

100  
Years

# MESSENGER

February 2012

**Bispham United Reformed Church**

## 100th Anniversary



The closing service at  
the Bethel Chapel  
February 1912



Bispham 2012

# 26 February 2012

## **MEETINGS HELD DURING THE WEEK**

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>10.45 a.m.</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>7.30 p.m.</b>	<b>Ladies Friendship</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>7.30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tools for Self Reliance</b>

### **Minister**

**Revd Dick Sanner**

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### **Church Secretary**

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas is past. We have celebrated the birth of the Son of God. As disciples of our Lord, we follow. In order to follow, we have to listen. God speaks and we listen. God gives and we receive. God leads and we follow. God acts and we respond. Let us listen to God and see the context in which we listen.

Look at Mary. Luke begins his gospel with a brief description of the humility and devotion displayed by several rather ordinary members of the nation of Israel whose vocation is as God's covenant people: Zechariah, an old priest, Elizabeth, his childless wife, and Mary, a young unmarried teenager--an unlikely cast for the birth of Jesus as Israel's Messiah and the Saviour of nations. When Mary's story begins, Gabriel, a messenger from God, comes to her and announces, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." Mary's response is one of sheer astonishment; this is not something she is expecting to hear, but what follows is even more astounding: "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son." She then hears more that will evoke her praise for God's great love; "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." And then the promise, "For nothing will be impossible with God." After having listened, Mary gets to respond: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

In the Beatitudes, Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Zechariah, Elizabeth, and Mary are blessed, not because of what they have or what they do, but because of what they hear and see. They are blessed to hear good news of what God is doing in the world and they are blessed to see what God is bringing about for the life of the world. And this takes place, amazingly, among the ordinary people and everyday circumstances of Israel's worship and life. Elizabeth and Mary, both impossibly pregnant, used by God in echoes of the creation story in Genesis: God speaks and

the Spirit gives life. Mary's womb is void until the Spirit of God fills it with the child who is God's Son.

Martin Luther wrote: "When the holy virgin experienced what great thing God was working in her despite her insignificance, lowliness, poverty, and inferiority, the Holy Spirit taught her this deep insight and wisdom, that God is the kind of Lord who does nothing but exult those of low degree and put down the mighty from their thrones, in short, break what is whole and make whole what is broken."

Have we listened to God and become a pregnant church? When we gather to worship do we place ourselves in God's presence, hoping to receive God's self-giving that so moves and empowers us to join Mary in voicing our "yes" to God in the world in the confidence that our "yes" will be the Spirit's means of conceiving in us the life of God that was en-fleshed in Jesus and delivered by Mary. Wouldn't this illustrate God's promise of change to the way things are with us and with the world? Like Mary we are called to be fertile, to be a church from which the Spirit brings forth much fruitfulness and life. Like Mary, our vocation is to deliver the Word in the world. Our response? "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Is our church a maternity ward, a delivery room, a birthplace for bringing new life into a dying, old world according to the truth of God's word and by the power of God's Spirit? The "yes" of our obedience to the Word is both a gift of God and also our action because it is the expression of holy love. Each time we gather, God is pleased to make Jesus present in the world through our prayer and praise, through our preaching of the Word and through our celebration of the Lord's Supper. We become an impossibly pregnant church-- people full of grace.

**"Let it be, Lord, according to your word."**

# 100th Anniversary

This month, on 26th February we celebrate 100 years since the opening of the current church building. The first service was held in the current building at the end of February 1912.

The nonconformist tradition in Bispham appears to go back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Minutes of a meeting from 1699 talk of the “choice of a minister to serve Bispham in the room of Mr Dickenson for the present”. Mr Dickenson was apparently a cobbler.

By 1819 Congregationalists had established a presence in the village and were meeting in a barn. “This barn, which was opened in the latter end of May, continues to be well attended” reports a meeting held in Preston in 1819.

By 1834 the congregation was big enough to build a church and the Bethel Chapel was opened in Bispham roughly where the roundabout is now situated. This seems to have had a troubled history and was closed for some 8 to 10 years around 1850. At the time the chapel was described as “dirty and uncomfortable”.

However the church overcame these problems and by the end of the century was a thriving community. By the 1910’s the congregation had outgrown the Bethel Chapel and the final service in the chapel was held on 22 February 2012 and the congregation moved to their new church which we still use today, although the buildings been extended since 1912. The church buildings were enlarged in 1936 with the opening of the Sunday School hall and the church itself was extended in 1954 to cater for the increased size of the congregation.

