

# From the Vicar.

## THE SABBATH

From May to July this year, I will be taking a period of sabbatical leave. This means that I won't be at St David's or St Michael's for three months. In my absence the churchwardens, Dave Allin and Avril Pattinson will have responsibility for the parish. They are the Bishop's officers; but, of course, that responsibility is also partly delegated. Andy Atkins, our curate, will have responsibility for pastoral care and worship, and will be the first port of call for all day to day matters. At St Michael's Fr David Hastings has a similar role. He and the Chapel Wardens will look after all day to day matters, but of course there will be times when they wish to consult with Andy and the churchwardens. Andy will be keeping in close touch with the churchwardens. We are fortunate to have other clergy who will be helping Andy cover worship at St David's, and it will be a good opportunity for our congregation to benefit from their ministry. With our team of clergy and lay leaders we are very blessed, and Andy has my full confidence for this time when he will be your parish priest.

What will I be doing? Well, Jeanie and I already have a couple of trips planned. We will also be at home, spending time together and supporting Jessie as she takes her AS level exams. So it will be a family time. The clergy have to find the balance between their duties to home and their work. There are unique challenges and stresses in this area and I am conscious of having got it wrong sometimes in the past. So I will relish the chance to give some undivided attention to my family. Kate is in Cambridge and Ben is at Bangor University, so I will be going to see

them as well.

I have been in ministry for more than thirty years, and sometimes the well begins to run dry; so I will be doing lots of reading, both novels and spiritual books, and maybe a bit of study. I have a yearning for a deeper understanding of New Testament Greek, the language the New Testament is written in, so I will be trying to revise my knowledge a bit. The idea of the Sabbath is written into the fabric of the Bible. Every seven days we are commanded to rest. Recreation can also be re-creation, a time to renew yourself and give attention to body, mind and spirit, the whole person. These are intimately connected. Sometimes we neglect our physical well being and the result is stress even illness. I hope to do lots of walking to reconnect with the beauty of creation, and I shall be taking my binoculars and visiting places where I can watch birds.

But before I go, there are some things which I am hugely looking forward to. In March we begin our LENT COURSE. From Wilderness to Mountain Top. I trust you will join us on Monday evenings in Lent for a thought-provoking experience of themes from the life of Jesus to help us reflect on our own life.

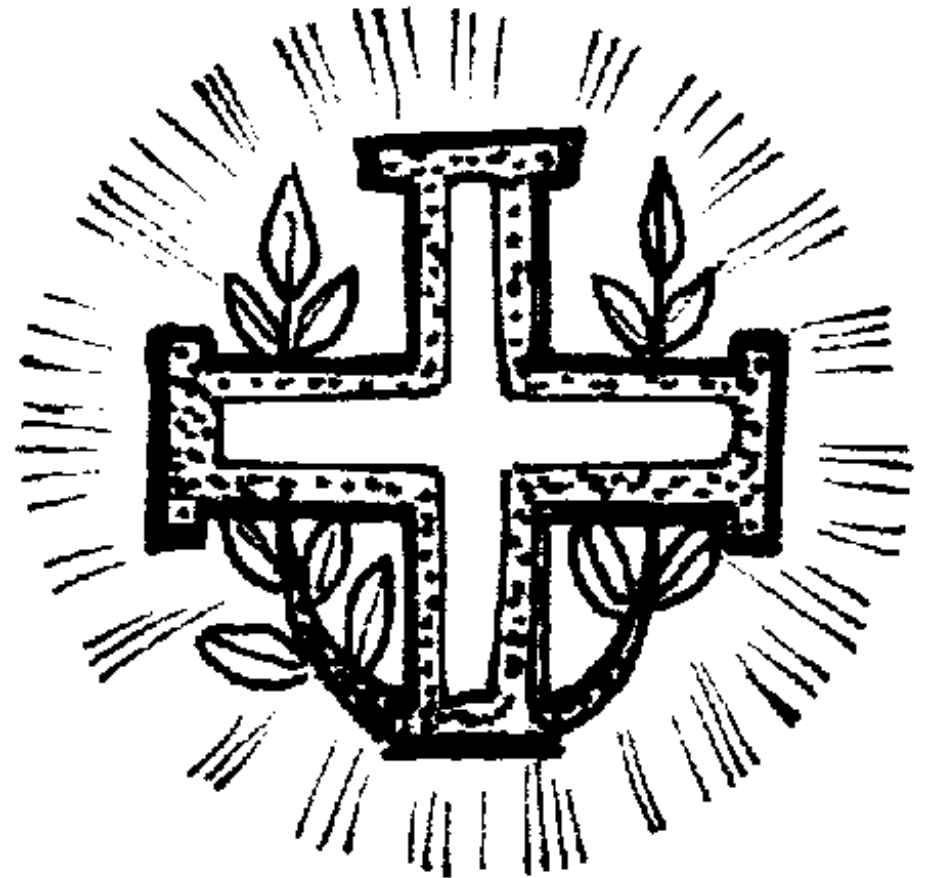
On March 30th we celebrate MOTHERING SUNDAY with worship for all the family, reminding us that God is our parent, and that love between family and friends is a reflection of God's love.

Then we come to our HOLY WEEK and EASTER celebration. This is a time in the Christian calendar when we experience the highs and lows of human experience as they are shown in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. All details of our services in Holy Week will be in

next month's New Leaves.

Wishing you every blessing and a warm and dry spring!

*With love* **Tom**



# PARISH RETREAT .....

## Looking Back

Last November a small group of parishioners made their way one weekend to Abbey House Glastonbury for the first ever Parish Retreat.

Two of the Retreatants have written their reflections on the weekend which hopefully give a flavour of the time spent away.

### **First from GEOFFREY DAVIES who writes.....**

It is fairly obvious that we live in a hectic world with many distractions, particularly in the pre-Christmas period. More difficult to accept is the amount of noise generated by ourselves. As a self confessed talker, it was quite a challenge to attend a silent retreat. Also, I was, like many others, a retreat novice.

As small group led by Frs. David Hastings and Andy Atkins gathered at Abbey House, Glastonbury at the end of November 2013. The location of a retreat is of great importance. The ancient Christian heritage of Glastonbury was a first rate backdrop for our weekend. The imposing, recently improved Abbey House provided warm, comfortable surroundings. There were chapels, lounges, spacious bedrooms and attentive staff served delicious wholesome meals. Peace and space were key to our experience.

The word “Retreat” conjured up vague ideas of meditation and heightened spirituality. It soon became obvious that all this was founded on the structure and careful preparation by the Leaders. The theme was “Here is the Little Door”, preparing us for the coming of Christmas af-

ter the days of Advent. There was prayer and worship but also time for reading and reflection. Time for set aside for leisure and relaxation.

