



WELCOME



To all Readers of “New Leaves”, the
magazine for the Parish of St David’s with St.
Michael and All Angels.

The Parish extends a warm welcome to all visiting clergy during the
interregnum

**The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate
articles which reflect Church, Parish or Community interest**

**Please send as Word documents to:
newleavesnews@gmail.com**

Please note that all articles will be printed with the author’s name

Enjoy this month’s read.
We will welcome critical comments on the magazine

Editorial Team: Bill Pattinson and Richard Barnes supported by
Sue Holden, Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

New Leaves

March 2017

Detoxifying Mission

Following one of my regular curate training days last month, on this occasion with Bishop Sarah exploring 'Mission in Context', I was moved to write this article...

When I hear the word 'Mission', my heart sinks. If your heart does too, then reflect with me a while about why that might be so. Perhaps mission conjures up difficult lessons from history about hard-line protestant Evangelism to peoples of the British Empire? Perhaps mission suggests too much hard work, taking unreasonable risks, or making one overly vulnerable to change or harm? Does mission seem irrelevant because it cannot be measured? Or does mission just seem sooo embarrassing?!

Whatever Mission is, it should be normative for all Christians: normal in the sense of your everyday relationship with God outworking in your normal life. The outworking of your faith relationships may be quite different compared to other Christians. Here I have listed seven possible understandings of mission: which do you feel is your preference?

Serving : if you undertake acts of sacrificial service for others - excellent, but if you never accept help, your witness to God in Jesus will be unconvincing.

Invitational : if you are embarrassed about the quality of worship or welcome at church, you will be inhibited from inviting friends and strangers. What might be done to improve welcome and worship to free your invitational spirit?

Interpersonal : if you have a natural gift for conversation and

humour, for putting people at ease, remember to engage people in bad times as well as in good.

Testimonial : if you have the gentle gift of sharing your own experiences of God, and have noticed Him at work in the lives of other people, be bold and share your faith with humility.

Intellectual : if you have a thoughtful faith, put yourself in the way of ethical and moral debates, talk about faith and politics in the pub, challenge assumed meanings of scripture with robust sensitivity.

Confrontational : if you feel anger at injustice, do not be easily consoled. Like the prophets, maybe protest against dehumanising practices in society to promote the reformation of the world?

We are all capable of all these types of mission. At present, your relationship with God may be best outworked in one way. However as your relationships with other people develop, so will your faith relationship with God, and hence so will the breath of the outworking of your faith. With ongoing mature prayer and formational reflection in community, each of us will grow in confidence. We shall become able to outwork our faith according not to our preferences, but to the needs of others and to the will of God.

When I hear the word 'Mission', my heart sinks. But perhaps not quite as much as it used to. Maybe we can detoxify mission together.

Rev./Fr. Christopher

January 18 2017

The Holy Land – Following in the footsteps of Jesus 2018

Next April you have the chance to join a group on a journey of discovery to the Holy Land. Prebendary Alastair Wheeler is leading the group assisted by Revd Christopher Durrant - come and join us, and see your faith, and our world, with new insight.

There will be a special evening about the Holy Land and the Pilgrimage on Monday 20th March at 7.30pm in the Parish Rooms at St David's with pictures, explanations and refreshments.

From 16th – 26th April 2018 a group of up to 35 people will share in experiencing some of the places where God has worked for the benefit of all humankind. This offers a special opportunity to anchor your understanding of Jesus and the Bible in the layout and geography of the land we call Holy.

This is a small area of the world, combining three faiths, with all their sub divisions and denominations, and two ethnicities with their overlapping hopes and histories.

We will be grounding the events and incidents from Jesus' life and ministry, whilst also experiencing just a little of the hopes and fears of those who live in the present, especially our Christian brothers and sisters.

Alastair writes: 'It's not a holiday – but we hope it will be hugely enjoyable, stimulating, thought and prayer provoking as you look back and reflect. Many people have told me how, ever afterwards, they hear the Bible stories with new understanding, and even experience God in new ways.

This will be my sixth group experience of Israel and Palestine from an inclusive Christian perspective. I'm going to be sharing in leadership with your Curate, Revd Christopher Durrant (my son-in law, on his third visit).

And I am excited to be working again with one of the best and most experienced Christian Palestinian guides around, and arranging it all through Lightline Pilgrimages, whom I know and trust, and who are the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem's preferred partners.'

If you would like to know more, detailed brochures are available from Christopher or in church, and Alastair will be visiting Morning services at St David's and St Michael's on Sunday 12th March to answer questions.

And do come along to the evening on Monday 20th March at 7.30 to find out more.

We look forward to welcoming you on this moving journey.

Alastair & Christopher



Act of Collective Worship for St David's C. Of E. Primary School

I well remember when Circular 1/94 was published with that controversial statement:

"All maintained schools must provide religious education and daily collective worship for all registered pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development."

This was no easy matter. To make matters even more challenging for headteachers and schools, the circular also gave permission for parents to remove their children, if they wished, from such acts of worship. I had a picture of all those children, who had been withdrawn, being simply child-minded whilst a small group of children were involved in the act of Collective Worship. The nature of this worship was also

defined:

"Collective worship in county schools and equivalent grant-maintained schools must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination."

At Exwick Middle School, where I was headteacher from April 1993 to December 2003, we continued to give a variety of acts of worship, giving a very wide interpretation to "a broadly Christian character." A few muslims attended the school and they were often the most vociferous at our acts of worship and were rarely, if ever, withdrawn. Indeed, withdrawal from our daily act of worship was very rare.

