

New Leaves

March 2021



**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

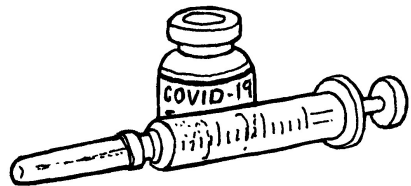
New Leaves

From the Vicarage

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priest and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. (Mark 8:31)

As we begin Lent this year it is good to reflect on those words of Jesus. He foresaw his own suffering and death, but also his resurrection. There has been a lot of suffering and death in the past year. And even those of us who have not suffered directly through Covid infection have lost out in contact with others, often those closest to us. So just now, we must keep hope alive for ourselves and for each other. God is always creating and recreating our world. The annual renewal of nature in the spring is a joyful manifestation of this just as Easter is the first and greatest celebration for Christians. Let us pray that we may keep it together this year.

The arrival and fast roll out of the vaccination programme has certainly brought hope of a return to greater normality for us and that has been truly uplifting in this third, and possibly bleakest, lockdown. A substantial number of vaccination slots were opened up for clergy at Westpoint last week and quite a number of us were privileged to get our first dose.



So, I feel that hope is on the horizon and as I write this we are awaiting a Government announcement on 22nd February. However... this means that I don't have definite news about the reopening of Public Worship. But the PCC will be meeting later in the week to try and plot a way forward and we will communicate the results through our weekly newsletter. In the meantime thank you to everyone who has contributed to our online prayers and worship and to those who have joined in our Zoom gatherings and services. They have helped to keep us in touch with each other in this strange and difficult season.

Lent Groups

Our Lent Groups are definitely going to be online this year and we have three excellent and varied offerings which I hope you will consider joining. If you would like to support Hospiscare through our Firstly we are offering the Diocesan course on Tuesday afternoons.

These Are Our Stories: Lent in a Pandemic Year

Hosted by St David's Church Exeter on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm on Zoom from 23rd February to 23rd March

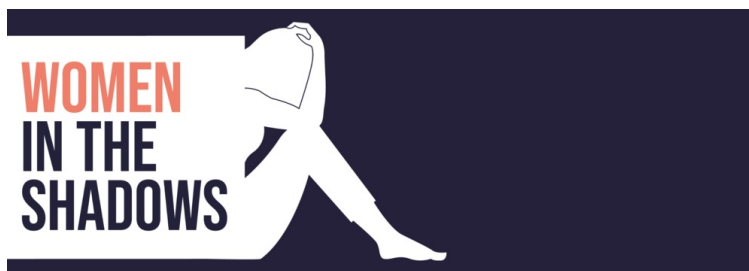
. Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09>

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392

Passcode: 196651

This Lent course is based on the pandemic stories of five people from across Devon and will encourage each of us to tell our own stories and reflect on where our faith fits into the experience of the past 12 months. The teaching is based on the work of a group of clergy and lay people from across Devon thinking about Covid-19. The sessions use videos, worksheets with a bible passage for discussion, and illustrations, each week focussing on a different story and theme, with plenty of space for our own thoughts and feelings and discernment of God's activity in our lives.



Secondly on Tuesday evenings there is a course based on the Clewer Initiative called '*Women in the Shadows*'. Belinda Speed-Andrews will be hosting this group from Tuesday 23rd February at 7.30pm for five weeks. If you would like to join here is the calendar link and recurring Zoom invitation which should work every week.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82295261476?pwd=TGJhbytHb0krQnBHOXR0eXpncnpBUT09>

Meeting ID: 822 9526 1476

Passcode: 6L6bzG

Worldwide women and girls account for 71% of the 40.3 million people living in modern slavery. In the UK it is harder to gather exact numbers, but we know that in 2018 a third of cases reported to the UK modern slavery helpline related to female victims. This course has been launched to help shine a light on the way marginalised women and girls are exploited in the UK today. During the course you will discover how women are drawn into modern slavery and exploitative situations and what life can be like for them once they are rescued from exploitation including the many challenges they face as they recover from trauma. You will also find out more about sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and County lines and how to recognise signs of modern slavery.

