

**SIGNS MAGAZINE EASTER EDITION**  
**2024**



Deaf  
Anglicans  
Together

Registered Charity no. 1117313

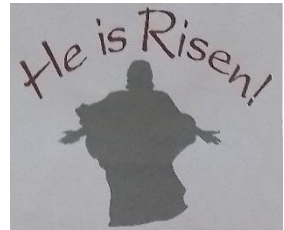
**The Resurrection**

Mark 16:1-7      *NIV*

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"



## **From the Chair, Pat Callaghan**

1 Corinthians 15 v 1-11

New International Version - UK

### **The resurrection of Christ**

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, <sup>8</sup> and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

<sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

.....

**Paul** certainly wasn't a good man to begin with, he humbly said so from verse 8 to 10. Especially in verse 10 where he plainly stated 'I am what I am'. Yet God's grace was with him and that had a profound impact on Paul, which turned his life around completely, he was no longer a dreadfully cruel murderer who hates Christians,

or someone to be fearful of, but a humble man willing to spread the gospel and risk his life for his faith in Christ.

Here is a thought as we come to the end of Lent, Christ's death on Good Friday to celebrating His resurrection on Easter Day.

What impact has God's grace effect your life? Was it 'by the grace of God I am what I am' a humbled, honest person like Paul? I leave that for you to ponder during Lent.

Hallelujah. Christ has risen. Hallelujah!

Wishing you a very Happy Easter.

From our wonderful team.

### Important news!

DAT will hold an AGM at 9.45 am at Spring Conference on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. All papers, e.g: ballot papers, annual report and account papers will be posted or emailed out 21 days before conference.

If anyone would like to join our excellent team of trustees or to nominate a person. Please use the ballot papers when you receive them.

There's a new Spring Conference venue planned for 2025. Highgate House! The third venue opening this summer, run by Christian Conference Trust. You can view the new venue and location on their website.

More information and booking details will be sent out end of this year.

## **Dates for your Diary**

**17th - 19th May 2024** Deaf Anglicans Together Spring Conference. High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire. Cost: £225. See poster on next page for more details.

<https://deafanglicanstogether.org.uk/spring-conference/>

**21st - 23rd June 2024** Go! Sign BSL Fellowship Camping weekend. Costs vary, for more details visit:

<https://www.gosign.org.uk/event/bsl-fellowship-camping-weekend/>

**11th - 13th October 2024** Go! Sign Bible Conference Weekend. Cost: £225

<https://www.gosign.org.uk/event/go-sign-bible-conference-weekend/>

**25th – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024** New Wine '24 at Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet. BSL interpreted/Deaf Stream

<https://www.new-wine.org/events/newwine24/>

## **IEWG Online Day Conference**

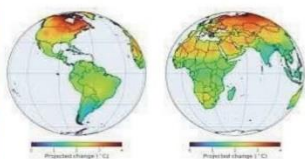
“Deaf people and End of Life Care”

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024

17:00 – 19:00

An online conference and discussion via Zoom, arranged by the International Ecumenical Working Group (IEWG). Exploring how churches can bring comfort, hope and security to deaf people at the end of life. More details to follow.

Hooray!



The popular Spring Conference for Deaf & BSL people is happening!

**Theme: “The Earth is the Lord’s” with Rev Hannah Lewis giving a theological perspective on Climate Change and Eco Issues.** We will have a variety of creative and prayerful activities which empower us how to take care of our world better. Cost of Conference, accommodation & meals: £225.00

 A full BSL & Deaf Space weekend for all who join us! 

17TH - 19TH  
MAY 2024

DEAF ANGLICANS TOGETHER

**SPRING CONFERENCE**

**High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon EN11 8SG**



High Leigh Conference Centre is accessible, and if you have dietary issues, it will provide what you need. It is north of London, near the A10 road, between M1 and M11. The nearest station is Broxbourne.

Location information: <https://www.cct.org.uk/high-leigh/how-to-find-us>

Interested? You can book here: <https://deafanglicanstgether.org.uk/spring-conference/>  
Enquiries? - Contact DAT Spring Conference Organiser: [ncalla032@gmail.com](mailto:ncalla032@gmail.com)

## **General Synod Report**

By Mary Bucknall (DAT Synod rep)

An extra meeting of General Synod was held from 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Church House, Westminster, to discuss progress on Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) for same-sex couples in church following civil marriage.

