

From Dr Simon Harrison,
Chaplain at the Royal Devon
and Exeter Hospital

Will We Let The Story Touch Us Once More?

This year, we hear talk of a groundbreaking agreement being possible between eastern and western churches around fixing the date of Easter, possibly within ten years. We also hear in the news about 7 day a week standard NHS delivery, many firms planning to remove weekend allowances, and shops pressing for normal Sunday opening. There are some good sides to regularity, but all this flattening out of life seems just too dull, and very much more in the interest of finance and planning rather than people living ordinary lives. lives which are already pretty jam packed with the mundane, the routine and the scripted.

In my mind, Lent and Easter are meant to ‘break in’ to our everyday life. In Lent we study, we reflect, we think about our faith and what it means to us as an individual. With Easter we recall the crucifixion and resurrection and celebrate the Good News: we are forgiven people - set free to live our lives to the full, known by and loved by God. I really don’t care if this messes up school terms, in fact I enjoy being surprised by an ‘early’ or ‘late’ Easter. This annual pattern of celebration is an important way to learn and re-engage with our faith but it can only really teach us when it somehow challenges or surprises us.

What does it mean to me this year? If Easter has lost its challenge or its hope for us, then “Houston, we have a problem”. A brief change in

hymns and liturgy is neither here nor there- it is just a prompt to get ourselves back in line with God. I always try to embrace the idea of early believers using Lent as a time to prepare for 'entry' or 're-entry' into the church, a journey of honest self examination. In 2016, will I allow myself to be loved, to be forgiven? Will I be able to live with the consequences of accepting such love? In Baptism and Confirmation we say that we 'Turn to Christ', but it is the journey to Easter each year which enables us to once more face the challenge of living a life of faith.

Whatever our life may become, if we take up the Easter challenge our life will not be standard, flat or dull. It will be irregular, uncomfortable, at odds with many around us. Will we let the story touch us once more?



China Trek

I am joining China Trek in October to raise money for Hospiscare. If you would like to sponsor me please visit my Justgiving page. Thank you so much!

Sue Holden

Are You Sitting Comfortably?

The Story of John Wakley

I consider myself very fortunate as I am rarely required to sit in the pews at St David's. The straight back, the short seat and the hard wood make it a pretty uncomfortable experience. I think the designers may have been working on the basis that religious observance ought to be uncomfortable. Or maybe that going to sleep would be out of the question. So I give the congregation a lot of respect for perseverance. When we began to think about transforming the interior of St David's, one of the priorities was to ensure that people would be comfortable, at worship and at other events.

We have been very blessed to have the services of a highly skilled and experienced "ecclesiastical hardwood joiner". John Wakley, now in his eighties, grew up in Exeter. His mother was resident housekeeper to Dean Carpenter during the war years, so John and his sister Grace lived in The Deanery, the lovely old house overshadowed by the west face of the cathedral. They saw the bombing damage to the south side of the cathedral, less than a hundred yards from the house.

At the age of 15, on the recommendation of the Dean, John was apprenticed to Herbert Read, the firm of ecclesiastical joiners, who were based at Exeter Cathedral. John was so small at the time that his employer doubted whether he would be strong enough for the work. He was nicknamed "Winkle" due to his size. When Herbert Read felt the

boy's biceps, he knew he would be up to the job.

John took part in the restoration work that was badly needed after the war. The canopy over the Bishop's throne had been removed for safe keeping, and John was involved in restoring and rebuilding the beautiful and elaborate structure which you can still see in the Quire. John recalls, "Over a three month period I made 365 pins of various sizes to hold it together". As the apprentice, he was the only one who was not allowed to carve his initials high up in the restored canopy, when it was finished. The workshop was in the basement rooms under The Chapter House, and the joinery team worked by the light of one electric bulb.

Other Devon churches needed restoration, and war memorials were being built, so there was plenty of work. Slapton and other villages nearby had been evacuated while American troops were stationed in South Devon, practising for the D Day landings. They used one church building as a canteen. After the war medieval screens had to be repaired, woodwork restored, and damage mended. He recalled, "there was still shrapnel lying in a lot of the pews." There were no power tools then. John and his colleagues spent days cutting and shaping timber by hand. English oak has always been his favourite wood, ideal for the purpose, beautiful and durable.

John also worked repairing the font at Newcastle Cathedral, and made an oak-framed window for a war memorial at the National Cathedral in Washington DC. Maureen arranged a holiday on the East coast of the US so they could visit the cathedral in Washington. John was in tears when he saw his work in place in the magnificent building. He worked in a lot of Exeter churches, including St David's, where he built two

illuminated cabinets for stained glass from the old church. You can see them in the south transept of the church. In the late fifties John built his own house, a bungalow on Argyle Rd, and more recently did two years restoration work at the synagogue in the city.

Now John is turning his attention to our pews, (hence his title for this piece). Some months ago he constructed a prototype pew, half the size of the original, so that it can be moveable, with a higher back at a shallower angle and a longer seat. If you haven't already sat in it, do give it a try. Everyone to whom I have spoken says that it is remarkably comfortable.

John researched the best proportions by producing two models, which were tried out by numerous bottoms and backs. Yours may have been among them.

John will also be building the new kitchen for the north west corner of the church, where the bookshelves now are, in the area by the toilets, which is currently blocked by scaffolding. This will be matched by a similar structure on the other side, which can be used as a small meeting room. The timber for these structures will be taken from the cut-down pews.

We are very blessed to have the services of such a meticulous and skilful craftsman still giving us the benefit of his experience. You may see John at the Launch Party or working in the church. Please say hello and thank-you, and ask him about some of the amazing work he has done over the years.