Thirdly Oliver Nicholson will be hosting a series of three Zoom sessions on ***Persecution and the Early Church***. These will be held on Thursdays March 4th, 11th, 18th from 7 pm to 8 pm. Full details will appear elsewhere in this magazine and the Zoom code will be published in the weekly notices.

Hospiscare Men's Walk

Last year's 'Men's Walk' was one of the last things that happened before the first lockdown. The past year has been very challenging for Hospiscare as so many of the usual fundraising events have been cancelled. But the Men's Walk is going ahead in a 'Covid secure' way with many people walking on their own or in twos – or whatever might be possible by March 20! We already have the makings of a parish team with seven of us signed up to walk. If you would like to support Hospiscare through our Justgiving page we would be delighted and grateful.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/StDavidsExeter>

If you haven't signed up for the parish team and would like to please contact Clive Wilson or Nigel Guthrie for further details.

With every blessing as you keep Lent and look forward to Easter,

Nigel



What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6: verse 8

Some Thoughts From St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham March 2021

‘It’ll only be for a few weeks...’ Some of the first words about the first lockdown. Were they to inspire hope? Compliance? Fear? Here we are, now almost a year on, having had a brief respite in the summer, only to have the force of the current phase hit us for Christmas and last into Lent. I sometimes feel that all the comment, criticism and even the cartoons that this virus and its effects has generated have left us with a hollowness that is not easily filled. The Church has tried, with various explanations for its closure, to be of on-line help; in some cases, it has been successful, but in others, there has been heavy and, in my opinion, some justified criticism of the Archbishop of Canterbury’s actions – or inaction – in dealing with the crisis. When – and where -- should a Church close its doors at the orders of a Government? Could the church buildings not have been opened for shelter? a question that I found difficult to answer when a friend asked. Explaining the sanitising and social distancing conditions sounded rather feeble in response to the needs of rough sleepers or those isolated in tiny flats.

On the other hand, if churches were to remain open for worship, that procedure had to apply to all places of worship. The requirements in a mosque are that worshippers stand shoulder to shoulder for prayers and washing before worship takes place at a communal tap or fountain; in a synagogue, men are expected to raise a corner of a prayer shawl, kiss it and then touch the Torah scroll as it is paraded past the congregation and returned to the Ark; following worship, which includes singing, in a gurdwara, Sikhs expect to share a communal meal, eaten with clean right hands...All of these would violate the social distancing expectations and the wearing of face coverings. Any legislation, then, which becomes too proscriptive would look like becoming a weapon of prejudice, racism or intolerance, and with many people being willing to be ‘woke’ on another’s behalf, a veritable cauldron of discontent would be ready to boil over. It was probably less divisive to ask for all places of worship to be closed, with very careful preparation for re-opening.

It is interesting that some non-religious people used to talk of giving up something for Lent, almost as though it were a national essential, a bit of deprivation to help appreciate the good things in life. Nowadays, there’s

very little to consider giving up: pubs and restaurants are, for the time being, closed. Shopping is of little joy – where can you wear the new clothes?- and social contact is very limited. At least a Spring walk can be inspiring, with clear evidence of the world still growing and not completely cowed by a virus.

Filling that hollow I referred to earlier has to be by taking something on, a positive addition to our spiritual growth, and this has been recommended by Bishop Robert. We need to pray and study, to let ourselves be open to God and to prepare for the power of God's grace, always present but not always recognised, to encourage us, sometimes to surge through us and move us in new ways. I think that has been so in the new and creative directions the church has taken using social media, but words of caution: not everyone has access to the technical requirements; in some places, Broadband is very slow, and nothing can beat being in the actual presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist and sharing the feast He has prepared for us. Have a productive Lent. The studying will be clearly available through Oliver Nicholson's series of Lectures: see details elsewhere in the magazine and on-line. Private prayer is still happening. The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament happens along with the Angelus; Matins is live-streamed; Vespers is said regularly. In all these ways, life at St Michael's continues. Repairs are undertaken, the garden is cared for and all will be ready for a return to (almost) normal.

We look forward to joyful Easter!



Stephanie Aplin.



A Farewell Message from Barbara James-Gough.

I am sorry to be saying goodbye to all my friends at St Michael' and All Angels and at St David's.

I shall miss all of you, not able to make cakes, mince pies and almond tarts.

