

## Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory 2015

Vicar	Tom Honey	686 000 & 07837 867 680
Assistant Curate	~	~
Parish Missioner	Simon Harrison	07824 456 938
Churchwarden	Avril Pattinson	860 880
“	Dave Allin	~
Reader	Bill Pattinson	860 880
PCC Secretary	Mary Kirkland	980 660
Parish Treasurer	Adrian Hewitt	437 313
Electoral Roll Officer	Jeremy Lawford	214 025
Thika Link	Kate Bray	877 162

### St. David's [www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](http://www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

Treasurer	Barbara Allin	270 162
Asst. Treasurer	Geoff Crockett	468 073
Choir	Nigel Walsh	273 237
News Sheet	Helena Walker	<a href="mailto:notices@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk">notices@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk</a>
Toddler Group	Julia Spruntulis	270 986
Junior Church	Bill Pattinson	860 880
Servers	Christopher Smith	259 469
Church Bookings	Mary Quest	07792 062 403
Readers & Time of Prayer Rota	Avril Pattinson	860 880

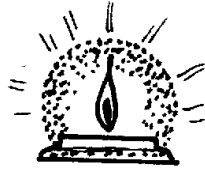
### St Michael's [www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk)

Hon Asst Priest	~	~
Hon Asst Priest	David Hastings	498 233
Chapel Warden	Richard Parker	~
Chapel Warden	George Hexter	469 479
Treasurer	Adrian Hewitt	437 313
News Sheet	Lis Robins	239389
Secretary	Elizabeth Hewitt	437 313
Director of Music	Alex West	<a href="mailto:music@stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk">music@stmichaelsmountdinhams.org.uk</a>
Organist	Nigel Browne	01363 881 137

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**“Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned.”** Isaiah 43



Dear Friends,

I have recently realised that one of the most frequent and distinctive sayings of Jesus is “Fear not”, “Do not be afraid,” or something similar. The short passage from Isaiah that I have quoted above also says, “Do not be afraid.” When Jesus appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he asked them, “Why are you frightened?”

It’s an unusual person who never feels afraid, so most of us will know what it’s like. If you heard Jesus saying to you, “Why are you frightened?” I wonder what your reply might be. There is much to fear in an uncertain world. It might be financial insecurity, personal loneliness, serious illness or the inevitability of death and the fear of oblivion. Often these fears are lurking beneath the surface of our lives. Sometimes they are intense and immediate, prompted by a particular crisis.

In many parts of the world, people live in constant fear of violence. I cannot imagine what that must be like. In the face of crippling fear or real danger, it seems very glib to offer reassurance of the love of God, yet it is the experience of many people that these words from the Bible are not empty or meaningless.

The basis of our confidence in the love of God is the wonderful idea that God knows each of us by name. We are not just a statistic. Each man, woman and child who has died during the recent terrible war in Syria has an identity, individuality, significance, a name known by God. Although we find it relatively easy to forget, God does not forget everyone. Each person has an eternal identity, held in the loving hands of God.

One of the notable things about the resurrection stories in the gospels is how often names are mentioned. Jesus meeting a weeping woman in the garden at dawn says simply “Mary”, and a wave of hope and joy sweeps over her.

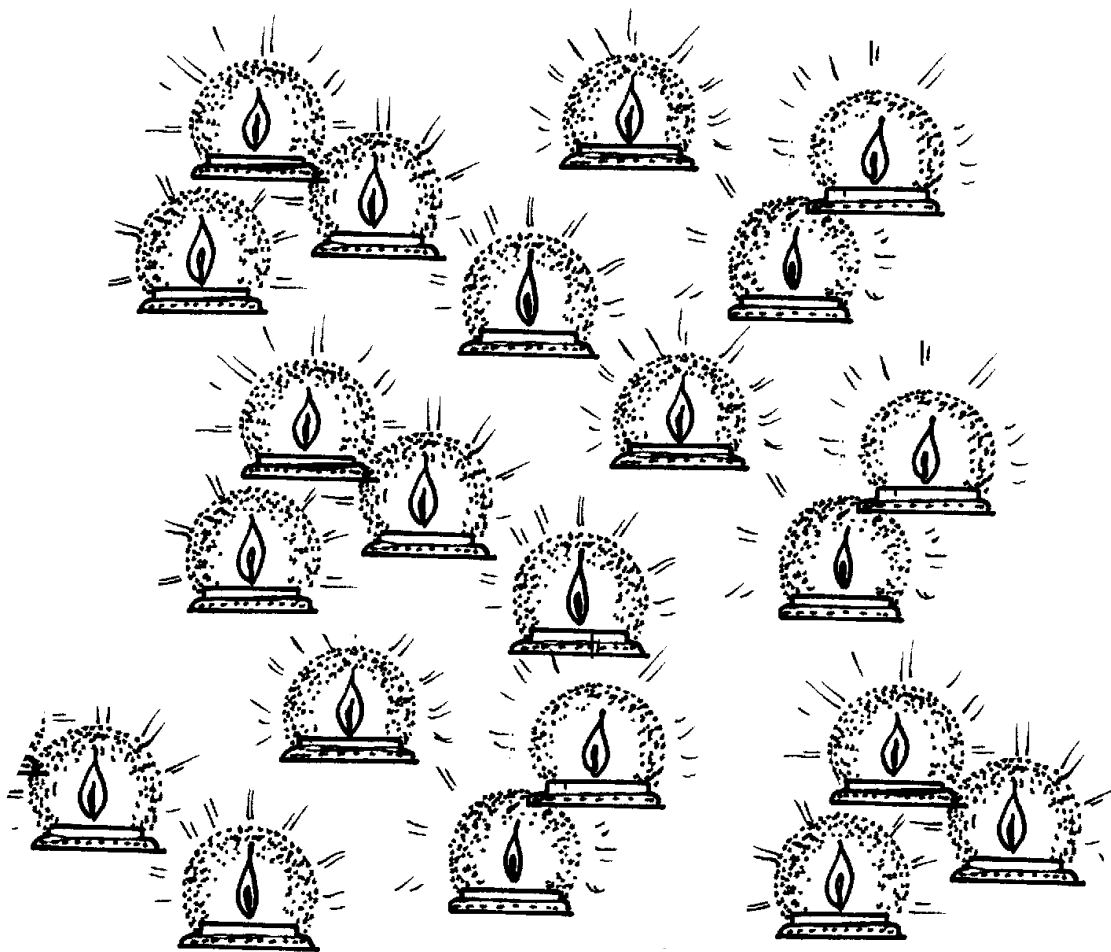
At the lakeside in an intimate private conversation with Peter, Jesus calls him by name, not the familiar nickname, but the name he was born with -Simon, son of John. And Simon Peter begins to realize that he is being offered a restored relationship with the friend who, in his own mind, he has let down so shamefully.

