

Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory April 2014

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Assistant Curate	Andy Atkins	277 882
Parish Missioner	Simon Harrison	495 866
Churchwarden	Avril Pattinson	860 880
“	Dave Allin	~
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Parish Treasurer	Adrian Hewitt	437 313
Electoral Roll Officer	Jeremy Lawford	214 025
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St. David's www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

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From the vicar

In Lent we have been thinking about themes in the life of Jesus, and how they cast light on our own lives. How do we deal with the times when we feel that we are in the wilderness? How do we change from the child growing up, as Jesus did in Nazareth, to the adult person we are now? When did Jesus come on board our boat, as he did with the fishermen on the Sea of Galilee? How do we react to what is strange and new in our experience, as an enrichment, a good Samaritan, or as something to fear and reject? And what have been the experiences of God, the bright glimpses of God that we remember and try to hang on to as a source of strength for our lives?

Now as we approach Holy Week and Easter, the resonance of our own lives with the life of Jesus becomes even stronger. The manner of his dying is outside our experience, but the fact of our mortality is often in our minds. How can we learn from his example and face suffering and death with acceptance and hope? It's a huge question for all of us, but perhaps most relevant to those who are older or facing illness now.

Religious beliefs, seasons and ceremonies are significant for us because they give us insight into our own lives. Good Friday and Easter don't just tell us about things that happened to Jesus and need to be believed in. They tell us about our own lives - our own situations. And they help us to live as with our pain and identify our joy. We are far away in time and location from 1st Century Jerusalem, but what happened there is still totally relevant to us now.

Lent asks us, "In a world where we have so much, what do we really

need?" We can indulge our cravings, we can anaesthetise our pain with activity and possessions and consumption, but what is essential for our lives to have meaning? I hope that our Monday evening Lent Happenings will have posed this question again in a fresh way.

Good Friday asks us, "In a world full of pain, how can the example of Jesus, help us to endure and learn from our pain? For me, the essence of Christian faith lies here. That God, in some way, chose to embrace the human condition, with all its sorrow and joy.

And the joy of Easter is that Jesus brings us with him out of the grave and into new life. Not just in heaven, but now. The risen life, in which we share, is available to us now. We are raised with Jesus when we find that despite our dark times, there is still joy in life. Joy in relationships, joy in community, joy in creativity, joy in using our bodies and using our minds, joy in finding out more about the world and delighting in it. Joy in becoming more aware of a joyful God.

So as we begin April, I pray for us all that we will ask the right questions in what remains of Lent; that we will know ourselves to be accompanied in our darkness, holding out our hand to the one who is in the depths with us; and that we will know real joy and new life in the Easter season.

Tom

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SERVICES at St DAVID'S

Palm Sunday 13th April

- 8.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30am Parish Communion with Blessing of Palm Crosses
and the Passion Gospel according to St Matthew
Junior Church will meet as usual
6.00pm Evening Prayer

Monday 14th April

- 7.30pm** Holy Communion

Tuesday 15th April

- 8.00am** Morning Prayer and Holy Communion
7.30pm Holy Communion

Wednesday 16th April

- 7.30pm** Holy Communion

These three evening services will contain a short
reflective talk for Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday 17th April

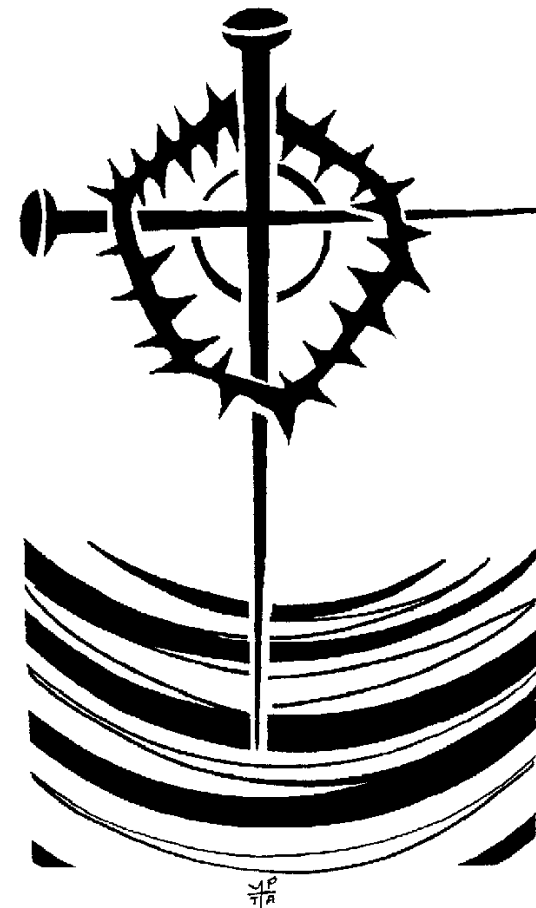
- 10.30am** Holy Communion
7.30pm Celebration of The Last Supper (as Jesus and his
disciples would have celebrated Passover)

Good Friday 18th April

- 10am** Children's Service for Holy Week and Easter
2.00pm Meditation on The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

EASTER SUNDAY 20th April

- 8.00am** Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
9.30am Parish Communion and Celebration of Easter
Junior Church will join us in church today.
6.00pm Evening Prayer





Mass. As we spread the Light of Christ with our candles at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, the light is not diminished or diluted, but

grows and brightens as it is extended from one person to another. You'll deduce that I'm fully in favour of the Sacrament of Ordination being open to all, but I was fortunate first to experience women's Eucharistic ministry ecumenically 40 years ago.

And finally, some April Foolishness from the Indisciplinary Department at the Mount Dinham Institute of Holy Humour.

Ecclesiometry; The Church of St Pythagoras and All Angles is a member of the Orthogonal Church, worshipping the Holy 3-4-5 Triangle and affirming the tangential union of the Opposite and the Adjacent. It is best known for the theological tome Summa Squarum Hypotenuse and has a special ministry to mathematical musicians. There is a narrower 5-12-13 group which, following the scriptural account of the Last Supper, only allow males to receive communion, and their priests retire aged 33.