The date I am leaving is 6th March, going to Stafford so that Dawn, Lynsey and Vicki can look after me when needed.

Keep safe and God bless you all.



Chosen Readings for March 2021 @St David's

Sunday 7th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-22

Preacher: Ash Leighton Plom; Bible Reader: Cathy Knowles

Prayer Leader: Belinda Speed-Andrews

Sunday 14th March 4th Sunday of Lent/Mothering Sunday

1st Reading: Samuel 1:20-end

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:33-35

Preacher: Bill Pattinson; Bible Reader: Sue Wilson

Prayer Leader: Glynis Harflett



Sunday 21st March 5th Sunday of Lent/Passion Sunday

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel Reading: John 12:20-33

Preacher: Belinda Speed-Andrews Bible Reader: Sarah Rimmington

Prayer Leader: Robert Mitchell

Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11:1-11

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Reading: Dramatic Reading of the Passion
according to Mark

Preacher: David James Bible Reader: Philip Dale

Prayer Leader: Ian Cartwright



Sunday 4th April Easter Day

1st Reading: Acts 10:34-43

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel Reading: Mark 16:1-8

Preacher: Nigel Guthrie Bible Reader: Alan Baker

Prayer Leader: Ann Watts

Soul Garden 1.2.21

S for Soul and S for seaweed. My soul garden is a floating one. It sits on an island somewhere not-too-far-offshore the West or South West of Ireland, in the Atlantic Ocean. My soul is most at peace on, or in, the ocean.



Most of the time, my soul garden is not too tidy. It gets bashed about and awash with rough weather, wind and rain. Other times, when it makes time, my soul is heavenly peace, seabirds and



sunsets, being gently lulled by the continuous movement of the sea. My soul garden is surrounded by miraculous seaweeds – fucus, carrageen, pepper dulse, sea lettuce, oarweed. My soul is enriched by taking time to watch the tide come in over rocks covered in bladder wrack – the breaking of surface tension. My

soul is uplifted by beaded spider's webs and prisms of early morning dew. I am unable to say the prayer about the dew which goes away early. Dew, though transient, reappears, again and again – if the atmospheric conditions are right.

O for Over and O is Organic. During lockdown, which is certainly not over, I have learnt to appreciate the micro as well as the macro. There is beauty in everything. Rotten leaf - life 'over'... or life enhancing? Ever discovered a leaf skeleton when all the pulp has rotted away? Underneath the apparent unwanted, the exquisite architecture and potential to provide nutrients for new beginnings - wholly metaphorical in terms of the inner soul. My soul strives for the organic and natural, yet yearns at times for more ruthless weed control and ways to obliterate unwanted vegetation in an attempt to clear the ground for new growth. Bindweed is rarely over but removal does have a certain satisfaction - if the soil conditions are right.

U for Unpredictable and U for Unbelievable. My soul garden is somewhat haphazard and unpredictable. At times it is bursting with creativity and

contentment. Other times, it feels like it's working hard in survival mode. In my soul garden, despite a strong pull to try new and exotic varieties, it generally feels more reassuring to grow things that are predictable and likely to succeed. The beauty of the rhythm of familiarity and the morphing of red, orange, purple flowers into gems that serve to nourish me and my family. Without care and support, these vegetables grow in a tangled mess. A little care and tenderness has disproportionate benefit – enabling growth and productivity. Like my soul though, regular maintenance and thorough weeding are needed. This, for me, represents the importance of giving and taking – investing in being selfless in an attempt to support something or someone in need of a little tending – and, more difficult, accepting support when I am growing out of control. It is easy to underestimate the power of human contact and the warmth of friendship.

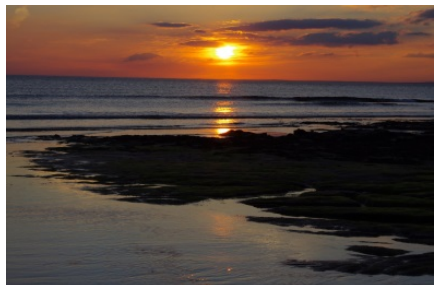
L for Limitless and L for Life-affirming. This soul garden has potential to go any which way. My Dad was a Dean in the Church of Ireland. I always remember one of his sermons when he told this story about a Native American Cherokee Indian who was teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, “A fight is going on inside of me it is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One wolf represents fear, envy, regret, greed, arrogance, resentment and ego. The other wolf stands for love, joy, peace, hope, humility, benevolence, compassion and faith.....this same fight is going on inside of you, and inside every other person, too”.

