



Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey March 2016
Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday

Dear Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Here we are well into Lent already. Many of us try to give something up in Lent (and I guess that most of us generally fail) but I do hope you have found the time to take something up - perhaps reading the bible in line with the readings set daily on the pewsheet or reflecting on your church - what you value and what you would miss if things changed. In my last letter I challenged everyone with the story that ended up with the caution that "Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have". I hope that during Lent we will have given some thought to what you could offer to ensure that Hey Church continues to flourish. There are so many exciting things happening and you can be part of it.

Holy week will soon be upon us - please don't make it an optional extra. Journeying with Christ is a discipline; it is time and energy consuming. But it is more than worth it. For it carries us into the heart of our faith and gives us the opportunity to be alongside Christ in his death and resurrection. So please try to be in Church for the great liturgies of the week, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve and Easter Day. For those who cannot get to any or all of these, do share in this, the greatest week of the Christian year, the week of our salvation by studying the readings set for each day which can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter. As this will be my last Holy Week here it will be particularly poignant for me and I hope you will share the journey with me.

All of us need to embrace the hope of happiness which Easter is all about. At Easter we celebrate the risen Christ and our "riseness" in him. But don't make it a one off celebration. When we find happiness with another human being we want to go on embracing that person throughout our lives. So if you believe that happiness can be found in Christ, keep on embracing him. Day by day and above all Sunday by Sunday, for every Sunday, every Eucharist is like a little Easter Day. Christ invites you to share in the celebration of his rising day every Sunday, together with your brothers and sisters.

I wish you all a very meaningful Lent, Holy Week and a wonderful Easter.

Richard

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Report from the Team Rector

This will be my last report as Team Rector of Medlock Head as I am retiring in September 2016. A number of significant things went on in 2015.

I begin with a thank you to the clergy who have worked across the Team, the Wardens, PCCs and all who help in so many different and varied ways to sustain and maintain the three churches spiritually, structurally and financially - a big thank you.

Work has continued apace at Holy Trinity, Waterhead which now has a totally new roof and a beautiful new entrance. St Barnabas, Clarksfield also has undertaken work not least in the addition of a stained glass window of St Hilda of Whitby in memory of Peter Billingsley. At Hey the clock was repainted and secured back to the church and a number of jobs, including some important electrical work, were undertaken in preparation for a quinquennial in the summer. All three churches have projects in hand: at Waterhead major work on the spire and tower and improvements in the Hall; at Clarksfield an entirely new heating system, boiler and radiators; and at Hey new windows in the church hall. So structurally much is afoot.

Spiritually I believe all churches are experiencing either stability in numbers or significant growth in strength and confidence. A good number at Hey and St Barnabas are exploring vocations which bodes well for the future. The evening services (Wednesdays at Waterhead & Thursdays at Hey) are proving very popular. The cynics will say that it is all due to school admissions criteria; even if that were to be true (which I don't believe it is) it is a wonderful mission opportunity to transform a material need into a spiritual desire. We have the chance of planting seeds that may only come to birth many years down the line but surely that is something in which to rejoice and give thanks.

Conversations have started between PCCs at St Barnabas, Holy Trinity and St Thomas Moorside at one end and then at the other St John's and St Thomas Leesfield with St Agnes & St Hugh. My retirement is merely one of many as a very significant number of clergy across the Church of England (3 in this deanery alone) are reaching their sell by date and sadly insufficient numbers are replacing them. So inevitably major discussions are being undertaken at all levels as how best to utilise the reduced number of stipendiary (paid) clergy. I assure you that at this stage no final decisions have been made but it is most probable that the Medlock Head Team will dissolve and new and exciting partnerships will be formed. In the whole of this process there will need to be a generosity of spirit. So often in life we look back with rose tinted glass at the "good old days" - the reality of course is that "the good old days" never really existed - there has always been change - yes there have been good days but there have been hard and bad times as well. The history of all our churches is one of constant change and innovation as the church seeks to be guided by the Spirit to meet the needs of a changing world. A church that cannot move with the times will die.

