

St. John the Evangelist,

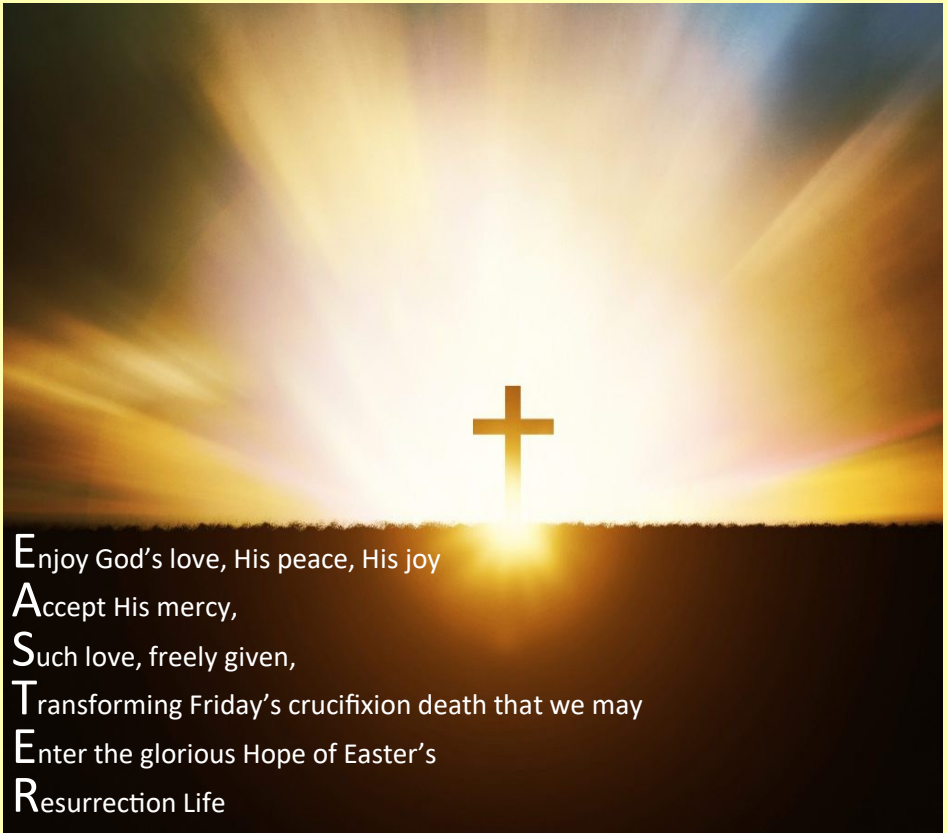
Walton



Open Door



April & May 2026



Enjoy God's love, His peace, His joy
Accept His mercy,
Such love, freely given,
Transforming Friday's crucifixion death that we may
Enter the glorious Hope of Easter's
Resurrection Life

Details of information in this magazine and more can be found at

www.stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk

and

www.facebook.com/stjohnswalton/

Sunday and Regular Services

Sunday Morning Service 9.30 am

Please note new time

Morning Worship — 1st and 3rd Sundays

Holy Communion — 2nd and 4th Sundays

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5th Sunday Holy Communion Service 9.30am

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**These services will be live streamed through
our website:**

<https://stjohnschurchwalton.org.uk/>

**Holy Communion
Sunday Service
8.30 am
1st & 3rd
Sundays only**

**Wednesday
Celtic Service
10.00 am**

Special Services

For Holy Week and Easter Services please see card accompanying this issue

Also on Good Friday

Bridgewater Churches Together Service
in Victoria Square, Stockton Heath
3rd April @ 12 noon

All are welcome



Contact Details

Vicar: Rev. Jo Mackriell
Telephone: 01925 968729
Mobile: 07359 546362
Email: rev4jo@gmail.com

Lay Reader

Mr. I. Jerrard-Dinn — 01925 265 557

Lay Reader

Mr. K. Fletcher — 07359 445564

Pastoral Worker

Mrs. G. Povey-Robins — 07970 983 308

Church Warden

Mr. T. Robins — 01925 261 922

Church Warden

Mr. C. Lloyd — 01925 212 644

Safeguarding Officer

Mrs. C. Lloyd — 07957683762

Treasurer

Mr. M. Weeks — 07972 845174

P.C.C. Secretary

Mrs. N. Chadwick — 01925 263 449

If you would like to give to the work and ministry of St. John's you can use the QR code, click on this link bit.ly/give-st-johns, or type it into your browser, to take you to our online giving website.