Since then, the House of Bishops have authorised prayers for same-sex couples within the framework of regular church services. However, the process of authorising “stand-alone” services of blessing for same-sex couples in church will take longer, possibly by 2025 at the earliest. Therefore, Synod narrowly voted to introduce experimental “stand-alone” services of blessing on a trial basis in the meantime.

Synod also debated the urgent safeguarding issue of financial redress for survivors of clerical abuse.

In the Presidential Address, the Archbishop of Canterbury called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, with a special video message from the Archbishop in Jerusalem, Dr Hosam Naoum.

The Archbishop of York spoke about the Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process and the need for the Church of England to stay together, despite ongoing disagreements over blessings for same-sex couples in church.

Reaction to the vote on PLF in the Assembly Hall



The next meeting of General Synod was held in February at Church House, Westminster, this time over a weekend from Friday to Tuesday.

A wide range of topics was debated by Synod, as follows:

*Friday afternoon:* Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury about war and suffering in the world today, legislation, parochial fees for funerals, formal questions.

*Saturday:* Code of Conduct for PCC's, Safeguarding Independence, Land and Nature (management of church land and biodiversity), Synod Code of Conduct, Future of Work (including AI). **Sarah Tupling** spoke in the debate on Safeguarding Independence about the communication barriers that Deaf people face.

*Sunday afternoon:* Racial Justice, Bullying by Lay Officers, the "Love Matters" report from the Archbishop's Commission on Families and Households.

*Monday:* Links to Transatlantic Chattel Slavery, Chancel Repair Measure, Estates Evangelism, clergy pensions, Living in Love and Faith (LLF)

*Tuesday:* LLF, Church Funds Investment Measure, War in Ukraine, Removal of Divorce impediment to Ordination.

On Sunday morning two DAT Synod reps, Sarah Tupling and Elaine Heath, attended a Sung Eucharist service at St Paul's Cathedral, with Penny Beschizza, a DAT Trustee, and two BSL interpreters. A summary of the Lent sermon by Canon Dr Paula Gooder is on page 8.

The Archbishop of York gave a farewell speech to the retiring Bishop of Durham, Rt. Rev'd Paul Butler, and the Synod was prorogued until July at York University.

Sarah, Penny and Elaine  
after the service at  
St Paul's Cathedral



## **A Lent Sermon from St Paul's Cathedral**

Sarah Tupling sent in extracts from Canon Dr Paula Gooder's sermon on Mark 8:31-end during the Sung Eucharist service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

***'What will it profit someone, if they gain the whole world but forfeit their soul?' (Mark 8:36)***

Jesus' question in the gospel reading has given rise to countless novels and plays, which reflect on what happens when you sell your soul in exchange for something. Probably the most famous of these stories is the Faustus tradition which in its turn inspired many different retellings.

The question of what happens if you sell your soul for fame, glamour and prestige is age old and remains as pertinent today as ever. The problem of course, though, is that very few people get Dr Faustus' clear choice of selling his soul to the Devil in exchange for something, for most it is a gradual process and not clear at all – raising the haunting question of at what point do you realise that that for which you have yearned and pursued over the years has come at the price of forfeiting your soul?

Right at the heart of Jesus' good news is this mind bending and profoundly important truth. If you want to be sure about saving who you are, you have to let go, to lay it down and follow Jesus in the way of the cross. Every human instinct tells us that the way to preserve ourselves is to focus on us, to make sure that we and what we care about is OK. In this passage Jesus declares the opposite, if you really want to save who you are, you have to stop thinking about yourself, turn your back on all natural instincts and focus instead on the one who calls to us – come follow me.

What Jesus says here is probably one of the hardest things he says anywhere, if you want to live it out. Remembering not to sell your soul to the Devil, like Dr Faustus, is the easy end of our call; the hard end, every moment of every day, is to remember to lay down ourselves, what we want, what suits us and what will make our lives easier and follow the one who, out of love, was even prepared to die.

Working out what this means for us, in our lives in this moment, is a lifetime's task – and Jesus' riddling reminds us that we have to return to the question time and time again and to wrestle with it over and over again. After all, 'What advantage is there, if you get everything your heart desires but lose who you really are?' Amen.

