

Hope



MAGAZINE

Easter 2022

REAL LIVES: CORRIE TEN BOOM SHAKING HANDS WITH YOUR ENEMY

It is midnight, 28 February 1944. The Nazis have occupied Holland and were arresting all Jews. Suddenly the buzzer alert sounded; the Gestapo were at the door.

"I had just reached the bed again when the bedroom door flew open.

"What's your name?"

I sat up slowly and – I hoped – sleepily.

"What?"

"Your name!"

"Cornelia ten Boom." The man was tall and heavy-set with a strange, pale face. He wore an ordinary blue business suit. He turned and shouted down the stairs,

"We've got one more up here, Willemse."

He turned back to me. "Get up! Get dressed!"

As I crawled out from under the covers, the man took a slip of paper from his pocket and consulted it.

"So you're the ring leader!" He looked at me with renewed interest. "Tell me now, where are you hiding the Jews?"" 1.

The ten Boom family lived in Haarlam, Holland, above their father's watch shop. Holland had been invaded by Nazi troops. In 1942 a lady visited them.

She was a Jew, her husband had been arrested and she was afraid to go home. The ten Boom family did not hesitate to take her in.

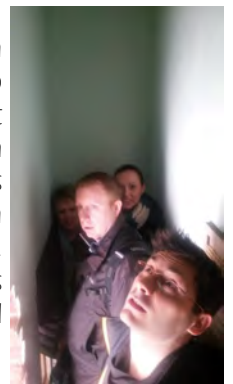


Corrie Ten Boom c.1921

The family then became very active in the Dutch underground, hiding refugees and many Jews. It was dangerous

- the police headquarters was only half a block away!

The Dutch Resistance sent an architect to the Ten Boom home to build a secret room and an alert buzzer that could be used to warn the refugees to get into the room as quickly as possible. Thus the Ten Booms created "The Hiding Place". The secret room was in Corrie's bedroom, behind a false wall, and could hold 6 people.



All in all, it is estimated that around 800 Jews were saved by Ten Boom's efforts.

But in February 1944 a Dutch.....

Continues on page 7.

FREE HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB



**EASTER HOLIDAYS - MON 4, TUE 5
WED 6 APRIL - 10AM - 12NOON
SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS**

Hope Magazine is published by Christ the Word Church Wixams.



WHO?

We are a Bible believing, evangelical church. We hold a church service every Sunday morning where we seek to explain God's word, the Bible, in a careful, warm and relevant way, and give the Bible's answers to contemporary questions of life.

WHEN?

We meet every Sunday in Lakeview Village Hall from 10.30 to 11.30am. We are friendly and enjoy a cuppa, cake and a chat after church together.



MORE INFO?

Please contact us for information about our services
 word@wixams.org.uk or 07879 716958
 Facebook: Christ the Word Wixams
 www.christthewordwixams.org.uk



OTHER EVENTS

We also run Wixams Sunday Club, Ignite, Ladies Bible Study and Mid Week Bible studies during the week and an Easter Holiday Bible club.

Wixams Sunday Club
 for children aged 4-10yrs
 3pm to 4pm
 every Sunday term time
 Lakeview Village Hall

IGNITE
 A friendly group for those in year 6 and above where we have fun, games, food and explore the Bible together.
 EVERY TUESDAY (TERM TIME)
 6.30 - 7.30PM @ SWAN ROOM, LAKEVIEW VILLAGE HALL
 Exploring the Bible

Free Easter holidays
 Mon 4, Tue 5, Wed 6 April
 10am - 12 noon
Holiday Club
 Lakeview Village Hall
 All children welcome aged 4-10yrs
 christthewordwixams.org.uk
 games, crafts, quizzes, prizes, competitions, Time-machine, Bible stories & songs about Jesus
 Christ the Word church, Wixams Word@wixams.org.uk
 SEARCH & RESCUE
 IGNITE 2-4pm Holiday Club Ages 10-14

Cut out and keep Bible verse

Jesus said to her
 "I am the resurrection and the life."
 John 11 v 25

the word
 Bible studies

We meet on Thursday evenings in a home to look together at what the Bible has to teach us.