With many thanks.



From Rev. Jo

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!



Easter stands at the very heart of our faith. After the shadows of Good Friday, after the silence and uncertainty of Holy Saturday, we arrive at the dawn of resurrection. The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. Death does not have the final word. Love does.

It is easy to become accustomed to the Easter story. We have heard it many times. We know the sequence of events. Yet the first witnesses did not experience it as a familiar tale. They came in grief. They came in confusion. They came expecting to tend to the dead. Instead, they encountered the living Christ.

That first Easter morning was not neat or sentimental. It was startling, even unsettling. Resurrection rarely fits comfortably into our expectations. It breaks into locked rooms. It calls people by name through tears. It transforms fear into courage and despair into hope.

And that is the good news for us today.

Easter is not merely about what happened long ago; it is about what God continues to do. The resurrection tells us that no situation is beyond redemption, no life beyond renewal, no failure beyond forgiveness. The risen Christ still meets us in our doubts, our disappointments, and our questions. He does not stand at a distance. He comes close.

In a world where we see suffering, division, and uncertainty, Easter proclaims a deeper truth: light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Hope is not wishful thinking; it is rooted in the faithfulness of God.

As a church community, we are called to be Easter people. That means living as witnesses to hope. It means choosing forgiveness over resentment, generosity over fear, and compassion over indifference. It means trusting that even when we cannot yet see the full picture, God is at work bringing new life.

Perhaps this Easter, we might ask ourselves: where do I need resurrection? Where have I given up hope? Where is God inviting me to trust again?

The risen Lord who called Mary by name calls each of us. He meets us in the ordinary moments of our lives and breathes new life into weary hearts.

May this Easter fill you with renewed faith, deep peace, and quiet confidence in the God who makes all things new. And may the joy of the resurrection shape not only this season, but every day that follows.

Love from

Rev. Jo



Dates for your diary

Prayer Groups

2nd Tuesday Lady Chapel 6.30pm
4th Wednesday Lady Chapel 11.00am

April

Tuesday 14th
Wednesday 22nd

May

Tuesday 12th
Wednesday 27th



If you would like to join us it would be great to see you

Knit and Natter

1.30pm—3.30pm

Church Community Hall



April

Tuesday 7th
Tuesday 21st

May

Tuesday 5th
Tuesday 19th

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WALTON

ST JOHN'S ENSEMBLE

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SATURDAY MAY 9TH 2026
7.30 PM

£6 ENTRY, INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

Tuesday Group

7.15 – 9.00 pm



Church Community Hall

April

14th
21st
28th

May

5th
12th
19th
26th



Sunday 19th April
2pm

APCM

(Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

10th May @ 10.45am

(after church service)

in

St. John's Church

Please join us if you can



Thy Kingdom Come

2026

14th—24th May

Theme — God With Us

This global ecumenical prayer movement invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

For more information please visit-

www.thykingdomcome.global



Sunday 19th April at 2pm

St John's Church
Old Chester Road, Higher Walton

Free entry
Refreshments Provided

St. John's plan to hold 4 Messy Church events each year.

Our first of 2026, in January, was a success, with lots of families enjoying the time spent together.

As you can see above, the next is in April.

Watch out for the others in future issues of this magazine.

Messy Church principles and values

Messy Church principles

Messy Church is not a stepping stone into existing congregations, nor is it a church plant, but it is a congregation in its own right. Messy Church is ecumenical and seeks to work with all Christian churches.

Messy Church values

Christ-centred



Messy Church is a church, not a craft club, that helps people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Messy Church believes, with the historic churches, in one God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All-age



Messy Church is for adults and children to enjoy together. Every element should be relevant and accessible to all ages.

Creativity



Messy Church uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together.

Hospitality



Messy Church reflects a God of unconditional love, providing a warm, welcoming and safe environment for everyone, especially those outside church. It is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by eating together – whether it's light refreshments or something else.

Celebration



Messy Church reflects a God of joy who wants his people to have life in all its fullness.

To read more about these values, and how BRF expresses them, visit messychurch.org.uk from which this article has been sourced.

Prayer pages



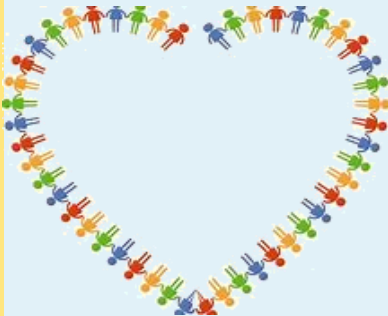
Prayer for St. John's Church Family

We give thanks for St. John's, remembering that it is made up of everyone who lives in the parish of Walton and many who live further afield.