## 6 CHURCH CENTENARY

So we give thanks for all those who established and continued to support the Congregational tradition in Bishopspham over the centuries. We especially give thanks for those in 1911/12 who made the building of the present church possible with a congregation not much bigger than our own.

We remember with thankfulness the ministers who have served this church\* :



Revd G W Booth  
1912-1922

Revd H Mudie  
Revd John Renwick

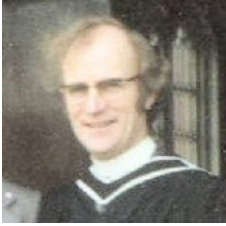
(1922 -1932)



Revd George White  
1933-1944



Rev'd S G McLellan  
1945-1973



Rev'd Glyn Eatock  
1974-1989



Rev'd Bob Jones  
1990-1993



Rev'd Audrey Boon  
1995-2003



Rev'd Duncan Tuck  
2005-2009

And now, from 2011, we are part of the fledgling North Fylde pastorate along with five other churches, with the Rev'd Dick Sanner serving as an interim minister for 12 months caring for four of the churches.

And it is with some trepidation we look forward to the future. Our main concern is for the formation of the North Fylde Pastorate and we should keep this in mind in our prayers.

*(\* thanks to the late Les Forshaw for these dates. Les was the church "historian" and it is hoped we will be able to produce a fuller history from the documents he left.)*

## Time Capsule

As part of the centenary time capsule project I thought it would be nice to take individual photographs of as many of the people who attend church as I could. These would be compiled into a book with short comments from each of those photographed. So don't be surprised if I approach you over the next few weeks with my camera and ask to take your picture. Of course you don't have to take part and I won't be offended if you refuse. However I think the book would be a nice memento to leave for future generations of the church.

Debbie.



## Social Events

Following the meeting on 19th January the following social events will be held during the 2012:

- |        |                                  |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| March: | Quiz Evening (probably the 23rd) |
| April: | Lent Lunch (5th)                 |
|        | Line Dancing (20th)              |
| May:   | Centenary Spring Fair (19th)     |
| June:  | Games Night (15th)               |
| July:  | to be announced                  |
| Sept.: | Harvest Supper                   |
| Oct.:  | Quiz Night                       |
| Nov.:  | Christmas Fair                   |



Happy birthday to the following who celebrate birthdays during February

7th Beryl Thompson

14th Nora Tomlinson

26th John Allen



## Communion Table Vases

Our thanks go to Dorothy Smith for the two new Communion Table vases bought in memory of her late husband, Ken.

## Church AGM

The church AGM will be held in March and organisations are reminded that it is usual to present a report on their activities over the past year. It is also the meeting at which we vote in new elders and you have the opportunity to nominate members for this important role, which is described in the year book. See the secretary for nomination forms.

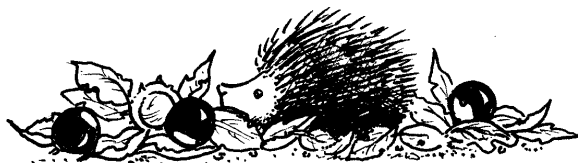
## Poppy Appeal

We have received a note from the British Legion to thank us for our effort in selling poppies last year. The grand total raised was £112.44 and our thanks go to all who supported the appeal.

## Ladies Friendship

The Ladies Friendship meets every Tuesday at 7.30pm and all are welcome to attend, we look forward to seeing you there.

- 1st Feb. Coffee Morning 10.30am  
7th Feb. Jennifer Liddell will open our new season.  
14th Feb An evening with Revd. Dick Sanner.  
21st Feb. 'Senior Moments'.  
A Stagewrite play with Phillip and friends.  
28th Feb. Friendship Evening.



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Bispham United Reformed Church  
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# Centenary Bingo Evening

Friday 24th February  
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CAKE*



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## 12 WORD SEARCH

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

February brings us the beginning of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Valentine's Day, and Lent. All three are about celebrating commitment and love and giving. What relationships in your life need your commitment, love, and generosity? Lent is a good time to reflect on the love in our lives:

God's love for us, our love for him, and our love for each other. Our wordsearch this month reflects these themes.

king	love	temptation
country	romance	stones
coronation	flowers	bread
diamond	hearts	kingdom
jubilee	commitment	devil
queen	wilderness	angels
princess	prayer	foot
death	fasting	kindness
mourning	Jesus	

# PRAYER NEWSLETTER

## February 2012



We hold the following in prayer:

Joan Tennant

Gordon Tennant

Earl Deans

Nora Tomlinson on the loss of her husband, Harry

Maureen Gregson

Les Street

Laurencia Jeanty, the child from Haiti we sponsor through Compassion UK, and her family

Ephesians  
3:1-12

## Sharing

Merciful God,  
you reveal your wonderful ways to us  
and you ask us to share your good news,  
but we keep it to ourselves,  
and hold tight to all you have revealed.