Geography; The Hebrides - Scottish islands famous for the renewed interest in Celtic Christianity over the past 75 years. This began with the Iona Community, followed by its High Church offshoots, the Confraternity of the Blessed Rhum and the Community of the Resurrection on Easter Eigg. Later the original Messy Church started on Muck, and from Mull came the well-known Autumnwatch Carol, "Oh! The rising of the Sun and the rutting of the Deer." There's nae playing of the merry organ for the Wee Frees on Lewis, but sweet singing of the Psalms.

Richard Barnes

April from St Michael's and All Angels

Writing for Easter is always tricky; we know what's coming and we have a view of the route, but we have a difficult path to follow between Shrove Tuesday and Easter Day. The secular world loves a feast, so has renamed Shrove Tuesday 'Pancake Day'. There isn't much to be done about Easter or Christmas, though some have tried to rename these so as not to give offence. (To whom?) Life-style magazines go over the top with recipes and table decorations for the 'holiday'. There is rarely a reference to the underlying reasons for the celebrations; chocolate eggs without specific decoration are on sale all year round and hot cross buns were available before the end of December.

As you will have seen from the programme of services, Sunday Masses in Lent will include talks on the theme 'Were you there...?' So far only the first of these has been heard, about the FoodBank. Famine is not a distant disaster; people in our own city really struggle to feed themselves and their families. Sometimes, in the comfort of the enclosing nature of the Mass, with the familiar format and Lenten hymns, it may be easy to forget that we have been gathered together only to be broken apart again, in the four great actions of being taken out of the everyday, to be blessed, broken and shared, as Our Lord did with the bread. As a result of those actions, we must become like the bread itself and share our spiritual food through prayer and action.

Reports of disasters in our own time often refer to their magnitude and effects as 'biblical'. Michael Buerk in his famous reportage of the Ethiopian famine called it 'biblical' in its proportions; the flooding of the Somerset Levels was described as 'biblical' by the Prime Minister. It seems as if they wish to suggest that all one will find in the Bible is a list of disasters, famines, floods and apocalyptic events. Ignored are the

great themes of love, repentance, forgiveness, joy, gratitude and so on. It will be even harder to persuade people in the future that the Bible is not some great gloomy tome if Religious Education is reduced in or removed from school curricula, or if it is poorly taught by unqualified teachers as the reduction in the Education budget suggests may happen. I have a bit of a squirrel habit, in that I clip articles from papers and save them. One from December 2008 caught my eye and has resurfaced; The Oxford Junior Dictionary removed words associated with Christianity and Monarchy. The words removed included abbey, aisle, bishop, chapel, disciple, parish, pew and Pentecost, empire and monarch. It seems that we can lose these and their influence in our language and history without any problems arising. Interestingly, 'tolerant' was a new inclusion, as were others to do with technology and citizenship, as one would expect. Describing disasters as 'biblical' may even disappear as an idea without appropriate Religious Education or Biblical knowledge.

There are two important lectures to look forward to (and to report on). Bethany Sollereeder from Exeter University talks about 'Evolution, Suffering and the Creative Love of God' on March 12th, and Dr Jeffrey John takes 'Real Bible Study' as the theme for his talk in April to celebrate the twenty first anniversary of our Lecture series. These lectures have stimulated thinking and discussion over the years and have been a valuable addition to St Michael's social impact in the city: our thanks must be recorded to all involved in organising them.

This has been a bit of a ramble, but I hope that the themes of the discipline of Lent and the essential growth in faith towards Easter will remind us of God's great redeeming love shown in Our Lord's death and resurrection. From St Michael's, we wish a joyful Easter to you all.

Stephanie Aplin

St Michael's Lectures

21st Anniversary Lecture

7.30pm, Wed. 2nd April

"Real Bible Study," Jeffrey John (Dean of St Albans)

The Very Reverend Jeffrey John is Dean of St Albans Cathedral, a writer and a broadcaster. He was brought up in Rhondda, South Wales, and studied Classics, Modern Languages and Theology at Oxford. His books include *The Meaning in the Miracles* and *Permanent Faithful Stable: Christian Same-Sex Marriage*.

Many people have been put off the Bible by inadequate, usually over-literal presentations of it. This lecture seeks to show, in an entertaining way, why understanding the approaches and results of biblical scholarship usually strengthens faith and creates a thirst to learn more. Being genuinely "biblical" involves facing truths about scripture, which are essential for real understanding, but rarely touched on in what normally passes for "Bible study."

www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk



- Chaired by Bishop A. Martin Shaw
- Free, with voluntary donations at the end
- Includes buffet and a glass of juice or wine
- Followed by a discussion, with questions from the floor
- OPEN TO ALL, and everyone welcome to join the discussion

Held at the **Church of St Michael and All Angels, Dinham Road, Mount Dinham, Exeter, EX4 4EB**

For further information, or to discuss disabled access, contact

David Beadle at
dnb201@exeter.ac.uk



ALMIGHTY GOD GIVE US PRIESTS

On February 16th, Father Darren Smith, Secretary General of the Additional Curates Society visited St. Michael's to speak at the Sunday morning Mass and he gave a thought provoking Sermon and his words follow.....

I was very amused to read a notice which said, "Reward, lost dog. Small, black arthritic Labrador cross, bandaged leg, one eye, deaf, severe eczema. Answers to name "Lucky".

This made me think with all these physical disabilities, he didn't seem to fit his name very well, but the again what would a dog called Lucky look like?

Names so rarely give any clue as to the physical characteristics of an individual. It is a little bit like that wonderful part from Alice in Wonderland when Humpty Dumpty asks the young girl her name.

"My name is Alice", she said.

"That's a stupid name" Humpty Dumpty impatiently interrupted. "What does it mean?"

"Must a name mean something? asked Alice doubtfully.

"Of course it must," said Humpty Dumpty with a soft laugh. "My name means the shape I am, and a good handsome shape it is too. With a name like yours you might be any shape"

Names rarely give any sort of a clue as to a person's identity, and neither do job titles or professions. I want us to consider for a few moments what should a priest look like?

Well hopefully nothing like Lucky the dog!

But even if he did, even if he had a bandaged leg, one eye, deaf, severe eczema, and so on that wouldn't mean all clergy should have those particular attributes, nor would any of those prevent him from being a good

priest.

I love those words of Saint Alphonsus from "The Dignity and Duties of a priest" when he describes a priest as "The glory and the immovable columns of the Church. They are the doors of the eternal city, through which all reach Christ. They are the vigilant guardians to whom the Lord has conferred the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven."