I remember when I was a serving Officer in the Royal Artillery going to a reunion of 1 RHA - a Regiment I had served in some years before. At the dinner the serving Commanding Officer of 1 RHA in his speech said - "Gentlemen it is good to welcome back former members of the Regiment - I have to report that the Regiment is in good order, probably not as good as the days you were in it but it is in good heart". Naturally we all believed it could never be as good as when we were in it but the reality was that it was even better now - partly from what we had done years ago but mostly because it had moved on and changed with the times.

So my prayer is that members of the Medlock Head Team may rejoice in what we have achieved over the years but have the generosity of spirit and the vision to move on to an even better future. If at some point I have hurt, wronged or offended you then I ask you forgiveness but I sincerely thank each and every one of you for the love and support you have shown to me over my years here and may God bless each of you as the journey continues.

The Revd Canon Richard Hawkins

Richard
January 2016

Report from the Parish Priest

I have written above a report as Team Rector, which forms a part of this reflection on Parish life during 2015 in particular and a few thoughts looking back over the last 17 years.

2015 was a year in which: we experienced growth in the numbers attending church; four members of the congregation are training to lead worship; work was done by the curate with Hey with Zion school - every class visiting church; undertaken a review of who we are, what we do and what we should be doing in the MAP process; worked on our building preparing for the 5 yearly architect's inspection; up graded our music provision with a new electric piano and better sound equipment and a screen; and continued the process of planning for my departure in September 2016.

The Mission Action Planning (MAP) process that has been driven through by Stephen, the curate, with a lot of help from Steve Croft, David Slater and others, reached out far and wide to evaluate the successes and failures of our work here at Hey. The full report of what was learnt is extensive and will very soon be put on the website but the important part is the plan that flows from that. The plan which is in the ACPM report must be kept as a "live" plan for mission and growth in the years ahead. There is so much to thank God for and yet there is so much that must be done. MAP is on the PCC agenda monthly and must be updated and added to as time goes on.

The numbers on Thursday evening are now regularly 90-100 split half children and half adult. It is a very busy, sometimes noisy burst of worship which I well appreciate isn't for everyone. Nevertheless it is such an important part of our worship provision as, regardless of perceptions and assumptions about people's motive for attending, it is the most wonderful opportunity to scatter seeds which God willing one day will come to growth. It is going to need a lot of effort and energy by many people to keep it going in the post Nolan / Hawkins era. What part will you play in sustaining this ministry?

Thank you to everyone for your generosity - we have once again balanced our books and met all our obligations. I appreciate finance is an unpopular subject but they have to be kept on top of as once the church begins to slide back then it becomes more and more difficult to catch up. The church has to raise almost £90,000 every year (that is not far off £2,000 a week) in order to keep ahead of the game - that needs effort, commitment and an understanding of our responsibility as Christians to share our gifts with those less fortunate. The group looking at the transition of my going, the interregnum and somebody eventually being appointed with far wider responsibilities are of the opinion that a part time administrator will be needed to keep on top of all the admin involved in running a parish these days. That inevitably means cost as no one has come forward to do the work as a volunteer. In the same way we pay the organist and cleaner so we should budget for and pay a part time administrator. The work we undertook on our buildings in 2015 has almost all been paid for by the Late Dorothy Ranson who left the church a sizable legacy in her Will - without that we couldn't have done what we have. Please add the church to your Will! What you give to church however big or small is hugely appreciated - please keep the amount under review and give with a generous and open heart.

Stephen, the curate, will leave during 2016 after his time here learning the ropes of what it means to be in parochial ministry. A big thank you to him for all that he has done here not least in the part he played in building the Thursday congregation. Stephen has great gifts to offer particularly in his enthusiasm and work with children. I am sure we have all learnt much from him and I hope that he takes with him some solid building blocks learnt here at Hey.

Paul, our Associate priest, continues to do a huge amount in support of the life and ministry of the parish whilst juggling a full time job, being a Captain in the Army Chaplain's department with responsibilities for units in the North West and family life. I do wonder how he fits all that together so we all owe him a debt of gratitude -

a big thank you. After September his work, family and army will continue to make huge demands upon him and whilst he is licensed to Hey he cannot take over all that I do - I am sure he will want to do as much as he does at the moment but unrealistic demands and expectations must not be placed upon him.