Tom Honey

Transformation and repair update

After some 4 years of grant applications and investigations it is very good news that in February we will start the repair work on the west end of the church. In December 2015 we received the good news that HLF had agreed to our submission for the £198,000 to complete the delivery of the works we detailed in the discovery phase that they supported in 2015. The PCC agreed that we should sell the property at Wrefords Close and allocate the first £220,000 of any proceeds to the works. This combined with other grants from Pennon Environmental, Garfield Weston, Bernard Sunley, The Cooper Legacy and All Churches Trust gives us sufficient funds to perform the repairs and a good amount of the other parts of the transformation.

The initial repairs, performed by Corbel Construction, specialists in church building work, will last around 6 months and comprise

- Move the font to a temporary location, move the font cover forward to its new location and removal of the old floor
- drilling and casting of 42 concrete piles that anchor into the bedrock below the church, which lies at depths of 2 to 8 metres. Then casting a concrete ring inside and outside the building to link all the piles together
- drilling through the walls and inserting stainless steel beams to carry the weight of the walls on the new pile foundations. Then grout in the beams
- Cast a new concrete subfloor inside the church, replace the font about 2 metres forward of its old location, install insulation over the

floor and install a top floor including pipework for underfloor heating

- Cast a new concrete path outside the church to cover the piles and beams. This will provide the base for a new path all around the church
- repair the damage to the arches and repoint all the cracks in the stonework. This will include placing stainless steel reinforcement
- Put new plastic membrane over the failing asphalt roof at the balcony and top level of the west end
- replace the decaying cedar shingles and failing lead on the spires
- restore the wood and tile covering
- restore the toilets with a new entry from the west end vestibule

During these works we will also arrange for a new gas supply for the heating to be installed and repair the stained glass windows that have cracked with the movement of the building.

At the end of this first phase we will have a stable building and no longer have to catch the water cascading in to the west entrance during heavy rains. However we still have a number of other parts of the transformation part of the project still to do before we complete our overall vision. These comprise

- Build the new kitchen and meeting rooms in the north and south arches on the foundations provided by the builders. We have the funds for this and will be reusing some of the wood released by remodelling the pews.
- Remodel the pews to shorter, and moveable benches. This will be done in two steps for cost and time reasons. See the article ‘are you sitting comfortably’ for more details

- Install new heating to replace the noisy and rather ineffective radiant fires we now have. We will run the tender for this during the repair works and hope to do the work in late 2016.
- Improve the lighting with LED bulbs in the existing nave and chancel lights and replace the spot lights with better LED versions.
- Replace the fixed dais with a moveable stage to allow more flexible use of the nave to suit both concerts and plays.
- Augment the shortened pews with chairs to return the capacity of the nave to the 350 dictated by the fire limit.
- Replace the rather unappealing tarmac paths with a better material and reshape the north path to allow wheel chair access right from the pavement into the church. This will include lighting and signage.

While we have enough funds to do the repairs and some of the other parts we still need to raise more funds to complete the whole vision and deliver the warm, open, welcoming space that we envisaged at the parish consultation day. We are still applying for more grants for the parts not yet started.

Dave Allin

Project leader

Are you sitting comfortably? Appeal

The pews in St. David's are regarded by Historic England and all the other involved conservation bodies as the very highest quality work and of great significance. Sadly they are also very large and very uncomfortable for anything more than a very short sermon. Happily everyone involved has agreed that we should keep the most important feature of the pews, the carved ends, while changing the key problems of length and comfort. We are very fortunate that John Wakely, who helped restore Exeter cathedral after the war, has shown us how to adapt each pew to create a comfortable and moveable four seat bench. This will allow us to arrange the nave in a number of ways from formal ranks of pews to quite informal settings with a large open area.

However the work involved in remodelling all 36 pews is considerable, in the order of £30,000 and will take around a year. As we are going to use the released material from the pews for the kitchen and meeting rooms, which we need to build as soon as the repairs are complete, we will do the work in two steps. First the fairly quick job of shortening the pews to the new lengths and then the much more complex job of remodelling.

As we are short of funds for the overall project we are looking for anyone who is willing to sponsor a remodelled pew.

March from St Michael's

This piece, as sent to the magazine editors, has the heading 'March from St Michael's', which sounds like an instruction or a description of an event. It's odd how our language depends on context and an assumption of like-minded understanding to convey meaning; learning the language from scratch must have many pit-falls, with what are known as 'false friends', words sounding like others and meaning quite the opposite. They occur for foreigners learning French or Spanish, too. Jokes depend on deliberate misunderstandings, similar sounding words or puns, most of which lose the humour in translation. This is true of other languages as well; jokes in French are never really very funny in English. Of course, language changes and grows, developing new words for new situations. Latin scholars in the Vatican create new words in Latin to keep up with progress in the world. In American English, the word 'dude' used to be derogatory and was used dismissively; nowadays, you may see the word as a hanger in a car, explaining that there is a small boy as a passenger, implying that the child is a wonderful creature, 'dude' now meaning a very special person.

Fashions in bringing up children change, too, perhaps more rapidly with access to guidebooks rather than family wisdom; some parents are afraid to challenge their children who seem to be able to persuade their parents to do exactly what the child wants. Some might even call it bullying, the parents afraid that their children will turn against them with a vengeance. This is not the place for a treatise on child psychology,

and these are only sketchy comments. What set me musing about this was the hymn we sang at Candlemas recently, (188 in The New English Hymnal) which asked that Our Lady's prayers might help our homes to be blessed, and

‘That the children all be prospered,
Strong and fair and pure within,
Following our Lord's own footsteps,
Firm in faith and free from sin.’