Dingbat answers: 1. Lemonade 2. No left turn 3. I understand 4. Split second timing

TASTY TREATS - Cornflake cakes

What you need:

55g butter
4 tbsp golden syrup
100g chocolate, broken into pieces
70g cornflakes
Mini eggs

Method:

- Put the butter, syrup and chocolate into a (non-metal) mixing bowl and microwave on a high setting for about two minutes (stir every thirty seconds) or until all the chocolate and butter has melted.
- Add the cornflakes to the mixture and stir well.
- Spoon the mixture into your cupcake cases and add a mini egg to each cake. Leave to set in the fridge for approx. one hour.
- Eat and enjoy!



What is Easter all about?

Easter eggs, chocolate, bunnies, chicks, giving up something you love, or a man born over two thousand years ago....what is Easter is all about?

The Bible tells us about this man. He was born to a poor refugee family, grew up in obscurity, never travelled more than 200 miles, worked as a carpenter, never went to university, never wrote a book, never had much money, taught for just 3 years, loved by poor people but mocked by the successful, disowned by his friends, executed by the authorities.

Yet 2,000 years later this man – Jesus Christ of Nazareth - has changed the course of world history. He taught *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you"*¹ and his teaching is the single biggest reason for the world's first universities, schools, hospitals, orphanages, hospices, respect for life, free speech and the rule of law.

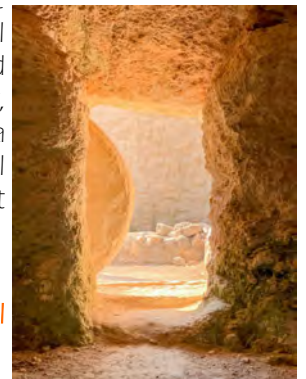
The death of Jesus was forecast 700 years before he was born (check it out - see Isaiah ch53). It said that he would be a substitute and die for the sins of

those who believed in him. He, the perfect one, would himself take God's punishment for sinners.

Three days later, the tomb of Jesus was empty. The followers of Jesus, having met the risen Jesus, now courageously spoke out *"there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*² They pointed to the historical fact of Jesus' resurrection. The metropolitan elite of the time tried to shut them down – social cancelling, arresting, beating, and executing thousands. But the people who turned from their sinful life – even the sceptics - and believed in Jesus, had a joy, peace, forgiveness, hope – a new life that lasted for all eternity. The world could not take this away or destroy it.

And that is what Easter is all about.

1. Luke 6:27 2. Acts 4:12



REAL LIVES - JOHN NEWTON

John Newton was born in Wapping, London. He went to sea with his father - a ship's captain - at the age of eleven.

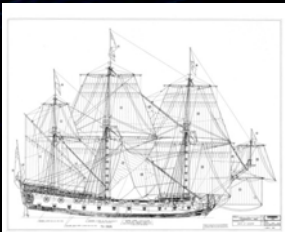
Later press-ganged into the Royal Navy, Newton tried to desert and received a flogging of eight dozen lashes.

To escape the Navy, Newton transferred to a slave ship bound for West Africa. Trans-Atlantic slave ships traded goods to Africa and shipped slaves to the colonies in the Caribbean and North America. It was a vile, brutal, cruel and murderous trade.

Ship owners and sailors cared nothing for the people they enslaved. But Newton, the ring leader for obscene and blasphemous jokes on board the slave ship, was himself forced to work as a slave in Sierra Leone and nearly died from hunger.

Then early in 1748 he was rescued by a friend of his father, and taken onboard a merchant ship called the Greyhound.

The Greyhound sailed for England. But in the middle of the night Newton was awakened by a violent storm battering the ship. As he climbed the ladder the seaman in front of him was swept overboard by a giant wave. Finally making it to the wheel he prayed "*Lord have mercy on us*".



Suddenly, for the first time in years his words seemed to accuse his conscience. "*What mercy do I deserve?*" he thought. For 11 hours Newton remained tied to the ship's wheel through violent seas as the crew tried to plug the holes in the side of the ship and work the pump, not knowing whether they would live or die.

