

E is for ... work out who!

So far the Bible characters we've been learning about have all been men. However, E is for a queen. This queen has a book of the Bible named after her. Her name is mentioned over 40 times but God's name never appears in the book, but he is working behind the scenes.

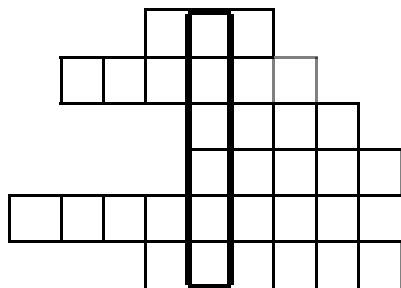
She was from a Jewish family who had been captured in battle and taken to another country. Her parents died when she was young so her Uncle Mordecai brought her up as his own daughter. The girl was beautiful. When the king was looking for a new wife she was chosen along with some other girls to apply to be queen. The king was attracted to Mordecai's adopted

daughter more than all the others girls and she became the Queen.

However, there was a man, Haman, who hated Jews. He agreed to pay the king money if he would pass a law that all the Jews in the kingdom be killed. As the Queen was a Jew this meant she also should die. Her uncle told her to speak to the King on behalf of the Jews. The Queen was afraid because it was dangerous to speak to the King without being invited, but asked Mordecai to go without food (called fasting) for her sake.

Eventually she was allowed to speak to the king. She told him about Haman's wicked plan. God saved his people by the courage of the Queen, who was in the right place at just the right time.

Complete the Crossword to find the Queen's name:



She was a ____

She was _____ by the King

Her uncle _____ her to speak to the King

_____ hated Jews

Her uncle is called _____

God answers _____

What a mix up at the Oscars!



This year's Oscar Awards Ceremony will go down in history as the biggest mix up in the entertainment industry.

'La La Land' was announced as the winner of the Best Picture Award. Victory speeches were being made when a man wearing a headset came on stage and it was announced that it was not 'La La Land' but that 'Moonlight' was the winner.

I suppose it is a big deal for the La La Land team, but it is only the Oscars after all and it is not a matter of life and death.

It does indicate the fallibility of us humans, not only in our actions, but also in our judgements. We have all made mistakes in our lives, and continue to do so, therefore, we ought not to laugh too loudly at the Oscars Awards mix up.

Who then is reliable? There is only one who is totally trustworthy - and that is God himself. He keeps his promises, does what he says

and his judgements are faultless.

We are told that when Jesus sent out his disciples to minister, and they came back rejoicing at what they had achieved, Jesus told them not to rejoice in the success of ministry, but "...rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

For our names to be written in heaven (which means being guaranteed a place there) is a greater privilege than any earthly award. When it is promised by the infallible God it will be ours - with no mistakes being made.

The Bible tells us that whoever believes in Jesus, God's Son, will have eternal life and that guaranteed place in heaven. That is a huge claim, but, as God is the reliable promise keeper, such a claim must be worth exploring.

How about exploring for yourself? We run Christianity Explored courses - please contact Peter Rush to find out more.



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Insight

- Issued four times a year
- To keep you informed
- To stimulate thought
- To invite you to our events

Market Overton Free Church

is an independently governed church and a member of the FIEC



What have you given up for Lent?



No doubt you'll hear this question in the coming weeks. Many people – even those who aren't particularly religious – have adopted the tradition of some act of self-denial in the weeks leading up to Easter.

Although it is an old tradition, you will find nothing about it in the New Testament: neither Jesus nor his Apostles commanded it. As is often the case, the demands of Jesus are actually more radical than the rituals that have grown up in the church.

After explaining to his disciples that he was going to suffer, be rejected, then killed, and on the third day be raised to life, Jesus then said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up

his cross daily and follow me." (Luke chapter 9 verse 23). So self-denial is clearly demanded, but its extent is rather disturbing: "He must take up his cross daily and follow me".

Jesus had just explained that he was going to die and now he tells his disciples that they must too – the only reason someone took up a cross when Jesus spoke these words was to be crucified on it.

The whole emphasis in our culture is self-fulfilment and self-satisfaction; Jesus is saying that we must die to self. And it wasn't just abstaining from something during forty days in spring that Jesus had in mind: this dying to self was to be done daily. We need to admit how self-centred and self-serving we are, trust in the only utterly selfless person who has ever walked this earth, and follow him.

Peter Rush



Market Overton
Free Church

Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Diary Dates:

Minister:
Rev. Peter Rush

Elder:
Roy Palframan

Phone:
01572 767383

Email:
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Morning Worship - Every Sunday, 10.30am
MO Village Hall - suitable for all.

Evening Worship - Every Sunday 6.30pm
Edmondthorpe Social Club

Midweek meeting - Most Thursdays, 7.30pm
MO Village Hall (but check website)

Coffee Hour - Friday, 10.30am:
10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June
MO Village Hall

For latest
information:
www.mofc.org.uk

So ... what is CAP ...?

Well, the letters stand for **Christians Against Poverty** ... and it is a charity that was set up **20 years** ago now by a guy called **John Kirkby** in Bradford who had found himself, despite a strong informed financial background, in a position of great financial distress and need. He and his children sleeping on the floor of a friend's house and a nudge from God were the impetus he needed to try and provide a way forward to help folk in the situation he had found himself desperate with nowhere to turn.

Twenty years later - there are over **300 debt centres** across the UK and centres in Australia, Canada and New Zealand ... all of whom offer **FREE** debt counselling to everyone regardless of faith, sex, background, age or gender.

As a result of all the debt relief work that has been carried out and offered over the years - it became increasingly apparent that the root causes of some of these longer term issues also needed to be addressed - and, to that end, CAP now offers in some centres, the additional services of **Job Clubs, Life Skills and Release Groups**.

CAP works in partnership with the local church and is financed through their support so the various services and programmes can be delivered 'on the ground' across the country.

A local **debt centre** like the one in Stamford is managed by a **centre manager** who is usually a trained **debt coach** and they are supported by numerous volunteers who come in the shape of **befrienders** who journey alongside clients offering company and support through a difficult and often long



process, **prayer warriors** who are willing to support the whole team in prayer, **bakers** who can offer something special when the need arises or for client events and **life changers** who make regular financial giving their gift.

Stamford Debt Centre has now been open for **5 years** and, in that time, we have helped nearly **260** local people, **48** have gone debt free, and CAP are currently helping a further **48** individuals and families. New people are being booked in all the time.

We live in difficult financial times ... there is so much on offer to tempt us and not always the means to keep everything in balance - it can happen to anyone and we are all vulnerable at different points in life. To find out more visit their website: **capuk.org**

If you would like to become part of our exciting team - CAP would love to hear from you - please call Simon on 0800 328 006.