Regular services were conducted consisting of prayer, praise and scripture readings in Chapel. Mass was celebrated on Saturday and Sunday. A rhythm was established to which I became quickly attuned. Short addresses, supported by music and visual aids developed the theme of “Here is the Little Door” culminating in a consideration of Holman Hunt’s iconic picture “The Light of the World.”

There was time set aside for reading and relaxation. For myself I took a book on the Rosary - “Ten for Sorrow, ten for Joy” by J. Neville Ward - and a John Mortimer novel. Periods of extended reading can be difficult in a busy world and it was wonderful to have time set aside for this during the weekend. The Library in the House provided a range of works and it was tempting to browse, select and return at leisure.

On Saturday I enjoyed visiting the Abbey grounds, a first for me. The extent of the monastic settlement was incredible and the ruins themselves led to deep reflection. We had our free access to the Abbey, a definite bonus. Another bonus was a walk up the Tor in sparkling autumn weather. Such breath taking views and an energetic walk were part of the retreat experience.

All of this was enjoyed in silence, the absence of unnecessary chatter and forced conversation and the “Greater Silence” extended from Friday evening until Sunday lunch time. At meal times music was played, the Vaughan Williams much favoured by myself. Yes, there were words in services, addresses and reflections, in themselves a sort of internal

conversation.

Looking back on the weekend and speaking to other participants, it would appear that many benefits became apparent after the journey home. No blinding revelations came at least to myself. Rather there was opportunity to take stock and reflect upon what Christian witness might mean, and on a more trivial note, a little rest and relaxation in the pre-Christmas period can be more precious than jewels.

### **Secondly from JUDITH STURMAN who writes.....**

Last November I made my first foray into the world of religious retreats joining that arranged by Father David Hastings at the Retreat House in Glastonbury.

The old house was warm and welcoming and Fr. David and Fr. Andy had clearly spent much of the day preparing the our arrival in the late afternoon.

After Evening Prayer, supper and the first address we went into silence which lasted until Sunday lunch time. The silence presented an opportunity for introspection, meditation and contemplation, not to mention sleep!!

Fr. Hastings had clearly taken great care with his preparations for the weekend and this was particularly apparent in the six addresses given under the heading “Here is a Little Door”, the title taken from a poem by Frances Chesterton and set to music by Herbert Howells, allowing such aspects such as “Waiting at the Door”, “The Door of Hospitality, “The Door of Heaven” and “Knocking at the Door” to be explored.

Fr. Hastings brought in aspects of his wide ranging knowledge of literature from Kenneth Graham, Sydney Carter, George Herbert, Shakespeare to A.A. Milne. He also chose interesting pieces of music to accompany our meals.

Morning and Evening Prayer and Holy Communion offered the opportunity to get away from the busyness and responsibilities of daily life. My head lit the pillow of the first night and I awoke ten hours later. At every break in the schedule I took the opportunity to rest in my room although the Bible and other volumes which I took along remained unopened for the entire weekend!

No review of the weekend would be complete without mention of the delicious meals, charming staff and opportunity to meet the friendly members of the St. Michael’s congregation, my fellow ‘retreaters’. Hopefully next September’s Retreat will be equally rewarding with more opportunity to enjoy the lovely retreat grounds.

Thanks to Fr. Hastings and Fr. Atkins for a very satisfying weekend.

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Another Retreat weekend has been booked at Abbey House from 5th. until 7th. September and booking forms will be available soon. Why not come and join us? Hopefully the accounts of the 2013 experience from Geoffrey and Judith might whet your appetite! If you want to know more talk to those who attended or else contact me.

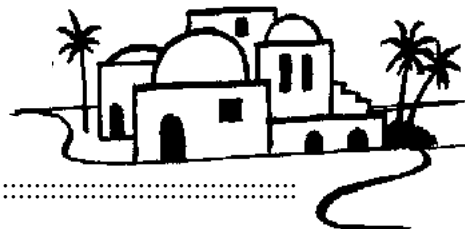
**Fr. David Hastings**

# A JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

Last month I wrote that I am making plans for a Pilgrimage party to the Holy Land in April/May 2015.

Leaflets about this proposed trip are now available in both Churches which include an enquiry form. Brochures from the Tour Operator are also now in my hands. Anyone who is interested in joining this trip is asked to contact me.

**Fr. David Hastings**



## PARISH RETREAT

A Weekend Retreat is planned for the weekend of 5th. to 7th September at The Abbey House Glastonbury. Information leaflets about this are now available in both churches and anyone who is interested in joining this weekend away is asked to complete the form and to return it to me.

**Fr. David Hastings**

## LENT AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Lent begins on ASH WEDNESDAY - March 5th. with a Low Mass and Imposition of Ashes at 10.00 a.m. and a Sung Mass with Imposition at 7.30 p.m.

During the season of Lent STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be held on WEDNESDAY evenings at 6.00 p.m.

At our Sunday Morning Sung Masses we shall be welcoming a series of speakers from our locality taking as the theme "Were you there.....?" based on Matthew 25. Each of our visitors will be describing their work and the series will be as follows:

**LENT 1 - March 9th.** Joy Dunne from Exeter Food Bank

**LENT 2 - March 16th.** Gill Luckings about work at St. Petrocks

**LENT 3 - March 23rd.** Ruth Hawker from The Salvation Army

**LENT 4 - March 30th.** Laura Williams will be describing the work of the YMCA in Exeter Prison

**LENT 5 - April 6th.** Our very own Fr. Andy Atkins who will be talking about the work of the Exeter Soup Kitchen

It promises to be an interesting and challenging Lenten season.

**Fr. David Hastings**

# February from St Michael's

## St Michael's Lectures turn 21

The St Michael's Lectures are now in their 22nd year and - in celebration of reaching the age of 21 (and a bit) – we are having a special anniversary lecture at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd April, with the Very Reverend Jeffrey John, speaking on 'Real Bible Study.' Jeffrey John is Dean of St Albans, and a well-known writer and broadcaster, as well as being an intelligent, persuasive and witty speaker. In his lecture, he will propose that many people have been put off the Bible by the sort of study which is often over-literal, and he will argue that Bible study which takes into account academic research does not diminish faith, but strengthens it. I am assured, though, that the lecture will not be too academic but, if anything, too entertaining.

The St Michael's Lectures are a forum for free discussion for people of all faiths and none, and we never try to pressure or persuade people to come to church. However, this may be a great opportunity for people who have been put off other forms of Christianity to consider pursuing faith closer to the sort practiced in our two churches, if they wish. So it would be very much appreciated if people in the Parish could please support this event by coming and inviting friends, family, neighbours and colleagues!