Back in his cabin Newton began to think about his life. How could he face the God whom he had insulted for so long? He felt a crushing despair. Yet he found encouragement to go to Christ in prayer for mercy and a new life, by reading the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15.

The storm passed, but the ship was close to sinking. As days became weeks they ran out of food and became too weak to work the pumps. But then they sighted a small island off Lough Swilly, Ireland, and

IN THE STORM

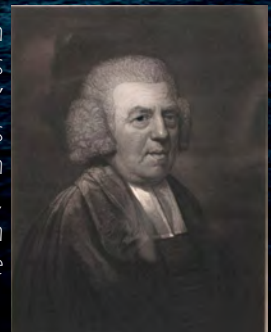
HOPE

WAS FOUND

the next day they reached port. They had survived the impossible.

Through this experience at sea, the promises of Jesus Christ in the Bible, and his cry for mercy, his life began to be transformed. He stopped swearing, gambling and being drunk, and moved away from slave trading.

He became a Christian pastor in Olney (NW of Bedford). It is here he wrote 'Amazing Grace' one of the most famous songs of all time, based on his own experience of amazing, unexpected forgiveness from God for all the vile things he had done.



Later, in London, he worked actively with Wilberforce in the campaign to abolish slavery.

As Newton died he said "*my memory is nearly gone but I remember two things: that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Saviour*".

On Newton's gravestone in Olney it says: 'Once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the faith he had long laboured to destroy.'

*Amazing Grace!
How sweet the sound, that
saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost,
but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.*



Out and about

Local places to visit

Rowney Warren

Rowney Warren is a small wood of mainly pine trees, beeches, ferns, some rhododendron bushes and sandy soil. There are pathways and an undulating landscape. It is ideal for families and dogs to wander, you can do a circular walk, but not so large that you get seriously lost.



The car park is in Sandy Lane SG17 5QB, off the A600 towards Shefford. Parking is free. There are picnic tables in the car park area. 6 miles from Wixams. (Note that

in winter the gates are locked at 4pm, but there is a small parking area on the outside. There is also parking at the north west end of Rowney Warren, which is dedicated to cycle trails. The wood south east of Sandy Lane would therefore be safer for young children).

There are some unofficial tree swings and the possibility of creating dens on the south side! There is often a mobile cafe van serving drinks and snacks.



John Bunyan Museum

John Bunyan, born in Elstow, worked as a tinker in the Wixams area, mending pots and pans. His life dramatically changed when he started preaching the Christian message, and for that he was locked up in Bedford Gaol for 12 years.

In prison Bunyan wrote one of the first ever novels 'The Pilgrim's Progress', which was an instant best seller. It has now been translated into over 200 languages and is one of the most influential books in the world. Visitors come to the museum from all over the world.



In the museum you can see Bunyan's anvil, violin made of metal, flute, plate and mug used in prison, his chair, pulpit, will, and one of the prison doors. Children's quizzes are available, and bookshop, cafe.

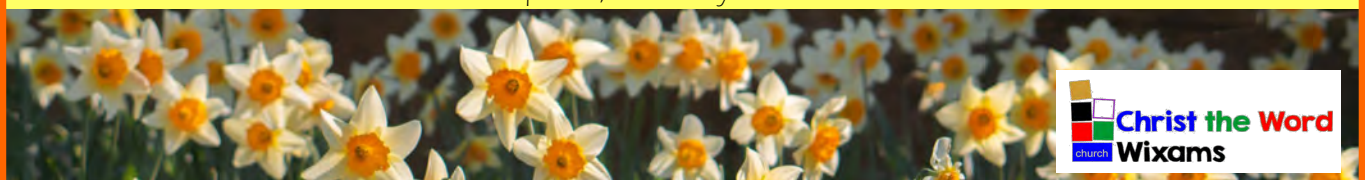
This small museum, in the Castle quarter of the town, is free and open 11am-4pm, Tuesday to Saturday. Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU
www.bunyanmeeting.co.uk/museum
Youtube 'John Bunyan museum'

*All are welcome to our Easter Service
Sunday 17th April, 10.30am - 11.30am
in Lakeview Village Hall, Wixams.*



*Andy Little will speak on Jesus' Resurrection and Hope,
why not come along and hear him?*

Andy works for the Open Air Mission, and spends his time at many places in Bedfordshire explaining how people can know pardon, peace and power in life, through Jesus Christ. Andy and his wife Sandra live in Kempston, and they have three adult children.