The grandchildren thought about it for a minute, and then one child asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?” The old Cherokee simply replied “the one you feed”.

I have to work hard on feeding the right bits of my soul garden. It is easy to get side-tracked and feed the unwanted elements. I strive for the wildness and isolation of my Atlantic seaweed garden as well as acknowledging a strong need for God, the natural world, and humanity in all their forms. Amen.



Susan Mitchell



Green Matters – LTNs & Reducing Traffic

How many of us when we learned to drive can remember having MSM drummed into us?

Nowadays, MSM more often stands for the Main Stream Media, at least in the US and the Twitter sphere, but here it means “Mirror, signal, manoeuvre” as the safe way to check and then



indicate before carrying out a change in direction. Many drivers now seem to treat signalling as optional which makes me wonder if they have looked before manoeuvring and seen others, especially if I am cycling. However I want to focus on a new three-letter abbreviation LTN which stands for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods which are the subject of much debate. A low traffic neighbourhood is an area which is closed off to through-traffic – so you can drive to it but can't drive through it. This stops people using residential roads as shortcuts and makes it safer and easier to walk and cycle. Recently I had a conversation with residents of Magdalen Road about the street being made one-way and a contraflow cycle-route being introduced. I was informed that the diversion to traffic meant loss of business as people could no longer drive up the street and park, an increase of £20 a week spent on diesel to park his car by one and then they listed bike riders' bad habits and inconsiderate behaviour such as jumping traffic lights, passing cars on the inside, riding on pavements, non-payment of road tax and so on. This is not untypical of arguments reported elsewhere about LTNs. The disruption to businesses due directly to the pandemic makes it hard to judge the LTN impacts and the extra fuel cost is obviously exaggerated unless he's doing a massive amount of driving. Bad road habits are also not confined to cyclists. When I see other cyclists jumping or going through red lights I remind them that obeying the rules makes us all safer, although one rider told me he was in a hurry, so justified. The car driver that knocks him off might have a similar excuse. I suspect bad cyclists and drivers are often

the same people.

The Magdalen Road changes are part of the changes introduced to provide safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists during the pandemic whilst public transport capacity was reduced due to social distancing, but are actually part of the already existing longer term E9 strategic cycle network. This includes shutting Ludwell Lane to through traffic and also Dryden Road and Wonford Road apart from buses. There is now a consultation as Devon County Council considers whether to make the changes permanent. There are a number of similar schemes across the city also under discussion for making them permanent. What are the arguments in favour?

As last month's article on climate heating made clear it is now critical that we move towards a zero carbon dioxide input to the atmosphere as fast as we can. Road transport currently accounts for 20% of UK greenhouse emissions (Office for National Statistics). Road traffic increased by 29% from 1990 to 2018. Road traffic also causes local pollution at street level in the form of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. Being slightly less convenient to use a car in a LTN means we are nudged towards walking and cycling and so reduce greenhouse emissions and other pollutants. Devon CC (Exeter Transport Strategy 2020-2030) has a target for 50% of trips to be made by walking and cycling. "This will be achieved through enhancing pedestrian/cycling networks, reallocating road space for walking and cycling and creating more attractive public spaces. We will also work with bus operators to improve urban bus corridors and to provide a reliable low carbon network of buses". This also has health benefits. One in four people do less than 30 minutes physical activity per week and one in six deaths is linked to inactivity. In Exeter over 40% of car journeys are less than 5km. As the Exeter city strategy plan, updated in the light of Covid-19, makes clear "We want more people moving more in everyday life and we are working with our partners to find more ways to get people out of cars and walking and cycling more in their neighbourhoods and for their regular commutes."