I had informed Tom, after my registration as a Reader, that I would prefer to be excused from any ministerial matters concerning children, as I believed I had already done my bit in that area. Tom and Christopher shared leading an act of worship every Thursday morning for St David's Primary School in St Michael's Church at 9.15am. When Tom left, I thought it was only right that I should give Christopher some help on these busy Thursday mornings. With my own experience and background, it was, therefore, very interesting to watch Christopher lead the assembly on the morning of Thursday 12th January. Now St David's has around 110 children, of which, I was amazed to realise 47% are EAL (English as an Additional Language). They are divided into four classes: Diamond (years 5 and 6), Sapphire (years 3 and 4), Emerald (years 1 and 2) and Ruby (years R and 1).

Christopher and I arrived in St Michael's Church just before 9 to prepare. Mats and carpets were put out for the younger children to sit on with chairs for the teachers and classroom assistants. Unlit candles were put in stands and tapers and

matches were made ready, while two candles were lit on the high altar. The children came in, knowing where to sit. Ruby class were the last to arrive; apparently they always are, but then they are the youngest. Christopher stood just below the chancel step and in priestly style said;

"The Lord be with you". Back from the children with great aplomb came, "And also with you". Good mornings were expressed to each class and back came the reply, " Good morning Rev. Chris." The coveted task for this act of worship was the ringing of the bell by one of the older children - 33 times, one for each year of Jesus' life. Each class was then asked what they wished to pray for. I loved the the remark, "Can we pray that President Trump will not be as bad as he's painted?" Christopher then prayed, bringing all the prayers together, before four candles were lit, one for each classes' prayers.

The main teaching point of the act of worship dealt with the Epiphany blessing of homes and Christopher emphasised how each one of us was blessed by God. Final prayers were said including the modern version of the Lord's Prayer, which the children knew very well. We all joined in the Celtic Blessing, "May the road rise up to meet you..." accompanied with all the hand signals, before the children left the church to return to their school next door. This was an act of worship overtly Christian, which week by week, is teaching the children some excellent ways of understanding prayer, liturgy and the nature of our loving God, as well as bringing them inside a church for an act of worship. I was impressed.



William Pattinson
Licensed Reader to the Parish
17.02.2017

St David's Eucharist March

March 5 : Lent 1

Reading 1	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Charles Prosser
Reading 2	Romans 5:12-19	Hilary Todd
Gospel	Matthew 4:1-11	
Time of prayer		Ann watts

Junior Church: Helen Sail

March 12 : Lent 2

Reading 1	Genesis 12.1-4)	Gabrielle Kirby
Reading 2	Romans 4.1-17	Helena Walker
Gospel	John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9	
Time of prayer		Mollie Curry

Junior Church: Sarah Harrison

March 19 : Lent 3 (Family Service)

Reading 1	~	
Reading 2	~	
Gospel	John 4:5-42	
Time of prayer		

Family service - No Junior Church

March 26 : Lent 4 "Mothering Sunday"

Reading 1	Exodus 2.1-10	Sue Wilson
Reading 2	2 Corinthians 1.3-7	Clive Wilson
Gospel	John 9:1-41	
Time of prayer		Bill Pattinson

Junior Church: Sarah Harrison

April 2nd : Lent 5

Reading 1	Ezekiel 27.1-14	Jenny Baker
Reading 2	Romans 8.6-11	Alan Baker
Gospel	John 11:1-45	
Time of prayer		Chris Gill

Junior Church: Helen Sail

March 2017 from St Michael's



Our liturgical calendar is a confusing thing. In the first place it shrinks the lifespan of Our Lord to take place within the framework of a calendar year, and then pushes in celebrations, seasons and festivals with little regard to what else is going on. We are now in Lent, a season of penitence, with all sorts of other events happening. March usually sees Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and the official beginning of Lent, though not if these events occur earlier in the year. It can be annoying if people are trying to

fix holidays, with no understanding of the reason for Easter being a movable feast.

We remember St David, and wish our brothers and sisters at St David's many blessings as they celebrate their patronal festival; St Chad is remembered; the martyrs Perpetua, Felicity and their companions are brought to mind; St Patrick appears with some jollity near the middle of the month; the obedient St Joseph and St Cuthbert are there and then in the middle of Lent we have the Annunciation, followed this year by Mothering Sunday. Other fine examples of Christian witness are recalled, too.

Lent seems disproportionately long, though it is 40 Days, excluding Sundays, within the scale of the year, recalling and reminding us of Jesus dealing with the wiles of evil in the Temptations in the Wilderness. How easy it would have been to do a bit of magic and turn stones into bread, to seize earthly power and to test God's reliability. In our Liturgy, we are then led to Holy Week, with the drama building intensely as we move towards the great events: Palm Sunday, Last Supper, betrayal, arrest, trial, condemnation and crucifixion, burial and ultimately, resurrection. We know the events, we know what will happen, but each year we learn afresh about ourselves, our fellow Christians and hope to find the love of God renewed in us.

