

New Leaves

March 2019



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

50p

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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 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
Stephanie Aplin and Clive Wilson

New Leaves

March 2019

From the Vicarage

You may have read the encouraging report from John Wakley and Roger Beer in our last edition of New Leaves about the progress on the rooms at the west end of St David's Church. I am pleased to announce that by Bishop Martin Shaw has agreed to dedicate the work during the 9.30am service for Pentecost, 9 June. There will be a brunch provided after the service to add to the festivity of the occasion. Do keep this date free if you possibly can and join us to give thanks for all the work that has been done to equip our Parish Church for the present and future.

On that subject St David's Church proved to be a successful venue for the first production of the recently formed University Opera Society when The Marriage of Figaro was performed there on two consecutive evenings at the end of February.

Another first will be the St David's Church Quiz on Saturday 9th March at 7.30pm. It will be the first event organised by the newly formed St David's Social and Events Committee. Tickets will be available from the churchwardens priced at £8 including a Ploughman's Supper. It is planned to have teams/tables of 6 to 8 but it should be possible for anyone to turn up with a ticket and find a team to join on the night.

Our churches will also be hosting some fabulous events during March. At St David's Church the University Contemporary Choir will be giving a concert on Saturday 16th March and the University Concert Band the next week, 23rd March. At St Michael's Church Exeter Chamber Choir will be singing a programme for Lent on 23rd March at 7.30pm.

SERVICES AND STUDIES FOR LENT

Ash Wednesday falls on 6th March and there will be Holy Communion services at both of our churches at 7.30pm with the

imposition of ashes. There will also be a special Taizé evening service at St David's at 6pm on Sunday 10th March in the Lady Chapel.

On Wednesdays at St Michael's Church Stations of the Cross will be held in church at 6pm and will be followed by a Reading Group based on the works of St Cyprian led by Professor Oliver Nicholson at 7pm.

There will be two Lent Groups following the 'Pilgrim' material entitled 'Church and Kingdom which will be lead by the Clergy and Readers. One will meet on Tuesday afternoons at 95 Howell Road and the other on Thursday evenings at two homes during Lent. And at the Thursday morning 10.30am Holy Communion services short reflections will be offered on the gospel reading with a time for discussion over tea and coffee after the service.

I do hope that you will all consider attending these special services and groups at St Michael's or St David's as part of your Lenten discipline. In Lent we follow in our minds, hearts and lives the course of Jesus' temptations and sufferings culminating in the dramatic events of Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Perhaps our plans might be guided by two questions 'What can I do to draw closer to Jesus during this time?' and 'What can I do that will help others to do the same?'

TRANSFORMATION CONSULTATION

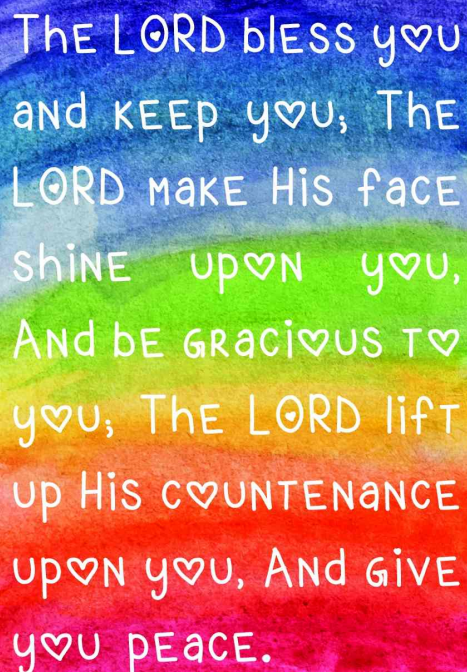
Perhaps I could also remind all St David's worshippers about the consultation on Sunday 24th March with Andrew Mottram that I wrote about in the last edition? Andrew Mottram came to facilitate the consultation which happened before the start of the works at St David's and we hope that his visit this month will be an opportunity for thanksgiving for what has been achieved and an opportunity to look ahead. Andrew will preach during the 9.30am Parish Communion and then lead our consultation before we have a bring and share lunch. Do please join us if you can.

BREXIT VIGIL

Finally could I encourage you to come and pray at the Brexit Vigil that we will be holding at David's on Friday 22 March from 8am to 8pm. We will begin with our usual Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. Christopher Durrant has worked hard to plan this vigil and there will be prayers every half an hour with opportunity for silent prayer through out the day. At the time of writing much is still to be decided but whatever happens we believe that our nation and her leaders need our prayers at this time of change and uncertainty. Please come for as short or long a time as you can manage to commend the situation to God's gracious care and guidance.

With every good wish and blessing

Nigel



THE LORD bless you
and keep you; The
LORD make His face
shine upon you,
And be gracious to
you; The LORD lift
up His countenance
upon you, And give
you peace.

March 2019 from St Michael and All Angels.

Doctor David Nott* has spent 25 unpaid sabbaticals as a surgeon travelling in the least comfortable places on earth. A vascular surgeon, he has made trips to Syria, a country he loves, since 2012, encountering what he describes as 'the most extraordinarily fulfilling, frustrating and dangerous of all' experiences in war zones. This is not difficult to believe, given the outline of life in Syria described for us in Prof. Emma Loosley's lecture last week. Images of destruction rival pictures of bomb-sites in Europe during the Second World War, made all the more terrifying because much of the destruction is part of cultural hatred for elements of history denigrated by Daesh (Isil). Physical war destroys opportunities for education by bombing buildings and preventing regular travel, dismantles agriculture and daily life by damaging land and water sources, sowing instead fear and frailty, and damaging any prospects of peace and prosperity. Spiritual war, such as that initially waged by Daesh, creates mental distress as well as the material damage used as tactics in attempting conversion to the extreme form of Islam it espouses.

In a strange way, with the work of David Nott, a Christian, the Kingdom of God rubs right up alongside Daesh, but what a contrast! 'I hoped that one day he might have found out that the doctor who helped him was a Christian with no feelings of hate or prejudice towards him,' writes Nott. He discovered that one patient was a member of Isil, and although he could make a more than educated guess about the man's actions, both before and after the event requiring the surgery, '...I still firmly believe that it was my duty to save his life.'