The assumption that we can build more and more roads for increased private car use in our cities and towns is obviously not sustainable. Some places such as Copenhagen and Amsterdam realised this many years ago and now have cycling and pedestrian infrastructure of which we can only envy. Exeter does have a much better cycle provision than many UK towns

as a result of being chosen as one of six Cycle Demonstration Towns, a project that ran between 2005 and 2011. Over £16 million was spent on capital investments. However nearly £9 million of this was for the Exe Estuary Trail. Overall about £29 per head of Exeter's population was spent per year. This compares to over £100 million of new transport infrastructure since 2011 in Exeter in total. Cycling levels have grown following the project. However still only 6% of commuters in Exeter do so by cycle, and is below other locations including Norwich , York , Oxford and Cambridge. These are flatter towns compared to Exeter, so perhaps the recent popularity of electric bikes will help us catch up.

As more people work from home in future we should need less road space for cars for commuting and when people do travel to their work offices for meetings more sustainable and healthy means of transport should be encouraged. Fewer rat-runs in residential areas (partly increased as a result of sat-navs finding back ways) will also improve the home-working and living areas. It is ironic that my initial conversation in Magdalen Road started with our being unable to hear each other as a result of an especially noisy delivery van. It is often claimed that there is no support for the changes but the Exeter Transport Consultation in 2019 found over 70% support for reduced highways space in the city centre in favour of improved and safer provision for pedestrians and cyclists.

A short video and discussion on LTNs is available here:

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/low-traffic-neighbourhoods-who-are-they-for/>



Clive Wilson,
20 Feb 2021



Desert Island Discs from Margaret Grimsey

My 8 discs:

1. Lindy Lou sung by Paul Robeson

My father's musical tastes were very third programme and my mother could play the piano "sufficiently well for school purposes" (tick box) But we all loved Paul Robeson. After the 6 o'clock News my father would go off to the shed, switching the radio off with the words "we're not forced to listen to this rubbish" My sister and I were teenagers before we were bold enough to turn the radio back on.

2. Litolf - Scherzo

When I was 14 a string quartet visited school. cello, clarinet, trumpet and piano. The players demonstrated their instruments. The pianist was an unremarkable little woman, summer frock, cheap plastic shoes (well it was the war) but could she play.

And it occurred to me you don't have to be glamorous or wealthy to make music, you just have to "get on with it."

Recently listeners to Breakfast on Radio 3 have been invited to suggest music which makes them feel happy. I haven't heard anything yet to compare with this Scherzo for exuberance.

3. To Music - Schubert

I've always sung. In church my sister went into the pew first. I sat between my parents. When the singing began my sister would ease away from our group so nobody could think that she had anything to do with that noise.

Some twenty years later, I had been exhorting everyone in school to sing with the words "don't believe anyone who tells you, you can't sing." And I related the church story. At the end of school, one boy stayed behind to tell me, "You say your sister didn't like your singing, I think you sing quite nicely."



4. Brahms Requiem I'd like all of it. If that's not allowed I'd choose 'Ye now have sorrow'

My sister died suddenly at the age of 48. I was beside myself with fury. Her husband was attached to the British Forces in Germany, and they had planned to retire to a new home in Torquay.

I joined a Choral Society which was learning the Requiem, wept through the rehearsals and just about managed to sing in the performance.

5. Handel - The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba

For some years this was my signature tune plus egg timer.

Recipe - bring eggs in hot water to a rolling boil

Play The Queen of Sheba

Take eggs out

Perfect

"That looks mouth watering delicious Nigella, but can you boil an egg?"

6. Schubert String Quartet in C major

I first heard this at The Crematorium and was stunned. Ben had to listen to it many many times.

7. Apres un Reve - Faure arranged for The Kings Singers

8. Jake Thackeray - Lah Di Dah

This was my introduction to Jake one Monday morning when the family departed, leaving me with the weekend detritus.

Whenever he performed locally I was in the audience.

If I can only take one disc it would be "To Music"

My luxury item would be a Bluthner piano with a huge variety of easy to play piano music — assuming my glasses are still intact.

Otherwise I would just have to busk!

Annunciation Windows at St Michael's

March 25th, a Thursday in 2021, is the Feast of the Annunciation. We have two windows in St Michael's Church depicting the visit of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary at Nazareth (Luke 1:26-38).