I wonder how we should be ‘prospering’ our children; I don't think the V.S. Stuckey Coles had material wealth only in mind. Safe, secure, loving homes where children feel that they are protected and respected as they grow may be part of that prosperity. Physical and spiritual well-being are intrinsic to healthy growing as well.

Sunday nights see me watching ‘Call the Midwife’, which has been dismissed by some as slushy comfort viewing; not so, with the harrowing storyline involving the thalidomide scandal. The contrast between Sister Julianne and the brisk hospital midwife in a recent episode showed clearly the compassion and gentleness of the nuns in their dealings with women giving birth to babies with the tragic results of a drug not yet identified as the cause of the deformities.

Some of the things that happen to children when they are supposed to be in the care of responsible adults are too terrifying to think about; some would wish to cover up these events and this may have been successfully done in the past, but now there is much greater openness about child abuse. There seems to be a nasty interest only in sexual abuse, accusing the suspected adults of being perverts, but some children are subject to horrendous psychological and physical abuse as well. We all remember cases where children have died as a result of neglect or

cruelty. It was to protect children from such events that The Children Act came into being in 1989. Whilst I was planning this piece, a friend lent me Ian McEwan's novel 'The Children Act'; I am finding it quite a demanding read. It deals with life and death issues, as well as bitter family wrangles, over which the courts have jurisdiction if the parents cannot agree or if they come into conflict with other services, as in the main storyline in the novel, the medical services wishing to transfuse a highly articulate and intelligent seventeen year old who has leukaemia. He and his parents are devout Jehovah's Witnesses and are standing by their faith to refuse transfusion. Mrs Justice Maye must take all parties' views into account. McEwan vividly describes her anguish in coming to a decision.

We are moving to Mothering Sunday when we shall recognise the role of our spiritual Mother, the Church, in our upbringing. Let us hope that we are able to recognise the benefits of the spiritual prospering that we are offered regularly at the Eucharist and that we participate in the four Eucharistic actions, of being taken out of the everyday lives we lead, blessed richly by God, broken apart again to go out to share the joy that is ours in obeying Our Lord's instruction to do this in memory of Him, as was established at the Last Supper He shared with the disciples. When Moses had encounters with God, his face glowed so much that he had to veil it before he met with the Israelites; does our demeanour suggest that we have spent time with God? Would anybody know?

We wish you all a Happy Easter; it is my hope that it will not be on a fixed date in the future. That is a topic for lengthier examination and discussion.

Stephanie Aplin

ST MICHAEL'S LECTURES 2016

7.30pm Weds 24th Feb
**Christ and Mental Illness:
Confronting Saneism in
Society with a Crown of
Thorns**

Br Michael Jerome

7.30pm Weds 16th Mar
**What could the Aftermath of
the Anglican Primates'
Gathering mean for the
Future of the Anglican
Communion?**

The Reverend Dr
Barry Norris

7.30pm Weds 27th Apr
**Should the Church be
involved in the Health
of our Communities?**

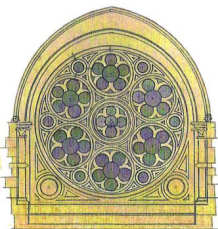
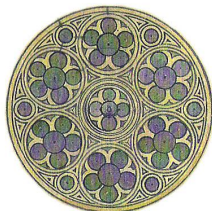
The Right Reverend Dame
Sarah Mullally

JOHN THURMER MEMORIAL LECTURE

7.30pm Friday 27th May
**A Short History of England's
Cathedrals**

Professor Nicholas Orme

**A warm welcome is
extended to everyone
wishing to attend our
FREE public lectures
Questions from the
floor and light
refreshments.**



7.30pm Weds 22nd Jun
TBC

7.30pm Weds 20th July
**Eastern Orthodoxy, the 'Great
and Holy Council,' and the
Challenge of Religious
Plurality**

Dr Brandon Gallagher

7.30pm Weds 28th September
**Ethnicity, Race and
Religion in early
Christian and Jewish
Texts and Modern
Biblical Scholarship:
Critical Reflections on
the Christian West**
Professor David Horrell

7.30pm Weds 26th October
**Deliverance Ministry
(Exorcism) in the Church of
England**
(The Revd Fr) John Underhill

7.30pm Weds 30th November
Theology and Vegetarianism
Dr Matthew Barton

**Lectures are held at
St Michael's Church
Mount Dinham
Dinham Road
EXETER
EX4 4EB**

stmichaelslectures@outlook.com
www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

St David's Eucharist March		
March 06: Mothering Sunday <i>Family Service</i>		
Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	~	
Time of prayer		
<i>No Junior Church:</i>		
March 13 : Lent 5		
Reading 1	Isaiah 43: 16-21	Jan Earle
Reading 2	Philippians 3: 4b-14	Keith Postlethwaite
Gospel	John 12: 1-8	
Time of prayer		Alistair Macintosh
Junior Church:		
March 20 : Palm Sunday		
Reading 1	Isaiah 50: 4-9a	Gina Redman
Reading 2	Philippians 2: 5-11	Dilys Thorp
Gospel	The Passion according to Luke	
Time of prayer		Carol Burrows
Junior Church:		
March 27 : Easter Sunday		
Reading 1	Isaiah 65: 17-19, 24-25	Karen Facey
Reading 2	Acts 10: 34-43	Philip Walker
Gospel	Luke 24: 1-12	
Time of prayer		Eucharist/Baptism
Junior Church:		
April 03 : Easter 2		
Reading 1	Acts 5: 27-32	Mary Kirkland
Reading 2	Revelation 1: 4-8	Catherine Matlock
Gospel	John 20: 19-31	
Time of prayer		Helena Walker
Junior Church:		

Nathan's Story

Meet Nathan. He used to live at YMCA Exeter and has taken the time to share with us his story.