Forgive us.  
Forgive us our holding on  
to that which is not ours.  
Forgive us our ownership  
of that which is your gift.

Merciful God,  
you are just.  
Your good news is grace  
and you share it with us.  
Let us receive it with hope.  
Encourage us to be your people,  
living your way,  
reaching out with joy to all around us,  
sharing all you have shared with us.

Anne Sardeson



Psalm 29 **The voice of God**

**All things praise God!  
from the highest heavens  
to the depths of the earth.**

For you O God are heard  
in all of creation:  
in the sound of the sea,  
in the rush of the wind,  
in the lightning and rain,  
in the trees and the deserts.

**All things praise God!  
from the highest heavens  
to the depths of the earth.**

And here in our place:  
in the cries of birth,  
in the whisper of death,  
in the chaos of life,  
in the stillness of prayer,  
your voice is heard.

**All things praise God!  
from the highest heavens  
to the depths of the earth.**

And here in this time:  
in our singing and our silence,  
in our waiting and sharing,  
in our words and our listening,  
may your voice be heard.

**All things praise God!  
from the highest heavens  
to the depths of the earth.**

*Anne Sardeson*

# A Birth to Celebrate.

*Tools*

## FOR SELF RELIANCE

practical help for  
practical people

Back in 1984 a baby was born in the boiler house, underneath the church. Today, some twenty seven years later, the baby has grown and matured and is ready to leave the nest, having refurbished some 25,000 rusty tools into useable weapons against poverty and injustice.

Chisels, spanners, saws, planes, sewing machines and lots more, to bring hope to families and communities in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, through 'Tools for Self Reliance'. Carpentry Kits to make furniture for homes and schools; Sewing Kits to make clothes; Cobbler Kits for shoes; 'Bicycle Repair Kits' and blacksmith tools to make more tools. Who can begin to imagine the difference 'the baby' has made?

We are grateful for the Church so readily allowing us the use of the room each Wednesday evening, and the thoughtful heating provided in the winter months. - by Brian Wolstenholme, I suspect.

As the Church comes to celebrate its Centenary, here is a

“It’s hard for people in Britain to make a link with people in Africa.

But Tools for Self Reliance does just that. People to people - helping people to help themselves.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



piece of work which surely deserves to be recorded. A Baby born and nurtured into a vibrant living hope by the Fielding family – Melvyn,

Susan, Elizabeth and Gillian – all of whom have given 'hands-on' support and creative energy over the years to make it happen.

I am proud to have been part of that vision.

In the next few months the boiler house will be cleared, but the work achieved will live on, as the baby, now matured, lives on, in Africa and beyond.

With every blessing to the members for the years ahead.

Rev Glyn Eatock January 2012

( to find out more about Tools for Self Reliance go to [www.tfsr.org](http://www.tfsr.org))



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# Radical Welcome



As part of the preparations for the launch of the Radical Welcome campaign in May 2012 churches which want to be part of the campaign are asked to do some form of preparation. One of the ways it is suggested churches might prepare is to use the CofE course “Everybody Welcome”. This is a course which asks churches and their members to look at how they welcome strangers to their church and suggests ways that this welcome might be improved.

The elders have decided to give this course a go and it will run in March, lasting 4 weeks. To this end we have bought sufficient copies of the course members handbook so that everyone can have copy. These will be distributed towards the end of February and we hope every member will take a copy and read it regardless of whether they actually attend the course. It is important that we are all aware of what is expected of us.

Some attempts are already being made to try to improve the image we present to visitors.

You will have already noticed the welcome card in the seats. This serves a dual purpose. Firstly it welcomes visitors to the church and explains a little about the church (e.g. where the toilets are) and provides a contact number if they want to know more about us.

When people come into a church for the first time they can feel a little uneasy because they do not know what form the service is going to take or where to find the hymns or when to sit or stand or the words of familiar prayers like the Grace and the closing blessing we sing. So the second purpose of the welcome card is to explain to

people the format of our worship including our communion service and to provide the words of the Grace etc in the hope that this may help to put them at their ease.

