



Mickleover Methodist Church

Minister - Revd Gill Sharp

Phone: 01332 511039

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

The gospels record the amazing news 'He is not here; he has risen'. In the midst of deep despair, heartbreak and the unbearable pain of bereavement on that first Easter morning come these words. Words which initially caused confusion and disbelief, soon brought wonder and hope. Jesus, who had been crucified and his body laid in a tomb, was alive!

Jesus appeared to his followers saying 'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you'. The one who wasn't present at that time, Thomas, did not want to believe it until he saw and touched Jesus himself. Jesus came to them again when Thomas was present and told Thomas to stop doubting and believe. Then Jesus said words which offer such encouragement for us '*blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.*' Let us rejoice in the assurance that Jesus is alive!

Jesus had fulfilled his Father's plan, his plan for salvation of all peoples, though his death and resurrection. In the light of the resurrection so much of what Jesus had said started to fall into place for his followers. What had made no sense, now made sense, because they now looked at the world with resurrection eyes – loved, forgiven, sent. Jesus' resurrection changed their perspective, and it must change ours also. We too must look at the world with resurrection eyes. The light that Jesus brought into the world at his birth is not diminished by his death but is intensified by his resurrection. Jesus has conquered death and his light can never be put out.

During the past year many people will have experienced despair, heartbreak and the unbearable pain of bereavement. We are sent to share the love and forgiveness that Jesus' death and resurrection offers to all people, to serve others as Jesus showed us how to serve in washing his disciples' feet, and to speak words of hope and peace into people's lives.

Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Easter

Revd Gill

Be God's people, everywhere, everyday



Church services in April 2021

Church is open for Sunday morning worship services from
Sunday 4th April.

Services continue to be on Zoom
for those preferring to worship at home.

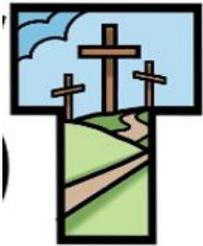


Until further notice restrictions in place for face to face to worship as before – wearing of face masks, social distancing, no singing, no lingering after worship, no coffee after service.



Thursday 1st April – Maundy Thursday
7.30pm Revd Gill Sharp (on zoom only)

Friday 2nd April – Good Friday
10am Revd Gill Sharp (on zoom only)



Sunday 4th April- Easter Sunday
10am Revd Gill Sharp
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom

Sunday 11th April – 1st Sunday of Easter
10am Hilary Lamont – All age worship
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom



Sunday 18th April- 2nd Sunday of Easter
10am Phil Royle
3.45pm Spark to a Flame on Zoom



Sunday 25th April – 3rd Sunday of Easter
10am Revd Gill Sharp
4pm Worship @4 on Zoom
6.30pm Songs of Praise

Information about the services correct at time of printing.

If you would like to join our regular Zoom services please email church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk for the login information.

These services include Messy Church, Spark to a Flame, prayers and chat, coffee and chat and Sunday Worship.

You can now follow us on Facebook at Mickleover Methodist Church

Summary of the business from the Church Council meeting

9th February 2021

Re-election: Dot Thompson as Secretary of Pastoral team and John Spray as Church Treasurer reappointed. All Pastoral Visitors and Communion Stewards approved to continue.

New appointment: Margaret Clark appointed as Church Council Preschool Management representative

Safeguarding report: Work on DBS renewals continue. Revd Gill Sharp completed on line training course for trainers. On line Foundation and Advanced modules available soon. New safeguarding policy agreed by Church Council October 2020 is on the Church website and new poster in foyer.

Leadership team report: Poster on Church noticeboard highlighting Church's new vision statement - to be God's people, everywhere, everyday. Church asked to prayerfully consider the filling of vacancies on team.

Finance: Impact of Covid closing Church premises for worship and hiring is having a great impact on Church finances. The next financial year will be critical. Church people are asked to consider increasing their monetary contributions.

Learning and Pastoral Team: membership roll 110 since the passing of Sybil Adamson and Alan Woodcock. Both Vic Green's and Terry Root's Bible studies quite well attended, providing regular teaching.