So much happens at Hey it would be impossible to say a personal thank you to everyone – whether they be: Wardens, PCC members, worship leaders, Sunday school, uniformed organisation, Hundred Club, seniors' meal, flower arrangers, cleaners, servers, singers, musicians, magazine preparation, sidespersons, organisers of social events / fetes, coffee / tea makers, lay assistants, people who visit or ring others, those who undertake maintenance work - to all these plus more a very big and heartfelt thank you.

I was licensed here at Hey on 23 February 1999 and leave on 25 September 2016 and it has been a privilege to have been a priest here for that length of time. At no time in my life have I lived in one place for so long even as a child I was away at boarding school for huge chunks of the year and in the army I was on the move all the time so these 17½ years have given me much needed stability. It is not for me to comment on what has been achieved it is more important for me to say sorry for the things I feel I have failed to do. I feel that I could have done more to make Hey church the heart of this local community, a focus that everyone turned to; far more could have been done in reaching out to those beyond the worshipping congregation; more could have been done to empower others; and I know that there are some that perceive me as cold, even uncaring and over organised - to them my heartfelt apologies. I hope, like all ministers leaving a parish, that I leave it in September in a better shape than when I arrived all those years ago. Only history will tell.

What I am absolutely certain of is that new and wonderful things can and will happen here but it needs all to be part of that exciting journey so I repeat that cautionary story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have. So the question is what part will you play in taking the parish forward?

To each and every one of you thank you for your love, acceptance of me for who I am - the good and bad bits, and for allowing me to share moments of great joy and deepest sadness in so many of your lives - thank you.

Richard

February 2016

Recent Entries in our registers

Day by Day Scheme

Thank you to all those who are helping to ensure the future fabric of our church by supporting the Day by Day Scheme.

6 March - In loving memory of David Hawkins
12 March - Brenda's birthday & her sad passing
16 March - Remembering Annie & John Wolfenden's wedding anniversary
20 March - In memory of Ann
23 March - Would have been Brenda Hall's birthday
25 March - Steve & Olivia's Wedding Anniversary
28 March - Birthday memories of Grandad Len
28 March - Richard & Val's wedding anniversary
30 March - Kerry & Mum's Birthday
31 March - Geoff & Hazel's Wedding Anniversary
4 April - Mum's birthday
11 April - Jean & Tom Needham's wedding anniversary

The Faithful Departed

The under named who died on the date shown were laid to rest

16 December	Vera Austin	Aged 91
26 December	Eva Bardsley	Aged 91
7 January	Baby Charlie Halwood	Pre birth
14 January	Michael Power	Aged 67
17 January	Margaret Simpson	Aged 81

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
and let light perpetual shine upon them"

Holy Matrimony

Congratulations to Simon & Jeanne Jobling on their marriage
we wish them every happiness

Please pray for those planning weddings at Hey this year

Sun 6 March - Kevin Douglas & Rachel Mellor
Sat 19 March - Rebecca Brierley & Andrew Birch
Sat 21 May - Neil Hartley & Helen Williams
Sat 18 June - Andrew Reilly & Patricia Tattersall
Sat 6 August - Michael Bearpark & Natasha Birchenough
Sat 13 August - Bradley Parry & Hannah Garside-Coneron
5 November - Leighton Toms & Carla Loftus

Holy Baptism

We welcomed into our worshipping community

24 January Callum Christopher Watterson
Child of David & Catherine Watterson

24 January Emily Rose Rigby
Child of Neil & Carol Rigby



Callum



Emily

7 February William John Bell
Child of Richard & Sarah Bell

14 January Reuben Andrew Eastwood
Child of Andrew Eastwood & Jody Canning



William



Reuben

Street Prayers

Please join us if you can especially if you live in the street being prayed for.

Check the pewsheet for details of where / when to meet.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Street</i>
6 March	Heywood Fold Road
13 March	Knowsley, Knowsley Terrace, Drive, Green, Ave
20 March	Lower Turf Lane & The Spinney
27 March	Brownhill Drive
3 April	Larch Grove

Any requests for specific prayers please speak to the clergy

Let us witness to our faith publicly and make the church real for everyone.