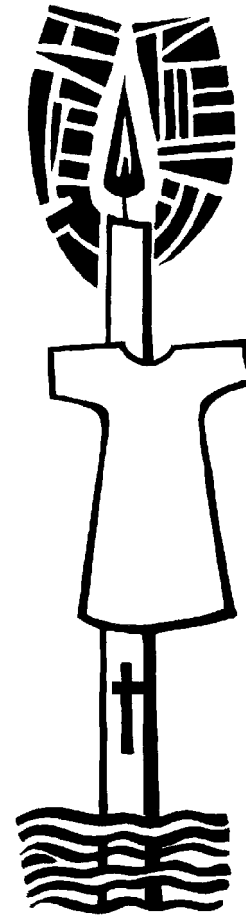
With this sort of build up, no wonder my dear never thought I would become a priest. I can remember as though it was yesterday telling her that this is what I felt God was calling me to and her response was "You, a priest? You're not good enough!"

And how right she was.

I am not good enough, and dare I say it neither are any of those that are standing around me. We are all unworthy of so high an honour, but the dignity of the priesthood is not from those who hold the office, but from the giver of the gift. And most in fact, dare I say, all of us, are men made with feet of clay.

Some of us are good some of the time. And some of us are monsters some of the time, and you y dear friends, I am sure, can be far more objective about the priesthood than perhaps those of us who are part of it. I can remember someone once saying to me "The proof that the Church is a gift from God himself is that it exists.....in spite of the clergy."

There is never a day when I stand at the altar or preside at a funeral, conduct a baptism, officiate at a wedding, anoint a sick person or forgive a sinner, that I am not acutely aware of my unworthiness to perform any of these tasks.



Priesthood is not about rights, it is not about power, it is nothing to do with equality or justice. No it is about submission to the will of God. It is about service to the Lord and His Church. Perhaps this is where so many go wrong. It is not about what I want, it is about what God wants of me.

So, let's go back to my earlier question.

What does a priest look like?

By that I don't mean is he tall or short, fat or thin, old or young, because as we know that is silly. We come in many sizes and flavours of Heinz 57, although having said that, and I hope my brother priests will forgive me in saying this, there is a sense in which people do stereotype us. On a recent visit to a fancy dress shop I was amused to see "the Vicar's costume" as having a set of large teeth, a grey wig, thick rimmed spectacles and a ring of confidence collar. Perhaps that is why the young lady in the building society said to me last week on my day off "Father Darren, I didn't recognise you with your clothes on."

Yes, the world does have a stereo-typical image of what a priest looks like, Although too young to remember myself I do think Derek Nimmo has it to a T in his TV portrayal of an Anglican Vicar Rev Mervin Noote.

The best picture of course we can ever have of what a priest should look like is the image of the Lord Himself, for it is His priesthood that we have the privilege of sharing in. He is the perfect example of a priest. But when we look at the ones that he first called to share in his priesthood, his apostles, we discover that he chose very ordinary men, fishermen, who were bad tempered, weak, sinful, jealous, lacking in faith, slow to understand and so on. No wonder one of our Eucharistic Prayers so aptly says "You choose the weak and make them strong in bearing witness."

Is this not the grace of Orders?

To me a good priest is not someone who is perfect (that simply does not exist). It is not someone with a good sense of humour, highly intelligent, a great orator, fundraiser, diplomat, etc. That is not to say that a good priest is not any or all one of these, to me a good priest is first and foremost a man who is simply prepared to abandon himself into the hands of the Lord and attempt to fashion his life and the lives of his people on the life of Christ.

Now my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are in something of a crisis. If you have not already noticed it then I feel it is my duty to point it out to you.

In fact you could say we face all sorts of crises at the moment, but the one I want to draw your attention to is the crisis we face in vocations.

The Additional Curates Society as part of its re-launch has developed a new strap line "Passionate about Priesthood". And over my relatively short tenure as General Secretary I have been trying to inject some more passion into our churches.....

Passion about Priesthood.

I want to urge you all to join me in this task. Never grow tired of praying for priests. Ask the Lord to send us more priests and dare I say it, more young priests.

Secondly look for vocations, don't be afraid to ask if someone has thought about being a priest. I can remember as a young lad longing to have someone ask me if I had ever thought about priesthood, for I knew this would help validate my call. The guy next to you in church may have been thinking for a long time that God was calling him to the priesthood. He too might be waiting for you to ask him that questions "have you ever thought of being a priest?" before having enough courage to explore the possibility further.

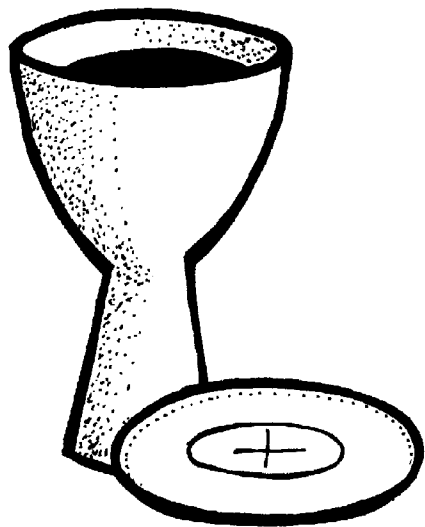
Finally I do want to pose the question, are you being called? Are you being called to priesthood, are you being called to the religious life? Are

you being called to service in the Church?

Cardinal Newman said some wonderful things about priesthood. Interestingly he said whilst still an Anglican “Christ’s priests have no priesthood but His, they are merely His shadow and organs. They are His outward signs, and what they do He does. When they baptise, He is baptising. When they bless, He is blessing.”

For over 170 years the Additional Curates Society has been actively involved in encouraging, nurturing and enabling vocations to come to fruition in our churches and we will continue in this task. So dear friends let us be partners in this work as together we pray “Almighty God, give us priests.” Amen.

Fr. David Hastings



Concert for Passiontide

St Michael's 7.30pm Friday 4th April

St Michael's are proud to be hosting a choral exchange with a Belgian university choir at the start of April

The choir from Louvain-la-Neuve will be joining our own choir for a concert of Lenten music, climaxing with a performance of part of Handel's Messiah.

Entry is free, with a retiring collection in aid of Exeter Foodbank.

Please come along and support our Belgian friends!





