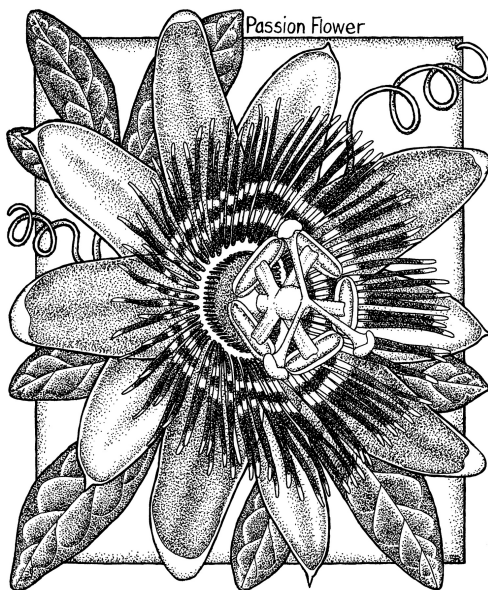


New Leaves

April 2017



**Parish Magazine
of St David with
St Michael and
All Angels,
Exeter**

50p

Parish of St. David with St. Michael Directory (January 2107)
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St. David's www.stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

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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

April 2017

Easter Message from our Curate

Easter marks the dawn of a new world. Everything is become new. Christ is the light of the world: thanks be to God!

Yet the world can feel very old, and much the same. People continue to quarrel and misunderstand one other, people continue to use or harm each other, and people continue to suffer from sickness and die without hope. This is how the world looks to many people. To them, Easter is just a festival of spring with daffodils, chocolate eggs and a blessed bank holiday weekend.

For others, the reality of Easter is a brand new beginning. Through being baptised or by renewing baptismal vows at Easter, all hurt and blemish is taken away forever. Through admission into the Church and graceful submission to a new code of behaviour and virtue, a whole new lifestyle is possible. Expectations people have of themselves and of others in their community may become more ethical, more demanding, and more unrealistic.

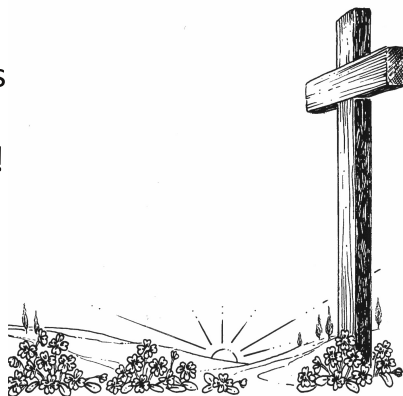
We human beings are prone to either under-realise or over-realise God's Easter gift in this way. Some of us will ignore the opportunity for meaningful transformation, whereas others of us will presume too much upon God's

victory. In the words of that well worn phrase, we live in 'the now and the not yet' of God's salvation. Yes Easter comes around every year, but Easter is also once and for all.

Too often we find ourselves bored by God. His unconditional love becomes tiresome after a while. His dreadful suffering on the cross is domesticated because of its familiarity. Our legs no longer pump beneath us as we run in wide-eyed amazement upon discovering folded grave clothes and an empty tomb. We are bored by God when He does nothing, and we are bored by God when He does everything.

My Easter hope is that you may overcome boredom by rejecting your normative experience of God's Kingdom, be it under-realised or over-realised. My Easter prayer is that you may be receptive to lively encounter with our God who both holds Himself back and embraces us. My Easter invitation is that you come to Him in the Eucharist expecting more than is possible, but accepting only that which is given.

Easter marks the dawn of a new world. Everything boring is become new. Christ is the light of the world: thanks be to God!



St David's Soup Evening – supporting the homeless in Exeter

The St David's Thursday night soup evening has now been running for 13 years. It was started on the initiative of Wendy McLeod after a homeless man died in the church porch one freezing night and she felt something should be done.

Numbers have risen from 12+ in the early days to an average now of 20-30, with the occasional high of 50+.

Not only do we provide our guests with soup, bread and cheese, but also clothing, rucksacks and sleeping bags.

We are supported by a great team of volunteers helping out on the night but also making soup. We need a minimum of 6 people to operate safely. We are also grateful for the support from the congregation and also Sainsbury's (bread most weeks) and Waitrose (Community initiative money).

We are now part of a network of soup evenings across Exeter such that there is one operating every night of the week somewhere.

We also meet once a quarter with the Outreach teams and Exeter City Council to talk about the numbers of homeless people and what work is being done to help them.

From December to March, Julian House operated a Safe Sleep initiative for rough sleepers to help them through the coldest months. It could take up to 40 people. We helped by passing on soup and bread that was left over after we closed on Thursdays.

It is not always plain sailing. We know that the soup evening is not universally popular with local residents. We have also learnt a lot and have become more hard-headed about the work we do.

- For instance, as part of the network, we know that the soup kitchens have attracted more homeless to Exeter because it has become known that the city is well-organised by comparison with other places. So the Council is now taking steps to return people to their home towns.

- We at one time provided tents but then came into conflict with the Council because they were being used on Council land and were being confiscated.

- Likewise with clothing and rucksacks, we limit what people can take so it is not sold to support their addictions. We tread a fine line.

And over the years we have seen people from all walks of life and become painfully aware of how easy it is in our society now to find yourself homeless and on the streets, both men and women. We have a policy of not asking questions of our guests but over time we do get to know something about some of our regulars. Some want to talk, others don't interact at all.

