

To all of our church families – we do hope you are continuing to cope with the challenges of isolation and that you are able to find many positives in these unprecedented times.

Over the past few weeks we have been considering the best way to bring our services to our young families. We are continuing to send out these newsletters so that you can access the Teatime Church service message and related crafts in your own time as we know how precious time is when trying to juggle home schooling, work, housework and everything else!

STORYTIME ONLINE

Alongside these newsletters, we have decided to create some short videos for children/young families to add a personal voice to our messages. I will be recording some Storytime Sessions, where I'll be reading a short children's story based around the month's Teatime Church theme, and talking about the crafts that link to it. There will also be an action prayer at the end to join in with!

We hope the videos are engaging (I will endeavour to use my best teacher-story-teller-mum-reading-a-story-to-captivate-young-children voice!), that they give you a moment's peace to sit together and listen to the story and the gentle message, and bring Teatime Church into your home for a few minutes. The first recording – with hopefully more to come – will be posted on our church website so please have a look at <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/youth-and-family/4-o-clock-service/>.

Thank you so much for your support and I hope you enjoy our May Teatime Church newsletter.



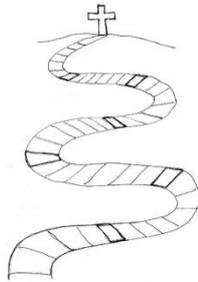
The theme of May's Teatime Church is to remind you, particularly in these challenging times, that Jesus is the way to God the Father. He is comfort and certainty in an uncertain world.

This theme is based on a passage from the Gospel of John 14:1-14. In this passage, Jesus informed His disciples (followers):

'I am the way, the truth and the life'.

'I am the father and the father is in me'.

Jesus is telling his disciples that if you Follow Him you will meet with God



The path to God is a simple one. Follow Jesus. Make time to pray. Make time to read the Bible (God's word). The Bible is like a map because it tells us how we should live and which paths to take and which ones we should avoid in the maze of life! God provides us with guides along the way that can help to lead us. These include our church family, our parents, godparents and grandparents. Our friends and teachers also play an important role too.

Craft activities

These suggested activities are designed to encourage the family to consider today's Gospel passage whilst having fun together and getting creative in an easy way.

Design a maze!



Just like we have to find our way to God through the maze of life, you can have fun creating your own mazes! You could design your own on paper, using Lego, or using cardboard (using bits and pieces from your recycling or straws). You could even have a go at drawing or making one in the garden with chalk or with sticks or leaves. You could find some bugs to run around in your maze with some adult help (and gentle hands!).



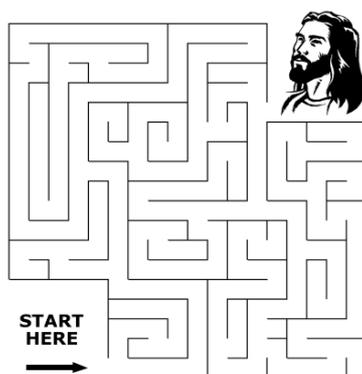
We would LOVE to see some pictures of the mazes you create – please email them to me at familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk and I will share them with the congregation!

Activity sheets

Have a go at finding the way to Jesus through the mazes. Please click on the links to download the activity sheets:

https://sermons4kids.com/finding_the_way_maze.htm

https://sermons4kids.com/i_am_the_way_maze.htm



Family Worship in the home

If you want a bit more support with engaging with family worship in the home then you might find the following websites helpful:

<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/familyfaith/>

<https://engageworship.org/engage-at-home-daily-family-prayer-and-worship-activities>

Remember that if you visit our website: <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk> or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/wotchurch/> you can access our services online. Please also remember to sign up to our weekly e-mail newsletters via our website or Facebook page. These will keep you updated on services and current messages of guidance and support.



We would really appreciate any feedback to our newsletters, however big or small – one line or one paragraph. We want to know that they are reaching you. You could send us pictures of your finished craft activity or a quick email sharing what you enjoyed or found helpful. You could let us know if you have any suggestions about how else we might communicate our messages to you. We would also LOVE for your children to contribute to our newsletters or our services – they could write a prayer for us to include or read out one themselves! Please email everything to me at familyworker@westbury-parish-church.org.uk. Thank you.

George x

*And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
John 4:16*