Then there is doubting Thomas and the otherwise unknown Cleopas, who, with his friend, met Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Saul, whose life was turned around and became Paul. Their names have kept alive the memory of those events for two thousand years. The message from the gospels is that people matter, individual, seemingly obscure, otherwise forgotten people. People like you and me.

It can be a somewhat disconcerting and uncomfortable idea that God is constantly paying attention to you, fully aware of who you are; but the gaze of God’s attention is infinitely compassionate. Whatever our circumstances, however we feel about ourselves, however many mistakes

we have made or opportunities we have missed, God knows us by name and gives us infinite value.

Fear, pain and loss are part of life. The Christian faith does not offer a magic solution to the realities of being human, but our faith does tell us that nobody lives or dies unnoticed. May we all come to realise that God knows us by name, and holds us in the palm of his hand.



## St David's Eucharist May

### Sunday 3rd May : 5th Sunday of Easter

Reading 1	1 John 4: 7-21	Cathy Knowles
Reading 2	Acts 8: 26-40	Richard Johnson
Gospel	John 15: 1-8	
Time of prayer		Helena Walker

*Junior Church* Susan Mitchell

### Sunday 10th May : 6th Sunday of Easter

Reading 1	Isaiah 55: 6-11	Geoff Crockett
Reading 2	Acts 10: 44-48	Gina Redman
Gospel	John 15: 9-17	
Time of prayer		Catherine Matlock

*Junior Church* Sara Gibbs

### Sunday 17th May : Sunday after Ascension Day Family Service

Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel		
Time of prayer		

*No Junior Church*

### Sunday 24th May : Pentecost

Reading 1	Acts 2: 1-21	Cynthia Fox
Reading 2	Romans 8: 22-27	Dilys Thorp
Gospel	John 15: 26-27 and 16: 4b-15	
Time of prayer		Ann Watts

*Junior Church* Sarah Harrison

### Sunday 31st May : Trinity Sunday

Reading 1	Isaiah 6: 1-8	Pam Smith
Reading 2	Romans 8: 12-17	Julia Spruntulis
Gospel	John 3: 1-17	
Time of prayer		Mollie Curry

*Junior Church* Helen Sail

# Thoughts for May from St Michael and all Angels

Always a reader from early childhood, cereal boxes, advertising leaflets, billboards and the like have intrigued me. The style of imparting information that has been compacted to fit small spaces and still have some meaning is fascinating, so I read all the so-called journals that come from the supermarkets, in the hope of finding some useful knowledge about the food we eat. However, these have now become socio-political in tone, and purport to inform us about our culture, traditions and even our religious history. The Spring offerings from up-market enterprises as well as the budget-beaters purveyed some very poorly researched information about the movable feast we call Easter. Apparently, according to these editorials, it has something to do with the moon, but who cares when we can enjoy all this wonderful feasting at budget prices and charm the children with egg hunts round the garden. In most cases, neither Easter nor Passover was mentioned by name. I know the reasons for both the name and timing of the feast are complicated: discussion at the Synod of Whitby (664) showed that in some years King Oswin of Northumbria could be celebrating Easter as his wife Queen Eanfelda, educated in Kent, could be keeping the fast that followed Palm Sunday. The dates were Roman and Celtic and did not coincide. Eventually it was agreed to keep the Roman calendar for the setting of festivals. So Easter is movable, in the main, because it is the first Sunday after the full moon following the equinox in Spring. We also have to factor in the

cycle of years. Sometimes it can be as early as 21st March or as late as 25th April; the Orthodox Church follows a slightly different system, so often the families of Christendom are celebrating with a week or two's slippage. Whether or not our name comes from the Germanic goddess 'Eostre' has not been authoritatively established, although that is the explanation given by the Venerable Bede. It may be related the east and the direction of the rising sun. Having mentioned Passover earlier, it is important to say that the Jewish name, Pesach, gives us 'Paschal', and the festival is referred to as 'Pascha' in the Orthodox church.

Easter does not always coincide with Passover; it would be wrong to assume that to be so, and to assume that the main Passover meal was the one that Jesus and the disciples were meeting for on Maundy Thursday. The evening meals during the week before Passover are called 'seder' meals, meaning 'order' to include the idea of preparation and building to the great pilgrim feast of freedom celebrated in the Passover on the Friday, the beginning of the Sabbath, when all who could had made their way to Jerusalem. In fact, the Passover meal with all the symbolism of suffering and rescue ends with the words 'Next year in Jerusalem', a particularly poignant wish in Judaism since the time of the Diaspora, even more so in modern times. The story is kept alive by having rituals and remembrances at the table, involving the children by having them ask set, significant questions, such as 'Why is this night different to all other nights?' The answers tell of God's great redemption of the chosen people, who will be a light to the Gentiles.

There is an argument in the tidy business world that Easter should be tied to a fixed date. Travel firms would know exactly when to ratchet up the prices, the year would be neatly divided, the economy would flourish and some people would be very happy, having torn us away from the

ancient rhythms of the sun, moon and seasons, never mind having to take the Resurrection of Christ into their computations. I overheard one young mother telling her child ‘That’s it for another 364 days, until next Easter’, but can you imagine how arbitrary it would be for a government or the Church of England to fix the date for Easter? Our Roman and Orthodox brothers and sisters would be finding Easter at other times and all the meaning could quite easily be lost to the secular world (as it almost is already) as we could have Bank or public holidays on the days that are central to the faith of Christianity. I have been concerned for many years now about the way Good Friday has become another shopping day; the Walk of Witness should make some watchers wonder what it is all about.

Our celebrations at St Michael’s lead us close to Christ and the Via Dolorosa that he travelled; on Maundy Thursday, the washing of the feet and the watch through the night lead us to the great sorrow of Good Friday. The darkness and solemnity of Tenebrae bring us a sensation of mourning. The loud noise at the end never ceases to alarm me; we know it is coming, we know how it will sound, we know where it is coming from, but it remains surprising. It always seems to me that although there is this depth of sadness, it is underpinned by the sure and certain hope of Resurrection, and so the suffering is somewhat alleviated by that knowledge. It doesn’t take away from the enormity of the realisation of the sacrifice; it makes the contrast between sorrow and celebration even deeper. Easter Eve, with the lighting of the Easter Fire, the first Mass of Easter and the relief and joy surging up, again, is a reminder of the constant promise of God. All these events are made the more dramatic by the sensitive music and the singing of the choir. At Easter, we need to ask ‘What do you make of Resurrection?’ On Low Sunday, both Rev. Lucy Winkett at St James’ in Piccadilly and Fr

David Walford were asking similar questions. Is it something that happened in the past, something to expect in the future or is it a sense of the constant presence of Christ? The disciples on the road to Emmaus had the Risen Christ with them all the time of their journey, but did not realise until they were close in the breaking of the bread that it was the Lord.

