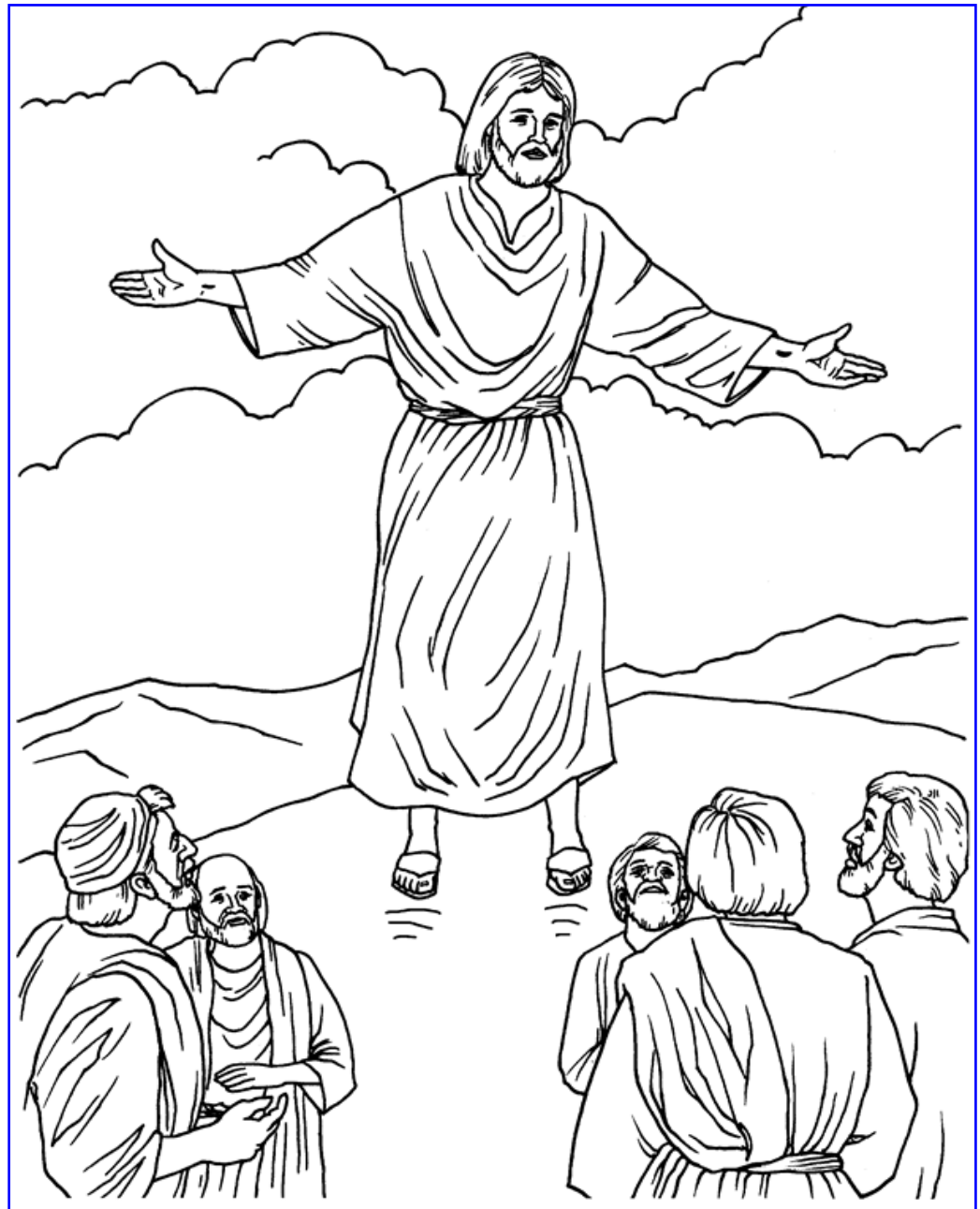
Available from: **Discovery House** P.O.Box 1, Millhead, Carnforth, LA5 9ES

Tel: 01539564149 or online : discoveryhouse.org.uk



BOOK REVIEW

A Picture to colour—THE ASCENSION OF JESUS



**Can you find in the Bible, who was at the Ascension with Jesus?
Where can this story be found?**

Quiz & Puzzle Page

What Word Am I?

In the seven clues listed below, in order to make the word, there is only one letter which will fit into the boxes below. The clues work from the left to the right. Decide which letter the clue is speaking of. then write the letter in the boxes, going from left to right. (Thanks to friends from Kirkhall Lane IM Church—Ed.)

1. My first letter is in buried and in blessed.
2. My second letter is in spices and in weeping.
3. My third letter is in disciples and in love.
4. My fourth letter is in criminal and in sinner.
5. My fifth letter is in women and in risen.
6. My sixth letter is in evil and in forgive.
7. My seventh letter is in death and in heaven.

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LINKWORDS

Fit 10 words into the grid so that each links with the end of the word on its left and the beginning of the one on the right. Then unscramble the letters in the shaded squares to make a word.

CLUE: Deprive of land, and property, and so on.