As part of our centenary celebrations we will have a banner at the front marking this anniversary under the slogan “God welcomes all sorts!” (see below). This slogan ties in well with ideas underpinning the Radical Welcome campaign and so we thought we would use the slogan as part of our church publicity material.

There are lots of people who come into our buildings during the week through dancing groups, Zumba, Table Tennis etc. who see or hear nothing about our church. I wonder sometimes whether they are aware that there is also an active church here.

To make ourselves more visible to them you will start to see posters appearing on doors in those areas used by non-church groups, based on the logo below. There will also be a short leaflet, based on the same logo, for people to take, which gives a simple invite to worship together with contact details should they wish to find out more about the church.

This is just a start and I am sure there are more things we could be doing to improve our image. If you see things that you think need to be improved don't keep them to yourself, let the elders know.



## How to survive a residential conference

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless.

As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say 'no''. But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this, I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader

has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you have to report back - and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also - you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.

You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.

No, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



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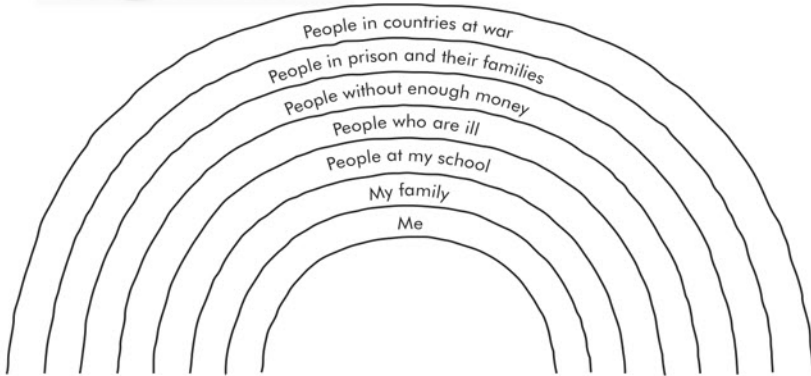
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## Rainbow prayer

Colour the rainbow and pray  
for the people as you colour.



'Each morning you listen to my prayer, as I bring my requests to you and wait for your reply.'  
(Psalm 5:3)

Reproduced with permission from Messy Crafts published by BRF 2011 (978 1 84101 816 4) £6.99 [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

## Forgiveness

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?" There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin," he said.