About the companions of Jesus at this time, there is mixed and patchy information. How did they deal with all the furore of the

Entry to Jerusalem, for example? Was it like a triumphal procession of a winning team returning home after the great match? Was there an undercurrent of anxiety? Were the city fathers and other dignitaries on their guard? Perhaps so, because in a very short space of time, they were calling for the arrest of Jesus. Fortunately for them, they didn't have to go far to find a traitor. Disappointed? Disillusioned? Desperate for cash? The story of how Judas Iscariot became their man on the inside is familiar to us. What we don't really know is why he behaved as he did. Some suggest he had hoped for a revolution against the Roman rule and was looking to Jesus to lead it but was let down because no revolution happened (at least, not as he, the Dagger-man of the Sicarii had expected). Perhaps he had misunderstood all the teaching about the Kingdom of God. In Mark's Gospel, the money isn't mentioned; Matthew says that Judas asked for a sum and did a deal with the Chief priests; Luke puts the time of betrayal within the discussion about hierarchy at the Last Supper with a veiled prophecy and John portrays the innocence of the other disciples who thought, that as Judas looked after the money-bag, Jesus had sent him out to buy more things for the feast. How distressed they must have been to discover one of their number had been so treacherous as to betray their Lord and themselves as well, pretending to be a loyal follower and all the while plotting against Jesus and against them too, because their trust was damaged by Judas. They had worked together, been 'sent out' together, shared meals and were here sharing the Seder, a preparation for the Great Feast of Pesach, Passover. Judas gave his name to treachery; what a way to be remembered.

Thank God the story doesn't end with Judas. The great act of reconciliation takes place and we can take our place as redeemed children of God, 'restored, forgiven'.

May you all enjoy the peace of the Easter season.

Stephanie Aplin.





Regular pattern of Worship at St Michael's

Sunday 10.45am-12noon – Sung Mass, with Incense, Hymns, Plainsong, Sermon, Mass Setting and Motet, followed by Refreshments.

Sunday 6-7pm (1st Sunday of the month only) – Choral Evensong & Benediction.

Tuesday 6-6.40pm (except in August) – Plainsong Vespers & silent meditation.

Tuesday 7-8.30pm – Choir Practice.

Wednesday 9.30am – BCP Morning Prayer. 10am – Said Mass.

Wednesdays during Lent (8 Mar – 5 Apr) 6pm – Stations of the Cross. 7pm – Reading Group (see below).

Thursday 6-6.40pm except in August) – Plainsong Vespers & silent meditation.

Major Weekday Feasts – Sung Mass at 7.30pm as advertised.

All are welcome at St Michael's, where worship is formal, music is excellent and people are friendly. Please join us.

Events at St Michael's – March 2017

Please pray for St Michael's and support your church with your time, talents and giving. During the Interregnum Fr Christopher will be especially busy, but we have much to look forward to together.

Lent starts on 1st March, St David's Day. Our Liturgy and the

music that supports it is simple & subdued this month. There's a multiple celebration on Sun 26 March as the clocks go forward for BST, it's Mothering Sunday, the Feast of the Annunciation transferred from 25th and Laetare with Rose Vestments.

The website [http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/](http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/lists) lists Events. Currently we have...

Shrove Tuesday, 28 Feb at 8.20pm. Pancakes after Choir Practice – you're welcome to join us.

Wed 1 March, Ash Wednesday. Services Morning & Evening.

9.30am Matins, 10am Said Low Mass with Ashes. Fr Christopher.

7.30pm Solemn Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes. Mass in the Dorian Mode – Tallis; Remember not Lord our offences – Purcell. Preacher Ven David Gunn-Johnson.

Sun 5 Mar, Lent I. 10.45am Sung Mass. Cranmer's Litany of 1544 in Procession. Missa de Angelis; Purge me, O Lord – Purcell. Fr C.

Sun 5 Mar at 6pm, Choral Evensong & Benediction. Byrd Responses. Ps . Short Service – Weelkes. Wash me thoroughly – SSWesley. Fr C.

Tue 7 Mar at 6pm, CBS Plainsong Mass, Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs at Carthage (203). Fr David Hastings.

Each Wednesday in Lent, 8,15,22,29 Mar & 5 Apr there is both **Stations of the Cross at 6pm** with a prayerful 40min walk around St Michael's Church led by a different person each week, and the **Lent Reading Group at 7pm** for an hour or so exploring the life and thoughts of St Augustine through his famous autobiography, the Confessions, led by Oliver Nicholson.

Sun 12 Mar, Lent II 10.45am Sung Mass. Sarum Plainsong. God so loved the world – Goss. Ven David Gunn-Johnson. Fr Christopher and Preb Alastair Wheeler will be in church afterwards to talk about a Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in April 2018.

Fri 17 Mar at 7.30pm, Exeter College Choral Society Concert – Poulenc Gloria and Mozart Solemn Vespers. Admission £10 adults, £5 students.

Sun 19 Mar, Lent III 10.45am Sung Mass. Merbecke. Sicut Cervus – Palestrina. Fr C.

Sun 26 Mar, Lent IV, 10.45am. **N.B. start of BST.** Laetare, Mothering Sunday and Annunciation (transferred). Missa Aeterna Christi Munera – Palestrina. The Lord bless you & keep you - Rutter. Fr C.

Sun 2 Apr, Lent V, Passion, Crosses & Statues are veiled, 10.45am Sung Mass. Dorianmode – Tallis. Song of Christ's Glory – Grayston Ives. Ven David Gunn-Johnson.

Sun 2 Apr at 6pm, Choral Evensong & Benediction. More Tallis, plus Maurice Greene's Anthem – Lord let me know mine end. Fr C.