Diary Dates

Major events during World War 1 will be shown on their centenary date

Tue	1 Mar	Noon	CT Lent reflection at Zion Methodist church
Wed	2 Mar	10am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
		11am	Holy Communion at Oakdene
		6pm	Wedding rehearsal
		7.30	Choir practice
Thu	3 Mar	7pm	Come & Praise!
Fri	4 Mar	2pm	CT Women's World Day of prayer - Zion Methodist
Sun	6 Mar		Mothering Sunday
		8am	Holy Communion - BCP
		9.30am	Parish Communion
		2.30pm	Wedding Kevin Douglas & Rachel Mellor
Tue	8 Mar	Noon	CT Lent reflection at Zion Methodist church
Wed	9 Mar	10am	Holy Communion

WW1 - Germany declares war on Portugal. Six days later, Austria follows suit.

Thu	10 Mar	7pm	Come & Praise!
Sun	13 Mar		The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide)
		8am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	Parish Communion
		11.15 am	Holy Baptism
		4pm	Bishop David Deanery Service Stations of the Cross
Mon	14 Mar	7.30pm	Worship Group Meet at Denise Elstub's house
Tue	15 Mar	Noon	CT Lent reflection @ Zion Methodist church
		7.30pm	Full PCC meeting - church
Wed	16 Mar	10am	Holy Communion
		11am	Holy Communion at Millfield & Medlock
		6pm	Wedding rehearsal
		7.30pm	Churches Together AGM - Zion
		7.30	Choir practice
Thu	17 Mar	7pm	Come & Praise! with Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Deanery Synod
Sat	19 Mar	1pm	Wedding Rebecca Brierley & Andrew Birch
Sun	20 Mar		Palm Sunday
		8am	Holy Communion
		9.30am	Come & Praise! with procession of Palms
Mon	21 Mar	10am	Blessing of Oils at cathedral (tbc)
		7.30pm	Holy Communion with address
Tue	22 Mar	7.30pm	Holy Communion with address
Wed	23 Mar	10am	Holy Communion
		7.30pm	Holy Communion with address
Thu	24 Mar		Maundy Thursday
			Hey with Zion term ends
		8pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper followed by Vigil

Fri	25 Mar	Good Friday	9.30am	Come to the cross (service for young people)
			Noon	The Litany
			12.30pm	CT Service of Witness in Lees
				Reflective music
			2pm	Liturgy of the Day
Sat	26 Mar	Holy Saturday	7 pm	Vigil readings
			8.30 pm	Resurrection Eucharist with Holy Baptism & renewal
Sun	27 Mar	Easter Day	8am	Holy Communion
			9.30am	Parish Communion
Wed	30 Mar		10am	Holy Communion
Thu	31 Mar		7pm	Come & Praise!
Sun	3 Apr	The Second Sunday of Easter	8am	Holy Communion - BCP
			9.30am	Parish Communion

WW1 - The Battle of Kut. The third and final Allied attempt to relieve Kut flounders in the mud along the Tigris, with 23,000 Allied casualties.

Wed	6 Apr	10am	Holy Communion - BCP
		11am	Holy Communion at Oakdene
Thu	7 Apr	7pm	Come & Praise!

Future dates

Confirmation at St John's Friday 27 May 2016

Principal Festivals	2016	2017	2018	2019
Ash Wednesday	10 Feb	1 Mar	14 Feb	6 Mar
Easter Day	27 Mar	16 Apr	1 Apr	21 Apr
Pentecost	15 May	4 Jun	20 May	9 Jun
Advent	27 Nov	3 Dec	2 Dec	1 Dec

Flowers for January

In loving memory of Douglas Drake

Easter Lilies



If you would like to donate Easter Lilies in memory of someone please place your donation in an envelope marked with your name and the person being remembered. The names of those being remembered will be listed on the Easter Day pewsheet and in the newsletter following Easter.

Sealed envelopes should be placed in the collection plate or handed to Margaret Harrison or delivered to the Vicarage at 1 Owen Fold, Lees OL43DT.