St. Michael and All Angels,
Mount Dinham
Parish of St. David
Exeter
ST. MICHAEL'S LECTURES 2014



Wednesday 14th May 7:30pm
Performance/Placebo:
Twenty-First Century Adventures
in Culture, Medicine and Healing

Dr Sarah Goldingay

Followed by discussion and light refreshments

Dr. Sarah Goldingay is an interdisciplinary scholar and a Lecturer and in the Department of Drama at the University of Exeter. She has twenty years' experience working as a practitioner in the Arts, in community settings. She is currently collaborating with Exeter Healthcare Arts on a new garden for dementia patients at the RDE Hospital and exploring new approaches to GP training with Exeter University's Medical School. Her current work investigates how performance can help us better understand the change brought about through human-to-human interactions. This is enabled by a close collaboration with academic colleagues in biomedicine, neuropsychology and performance, along with creative practitioners. She is a regular contributor to BBC radio and has a programme on 21st century miracles in development. She has written for diverse publications, including a rheumatology textbook and drama journals. Her book *Performance|Placebo: twenty-first century adventures in culture, medicine and healing* is in development.

Could the phenomenon we call placebo be the twenty-first century's secret weapon for living better and living longer? In this lecture we will examine the evidence for placebo and its effects, and think about how it might help us better understand how we heal ourselves.

The lectures are open to all and admission is FREE (there is a voluntary retiring collection). St. Michael's Church is the church with the tall spire by the Iron Bridge on North St./St. David's Hill.

For further information contact David Beadle at dnb201@ex.ac.uk or www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

Exeter Central Library

Exeter Central Library run several groups on a variety of topics.

Please use this link for more information

www.devon.gov.uk/index/cultureheritage/libraries/yourlocal-library/exeter_libraries/exeter_central_library/events_at_exeter_central.htm

Here are a few examples of what's on offer.

Woolly Wonders Knitting Group

Date: Every month - Tuesdays

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Description: Knitting is being touted as "The new Yoga". It can help to relieve stress and take your mind off your aches and pains, as well as keeping your mind active and reducing the risk of memory loss. All this and the added bonus of enjoying the company of other knitters.

Audience: Everyone welcome

Cost: Free

Bookings: Drop in - no need to book

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Exeter Audio Book Group

Date: Once a month meeting

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

Description: A new reading group for blind and visually impaired people being launched at Exeter Central Library, The Hoskins Room Castle Street. This is a chance to get together and discuss and recommend books in large print or audio format.

Audience: Blind and Visually Impaired people with or without helpers including guide dogs.

Cost: Free

Bookings: Just turn up
Organiser: Ask for Liz Cordin 01392 384 209

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IT Drop -in Sessions

Date: Every Wednesday

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Description: We can help you with: how to set up an email account and how to open and send attachments. How to use a scanner. How to upload photos to your computer. How to find what you want on the web. How to use social housing sites. How to use Ebay. How to book things online. How to use ereaders and ebooks.

Audience: Anyone who would like help sorting out their basic computer needs.

Cost: Free

Bookings: Just drop in

Organiser: Mike Mills & James Knight 01392 384 209



Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme at St David's Church

What it's about.

This scheme allows us to claim top up payments on individual donations of loose cash (notes and coins only) made on the plate at services. If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration then please do not put loose cash on the plate, use one of the white envelopes.

The benefit.

The scheme will allow us to claim top up payments on up to a maximum of £5,000 of un-Gift Aided cash donations. That is potentially an extra £1,250.

The small print.

GASDS does not replace the Gift Aid scheme. The scheme is in addition to Gift Aid.

It provides for top-up payments to charities on small cash donations (up to £20) where it is difficult to obtain a Gift Aid declaration, such as at religious services. The payments are not a tax relief and there is no audit trail back to the original donor's tax record.

In order to be eligible to claim GASDS payments we need to continue to make regular Gift Aid claims. We currently claim Gift Aid on some £50,000 of donations annually.

You can still use the white Gift Aid envelopes in the pews. (If you use an envelope please make sure you complete it fully.)



Gift Aided Planned Giving

If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and give through the Planned Giving Scheme you should continue to donate using Standing Orders and/or your numbered Gift Aid Envelopes.

In fact if you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration then you should NOT put loose cash on the plate because of the perceived danger of “double counting”. (Any donation treated as GASDS **must not** be Gift Aided.) There is no reason why a spouse or partner cannot put their own money on the plate if they have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration.

If you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration and want to give an extra donation then use the white envelopes in the pews and sign and date it or use the wall boxes as we will not claim top up payments under GASDS on the contents of these.

When?

We plan to claim payments under the GASDS on donations collected on the plate as from the beginning of October.

If you have any queries please contact me via:

stewardship@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

Geoff Crockett
Stewardship Officer

Notes for the St. David's Concert by Exevox Sunday June 15th 2014

“Exevox in Concert”

Exevox Chamber Choir are delighted to be performing once again in St David's Church on Sunday 15th June 2014. On this occasion the concert will be at 5.00 p.m. and will be preceded by tea from 4.00 p.m., which is included in the ticket price of £10.00 (£7.00 for students, £3.00 for under 16s).

Once again Exevox will be hoping to raise funds for the repairs to the west end of the church and for the invigorating practical and sentient ‘renovation’ programme established at the Vision Day.

For tickets call Simon on 01647 252298 or e-mail info@exevox.org.uk or buy at the door.

Exevox is a small, award-winning, local Chamber Choir who will be starting the concert with J.S. Bach's stunning funeral motet “Jesu Meine Freude” (Jesus, my Joy). This is acclaimed as one of Bach's most sophisticated choral works and is also reputed to be his favourite composition. We will finish the concert in the usual way with lighter pieces by

Gershwin, Flanders and Swann among others and the haunting Eli Jenkins' Prayer from Dylan Thomas' 'Under Milk Wood'.

Exevox has a fine track record of high-quality performances in concerts raising money for a range of charities, as well as providing tailor-made entertainment for private functions and stirring accompaniment to weddings around Devon. Among forth-coming concerts is a single-day "church-crawl" of three Churches on Sunday 14th September and a concert in St John's Church, Torquay, on 20th September 2014.

Exevox is directed by Peter Adcock, a multi-talented concert pianist, accompanist, performer, musician, teacher and coach, Organ scholar, flautist and inspirational choir director.