The problem is not just a shortage of suitable housing, but also a lack of help for those with alcohol, drug and mental health issues. As we have seen first-hand, these are tough problems to tackle and they need money and dedicated staff with the right training as well as the determination on the part of the person to get help. Not all want it.

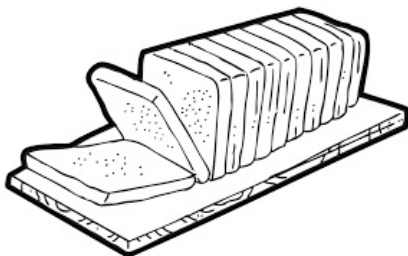
There are also increasing numbers of those who just don't tick the right boxes in the benefit system. The typical

pattern with single men especially that we see is a chap who has lost his job, then his marriage or relationship collapses, he has to leave the family home, and not qualifying for benefit, ends up sleeping rough. Once he has no fixed address, it is very difficult either to get a job or benefit. Others in the benefit system find themselves sanctioned or waiting for issues to be resolved who then wait weeks or months for money and end up losing their accommodation in the meanwhile. What are they supposed to live on?

It seems from media reporting that these issues are slowly being addressed – mental health seems to be coming up the agenda at the moment – but we do have to ask why, in a wealthy country in the 21st century, we are running soup kitchens and food banks to help people in need.

A big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped and supported us. If you would like to know more about the work we do, or would be willing to make soup, please contact me: Roger Beer, 07980067389. Thank you.

Roger Beer 18/03/2017



St David's Eucharist April

April 2 : 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		Christopher Durrant
Junior Church: Helen Sail		

April 9 : Palm Sunday

Reading 1	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Katy Tyler
Reading 2	Philippians 2:5-11	Charlotte Townsend
Gospel	Dramatic reading of the Passion	
Time of prayer		Carol Burrows
Junior Church: Sarah Harrison		

April 16 : Easter Day (Family Service)

Reading 1	Jeremiah 31:1-6	Keith Postlethwaite
Reading 2	Acts 10:34-43	Helen Hopwood
Gospel		
Time of prayer		Geoff Crockett
Family service - No Junior Church		

April 23 : Second Sunday of Easter

Reading 1	Acts 2.14a, 22-32	Geoff Crockett
Reading 2	1 Peter 1.3-9	Emma White
Gospel	John 20:19-31	
Time of prayer		Alistair Macintosh
Junior Church: tbc		

April 30th : 3rd Sunday of Easter

Reading 1	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Dilys Thorp
Reading 2	Acts 2.14, 36-41	Lawence Sail
Gospel	Luke 24:13-35	
Time of prayer		Glynis Harflett
Junior Church: tbc		

May 7th : 4th Sunday of Easter

Reading 1	Acts 2.42-end	Gina Redman
Reading 2	1 Peter 2.19-end	Philip Walker
Gospel	John 10:1-10	
Time of prayer		Richard Johnson
Junior Church: tbc		

April 2017: some thoughts from St Michael's

‘Oh, to be in England, now that April's there...’

wrote Robert Browning in ‘Home Thoughts from Abroad’, as if the month and the country were synonymous in offering delightful comfort and charm, but we know that April weather can be treacherous, apparently pleasing, but having sneakily cold winds and sudden showers to vex us. Unless the celebration is very early, it is also the month of Easter with the obvious signs of renewal in the Spring. In the Southern Hemisphere, it was quite odd to be celebrating renewal and rebirth in the Autumn and many Christians find it strange to be singing of the ‘bleak midwinter’ in the blazing summer.

T.S. Eliot in his poem ‘The Waste Land’ called April ‘the cruellest month’, for it mixes ‘memory and desire’, and leaves one thirsting in the desert for reality. Recollection of rest is one thing; rest in burial another. Will the corpse bloom after burial? In some ways, Christians believe this is so; there is the promise of life after death because of the resurrection of Our Lord, which we celebrate at Easter, and at every time we share the Eucharist. It is quite strange to take a measure of joy from a sacrifice, but that is what we do. Many believe that the Lamb of God is foretold in the story of the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. No wonder Passover and Easter are connected, as our heritage is from the Jewish faith. St John's Gospel makes it clear: ‘salvation is from the Jews.’ (John 4: 22). So many people are reluctant or even disbelieving when told that Jesus the Christ was a Jew and not a Christian. His followers are Christians, attempting to live as he taught, not replacing the Law, but fulfilling it, completing its expectations.

Is the story of Easter cruel? Should we tell it to children? In the generation of ‘having everything now’ is the notion of ‘going

without' or taking on some extra hardship during Lent too much to bear? Christmas is easier (if you leave out the nasty bits about Herod and the Massacre of the Innocents) because it can be pretty, with snow and glittery trees, although in Renaissance paintings of the birth of Jesus, the cross-beams of stable roofs quite clearly represent the Cross of Good Friday: they are not there by accident. Perhaps the events preceding the Resurrection will be completely forgotten in the secular world now that we can buy lots of fluffy decorations and Easter crackers; a vast amount of tasteless tat is there to mask the real meaning. These things have been around for some time, but the journalists have now noticed them and are speaking out, not necessarily because they have the spiritual health of the nation as their concern, but because all this junk is not environmentally friendly and will have to be disposed of somehow. It may even be a way of fixing the date of Easter so that the commercial world can control when production and sales take place.