Bible Readings

6 Mar **Mothering Sunday**
1Samuel 1.20-end Colossians 3.12-17
Luke 2.33-35

13 Mar **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Isaiah 43.16-21 Philippians 3.4b-14

John 12.1-8

20 Mar **Palm Sunday**
Lit Palms: Luke 19.28-40 Isaiah 50.4-9a

Luke 23.1-49 Word

21 Mar **Holy Monday** **7.30pm**
Isaiah 42.1-9 Hebrews 9.11-15

John 12.1-11

22 Mar **Holy Tuesday** **7.30pm**
Isaiah 49.1-7 1 Corinthians 1.18-31

John 12.20-36

23 Mar **Holy Wednesday** **7.30pm**
Isaiah 50.4-9a Hebrews 12.1-3

John 13.21-32

24 Mar **Maundy Thursday** **8 pm**
Exodus 12.1-14 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

John 13.1-7, 31b-35

25 Mar **Good Friday** **Stripped 2pm**
Isaiah 52.13- 53.12 Psalms 22

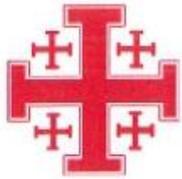
John 18.1- 19.42

26 Mar **Easter Eve** **8.30 pm**
Vigil readings Romans 6.3-11

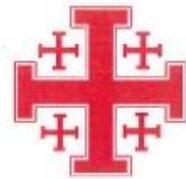
Luke 24.1-12

27 Mar **Easter Day**
Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18 or Luke 24.1-12

3 Apr **Second Sunday of Easter**
Acts 5.27-32 John 20.19-31



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



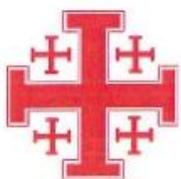
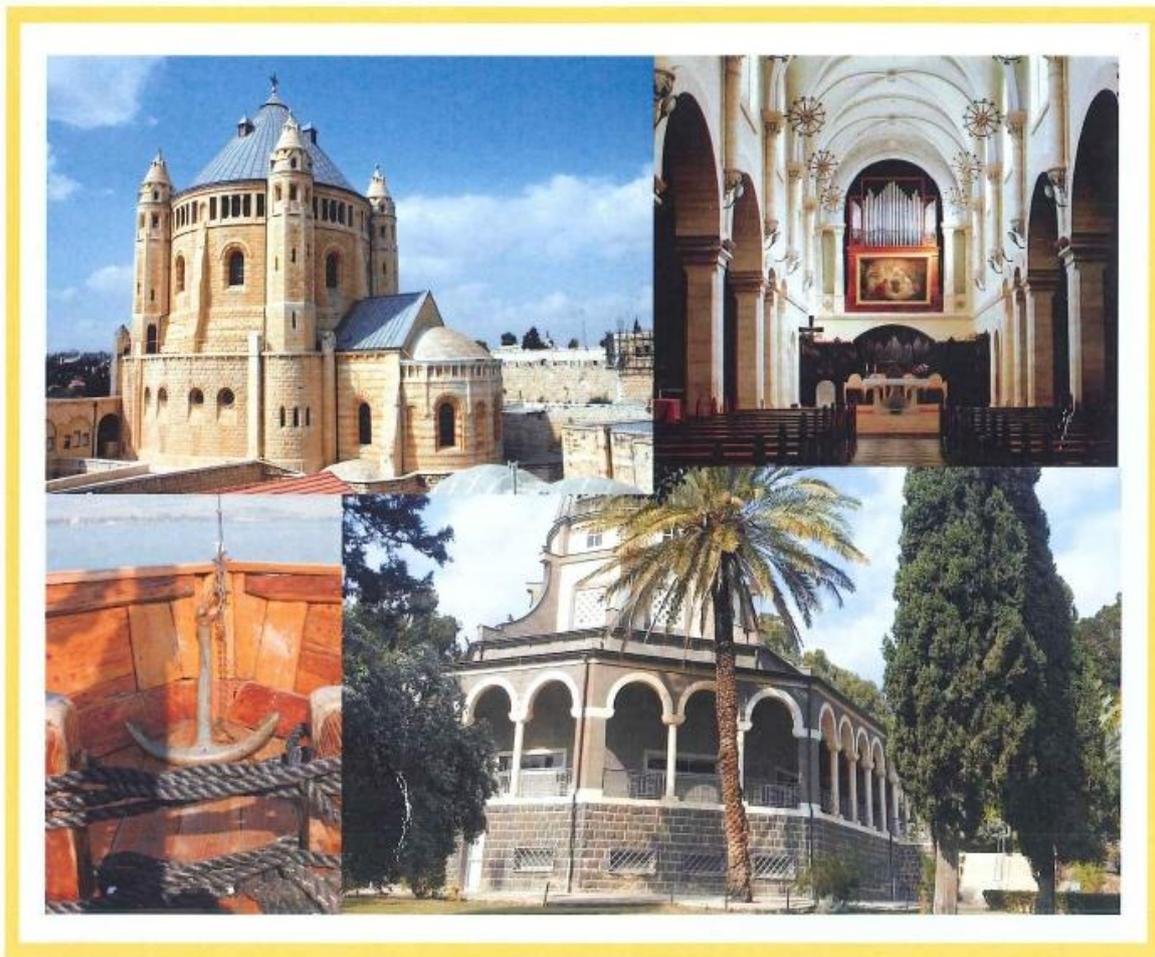
08 DAYS