Nowadays theology has moved to help us to consider the Kingdom of God as more of a spiritual, esoteric notion than the green fields and leafy trees of a material Heaven, where lambs gambol and we are on some eternal

picnic. We are not required to steal someone's passport, the family jewellery to sell and buy a travel ticket, to dress up in concealing robes, including black gloves, to be unaffected by seeing heads of executed victims in baskets, nor to marry a stranger and produce little fighters for the cause in order to belong to the Kingdom of God. My theology tutor at university many years ago caused consternation amongst some evangelical students when he suggested we replace the word 'kingdom' in our thinking about eschatology with 'kingship'. We try as we might to avoid material images of the Kingdom, but as we are material beings, we have to use what experience we have, to come within some proximity of the mystery of the Kingdom of God; the story of the Pearl of Great Price and the visual joke of the camel attempting to pass through the eye of the needle are just simple illustrations of the kingdom of God which is 'not of this world.' There are so many references to the kingdom of God in the gospels, including the idea that it is within each of us and must be recognised individually if we are to be ambassadors for Christ. It is by grace that we can approach the kingship of God; it is by repentance and forgiveness that we can recognise the state of God working in us and it is by showing and sharing mercy that the Kingdom of God can spread, quietly, like the mustard seed. None of these ideas suggests a state with geographical boundaries, or botanical or zoological surprises. In every single way it is completely unlike the state the Isil fighters wish to impose on our world, thank God.

*War Doctor David Nott



Stephanie Aplin



St David's Eucharist March

Sunday 3rd March (Next Before Lent)

Reading 1	Exodus 34: 29-end	Karen Facey
Reading 2	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Jenny Baker
Gospel	Luke 9:28-36	
Time of prayer		Robert Mitchell
Junior Church:		

Sunday 10th March 1st Sunday of Lent

Reading 1	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Robin Thomas
Reading 2	Romans 10:8b-13	Jean Thomas
Gospel	Luke 4:1-13	
Time of prayer		Mollie Curry
Junior Church:		

Sunday 17th March 2nd Sunday of Lent

Reading 1		
Reading 2		
Gospel		
Time of prayer		
Family service - No Junior Church		

Sunday 24th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

Reading 1	Isaiah 55:1-9	Emma White
Reading 2	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Hilary Francis
Gospel	Luke 13:1-9	
Time of prayer		Geoff Crockett
Junior Church:		

Sunday 31st March 4th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday

Reading 1	Exodus 2:1-10	Nicola Harris
Reading 2	Colossians 3:12-17	Richard Johnson
Gospel	John 19:25b-27	
Time of prayer		Glynis Harflett
Junior Church		

Sunday 7th April 5th Sunday of Lent/Passion Sunday

Reading 1	Isaiah 43:16-21	Paula Lawford
Reading 2	Philippians 3:4b-14	Jeremy Lawford
Gospel	John 12:1-8	
Time of prayer		Charlotte Townsend

St. David's Pilgrim Lent Course

What is it?

Pilgrim is an excellent and accessible discipleship series designed by bishops and theologians of the Church of England. This Lent Course will use the Grow booklet "Church and Kingdom".

This series focuses upon how the truth revealed in Jesus Christ is lived out in His Church.

Where and when is it?

There will be two opportunities to join:

A Tuesday afternoon group will be facilitated by
Preb. Nigel, & Readers Charlotte and Howard

**March 12th, 19th, 26th; April 2nd, 9th, 16th @ the
Vicarage, 14:00-15:00**

A Thursday evening group will be facilitated by
Revds. Christopher and Alison, & Reader Bill

**February 28th; March 7th, 14th @ Iris' Home,
20:00-21:15**

**March 21st, 28th; April 4th @ Ann's Home,
20:00-21:15**

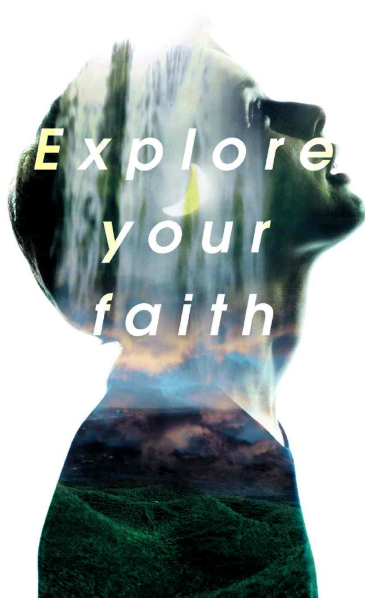
*Please try to come along every week as Pilgrim courses
work best as a series*

What shall I do now?

Have a pray... is God asking me to deepen my
discipleship?

If so, please mark these dates and times in your
diary & see one of the facilitators to collect a
Pilgrim booklet (£5 suggested). Thank you!

LENT 2019



12hr Brexit Vigil

at St. David's Parish Church

on Friday 22nd March

**The church will be open all day from
8AM until 9PM**

- **Morning Prayer with Eucharist will be celebrated at 08:00**
- **Midday prayer at 12:00 noon**
- **Evening Prayer at 18:00**
- **Compline at 20:00**
- **Additionally, other prayers and formal reflections may be offered on the hour**

You are invited to church anytime during the 12hrs. This is a time for the lighting of candles, of writing prayer cards, and for being silent with one another in the presence of the LORD.

This Brexit Vigil is not a time for debate, discussion, or disagreement; rather, it is an opportunity for silent and corporate prayer to unify us with one another in the LORD.

You are most welcome!

S. Michael's Lent Group: Reading S. Cyprian of Carthage (martyred 258 AD)

Persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire in the first three centuries was one of the formative traumas of European Civilisation. People were still telling tales of the martyrs, painting pictures of them, and asking for their prayers more than a thousand years later. Of course the stories lost nothing in the telling - thick layers of mythical varnish separate us from the vivid truth about the sufferings of our forerunners in the Faith.

But this Lent we have an opportunity to investigate the truth about Roman persecution of the Christians, through reading texts (in English translation) written at the time. These reveal much about the motives of the authorities (and the lions), the very varied reactions of Christians, the pastoral problems of the clergy and the witness of the martyrs. The primary meaning of the Greek word 'martyr' is 'witness', and the spirituality and commitment of martyrs like S. Cyprian can speak to us directly over seventeen centuries later.

S. Cyprian was made Bishop of Carthage, the largest city in Latin-speaking North Africa, soon after his conversion in the late 240s. In the year 250, the Emperor Decius required all Roman citizens to offer sacrifice to the pagan Gods and to acquire a certificate, written on papyrus, to say that they had done so - a couple of dozen of these certificates have actually been excavated from the sands of Egypt. Many Christians complied, others were imprisoned, a good number were martyred (including the Bishops of Rome and Antioch). Cyprian managed to escape and to direct the affairs of the African church from exile.

Remarkably, we still have more than 80 of the letters Cyprian wrote trying to hold the church together, as well as a dozen or so treatises, and a brief biography by his deacon, written a year after his death. For in 257 persecution of the church was renewed by the Emperor Valerian, and Cyprian was tried and beheaded on September 14, 258. He became the greatest homegrown hero of the African church.

A group will meet on at 7 pm on Wednesday evenings this Lent at S.