New life and the promise of a future are heralded by our peregrines which are in residence again and will have hatched their eggs by the time you read this. It is amazing that the time of lay and hatching can be so carefully foretold.

We move on to the celebration of Ascension and Pentecost, other reminders, if needed, of God’s redeeming love and provision for all His people. Join us for breakfast on Ascension Day!

## **Stephanie Aplin**

*With thanks to ‘The Christian Year’ by J.C.J. Metford and Melanie McDonagh, journalist.*



# Positions Vacant

## • Parish Safeguarding Representative •

• The Parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels, Exeter, •  
• is seeking to appoint a Parish Safeguarding Representative. •

## • Evidence Checker •

• The Parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels, Exeter, •  
• is seeking to appoint an Evidence Checker. •

**For further details please contact the Vicar**

Revd. Tom Honey on 01392 686000

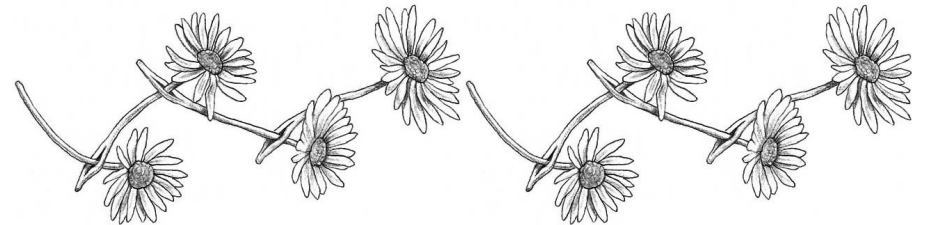
or email

[vicar@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

# Congratulations to those who celebrated significant anniversaries recently...

**John and Monica Darch** of St Michael's celebrated  
their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Sunday 19th April.

**Hilary Todd and Roger Beer** have been married for  
10 years last month.





St. David's Singers Present

# AN EVENING OF MUSIC, SONG AND POETRY

Saturday 6th June at 7 p.m.

at St. David's Church  
(opposite Exeter College)

Tickets £7 to include a glass of wine  
available at the Church or on the door

all proceeds in aid of the  
Church transformation fund



image cc-by-sa/2.0  
© Bill Boaden

## ST DAVID'S SINGERS

I have edited two articles sent to me by Nicky Hobbs, an original member of St David's Singers, and Mark Perry, the present conductor. I wholeheartedly recommend you come and hear this talented group of singers, who have a very eclectic repertoire. They are returning to their roots by giving a concert at St. David's Church on Saturday 6th June at 7p.m, all in aid of the Transformation Project. ( see advert in this issue).

In the early 1970s St David's had a very thriving choir, under the leadership of Sylvia Pritchard, organist and choir director. The choir rehearsed on Friday evenings in the choir vestry and used to go for a drink at the Packhorse just by the back entrance to the church - sadly no longer there.

There was a great interest in music of all sorts. From these beginnings developed the St David's Players and later the St Davids Singers, who raised thousands of pounds for the organ by putting on concerts and other events involving music and drama in the St David's Institute in Haldon Road. This was all driven by Sylvia's enthusiasm and huge support from the vicar, Tom Pritchard. Some members of the choir wanted to sing more varied music so started singing all sorts after choir practice on a Friday. This was initially an invited group of musical friends some from the choir, some from Exeter College connections. As more concerts were given, the choir grew. The concerts were always for charity and to this day, the musical director takes no fee. After many years of great singing, the baton was handed to Mark Perry in 1994 and the tradition continued. Rehearsals are no longer held at St David's but

there are three existing members of the choir who sang in St David's church choir all those years ago!

The choir now consists of about 30 singers who enjoy singing challenging music from a wide range of composers, periods and styles. We sing sacred and secular music, normally a cappella, in and around Devon, usually for charities.

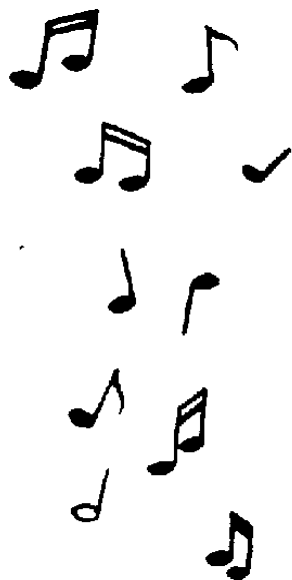
We have toured in England and France and have previously recorded a CD of the music of local (Dartmoor) composer Christopher Williams.

In 2010 the choir was invited by Exeter composer Andrew Goddard to record a CD of carols recently written by him, resulting in 'Christmas from Devon', which is available from members of the choir.

From time to time we sing around the UK in Cathedrals. Most recently we visited Worcester and Christ Church, Oxford, in 2013, Hereford Cathedral and St George's Windsor in 2014, and this year we visited Winchester Cathedral in February and will sing at Bath Abbey at the end of August.

We returned to St David's Church for concerts in August 2000 and July 2006, and we are delighted to be coming back again in 2015!

**Bill Pattinson**



# Arthur's Memories - Part 2

Shortly before he died in 1972, Arthur Bartlett, who had lived in St David's Parish most of his life, was asked to record his childhood memories:

"At this time (about 1890) my knowledge of the "Pepper Box" except the visits with my brother Charles on Sunday mornings for the chimes is nil. The activities of the Parish centred around St Michael's and to most of us St David's was just the church at the top of the hill, with the exception of the peal of bells, and weddings and funerals of well-known parishioners.

I believe St Michael's was not licensed at that period. Here the ladies sat on the left, the men on the right. There was a very good organist and choir: it was well known for its music and by some considered a good second to the cathedral. At this time it was not a "High Church" service. At festivals in the processions a cornet or trumpet was included. When I was very young, the organist was Mr Righton. He was succeeded by George Luscombe. In Righton's time my eldest brother Walter transferred from St Paul's to St Michael's to sing alto. He had possessed a beautiful treble which did not really break as is usual, and he warned Mr Righton his solo boy's voice was on the verge of cracking, but the choirmaster gave him six months. A couple of weeks later it happened, in the Credo. Walter confidently prepared and picked up the solo, many not even realizing what had happened. Afterwards Walter sang that solo many times, until he left for London to work as a linotype printer and was an alto in Holy Trinity, Sloane Square.