Bless all who attend the church in person and who join us for services online: thank you for bringing us together as a Church community to worship and grow in our faith. We are grateful for the bonds of friendship and fellowship that unite us.

We ask that you give us guidance and wisdom to build a strong and welcoming Church for **all**. Help us to cultivate a spirit of love, kindness and compassion for one another which spreads into the wider community and touches all those we meet.



Father, we pray for unity amongst our Church community. May we be of one mind and one heart united in our faith and our love for you. Help us to work together to spread your love and light in our community.

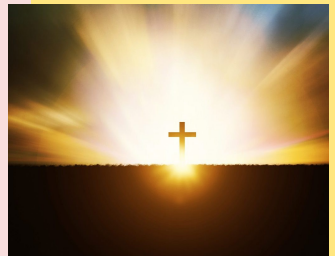
Amen

Easter Sunday Prayer

Heavenly Father, our hearts are full of joy as we celebrate this most special day. Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ who has brought us the promise of eternal life.

As the sun rises this morning, let the light of the Resurrection shine in our hearts and banish all the darkness and fear. Help us to walk in the newness of life today and always.

Amen



Prayer for our Nation

We pray for places
of unrest across
our world.
We ask
that you
dispel
darkness
and evil
and protect
human life
and bring
harmony where
there is conflict
and violence.



Dear Lord,
we pray you
give wisdom to
world leaders.
Free them from
selfish
ambition and
guide them to
make
judgements
that mean
peace for all.

Amen

Faith Communities/Working together

God of All,
Cultures, faiths, denominations
may vary, but You love **all**.
Thoughts, understanding, paths
may vary, but You love **all**.

Thank You.

Help us, despite our differences,
to respect each other and work
together to serve our surrounding
community. We ask Your blessing
on all faith communities in
Warrington and in particular we
pray for everyone within
Bridgewater Churches Together.

Amen

St. John's Prayer Chain

As part of our Pastoral Ministry at St. John's some church members make up our Prayer Chain. They pray daily for those in need, with requests normally being included for two weeks.

If you would like prayers to be offered on behalf of yourself or someone for whom you have a particular concern at this time, then we would be pleased to do so.

To make a request please contact any of the following:

Rev. Jo Mackriell
on 01925 968729 or 07359 546362

Ian Jerrard-Dinn (Lay Reader)
on 01925 265 557

Gill Povey-Robins (Pastoral Worker)
on 07970 983 308





Christian Aid Week 2026

14 — 24 May

Where hardship means hunger... urban farmers can grow hope.

In the crowded and noisy settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening.

With no formal work opportunities, heartbreakingly low pay, and no social support, it's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face.

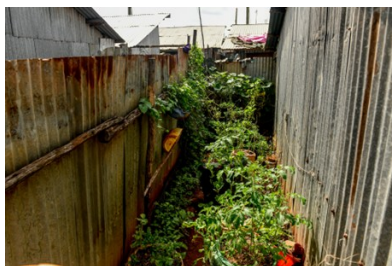
The aching hunger is bad enough. The relentless stress is overwhelming. 'When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food,' says Fridah Moraa, a recently widowed grandmother determined to support her family on what little she earns.

'Now I'm responsible for everything.' With school costs, rent and water to cover, providing food for every meal is a problem that never goes away.

But Fridah's faith in God, and in her own ability to provide, is unwavering. With tools, seeds and specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, Fridah's now making the most of a small space in the city to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables that she can cook for her family or sell on her market stall.

Reflecting on her new role in life, Fridah says: *'I never thought that a woman could also be a provider.'*

With her inner strength, unstoppable resolve, and a little help from Beacon of Hope, Fridah's overcoming poverty to feed the youngest members of her family and protect them from the threat of malnutrition.



Fridah's turned a tiny unused space into a source of nutrition and income for her family.

Credit: David Macharia/
Christian Aid

Fridah rightly takes pride in all she's achieving: *'When I harvest what I've planted, it makes me happy. Urban farming has changed my life.'*

Fridah tends her small city plot, tucked away at the end of an alley by her home in Dagoretti. Credit: David Macharia/Christian Aid



Fridah with her grandson, Quillan, outside their home in Dagoretti, Nairobi. Credit: David Macharia/Christian Aid



L-R: Abiud, Fridah, Quillan and Eliud outside their home in Dagoretti, Nairobi. Credit: David Macharia/Christian Aid

With seven days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts. What will you do to support someone like Fridah to grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope?