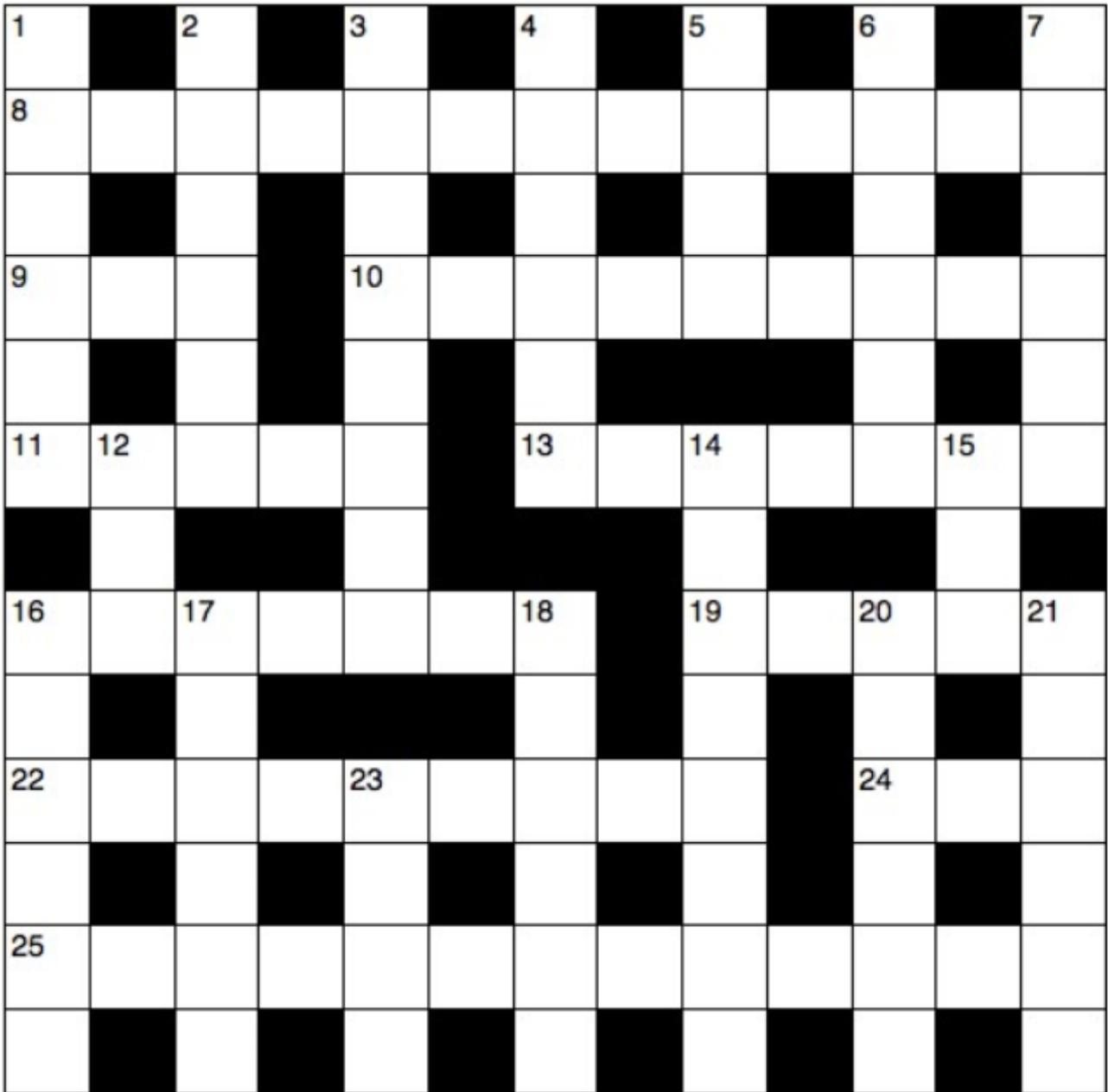
Children and Families Worker: Fiona is sending out activity packs to Messy church families each month, receiving positive feedbacks and are happy to keep in contact.

Preschool report: Finances strong and numbers of children attending rising. Several grants been applied for successfully, some of which has been spent on poster for outside. A letter of encouragement and thanks sent to the staff from Church Council for continuing to remain open and receiving children during lockdowns.

Circuit report: Work in progress on Circuit's vision policy and mission planning.