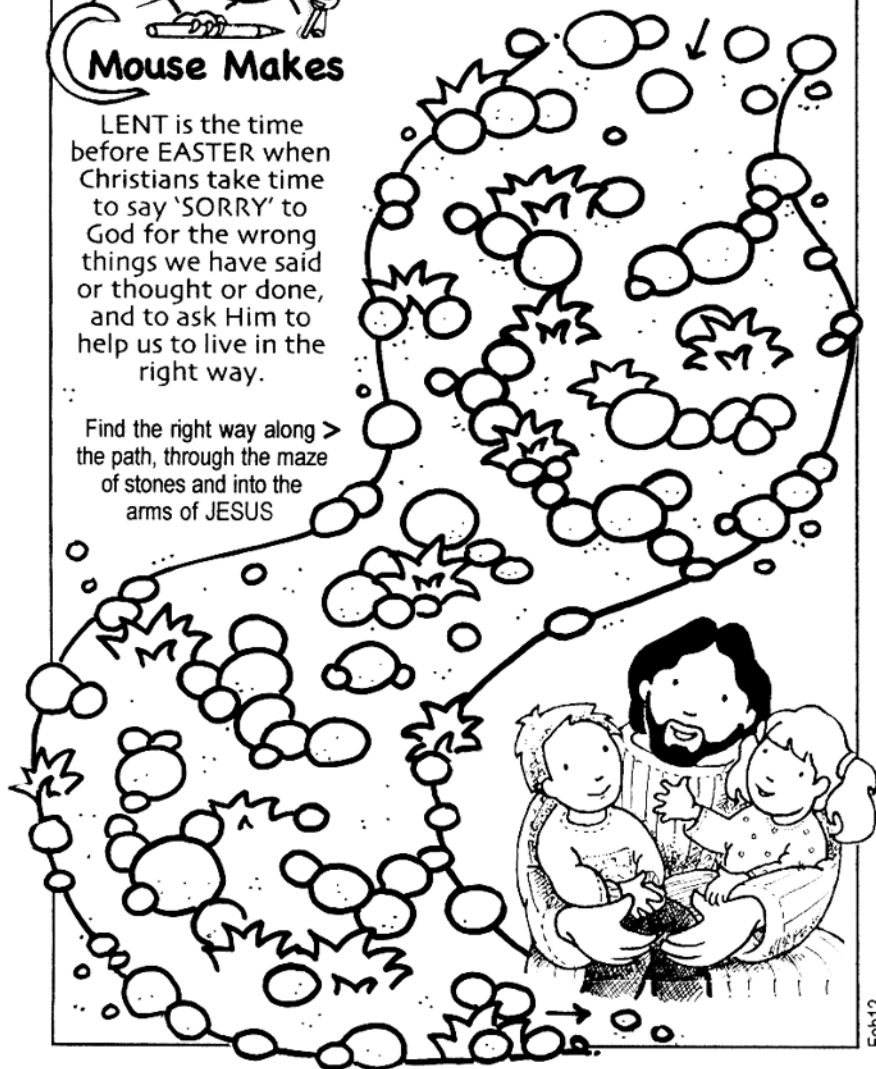
## Mouse Makes

LENT is the time before EASTER when Christians take time to say 'SORRY' to God for the wrong things we have said or thought or done, and to ask Him to help us to live in the right way.

Find the right way along > the path, through the maze of stones and into the arms of JESUS

"Teach me how to live,  
O LORD.  
Lead me along  
the right path..."

Psalm 27:11



## Worship during February

5th Feb.	Revd K Chambers	
12th Feb.	Revd K Chambers	
19th Feb.	Revd Dick Sanner	Communion
26th Feb.	Stewart Gay	Centenary service

### Flower Rota

Many thanks for the gift of flowers during February to the following:

5th Feb.	Audrey Pearson
12th Feb.	Family of Irene Hall
19th Feb.	Myrtle Ingle
26th Feb.	Centenary

## Elders' Duties

February:

	<u>Door Duty</u>	<u>Vestry Duty</u>
5th Feb.	Elaine Street	Joan Hart
12th Feb.	Marjorie Wolstenholme	Pat Hadfield
19th Feb.	Neil Shaw	B Wolstenholme
26th Feb.	Pat Hadfield	John Allen

Communion: Eileen Kirkham & Pat Hadfield

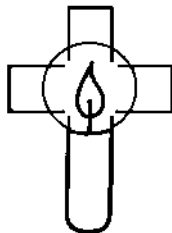


## Dates for your Diary <sup>25</sup>

2nd Feb.	Elders Meeting	2.30 p.m.
22nd Feb.	Ash Wednesday Service	7.30 p.m.
24th Feb.	Bingo Evening (see page 9)	7.30 p.m.
26th Feb.	Centenary Service and lunch	10.45 a.m.



Every Wednesday at 10.30am.



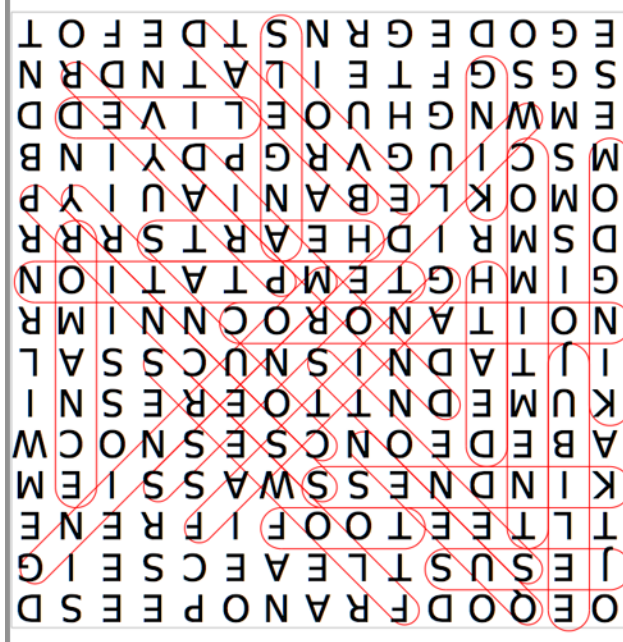
**LENT**

## Tea Rota

3rd.	Morag Wright & Bunnie Church
10th	Mandy Twigg & Dawn Morris
19th	Joyce Allen & Joan Hopwood
26th	No Teas Dinner at Sheraton



# Wordsearch solution



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