One is top-left in the Great East Window, one of 5 scenes from Luke's Gospel featuring Angels, while the panels below are angelic events from the Old Testament, and St Michael from Revelation.

The other Annunciation window is in the south aisle, left of the Nativity ones I described recently in the Dec/Jan Magazine.

The symbolism is the same in each, so I'll just describe the latter. The imagery is medieval European, rather than 4BC Judaeen, but it's the humanity and theology that matter.

Mary in a blue robe kneels at her prayer desk with a book. Gabriel in white with wings stands speaking with her. A vase of lilies, symbol of purity is between them lest we get the wrong idea. The angel's hand in blessing Mary points upward to a dove, the Holy Spirit, through whom she will conceive the Son of God, Jesus Christ – all Heaven in little space.

Above Mary there is a lamp, the light of Christ maybe, and Gabriel holds a Cross, the future sorrows as well as the present joys of Mary are there. The roundel at the top has a lily of the valley, Victorian flower symbol of amongst other things humility, motherhood and tears.

Immediately below the picture is "Ave Maria gratia plena Dominus tecum". The Angelus and Ave Maria prayed at St Michael's use texts from Luke & John.

The dedication of this window reads

"To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Helen Yates Feb 3rd 1882 R.I.P."

This panel also contains a stylised lily and some fine botanical glasswork.

I am very grateful to Jeremy Lawford at St David's Church for researching the life of Helen Yates far better than I could; here are his findings.

"Helen Yates was an unmarried lady of independent means who had been born in Cheltenham in 1821. The 1881 census gives her address as 7 Richmond Road, but the notice of her death in the Western Times the following year, and the Probate Calendar, have 7 Peamore Terrace, which had been her home in 1871. Peamore Terrace and Richmond Terrace appear to have been contiguous, so it may be that in 1881 they had been

recently merged as Richmond Road.

In 1871 she had been living with her widowed mother, Maria, who died in 1875. Helen lived on, attended by two servants who may have been sisters, until her death on 3 February 1882. Her estate was valued at £3946 11s 5d."

Perhaps because it seldom falls on a Sunday, or we are coy about its intimacy, the Annunciation is no longer as widely or joyously celebrated in the West as it should be. In a real sense the Annunciation is the Beginning, or at very least the focal point, of Salvation history. The Creeds are clear about the centrality of the Incarnation of Jesus - "our merciful Redeemer, friend & brother", as Richard of Chichester put it.

Mary, and Joseph too in Matthews Gospel, make the correct answer, a humble, confident "Yes" to God. Compare this with Eve and Adam making the wrong response to temptation by the Snake, scrumping from the Tree of knowledge of good & evil. The Fall of all humanity.

We've heard the Prologue of John's Gospel, 3 or 4 times since Christmas, and Fr Dominic extolled the equally cosmic vision of St Paul in Ephesians 1, but try rereading Chapter 1 of Luke. He has written so much theology into the narrative.

He contrasts the unexpected but natural Birth of John to Elisabeth and Zechariah, with the uniquely human & divine conception of Jesus. Gabriel is so in awe of Mary his first word is 'Hail!'. Mary's astonishment reminds him to say 'Fear not'. At the Visitation, Elisabeth calls Mary, "Mother of my Lord".

It is also, of course, a wonderful multi-faceted Love story.

As an aside I cannot understand how the CofE's Living in Love and Faith study of 'identity, sexuality, relationships & marriage' can go through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation without once mentioning the Annunciation or the Holy Family of faithful Joseph, Mary & Jesus. I guess they don't exemplify the Church's binary ideals.

Finally, why is the Annunciation celebrated on March 25th? 9 months before Christmas, obviously. Well yes, but it could be the other way around. The Early Church, expecting the imminent return of Christ, was not that concerned with dates. But by mid-3rd century, Scholars reckoned the date of Jesus' Crucifixion as March 25th AD30. It was also believed that really good or perfect lives should begin and end on the same calendar date. Thus Jesus must have been conceived on March 25th too and this date for the Feast of the Annunciation became established. Even though the

dates of Holy Week & Easter became movable, tied to the Paschal Full Moon, the date of the Annunciation, stayed fixed.



Richard Barnes – 21/02/21.