The lectures were founded in 1992 by Keith Sutherland and were co-ordinated by a number of people over the years: Canon John Thurmer,

Fr John Hughes, Frances Clemson Coad and, for a long time, Constance Cannon. I began to coordinate the lectures at the end of 2010, initially along with Fiona Knott, then on my own – but always along with the welcome help of a team of volunteers, of whom there are too many to name, but special mention must go to Tony Pugh. We are also grateful to Adrian Hewitt for lending us equipment for electronic presentations. Over the past three years, lectures have been based around contemporary issues connected with Christianity and faith, and the lecturers have brought academic research to bear on practical discussions of these issues. The lecturers have held differing opinions, and have been drawn from a wide range of faith backgrounds (from pentecostal to catholic to liberal to conservative to evangelical to atheist). We have heard (among many others) from prolific writer, hospice Doctor and one-time Chilean prisoner Sheila Cassidy; from BBC 2 television presenter and Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Religion at Exeter University, Francesca Stavrakopoulou; and from television presenter and writer Revd Peter Owen Jones. Audience attendance averaged 46 in 2012 and 44 in 2013. We have also run several very well attended heritage lectures, as part of St Michaels' HLF funded Music and Heritage project.

A milestone event is perhaps a good prompt to look ahead. I am not sure how much longer I will be around. Tony Pugh and I are working to build up the volunteer team to run the lectures in future. If you would like to help then please speak either to Tony or to me, or email me at [dnb201@ex.ac.uk](mailto:dnb201@ex.ac.uk)

**David Beadle**



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



Wednesday 12th March 7:30pm  
**Evolution, Suffering and the  
Creative Love of God**

**Bethany Sollereder**

*Followed by discussion and light refreshments*

**Bethany Sollereder** was born in Edmonton, Canada. She earned a BA in Intercultural Studies there, then went on to a master's degree in Theology at Regent College, Vancouver. Now she is pursuing a PhD at the University of Exeter in Science and Theology, in the Department of Theology and Religion.

In 1859 Charles Darwin uncovered in *The Origin of Species* a world that evolves on the basis of natural selection. It is competitive, violent, and careless of the amount of suffering it produces. Yet, Christian theologians identify God as the creator of the evolutionary process. This raises serious theological questions including 'Why would a good God ordain a process that necessarily involves pain, suffering, and death for so many creatures?' In this talk, Bethany Sollereder will explore the theological and pastoral implications of evolution, and ground a theology of evolutionary creation in the love of God.

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](mailto:dnb201@ex.ac.uk) or [www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk)

## GOOD FRIDAY

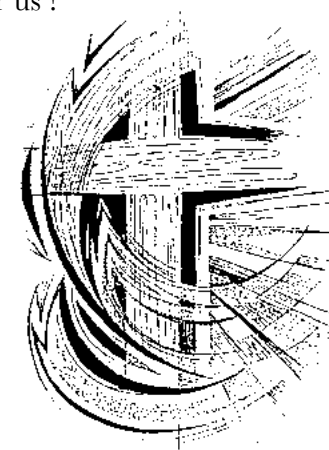
Ah! but I know how the story ends!  
It's hard for me to try to catch the grief  
to cover all the glory  
and drape the signs of life  
that burst and blossoms all around.  
His world just shouts with joy!

...

I know there were trodden palms along the way  
the feet to be washed  
and hands and hearts  
the Passover feast was hard to swallow  
and the darkness to come, Lord,  
the deepest dark.  
But he knew true story too  
Alpha and Omega  
the end and the beginning  
the glory and the joy bursting  
the bounds of death for us !

Alleluia! Alleluia!

written by Mags Bedford



St David's Eucharist March		
<b>Sunday 2nd March: Sunday before Lent</b>		
Reading 1	Exodus 24: 12-end	Emma White
Reading 2	2 Peter 1: 16-end	Gabrielle Kirby
Gospel	Matthew 17: 1-9	
Time of prayer		Helen Drever
Junior Church:		
<b>Sunday 9th March: 4th Sunday before Lent</b>		
Reading 1		Jenny Baker
Reading 2		Richard Johnson
Gospel		
Time of prayer		Alistair Macintosh
Junior Church: Helen Sail		
<b>Sunday 16th March: 3rd Sunday before Lent</b>		
Reading 1		Helena Walker
Reading 2		Cathy Knowles
Gospel		
Time of prayer		Carol Burrows
Junior Church:		
<b>Sunday 23rd March:</b>		
Reading 1		Lawrence Sail
Reading 2		Gina Redman
Gospel		
Time of prayer		Rosemary Allen-Willcox
<i>No Junior Church</i>		
<b>Sunday 30th March: <i>Family Service - Something different</i></b>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		

# Mercer's grave

Near the entrance to St David's churchyard in Exeter is the gravestone of General Alexander Cavalie Mercer. Mercer was the most famous junior officer (then a Second Captain) at the Battle of Waterloo, and his action, remaining at his guns in defiance of the Duke of Wellington's orders, is credited with turning the tide against the French cavalry and famously "saving the Brunswickers".

Whilst there are now many monuments to nations, regiments and generals on the battlefield, uniquely there is also a memorial marking the position of Mercer and his 6 guns of the Royal Horse Artillery, the only surviving junior officer recognised in this way. The Parachute Regiment still proudly have a "Mercer's Troop" named after him.



Waterloo is the most famous battle ever fought by the British, and its 200th anniversary falls on 18th June 2015. It marked the point when the Duke of Wellington just south of Brussels finally defeated Napoleon. Waterloo and the subsequent occupation of Paris brought the 18 years of Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars to a close.

Mercer was commissioned in 1799, and his service included the 1801 Bread Riots in Plymouth dockyard, the Irish rebellion, and an



abortive campaign in South America. After Waterloo he was twice posted to Canada. The Royal Artillery was a highly professional arm, and Mercer's appreciation of culture is well reflected in his Journal of the Campaign, describing his experiences in Belgium and France in 1815, published by his son after his death. It is the most frequently quoted source material on Waterloo, and has hardly ever been out of print. The Journal is a joy to read, full of vivid commentary on the locals, architecture and the confusion of campaign and battle, and the fact that French civilians fled from his enormous moustache!

Mercer's Royal Military Academy training included drawing, which he put to good effect, as the National Gallery of Canada hold 22 of his treasured watercolours recording Canada in its very early history. By 1850 Mercer had retired to Exeter, living at Cowley Cottage, Cowley Hill, with his horses and household servants, and died in 1868.