For more information on Exevox please visit www.exevox.org.uk or Peter Adcock's web-site on www.peteradcock.com.

St David's Church is a building of such architectural value that the defects to the west end should make us treasure it even more and it is heart-warming to hear of the proposed Lottery Fund application. We hope that this concert will make another contribution towards the fund-raising efforts.

In the inspirational words of Tom Honey, we are sure that the St David's welcome to Exevox will be OPEN and WARM and that Exevox will be OPEN and WARM in their delivery of the concert!

JUNIOR CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2014



Classes are on Wednesday evenings between 5 - 6pm,
starting on 7th May for 8 weeks at St David's church.
The Confirmation service will be on Sunday 29th June at
9:30am.

Ideally suited to those in Year 6 or above.

For more information please contact
Rev. Andy Atkins, 01392 277882



Women's Group

Dear All

Following the 'xmas' dinner at the Imperial, and with your suggestions, we have put together a programme for the Women's group.

Tuesday 29th April *'Knowing you, knowing me'*
speed dating with a difference
6.30pm St. David's Church
£9.00 - cheese and wine and soft drinks
will be provided

Thursday 10th July *Barbecue*

Thursday 9th October *Colour me Beautiful*

All events cost £9.00

We do hope as many as possible will come.

Look forward to seeing you.

Best wishes

Mary Kirkland 07872 626 168



Read any good books lately?

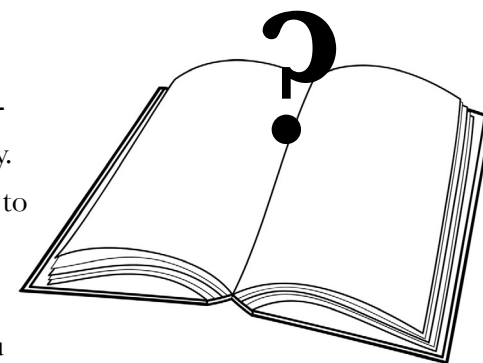
We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

It can be on any subject, not necessarily religious although we would especially welcome those.

It's just a way of sharing and enjoying things together and fostering our feelings of community.

Go on -be brave! All you need to do is to include the author, composer or performer and a short piece about it and why you enjoyed it.

Books, CDs DVDs Films.



Unapologetic by Francis Spufford

This is a book about Christian faith and why the author is unapologetic for being a Christian despite the many recent attacks on religion in general and Christianity in particular. The book is subtitled "Why, despite everything, Christianity can still make surprising emotional sense." And on the back cover it describes the book as "Fresh, provoking and unhampered by niceness, this is the long-awaited riposte to the smug emissaries of new atheism."

Francis Spufford is keen to acknowledge that Christianity has a bad

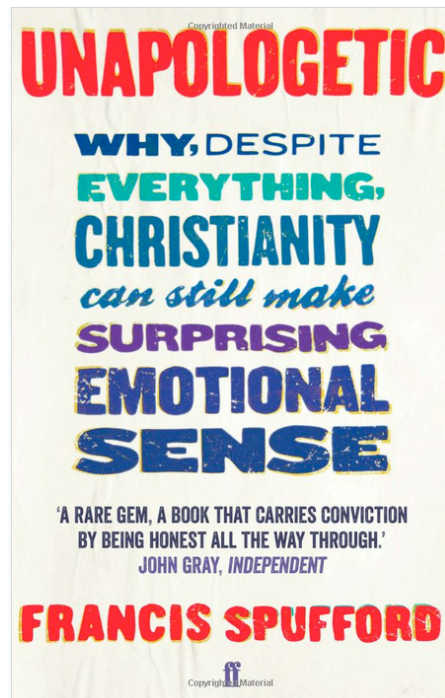
record. Responsible for wars, bigotry and cruelty throughout history. He faces the experience that there seems to be no answer to prayer. He recognises that for most young people going to church is just weird; and that they see Christian faith as anti-gay, anti-women, anti-fun; and Christian belief as wishful thinking, having a friend in the sky, who looks after them, combined with some truly nasty stuff about eternal punishment.

Francis Spufford observes that human beings do tend to get it wrong. A central theme of the book is the HPtFTU or the Human Propensity to Foul Things Up, give or take an F word or two. Whether we believe in God or not we make mistakes and treat each other badly.

He is not interested in establishing factual evidence for Christianity or proving anything. That's not what he believes it's all about. He has built up a trust in God through many emotional experiences of love and beauty that make "surprising emotional sense" and has found that living in response to that is the best way he can find to live with integrity.

There is a remarkable chapter about the Jewish teacher and healer called Jesus or Yeshua, putting him in the context of his own time and place. And there is some very funny debunking of fundamentalism and atheism. If you can cope with the F words and if you want to be entertained, informed and cheered then I recommend Unapologetic.

Tom



Devon Home Library Service -
bringing books and more to people in their homes

The Devon Home Library Service works in partnership with the WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service). It aims to provide library books, (including audio books on CD, and large print books) to those people in the community who through ill health or disability can no longer visit the library.

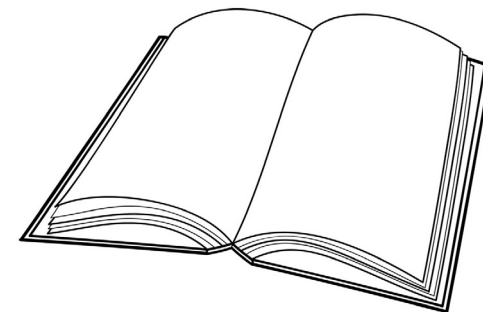
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient time. There is **no charge** for the service and there are **no fines** on books!! Clients may keep the books for as long as needed and may order books they particularly want to read.

Large print books, cassette tapes and audio CDs as well as ordinary print books are available. Some clients prefer non fiction such as biography and travel books, other prefer romantic novels or murder mysteries!

For those people who love reading or just browsing through books, but are confined to their home, this service offers a chance to have access to the library as well as a visit from a friendly face on a regular basis. Often clients and volunteers make lasting friends so there is satisfaction on both sides.

We really want to promote and extend the service to reach as many people as possible!