At this period St Michael's was very fashionable and often I have seen three or four carriages and pairs. I was only a small boy, but this is a very vivid memory. Sunday Schools were very strong in numbers: the girls and infants at Exe Street School, boys at Dinham Road. At one of the outings to Exmouth, after a service at St Michael's, they processed to Queen Street Station, with many banners. Being with the small boys in the tail of the procession as we turned from St David's Hill into Richmond Road, I could see the head of the procession turning into Queen Street. Many were the Parish Concerts. Mother Jarley's Waxworks, Minstrel Shows etc were events much looked forward to in St David's School, and the "Band of Hope" outing to Dawlish. The Sunday School met on Sundays at 9.45am then on to Matins at Church, afternoons at 3pm, thence again to Church for Catechism till 4pm. There was the occasional appearance of the Revd Toye, whose severe presence and skull cap was sufficient to quell the restless. The Miss Kindersleys were the active ones and were very popular. I think they were the daughters of a deceased clergyman, there was a son but I do not remember but little of him.

At this time came the change with the new Vicar, but I do not remember the passing of the Revd T Toye. I was only eleven years of age, and much of my time was spent in the St Paul's choir, jointly with the St David's School."

(to be continued)

There were four Misses Kindersley - Georgina, Katherine, Emily and Margaret, and they lived with their widowed mother and two brothers at Rosewood on St David's Hill. Their father had been vicar of Brampford Speke, but died at the age of 40 in 1871. The parish church has a window in his memory, donated by his widow and children.

St Paul's Church stood near the top of Paul Street, where the wall of the Guildhall Shopping Centre is now. It was demolished in 1936.

Joseph Theophilus Toye died on Christmas Eve 1893, aged 85. He had been Vicar of St David's since 1862.

Once again, I have tried to keep alterations to the original handwritten text to an absolute minimum.

**Jeremy Lawford**

# GIVE AS YOU LIVE

I have become aware that despite advertising, many people are unaware of Give as You Live, or do not understand how it works, but as a way of charitable giving it is unique.



I was introduced to Give as You Live (GAYL) by a friend who works for a small charity, the Roses Trust, as a way of raising money for her in an

easy, costing me nothing way, as she knew I was an online shopper.

So if you too shop online, by using the GAYL portal, you can help the charity of your choice or donate to their monthly nominated one.

It is easy, search for the GAYL website, *www.giveasyoulive.com* and create an account, using your email address and a password. You then have a list of over 200,000 Charities to choose from in order to 'tag' one to your account. There are the big ones like Christian Aid and Oxfam, but many local projects and churches are on the list.

The website has a small video to explain itself.

When you wish to buy something you enter your GAYL account, search for the cheapest product, using their search engine, or go directly to John Lewis, Halfords, Argos or Etsy and search that company's products for what you need.

You then buy as usual, but having entered via the GAYL 'door', a percentage automatically goes to the charity of your choice.

Easy Peasy.

So let's do it!

**Glynis Harflett**

# “Are there any connections between Easter and ecology?”



**Martyn Goss**

**Environment Officer for the Diocese of Exeter**

Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth, was a key participant in a new Jewish reform movement. In the face of the political oppression, religious corruption and economic exploitation of his day, his short ministry focussed on the release of those with heavy burdens, the freeing of the stigmatised and the healing of brokenness. By including the excluded, breaking social barriers and sharing acts of human kindness, he reminded those around him of God's call to Israel to be a people of compassion and mercy, justice and peace. He also referred to people's links to the land and the interconnectedness of Creation.

The term he used in inviting others to a more inclusive kind of society was the 'Kingdom of God', which translates from the Greek 'Basileia tou Theou' – the reign of the divine. This community, which his followers adopted, is open to all and marked by signs of forgiveness, the writing off of debts, the redistribution of resources and the care of the vulnerable. In later years it became expressed in both synagogue and church.

Furthermore, this communal living was rooted in the well-being of the sacred land which upholds all life. This realm of loving relationships ex-

tends also to the lilies of the fields and the birds of the air, to the rocky places and to green grass, to the water from the well and the fire of baptism. The covenants of the patriarchs are all-encompassing, holistic; everything is a part of the God's holy Earth.

Yet this message stood in stark contrast to the Judaeo-Roman culture of the first century of the Common Era (A.D.). The ruthless Roman occupation of the Middle-East had come to be accepted by those in authority – puppet kings, Temple hierarchs, tax administrators, and others who all used the situation for their own ends. In particular, the liberating God of Israel (Yahweh) was replaced by other gods and other priorities, whether the dominating imperial religion, the hard-nosed Sanhedrin council or ruthless money-lenders.

All this of course is in the background to what we now call 'Holy Week' - recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to his death and celebrated resurrection on Easter day. This man from the rural high-lands of Galilee meets an extremely political end on the cross outside the urban city. His message of liberation and hope is to all intents and purposes nailed to extinction with his outstretched body in the isolation of Golgotha (the place of the skull).

Whilst others follow, the powers of Rome took the lead in crushing this man and his radical news of equality and justice for the weak and marginalised. His calling people to return to God's ways of living are too threatening to the vested interests of his day.

Yet, whatever your views of Jesus' resurrection narratives, what appears to be the end of the story sees a totally remarkable revival and renewal.

Beyond the violence, torture, denial, rejection and treachery, hope re-emerges as the way ahead.

In the words of poet R.S Thomas, "The grave clothes of winter are still here, but the sepulchre is empty. A messenger from the tomb tells us how a stone has been rolled from the mind, and a tree lightens the darkness with its blossom".

The core of Jesus' experience is that Yahweh's love is life's most potent force – even beyond death. Just as plants regenerate in the desert dust, so this unconquerable, profound love is rediscovered in new ways through the apostles, disciples and early church. The inclusive message of this northern Jewish prophet is re-lived in the relationships of the post-Easter community, which later go on to hold goods in common, care for the weak and seek peace through justice for the nations.

So the 'love of power' (as seen in the ecclesiastical and political leaders or the violence of the mob) is transformed into the 'power of love' (through the women and men who continue to follow in the Way). And this love begins, as with Eden, in a garden (Gethsemane). The second Adam continues the work of the first – to care for the whole Earth and to sustain all life in its integrity. Two gardeners are surely thoughtful symbols for our relation with the Earth.

Maybe there is a connection between Ecology and Easter after all?

All best wishes

**Martyn**



# *Imagine....*

Imagine a world where a government sponsors a major social project:

- \* employing and re-employing tens of thousands of people
- \* providing work skills in construction, administration, security and research
- \* improving rail and road infrastructure
- \* giving daily structure, work and food to millions
- \* reducing anti-social behaviour in cities
- \* recycling significant amounts of clothing, precious metals, organic materials
- \* freeing up thousands of empty homes for local people
- \* generating a new sense of communal vibrancy and hope
- \* leaving a deep long term legacy for future generations

One government attempted just this in the 1930s...

...this was Nazism under Hitler in Germany...

The name of the project – ‘The Final Solution’.

Not everything is as it appears. The obsession to provide jobs through unquestioned economic growth may not be all it seems to be....

# Heritage & Music at St Michael's, Mount Dinham



By the time this Magazine is published, we hope that the 4 Peregrine eggs laid towards the end of March will have hatched. Watch the chicks online.