Mercer's father, a General in the Royal Engineers, had a home on The Beacon, Exmouth, and was responsible for fortifications from Devonport to Berry Head. He died in 1816, and has a plaque to his memory in Exeter Cathedral.

Mercer shares his grave at St David's with his sister Theodesia McNeill, resident of the adjoining Parish of Elmgrove, who died in 1881, aged 97.

Mercer had one son who survived childhood, Dr. Cavale Alexander Mercer, who grew up without a mother as she died three days after his birth. He served as an assistant surgeon in the Crimean War before becoming Her Majesty's Consul to Tripoli, then part of Syria. There he

adopted a boy whose Christian family has been massacred in Damascus, and who subsequently visited Cowley and recorded his impressions of the 81 year-old General Mercer, and whom he described as venerable, handsome and of quick resolution.

Dr Mercer spoke fluent French, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Greek, Latin and Hebrew. He devoted twenty years of his life to writing a book, The Origin of all Religions, but when almost complete a French writer published a book containing exactly the same ideas and thoughts, whereupon Dr Mercer destroyed his manuscript!

General Mercer is one of the City's most illustrious residents, yet one of the least known. It is intended to restore his gravestone and to appropriately mark the 200th anniversary of Waterloo at St David's.

**Robert Pocock**, author of this piece, is currently researching for a book on Mercer's life, and would welcome contact with anyone who can help to locate the original Cowley Cottage, and comment of his local activities, or those of his father and sister, or the education of his son Alexander Mercer.

He can be contacted on 01392 875 551

# 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](mailto:stewardship@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

Geoff Crockett  
Stewardship Officer

# 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](http://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

# Music at St Michael's

## March 2014

Our sonorous Candlemas performance of Whitacre's Lux Aurumque is at <http://www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=1020248>

For Lent our music becomes more austere and subdued, an exception being our Mass for the Feast of the Annunciation on Tuesday 25th March at 7.30pm.

### **Sunday 2nd March, Quinquagesima, Next before Lent, 10.45am. Mass.**

Setting: Missa Brevis "Laetatus Sum", Nigel Browne. Motet: O Lord Thou art my God, by Exeter composer Kellow John Pye (1812-1901).

### **Sunday 2nd March, 6pm. Evensong and Benediction.**

Responses: Smith, Psalm: 84, Office Hymn: 241, Canticles: Walmisley in D minor, Anthem: Verleih uns Frieden, Mendelssohn. O salutaris, Liszt. Tantum Ergo, Liszt.

Verleih uns Frieden is Martin Luther's translation of the Latin Introit for Pentecost XVIII, or as Thomas Cranmer put it in the Responses: Give peace in our time, O Lord. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

### **Tuesday 4th March, Shrove Tuesday, 8.30pm.**

After 6pm Vespers and 7pm Choir Practice, hopefully the traditional Pancakes will be cooked at the back of the church.



### **Wednesday 5th March, Ash Wednesday, 7.30pm.**

#### **Mass with Imposition of Ashes.**

Setting: Mass in A minor, Casciolini. Motet: Thou knowest Lord the secrets of our hearts, by Purcell.

**Sunday 9th March, Lent I, 10.45am. Mass.** The Litany: Setting: Sarum Mass, Plainsong. Motet: Hear my prayer, O Lord, by Purcell.

**Wednesday 12th March, 7.30pm, St Michael's Lecture.** Evolution, Suffering and the Creative Love of God. Dr Bethany Sollereeder (Dept of Theology and Religion, Univ of Exeter).

**Sunday 16th March, Lent II, 10.45am. Mass.** Setting: Anglican Folk Mass, Martin Shaw. Motet: God so loved the world, Sir John Stainer.

**Sunday 23rd March, Lent III, 10.45am. Mass.** Setting: Merbecke (NEH 542). Motet: Jesu dulcis memoria, by Charles Wood (Jesu, the very thought of thee is sweet).

**Tuesday 25th March, Annunciation, 7.30pm. Mass.** Setting: Missa "Ave Maris Stella", Victoria (Hail, Star of the sea). Motet: Magnificat, Sweelinck.

**N.B. Thursday 27th March, 7.30pm, Recital.** The Exeter Police Choir. (Entrance free.)

**Mothering/Laetare Sunday 30th March, Lent IV, 10.45am.**

**Rose Red Vestments. Mass.** Setting: Missa de Angelis, Plainsong.

Motet: Oculi Omnium, Wood (The eyes of all look to thee, O Lord, and thou givest them meat in due season).

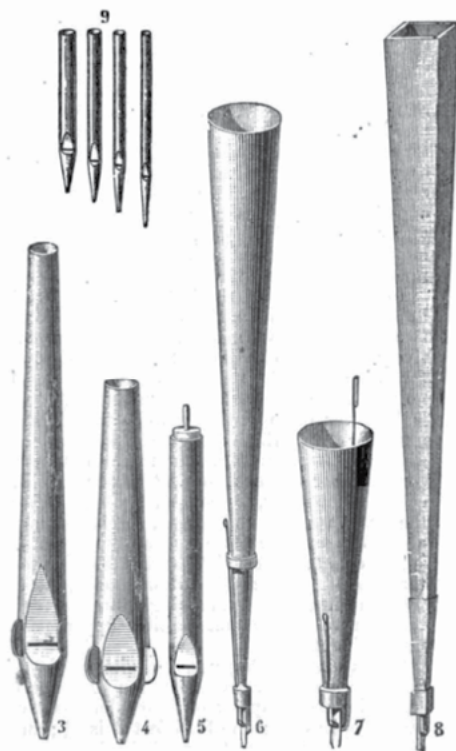


## HLF Project

Tim, our organ builder, has been literally pulling out all the stops, both to get the action wired up from the console to the windchests and also to fill the organ chamber with the rest of the approx. 2500 pipes. The rebuilt organ will have 5 departments, whose names pretty well describe their functions: Pedal, Great, Swell, Positive and Solo. The target is to have everything in place, if not fully settled down, by Holy Week.

Meanwhile, our blog (<http://stmichaelsmountdinhams.wordpress.com/>) is a year old and has received more than 5600 views from over 50 countries.

**Richard Barnes**



# A Musical Ramble around Psalm 42

The Psalms of David have been the song-book of Judaism for three millennia; along with the Song of Solomon, all human life is there. The Christian church has kept the psalms at the centre of its worship for 2000 years. We don't know much about how they would have been said or sung in King David's time or later in the Temple, but the structure of the Hebrew suggests an antiphonal style of cantor and response may have been used, rather like Plainsong at St Michael's.

Nearly 50 years in parish church choirs means I am steeped in, and slightly prefer, the harmonised Anglican Chant format which allows singers and organist more scope for emotion and word-painting.