No Longer Fearful -

Evidence for the Resurrection

After the famous Last Supper – the final meal of Jesus with his disciples - they went to a garden outside the city. The religious authorities, who were plotting to kill Jesus, sent soldiers to arrest him.

When the soldiers arrived, the terrified disciples fled the scene. Peter, the chief friend of Jesus, followed at a distance. But he was so afraid of being recognised as a disciple, he cursed and swore that he didn't know Jesus.

After a mock trial Jesus was condemned to death by crucifixion. A rich man buried him in his tomb. But all four gospels - the eyewitness accounts record that early on the first day of the week the tomb was empty.

Peter was one of the first to see the empty tomb, but he was sad and afraid. Later that day he walks with a friend to a nearby village. On the way a stranger joined them, but it is only when they sit down for supper they recognise it is Jesus!

Quickly, they return to the other disciples, who through fear are in hiding. Jesus again appears to them: terrified, they at first think he's a ghost – but he eats a meal with them – showing he is alive. 1

Jesus made repeated appearances to hundreds of people. Once defeated, fearful, terrified, having met the risen Jesus, they are now filled with joy.

Fifty days exactly after Jesus' resurrection, Peter courageously speaks out, accusing the religious authorities of killing Jesus. He points to the empty tomb and he calls on them all to repent for the forgiveness of their sins.

Peter and the others are repeatedly threatened, beaten and eventually martyred. They went from fear to courage. The logical conclusion is that Jesus had risen, just as they claimed.

1. Luke 24



My life changing story ~ Jenny

I was born and raised in Bedford and now live in lovely Wixams!

I have an amazing family and four lovely children, one of whom is now engaged. I always knew growing up that there was more than "this".

I dipped in and out of church when I was a child, sung in the choir and made friends with the local vicar's daughter. But there was something missing and I just couldn't put my finger on it.

Years went by and I just got on with everyday life, not giving anymore thought to church or God.

Then, around 23 years ago, I met some lovely people who seemed very different! They had a calmness, sense of peace and love about them.

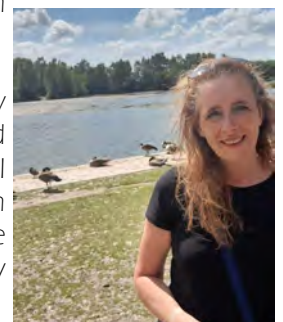
To begin with I was very wary, not trusting anything about them, thinking that they wanted something

from me. But over time I met some more people who were the same and I felt my guard going down and wanting to learn more. I started attending church; for a while I didn't understand anything. I kept trying to live a good life, but it wasn't working. I was waiting for a feeling inside that didn't come, and I was getting more and more miserable. What was I doing wrong? I asked question after question, thinking "is there something further I need to do?"

It then became clear to me. It's not what I could do or say, but what Jesus had done on the cross. I said a simple prayer, asking Jesus to forgive me and show me the way. It was so simple, yet so hard to see!

I have been following Jesus for just over 20 years. Yes, I struggle, I do wrong things, say unkind words and have horrible thoughts. Yet, God is there hearing and forgiving me. I am far from perfect!!

There have been changes in my life, not by me, but by God working in me. Without Him I would be a complete mess! I am so eternally grateful to those friends who loved me, to show me the way.



REAL LIVES: CORRIE TEN BOOM SHAKING HANDS WITH YOUR ENEMY

Continued from front page

informant told the Nazis about the Ten Booms' work. At midnight that day the Nazis arrested the entire Ten Boom family.

*The Ten Boom
watchmakers shop.*



Corrie, Betsie, and their father Casper were held in prison. Casper died ten days later. Corrie and Betsie were then transferred to the Ravensbrück concentration camp.