Michael's Mount Dinham to discuss selections from S. Cyprian's writings. Readings will be provided at the first session, which will be on Wednesday March 13; subsequent meetings will be on March 20 and 27 and April 3 and 10. Anyone is welcome to come to as many (or as few) meetings as they are able. If you have not planned your Lent yet, you might like to give this a try.



Oliver Nicholson



Orationibus XIII – Highway Maintenance

No doubt on your travels, you've seen a van or lorry with 'Highway Maintenance' on the back.

Roadworks are about as popular as a 'Rail Replacement Bus Service' – but sometimes they are necessary.

The word 'Highway' occurs early in the Christian Year, in Advent Isaiah says 'make straight in the desert a highway for our God', also one of the first recits of Handel's Messiah. Or 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord', in the musical Godspell.

'Walking in the King's/Lord's Highway' is a phrase familiar to Evangelicals. But John Bunyan wrote of Pilgrim's Progress, and for Catholic Christians the idea of Pilgrimage is a key one. The Road rising up before one, features in a well-known Celtic Blessing.

In the secular world too, 'life is a journey'. From time immemorial, storytellers and writers have used the idea of the questing journey to a promised land or back to a beloved home. In recent times this has transferred across to live action role playing and computer gaming.

In our Christian lives, and in our churches, Lent is a good time to slow down – a Lenten Slow rather than a Lenten Fast – and see if we need any Highway Maintenance.

There are probably pot-holes needing fixed, but if these are poorly patched it is likely they will return even worse with the next rains or frost.

Resurfacing a whole stretch of road will take longer, cost more and be more inconvenient, but if the foundations are sound will last longer-term.

Occasionally, for some people, the road becomes too steep or is washed away, or so it seems. One needs to find a new route with God. Here is one reason to value the wide diversity of the Christian landscape. There are High roads and Low roads, and the Anglican Via Media to name but 3 of the many Christian routes available.

Hopefully the Good News of Jesus Christ is Good News for all (as

Archbishop Justin tweeted today from General Synod), but people have a variety of personality types and needs at different stages of the life journey, so I'm not convinced that a one-size God fits all.

In cities we have the privilege and responsibility of using our variety of churches constructively; for the village church perhaps it's how to be broad without being bland.

But back to this Lent.

Our Parish and the city have a variety of courses, activities and events to help us do some constructive Highway Maintenance over the next 6 or 7 weeks.

What will you do? As with roadworks, we have limited resources, so it's good to plan ahead, but also be ready for God to surprise us.

Personally, I hope to attend Stations of the Cross and the Reading Group on the Christian Martyr St Cyprian on Wednesdays at St Michael's. More challenging for this 'owl' will be fitting in Matins or another morning service.

Here's to a Slow Lent and Holy journeying.

Richard Barnes - 22/2/19



One's enough

You need to know that this article is essentially an advert so do please feel free to stop reading, if you find them irritating. Some of our long-term readers may remember an article I wrote 6 years ago about donating a kidney, (for those who haven't read it, it is reprinted below).

When I last spoke with my local transplant nurse she was very actively promoting the idea of 'One is Enough' and as I am a walking example I thought I would share the ongoing story. Whilst most people will not want to consider organ donation, amongst your friends, neighbours, colleagues and acquaintances there may be one, so I am asking you to talk about it and make it part of everyday conversation, as that is how people get to hear about it.

'Undirected donation' as it is called, became formalised in 2006, and by the time I donated in early 2012, I was around number 100. At the time, the Southwest led in this type of donation which felt positive, and people of all ages from their 20's to 80's are on the list. There are now 100 people on average donating each year but with 8,000 people waiting for an organ, it is a drop in the ocean, hence the campaign.

Since my last article on this subject I continue to have my annual MOT and am pleased to report that I have the blood pressure of a teenager! The MOT consists of weight and urine checks, blood pressure reading and blood samples taken for analysis of my kidney function. All are going well so far.

But enough about me.

In the September following the operation, I received from my Bristol transplant nurse a letter from the person who had received my kidney. The initial communications have to go through the transplant nurses, as I have the absolute right to anonymity. I had imagined that my kidney had gone to a 40-year-old Asian man, but in fact it went to a 69 year old man who lives near Birmingham. He had not felt able to write before, as the first donation from his daughter had failed and he was waiting for the second one to go the same way. It wasn't until his consultant said 'it is fine, OK, doing well' that he felt confident enough to get in touch with me. He was courteous, thankful and understanding about the fact that I might

not want to be in touch with him.

The following year he was down in the South West for a conference, so he and his wife came for a cup of tea, which was special. We will never be close friends, but it gave all four of us a time to discuss the donation and to hear that we were both well, and in particular to gather from them what the donation had meant. Essentially life rather than existing because with dialysis three times a day they had been largely house/locality bound. Now they were off on their much loved world travels and the 'bargain' we have is that I receive a postcard once a year from some place they are visiting, as well as the Christmas card update. Like me, he continues to keep well, though also monitored and there is a special feeling knowing that the 'Gift' from that spiritual journey continues to offer another family a husband, father and grandfather who has energy and life to give.

So do look up giveakidney.org and keep talking!

Glynis Harflett.



THE GIFT

I have always found the theological language of 'Being Called' rather odd. To have a Calling makes sense but being called is, for me, simply God asking something of me. And so I found my self on a sunny day of June 2011 opening a letter that had the results of my middle age MOT. Most of us from the Friday walking group had put ourselves forward for the research into diabetes, and some had found out that they had health issues that required sorting, but I was faced with a glowing bill of health and a voice in my ear and heart saying 'you could donate a kidney'. Whilst it was something that had passed through my mind as a mild interest I was now confronted with a certainty. Knowing I could say no was there, but it never feels like a path I can take, and yes had always been my previous answer.

So I contacted the local Transplant nurse and began the journey that took months and much courage, as, though I am a nurse, I hate needles. There

are an awful lot of them taking blood and inserting various chemicals as I went through test after test, until I met the representative of the Human Transplant Authority whose report set in action the final cross matching and match with a recipient. Though we do not share DNA, we are a perfect tissue match – a complete mystery to me. As an undirected (altruistic) donor everyone in the medical team was at pains to ensure I knew the drawbacks about donating a kidney, as it is still unusual. The 100 mark was passed only last year. As my consultant reminded me ‘it is an unnecessary operation!’

People ask ‘did it hurt? Yes giving a kidney is major abdominal surgery, but the morphine driver and tablets kept it at bay. As ever it is the minor things that take over, nausea, vomiting and an intestinal tract that forgot what it was supposed to do, until rudely reminded. The ‘Basics of the Body’. But friends and family wonderfully supported me, during my recovery.