One of my favourites is Psalm 42. Scholars may dispute whether it was actually written around 990BC in the reign of David or as late as 520BC for the restored Temple in Jerusalem. What seems clear is that it's one of the psalms composed by/for the sons of Korah, a group of professional temple musicians.

This psalm moves from longing & love, through doubt and distraction, to acceptance and affirmation; a journey of faith, a parable of life itself.

My favourite music for it has to be Herbert Howells' anthem, setting the first three verses and completed in January 1941 in wartime Cheltenham. The organ part is rich and smooth with a hint of the blues; the vocal lines more sparse with beautiful melodies and decoration.

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks;  
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God;  
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?  
My tears have been my meat day and night;  
while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

The Psalter wasn't added to the Book of Common Prayer until the Restoration edition in 1662. The Readings were updated to the King James Version of 1611, but the psalms and canticles were still from the 1535 Bible of Coverdale (briefly Bishop of Exeter, 1551-3), presumably because clergy and choirs had already been reciting and singing them for more than a century. Coverdale had little Greek and Hebrew, so his much-loved English translation, made while in exile in Antwerp, is based heavily on Luther's German Bible. A 16th century example of European cooperation?

My next favourite setting of Ps 42 is the flowing 4-part Renaissance polyphony of Palestrina, "Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum." The words are from the Psalterium Romanum, subtly different from the Latin Vulgate, as, back in the late 4th century, St Jerome had several goes at translating the Psalms into the church's new liturgical language. Rome, Venice and pre-conquest England kept his earliest version, and their composers followed suit. Others, like Buxtehude in 17th century Lübeck, had "Quemadmodum desiderat cervus ..." to deal with!

Music group or robed choir is not just a question from recent decades. What you got as a Georgian Christian depended on whether your church was rich or poor. The chapel of the Duke of Chandos had professional soloists, choir and orchestra to perform Handel's latest anthem, like "As pants the hart". The poor church of Rev Pauperibus had a West Gallery Band of amateur musicians helping you to sing Tate & Brady's "New Version" metrical paraphrase of the psalm. Selected

verses are still in our hymn books after 300 years.

As pants the hart for cooling streams,  
When heated in the chase,  
So longs my soul, O God, for thee,  
And thy refreshing grace.

In the 19th century, it was Mendelssohn's turn with "Wie der Hirsch schreit nach frischem Wasser," a substantial 7 movement anthem. I'm not aware of any Anglican composer tackling Psalm 42 since the perfectly sculpted emotional intensity of Howells.

However, with teenage enthusiasm and not a little skill, in the 1960s one Gloria Merle Huffman from North Carolina composed an a cappella setting of the entire psalm from the King James Version. Her hymn-like piece has rhythmic drive, nice word-painting and interesting harmonic shifts.

The well-known worship song written by Martin Nystrom of Seattle in 1981 is fine, but like many of its type only has happy verses and omits all the angst of the full psalm.

As the deer pants for the water,  
So my soul longs after You.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship You.

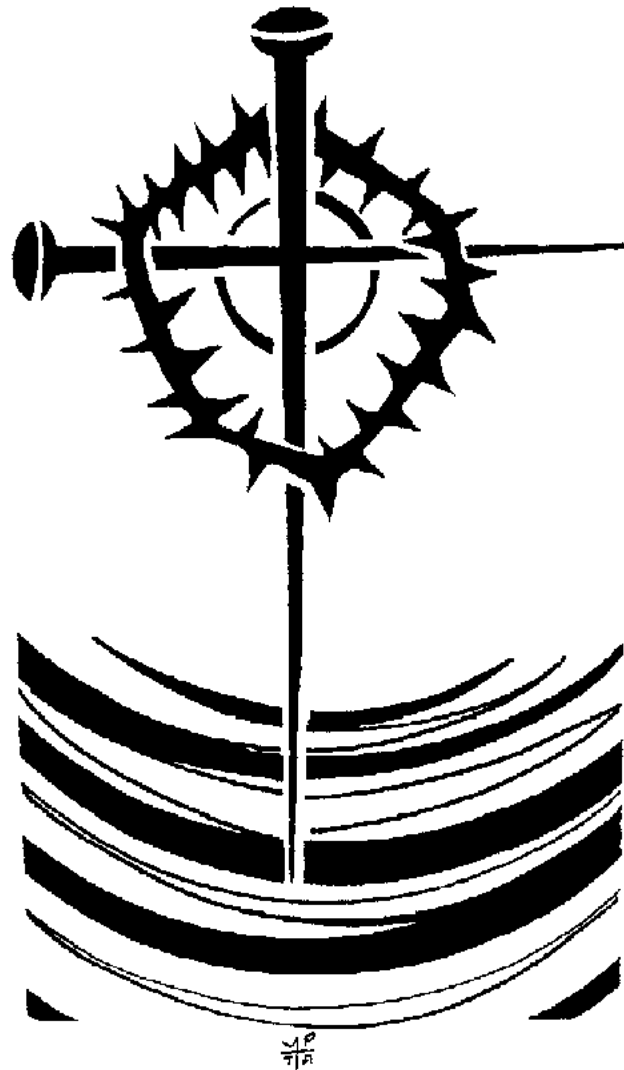
The chorus instead alludes to Ps 28:8 (strength and shield), the second verse is the familiar "God/Jesus, you're my best friend" and his third uses Ps 119:72 (gold or silver) and a reversal of Ps 17:8 making God the apple of his eye! I don't find faith that cosy or easy.

Coming full circle, my internet ramble brought me to "Sons of Korah", an Australian acoustic Christian band who sing psalms to thought-

ful and atmospheric music. The sound of Psalm 42 from their 2008 Album may well be catching the essence of the shepherd boy David.

So, there are many different ways of approaching Psalm 42. Which works for you and which are your favourite psalms?

**Richard Barnes**



# ANNUAL REVISION OF THE PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

Revision of the parish electoral roll will begin on Sunday 16th February and end on Sunday 9th March 2014..

In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting on Wednesday 2nd April 2014, and to take part in its proceedings, your name must be on the electoral roll. Similarly if you wish to stand for any office (other than Churchwarden) your name must be on the Roll.

If you would like to have your name entered on the Roll, please contact Jeremy Lawford at St David's, or Penny McDonald at St Michael's, who will be happy to give you an application form and/or more details.

AS THIS IS A REVISION ANYONE WHOSE NAME IS ON THE CURRENT ELECTORAL ROLL NEED NOT APPLY - BUT PLEASE INFORM PENNY OR JEREMY OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

**Jeremy Lawford**

Electoral Roll Officer

Parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels

[jeremy@jlawford.co.uk](mailto:jeremy@jlawford.co.uk)



# FROM WILDERNESS TO MOUNTAIN TOP

## A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Five Mondays in Lent from March 10th - April 7th 2014  
7 - 8 p.m. St David's Church, Exeter. All are welcome.