In the late Victorian/early Edwardian era, Katharine Tynan Hinkson wrote a religious song, seen by some as a bit sentimental nowadays. 'All in the April evening' tells of the softness of the evening, with sheep and lambs being herded out to pasture. The lambs led her to think '...on the Lamb of God.' Not think 'about' or think 'for a moment', but to think 'on'. There is a strong contrast between the bucolic scene of sheep with their gambolling lambs and the horrific notion of killing the sacrificial lamb. It suggests to me that this was for her a time of meditation, of deepening awareness of the role of the Lamb of God, who would bear the sins of the world and finally grant us peace in troubled times, until we find our rest in God. With the hope of that peace, and the exultation of joy that is Easter, we wish you all many blessings.

Stephanie Aplin.



Regular pattern of Worship at St Michael's



Sunday 10.45am-12noon – Solemn Sung Mass, followed by Refreshments.

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

Tuesday 6-6.40pm (not August) – Plainsong Vespers & silent meditation.

Tuesday 7-8.30pm – Choir Practice.

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

Thursday 6-6.40pm (not 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 – April 2017

Holy Week is the hardest but most rewarding time of the Christian Year, especially when we share and observe it together as unworthy but faithful disciples. We walk with Jesus from Adulation, through Companionship, Betrayal, Suffering and Acceptance to Resurrection. Please join us as often or occasionally as you are able.

Please pray for St Michael's and support your church with your time, talents and giving; an Interregnum is a difficult time, but we have much to look forward to together.

Website <http://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/>

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

Sun 2 Apr at 6pm, Choral Evensong & Benediction. Tallis Responses &
Canticles. Psalm 30. Anthem: Lord let me know mine end, by Maurice
Greene. Fr C.

Wed 5 Apr, 6pm Stations of the Cross; 7pm final Lent Reading Group
Meeting.

Sun 9 Apr, Palm Sunday. N.B. Mass starts at 10.30am with a
Procession around Mount Dinham. The Passion Gospel is sung. Mass
in Phrygian Mode – Wood. Hosanna to the Son of David – Weelkes.

Mon, Tue, Wed of Holy Week – Low Mass at 10am.

Wed 12 Apr, Spy Wednesday when Judas went to the High Priest.
6pm Stations of the Cross with Stabat Mater Dolorosa -Pergolesi.

Maundy Thursday, 13 Apr, 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. Anglican Folk Mass – Martin
Shaw; Ubi caritas, Tantum Ergo – Maurice Duruflé.

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

Fri 14 Apr, Good Friday Liturgy 10.30am. 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) with the Miserere by Allegri
(1582-1652). 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.

Sat 15 Apr, Holy Saturday 8pm – The Easter Vigil brings us back from
darkness to holy brightness. We kindle the New Light, 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; Since by man came death – Handel's Messiah.

Easter Sunday, 16 April, 10.45am, Festal Sung Mass and Blessing of the Easter Garden. Introit – This Joyful Eastertide – Wood; Spatzenmesse – Mozart; Hallelujah Chorus – Handel.

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

Sun 23 Apr, Easter 2/I. 10.45am. Mass in F – Wood. Easter Anthem – Billings.

Sun 23 Apr from 3pm onwards. St George's Day Cream Teas & Brass Concert - £5.

Tue 25 Apr at 6pm. CBS Plainsong Mass, St Mark the Evangelist.

Wed 26 Apr at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Church Meeting takes place at St Michael's.

Sun 30 Apr, Easter 3/II, 10.45am. Mass in A minor – Casciolini. Ego sum panis vivus – Palestrina.

Richard Barnes.



The Three Musketeers of St.David's Church

These musketeers are not armed with muskets, but among other things with pistol drills and smoothing planes.

Who are they?

John Wakeley Roger Beer and John's son in law - Russell.



What is their mission?

Not to protect Queen and country but to protect the future of St David's church, by building a modern kitchen, a meeting room and mobilising the pews, thereby fulfilling the conditions of the funding we have received. The church will then be suitable for the local community to hire and be used for various activities.

So how are the Musketeers going about it?

In their quiet and unassuming way, they have taken on an enormous responsibility and it is an incredibly skilled and arduous task. We are very lucky to have such a team on site.

Their first task was to build the stud work for the walls of the kitchen and meeting room. John was given a drawing of this by Jeremy Chadburn, the architect, and took it home to start building and guess where? In his garage, like all the other work that was to follow.

The next step was to make oak screens and panelling for the two rooms. In order to do this, the Musketeers collected the necessary oak pews from the church. This was no lightweight undertaking.

Do you know it takes between 7 and 9 hours to take each of these seats apart. In the garage, two planing machines and a circular saw

ran practically non stop to prepare the pieces of wood for their future. It soon became obvious that there was not going to be enough wood. Happily Ashburton Church had some spare seats after similar work there, so our heroes set off for Ashburton, and brought back 7 pews in total. All part of the job!

I visited the incredible garage throughout 2016 and saw things taking shape. There were stacks of rails, mullions, cornices and mortices and I saw how each meticulously crafted section joined another. A few adaptations had to be made because of shortage of wood and one row of panelling in the kitchen screen is to be replaced by leaded windows.

The shutters in the kitchen hatch were reduced in height after John and Russell made a mock up for the coffee makers to test. The attention to minute detail is amazing and each piece of old pew becomes a beautiful work of art.