Nathan moved out of his family home at the age of 20. During his teenage years he frequently fell out with his parents and suffered with a variety of mental health struggles.

Nathan honestly admits how, "For six and a half months after being kicked out, I slept in a tent on the old Exmouth football fields. Living there was my only option and I had to deal with it on my own. Life wasn't too bad when people were around me but I think too much when I'm alone and living in the tent only made my mental health go downhill even more".

At this point in his life, Nathan had no idea about what his future would hold but after moving in to YMCA Exeter at 21, he had the chance to start his life again.

Nathan began attending our Community Job Clubs where he was able to develop his skills and C.V. He also immersed himself into the social life of YMCA, playing in regular football groups as well as going on fishing trips.

For Nathan, YMCA Exeter was the place where he felt valued, cared for and believed in.

“I get so much support from YMCA and I don’t know where I would be without them. They listened to what I wanted to do and helped me to achieve my goals and further myself. Through a grant, I was able to get on a coaching programme with the FA and I’m now qualified to coach football to juniors.”

Nathan only lived at YMCA Exeter for one year before moving on into more independent accommodation as well as beginning his first full time job. He is now enjoying all the responsibilities that these things bring.

You can support more young people like Nathan who are committed to turning their lives around by taking part in Sleep Easy on Saturday 12th March. Our Annual Sleep Out is your opportunity to stand alongside our young people and bring them the hope they never once had.

Sign up at www.sleepeasyexeter.org.uk to join in!

Hospiscare Swimathon

Saturday 19th March

Middlemoor Police HQ Swimming Pool

What is a swimathon?

Swimmers seek sponsorship and take part in a team to raise money for Hospiscare. Each team will swim for 55 minutes in one lane with only one person swimming at once, usually one length at a time and only for as many lengths as they can manage.

Teams will consist of a minimum of five people and all swimmers must be competent in water to a depth of two metres. Having decided to enter a team the next step is to contact Hospiscare on 01392 688020 to request an application form which will be sent by email. There is an entry fee of £20 per team and that can be paid by cheque or over the phone.

On the day each team will swim for 55 minutes with start times from 9am till 1pm. Teams may organise their relay of swimmers in whatever way they think fit. It's not a race, it's a fun event.

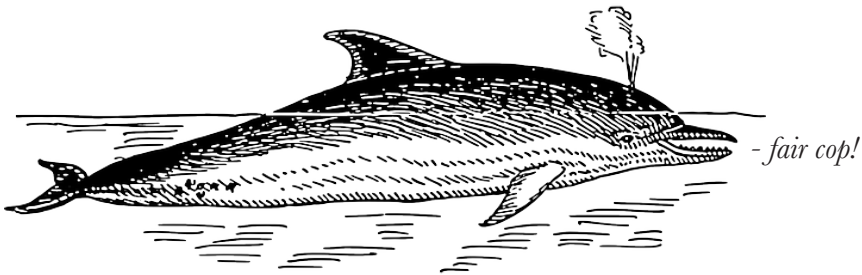
All money raised will go to Hospiscare, a local charity providing professional care for patients with life threatening illnesses and their families. All sponsorship will be registered on Swimathon sponsorship forms available when you sign on.

The important thing is to get as much sponsorship as possible and if St David's with St Michael's were able to put in a team then it is pretty certain that members of the congregation would sponsor them generously!

Please think about this if you are a swimmer and if you would like to ask any questions or find out more about the event please speak to Paula Lawford either in St David's or by email at paula@jlawford.co.uk or on 01392 214025

Thank you

- Oi! you a swimmer?



Urafiki: supporting children and older people in a community in Kenya

‘Urafiki’ is a small Exeter-based charity that has supported a specific community in Kenya (Yala) since 1999 and I have been a trustee of the charity for some years now. As in much of Africa there is great poverty, hunger, and vulnerability to disease. But by working closely with one community and building up a team of helpers there, the charity has made a real and substantial difference to the lives of the people there. A key part of the programme has been enabling children to go to secondary school – all children have to pay fees - and so helping them to help themselves and their families to a better future. The charity is currently supporting over 200 children in this way, but there are nearly 20 this year still unable to go to school because they have no money. Regular sponsorship of £20 a month pays the fees for a child and gives them a simple meal each day. If you felt you could make this commitment, it would make a real and substantial difference to the life of the child you helped. One such child is Daniel Ngaira who is 14 and living with his mother and six siblings. The father died some years ago so going to school is out of the question without your help. Each child keeps in regular contact with the charity and with his or her sponsor so you can see the progress for yourself. The children also contribute in various ways to the community from which they come.

Do have a look at the 'Urafiki' website www.urafiki.org.uk and find out more about its work and the people we are supporting, including older people. If you would like to help Daniel or discuss it with me I am happy to say more about the charity, which also organises fund-raising social events here in Exeter.

You can also sponsor directly through the website. All the money raised goes directly to the charity with no overheads; and every pound sent is closely monitored by the organisers.

Do get in touch if you would like to explore this further.