### **WEEK 1 - 10th March - Wilderness**

Jesus spent time in the wilderness. What was going on for him? What is our experience of wilderness? A barren place of despair, or a potentially fertile engagement with our own inner life?

### **WEEK 2 - 17th March - Home Town**

Jesus returned to Nazareth and declared his mission, but the town rejected him. How do we relate to the place we came from, and what does it mean to us now?

### **WEEK 3 - 24th March - The Sea**

Jesus was asleep in the boat but woke up to calm the storm. Do we sometimes feel he is asleep? Where is your boat heading, in storm or in calm?

### **WEEK 4 - 31st March - Abroad**

Jesus had a radical acceptance of the foreigner. How do we relate to what is new, strange or threatening? Can we have the same spirit of acceptance when faced with the challenge of difference?

### **WEEK 5 - 7th April - Mountain Top**

Jesus and the disciples had a peak spiritual experience at the Transfiguration. Where have we encountered the presence of God? What experiences have been formative for our spiritual life?

Come and explore these questions with us  
in words, symbols and music.

All are welcome.



# Read any good books lately?

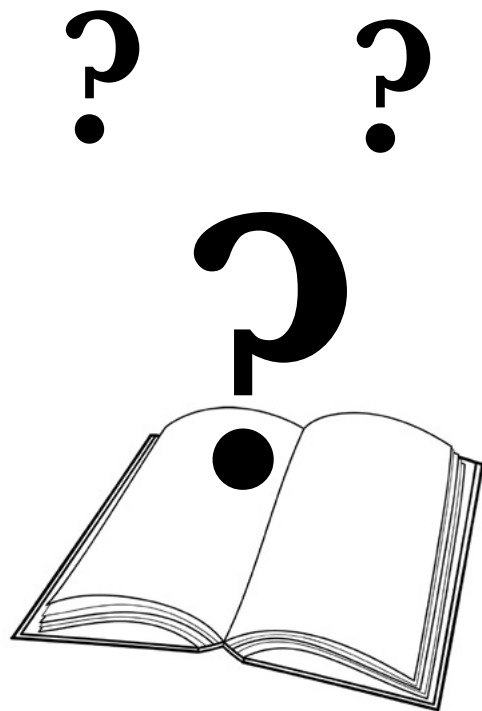
We would like to introduce a review section to our magazine and invite all you readers, film goers, music fans to write a short recommendation of something that you have seen or heard recently and really enjoyed.

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.



## An Unexpected Journey

Harold is not the kind of person I immediately warmed to, hesitant, fearful and unsure of himself, but as he started out on his unexpected journey, having received a letter from an old friend who is ill and dying, I found myself going with him, particularly because he began in Devon and describes the scenery I know and love.

As with all pilgrimages he meets the ups and downs of everyday life, and faces both the problems and himself, with new thoughtfulness and insight, leading me on with him. The people he meets add a variety of dimensions to his life, thoughts and decisions which bring him out of himself yet add to his emerging self knowledge and confidence.

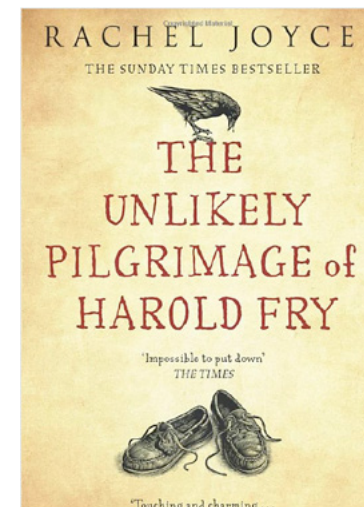
Back home, the people he left behind journey and change in their own way, often with reluctance and anger, as they are forced to do so, by Harold's decision and determination. But they are part of the picture and pilgrimage, even though they do not cover the physical miles.

Like all journeys it is at times exciting, mundane, amusing and boring, yet Harold engaged me enough to stick with him to the end, where of course what he looked for was not what he expected, but transformation, understanding and love shine through.

A simple yet moving book. I recommend it to you.

**The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce**

Review by Glynis Harflett



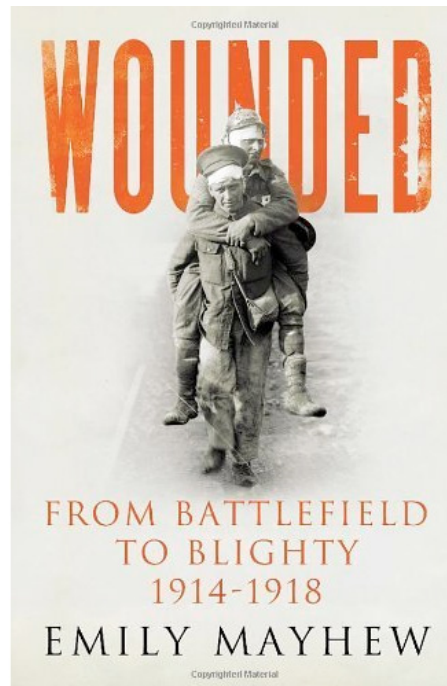
# Wounded, from battle field to Blighty

by Emily Mayhew

This account of the experiences of men wounded in WW1 is both heart breaking and heart warming. Heart breaking because of the dreadful nature of the wounds, heart warming because so many people went far beyond the call of duty, showing endurance, initiative and love.

It moves through all stages of the experiences of the wounded, from being collected from the battlefield by the stretcher bearers, often at great danger to themselves. Then taken to first aid posts or casualty clearing stations and from there sent to field hospitals and patched up to go back to their regiments or by trains to the coast and overseas back to Blighty (England). Those whose injuries were beyond help went to moribund wards where they were kept as comfortable as possible until they died.

At first hospitals were set up at a distance from the front and then, when many casualties died on their way to these hospitals, the changes were made, both in locality and training of the bearers and other attendants. First aid posts and casualty stations were brought very close to the front and its dangers; bearers were trained and provided with



equipment to control bleeding, provide hydration and pain relief.

The book provides a comprehensive account of the way casualties were handled but it is brought to life by the author's use of individual accounts by the wounded and their carers, from diaries and letters to home. For all involved there was lack of time for sleep and little time to eat. There were problems for bearers as well as enemy snipers. The wooden stretchers were heavy and badly damaged hands and shoulders. Nurses found themselves sitting by the beds of the dying in the moribund wards, day and night, recording their last words to send, with their belongings in a letter to those at home.