Looking further ahead, Holy Week 9-16 April will follow the traditional pattern of sung services with Palm Sunday Mass at 10.30am, Spy Wednesday Stations of the Cross at 6pm, Maundy Thursday Mass at 7.30pm, Good Friday Liturgy at 10.30am & Tenebrae at 8pm, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at 8pm, and Easter Day Mass at 10.45am.



Richard Barnes.



The Pychester Lent Course...

is humorously based on the game of Croquet, beloved of Edwardian Vicarage lawns. The Genesis of Croquet is hidden in the long grass of time, but when I used to play it was the domain of earnest young men and intelligent little old ladies; a microcosm of the Church of England in its heyday.

Croquet is a cross between Snooker and Quidditch, played on grass. As a parable of the religious life, each of the 6 hoops offers the disciple 2 lessons.

1. The Liturgical Year – apart from purple (Advent/Lent), the 2 sets of balls cover the whole range of liturgical colours; blue (Our Lady) and black (All Souls) play red (Martyrs) and yellow (gold for Christmas & Easter) in one game, while in a second game white (Our Lord) and pink (Gaudete & Laetare) play brown (Lenten Array) and green (Trinity/Ordinary).

2. Integrities – with primary and secondary colours, 2 games can be played on the same lawn; like 2 Integrities in the same Church. Though Croquet is one of the few games where men and women compete on an equal basis.

3. Roquet – when one ball strikes another; useful for bad puns like “Roquet of Ages, cleft for me” and “What cheese do croquet players like? Roquefort”.

4. Croquet – place your ball against the roqueted ball, and hit it with your mallet so both balls move; you will achieve more by playing constructively to build a break like in snooker using all 4 balls, rather than banishing your opponent to the long grass, however tempting that may seem.

5. Temptation – even if the CofE is writing the Devil out of its

Baptism promises, the Dark Lord will still try and tempt you, playing his ball a tempting distance from yours to entice you to shoot and miss and hinder your progress.

6. Fellowship – to win at Croquet, you have to help your partner ball run all their hoops as well as your own; isn't the Christian life a bit like a game of Croquet?

Half-way! Choose an enrichment activity...

alpha – improve your smile and have your teeth whitened.

pilgrim – visit Stonehenge, where Merlin taught Dumbledore to play Wizards' Croquet.

explore – Muscular Croquet.

7 (*known as 1 back*). Stewardship – you like playing Croquet and want to support the running of the Church – sorry, Club – and upkeep of the Lawns, so consider joining as a regular member; ask the Treasurer about subscription options.

8 (2 back). Disappointment (the bit most other courses miss out) – no one wins every game or gets through all the hoops of life without setbacks; when you're experiencing the Long Grass of the Soul, seek help, try changing your swing, or even your Club, but above all persevere.

9 (3 back). Meditation – when the opponents are in play you will have plenty of opportunity to pray, meditate or maybe crochet a lacy cotta for your favourite server.

10 (4 back). Practice – probably won't make you a perfect player, but you become better by playing, not by knowing the rules; and beware of celebrity preachers – sorry, players.

11 (*Penult*). Inclusive/Welcoming – with bisques (free turns, not soup) all ages and genders can play Croquet on a level Vicarage

lawn; is your Church – sorry, Club – a community which welcomes new players, explains the customs and offers coaching?

12 (*Rover*). Vespers – the end is nigh; get the thurible going so you can incense any wasps that try to spoil your enjoyment of felicity at the heavenly bun-fight.

Peg-out – go to the Club-house; there's tea and cucumber sandwiches for Evangelicals, prosecco and strawberries for Anglo-Catholics, or elderflower wine and carrot cake for Progressive Radicals.

Join the Lord of the Dance and do the Roquet-Croquet.



Richard Barnes – Feb 2017.



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH + MOUNT DINHAM

+PAPER COLLECTIONS+

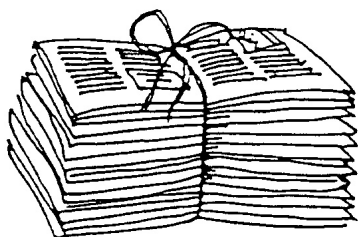
We are very grateful to those of you who regularly save paper and card for us. We would welcome new donors too!

For 2016 your contributions have helped to raise a total of £848.54 for our Church funds. The summary is as follows:

January to March	2780 kgs
April to June	2820 kgs
July to September	2580 kgs
October to December	2840 kgs

Total – 11.02 tonnes @ £77.00 per tonne earned funds of £848.54 for the Church.

A big "THANK YOU!" to John and Monica Darch for arranging transporting the collections once a week to Marsh Barton.



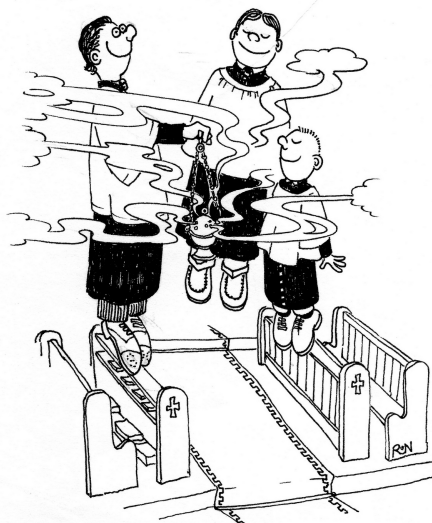
A reminder that newspapers, magazines, catalogues, phone directories, envelopes and "junk mail" are all needed

and very welcome. In addition, cardboard and greetings cards (no glitter!) are also acceptable, but we ask that these should be packed separately.