AGM meeting Sunday 9th May 2021 after morning service

Next Church Council 8th June 2021 at 7.30pm



Crossword clues

ACROSS

8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — '
(Isaiah 53:12) (13)

9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives
(Matthew 26:30) (3)

10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)

11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)

13 Muslim holy month (7)

16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)

- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

A note from Fiona, Children and Families Worker

I would like to update the display in the Wesley room (eventually!) by asking people to share things they have made/done in lock down. It can be things made from Messy packs, S2aF, blankets etc knitted but other things too. Photos ideally, so I can gather them to make a display!

I'm also asking for any volunteers to be on a rota to be the assistant (or leader) for Pathfinders meetings on Saturday evenings.

CHURCH FLOWER ROTA

Although we are likely to be able to worship in church again relatively soon, it is still going to be some time before we shall be able to use fresh flowers in church, but I am now putting together the flower rotas in readiness.

The church flowers are very much appreciated by both the congregation and the people who are given them afterwards, and I'd like to thank everyone who already helps with the flowers in any way. However, we do now have some vacancies on the lists, which I'm hoping people may be able to help with.

There are now several vacancies on the rota for donating flowers. If you don't already do this, perhaps you would like to consider it? You do NOT have to be a fantastic flower arranger. Many people put flowers in vases (of which we have plenty); and if you feel you would just like to make a donation, we have several people who are willing to occasionally buy and put the flowers in church for you.

The number of people on *this* list has dwindled over the years, and it would be nice to have a few more – at the moment we are all ladies, but gentlemen would be very welcome too!

And if anyone would like to help with the distribution of the flowers, please contact me. People work in pairs (usually husband and wife, or two friends) for one month in the year. Flowers are generally given out on the Sunday evening after the service, or on the Monday the day after.

If you feel you could help in any of these ways, or would just like to know a bit more about it, please get in touch with Liz Royle on 01332 511391 or woozle@ntlworld.com.

Many thanks

Liz Royle

What increases the more you share it with others? Joy.
What is broken when you name it? Silence.
What is it that you must keep after giving it to someone else? Your word

What Next?

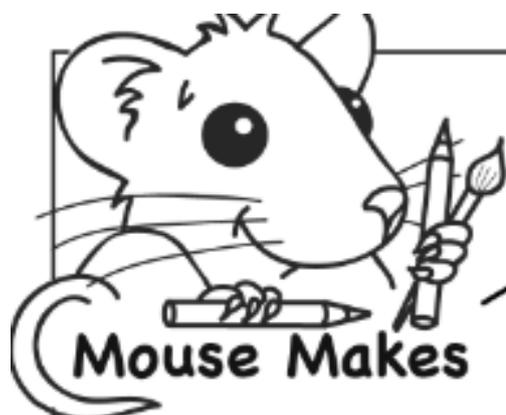
As we approach the Easter season, I have been thinking about resurrection in its widest sense. Jesus` resurrection was extraordinary and difficult for us to comprehend. It was not a resuscitation, whereby a “dead” body has normal bodily functions restored, and can be experienced when a non-functioning heart is shocked back into rhythm by use of a defibrillator. This person is given an extended life-span but will inevitably die at some point in the future. Resurrection involved a changed person in so many ways and although there are numerous theories, I doubt that anyone really knows the full truth of what actually happened on that first Easter Day. Needless to say, the lives of the disciples, men and women, were changed and the history of the world was set upon a new path.

I think that resurrection sets a challenge for us as we emerge from a year of upheaval, loss and restrictions imposed on us. As we return to more freedom, do we resuscitate our way of life as individuals and as a church, going back to our old ways, or do we take the opportunity of resurrection and look for a better way forward. During lockdown an open letter to the Methodist Church was written and has since had over seven hundred signatures. The letter is a challenge to us to look at our church in a different way and to be open to new challenges and ways of working. The letter can be found at this link:

<https://methodistopenletter.wordpress.com> .

There has been some opposition to this letter in that it seems to promote a “social gospel”. I have often been told that I preach a social gospel, which I choose to take as a compliment (although that is not how it was meant!), as there is a strong precedence from one who said at the start of His ministry, “ he has sent me to give good news to the poor, proclaim release for the prisoner and recovery of sight for the blind, to let the broken victims go free and proclaim the year of the Lord`s favour.”

The Methodist Church needs to evaluate how best to serve those in each local community and show love and care to those around us with their varied and complex needs. (to be concluded). Phil Royle



Mouse Makes

Can you find these names of **Jesus** in the word search?