I heard a little about my kidney once it was removed. It ‘went North’ at 12.42 pm on our day of operation, and peed the next day, which made me laugh, with relief. I thought ‘good on you!’ So I am now connected with a stranger in a very odd but personal way.

People’s reactions to my news varied from the gushing emotional, to the understanding thoughtful, to the couldn’t look me in the eye feeling diminished, but few people understood that though I gave a gift, and a special one, I also received a gift. The deepening of my relationship and intimacy with God, trusting him/her throughout the journey and beyond, has brought me closer and made me yet more trusting. Saying yes was without a doubt the right answer for me.

My consultant said ‘so you do not want to hear from the recipient?’ ‘No’ I replied ‘I do not need to hear. If I get news, that would be wonderful, but it is also fine if I hear nothing.’

The Gift was given.



Glynis Harflett

12/12/18



Thanks, excuses and a few thoughts

Some of you may (or may not) remember in July and September of last year I came on a placement as I am going through the process of discernment. This process is for the Church and myself to determine if it is right me to go forward for ordination. I am still currently in that process. I know I thanked a number of you at the time but I would like to take this opportunity again to say a big thank you to Nigel and all of you at St David's and St Michael and all Angels for making me so welcome and giving freely of your time to answer my questions. I must admit I had plenty of questions and came away with a lot to think about.

Now for the excuses. I promised Nigel I would write a short item for your magazine back in October when I saw him last. So I said to myself I'll write it up after I've been to the Thursday night soup kitchen. Well that night eventually arrived and due to various circumstances not until mid-December.

Moir, thank you for your guidance through that evening. It was probably a good thing too that it was not so busy. I seem to remember I had too many questions again. There is some absolutely wonderful work being done with the homeless and lonely in giving them a safe place to be as well as food and clothes. I also observed some lovely links being made with volunteers from other churches or from the local community.

Well the soup kitchen night came and went. Did I write the article? ... I'll just leave it until after the busyness of Christmas, thought I. So here I sit now at the end of January having just got over a virus which wiped me out at the end of December and for almost all of January!

It is so easy isn't it to just push things out into the future. I will do it just when I have completed this or just when I have done that. I think sometimes we are like that in our relationship with God. Spending time with him in prayer / praise / study and listening gets pushed out to later. You may say, but I come to church every Sunday to do all that. This may be true but one of the things I have discovered through my own friendships, especially my marriage, is that to really know someone it requires time ... regular time, day by day time (be it morning, afternoon or evening). For it is only through spending time with someone that you get to know the likes, dislikes and desires of a

person.

This is true of our relationship with God, for it is only through a steady daily flow of prayer / praise / study and listening that you will really get to know God's heart and what he wants and desires for you individually, for you as a community and for us as his Church in this world.

Thanks once again and blessings to you all.

Adrian Butland.



Smilelines

Adam & Eve

At Junior Church the children were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Little Josh was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down and looking scared. "Josh, what is the matter?"

Josh whispered "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

Mix-up

What do you get when you cross an atheist with a Jehovah's Witness? Someone who knocks at your door for no apparent reason.

Update - Roman tiles from St David's church

Jenny Durrant

Some of you will remember the exciting discovery of a Roman tile kiln under St David's nave during the transformation project in 2017. Since then I've been co-ordinating the use of the tile fragments in an innovative research project between the University of Exeter archaeology department and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM). These and other tiles from across Devon have been examined using two scientific techniques. The first was X-ray Fluorescence (known as XRF) which analysed the chemical composition of the tiles. The second technique was thin-sectioning, whereby small slices of tile are mounted on microscope slides to analyse the tiny inclusions in the clay, which occur naturally or were added during manufacture. Both these techniques reveal how many tile industries were operating across Roman Devon, and how far their goods were being traded and used.

Our St David's site is very important as the only excavated Roman tile kiln in Devon. It is very interesting for the date range it was in use, where the tiles were being used, and by whom. But unfortunately I can't publish the findings here as they have been embargoed ahead of publication in a few years' time! Needless to say, this site has thrown up some very interesting questions and caused debate between local archaeologists. Perhaps these questions could be explored if we open another trench in the nave – but this will have to wait for future archaeologists!

[Photo – Jenny Durrant, Dr Peter Warry and Dr Sara Machin taking samples of Roman tiles]



The Pattern of Worship at St Michael's.

Sundays 11am-12.05 Sung Mass, followed by Refreshments.

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

Tuesdays & Thursdays 6-6.40pm Plainsong Vespers & meditation.

Tuesdays 7-8.30pm Choir Practice. New singers always welcome.

Wednesdays 9.30am BCP Matins. 10am Said Mass.

Wednesdays during Lent (13 Mar – 10 Apr) 6pm Stations of the Cross. 7pm Spy Wednesday 17 April.

St Michael's offers an inclusive welcome. Worship is traditional, music is excellent and people are friendly. Please join us. Pray for our continuing life & mission, and support your church with your time, talents and giving.

The website www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/ lists Events or follow @StMikes_Exeter on Twitter.

March Events mainly at St Michael's

You may like to know that on **Fri 1 Mar, St David's Day**, at 7pm at Little St Mary's Church, Cambridge, a new set of Stations of the Cross are being dedicated, in memory of Rev Dr John Hughes. See @JHughesStations on twitter.

Sun 3 Mar, Quinquagesima/Transfiguration. 11am Sung Mass. Hymns 494, 234, 443. Little Organ Mass, *Haydn*. Motet: O nata lux, *Tallis*. Ven David Gunn-Johnson. Followed by the **Bountiful Table**.

Sun 3 Mar at 6pm, Choral Evensong & Benediction. Sung by University of Exeter Chapel Choir. Psalm 89:1-18. Hymn: 377. Sanders Responses. Mathias Jesus College Canticles. Balfour

Gardiner, Evening Hymn.

Wed 6 Mar Ash Wednesday. 9.30am BCP Matins.

Wed 6 Mar, 7.30pm, Ash Wednesday Sung Mass with Imposition of Ashes. Hymns 84, 70, 67. Missa Brevis and Miserere Mei, *Lotti*.

Thu 7 Mar. Parish Lunch, 12 noon, at Exeter College's @34 Restaurant – please sign up in Church.

Thu 7 Mar, 7.30pm at St David's Church. Exeter College Choral Society sing Haydn's Creation. £12.

Sat 9 Mar, 7pm at Salvation Army Temple, Friars Gate, Exeter. Bach's **St Matthew Passion** – Exeter Bach Society & Exeter Chorale, directed by Jonathan Lucas Wood.

Sun 10 Mar, Lent I, 11am. Hymns 383, 307, 72. Mass in the Phrygian Mode, *Wood*. Lord, for Thy tender mercy's sake, *Farrant*. Fr Nigel Githrie.