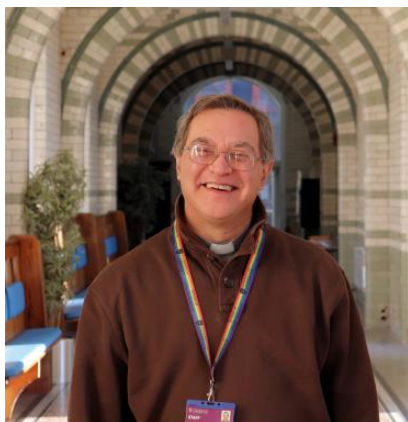
## **A Time for a Smile and a Time for Laughter**



## Spotlight on the Regions

Serving our community  
by Revd Canon Dr Mike Kirby of Liverpool Cathedral

It was back in July 2021 when I was approached by the Revd Dr Hannah Lewis, someone known to many of you, about undertaking a regular monthly BSL Interpreted Eucharist at Liverpool Cathedral. Since Saturday was my day of residence at the cathedral, I jumped at the chance to do so. Hannah had proposed it since, although we offered BSL interpretation for our deaf community at a number of main services at the cathedral, the offering could be more frequent and regular – so together we started the monthly Saturday lunchtime BSL Interpreted Eucharist....which continues to this day.



Hannah has since left Liverpool diocese to do wonderful things down in Oxford diocese; but our serving the deaf community has continued and grown. Since then, together with our deaf reader Pat Callaghan (one of DAT's trustees), we've developed our cathedral website from a list of BSL services, into a full resource page listing upcoming BSL events (locally and nationally) and also churches in the region offering BSL services. We are delighted that the famous Liverpool

and Knotty Ash Signing Choirs join us on occasions – often showing their remarkable skills and talents in performance immediately after our lunchtime service. We post our services onto the well-known BSL Church Worship Facebook page, and livestreaming our Eucharists now rings hundreds of views from a much wider community each month through Facebook and YouTube.

I'm not nearly as proficient in BSL as I would like – I still use a great recording that Hannah did for me when we first started, and I can sign certain parts of the service – so we (!!) rely heavily on the BSL interpreter we have from Signalise each month – who are always brilliant! Thank you to them! But my intention is to learn more and, when I take our primary school service up in Ribchester, Lancashire (where I presently live), we are exploring just a few BSL words and sentences together.....we are learning together.

I feel tremendously honoured and privileged to serve our deaf community in the small way that I do. One thing I have always found, is the beauty that is there in BSL. Even before I was invited to do this, I always found it an amazingly beautiful form of communication. One of the first pointers Hannah gave me was that it's not just hands – but face and body expression that comes into it. When Pat signs the gospel for our service, it is lovely to see the gift of the spirit come into all of her expression – so too with Tina and Leanne, our regular Signalise interpreters. Leanne now makes the Saturday Eucharist her family attendance – and it is simply lovely to have the whole family there as part of our regular community.

I continue to learn from and admire all of those in our community; their gifts and talents – all wonderful, distinctive individuals made in the image of God. The gifts are clear to see of all those communicating through the marvels of BSL – I pray the spirit brings more of those gifts to all of us in the weeks and months to come; and we give thanks for the honour of serving each other in this way, in Jesus' name!

Christmas show at Rising Brook church in Stafford  
by Susan Myatt (D)

Rising Brook has put on great Christmas shows and pantomimes for a long time now, using the gifts and talents of the Rising Brook family to bless the community in and around Stafford. This year's show, **The Lost Star**, the journey of a young girl who is coached through her dreams by 'dreamfolk' whose first language is BSL, was even more special.

Dave Stephenson, one of the Rising Brook Ministers, had the idea and wrote a show that would include BSL and make sure that Deaf people from both Open Hands Signing Church and Penkridge Deaf Church could get involved.

Peter Gilford helped to make the amazing set, and Sue Bond and Sarah Taylor were main roles as Dreamfolk. We also had Dawn Lynch, Malcolm Johnson, Liz Moon and even Open Hands Minister Susan Myatt acting in the Dreamfolk group. Also some hearing actors (who had never signed before!) learned some BSL signs specially for the show. The show ended with the whole cast signing the final song to the audience in BSL.



We're so proud of our church family and a big thanks to everyone involved who worked hard to learn BSL, and to work together to make both the rehearsals and the show accessible for Deaf people. It was so uplifting to see more and more people starting to learn and use signs when communicating with people from Open Hands, and learning about the barriers and how to overcome them.