This leaflet comes to ask you to keep saving for our recycling appeal, or to start if you have not yet done so. If the Church is locked please leave your contributions on the Church steps.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP –
IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED.



*They all pronounced the Columbian
incense excellent*

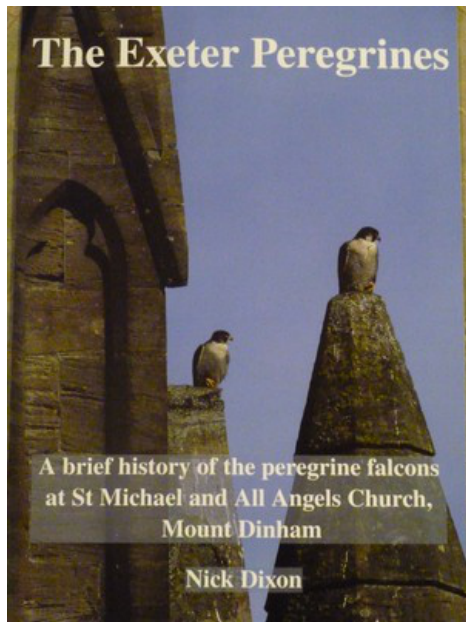
The Exeter Peregrines

A beautifully illustrated booklet by Nick Dixon, our local peregrine expert, charting the history of the falcons that lives on the Spire of St Michael's Church. For 20 years, successive generations of peregrine have been breeding here in Exeter, and Nick has been observing and studying them. This booklet brings together his extensive knowledge of "our peregrines" with the best pictures by local bird of prey photographers.

Sales here and elsewhere have funded an upgrade of the nestbox camera, which will go live on

<http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/peregrine-falcons/> mid-late February. Available at £5 per copy from me at St Michael's, and at St David's, a few more would help fund the live streaming for 2017. An ideal present for the naturalist in your life. Also available at £6 incl P&P directly from **nick@urbanperegrines.co.uk**

Richard Barnes – 15 Jan 2017.



Book Reviews – The Roman Quests

If, like me, you enjoyed reading Caroline Lawrence's "Roman Mysteries" books to your children (or grandchildren) a decade or so ago, or watched the CBBC spin-off TV series, then Rejoice! Gaudete! In those 17 books, her 4 child heroes criss-crossed the Mediterranean in the years following the eruption of Vesuvius, exploring the cultural & religious melting-pot of the Roman Empire in AD 79-81, including an encounter with nascent Christianity in the "Prophet from Ephesus".

Now she is back, in "The Roman Quests" with 4 different children, a cat and a talking bird, but it's no 'Enid Blyton' story. In "Escape from Rome" set in AD 94 they flee the cruel Emperor Domitian, taking a ship to the furthest frontier of the Empire, Britannia, desperately seeking refuge. In "The Archers of Isca" (Isca Augusta = Caerleon, not Exeter, sadly) different cultures & religions clash and try to coexist under the Pax Romana. The best archers in the Roman Army are Syrians.

Parallels with today, cruelty & kindness, and dangerous charismatic leaders – reclaim Britain from the Romans - will not be lost on 21st century children. Ms Lawrence is, I believe, a practising Christian; wisely she is not preachy, but her characters find it natural to observe the rituals of their religions, and send up "arrow prayers" to their gods.

Only 2 books published so far in this new Series, by Orion Books at £7 a time, but more Quests are promised. In summary, two exciting and surprisingly contemporary historical stories for the 9-12 year old in us all. See <http://www.romanmysteries.com/> for more information.

Richard Barnes – Feb 2017

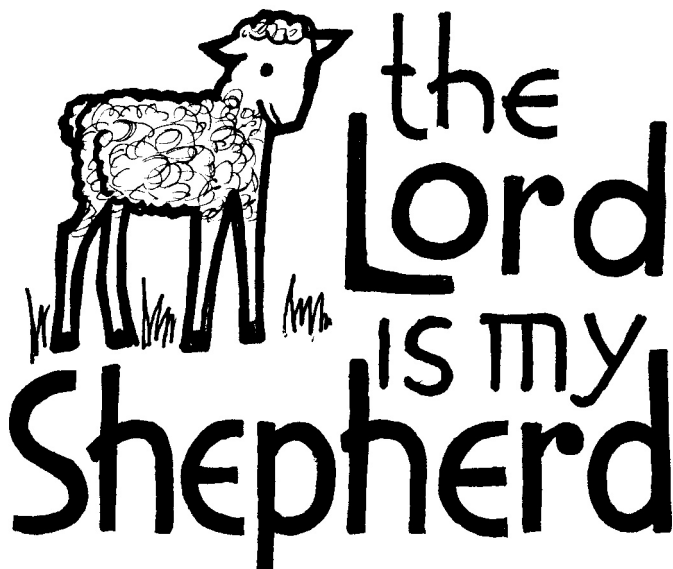
Thursday Lent Course @ St. David's

Thursday Lent Course: Christopher will facilitate a gentle time together reflecting upon Psalm 23 using guided questions. Come to share your thoughts and feelings over coffee.

St. David's Church Lady Chapel, 11:45-12:15, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, (23rd is Lunch Club), 30th, April 6th.

As part of your Lenten discipline, why not come to the 10:30 Eucharist too and share fellowship over coffee and biscuits before the start of the course.