During Lent we are encouraged to spend more time in prayer and in study to deepen & broaden our faith. At St Michael's we can use one or more **Wednesdays (13,20,27 Mar & 3,10 Apr)** for this. **Stations of the Cross at 6pm** is a prayerful 45min meditation on Jesus' Passion. The **Lent Reading Group at 7pm** for an hour or so will explore the writings of Cyprian, 3rd century Bishop and Martyr in Carthage.

Sun 17 Mar, Lent II, 11am. Hymns 381, 62, 73. Mass in A minor, *Casciolini*. Turn Thy face from my sins, *Attwood*. Ven David Gunn-Johnson.

Sat 23 Mar, 9.00am Men's Breakfast at the Imperial. Details from Ian Smith at St David's.

Sat 23 Mar at 7.30pm, Exeter Chamber Choir Concert. Music for Lent. Admission £10.

Sun 24 Mar, Lent III, 11am. Hymns 276, 281, 468. Mass in C, Ireland. Like as the hart, Howells. Fr Christopher Durrant.

Mon 25 Mar, 7pm. Concert by Univ Of Exeter Flute Choir

Sun 31 Mar, Laetare/Mothering Sunday, 11am. Rose Vestments & Simnel Cake. Hymns 185, 451, 63. Missa "Dixit Maria", Hassler. O Lorde, the maker of al thing, Joubert. Fr Nigel, with Howard Friend preaching.

Advanced Notice of Holy Week at St Michael's

April 17 Spy Wednesday, 7pm. Stations of the Cross, Pergolesi "Stabat Mater".

Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm Sung Mass with Foot-washing.

Good Friday, 10.30am Veneration of the Cross. 8pm Tenebrae sung from the Gallery, Plainsong, Lassus & Palestrina.

Holy Saturday, 8pm Easter Vigil Mass with New Fire & Paschal Candle.

Sun 21 Apr, Easter Day, 11am Festal Sung Mass.

A prayerful & holy Lent to & from all at St Michael's.



Richard Barnes – 18/2/19.



Lenten Concerts – Again with Passion.

Last month I described how Handel's Messiah took verses from all over the Bible to set forth the prophecies and purpose of God in Jesus Christ, and the hope of eternal life through His victory. And contrasted this with Bach's Passions as telling the narrative story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, suffering and crucifixion.

Of course, it's not as simple as that. Yes, Bach's St John Passion sets chapters 18 & 19 of the 4th Gospel and his St Matthew Passion chapters 26 & 27 of that Gospel – the whole story sung as recitatives by a Tenor Evangelist, a Bass Christus and the other characters involved, and with dramatic choruses for the crowd. Almost an unstaged operas.

But as a German Lutheran, Bach could also intersperse Arias of sacred poetry to meditate on the story, and use the Lutheran Chorales that his audience or congregation would have known so well.

Indeed it is likely that the first performances, as part of lengthy church services, would have involved the congregation singing the Chorales. This practice was later used in our lesser Victorian works, Stainer's Crucifixion (1887) and Maunder's Olivet to Calvary (1904 actually), which also have hymns for the people to sing.

When Bach composed these works in 1724 & 1727, Luther's German Bible was already 200 years old. Our Prayer Book Psalter, which still uses Miles Coverdale's translation of 1535, owes much to Martin Luther's German translation. Both Catholicism and Reformation were pan-European activities, and Bach's music is one of the crowning glories of western European civilisation.

This March in and around Exeter, there are several opportunities to hear these sacred masterpieces, and another choral feast, Haydn's Oratorio, The Creation. Details as far as I know them:-

Thu 7 Mar, 7.30pm, St David's Church. The Creation, Haydn. Exeter College Choral Society. £12

Sat 9 Mar, 7pm, Salvation Army Temple, Friars Gate. St Matthew Passion, Bach. Exeter Bach Society with Exeter Chorale. £18

Sat 16 March, 7.30pm, Exeter Cathedral. The Creation, Haydn. Exeter Philharmonic Choir. From £14

Sat 23 Mar, 7.30pm St Michael's Mount Dinham. Exeter Chamber Choir Music for Lent by sing Purcell, Part & Poulenc. £10

Sat 30 Mar, 7.30pm, St Marychurch, Torquay. St John Passion, Bach. Torquay Croal Society conducted by Tina Guthrie. £14

Sun 31 Mar, 7.30pm, University Mary Harris Chapel. St John Passion, Bach. University or Exeter Chapel Choir. A more intimate (and more expensive) performance. £25

If you get the opportunity, do try and get to one or more of these Concerts.



Richard Barnes – 20/2/19



"The vicar's looked at the weather forecast and is preparing us for another roof-appeal."

St Michael's Remembered - The Servers and Choir

St Michael's in the middle of the 20th century was fortunate in the having a sizeable choir and band of servers who excelled in their respective tasks.

My father, Michael Hoskins, was in charge of the servers, and while he trained the younger ones well, he was fortunate in having the support of several older men who were themselves liturgical experts. Michael was one of the Masters of Ceremonies, the other was Basil Hibberd, who moved so gracefully he appeared to be gliding. Father Waller (who was never short of a merry quip) said he looked as if he was on casters. Father Peter Lee, a later priest at St Michael's, once described my father to me as 'the walking Fortescue'.

This reference to Adrian Fortescue, the liturgiologist, was actually slightly wide of the mark, as Fortescue was an expert on Roman Catholic liturgy. Michael's reference points were Edward C.R. Lamburn and Henry Cairncross, author and editor of *Ritual Notes* and *Anglican Services*. These worthy tomes are invaluable reference points for servers, containing instructions for every conceivable occasion, including what to do if the priest drops dead at the altar. Fortunately this piece of knowledge was never required.

Michael and Basil also took their turn as thurifer, along with Alfred Yarnley, who came in every Sunday from Bradninch, and who was a master at the craft of censuring. He would stoke up in the sacristy by swinging the thurible through a 360° arc, a practice which drove Father Papworth to decide it was safer to vest in the North chapel. Alf could produce clouds of incense, filling the sanctuary to the point where it was sometimes difficult to see across it.



In those days the thurifer was often accompanied by a boat boy, and it was a proud day for my father when my brother Antony had his first outing alongside him. Tony was then six and Dad had practised with him at home with a gravy boat, which was dropped and broken in the process. Fortunately when it came to the real thing, such a calamity was avoided.

On Maundy Thursday, the procession to the Altar of Repose required a remarkable feat of censuring, usually carried out by Michael or Basil and Alfred. They walked backwards, continually censuring, from the High Altar, down the sanctuary steps and into the side chapel.