South Aisle Window



Great East Window Panel



Services & Events for St Michael's - March 2021

At the time of writing, options for Sunday Services are still to be decided by the PCC based on latest data and risk assessment. So I'll feature other activities first.

Our thanks to Richard Parker, assisted in turn by Kim, Tony & Penny, for Sung Plainsong Vespers on Tuesdays at 6pm, broadcast to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2227703237/>

Friends of St Michael's Facebook Group and appreciated by many.

Wednesday Matins at 9.30 is broadcast to

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter>

and can be viewed later if more convenient. If Wednesday morning Mass resumes, that will be streamed.

This year's Lent Group led by Oliver Nicholson will be by Zoom, on the first 3 Thursdays in March (4, 11, 18) at 7pm for an hour, discussing Persecution in the Early Church. The link to the Zoom Meeting will be in the Weekly Notices and Pewsheets.

St Michael's Facebook page is where other services & notices will be found. Its address is:-

<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter>

Sunday Recorded Service on YouTube are available from links on our

website <https://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/events/>

and St David's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/stdavidschurchexeter>

The weekly Parish Notices and Pewsheets will keep you informed.

Here is a list of the Services we should have – Pew Sheet links and online worship will cover these as far as possible.

Until Services can safely resume in Church, St Michael's will be OPEN for Private Prayer Sundays 11am-12noon with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 11.30 and Angelus at 12.

Currently NO SERVICES in Church, but we hope & pray to be able to resume Public Worship with Covid Precautions during March.

Tue 2 Mar 6pm Plainsong Vespers on "Friends of St Michael's" Facebook group, and also Tuesdays 9, 16, 23 & 30 Mar.

Wed 3 Mar, 9.30 Matins. Online on StM Facebook .page.

On Wednesdays in Lent we normally pray Stations of the Cross at 6pm. If this cannot happen physically, this link to our Stations may be helpful

<https://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/stations-of-the-cross-1/>
Thursdays 4, 11 & 18, at 7pm over Zoom. Reading Group led by Oliver Nicholson on 'Persecution and the Early Church'.

Friday 5 Mar, 12 noon. Funeral of Elizabeth Hewitt. (Private owing to Covid Rules.)

Sun 7 Mar, Lent III. 11am-12noon Private Prayer

Wed 10 Mar, 9.30 Matins

Sun 14 Mar, Lent IV, Laetare with Rose Vestments, Mothering Sunday..

11am Private Prayer or Mass – to be decided, please check notices.

Wed 17 Mar, Matins. St Patrick. (possibly 10am Mass – check notices)

Sun 21 Mar, Lent V, Passion Sunday, veiling of Crosses & statues. 11Am

Private Prayer or Sung Mass (to be decided)

Wed 24 Mar, Matins and possibly Mass.

Thu 25 Mar. Feast of the Annunciation.

Holy Week & Easter Services may need to be modified or reduced this year.

Sun 28 Mar, Palm Sunday, usually with Procession of Palms and Sung Passion Gospel. 10.30 or 11am – please check nearer the date)

Wed 31 Mar, Spy Wednesday. 9.30am Matins, possibly 10am Mass.

7pm Usually Stations of the Cross with Sung Stabat Mater Dolorosa.

Thu 1 Apr, Maundy Thursday, usually 7.30pm Sung Mass with Foot-washing and Stripping of the Altar.

Fri 2 Apr, 10.30am Good Friday Liturgy

Good Friday evening 8pm Tenebrae, usually sung from the Gallery as Lights are extinguished to Darkness.

Sat 3 Apr, 8pm Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass. New Fire of Christ's Resurrection lighting the Paschal Candle, Sung Exultet, Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Sun 4 Apr, Easter Sunday Festal Sung Mass with Blessing of the Easter Garden.

We hope you stay safe and in touch with Christ and his Church, and wish you a holy Lent and blessed Easter.



Richard Barnes – 21/02/21.