Christopher
18.02.2017



Augustine's Confessions: Lent Reading Group at St Michael's Mount Dinham

The *Confessions* of S. Augustine (354-429 AD) is one of the most honest autobiographies ever written. They recount the spiritual journey of a relentlessly clever young man. At the age of 19 he conceived a passion for Wisdom and promptly espoused the exotic (and illegal) practices of the Manichees. Abandoning them he entered a period of total Scepticism, before discovering at the age of 31 (in AD 386), pretty much simultaneously, an intelligent Christianity and the philosophy of the Neoplatonists, a serious cosmology married to a distinctive ethics.

Honest autobiography can be pretty tedious. Augustine's *Confessions* holds our attention partly because of the wealth of incidental detail it provides. Much of what historians of the Later Roman Empire like me know about Late Antique education, for instance, comes from Augustine.

Second, and more serious, the *Confessions* are something more than the journal of a soul. They are an exploration of God's relationship with His entire Creation - the closing two books (XII-XIII) are an exegesis of the opening verses of Genesis. In the autobiographical books (I-IX), which we shall read this Lent, Augustine traces an individual's relations with God, using the ups and downs of the one he knows most about - himself. This is autobiography which is not self-centred but God-centred.

The third reason to read the *Confessions* is that (like Kipling's Elephant's Child) Augustine was full of 'satiabile curiosity'. It shows in little things - why pay good money to go to the theatre to be made to cry? It shows too in the fundamental question which underlies the *Confessions*. Book One begins by asking God

which comes first, to know Him (*scire*), to praise Him (*laudare*) or to call upon Him (*invocare*). The newly-converted Augustine of 386 would have had no hesitation in saying 'to know God'. Writing ten years later he was not so sure, Augustine was constantly moving forward - it is one of the things which makes him a good companion.

You can make his acquaintance in company with others in a reading group this Lent:

Where: St Michael's Church, Mount Dinham, EX4 4EB

When: 7 pm to 8.15 pm on five Wednesdays in Lent,
viz. March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th and April 5th

Arrangements are being made to have the translation of Henry Chadwick: (Oxford World's Classics, 1991) for sale - or you can download a pdf of the translation of A.C. Outler by clicking on Texts and Translations at

<http://faculty.georgetown.edu/jod/augustine/>

All are welcome for as few or as many sessions as you wish to attend. See you there.

**Oliver Nicholson – 15 Jan
2017**



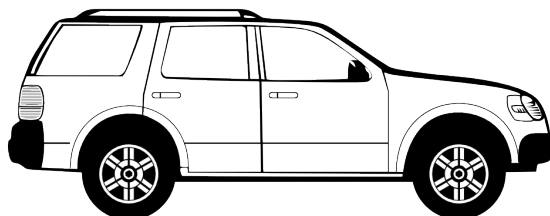


Volunteer Drivers Wanted!

Age UK Exeter is looking for volunteer drivers to join their team. Such drivers are crucial in ensuring local older people with memory difficulties can access the charity's day services in St Thomas and Mount Pleasant and they provide a vital life-line for older people and their families.

If you could spare a couple of hours a week, have a 4 door car and clean license and enjoy helping people, the charity would love to hear from you. They offer full support and training and a mileage allowance which helps cover your car's overall running costs and not just the cost of fuel.

To find out more about how you make a difference by joining Age UK Exeter's volunteer driver team please contact Cassie Leicester, Volunteer Co-ordinator, for a no obligation chat on 01392 202092 or at c.leicester@ageukexeter.org.uk