There was something of a hierarchy among the servers, with everyone having their own specific task. Percy Lendon for example, always carried the processional cross and Wilfred Dymond always carried the statue of St Michael (the small one of course!) in the Michaelmas procession. Another thurifer was called Manning, I can't now remember his Christian name, but he was always referred to as 'the Cardinal' after Cardinal Henry Manning, sometime Archdeacon of Chichester, and after his conversion to Rome, second Archbishop of Westminster.

Among the other servers (at various times) were David Hallet, David Smith, Richard Jennings, Wilfred Gorman, Michael Payne (son of the organist), Michael Gwynne, his younger brothers, Patrick and Peter, red-headed twins who made a wonderful 'matched pair' of acolytes, Robbie Beckford and of course, John Darch, who is still with us.

Then there was the choir. When I was small the organist was a Mr Payne, affectionately known as 'Daddy' Payne. He was succeeded by Eric Yeo, a wonderful organist who used to give impromptu recitals after Sunday Evensong, a few of us would sit in the choir stalls to listen. I recall one magical evening when Eric played *Finlandia* in a darkened church.

Several of the choirmen were policemen in the Devon County Force, (Devon and Exeter were separate Police Forces then) and also sang in the Police Choir. There was Jimmy Green, Dougie Watton and Jock Taylor (I think he was in the police). Jim had a very deep bass voice, Father Waller used to say 'Jim's rumbling in the cellar again'.

Then there was the inimitable Eddie Taylor, a great character whose singing was accompanied by some wonderful flourishes. I was very fond of Eddie, he was my eldest daughter's godfather. I call him 'inimitable', but another choir member, Jim Kelly, could do a very fair impression of him. I worked for the Express & Echo (in Sidwell St then) and I remember Jim coming into the front office and doing his impression of Eddie singing the *Agnus Dei* to the bemusement of my colleagues.

A stalwart of the choir was Walter Daw, sometime Mayor of Exeter, and another was Cecil Morris, who always organised the coach to take us on

the Glastonbury Pilgrimage. He did it very well for years, but it always worried him, and all the way there he would walk up and down the coach making sure everyone was all right. It was always said that while we went in the coach, Cecil walked all the way to Glastonbury!

The choir was also something of a family affair. Jimmy Green's sons, Michael and Richard were choirboys, and Jeffery Woodland, another choir member's two sons Alan and Patrick were also choirboys. Some of the choirboys stayed on when they grew up, Tony West was one such, as a boy he had a wonderful voice, and he and a boy called Edward (?) would often sing treble solos.

One choir member in particular was very special – Fred Bovett, whom I married. He had a wonderful baritone voice (he could do a mean Bing Crosby impression) and his rendering of the Reproaches on Good Friday was a deeply spiritual experience – not a dry eye in the house. He also narrated the Passion of Palm Sunday and sang the Great Litany in Lent and the Litany of the Saints on Holy Saturday. Although he always said he had trouble getting his tongue round 'Holy Cecilia' and 'Holy Anastasia', it always sounded wonderful.

All in all, we were so fortunate to have such a great band of men whose skills and commitment greatly enhanced our striving to 'worship God in the beauty of holiness.'



Angela Marks – August 2018



Co-incidences

I wrote, a while ago, about co-incidences in my life and, recently, I was reminded of another. My magazine has had letters from people about long friendships. This is about my friend Kate. We were eleven when we were introduced by our father at the cinema. We had just won scholarships to the local High School. We were firm companions from then. When I married, she was my bridesmaid, then godmother to my eldest son. Brian, my husband's younger brother was godfather and later he married Kate. After the wedding, her mother showed us a photo of a Sunday School class (Primitive Methodists). On the front row sat several three year-olds. To our surprise we were both in the picture. We are now ninety-three years old, so I suppose we have known each other for ninety years. Kate and Brian moved to Australia about fifty years ago and we've never seen each other again but we still write regularly. To me this shows that friendship can be a long lasting thing and very precious, but, it sometimes takes effort when there are many miles between friends, but very worthwhile.

Eileen Jarman,

6/2/2019



Orationibus XII – M Bus, the Mount Dinham Mystery Tour

Taking some paper for recycling into St Michael's one morning, I got talking with Mags Bedford about the churches of Camberwell (from previous Orationibus articles 3 & 5).

Along came the M bus, as it does Mondays to Saturdays, just twice a day, at 10.40 and 12.50. In 15 years living here I had never used it, so I thought. 'Why not?'



About half a dozen of us board. It's a medium-sized vehicle, wheelchair accessible, with plenty of room for shopping trolleys, run by Country Bus of Newton Abbot as a community service, so it's important that it is used. Driver and passengers are friendly, with lots of 'Good Mornings'.

The timetable describes it as the Mout Dinham Circular, and I'm about to find out why. From Dinham Road we head up St David's Hill past the busy Community Centre, the YMCA & St David's Church, and down below the Imperial past precipitous St Clements Lane (recalling a former chapel down by the riverside).

Sharp left onto Bonhay Road, past St David's Station, under the railway line running through to Central Station, and opposite the Mill on the Exe we turn into Exe Street, to collect more passengers under the Iron Bridge.

So 5 minutes gone, a mile or so by road, and we're still less than 100 yards from St Michael's spire as the Peregrine flies.

Back on Bonhay Road, we avoid the permanent bottle-neck at Exe Bridges with a neat cut through to Frog Street just below St Mary Steps Church and the 'House that moved', and onto Western Way.

Left into South Street, past 18th century George's Meeting House (once a Unitarian Chapel, now a Wetherspoons, but its interior preserved). South Street Baptist and Sacred Heart Catholic churches are ahead, but we go up Market Street, with a glimpse of St Mary Arches (now Unlimited Youth

Church) and maybe our spire again as we turn onto Fore Street. The Bus Stop outside the former bhs is where I once heard someone ask, 'Does this bus go to Iceland?!'

We head along the Hight Street, but not for long. Left at M&S into Queen Street and right down to the Clock Tower by the Farmers Union. Right along New North Road past the Prison. One can alight for the shops as it turns into Longbrook Street, or carry on past the Scientologists and Harry Hems' workshop (now an eatery).

Right into York Road to pass the Exeter Mosque, St Sidwell's CofE Primary School (possibly the most multi-cultural in Devon), and also the Adventists' and Spiritualists' churches.

Finally, after 20 minutes on the M bus mystery tour you end up in Bampfylde Street behind the remains of the Bus Station. The unspellcheckable name recalls John Bampfulde's eponymous 16th century house in Princesshay, sadly destroyed in the May 1942 Blitz

The only effective return journey to Mount Dinham leaves Paris Street at 1245 on a much more direct and quicker route. Or one could walk, as it's mostly flat or downhill on the way back.