£1075

27TH MARCH - 03RD APRIL 2017

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF REVEREND GRAHAM HOLLOWOOD

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.....He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." Isaiah 2:3

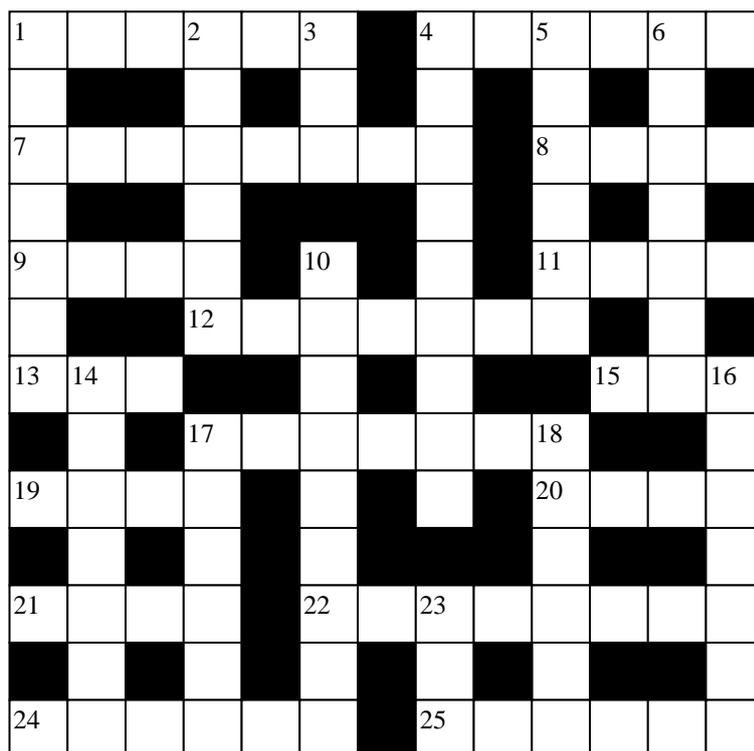


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For more information ask a member of the Clergy

MARCH CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS

1. Small, smooth stone (6)
4. Win a victory over (6)
7. Inattentive (8)
8. Little devils (4)
9. Plant in the eye (4)
11. Helen's place (4)
12. Pills (7)
13. Perched (3)
15. Owns (3)
17. Card game (7)
19. Unit of land area (4)
20. Brief message (4)
21. Encounter (4)
22. Preston football team (5,3)
24. Be present (6)
25. Wood (6)

DOWN

1. Outdoor meals (7)
2. Chest (6)
3. Organ of sight (3)
4. Annoy (9)
5. Pretend attacks (6)
6. Old two-handled jar (7)
10. Gave up (9)
14. Belonging to times past (7)
16. Gracefully thin (7)
17. The middle (6)
18. Musical setting of a religious text (6)
23. Decompose (3)

Solution to February crossword. Across: 1.Irritate, 5.Spot, 9.Flea, 10. Backdate, 11.Magic
12.Entitle, 13.Reserve prices, 18.Burglar,19.Debut, 20.Fantasia, 21.Eats, 22. Seek, 23. Staggers.
Down: 2. Release, 3.Imagine, 4.Trapeze artist, 6.Plastic,7.Teepees, 8.Skater, 13.Rebuffs,
14.Strange, 15.Reload, 16.Iceberg,17.Equator.