*The Reredos at St David's Church
carved by Nathaniel Hitch.*

~~~~~

*A talk for the Devonshire association  
in the Mint Church*

*Fore Street, Exeter*

*14.30 Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March  
by Martin Horrell.*

*Non members £3.00*



St David's Church

# Three Choir **Concert**

**Saturday 25th March 2017, 7pm**

St David's Church, Queens Terrace, Exeter EX4 4HR.

## **Wyndham Singers**

A well known local choir with an excellent reputation and wide repertoire

## **Rhythm of Life**

Funky, fun and full of life!

Based at the RD&E Wonford Hospital.

## **Four Strops**

A Barber Shop quartet

Tickets £10 or £15 for two. (Includes a glass of wine or a soft drink during the interval.) Raffle

Proceeds for the St David's Church Transformation Project and Hospiscare.

Tickets in advance from Exeter Visitor Information & Tickets.  
Dix's Field. Exeter. EX1 1GF.  
01392 665885

Or on sale after 9.30am Sunday service during March at St David's or on the door on the night.

[web@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk](mailto:web@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk)

# St David's Woman's Group



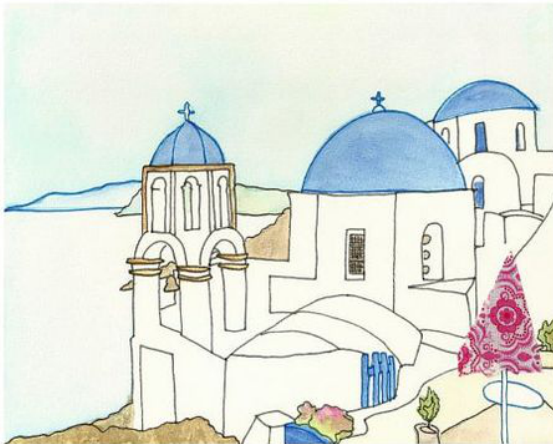
Hello everyone - thank you to you all for making our New Years Dinner such a success at The Dinosaur. Our feedback is 'a most enjoyable evening' all round.

Our next event is on:

Thursday April 27th 6p.m. - 9 p.m. at Exeter School  
Sing a long Mama Mia Movie Night with refreshments  
along a definite Greek Island theme.

Tickets for the April event will be on sale in early  
March usual price £9

Love from your party planners



# EXETER COLLEGE CHORAL SOCIETY

POULENC – GLORIA  
MOZART – VESPERAE SOLENNES DE CONFESSORE

CONDUCTOR – ALFIE PUGH  
ORGANIST – DAVID DAVIES



FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH,  
MOUNT DINHAM, EXETER. EX4 4EB

7:30PM START - TICKETS £10 ADULTS £5 STUDENTS  
AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR – CONTACT 01392 882000 TO RESERVE

# **Bible Study Group – Spring 2017**

Q) What is it? A) An ongoing opportunity for us to gather as a small comfortable group to read scripture, share our reflections and receive some teaching.

Q) Will it be like a school class? A) No, thankfully! I believe everyone present will have something important share.  
(Be assured though, the clergy will have prepared a little something to start things off )

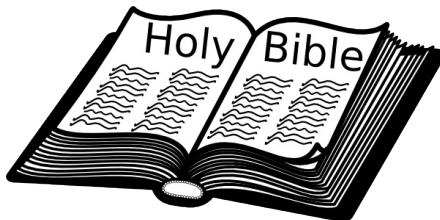
Q) What sort of things will come up? A) We're not sure, but each evening will have a theme – e.g. Birth, Sermon on the Mount, Parables of Kingdom, Passion, Resurrection...

Q) I'm still not sure... A) Come along! I pray this will be an encouraging and affirming group as we explore some of the richness of The Gospel of Matthew together.

We shall meet on THURSDAY evenings, 20:00 – 21:15  
March 2nd, 16th & 30th; April 6 th at Iris' House

(If not sure where Ann or Iris live – we'll provide directions: please leave your telephone number on the sign-up sheet!)

**Rev. Christopher**



# 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



# **ANNUAL REVISION OF THE PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL**

Revision of the Parish Electoral Roll will begin on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March and end on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

In order to be entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 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 Sue Wilson 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 SUE OF ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS.**

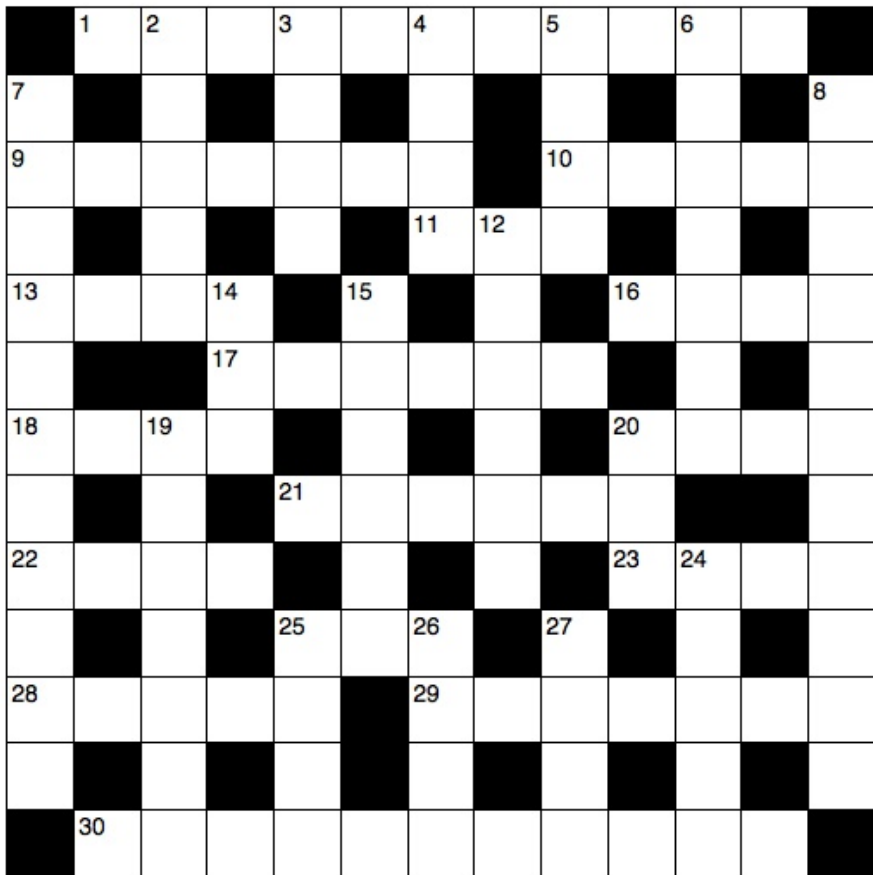
**Sue Wilson**

Electoral Roll Officer

Parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels

**[electoralrollofficer@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk](mailto:electoralrollofficer@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk)**

# March crossword



## Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings

- 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 ‘He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear’ (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 ‘You — me together in my mother’s womb’ (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 ‘Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?’ (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham’s brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 ‘When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes’ (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

## Down

- 2 ‘That was why his parents said, “He is — —; ask him”’ (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 ‘Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands’ (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 ‘Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law’ (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 ‘I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 ‘Out of the same mouth come — and cursing’ (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 ‘So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people’ (Acts 11:26) (3)