When the kitchen and meeting rooms are completed John and Roger hope to be able to show us what is happening to the remaining pews. Last year John designed the prototype of a comfortable seat This is on hold at the moment due to cost factors. In the meantime the existing pews will be cut in half and the wonderful carved ends put back in place. Each pew will then seat 4 people instead of 8 - 9. These pews will have wheels which Junior Church will probably



appreciate. We are going to need more funds for all this designing and remaking. You may well be asked to adopt a pew.

We are looking forward to seeing all the exciting things happening around us.

We give our heartfelt thanks to our Three Musketeers with their pistol drills and smoothing planes and their enthusiastic dedication, for everything they are doing for St David's future.

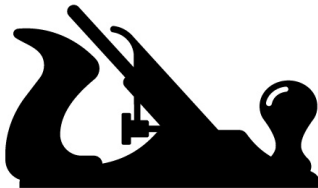
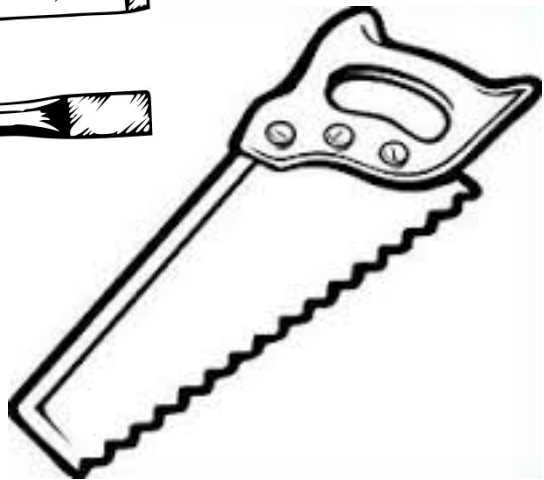


Ann Watts

16.03.2017

P.S. John says the modern equivalent of a sword is a saw and a dagger a chisel.

Perhaps the original Musketeers had multiple skills.



Roof Repair Project at Michael's

Way back in January 2015 we huddled over a laptop preparing a submission to the then Chancellor's Roof Repair Fund for Listed Places of Worship, advised and helped by numbers from our Church Architect. The core of our case was:-

"The rainwater goods of the lower-level roofs had been replaced in the post-war period with asbestos and, later, with narrow gauge plastic rainwater goods. They are now badly decayed and inadequate to meet the overflow from the high roofs, causing serious water damage to parts of the building. We seek grant aid to redesign our high level gutters to improve their functionality; to replace the failing rainwater goods with appropriate cast-iron pipes and gutters and to resolve the drainage issues identified in our 2011 Quinquennial Report."

Somewhat to our surprise we were successful, securing a grant of £78,800 towards work costed at £101,220, with £17k to be reclaimed from VAT, £3,500 to be raised as donations and £2k to come from church reserves. These grant applications are a balance of hope and showing willing, and asking for 78% had seemed about right.

The Project was mainly managed for us by Jonathan Rhind Architects and the main contract for gutter repairs, new rainwater goods, scaffolding etc. was let to the bid from Williams & Burrows, who are also involved in the restoration of the Mount Dinham Free Cottages.

Allowing our Peregrines time to fledge, work commenced 1st August 2016 with 50% of the RRF Grant in the bank. Our Progress Report in Nov 2016 released the next 40% of the Grant and with work complete shortly afterwards we prepared Completion, Evaluation, Photo Record and Maintenance Reports and received our Final Payment in Feb 2017.

We were able to write:- “The project dealt with three main areas: the high-level parapet gutters, the rainwater goods and the below ground drainage.

“The high-level works installed additional ‘weepers’, small overflow pipes, at the level of the nave, chancel and transept parapets to ensure water does not build up behind the parapets and penetrate the roof. Excess water will be directed away from the building as though by traditional gargoyles.

“The project replaced all the rainwater goods with square-section cast-iron gutters and downpipes, matching the Victorian originals. At ground level and below, a drainage survey revealed that much of the system was in poor repair and many gullies were blocked. The old downpipes simply ran directly into the ground, allowing no access to the drainage gullies.

“The project refurbished and improved drainage, by repairing and clearing the gullies, and by improving access to the gullies by installing drainage openings and covers, thus ensuring rapid run-off of rainwater and improving maintenance.”

Thanks to Adrian for paying the Invoices, dealing with cashflow issues, and making VAT reclaims. We are also very grateful to Exeter Historic Buildings Trust for a gift of £3k and to AllChurches Trust for £2k. The Unusually Good Book Sale (with Refreshments) was also a good fund-raiser.

We gratefully acknowledge the LPOW Roof Repair Fund without which this important work could not have been done, and thank our main contacts, Sarah Drewell at LPOW and Mark Raby at Jonathan Rhind for their work and help. We also thank Richard Burrows and his team for the sensitive way they carried out their work around our weekday Services.

Richards Parker & Barnes – March 2017.



Thursday Morning Eucharist 10.30am

My previous church in Walsall is St. Paul's at the Crossing. The building is very like St David's, except it has been altered inside. Now the ground floor has shops and the original side chapel. The first floor has a café and conference rooms. The upper floor is used for worship and also has a kitchen and more rooms for meetings. As the services are similar I felt at home at St. David's where I was warmly welcomed. However I missed the mid-week service, which was always followed by a meal in the café. So I was very pleased when Tom started the Thursday services at 10.30am. They last about half an hour and are followed by coffee and a chance to chat with your fellows. There are no hymns and no music, but it is a time of peace in a busy week. Anyone who finds it difficult to attend on Sundays can come and take communion and hear words of wisdom from Christopher. Why not join us and spend some time with God in between Sundays. It will not be wasted time.