Many of the carers found themselves using unexpected skills...the chaplains not only went out on the battlefield and read the burial service, they often dug, marked and filled in the graves. Who would have thought that lavender bags would be just the thing? One man wept when he fell off the pillow because, for the first time, he could smell the gangrene and blood of his wounds. A wealthy nurse at Furness railway station, ordered from Harrods 1000 pairs of their thickest wool socks. A badly wounded French officer told her...."Madam, in these socks, I could take Constantinople"

The author, in an epilogue, follows, wherever possible, the lives of all involved to their deaths, in some cases many years later but she makes the point that "no one survived the Great War unscathed". If you only read one book about WW1 in this anniversary year I would recommend this one highly.

**Iris Sutton**

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.

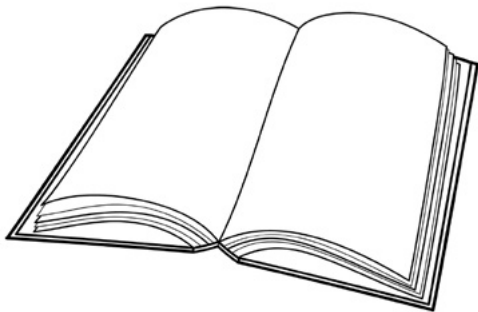
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient 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](mailto:crichton-smith9@hotmail.co.uk)



# Dates of Note

## 1 St David (Dewi Sant) - guiding the Church in Wales through turbulent times

by David Winter

On March 1st Wales celebrates its patron saint, David - or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is indisputably British, and is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith. It's likely that he was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary. At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy - indeed, so passionately

that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi - brefi in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David's death is disputed - either 589 or 601. It wasn't until the twelfth century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries - including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It's traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St David's Day (Gwyl Dewi Sant in Welsh) - but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day - oh, and they look nice!

## **5 Ash Wednesday:** a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.



## 17 St Patrick – beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

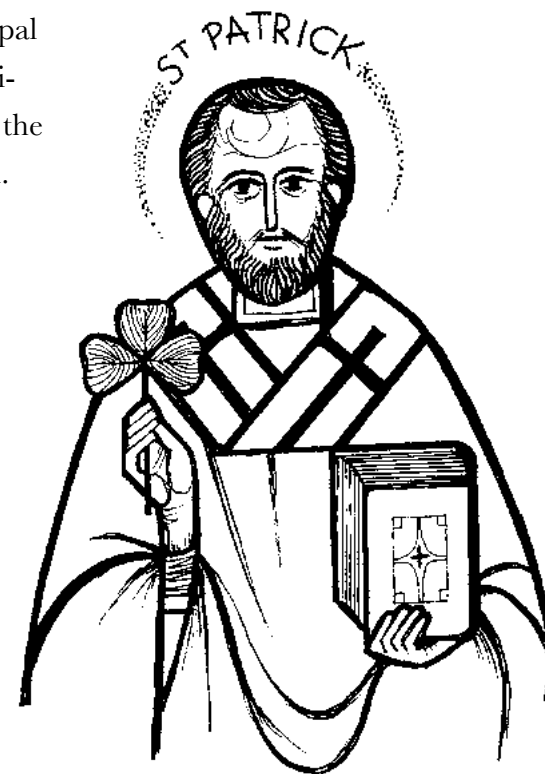
Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.



## 24 Catherine of Sweden – the good-natured carer

Families are divided in two kinds of people: givers and takers. Blessed is the family with at least one ‘giver’, that someone of a cheerful, generous nature who does not panic when you ask them for help. These kindly saints are on hand when you need them, not fleeing with the cry “But I have to think of myself in all this!”

Catherine of Sweden (1331-81) should be the patron saint of all good-natured, compassionate family members. Givers usually start early in life, as did Catherine. She was the fourth of eight children of Ulf of Godmarrson and Bridget of Sweden, and grew up caring for the needs of younger siblings.

One thing about giving – once you start, you are generally looked to for more help, and Catherine was no exception. Her parents married her to one Eggard Lydersson, an invalid, whom she proceeded to nurse devotedly. Catherine felt compassion for his helplessness, and found her life in giving it for him.

In return, Eggard encouraged her to have a 14th century version of ‘respite’ fun at ‘Spring Harvest’ – for Catherine joined her mother to journey to Rome and Jerusalem for a time.

Refreshed and spiritually fortified, Catherine returned and nursed Eggard until his death. She then joined her mother’s religious order, and ended as abbess of the convent of Vadstena. Her cell still survives to this day, with a window on to the church’s sanctuary. Catherine was impor-

tant in the history of the Brigittine Order, as she won papal approval for it in 1376.

## 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.

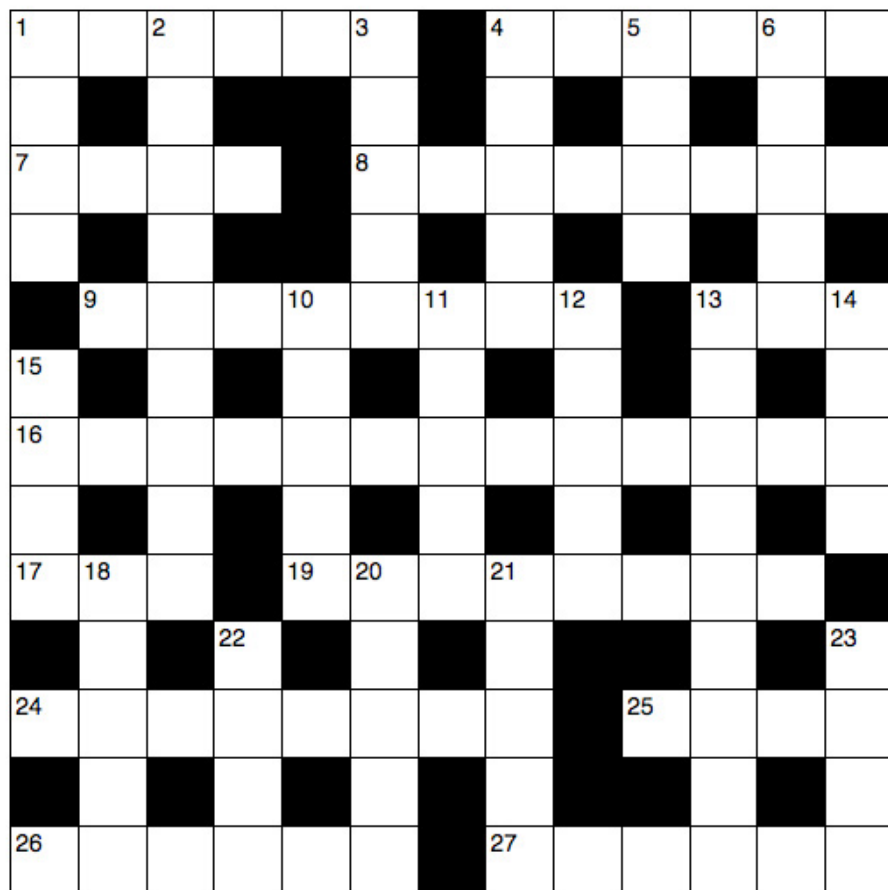
We also like to have paperbacks they can take to read, so if you are parting with books please think of leaving them with us.