SON OF GOD

Matthew 3:16-17



KING OF KINGS

Revelation 17:14

PROPHET

Luke 24:19



PRIEST

1 Timothy 2:5

ROCK

1 Corinthians 10: 4

LORD

1 Corinthians 1:9

AMEN

Revelation 3:14

LIFE

John 11:25-27

MESSIAH

John 1:41

SHEPHERD

John 10:11

LIGHT

John 8:12



WORD

John 1:1-50



BREAD

John 6:35

CREATOR

1 John 1:3



CHRIST

Matthew 16:16

SAVIOUR

John 3:16-17

HOLY ONE

Mark 1:24

VINE

John 15:5



DOOR

John 10:9



WAY

John 14:6

LAMB

John 1:29



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

Lessons of Lockdown from Parish Pump

This past year may have altered your perspective on life. Some of the following statements may be worth thinking about....

- Life is precarious
- A nurse is worth more than a professional footballer
- Spare time isn't a waste of time
- A smile is precious
- Being alone isn't the same as loneliness
- Hard work doesn't guarantee employment
- I'm spending more on food & drink and less on church & charity
- Silence opens us to creative ideas
- Social media are a mixed blessing
- Shopping needn't be addictive
- Driving less and walking more is good for humanity
- Isolation teaches us we need each other to generate energy
- Getting back to 'normal' isn't God's plan for the human race
- When everything else is shut, God is open

Someone has pointed out the following beneficial effects of the pandemic:

- It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally,
- It is reminding us that we are all connected – something that affects one person has an effect on another.
- It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other - especially those who are old or sick.
- It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become. In times of difficulty, we remember that it's the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to.
- It is reminding us of how important family and home life is and how much we have neglected this.
- It is reminding us that our true work is not our job. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another.

Some observations

The best day, today
The greatest thought, God.
The greatest need, common sense.
The most expensive indulgence, hate.
The most disagreeable person, the complainer.
The best teacher, the one who makes you want to learn.
The greatest deceiver, the one who deceives himself.
The cheapest, easiest and most stupid thing to do, finding fault.
The greatest comfort, knowing that you have done your work well.
The most agreeable companion, the one who would not have you any
different than you are.
The meanest feeling, being envious of another's success.

Helen Keller (1880- 1968) was an American author, political activist and lecturer. She was the first deaf- blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree

Easter Offering 2021

The 2021 Easter Offering theme 'Into all the world' has been carried over from last year's cancelled event in a service that features people who have made a journey, some in obedience to God's call on their lives, and others because they had no choice.

The worship encourages us to reflect and learn from those who travel, and to consider our own journeys – both physical and spiritual.

We will hopefully be able to gather together properly this spring to celebrate God's mission activity and to support the work and mission of our 65 partner churches around the world.