Eileen Jarman (19.02.2017)



Life on the Allotment

Almost eleven years ago I was fortunate enough to take on the tenancy of an allotment at the Marypole allotment site in Exeter. It's an exposed, but hidden oasis, surrounded by houses on three sides, but with uninterrupted views right out to Exmouth on a clear day. The downside of this location is that it's very exposed in winter to the gales, and everything has to be well battened down, to prevent it being blown away, but the amazing views more than make up for this small inconvenience.

Over the years, tenants have come and gone, but a growing core remain, who have formed a real community. We spend hours putting the world to rights, sharing tips and advice, and finding time to do some gardening as well!

Life on the allotment follows a seasonal pattern. During winter, most hibernate, popping up on a fine day to pick some sprouts, or plan for the coming season. As soon as the first signs of spring approach, enthusiastic allotmenters are up there digging, weeding and anxious to get started with the sowing and planting, but the experienced hands caution against too soon a start, reminding everyone of late frosts and cold snaps, and they are usually right



Once the weather has warmed up sufficiently, the sowing and planting begins in earnest.

A wide range of crops are grown – some of my favourites are the

plums, pears and greengages – many of the trees are now standing at an angle to combat the wind, despite staking! Gourmet treats such as asparagus and strawberries are popular, along with such allotment stalwarts such as rhubarb, potatoes, runner beans, kale, tomatoes and sprouts, and more exotic offerings like pumpkins and peppers.



During the summer time, we enjoy the first fruits from our plots, and make the most of the warm sunny days, and although watering may start to become a burden during prolonged dry spells, we are fortunate enough to have water troughs at regular intervals on the site.

Autumn is the main harvesting season, and there are usually gluts to be shared or given away. Once everything is safely gathered in, it's time to take stock and make a note of the successes and any

failures, and start to look forward to the next year, both physically with the autumn pruning and digging, and mental refreshment perusing the new seed catalogues.



Having an allotment is a time commitment, and can be hard work, but I've made some good friends, and the results more than outweigh the effort involved.

Jenny Baker (26.02.2017)

Parish Profile and Person Specification

Preparing the Parish Profile and Person Specification to advertise for a new incumbent has been an interesting process. We have worked well together in combining the expectations of both congregations in a single document, though there have been areas where some compromise has been necessary. We have included some current photographs, thinking that they reflect the life of the parish. We hope the you will all approve of the final submission. Time has been of the essence; the document had to have been available for discussion and approval at an extra PCC meeting well before the document finally went to the Archdeacon by February 28th. Pray for the right person to read it and be inspired to believe that the Parish of St David's with St Michael and All Angels offers the right place for a developing ministry.

Those involved were Stephanie Aplin, Dave Allin, Marianne Connors, Richard Johnson, Richard Parker, Emma White

Stephanie Aplin

19.02.2017



Creative Writing Group

Learn Devon, Devon County Council's adult education service, runs a creative writing group in the parish rooms of St David's Church every Wednesday morning from 10.00 am -12.00 am. It is a lovely space to work and be creative. Members of the group have written some short pieces about why they enjoy working there:

I pace so quickly to arrive at the church from home. As I walk up the steps and through the graveyard, I begin to feel calm. Down the steps and into the building I am welcomed with a smile, a comforting cup of coffee and a "Good morning," from Mary and Fiona. We are sat at the long tables, pens clenched in thumbs and fingers, ready to scribe our work. We are a small and friendly collective. The group gives me a sense of purpose and helps me to feel productive.

Written by Matthew

Being part of the writing group, which meets at St David's Church, means so much to me. The crypt, situated directly underneath the altar, where we meet to write, is a welcoming and safe place where a close-knit, friendly and supportive group of writers have met and bonded. A peaceful, serene atmosphere pervades on each Wednesday morning, the church providing the opportunity for creative thought and friendship to blossom.

Written by Emma

I'm a member of the St David's Writing Group. We meet once a week in St David's Church crypt. Although a small but functional room, it feels secure and reliable, much like the sturdy church above it. A welcoming and friendly atmosphere is what awaits our members where our writing has thrived in this safe arena.

Written by Paddy

My name is John and I am a member of the St David's Writing Group. We meet once a week in the crypt of St David's Church. It is a calm

and peaceful space which all add to the group being a safe environment to write in.

Written by John

I love dropping into this group after the Wednesday morning Eucharist. I'm always inspired by reading their stories, each carefully composed. Each person brings their own colour, life and feeling to their work. The church is blessed indeed to offer hospitality to Learn Devon and the creative writing group.

Written by Revd. Christopher

Fiona Prideaux



Book Review – Secret of the Song

I bought this début novel direct from local author Cathie Hartigan, of CreativeWritingMatters, at the Unusually Good Book Sale at St Mike's last November. You can find it on Amazon as paperback or ebook and in the RAMM Shop. It's a 'time-slip' story, or rather pair of stories, with cleverly dove-tailed chapters alternating between 16th century Italy & 21st century Exeter.