May this year is full of Red Letter Days of the Church; Rogation, Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity all fall in the month, with Corpus Christi early in June. And there's "Hymns&Pimms", a Recital & a Lecture, so we look forward to seeing you at St Michael's.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Vespers & Meditation take place at 6pm, though on Thurs 7th May there will be Mass prior to a DCC Meeting, and I think something else is happening that day.

**Sun 3rd May 10.45am Easter 5** = Easter IV, ; Sung Mass. Setting - Viadana 'L'Hora Passa'. Anthem - Bairstow 'I sat down under his shadow'.

**Sun 3rd May 6pm** Evensong & Benediction - Responses - Smith, Psalm 96, Canticles - Weelkes Short Service, Anthem - Palestrina 'Exultate Deo', Plainsong Hymns.

**Friday 8th May 7.30pm** Recitals @ St Michael's welcome Alison Smith, Plymouth-based, internationally acclaimed classical guitarist.



Sat 9th May 7.30pm Back by popular demand, please come to "Hymns

& Pimms”, voting for and singing your favourite hymns and worship songs on a relaxed late spring evening.

**Sun 10th May 10.45am** Rogation Procession on Mount Dinham, praying for God to bless our work and the fruits of the Earth in their seasons. Mass Setting - Bairstow in E flat. Anthem - Greater Love hath no man, by John Ireland.

**Thurs 14th May 8.00am**, Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter; Plain-song Matins sung from the West Gallery, followed by breakfast.

**Thurs 14th May 7.30pm** Ascension Day; Sung Mass, with drinks afterwards. Mass in C&F and Coelos ascendit hodie, both by Stanford.

**Sun 17th May 10.45am** Sunday after Ascension = Easter 7, ; Mass in E by Harold Darke. Anthem - The merrie world did on this day, by Alex West.

**Sun 24th May 10.45am** Whit Sunday/Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, ; Mass Setting - Victoria ‘O quam gloriosum’. Anthem - Tallis ‘If ye love me’.

**Wed 27th May 7.30pm** St Michael’s Lecture with Sabrina Gröschel.

*Same-Sex Marriage in the Church: A Lengthy and Unnecessary Debate?* This topic has become a prominent and public issue across most Christian denominations. Speaking in a strictly personal capacity, Sabrina Gröschel will address the issue through reflection on her experience as a Facilitator of discussions in the United Reformed Church.



**Sun 31st May 10.45am** Trinity Sunday; Mass in F by Charles Wood. Anthem – Benedicta sit sancta Trinitas, by Agazzari.

**Thurs 4th June 7.30pm** Corpus Christi; Sung Mass with procession of the Blessed Sacrament around Mount Dinham.

**Advanced Notice - Friday 19th June** Meet the exciting young vocal octet VOCES8 at St Michael’s over Lunch and a Choral Workshop (1-4pm, Tickets £10/£8 conc).

Then hear their brilliant and versatile talents in Concert at 7.30pm.

Recital Tickets £15/£12 conc (£3 reduction for both events).

They really are exceptional - don’t miss it!

Please see <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/> and view the nest box camera on the Peregrine page.

Also [https://twitter.com/StMikes\\_Exeter](https://twitter.com/StMikes_Exeter) for latest news.

**Richard Barnes**



# *Recitals @ St Michael's*

## *Spring season 2015*

**Friday 8th May**

**Alison Smith**

*Classical guitarist*

**Friday 19th June**

**Voces8**

*Internationally-renowned vocal chamber ensemble*

**7:30pm**

at

St Michael & All Angels, Dinham Rd,

Mount Dinham, Exeter EX4 4EB

Individual & season tickets available online via:

**[www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/music/recitals/](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/music/recitals/)**



Church of St. Michael and All Angels  
Mount Dinham  
Parish of St. David, Exeter



### St Michael's Lectures

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm

## **Same-Sex Marriage in the Church:**

### **A Lengthy and Unnecessary Debate?**

**Sabrina Gröschel**

**Sabrina Gröschel** is Project Development Officer on the Ecumenical Council for Social Responsibility, and Synod Pastoral Advisor to the United Reformed Church's South Western Synod.

**Same-sex marriage** has been the subject of prominent and public controversy across most Christian denominations. Speaking in a strictly personal capacity, Sabrina Gröschel will be addressing the issue through reflection on her experience as a Facilitator for discussions in the United Reformed Church.

Everyone is warmly welcomed to the St Michael's Lectures and admission is FREE (with a voluntary retiring collection). They are followed by discussion and light refreshments. They are held in St. Michael's Church (Mount Dinham, Dinham Road, Exeter, EX4 4EB) which has a tall spire and is located by the Iron Bridge on North St./St. David's Hill. For further information, or to discuss disabled access, contact David Beadle at [dnb201@ex.ac.uk](mailto:dnb201@ex.ac.uk) or visit [www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk)

St Thomas Methodist Church



## Adult Literacy and Numeracy Club

### Volunteer tutors needed!

The Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALaN) Club gives clients referred voluntarily from JobCentrePlus and other agencies an opportunity to improve their reading, writing and numeracy skills, before they are ready for accredited courses.

Training, resources, and 'safeguarding' guidance supplied. Volunteers commit to 12-weeks. Thursdays, 2-4pm, Mint Methodist Church Centre, Fore Street, Exeter.

Terms: 7 May-25 Jul, 10 Sep-26 Nov 2015, 14 Jan-31 Mar 2016.

Please contact Esther:

[alanclubstthomas@gmail.com](mailto:alanclubstthomas@gmail.com)

07929 909 350

# Social Committee Calendar 2015 for St Michaels

**Saturday 9th May time to be arranged.**

Fundraiser - Car Treasure Hunt with pub lunch

**Saturday 27th June 12 noon**

Fundraiser – Chris and Lis, Barbecue for the Choir fund This is a private function at The Meade and not hosted by the Social Committee, tickets will be available 2 weeks in advance. 01395 239389

**Saturday 25th July 7.30pm**

Fundraiser – Hymns and Pimms, at St Michaels

**Saturday 26th September 7.30pm**

Fundraiser - Michaelmas Dance with Buffett, the City Gate, tickets will be available 3 weeks in advance. Please sell as many as you can so that we can make this a huge success.

**Saturday 24th October 7.30pm**

Fundraiser - Horse race night at the City Gate

**Sunday 29th November 1pm**

Non fundraiser – The Christmas Lunch at the Diggers Rest, Woodbury Salterton



**Saturday 12th December 7.30 pm**

Non fundraiser – Pub crawl for Christmas. Start to be arranged.



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.