Richard Barnes – 27/1/19



PILGRIMAGE TO SICILY

Led by Bishop Martin Shaw

Tuesday 10th to Saturday 21st September 2019

- The pilgrimage will be travelling to and from Bristol airport.
- The cost is £1699.
- Extra single room supplement of £434.

Sicily is the largest and most populated island in the Mediterranean. Lying close to the mainland of Italy and just 90 miles from the African coastline, it retains Arab as well as Greek and Roman influences in its architecture and culture. Sicily is dominated by the dramatic landscapes around Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano.

Our pilgrimage will include tastes of the birth of Christianity in the Western World, beginning with St Paul and the architectural story of Christianity's artistic relationship with the Arab world.

The pilgrimage will include visits to Catania, Syracuse, Palermo, Cefalu, Monreale. There will be plenty of free time and opportunities to enjoy the local cuisine.

For further detail please contact Martin and Elspeth Shaw either by email:

amartinshaw@gmail.com

or telephone

07980 191251

or

01392 663511

To book, contact Pax Travel:

Pax Travel

2ND FLOOR ,102 BLUNDELL ST
LONDON

N7 9BL

TELEPHONE: 020 7485 3003

E-mail: info@paxtravel.co.uk

Baby Grand Piano

During our search for a grand piano for St David's we were offered a baby grand (4'6") which wasn't completely suitable for our needs.

But the owner would still like to find a new home for the piano. If you would be interested please have a word with Nigel Guthrie.

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
MOUNT DINHAM · EXETER

CHORAL
EVENSONG
& BENEDICTION

Michael Graham conducts
UNIVERSITY of EXETER
CHAPEL CHOIR

Transfiguration Sunday
6pm, 3rd March 2019

St David's team for Men's Walk for Hospiscare

Clive Wilson, Roger Beer, Nigel Walsh and Christopher Durrant will be taking part in the Men's Walk on 16th March. If you would like to sponsor them please give them a donation or through the website

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stdavidsexeter>



Exeter College Choral Society

Spring Concert

Haydn: The Creation

Conductor - Alfie Pugh

Thursday 7th March 2019, 7.30pm

St David's Church, Queen's Terrace, Exeter, EX4 4HR

Tickets: adults £12, full time students free; available on the door
or in advance: from Exeter College - phone 01392 882000;
by emailing - execollegechoralsoc@gmail.com;
from Exeter Tourist Information Office, Dix's Field

MUSIC ACADEMY



EXETER BACH SOCIETY CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Honorary Patron: Peter Hurford OBE, DMus, FRCO

with

Exeter Chorale and the choir of
St Peter's School, Lymington

Musical Director **Jonathan Lucas Wood**

Orchestra Leader **Anna Cockroft**

J S Bach St Matthew Passion

7.00pm

Saturday 9 March 2019

Salvation Army Temple, Friars Gate, Exeter

Tickets (unreserved) from our website: www.exeterbachsociety.org

£15.00 in advance £18.00 on the door. Full-time students half price, children free

Also available from Exeter Tickets (Tourist Information Centre) Dix's Field EX1 1GF 01392 665885

Charity No. 1120011



Exeter Chamber Choir

Reg. Charity : 1078475

Noton: Dame Emma Oddy

Music for Lent
towards the Paschal Feast



featuring
Purcell, Pärt
& Poulenc's
Lenten Motets

Director
Andrew Daldorph

St. Michael & All Angels, Mt. Dinham, Exeter
Saturday 23 March 2019 7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Tiverton
Tuesday 26 March 2019 7.30pm

Tickets £10 (children/students FREE)
www.exeterchamberchoir.co.uk

March 2019 – Bach St John Passion



Bach: St John Passion (*sung in English*)

with orchestra (leader Brenda Willoughby)

and soloists: Daniel Joy (Evangelist), James Oldfield (Christus),
Julia Featherstone, Juliet Curnow and Guy Williams

conducted by Tina Guthrie

Saturday 30 March 2019, 7.30 p.m.

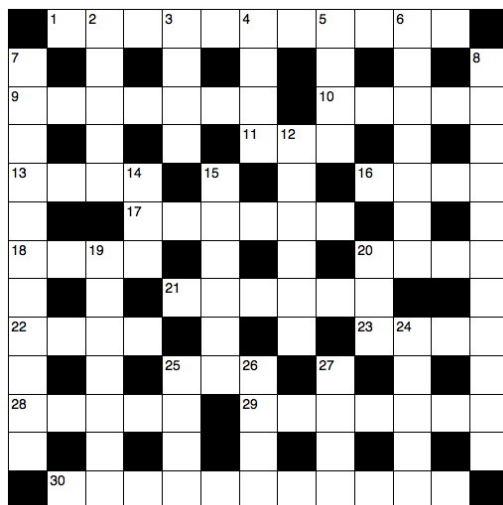
St Mary the Virgin, St Marychurch, Torquay

Tickets £14 (under 16s free) available from 01803

782677 and 07813 582273

Also available to reserve online at www.torbaysingers.com

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)

March Sudoku - Medium

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

Days of Note - March

1 March - St David (Dewi Sant): guiding the Welsh Church through turbulent times

On 1st 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 (*Gwy Dewi Sant* in Welsh) - but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day - oh, and they look nice!

5 March - SHROVE TUESDAY: Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

6 March - Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry

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

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

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

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

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

19 March - St Joseph the Carpenter: gracious descendant of King David

Many people know that Joseph was the father of the most famous man who ever lived, but beyond that, we know very little about him. The Gospels name him as the ‘father’ of Jesus, while also asserting that the child was born of a virgin. Even if he wasn’t what we call the ‘biological’ father, it was important to them that he was a distant descendant of the great King David - a necessary qualification for the Messiah.

It’s obvious that Joseph (usually described as a ‘carpenter’) was not wealthy, because he was allowed to offer the poor man’s sacrifice of two pigeons or turtle doves at the presentation of his infant son. No one expected eloquence or wisdom from this man’s son. Jesus was born into an unremarkable family, with a doubtless hard-working artisan as His father. There would have been few luxuries in that little home at Nazareth.

Matthew begins his birth narrative with the bald statement that Mary was

engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together she became pregnant 'with child from the Holy Spirit'. Joseph was not apparently privy to the divine intervention in her life, and drew the obvious conclusion: it was another man's child. However, he was not the sort of man who wished to disgrace her publicly, so he resolved to 'dismiss her quietly' - end their engagement without fuss, we might say.

However, at that point Joseph had a dream in which he was told by 'an angel of the Lord' not to hesitate to take Mary as his wife, because the child conceived in her was 'from the Holy Spirit', and that the baby was to be named 'Jesus' ('saviour') because He will 'save His people from their sins'. On waking, Joseph did as he had been instructed and took Mary as his wife.