Chris Gill c.j.gill@exeter.ac.uk 01392 257 563

or

Mari Davis maridavis@me.com 07595 665 253

Music & Events at St Michael's – March 2016

With Easter so early this year, in the West at least, every Sunday is a named one this month – Mothering, Passion, Palm & Easter. Please join with us to share in our Lord Jesus' Passion and celebrate His Resurrection.

The Music List for March to May will be online by the time you read this, via the usual Website links; Holy Week music is given below.

Sunday 28 February, Lent 3, 10.45am. We sing the full Merbecke from his Praier Booke Noted of 1550, and Panis Angelicus arranged by our own Dr Nigel Browne.

Sun 28 Feb, in Exeter Cathedral at 6pm, take the opportunity to hear Exeter Bach Society's liturgical performance of Bach Cantata 41 – Jesu, nun sei gepreiset (Jesus, now be praised),

Tuesday 1 March at 6pm, CBS Mass at St Michael's Mount Dinham with plainsong & hymns for St David's Day. This is followed at 7pm up at St David's Church by the Launch Event for their HLF sponsored Repair and Transformation Project to which all are welcome.

Plainsong Vespers and Meditation take place at 6pm on other Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout, and Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 6pm on Wednesdays 2, 9, & 16 March. Low Mass is said on Wednesdays at 10am, preceded by Morning Prayer.

Sunday 6 March, Lent 4 is **Laetare** or **Mothering Sunday** using our Rose Vestments, 10.45am. All welcome; posies will be blessed & presented.

Sun 6 March at 6pm, this **Choral Evensong & Benediction** falls right in the middle of Lent and will feature music suitable to the Season. Singers who enjoy a good Choral Evensong are welcome to join us at 4.45pm to rehearse the music.

Sunday 13 March, Passion Sunday when the Crosses and Statues are covered. 10.45am Sung Mass. “Missa Brevis” by Lotti; “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” by Ogden.

Wednesday 16 March at 7.30pm. St Michael’s Lecture. Revd Dr Barry Norris, “Reflecting on the 2016 Primates Gathering: What does it mean for Anglicanism?” All welcome.

Saturday 19 March at 7.30pm, Exeter University Singers give a Concert of a cappella music. Their programme of ‘Songs from the British Isles’ will include pieces by Parry, Elgar, Byrd and others. Admission £5 non-students, £3 students.

Sunday 20 March, Palm Sunday, 10.30am (N.B. earlier start). Sung Mass with Procession of Palms. Sung Passion Gospel. Darke in F; “When I survey the wondrous Cross” by Wilby.

Wed 23 March at 6pm, Spy Wednesday when Judas arranged to betray Jesus. The traditional 14 Stations of the Cross are prayed along with the singing of the devotional poem Stabat Mater Dolorosa to music by Charpentier.

Maundy Thursday, 24 March, Sung Mass at 7.30pm. We remember Jesus and his Disciples in the Upper Room, the Foot-washing, how the Last Supper became the First Holy Communion, the words of Jesus

to his followers, and the Betrayal. Wood in F; Ubi caritas, Meallor; God so loved the world, Stainer.

At the end of the service the High Altar is stripped, and you may wish to watch at the Altar of Repose for part of the all night Vigil.

Friday 25 March, Good Friday 10.30am Good Friday Liturgy.

Reproaches, by Upton. Veneration of the Cross. Crux Fidelis, attr. King John IV of Portugal.

Good Friday, 8pm Tenebrae. An ancient service sung in Latin and English from the West Gallery to plainsong and polyphony by Lassus (1532-1594) and Palestrina (1525-1594). This profound and beautiful service takes us into the depths of Christ's sufferings through Scripture and Music, ending in darkness and silence to symbolise Jesus' descent to the dead.

Saturday 26 March, Holy Saturday 8pm – The Easter Vigil then brings us back from darkness into holy brightness. We kindle the New Light, prepare and bless the Paschal Candles for both St Michael's and St David's, hear the Exsultet, the proclamation of Christ's Resurrection, and renew our Baptismal Vows. Stanford in C&F; Out of the Stillness, Shephard.

Easter Sunday, 27 March at 10.45am (N.B. Clocks will have gone forward 1 hour overnight!), Festal Sung Mass and Blessing of the Easter Garden. Introit - Sing out this Eastertide, Keitch; Mass in G, Schubert; Haec Dies, Byrd.

St Michael's wishes you a Happy and Blessed Easter. Christ is Risen; He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In case you were wondering, the intricacies of Julian & Gregorian Calendars and Paschal Moons mean that Orthodox Easter is on 1st May

this year, a full 5 weeks after the West.

Sunday 3 Aril, Low Sunday, 10.45am. Sung Mass, and maybe an Easter Bonnet parade afterwards.

Sunday 3 April at 6pm – Choral Evensong & Benediction. Canticles: Stanford in C. Anthem: S S Wesley ‘Blessed be the God and Father’.

Monday 4 April please come to the Feast of the Annunciation transferred from Holy Week. Sung Mass at 7.30pm.

And finally, our nest box camera should be back online on the Peregrine page of the website at the beginning of March, hoping for egg laying around the Spring equinox.

Richard Barnes



Parish Socials 2016

Sign up sheets will be available in church - all are welcome!

Great walk on Sunday 7th February, we didn't get soaked!



Hope you can join
us for one of our
other events!