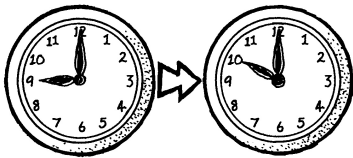
24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)

25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)

26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)

27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

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



**Clocks go forward to  
British Summer Time on  
26th March**

## Simnel cake

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Simnel cake is a light fruit cake with two layers of almond paste or marzipan, one in the middle and one on top, that is toasted, and eaten during the Easter period in the United

Kingdom, Ireland and some

other countries. It was originally made for the middle Sunday of Lent, when the forty-day fast would be relaxed, Laetare Sunday, also known as Refreshment Sunday, Easter Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves, and Simnel Sunday – after the cake. The meaning of the word "simnel" is unclear: there is a 1226 reference to "bread made into a simnel", which is understood to mean the finest white bread, from the Latin *simila* – "fine flour", though John de Garlande felt that the word was equivalent to placenta cake, a cake that was intended to please.



# Days of Note - March

## 1 ASH WEDNESDAY – mourning our sins



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us. The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

## **1 St David (Dewi Sant) - guiding the Welsh Church through turbulent times** *by David Winter*

On 1<sup>st</sup> March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David - or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is indisputably British, and is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.

It's likely that he was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia David embarked on preaching

and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary.

At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy - indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi - brefi in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

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

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

## **8 Woodbine Willie - bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible**

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1<sup>st</sup> World War - the Rev. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (27 June 1883 – 8 March 1929) had been born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby.

By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and took to writing a number of poems

about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46.

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

## **25 Lady Day - the Annunciation**

This beautiful event (Luke 1.26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25 March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25 December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - he was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life.

## 26      **Mothering Sunday – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

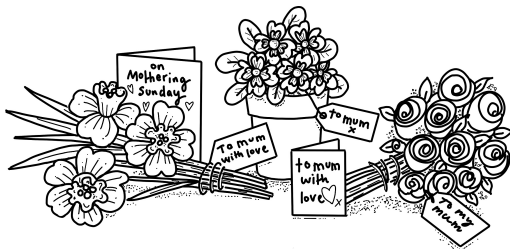
There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.





## MAD MARCH GALES

The month of March has a reputation for a wild and blustery start but usually changes to much milder weather before it ends ... as the old saying goes *'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'*.

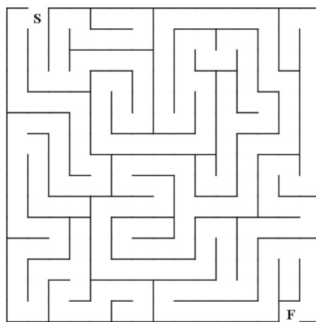
People's homes are flooded or big trees uprooted in high winds. Even if it doesn't happen to us we see the pictures of other people's suffering in the media.

There was a time when Jesus' friends were frightened because a fierce storm blew up while they were fishing. The disciples thought their boat was going to sink and they were very frightened. You can read about it in St Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 35-39.

I get frightened when the wind blows so hard that the trees bend and the lights flicker but then I remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Just as He was with the disciples in the boat, He is with us when we are afraid. Jesus gives us hope, courage and strength.

## SAFELY HOME

Can you find your way home through the maze of streets?



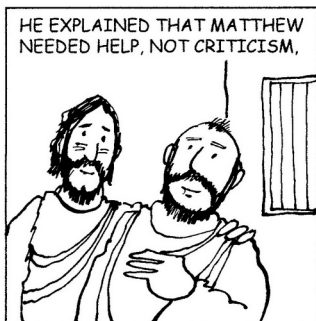
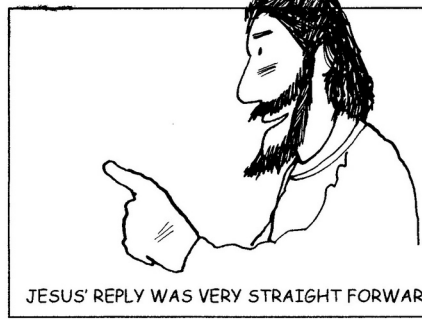
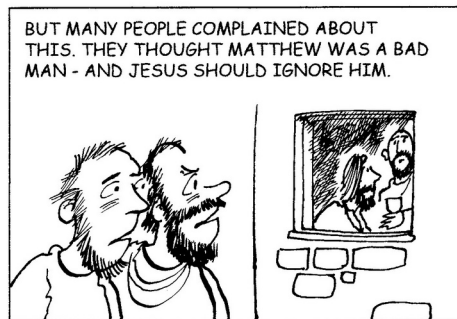
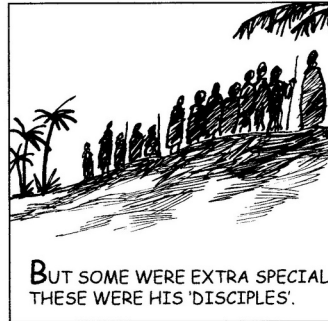
**What did the north wind say to the east wind?**  
Let's play draughts



**How easy is it for wind gusts to talk to each other?**  
It is a breeze.

**What does a cloud wear under her raincoat?**  
Thunderwear!

# The Doctor and the Patient



# Crossword solutions

## March answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

### **The deadline for inclusion of articles for the April issue of New Leaves is Sunday March 19th 2017**

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 the new editorial team at:

**[newleavesnews@gmail.com](mailto:newleavesnews@gmail.com)**

Please send digital files via email 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.