- ◆ £5 could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.
- ◆ £10 could pay for the pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.
- ◆ £15 could purchase the hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.
- ◆ £30 could buy the trio of cone garden planters that host hundreds of plants in a tiny city space.

Find out more about the campaign at caweek.org

What does your child know about red squirrels?

Sadly, red squirrels are now so rare in Britain that many of our children are not even sure what they are. A recent study found that one in 10 children are unable to even identify a red squirrel when shown a picture of one. And a third of British children do not know that red squirrels live in the UK.

It all means that our native species of squirrel is at risk of being forgotten as the larger grey American invader takes over.

In order to combat this trend, Center Parcs, in collaboration with The Wildlife Trusts, has launched a campaign to create a red squirrel emoji. The aim is to help increase awareness of the species among our young people.



What God won't ask when you die

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.

God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask about the colour of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.

National Gardening Week 28th April to 4th May

Led by the Royal Horticultural Society, this annual premier UK celebration encourages everyone to experience the joy of gardening. Aimed especially at beginners, events and activities are run up and down the country, offering tips, events, and resources to promote the health, wellbeing, and environmental benefits of cultivating plants.

The RHS provides expert tips, how-to guides, and fun, easy gardening challenges to build confidence in new gardeners.

More at: <https://www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk>



Some anniversaries from April and May

125 years ago, on 15th April 1901, Joe Davis, snooker and billiards player was born. He co-founded the World Snooker Championship in 1927 and won the first 15 championships.

65 years ago, on 10th April 1961, South African golfer Gary Player became the first non-American to win the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

100 years ago, on 26th May 1926, jazz musician Miles Davis was born in Alton, Illinois.

80 years ago, on 7th May 1946, Sony, the Japanese consumer electronics company, was founded (as the Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corporation).

Your Easter chocolate can be good for you

It all began in ancient Peru over 5,000 years ago.

They liked to sip cacao, the purest form of chocolate. It took many centuries to find its way to Europe, but when it did arrive, it was a big hit. Now, with sugar added, chocolate is one of the most popular treats we know. In the UK we munch our way through about 4.5kg of it, per person, per year.

Dark chocolate is soaring in popularity. If it is of good quality, it will have less sugar and more beneficial plant compounds such as polyphenols and flavanols, which can help protect your brain, your heart and your gut from inflammation, among other things.

Baptisms

Aarre Etienne Murphy



Have you heard?

just to ponder ...



"The refusal to forgive and be forgiven lies at the root of a great deal of sickness." *Anon*

"The heart has its reasons, which reason knows not, as we feel in a thousand instances." *Blaise Pascal*

Remembering your loved ones at St John's

Have you thought about celebrating or remembering a special event or person by sponsoring the flowers at St. John's?

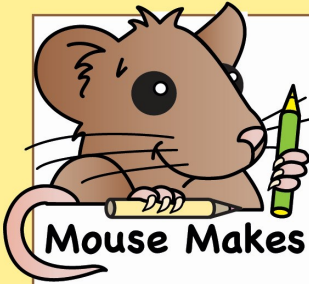
We would love to hear from you.

Please contact Christine Hughes on 01925 210 792 to discuss a donation.



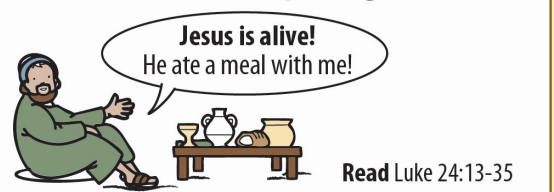
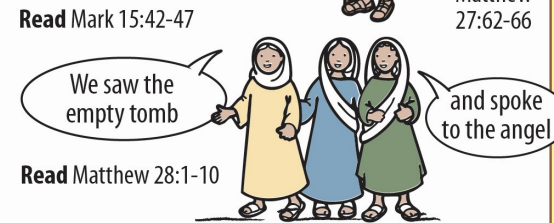
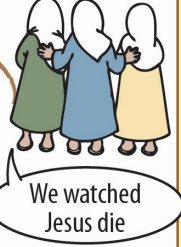
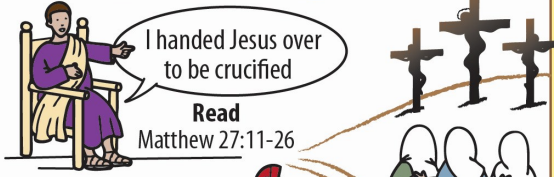
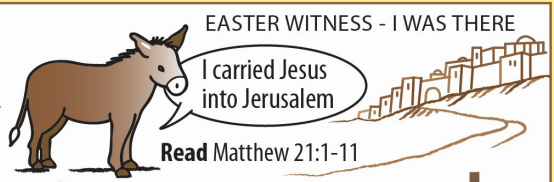
For the children

(and young at heart!)