The camp was brutal and degrading. The reeking, straw-bed platforms in their hut swarmed with fleas. There, they held worship services after the hard days at work by using a Bible that they had managed to smuggle in.

Betsie's health deteriorated, and she died on 16 December 1944. Before she died, she told Corrie, "There is no pit so deep that He [God] is not deeper still."

Twelve days later, Corrie was released (it was a clerical error). A week later, all the women in her age group were sent to the gas chambers.



*Women's
barrack in
Nazi
concentration
camp.*

In 1947 Corrie travelled from Holland to defeated Germany with "the message that God forgives." She said "It was the truth they needed most to hear in that bitter, bombed-out land". "Maybe because the sea is never far from a Hollander's mind, I liked to think that that's where forgiven sins were thrown. **"When we confess our sins," I said, "God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever."**²

After one meeting, one of the guards from Ravensbrück, who had been cruel to Betsie, came up to speak to Corrie. She later wrote of this meeting:³

"Now he was in front of me, hand thrust out: "A fine message, fräulein! How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!"

And I, who had spoken so glibly of forgiveness, fumbled in my pocketbook rather than take that hand. He would not remember me, of course—how could he remember one prisoner among those thousands of women?

"You mentioned Ravensbrück in your talk," he was saying. "I was a guard in there." "But since that time," he went on, "I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fräulein"—again the hand came out—"will you forgive me?"

And I stood there—I whose sins had every day to be forgiven—and could not. Betsie had died in that place—could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking?

It could not have been many seconds that he stood there, hand held out, but to me it seemed hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do.

For I had to do it—I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us. "If you do not forgive men their trespasses," Jesus says, "neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

And still I stood there with the coldness clutching my heart. But forgiveness is not an emotion—I knew that too. Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart. "Jesus, help me!" I prayed silently. "I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling."

*And so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes. **"I forgive you, brother!" I cried. "With all my heart!"***

To learn more of Corrie ten Boom's life story, read 'The Hiding Place', 'Tramp for the Lord' and www.corrietenboom.com



1. From 'The Hiding Place' by Corrie ten Boom, Hodder 1971 2. Micah 7:18-19 3. from 'Tramp for the Lord' by Corrie ten Boom, Hodder 1975

FREE HOLIDAY CLUB IN THE EASTER HOLIDAYS

Free Easter holidays
 Mon 4, Tue 5, Wed 6 April
 10am-12noon

Holiday Club

Lakeview Village Hall
 All children welcome
 aged 4-10yrs
christthewordwixams.org.uk

games, crafts, quizzes,
 prizes, competitions, Time-machine
 Bible stories & songs about Jesus

Christ the Word church, Wixams Word@wixams.org.uk

SEARCH & RESCUE

Organised and run by Christ the Word Church Wixams, all helpers have an enhanced DBS check

Mon 4, Tues 5, Wed 6
 10am - 12noon
 4 - 10 year olds

Mon 4, Tues 5, Wed 6
 2pm - 4pm
 10 - 14 year olds

Book your place at
www.christthewordwixams.org.uk

IGNITE
 Afternoon

Free

Ages 10-14

Mon 4th, Tue 5th, Wed 6th April
 2pm-4pm, Lakeview Village Hall
 Wixams. All young people ages
 10-14yrs welcome

Games
 CRAFT & ACTIVITIES
 Life stories
 Food quizzes
 Explore Bible
 Question box

www.christthewordwixams.org.uk

Organised by Christ the Word church, Wixams, this is the seventh year the holiday club has been run. All the team are DBS checked. For further information see Alan & Anne Pibworth, Chris & Becca Clarke, or the website.



To register for the holiday clubs use online form or download booking form, & drop off at 47 Green Lane, Wixams. Can register on day (subject to space)
www.christthewordwixams.org.uk
 m: 07879716958
 e: word@wixams.org.uk



DINGBATS CHALLENGE

Say what you see! Can you solve these dingbats?

1. lem
ade

2. NO
LEFT

3. Stand
I

4. TIMING
TIM ING

Answers on bottom of page 2.

We wish you and your family a very happy and blessed Easter.