We are so very proud of our Deaf community in Open Hands and Penkridge Deaf Church and the amazing talents they brought to the show that made it so special, and also of Dave Stephenson for his incredible skill in writing and creating a show that is all about celebrating our differences, and for his heart to include us.

Below are a few quotes from people in the Deaf Community who saw the show:

**The Lost Star** show was spellbinding and mindblowing! This show truly showed how integration between Deaf and hearing people alongside BSL interpreters can work in such a positive way! The inclusivity and accessibility of this show was just exceptional and demonstrates how ALL shows should be done! A massive well done to everyone involved – you were just amazing!

**Ali France (DeafVibe founder)**

There were a lot of deaf people in the audience who were really touched and moved to tears. It was wonderful to welcome so many deaf people who often experience barriers to church to come and experience an inclusive performance and be part of Rising Brook.

Rising Brook is a truly exemplary church when it comes to enabling deaf people to join in worship and other learning opportunities. It is a

privilege to belong to such a wonderful community, and I only hope the show encourages more deaf people to come along and begin their journey of getting to know God.

**Nicki Large (Deaf police analyst)**

### **News from Karen Sly of Leicester Deaf Church:**

**Teresa Bignell** sadly passed away on 14th December 2023. Teresa was part of the Leicester Deaf community. In 2009 Teresa and her late husband David both heard a word from God. He called them to set up a new coffee morning. This was the seed that grew into the new Leicester Deaf Centre in Frog Island. Teresa's faith was strong, she loved Jesus. Just before she passed the word she had was "follow the star". Her crafts, her talks were all about this. In December, she followed the star and went into the arms of Jesus.



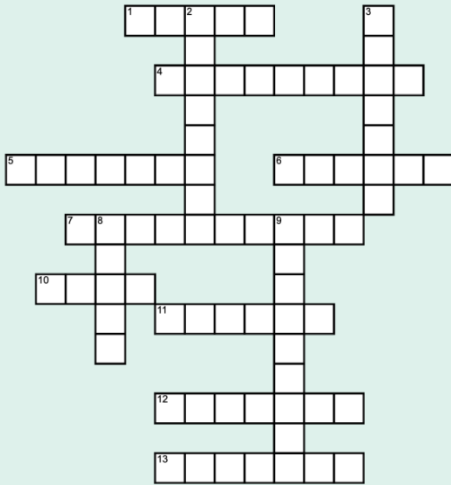
**Cathy Hogg** sadly passed away on 3rd November 2023. Aged 82 years. Now reunited with her husband Ken.

Cathy was part of the Loughborough and Leicester Deaf community. More recently moving to the Isle of Wight, East Hill home for Deaf people.

Cathy was a warm, welcoming, bubbly character with an infectious laugh that would fill a room with joy.

# An Easter Crossword

## Easter Sunday



Across	Down
1 _____ Iscariot, one of the Apostles, betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. (see Matt. 26:14-15)	2 While Jesus hung on the cross, there was _____ over all the land. (see Matt. 27:45)
4 After the soldiers _____ Jesus, they gave lots for his garments, including his coat. (see John 19:23-24)	3 At the last Supper, Jesus took bread _____ blessed it, broke it and gave it to the Apostles, saying, "This is my body." (see Mark 14:22)
5 As he hung on the cross, Jesus said, "father, _____ them; for they know not what they do." (see Luke 23:34)	8 After Jesus died, "the _____ did quake, and the rocks rent." (see Matt. 27:51)
6 When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb the first day of the week, she saw two	9 Before _____ into heaven, Jesus told his disciples, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (see Matt. 28:20)

## Thy Kingdom Come 2024 9<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Thy Kingdom Come 2024, a worldwide prayer initiative launched by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in London in February, will be running from **9<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May** (between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday).

Join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray for more people to come and know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. Watch the BSL videos on YouTube with subtitles, one for each day.

For more information, visit [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)



# EASTER WORDSEARCH



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## WORD LIST

ANGEL  
BIBLE  
CHRIST  
CHURCH  
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FAITH  
GLORY  
GOD  
GOSPEL  
HEAVEN

HOLY  
JESUS  
LAMB  
MIRACLE  
PALM

PASSION  
PRAYER  
RISEN  
SAVIOR  
WORSHIP

*Homemade*  
GIFTS MADE EASY