The Merton Prayer

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

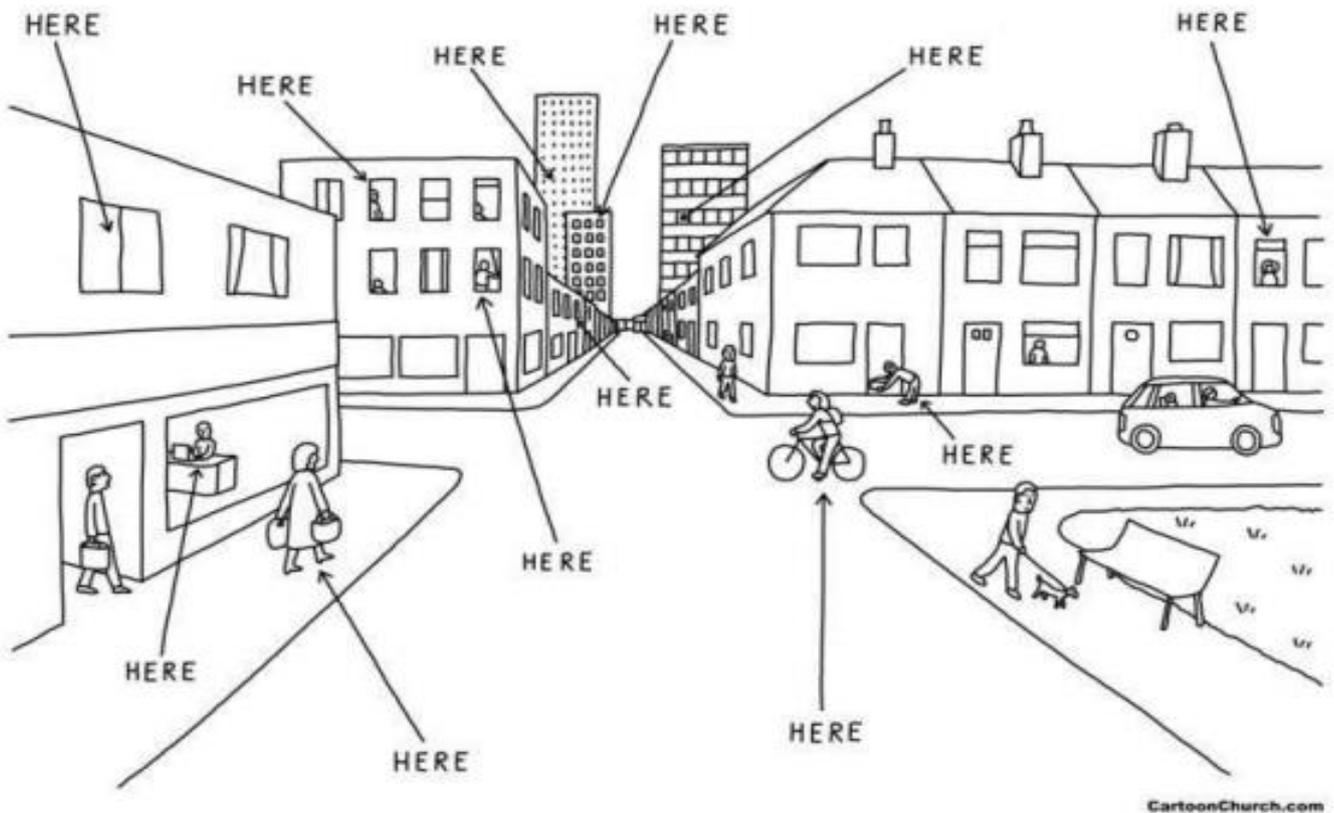
I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone. Thomas Merton, an American Trappist Monk.

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



We haven't been able to attend services in our Church building for a while now. But we can still worship.

We can worship while caring for our neighbours, running errands, collecting prescriptions, saying hello, how are you?

We can worship caring for our families, walking our dogs, posting a letter

We can worship standing in the supermarket.

We can worship holding the hand of someone who is sick.

We can worship serving, volunteering at the food banks beside Jesus, picking up basic food items for a housebound neighbour.

We can worship washing the dishes, loading the washing machine, vacuuming the carpets.

We can worship talking on the phone, sending an email, saying hello to a stranger across the road.

So, we haven't cancelled worship, just a different way, we can worship on Zoom, we can worship listening to the church services on the radio or watch on the TV.

We can worship out in the community.

Bible study on Zoom this month

Wednesday 7 th April at 2pm	Bible study	Dot Thompson
Wednesday 14 th April at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root
Wednesday 21 st April at 2pm	Bible study	Dot Thompson
Wednesday 28 th April at 2pm	Walking through Acts	Terry Root

Churches Together in Mickleover invites all members of the community of Mickleover, young and old, male and female, to create a fabric square for **Mickleover's 'Be a Community of Hope' hanging.**

We would like to draw together the experiences that have given each of us hope over the past year and create a hanging to show the threads of hope that weave through our lives as a community.

It is the intention that the hanging will be made in sections so that together it forms a whole, but each section can be hung in a different place within the community.

The design on your fabric square may be in embroidery, cross stitch, applique, or painted – using pictures, words, or shapes – the choice is yours!

Further information: email at church.office@mickleovermethodist.org.uk or admin@allsaintsmickleover.org.uk

Or by telephone on 735052 or 510446

CTM Prayer for Mickleover by Zoom Thurs 1st April 10.15am

As we cannot currently meet in peoples' houses to pray, we will meet via Zoom at our normal time of 10.15am on Thursday 1st April

We get 40 minutes on the free Zoom software, which allows us reasonable time to pray, and wait on God.

If you would like take part in this, please contact me for the meeting I.D. and password. Tel 239645 or email raylee16@yahoo.co.uk Thanks *Ray Lee*

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.