GOOD NEWS
 OHOSANNA
 DEATHQB
 VNCOEUI
 UAHNAAR
 O
 MIREVS
 YU
 ALIVETDR
 RISENEOK
 YOTHORNS
 PALMSQKA
 RPILATEN
 CRUCIFYG
 RHIQUAKE
 OCJESUSL
 STOMBVDY
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



Social goings on



Enjoy
singing?



St. John's Ensemble

meets In **Church**
on

Thursday from **7.30 pm**

Why not come along and
join us?

Ability to read music a
help but not essential.



Tuesday Group



Want to learn more about God and the Christian faith outside the formal setting of Church?

Friendly, ordinary folk getting to grips with what living in the 21st Century means for their personal faith.

If you're interested, please speak to Noelle or contact her at noelle_briggs@hotmail.co.uk



Feeling lonely?

Fancy a cuppa?



Why not come along to

St. John's Knit and Natter

(You don't *have* to do any knitting)

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

Church Community Hall

1.30pm — 3.30pm

Guaranteed a warm welcome

For more details please contact

Mrs. G. Hatch on 01925 262315

OR

Mrs. G. Bruce on 07876 058934

Did you know?

St John's Church Community Hall is available for hire

Situated in the heart of Walton village

Suitable for

parties *societies and clubs* *fitness classes* *rehearsal space*
local community meetings

- ◆ Grade 2 listed building
- ◆ 2 rooms available for hire:
The Walton Room (capacity 49) and the Daresbury Room (capacity 27)
- ◆ Kitchen
- ◆ Disabled toilet and baby change facilities

Bookings are available for local groups or private hire.

Please contact Nina Chadwick on 07840119659 or

Christine Hughes on 01925 210 792.



Raise a smile: 😊

How God works
A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left-handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant.

"Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."



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Note from the editor

Every effort is made to produce a magazine which looks inviting and contains correct information, spelling, and grammar. However, no-one and nothing is perfect (especially myself), hence errors can get missed, both in production and proof-reading (done by someone else). As you peruse 'Open Door' award yourself 5 points when you find any mistakes which have escaped correction. Have fun! Hopefully you won't find too many! No need to report back.

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Acknowledgements

www.parishpump.co.uk — for some of the articles and graphics included

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Magazine issues

December/January
February/March
April/May
June/July
August/September
October/November

Open Door
Editorial Team

Lester Amann considers a man who knew all about too much rain...

Noah: builder for God

Mention the name Noah, and it's likely we remember he built an ark, and then filled it with animals. But did you know that Noah lived for 500 years before he started this massive carpentry project?

With such a long life before the flood, we may wonder what he did for five centuries! Apparently, Noah lived in an age of widespread depravity and violence, but he stood out as a man of righteousness. He was a shining example of goodness and holiness in a generation of corruption and evil. This didn't mean he was perfect, but at that time he was blameless before God.

Noah also preached to those around him. He wouldn't have preached in the way we think of preachers today, standing in a pulpit or on a platform. Instead, his *life* was the 'sermon' - an example of purity and faithfulness in a world defiled and rampant with wickedness.

We must admire Noah's courage and obedience to God. Perhaps we should ask ourselves, how well do our lives compare with Noah's, as we also live in a society that falls short of good qualities such as love, peace and trust.

Noah spent 120 years building the ark. No doubt he was plagued with inquisitive questions and hurtful comments about his work. Despite this, he kept doing what God had told him to do. There is no record that Noah had any converts. Only Noah with his wife, his three sons and their wives, were together on a voyage to a new life and to a new world.

If we are to have a new life in God's world we too must be dedicated to the task, He has given us to do - even if we fail to see others take hold of God's redeeming love. God deals with us differently according to His plans for our life and we are called to obedience and commitment.

Noah's task was *not* to save the world but to be a faithful witness. His life tells us not to give up witnessing in the face of ridicule and opposition, and to trust God that He has reserved for us a better future.

Some words spoken by Jesus:

“.....in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16: verse 33