ISLAND							STATE
ROMAN							WOOD
FAULTY							OVER
PAST							BEDROOM
JUDICIAL							SITES
SPLIT							SIGHT
TOP							CONTROL
LEFT-							OVER
RASPBERRY							EFFECT
SCAR							PAPER

Wordwise

You have 15 minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the grid. Each word must contain four or more letters, one of which must be the central square. No proper nouns, plurals or foreign words are allowed. There is one nine-letter word in the grid, for which the clue is: **Fenced area.**

L	S	E
U	O	N
R	C	E

Average = 25 More than 45 = well done

Quiz & Puzzle Solutions in Next issue



Moving Forward Special Meetings

Members of all the Congregations of Connexional IM Churches were invited to take part in meetings

held at three venues on Saturday, 27th April 2024.

New Silksworth IM Church (North East), Stockton Heath IM Church (North West), at 2.00pm. and Warmley IM Church (South-West) during the President's Afternoon Service / Fellowship tea, in response to a request from Grappenhall IM Church to consider the future of Independent Methodism—the way it is governed, the relationship between the Churches and Connexion; how the Churches are represented fairly and how (or whether) to bring the Connexion and Association together as one body.

The meeting at Stockton Heath in the North West was attended by around 70 members with individual Churches well represented.

Rob Brooks, on behalf of the fellowship at Grappenhall Church outlined the reasoning behind the original articles published in the Connexion Magazine and the request for the meeting. A number of issues were discussed. Views of those present was, as expected, varied yet were thoughtfully put forward with the consensus reflecting a belief that we, as "local" Christians had (and still have) a role to play in the ministry and mission within the local community—especially within the present circumstances in which we find ourselves.

There were no formal "decision" made. The purpose of the meeting—to express our thoughts, consider options and draw conclusions was carried out sympathetically and prayerfully.

It was obvious that the feeling of the meeting was one of concern for the Lord's work in the North West and the recommendations and suggestions made are to be fed back to Connexion, via the General Secretary for dissemination to Committee.

Our battle cry is still made through words penned by hymnwriters of old:

"Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be." (Samuel Crossman, 1624-83)

"He bids us build each other up; and gathered into one, to our high calling's glorious hope we hand in hand go on." (Charles Wesley, 1707-88).

Thanks were extended to the fellowship of Stockton Heath for hosting the meeting, to those who contributed to the discussions and all present.

Barry Hart

Ascension Day

"When Christ went up to Heaven the Apostles stayed"

Gazing at Heaven with souls and wills on fire,
Their hearts on flight along the track He made,
Winged by desire.

Their silence spake: "Lord, why not follow Thee?
Home is not home without Thy Blessed Face,
Life is not life. Remember, Lord, and see,
Look back, embrace.

"Earth is one desert waste of banishment,
Life is one long-drawn anguish of decay.
Where Thou wert wont to go we also went:
Why not today?"

Nevertheless a cloud cut off their gaze:
They tarry to build up Jerusalem,
Watching for Him, while thro' the appointed days
He watches them.

They do His Will, and doing it rejoice,
Patiently glad to spend and to be spent:
Still He speaks to them, still they hear His Voice
And are content.

For as a cloud received Him from their sight,
So with a cloud will He return ere long:
Therefore they stand on guard by day, by night,
Strenuous and strong.

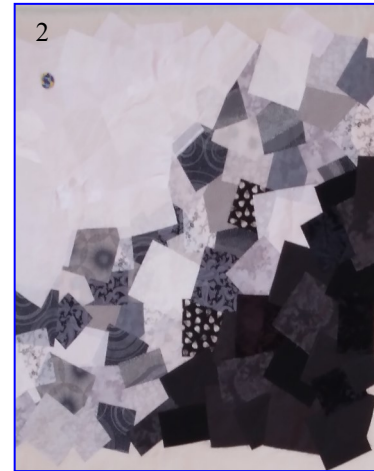
They do, they dare, they beyond seven times seven
Forgive, they cry God's mighty word aloud:
Yet sometimes haply lift tired eyes to Heaven—
"Is that His cloud?"

Christina Georgina Rossetti

CREATION'S STORY

1. **TRINITY**—In the Beginning
2. **LIGHT & DARK** Day 1
3. **WATER & LAND** Day 2
4. **FOOD FROM THE LAND** Day 3
5. **STARS & PLANETS** Day 4
6. **FISH & BIRDS** Day 5
7. **ANIMALS & MANKIND** Day 6
8. **DAY OF REST** Day 7

GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD!



Sunday School Anniversary— 28th April

Attendees on 28th April, were met by a new set of wall hangings depicting “**Seven Days of Creation**”, (See Pictures—left) designed and made by two of our ladies.

The hangings were dedicated by our Minister, Barry Hart during the Service, which was led by the Staff and Scholars of the Sunday School and continued the theme of the Creation in word and song.



Celebrations continued following the service with a **Surprise Buffet Party** to mark the birthday of Janet Reed.



A Wonderful Day of Celebration which deserving of a Big Thank You to all who made the day so very special.

Barry

PRAISES FROM “THE WAY”

The recording of Songs of Praise from “Way Church”, Pottery Rd, featuring a large congregation from Churches in the Wigan area, was transmitted on BBC1 at 1.15pm and can be viewed on BBC iplayer.