If you would like to use the service, or know of someone who would, please contact Julia on 01392 757725 or email crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk



From the Registers

Funeral

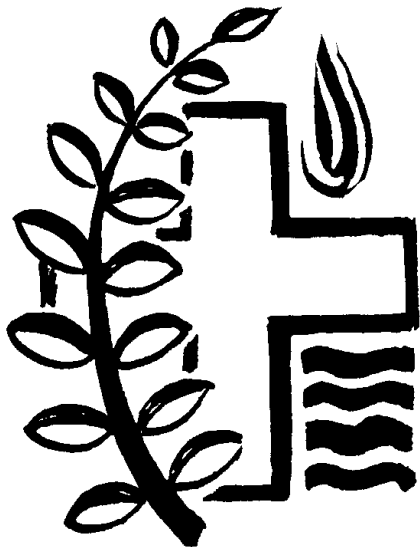
February 13th John William Patrick “Paddy” CREBER aged 83

Baptism

February 22nd Harry JACKSON

Confirmation

February 16th Natasha GOLDSWORTH (at St Michael's)



The Soup Kitchen at St. David's

As many of you will know, Thursday evening is the time we receive a number of homeless folk at St. David's and provide soup and refreshments to sustain them through the cold nights.

They need warm clothing and shoes, so if you have fleeces, sweaters, coats, jeans, or trousers you would like to pass on, they will be gratefully received.

We also like to have paperbacks they can take to read, so if you are parting with books please think of leaving them with us.

Thank you.

Contact Mary on:- 07872 626 168 if you need to leave donated goods

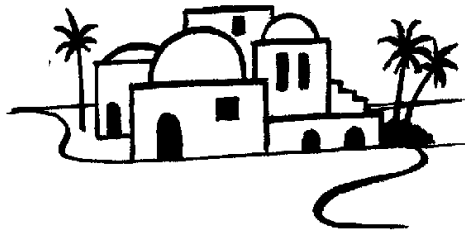


A JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND?

I am making plans to lead a Pilgrimage Party to the Holy Land in April/May 2015 and hope that members of St. Michael's and St. David's may be interested in joining this trip.

A leaflet about the Pilgrimage will be available in both churches very soon and which will include an enquiry form. If you would be interested in this visit then please let Fr. David know so that plans can begin to be made.

Fr. David Hastings



The following notes on St David's Church were compiled for a Victorian Society tour on Gothic Revival buildings in South Devon in April 1979.

They are reproduced by kind permission of Dr Joanna Cox

EXETER

St David's

The present church was preceded by a small Grecian church, with portico. With the growth of population in the parish, it soon ceased to be adequate: St Michael's was erected as a chapel of ease in 1868 and in the 1890s, it was decided to replace St David's itself. Given it's un-ecclesiastical character it is surprising that the church remained as long as it did. For the West Country, the somewhat unusual expedient of a competition was adopted, and the winning entry submitted by W.D Caroe. Work began in 1897 and the church was completed in 1900.

The enthusiasm with which contemporaries greeted it has lasted: the Diocesan Architectural Society considered that it "Has much about it both of dignity and beauty".

The normally begrudging Baring-Gould, offering a general dismissal of Exeter's parish churches, remarks, "None of them are of much beauty, except the new St David's, which is remarkable in many ways". Pevsner sees it as, "the only church of the last 100 years at Exeter to stand up against the Cathedral". High praise indeed, although Pevsner certainly under-rates Exeter's nineteenth-century architecture.

Goodhart-Rendal's characterization Caroe's work applies word for word to St David's, "You find buttresses that have come loose from the walls and got into the windows and the most peculiar pinnacles. There is also lots of cusps and crowded tracery and all sorts of funny arches and splays".

St David's is a mannerist tour de force, from the surprising use of structural elements in non-structural roles to the dramatic compression of forms and masses. Particularly exciting is the massing of the E end, the robust and angular NE tower tightly integrated into the bulk of the church, played off against the masses of the chancel and the N aisle chapel.

Internally, an extraordinary sense of space in the wide nave, it's vaulting boldly simplified to a sequence of big transverse arches.

Counterpointed to this single space are the narrow aisle arcades, "Hardly more than passages between and through the buttresses", (Pevsner). So that the aisle arcades are replaced by a sequence of spatially discrete, recessed bays.

Internal height is exaggerated by placing of the windows so that the nave and crossing are lit obliquely from well above eye level. Decorative detail is minimized, emphatically subordinate to the dramatic play of volume and plastic form. What there is, is clustered – concentrated as it were – at specific points: the pulpit and sounding board, the reredos, the spring of the chancel arch, the elaborately curled wrought iron of the chancel gates flanked by free standing statuettes of the Virgin and an angel. Almost all of the glass, including the E window, is by Kemp and Towers of the 1900-1904, its somberly Aesthetic greens and browns complementing the grey-green stone with which the church is built.

W.Harding, 'Ancient Ecclesiastical Edifices in Exeter', Transactions of Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society, I Second Series (1867), 40; Faculty Petitions, Devon Record Office; 'Annual Report, February 1900' T.E.D.A.S. Third Series,ii (n.d.); S. Baring-Gould, Devon (London,1907),p.177;Beatrix Creswell Exeter Churches (Exeter,1909) H.S. Goodhart-Rendel, 'Rogue Architects of the Victorian Era', Transactions of the Royal Institute of British Architects, LVI (1949), 251-259; Pevsner, South Devon, p.148.



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"An outstanding feature of the school is the care, guidance and support it gives pupils."

"The personal development of pupils is also outstanding."

"Spiritual development is excellent." "Behaviour is exemplary."

St. David's Parent and Toddler group

If you're walking past the Parish Room on a Thursday morning around midday you may well hear several voices singing out the Okey Cokey and wonder what's going on. In fact this song has become the informal signature tune of the Toddler Group thanks to the enthusiasm of the children and their parents/carers.

The weekly session is 10:00am to midday, all year (except August and Christmas).

We charge £1 per child plus 50p for a sibling and this funds the cost of our art and craft resources, snacks, milk and Christmas party.

We usually have ten to twelve children in the age range from new born up to four. There is a rota of helpers; Barbara, Freya, Julia and myself, who are all CRB checked.

As soon as they come in the children get stuck in to playing with the many toys which have been donated to us over the years. By far the most popular is the sandpit, but the children also love the mini-slide, the ride-on toys, painting on the easel and shopping for plastic fruit in the tent. There is usually a simple activity on the table such as play-dough, puzzles, drawing or glueing. We have even managed cooking on occasions.