Looking for a neat phrase to sum it up, I tried “Love among the crochets” or “Bridget Jones's Madrigal”, but it's better than that. The manuscript of an unknown madrigal by bad-boy composer Carlo Gesualdo (1566-1613) has turned up in the refurbished Royal Albert Memorial Museum in 2014, and, like a madrigal, the book sucked me in and played with my emotions.

Lisa, single mum and might have been professional musician, sings alto in Noteworthy, Exeter's top vocal quartet, and is 'just good friends' with tenor Jon. The quartet is asked to perform this remarkable discovery, but it's a 5-part madrigal, and the attractive new soprano they recruit causes tension, strange accidents happen, and Lisa wonders if the piece is 'cursed'.

Her 16th century counterpart, Silvia, innocent country girl and talented seamstress, becomes entangled in the deceitful web of Don Carlo and his unfaithful wife Donna Maria in their courts in hilltop Gesualdo and sprawling Naples. How are Silvia and Lisa's lives linked across over 400 years by the dissonant lost madrigal of a mad composer?

Containing what a TV listing might call mild threat, sexual references, brief violence and occasional strong language, it's not really a story for children – or is it? Lisa is also conducting her daughter's primary school choir... It's an enjoyable and well-researched read, especially if you are interested in choral music, Renaissance Italy or Exeter locations, with plenty of plot twists and humorous touches.

Reading it in the lead up to our Bishops' ill-fated Report on Sex & Marriage, there is a sub-text they might have found useful; whether love & marriage, particularly for women, have ever been that simple or holy. So, will the Song end happily Lisa and Silvia? You'll have to read to the final bar to find out.

P.S. At Passiontide, another piece by Gesualdo "O vos omnes" (All you that pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow) is often sung; I wonder if perhaps he was bewailing his own sins, as well as setting the verse from Lamentations that is used of Jesus on the Cross.

Richard Barnes – March 2017



Young Journalists from St David's C of E School

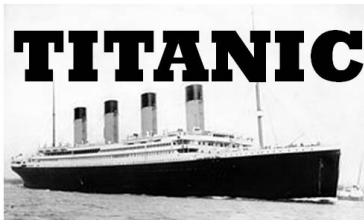
We are hoping to enjoy a regular monthly input to our magazine from the children at St. David's C. Of E. Primary School. Below is our first article from Holly Farrow. Thank you Holly and thank you Ross Sloman, Year 6 teacher.

The Titanic

In Diamond class (Year 5 -6) we have been finding out about the Titanic this term!

At the start of the Spring term we created a marine archaeologist team and pretended to be 20 years older so that we would have explored more ship wrecks.

My favourite piece of writing was a piece of writing about the building of the Titanic. We had to write a report on the Titanic telling the reader about the building of the Titanic: how tall it was, how heavy it was and how many men died or got injured during the stages of making it.



Did you know?

The Titanic only needed three funnels but it added a fourth one purely for decoration!

A few weeks ago, we wrote a diary of a passenger on board the

Titanic; most people chose to be first class or second class but I chose third class. I chose third class because I wanted to be able to feel what it would have been like for a third-class passenger back in the 1900s. We were able to write about our thoughts and feelings but also about what we could see and who we met.

Some people in my class were in first class, and in their diary entries they met Molly Brown, a first-class survivor.

The next week we wrote stories about our characters surviving the Titanic. My character is called Poppy Chapman and she is a traveller with her friends Sandra Coral and Lily- Anne. The story starts with Poppy Chapman getting onto a lifeboat and hearing other people talking about a girl who likes to call herself Lady Jade Willows. She is trapped in her wardrobe and Poppy Chapman saves her. The last life boat leaves when Poppy Chapman meets up with Sandra Coral and Lily-Anne. They end up having to jump off the bottom deck when the ship is vertical. The girls almost freeze to death but they get rescued by the Carpathia. Our character had to be a survivor, but they must have a hard time getting onto a lifeboat or getting saved.

Right now, we are working on a piece of writing that carries on from our previous work but tells the story through a play script. We must include two scenes to show that we know how scenes work and we must also include stage directions. My first scene is when they are on the Carpathia talking to the captain. The second scene includes the Carpathia going to America and dropping off the survivors. All the survivors meet up on the docks and they have a church service to thank the lord for saving them.

I hope you enjoyed this piece of writing and you have learnt more about what we are doing in Years 5 and 6.

By Holly Farrow, Year 6

Old Testament Computing

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dorothy and Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, “why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?”

And Abraham did look at her as if she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, “ how dear?”

And Dot replied, “I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah’s Pony Stable (UPS).

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures – Hebrew To The People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com’s trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites or NERDS.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the

deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed, he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel or eBay as it came to be known.

He said, "we need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators."

"YAHOO" said Abraham.

And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE).

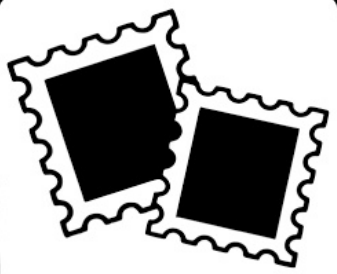
That is how it all began. And that's the truth.

Contributed by Esme Heath

Stamp collecting

“God is rather like a stamp collector, you know.” I remember hearing this in a sermon by that great Biblical scholar Canon John Fenton.

There was a collective silence wondering what on earth he meant.



“You see, the thing about stamp collectors,” he continued, “is that they love stamps with oddities and quirks, the ones that aren’t completely perfect. God is the same with us. He loves us as we are, with all our oddities and quirks; he delights in them.”