So far as Joseph himself is concerned, we can be pretty sure of a few things. In human, legal terms he was the father of Jesus, he was a carpenter and he had probably died before Jesus began his public ministry. The little we are told suggests a devout, decent and sensitive man, one who shared Mary's anxiety when the 12 year-old Jesus went missing in Jerusalem, and who presumably taught his son the trade of a carpenter.

Joseph has become an icon of the working man - there are many churches nowadays dedicated to 'Joseph the Worker'. He can stand in the calendar of saints for the 'ordinary' person, a straight-forward craftsman who never expected or chose to be in the spotlight of history. He did what he could, and he was obedient to everything that he believed God required of him. To do the 'ordinary' thing well, to be kind, caring and open to guidance: these are great gifts, and Joseph seems to have had them in abundance.

25 March - 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.

27 March - Rupert the salty

Rupert is the saint for you if you like The Sound of Music – or salt with your food!

Rupert (d c 710) was bishop of Worms and Salzburg, and it was he who founded the great monastery of St Peter in Salzburg in the eighth century, thus firmly establishing Christianity in that city. True, it would be another 11 centuries before a certain young wanna-be-nun wandered about singing of her 'Favourite Things' and 'Something Good', but you have to start somewhere.

In the meantime, Rupert also helped the people of Salzburg by developing the salt-mines nearby. This was 'something good' as well, because it brought in an income. Though if salt became a too 'favourite thing', it would also have raised the locals' blood pressure.

Rupert's iconographical emblem is a barrel of salt, which makes sense, but is not as romantic as raindrops on roses, or whiskers on kittens.

30 March - John Climacus and his ladder to Paradise

Is there something down at, say, B&Q, which reminds your friends of you? John Climacus (d 649) had a thing about ladders. He was a monk in Palestine who was only seen out at the weekends (at church, not B&Q);

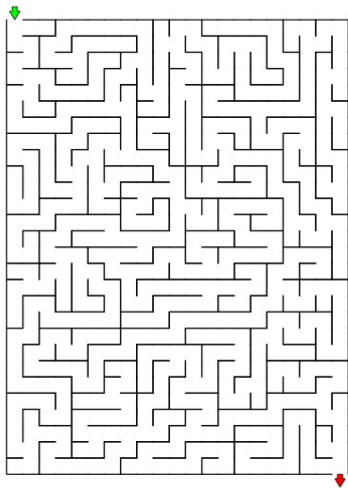
during the week he prayed and wrote in solitude. He wrote The Ladder to Paradise, a treatise of spiritual encouragement to other monks. This gave him his name 'Climacus' (= ladder), and also led to him being chosen as abbot of Sinai when he was 70. John Climacus had a helpful picture of the spiritual life: he saw it as a ladder up which the believer slowly climbed to heaven, with God's help.



Word search

l	x	b	d	q	m	i	n	d	y	j	q
t	o	i	r	u	i	l	a	w	y	e	r
w	a	v	j	e	x	t	r	h	u	r	t
p	r	i	e	s	t	e	o	m	u	i	t
h	e	a	r	t	t	a	b	o	o	c	e
e	r	c	u	i	d	c	b	t	r	h	t
l	i	r	s	o	n	h	e	g	r	o	e
p	g	d	a	n	g	e	r	o	u	s	r
r	h	x	l	i	q	r	s	o	u	l	n
s	t	r	e	n	g	t	h	d	e	n	a
w	v	n	m	s	a	m	a	r	i	a	l
d	o	n	k	e	y	b	i	b	l	e	u

Maze



- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Teacher | strength | right |
| Jericho | heart | mind |
| lawyer | Samaria | robbers |
| good | donkey | hurt |
| eternal | love | neighbour |
| inn | Bible | paid |
| Jerusalem | dangerous | help |
| priest | question | soul |

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the Law of Moses wanted
to test Jesus' knowledge of the laws in
the Bible, so he asked Jesus a question.

Teacher, so what
must I do to get
eternal life?



What does it say in the Bible?



Love God with all your
heart, soul, strength and mind, and
Love your neighbour as yourself.

You've got it right.



But who counts
as a 'neighbour'?

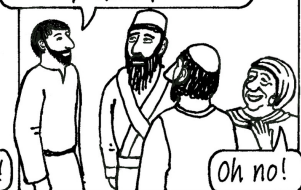
So Jesus told a story -

A man was walking from
Jerusalem to Jericho



That's a dangerous road!

He was attacked by robbers
who left him for dead.



Oh no!

A priest was walking
the same way, and
after him a lawyer.



Oh, they are good
people, they'll help.

They saw the hurt man
but they walked past



I bet it's an ordinary
person who helps!

Then a man from Samaria
came that way...



Oh no! We hate them and
they hate us Jews! That
hurt man is done for!

He felt sorry for the hurt
man, and cleaned and
bandaged his cuts.



What? No!

He put him on his donkey,
took him to an inn, and
paid for him to stay.



So who was a real neighbour
to the hurt man?



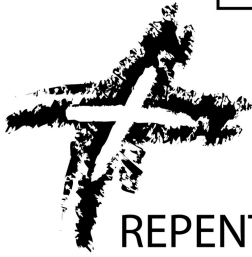
The... the Sss...
the one who helped him.

So go and do
the same.



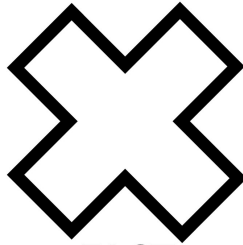
Colour-in

LENT



REPENT

- say sorry to God
for the wrong
things you have said,
thought or done



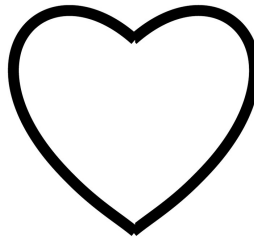
FAST

- go without



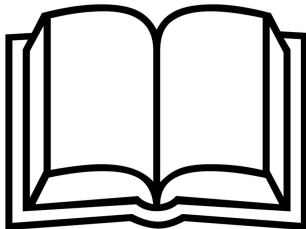
REFLECT

- think about God



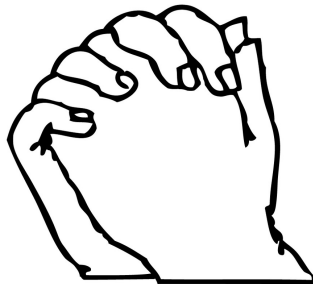
FORGIVE

other people



READ

the Bible



PRAY

Puzzle solutions

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

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

The deadline for inclusion of articles for the April issue of New Leaves is Sunday 24th March

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.