The adults have a tea or coffee and then at about 11:00am it's snack time and the children sit down to fruit, milk and rice cakes. The fact we offer a healthy snack is an important issue for many parents.

When it's tidy up time, we wind down the play and get the children involved in clearing up. They love to join in putting the toys away in the cupboards and getting the musical instruments out ready for our nursery rhyme singing and the grand finale of the Okey Cokey.

Our thanks go to the Church for letting us use the Parish Room for the last seven years, thereby supporting what is a very necessary resource for parents of young children. Over the years we have had several parents who have made lasting friendships through the group and given each other a lot of practical and moral support in child-rearing. This can be a really good way of combatting the sense of isolation that some parents of toddlers may experience, especially, for example when people are new to the area, if they don't have family living nearby or their partners have come to work/study at the university for short periods of time. Toddler groups are also a great way of introducing young children to some of the activities that they will encounter in pre-school.

Toddlers is great fun for children and a nice break for adults. The St. David's group is (so we are told by current parents) one of the friendliest in Exeter. If you know anyone with pre-school children or grandchildren, then please do recommend us.

They are welcome to pop in any Thursday.

Contact:

toddlers@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk
or ring Julia on 07729 068 567

Sam Wellbelove

Dates of Note

2 Hugh of Grenoble – the saint who fought corruption and built hospitals

Murky crimes committed by some church leaders, local shops in trouble, roads needing repair, and hospitals in a sorry state...wanting to retire, but the law said no... it seems that Hugh of Grenoble was dealing with 21st century problems in the 11th century.

Born at Chateaufort in 1052 as the son of a knight, Hugh attended the cathedral school of Valence and became a canon. He was talented and learned, good looking – and yet bashful. Sounds a bit like a shy public school boy. Certainly Hugh's parents' contacts and his privileged schooling earned him a good job early on – as secretary to the Bishop of Die, who was also a papal legate. In 1080 Hugh was taken along to the Synod of Avignon, where the deplorable state of the diocese of Grenoble was reviewed. It was afflicted with widespread simony and usury, and clerical unchastity was rampant.

Hugh was outraged at what he heard – and was soon in a position to do something about it. He was made Bishop of Grenoble by Pope Gregory VII and went on to fight the excesses and sins of the clergy with notable success. He became virtual co-founder of the Carthusian order. The common people soon came to love him, for as well as reforming their churches and restoring their cathedral, he built a bridge, a marketplace and three hospitals for them.

In later years Hugh wanted to retire, but like many people today, was not able to do so: in his case the pope would not let him. During the last few weeks of his life Hugh went back to basics: he seemed to forget everything but the Lord's Prayer and the Psalms. He was greatly loved, and canonised only two years after his death in 1134.

3 Richard of Chichester - wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly

Ever wonder where the prayer ... 'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day' comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and

to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full:

"Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day."

20 EASTER – the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest

of their lives they will be still be ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an ‘ecclesiastical full moon’, which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won’t fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, ‘Easter’? In almost every European language, the festival’s name comes from ‘Pesach’, the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word ‘Easter’, however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in ‘Eostur month’, but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean ‘shining in the east’. So Easter might have meant simply ‘begin-

ning month’ – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

28 St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Syrene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King’s daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the drag-

on lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

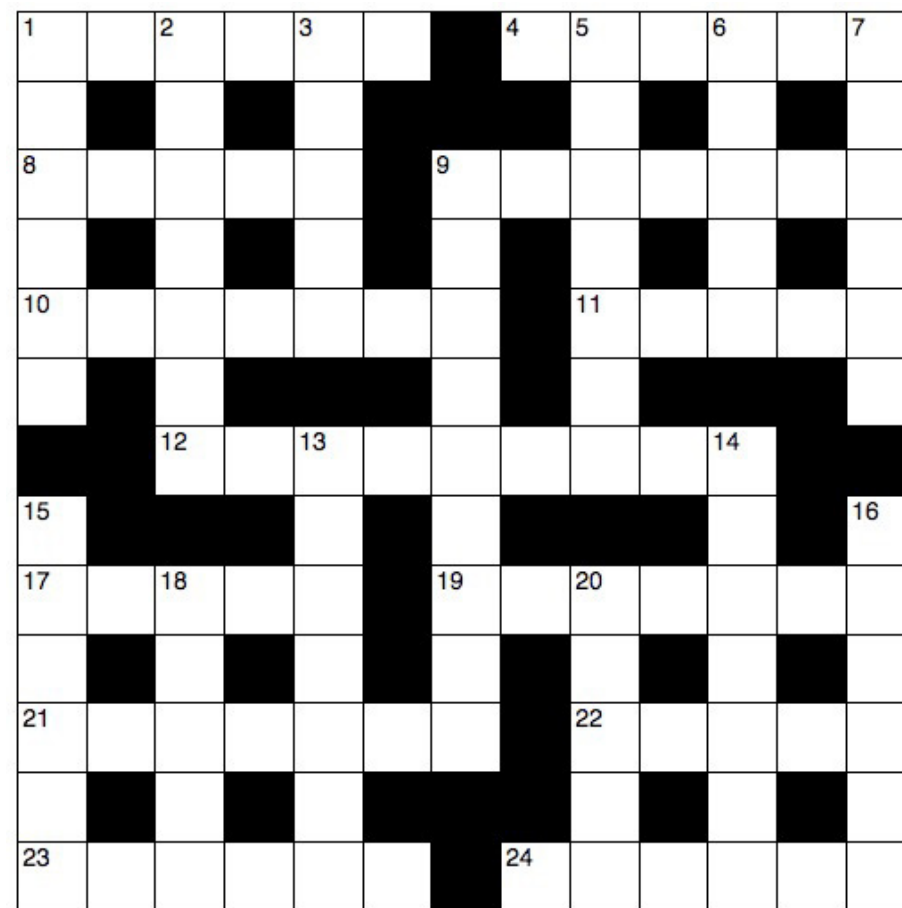
Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.