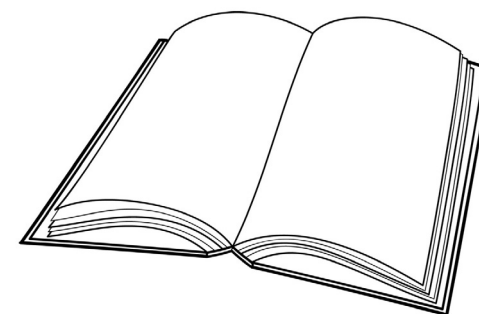
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient 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)



# Exeter 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: 14:00 - 16:00 (from 5th November 2014)

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



For 1-2-1 IT tuition we offer a waiting list.

# Southernhay Child Contact Centre Exeter

*“... suddenly the boys came running to me .. both shouting ‘Daddy! Daddy! Big hugs for each one’”*

*“It was like a rugby scrum only for once I was crying. They had not forgotten me.”*

We all know the statistics. There were nearly 1000 divorces in Devon in 2012. Most people will know someone who has had experience of the break-up of a marriage or partnership. With these break-ups often come problems for parents and children who no longer see each other. The trauma of separation can make healing almost impossible.

In Exeter, we're lucky because the city has the Southernhay Child Contact Centre. This is a safe and friendly place where an absent parent can see his or her children on neutral territory, and children can spend time with their brothers and sisters if they don't all live together anymore.

Southernhay Child Contact Centre is accredited by NACCC (National Association of Child Contact Centres). About 14 families currently use the Centre on Saturdays. Volunteer staff support the service. They don't supervise the contact sessions or spend time with the children but they do ensure that the Centre is a safe and welcoming place for everyone. The number of people who can use the Centre depends on the number of volunteers available to attend the sessions.

The Child Contact Centre exists to give an absent parent an opportunity to spend time with his or her child or children. There's no charge to use the Centre. Families can refer themselves, or the court or social services might order the access solution. There are lots of toys and books for children of all ages, and these often help a parent to reconnect with their child after what sometimes can be a long absence. And a child knows finally they've not been abandoned, that they are loved.

It is so important that children keep in touch with their absent parent. Frequently there has been a long (to a child a very long) break since seeing a parent. It is so rewarding and moving when the child rushes to their parent, and has not forgotten him/her.

And then the healing process can begin, a child becoming much more confident in themselves, lessening the trauma of separation, knowing they have not been abandoned.

If you would like to find out more and are prepared to offer a helping hand on either a Saturday morning or afternoon once a month do please contact the centre for further information, please email [southernhaycontact@gmail.com](mailto:southernhaycontact@gmail.com) or call 07775 158 808. 'An enhanced DBS check will be requested in the event of an individual being offered a voluntary position.'

All enquiries welcome.

Held at: **Southernhay Church, Southernhay East, Exeter EX1 1QD**

# 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



**You are invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual**  
**PLANTFEST *St David's***

**a plant-themed social event for the local community**

**SATURDAY MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>\***  
**10AM - 4PM**

**MULBERRY TREE CAFE COURTYARD  
EXETER COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ST DAVID'S HILL**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**• PLANT SALE & SWAP • BRING & BUY RUMMAGE  
• LIVE MUSIC FROM LOCAL TALENT • CAFE OPEN  
FOR REFRESHMENTS • KNOWLEDGEABLE  
GARDENERS ON HAND FOR ADVICE**

**All welcome, interested in plants or not! Drop in to meet, chat and network with your neighbours. If you like, bring plants or rummage items to sell or swap. Local musicians: please come along to play or sing!**

**Organised by Haldon Road Residents  
haldoncontact@gmail.com • 206625 or 427185**

**(\*IF PERSISTENT RAIN: SATURDAY JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>)**



The  
People's  
Acupuncture  
Project

every Wednesday  
Exeter Community Centre  
17 St Davids Hill  
Exeter

**Affordable Community Acupuncture**  
**£15 - £30 per treatment session**  
pay what you feel you can afford

We are a friendly team of qualified acupuncturists  
offering treatment for pain and many other  
conditions to help improve your quality of life

contact us to find out more about how acupuncture could help you

[www.peoplesacupunctureproject.com](http://www.peoplesacupunctureproject.com)  
07834 160906 or 07910 453794

## **St. Sidwell's Church of England Primary School and Nursery**

York Road, Exeter, EX4 6PG

Headteacher: Mrs. Anne Hood

Tel: 01392 255551 Website: [www.st-sidwells-ce.devon.sch.uk](http://www.st-sidwells-ce.devon.sch.uk)



For children aged 3 to 11 years

**Come and visit our successful school**  
**which includes a purpose built Nursery/Foundation Stage**  
**Breakfast and After School Clubs available**

We have a long-standing tradition of high quality education  
within a caring, Christian ethos.

"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"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 Church**

Queens  
Terrace,  
Exeter

**\*Free play\***  
**\*Craft activities\***  
**\*Healthy snacks\***  
**\*Singing together\***

for your little ones

A drink and a chat - Support for you

# **Toddler Group**



£ 1 for  
your first  
child and  
then 50p

***Join us in the Parish Rooms on***

***Thursday mornings***

***10.00 until 12.00***

***(every week - except August)***

***You are very welcome to drop in and  
meet us***

***or***

***you can contact us:***

***Julia on 07729068567***

***Toddlers@stdavidschurche.exeter.org.uk***

# A Visionary Friend Bill Pratt

## Exeter's school for the Blind 1838-1965

The author

Bill first contacted me some 8 years ago with a query about confirmation . For a time pupils from the school, then on St David's Hill, were confirmed at St David's; they were after all in the parish and I was able to check the confirmation records. Then Bill moved to Wiltshire and we lost touch. I was thrilled to know that he had completed his work and even more thrilled when I saw his work completed. It bore evidence of the determination showed by the blind and partially sighted pupils that had attended the school while it was on that site. It was also beautifully produced with suitable font and many illustrations, a pleasure to read.

The title...

is particularly apt as the first person to embark on this work in Exeter was a Mrs Sarah Friend who in 1838 devised a system of teaching reading. She originally taught seven people to read though we do not know details of her method. Later she compared several methods, mostly using some form of embossing, so that the fingers could be used and was prepared to state that another's method (the Lucas Method) was better than her own, because "she was self taught." Eventually the main teaching method became Braille.

Several times the rigid discipline was mentioned, no slacking was toler-

ated. The launch of the book was set in the old school buildings on St David's Hill, now the Community centre, and those buildings themselves constitute a challenge. Over many years the curriculum was extended to cover physical and intellectual learning as well as the practical ways in which both the individuals and the school could become self reliant. The author himself had had a long career, first as a groundsman and then as a piano tuner and technician. "Failure was not an option". But pleasures were part of the course, for instance the annual school pantomime and sports day (with slight modifications; hard cricket balls not allowed)

There were from time to time problems, for instance, when the organ was sold by the headmaster of the time. These were not glossed over.