<u>Tuesday 1st March</u>	On St David's Day - Transformation Launch Party 7pm - 8.30pm Drinks and Light Refreshments
<u>Sunday 3rd April</u> after 9.30 service <u>City Wall Treasure Trails Walk</u>	Exeter based walk 2-3 hours stopping for lunch http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk/devon/things-to-do-in-Exeter_City_Wall.html
<u>Sunday 8th May</u> after 9.30 service <u>Go Ape</u>	Fun in the Trees at Haldon Forest http://goape.co.uk/days-out/haldon Lunch at the cafe
<u>Friday 1st July - evening</u> <u>Kayaking</u>	Exeter Quay
<u>Saturday 5th August</u> <u>Beach Games and BBQ - evening</u>	Budleigh Beach
<u>Greenbelt 26th - 29th August</u>	https://www.greenbelt.org.uk/boxoffice/

Hello everyone

We do hope you enjoyed our event at Pasha
Turkish restaurant in January.

Some of you certainly threw yourselves into the
belly dancing which was so entertaining.
Thanks to Kathy and The Turkish Delights for
their dancing.

Our next event is on:

Wednesday April 27th from 6-9pm

- an earlier start so those of you who work
can come straight, to save you having to 'hang
around' in town.

It will be at St Thomas's Church Hall
- parking is available at the hall.

Tickets £9 will be available after Easter.

Friends are very welcome.

Please pass this information on to anyone you know who enjoys our
events, but does not have the internet, or send us their e mail address.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you

Mary Ann Helena Emma Mollie

The Prayer Book Society

As Secretary of the Exeter Branch of The Prayer Book Society, I was approached by a member of St Michael's who indicated that St Michael's might contemplate becoming a corporate member of the Society and consequently I was asked to do a write up regarding the Society for "New Leaves" and the reasons for joining.

The main reason for becoming a Corporate Member of the PBS is that your church wants to lend it's moral and financial support to the work of the PBS and to be identified with it.

a) The PBS seeks to spread knowledge of the Book of Common Prayer, and to promote it for worship and doctrine.

b) To encourage the use of the BCP for the training of clergy and ordinands at Theological Colleges and other similar institutions also at schools and colleges and for the training of candidates for Confirmation.

c) Spreading knowledge of the BCP and the doctrine contained therein.

d) Ensuring that the Society's views are effectively represented in synods and councils and among the clergy and laity at large.

As a Corporate Member, your church will receive the following benefits:-

a) You will be sent 3 copies of the Society's regular publications, the PBS Journal and Faith & Worship, for distribution within your church.

b) You will receive invitations to national and local events which may be of interest to members of your church.

c) Your church will have the right to nominate a representative with full voting rights at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

The suggested annual Subscription is £50.00 but the Society does not

have a fixed minimum subscription. It values your support and welcomes membership paying a lesser subscription as they feel able.

The suggested annual Subscription for an individual or household is £28.00. but again, is flexible.

I hope this information will prove fruitful.

Esme Heath

Singers

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

Join the singers to hear 'Songs from the British Isles' including pieces by Parry, Elgar, Byrd and many more!

On Saturday 19th March 7.30pm at St Michael and All Angels Church

Tickets £5 non-students, £3 students

We would love to see you there!





ANNUAL REVISION OF THE PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

Revision of the parish electoral roll will begin on Sunday 20th March and end on Sunday 3rd April 2016.

In order to be entitled to attend the annual parochial church meeting on Wednesday 20th April 2016, 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 Philippa Keitch 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 PHILIPPA 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



*“Is it nothing to you who pass by?
Behold and see if there is any sorrow like unto
my Sorrow.”*

The Man Born to be King

by
Dorothy L. Sayers

The Passion Story

From the Last Supper to the Garden Tomb

These Plays were written for the Radio in 1942 and have not lost their impact. With the aid of music specially composed by Nigel Walsh we will present the story of Christ's suffering. We are led by Sarah Hales who many people will know as the leader of the “Words for Voices” team who give such spectacular readings every Christmas. We aim to present the message of Jesus the Saviour in a fresh and compelling way.

Tuesday 15th March at 7.30pm at Holy Trinity, Exmouth

Friday 18th March at 7.30pm at St Stephen's, Exeter

Sunday 20th March at 6.00pm at St Andrew's Kenn

Admission Free. Come early to get a seat

Enquiries 01392 833 485

Exeter Central Library

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

Please use this link for more information

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

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

Woolly Wonders Knitting Group

Date: Every month - Tuesdays

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

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

Audience: Everyone welcome

Cost: Free

Bookings: Drop in - no need to book

.....

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

.....

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

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.

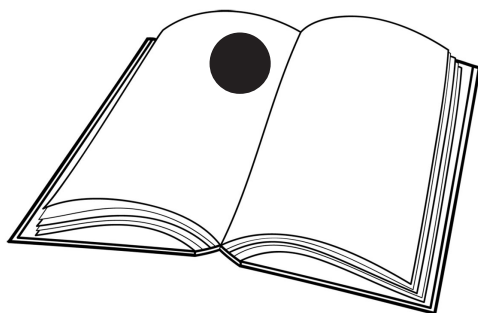
Go on -be brave! All you need to do is to include the author, composer or performer and a short piece about it and why you enjoyed it.

Books, CDs DVDs Films.

?

?

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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.

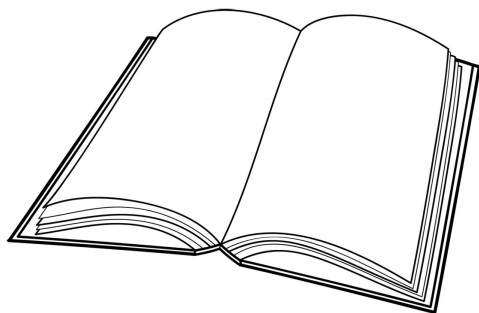
After discussing with the clients the sort of books they like, (eg romantic fiction, travel books, particular authors), WRVS volunteers choose books for their clients which they deliver to them from once a fortnight to once every six weeks, depending on the needs of the client, at a mutually convenient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



Bright Field

I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying

on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

R.S. Thomas (1939-2013)

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:- 07872626168 if you need to leave donated goods



The Angel Tree 2015

Thanks to your generosity and commitment we were once again able to run a very successful programme, our 12th year of running the scheme in Exeter Prison.