April crossword



Across:

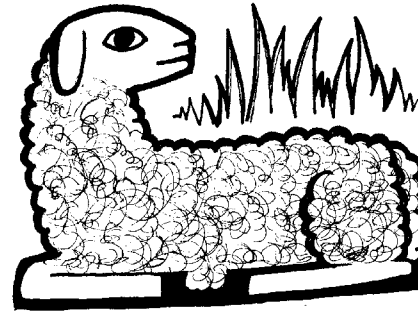
- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down:

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Solutions later in the magazine



DAISIES

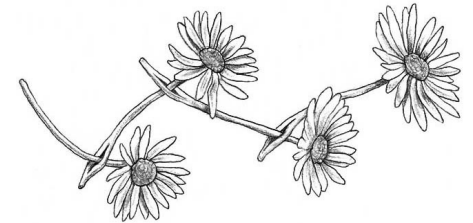
There is an old saying 'when you can stand on seven daisies at once then spring has come'. I like daisies with their bright yellow middles and tiny petals. If you look closely, you'll see that not all the daisies in any lawn will be white; some of them are edged with pink. When I was little I asked my mum why and she told me this story to explain why.

On that first Easter morning, when Jesus walked in the garden and was seen by Mary and the other women who thought he was a gardener, his bare feet touched just some of the daisies in the grass. And because he still had the wounds in his feet his blood touched the daisies and marked their petals pink.

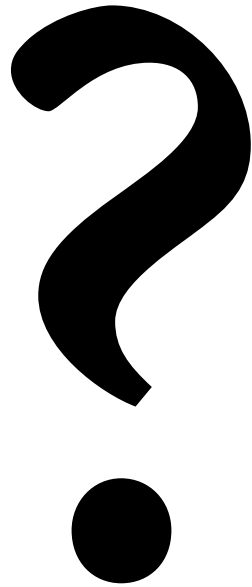
BIBLE 'D's

Can you find all the answers to this Bible quiz? All the words begin with the letter D. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. A tribe of Israel.
2. He spent the night with some lions.
3. Where Saul was going when he met Jesus on the road.
4. Followers of Jesus.
5. These made Joseph unpopular with his brothers.
6. A famous king of Israel who played the harp.



Answers: 1.Dan 2.Daniel 3.Da-
 mascus 4.disciples 5.dreams
 6.David.



Crossword solutions

April answers

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell.
11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur.
22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere.
9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen.
18, Dance. 20, Debar.

*Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon,
originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF)*

Barbara's Edible Stall

Please keep bringing and buying.
We need you!

NEXT DATE:

SUNDAY 20th April

Barbara's Edible Stall made a profit of
£448.94 in 2013 slightly up on the previous
year. Well done all, buyers and bringers alike,
and a special thank you to some new hostesses.
We hope to see you in the future, as I gather
you enjoyed yourselves! Please may we have
lots of items to sell, too. Very encouraging!

Many thanks.
Jane Woodman





Pilgrimage to **ASSISI**

Led by *Bishop Martin Shaw*
2nd - 8th October 2014

DAY ONE – THURSDAY 2ND OCTOBER

We fly from Bristol on a scheduled direct flight to Rome. On arrival in Rome, we transfer by coach to Assisi where we check into our guesthouse, the Casa S Brigida, situated just outside the town walls, for a 6-night stay. Dinner will be in the guesthouse on each evening of our stay.

Bristol - Assisi

DAY TWO – FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER

This morning, we walk through the streets of Assisi as Saints Francis and Clare would have known it. Visit the Cathedral of San Ruffino, the church of Santa Maria Maggiore and the Chiesa Nuova (New Church), built on the site of Francis' house. Afterwards we visit St Clare's Basilica, which now houses the Crucifix that called to Francis and the tomb of St Clare. This afternoon we travel the short distance into the valley below Assisi and visit the Porziuncola and the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. We are welcome to stay for the Solemn Commemoration of the death of St Francis (Transitus di San Francesco) in the Basilica. Afterwards return to our guesthouse.

Assisi

DAY THREE – SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER

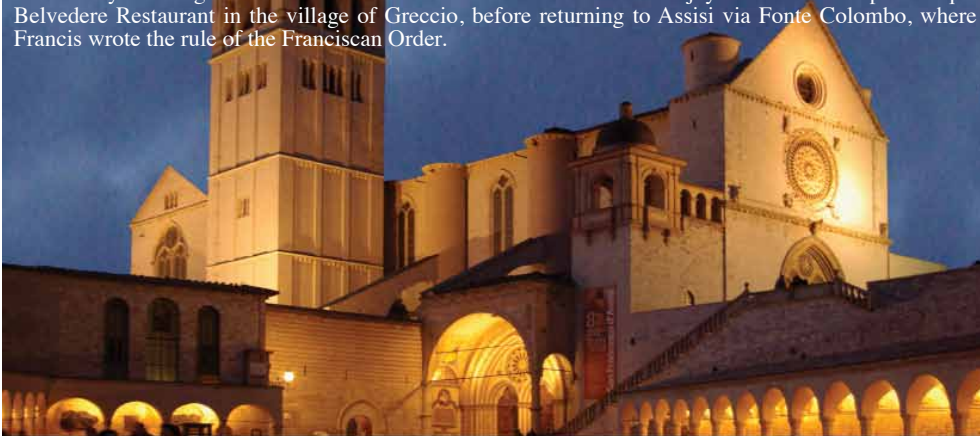
This morning will be free to attend services to celebrate the Feast of the Saint. There will be many festivities in Assisi to mark the Feast Day. This afternoon there will be the opportunity to attend Vespers in the Lower Basilica.

The Feast of St Francis

DAY FOUR – SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER

After breakfast we leave Assisi by coach and head south into the province of Rieti and the area called 'Holy Valley' because of the particular attention that St Francis paid to this particular region. We stop mid-morning at the sanctuary of Greccio, where Francis brought home the mystery of the Incarnation by portraying a live nativity scene in 1223 and we see the grotto where this occurred and the early community buildings of St Francis and St Bonaventure's time. We enjoy a lunch in the picturesque Belvedere Restaurant in the village of Greccio, before returning to Assisi via Fonte Colombo, where Francis wrote the rule of the Franciscan Order.

Greccio and the Rieti Valley



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The deadline for inclusion of articles for the **May** issue of the parish magazine is **Sunday April 06th 2014**

Any information and articles you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues should be sent to Ashley and Johanne via St David's Church or our email: thedairy@btclick.com

If you have images of any events of interest to the Parish community please send them to us.

Please send digital files via email if at all possible and please make the subject header fit the content of the email - thanks!



Thank you to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine - his hard work is much appreciated.