The book costs £9.99 and is published by the West of England School Association.

ISBN 978 0 9931601 0 3

**Iris Sutton**



# 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.



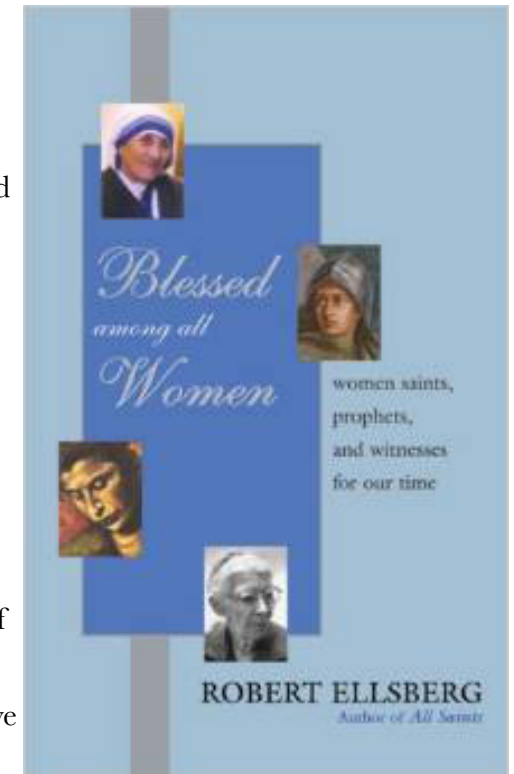
Book Review

## Blessed Among All Women

Women saints, prophets and witnesses for our time

By Robert Ellsberg

I'm slightly ashamed to say that I have never been hugely inspired by saints. Perhaps it's because of the frankly unlikely stories and pious language that accompany early saints. Perhaps it's because holiness can seem rather boring. Perhaps it's because they seem to be unconnected with today's world. Sometimes when you find out more you realise that some of the saints were probably rather difficult. I don't think I could have lived with St Wilfrid, great man though I'm sure he was.



I have always liked the second verse in the hymn, Glory to thee O God, for all thy saints in light.



Thanks be to thee, O Lord,  
for saints thy Spirit stirred  
in humble paths to live thy life and  
speak thy word.  
Unnumbered they,  
whose candles shine  
to lead our footsteps after thine.

It talks about the unknown heroes of faith whose names are not remembered. I like the idea of more ordinary people being remembered as well. At Morning Prayer every morning when a Saint's Day comes round we read a little bit about the saint in question, and I am often left wanting to know more than the brief summary of their life. I saw this book in the library at Sheldon, and ordered a copy for myself and for St David's and I have been engrossed in it ever since.

The women who appear in the book range from biblical characters like Mary the mother of Jesus and Mary and Martha of Bethany right up to the 20th Century. One of the reviews on the back cover says, "Loving and insightful, with no hint of false piety or sentimentalism. A fantastically inspiring, thought-provoking book." It gives "a deep sense of the divine ever at work in human hearts and minds."

Among the more recent saints are those who struggled for peace and social justice like Muriel Lester in this country and Dorothy Day in the USA and Sophie Scholl in Hitler's Germany.

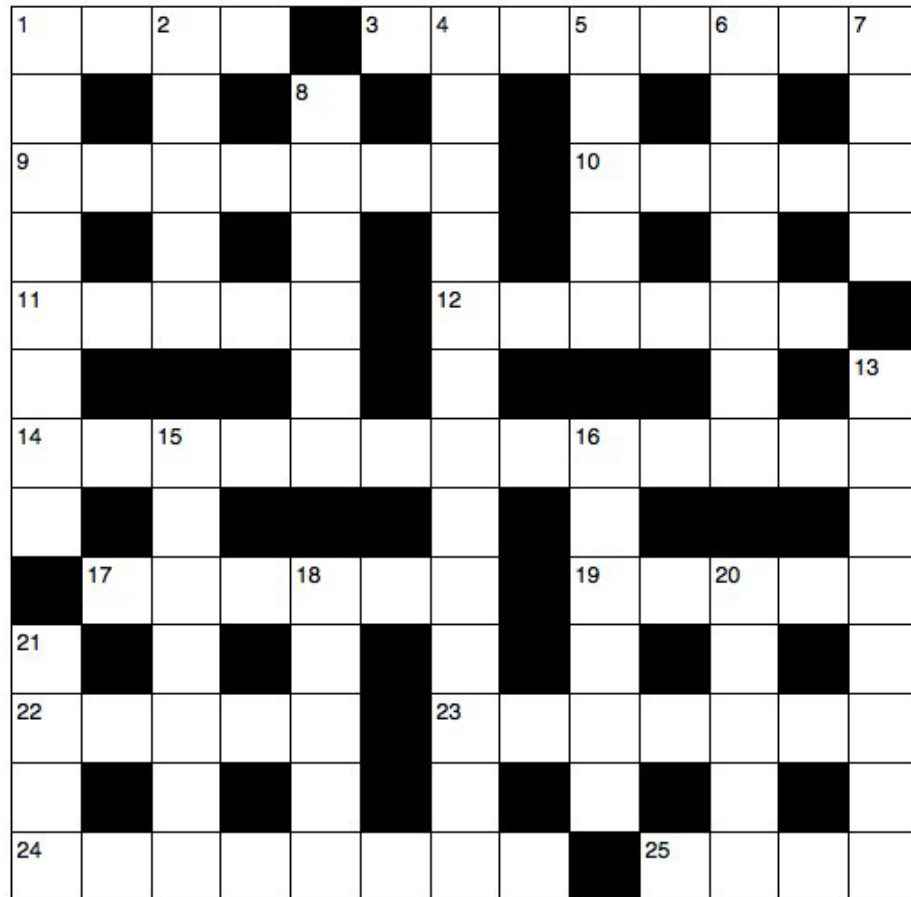
"Sophie was a devout Christian, who believed that the struggle against Hitler was a battle for the soul of Germany, and thus a duty for all

Christians." She and her young companions, all in their early twenties distributed leaflets, signed only "The White Rose". One White Rose leaflet read "At all times of greatest trial, men and women have appeared, prophets and saints who cherished their freedom, who preached the One God, and who with his help brought the people to a reversal of their downward course.... We must attack evil where it is strongest, and it is strongest in the power of Hitler.... We will not be silent. We are your bad conscience. The White Rose will not leave you in peace." Sophie and two other young people were uncovered, arrested, convicted and executed on February 22nd 1943.

If you would like to read more inspiring stories of brave, wise and holy women, this book tells them very movingly. I can wholeheartedly recommend it. If anyone would like to borrow my copy, just come and ask.