Thank you.

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



# March crossword



## Across:

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)

- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

## Down:

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping - heel'(Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

***Solutions later in the magazine***





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17 St Davids Hill  
Exeter

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"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 playdough, 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.

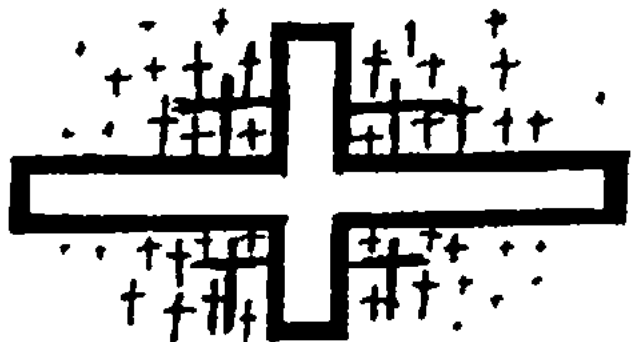


Toddlers is great fun for children and a nice break for adults.  
The St. David's group is (so we are told by current parents) one of the friendliest in Exeter. If you know anyone with pre-school children or grandchildren, then please do recommend us.

They are welcome to pop in any Thursday.

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

**Sam Wellbelove**



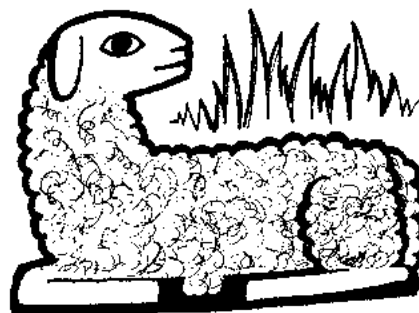
## Crossword solutions

### March answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Planet. 4, Rugged. 7, True. 8, Augustus. 9, Attitude. 13, Bed. 16, Participation. 17, War. 19, Hillside. 24, Baldhead. 25, Bede. 26, Census. 27, Arisen.

**DOWN:** 1, Path. 2, Adulterer. 3, Tract. 4, Rigid. 5, Gust. 6, Exude. 10, Irish. 11, Uriel. 12, Esau's. 13, Blindness. 14, Deny. 15, Spew. 18, Awake. 20, Ideas. 21, Lydia. 22, Odes. 23, Lean.

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



**Lent**, before Easter, is like Advent before Christmas, a time of preparation. Lent is when we remember that Jesus prepared himself for starting his ministry by going away by himself for 40 days of fasting and prayer. You can read about it in your Bible: Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11; Mark, chapter 1, verses 12-13 and Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Jesus went into the wilderness – a quiet lonely place away from people – where he could think things out. He knew that his work would be hard, that many people would not listen to him, or if they listened, they would not believe him. During these 40 days Jesus made his choice: to work in God's way however hard that might be. This year Lent starts on 5th

March and goes through half of April - have you thought about how YOU are going to prepare yourself to follow Jesus this Lent?

## SPRING COLOURS

There are colours which are mentioned with these things in the Bible. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Pastures, herbs and olives are all?
2. A sea, tents and wine are?
3. Hangings in the Temple, pomegranates and doors of tents were all?
4. A horse, robes and teeth were all?
5. Kings' raiment (clothing), Jesus' robe and the dye that Lydia sold were all?
6. One of the gifts to the baby Jesus, candlesticks and spoons were?
7. A raven, clouds and chariot horses were?
8. Lips, a thread tied to a window and robes are?



8. scarlet

**Answers:** 1. green 2. red 3. blue 4. white 5. purple 6. gold 7. black 8. scarlet

# Barbara's Edible Stall

Please keep bringing and buying.  
We need you!

NEXT DATE:


## SUNDAY 30th March

We hope to see you in the future!

Please may we have lots of items to sell,too.

Many thanks.  
**Jane Woodman**





## Pilgrimage to ASSISI

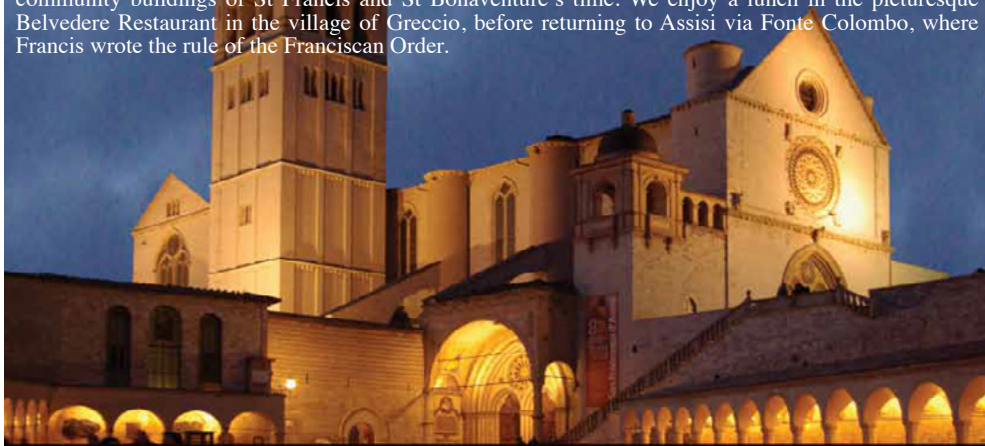
Led by *Bishop Martin Shaw*  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**DAY ONE – THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER** *Bristol - Assisi*  
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.




**DAY TWO – FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER** *Assisi*  
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.

**DAY THREE – SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** *The Feast of St Francis*  
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.

**DAY FOUR – SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** *Greccio and the Rieti Valley*  
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.



57 - 59 Rochester Place, London, NW1 9JU  
Tel: 020 7485 3003 Fax: 020 7485 3006 E-mail: [info@paxtravel.co.uk](mailto:info@paxtravel.co.uk)  
[www.paxtravel.co.uk](http://www.paxtravel.co.uk)





**The deadline for inclusion of articles for  
the **April** issue of the parish  
magazine is **Sunday March 09th 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](mailto: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.