There is an enthusiastic team of volunteers who source, buy and wrap the presents. We mainly used Thomas Moore in Fore Street. The Christian Books which are given with each Christmas Present were purchased from Bridge Books.

Applications from prisoners are received during October, November and early December for a wide age range of children and young people.

We use the same Post Office each year and the staff there go out of their way to deal with the batches of parcels. This year one gift - a cuddly and rather noisy rabbit was thoughtfully re packaged by the post master so that it did not make a noise in transit. Had this not been done there was a risk that it might have been rejected as a suspect package.

This year as we had small surplus of money donated, it has been gifted to Prison Fellowship Mothering Sunday Angel Tree scheme. This scheme enables young offenders to send a card and gift to their mother on Mothering Sunday.

There are 160,000 children in England and Wales with a parent in prison. This is two and a half times the number of those in care and over six times the number of those on the Child Protection Register.

The Angel Tree gives an opportunity for children to see that their fathers are thinking of them at Christmas and so helps to maintain and promote family relationships between parent and children. Prison

Fellowship members feel called to respond to Christ's love through their witness and The Angel Tree is a wonderful outworking of God's love.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity to this excellent local and national charity.





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
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



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.**

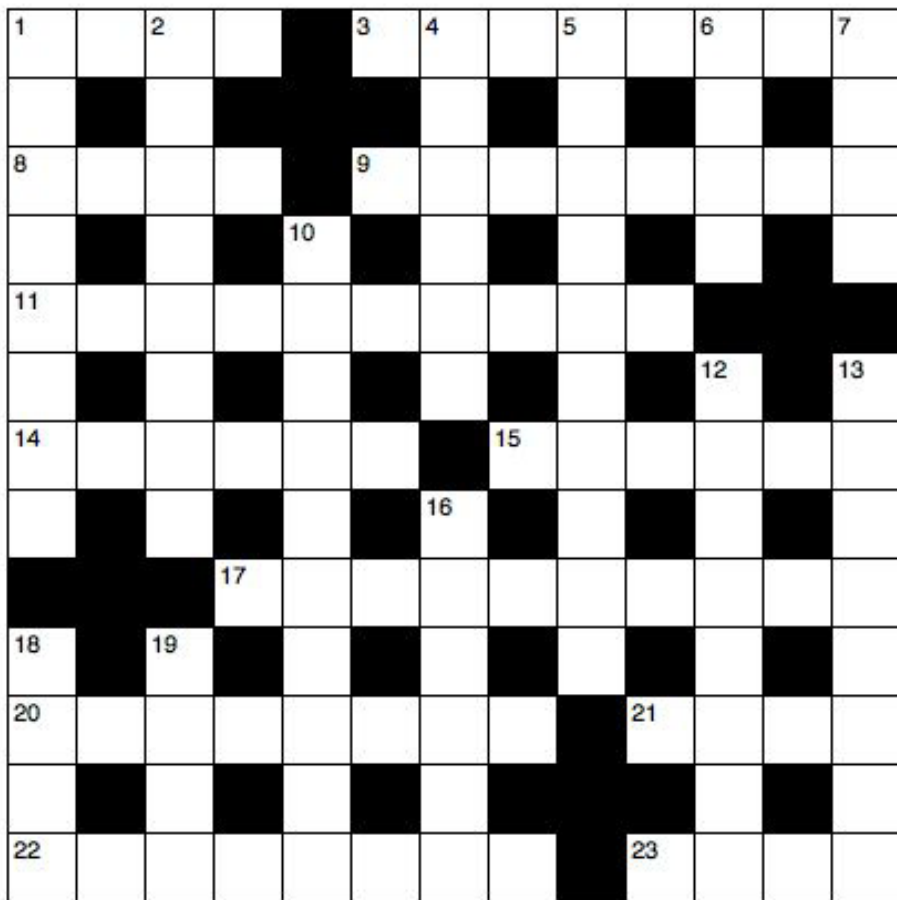
"St Sidwell's is a good school where teaching is good and pupils' achievement is high"

"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."

March crossword



Across:

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)

17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)

20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)

21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)

23 Eye sore (4)

Down:

1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)

2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)

4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)

5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)

6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)

7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)

10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)

12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)

13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)

16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)

18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)

19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

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

St. David's Parent and Toddler group

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

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

We charge £1 per child plus 50p for a sibling and this funds the cost of our art and craft resources, snacks, milk and Christmas party. We usually have ten to twelve children in the age range from new born up to four. There is a rota of helpers; Barbara, Freya, Julia and myself, who are all CRB checked.

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

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

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

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

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

They are welcome to pop in any Thursday.

Contact:
toddlers@stdavidschurhexeter.or
or ring Julia on 07729 068 567

Sam Wellbelove



Dates of Note

1 St David's Day – time for daffodils

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

4 **Casimir** - godly king of Poland

Casimir is a good patron saint for anyone whose father drives them crazy. He did not let an unhappy background stop him from becoming the person he wanted to be. Casimir's father, the King of Poland back in 1458, was no picnic as a dad.