I found this immensely reassuring - the thought of God delighting in the real me with all my mistakes, rough edges, and bits missing – the individual me, the whole me, warts and all.

Of course, I can’t deny that there are aspects of me that go beyond oddity into sinfulness – things that need righting and transforming.

That is true for all of us, and Lent is when we bring the real me to God for his forgiveness and healing.

But any such healing will surely respect the individual people we have become.

I’m sure serious stamp collectors gently clean and restore their prized possessions; but they still preserve the quirks and oddities which make a particular stamp unique.

God has made a creation in which we each emerge as the unique people we are. He rejoices in our individuality.

And Christ’s resurrection suggests that individuality will continue into eternity: Christ is recognisably himself, even down to the holes in his hands and feet.

If God rejoices in our individuality, and all our quirks and qualities, then so should we. He loves us as ourselves, as you, as me.

Remembering that may stop us beating ourselves up for falling short of some image of perfection which we think we should be striving for, but inevitably never attain.

We're not called to be alabaster saints; we're called to be ourselves.

So do pause on your Lenten journey to feel God's love for you as you.

Do thank him for transforming you now and in the future into the perfection of yourself.

And do delight in who you are, just as he does.

The Ven Dr Mark Butchers

Archdeacon of Barnstaple

February 2017



St David's Women'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.

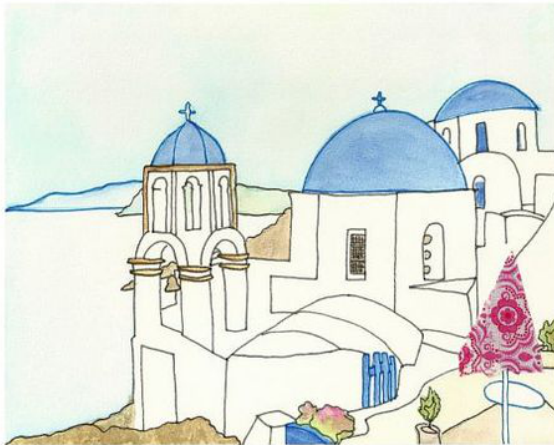
Our next event is on:

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



The Bountiful Table

It has been suggested that we have a monthly stall of produce and goodies to sell as a fund-raising exercise for St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham.

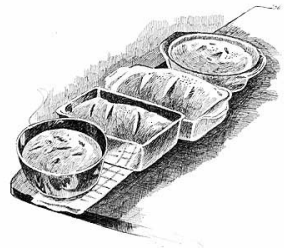
This would be on the first Sunday of the month, and we would ask people to bring (and buy!) home-made items, e.g. jams, pickles, cakes, bread, biscuits (sweet and savoury), or eggs from your chickens, flowers from your garden, plants, seedlings, fruit and vegetables from gardens or allotments...

In fact, anything edible (or growable) that you think others may enjoy.

*Our first event would be on May 7th
2017.*

Bring lots of goodies!

*A reminder will be given nearer the
date.*



Elizabeth Hughes and Stephanie Aplin





Holy Week Services at St. David's Church



Sunday 9th April at **09:30**

Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist (Rev. Christopher Durrant)
with dramatic reading of Christ's Passion

Monday 10th April at **19:00**

Eucharist (preacher: Preb. Graham Stones)

Tuesday 11th April at **19:00**

Eucharist (preacher: Preb. Graham Stones)

Wednesday 12th April at **19:00**

Eucharist (preacher: Preb. Graham Stones)



Thursday 13th April at **10:30**

Informal Eucharist (Rev. Christopher Durrant)
at **19:30**

Eucharist for Maundy Thursday (Preb. David James)

Friday 14th April at **10:00**

Children's Service for Holy Week (Simon Harrsion)
at **14:00**

Good Friday Meditation (worship team)

Saturday 15th April – Tomb Day – no services



Sunday 16th April at **09:30**

Easter Sunday Parish Eucharist (Preb. David James)
with Blessing of Font and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

ST DAVID'S CHURCH

POETRY EVENING

WITH CHEESE AND WINE SUPPER

WHEN

Friday May 5th, 2017
7pm - 9pm

WHERE

St David's Church

Queen's Terrace Exeter

£15 PER TICKET IN ADVANCE FROM
EXETER VISITOR INFORMATION & TICKETS.
DIX'S FIELD, EXETER, EX1 1GF.

01392 665885

OR ON SALE AFTER 9.30AM SUNDAY
SERVICE DURING APRIL AT ST DAVID'S CHURCH OR
ON THE DOOR.

WEB@STDAVIDSCHURCHEXETER.ORG.UK

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ST DAVID'S
TRANSFORMATION PROJECT



FEATURING:



GRETA STODDART



LAWRENCE SALL

TENEBRÆ

GOOD FRIDAY, 8.00 PM

ST MICHAEL'S, MOUNT DINHAM



Lassus: Lamentations

Allegri: Miserere

Tenebrae means darkness. After the Plainsong Psalms the candles are extinguished and we are left in darkness for silent meditation.

Retiring Collection. www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk

Cream Tea & Afternoon Music for
St George's Day



St James' Brass



Quartet music
and cream tea: £5



3.00 pm onwards, Sunday 23rd April 2017
St Michael's and All Angels' Church,
Mount Dinham, Exeter.