**Tom**

# May crossword



## Across:

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table

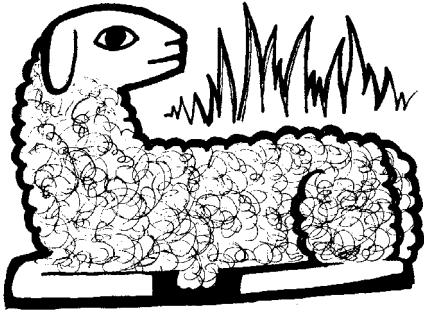
(4,9)

- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)

## Down:

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

## *Solutions later in the magazine*



## PENTECOST

24<sup>th</sup> May

Do you know what happened on the first Pentecost? On that day what really amazed all the people was that everyone there heard the message of the Good News in their own language. You can read about this in Acts, chapter 2.

How many languages can you speak? We all speak English but most of us know at least a few words in more than one language. I bet you know some French, even if it is only 'bonjour' or 'merci', perhaps you know some Urdu, Spanish or Polish too.

There are so many languages in the world we couldn't hope to learn more than a few of them – but Jesus knows our language... He can speak everyone else's language too. His gospel can be translated into every possible dialect and tongue because, whatever words are used, that gospel is the same. It is for all people, everywhere. Jesus speaks to everyone in His own language.

## P - QUIZ

All the answers in this Bible quiz begin with the letter P - can you find them all?

1. Paul wrote to the people of this town.
2. The Roman Governor who washed his hands.
3. Where the last book in the Bible was written.
4. Short stories Jesus told.
5. Goliath was one.
6. What Amos and Hosea were.
7. To begin with he was called Saul.
8. The Egyptian ruler who argued with Moses.

⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘

**Where would you look for a lost vicar?**

The Bureau of Missing Parsons.

**What is wet, round, and taste of peppermint?**

Water Polo.

**What did the policeman say to the naughty frog?**

Hop it.



⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘

ANSWERS: 1.Philippi 2.Pontius Pilate  
3.Patmos 4.parables 5.Philistine  
6.prophets 7.Paul 8. Pharaoh

# Days of Note

## 2 Athanasius – the theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed

This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was twenty-nine years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325.

Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council's debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, three hundred bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is he the Son of God? Is he God or man or both together? Did he exist before he was born? If we worship him does that mean we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, *Athanasius contra mundum*, 'Athanasius against the world.'

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism. Of his many writings the most significant was his great study on the person and work of Christ; 'On the Incarnation of the Word of God', written before he was 30 years old. The whole Church of Christ is always in need of bishops, leaders and theologians in the mould of Athanasius.

## **9 Pachomius - the patron saint of administrators**

Have you ever worked for a disorganised organisation? You know the scene: your boss lives in a mild panic, your goals and deadlines keep being changed, your colleagues whisper darkly in corners, emails contradict each other, meetings lead to more confusion... and you go home each night with a headache.

And so it is that Pachomius should be the patron saint of administrators everywhere. For back in the 4th century, without a computer or even a mobile he managed to run eleven separate monasteries like clockwork.

Pachomius was born into a pagan family in Upper Egypt at the end of the third century, and as a youth conscripted into the army. On his release in 313 he became two things: a Christian and a hermit (probably craved some peace and quiet!). But Pachomius was no loner, and when other monks gradually sought him out, he did with them what he did best: he organised them. By 320 he had founded his first monastery.

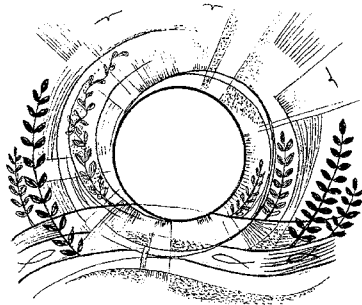
Pachomius seems to have had exceptional powers of administration, no doubt perfected by his years of disciplined army life. By the time of his death in 346, he presided over nine large monasteries for men and two for women. Each monastery was divided into houses, according to its craft, such as agriculture, tailoring or baking.

Pachomius knew how to delegate: each house had its own leader. He knew how to keep in touch: he held team leaders' meetings twice a year. Pachomius knew about supply chains: food and drink never ran out. Pachomius knew about marketing: he found buyers for their produce in Alexandria. Pachomius knew about delivering a vision: a daily pattern of work and prayer and sleep was set in place to make sure that the monks and nuns could devote themselves to God for hours each day in prayer, and in memorising the Psalms and other Bible passages.

Pachomius knew how to help people get things done. No wonder his Rule went on to influence that of Basil and Benedict. Certainly administration is listed by St Paul as a genuine gift of God, and prudence and clear forward planning are highly prized in the Proverbs.

# 10 Rogation Sunday

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather.



The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor

official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting.

In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

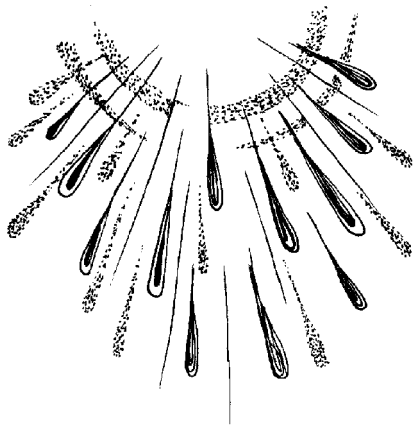
## 24 Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of First-fruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles – but He knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need His help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.



That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were bap-

tised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

### **Where to find St David's Church online**

#### **Website**

[www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](http://www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)

#### **Twitter**



@StDavids\_Exeter

#### **Facebook**



St David's Church Exeter

*If you have any photos or information you would like to share  
email it to [socialmedia@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](mailto:socialmedia@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)*

# Crossword solutions

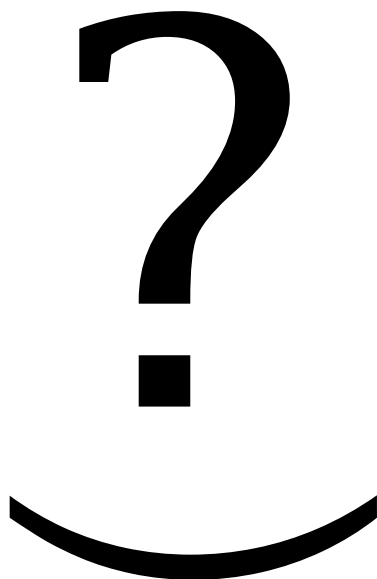
## May answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner.  
12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About.  
23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.

**DOWN:** 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli.  
7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter.  
20, Enact. 21, Balm.

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*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 17th May**

Many thanks.  
**Sarah Black**







**The deadline for inclusion of articles for the **June** issue of the parish magazine is Sunday 10th May 2015**

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

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)

**Please send digital files (Word docs are best) via email if at all possible.**

**Please make the subject header fit the content of the email preferably with 'New Leaves' included in the title - thanks!**



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