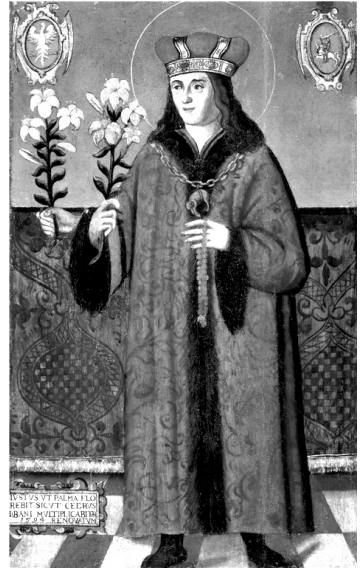
For if you think your teens were difficult, consider this: when Casimir was only 13, in 1471, his father decided to send him to war. He put him in charge of a large army, aimed at fighting on the Hungarian border.

At 13, this was hardly easy, but worse was to come. Casimir's father had not bothered to pay the troops. So soon young Casimir faced a crisis: his soldiers, quite reasonably, were reluctant to fight Hungarians when they were not even being fed. The troops deserted, and Casimir had a difficult time surviving the journey home.

Then his father, far from welcoming his son's safe return, put all the blame of the lost army on Casimir. He banished his son to the castle of Dobzki. Instead of being crushed by this, Casimir used the time to think, and he grew up fast. Next time his father summoned him, he found a determined young man who had seized control of his own life. Casimir flatly refused to fight again against any Christian country, and he refused to marry a daughter of Emperor Frederick III. Casimir had decided he would prefer a life of celibacy, devotion to God, and austerity, and he stuck to his decision.

When Casimir became king in 1481, he ruled over much of Poland for three years. In stark contrast to his father, he was loved for his justice,

prudence and firmness. He died in 1484 of tuberculosis at the age of only 26, and was buried at Vilna. But his good deeds lived after him, and he was canonized by Leo X in 1521.



12 Zeno of Verona - the more things change....

Zeno of Verona (d. 371) should be the patron saint of all ministers who suspect that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

For instance: ethnic diversity...church-planting... teaching.... concern for the poor... women's ministry in the church... sound like modern-day Christian concerns? Not a bit of it – this was the life work of Zeno, bishop of Verona in the fourth century.

Ethnic diversity? Zeno was an African who had been consecrated a bishop in Italian Verona. Church-planting and teaching? Zeno had a reputation as a hard-working pastor and dedicated preacher who found-

ed churches throughout his domain. Some of his sermons still survive.

Concern for the poor? Zeno was zealous in alms-giving, and encouraged others to do the same. Women's ministry? He founded nunneries and encouraged virgins living at home to be consecrated long before ever Ambrose did the same in Milan.

As for down-time? Zeno may well have been addicted to fishing in his spare time – he is, after all, usually represented with a fish. Nothing wrong with that: the links between fishermen and Christian leaders go back a long way!

23 St George of the Golden Legend

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

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

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon

had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

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

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

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



Holy Week

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on 20th March this year.

Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with the disciples, what we now call the Last Supper. The Latin words are ‘*Ma-datum novum da vobis*’ – a new commandment I give you’. Do you know what that commandment is? You can read the whole account in St John’s Gospel, chapter 13.

Then comes Good Friday - a lot of people can’t see why a day that commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called

‘good’. It was a black day but Christians know that without what happened that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter Day, no glorious Resurrection.

HOT CROSS BUNS

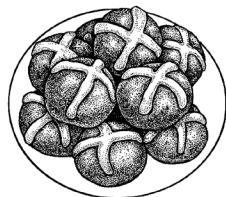
One of the pleasures of Easter is eating hot cross buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme...

*Hot Cross Buns,
Hot Cross Buns,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.*

If you have some time to spare, see how many words you can make from the letters in the words

HOT CROSS BUNS

Words of at least 3 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.

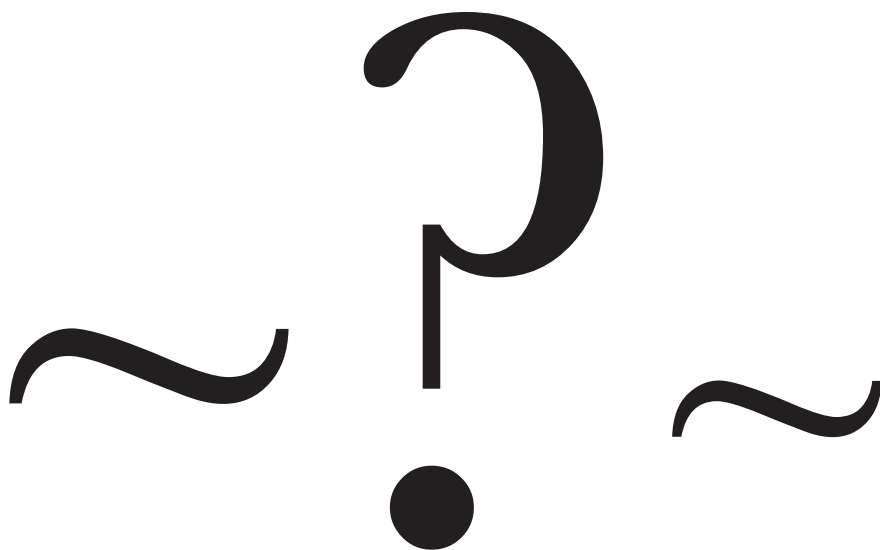


Crossword solutions

March answers

ACROSS: 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Styx.

DOWN: 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18,





**The deadline for inclusion of articles for
the **April** issue of New Leaves is
Sunday March 13th 2016**

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

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

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

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