Proceeds to Church and quartet funds
www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1135766

ANNUAL REVISION OF THE PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

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

In order to be entitled to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Wednesday 26th 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.

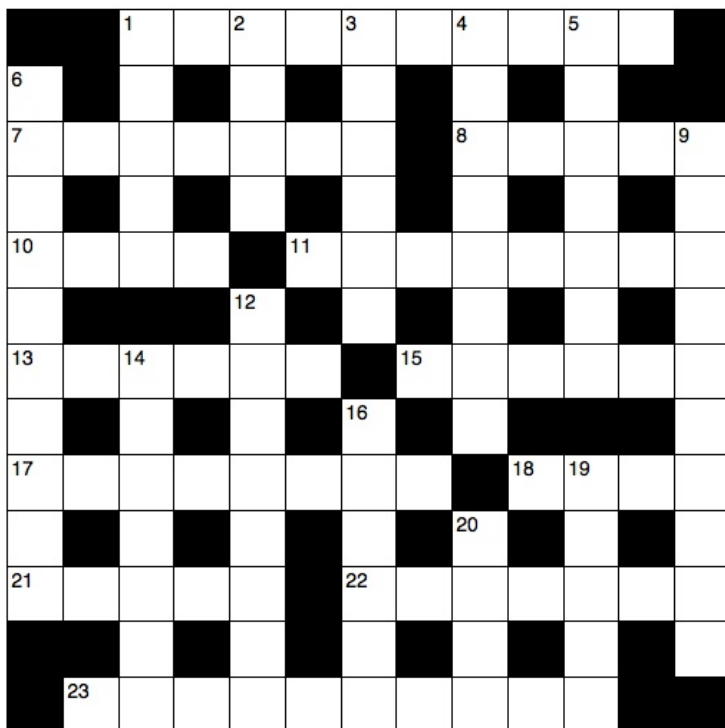
Sue Wilson

Electoral Roll Officer

Parish of St David with St Michael and All Angels

electoralrollofficer@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

April crossword



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
- 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
- 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
- 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
- 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
- 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
- 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)

21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)

22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)

23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

1 Of the pope (5)

2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)

3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)

4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)

5 Sing out (anag.) (7)

6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)

9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)

12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)

14 See cape (anag.) (7)

16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)

19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)

20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

							9	
		4	8		2			
	5	6					7	2
		1			7	8		5
7		3	4			1		
5	6					7	3	
			3		5	2		
	3							

Days of Note - March

13 Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

16 EASTER – the most joyful day of the year

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

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

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

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

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

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

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

24 St George - our patron saint who isn't English *by David Winter*

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as

the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside

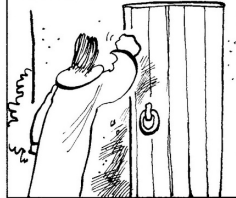
others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.

Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK, NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



See Luke 10.38-42



EASTER SYMBOLS

At Easter it is all bunnies, eggs and lambs in the shops. Why are they symbols of Easter?

One of the oldest Spring symbols in the world is the egg - it promises new life as in Spring, fluffy yellow chicks are hatched from eggs.



The hare was a symbol of the moon and is connected with Easter because the date of Easter depends upon the full moon. Over time, the hare became a rabbit, because there are more rabbits around than hares!

The lamb represents Jesus and links His death to that of the lamb sacrificed on the first Passover. Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

EASTER WORDSEARCH

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with Spring and Easter - can you find them all?

D	C	A	G	M	Y	N	N	U	B
A	D	H	A	R	E	T	U	L	I
F	U	B	I	N	A	G	P	O	P
F	C	M	I	C	R	S	G	Y	M
O	K	A	Y	R	K	S	S	E	O
D	P	L	N	E	D	R	A	G	S
I	I	C	R	O	C	U	S	A	S
L	L	B	G	N	I	R	P	S	O
B	U	F	L	O	W	E	R	D	L
U	T	D	U	O	L	C	D	U	B

bird blossom bud
bunny chick cloud crocus
daffodil duck egg flower
garden grass hare lamb lily
spring tulip

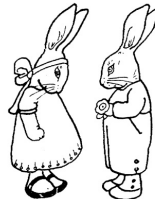


How do baby hens dance?

Chick to chick.

Why does the chicken go to the theatre?

For hentertainment.



Which rabbits were famous bank robbers?

Bunny and Clyde!

Puzzle solutions

	P	R	I	E	S	T	H	O	O	D	
P		A		N		H		U		U	
R	E	P	L	I	C	A		G	E	T	U
O		A		T		L		U		I	E
C	A	L	F		G	O	V	E	R	N	E
E				M		M		N		G	S
S	E	E	Y	O	U		N	O	T	S	E
S		S		R		S		T			V
I	N	C	I	D	E	N	T		S	A	K
O		A		E		A		L		P	R
N	S	P	C	C		T	R	A	M	P	L
		E		A		C		M		L	S
	P	E	R	I	S	H	A	B	L	E	

3	1	2	5	7	4	6	9	8
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8	5	6	9	1	3	4	7	2
4	9	1	6	3	7	8	2	5
6	8	5	1	2	9	3	4	7
7	2	3	4	5	8	1	6	9
5	6	9	2	8	1	7	3	4
1	4	7	3	9	5	2	8	6
2	3	8	7	4	6	9	5	1

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the May issue of New Leaves is Sunday April 16th 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

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.