Poem of the Month

Mollie emailed me on the morning of New Year's Day saying she was pleased to hear that, with Glynis' suggestion, we were including some fresh ideas in the magazine including sharing a poem each month. She reminded me of "The Nail Man" which I chose and read for our Lent evening on March 28th 2004. It speaks for itself, as we approach another Good Friday. Here it is:

The Nail Man

*Which one was it
that held the nails
and then hammered them
into place*

*Did he hit them
out of anger,
or a simple
sense of duty?*

*Was it a job
that had to be done,
or a good day's work
in the open air?*

*And when they
clawed past bone
and bit into wood,
was it like all the others,
or did history
shudder a little
beneath the head
of that hammer?*

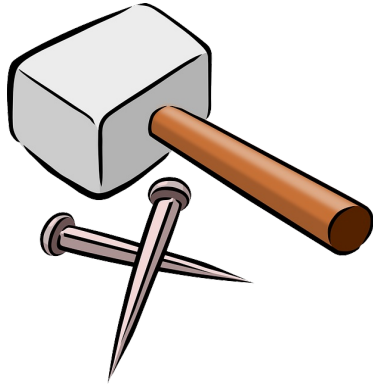
*Was he still there,
packing away his tools,
when 'It is finished'*



Stained glass Crucifix at Bewdley museum

*was uttered to the throng,
or was he at home
washing his hands
and getting ready
for the night?*

*Will he be
among the forgiven
on that Day of Days,
his sin having been slain
by his own savage spike?*



Steve Turner

Friday, January 3, 2003

The “poem of the month” does not always have to be my choice. If any one has a poem which they would like to submit, please do so with perhaps a few words as to why you chose it. Please send to myself

billpattinson136@gmail.com or to newleavesnews@gmail.com



Thinking Poetry

I just rather related to the poem below and wished to share it with all those who feel “up to their necks” in news, often news not very encouraging.

Bill

Serenity Prayer

by Brian Bilston

Send me a slow news day,
a quiet subdued day,
in which nothing much happens of note,
just the passing of time,
the consumption of wine,
and a re-run of *Murder, She Wrote*.

Grant me a no news day,
a spare-me-your-news day,
in which nothing much happens at all -
a few hours together,
some regional weather,
a day we can barely recall.

From Alexa, what is there to know about love?
(Picador)

First seen in the “Guardian Review” Saturday 6th February 2021 “Inside the Second Wave” Poetry page 19



RIP The Penn Club, London

One sadness this week (27 January 2021) came with the news that the Penn Club will be closing its doors at the end of March. I for one will miss it very much as it has been a safe place for me when visiting London on my own and I have valued my membership there.

I first got to hear of it when working for King's College London in the 1990s as, situated in Bedford Place, just off Russell Square and behind the British Museum, it was right in the heart of the University of London, close to colleges, and therefore popular with visiting examiners. I also heard that it was



inexpensive and one was always assured of a hearty breakfast! One did not have to be a member to stay there as it was open to non-residents. Once I moved to Exeter in 2001, I started to make use of it when on trips to London for research for my degree and for family history. It had a lounge furnished with comfy chairs and the daily papers and, as a Quaker foundation, a quiet room. The rooms were basic, and its only disadvantage was the lack of a lift and as I always had a single room, I usually found myself at the top of the house, three floors up! For me the most fun feature was the shared long table at breakfast. Anyone sitting there was saying they welcomed conversation, and over the years I've met such interesting people. On one occasion, 'our man in Belgrade' joined us, over on a week's Ambassadors conference, and on another, the Precentor of Christchurch Cathedral, New Zealand, who also turned out to be a room steward at Ngaio Marsh's house. She and I are still in touch. There was also a kitchen equipped with a fridge and microwave for the use of guests, so overcoming the nightmare for many single travellers of eating out in a restaurant hiding behind a book! Going down from 5.30 onwards of an evening, there would be the popping of lids followed by the hum of the

microwave and very often the opportunity of conversation, discussing what shows we were all going to in nearby Covent Garden or plans for the morrow



Hilary Todd

31.01.2021



© www.parishpump.co.uk

My March Dates.

I don't know which ones Clive will choose for his Days of Note this month, but there are several dates with personal interest for me. The Church may be in Lenten array, but Nature springeth green

We mark the Patron Saint days at home, and the home-grown Celtic Green ones, David & Patrick occur on March 1st & 17th. Andrew of course was an Apostle from Galilee, while George the dragon-slayer was a Roman soldier in Asia Minor.

March 20th is the Vernal Equinox, the start of northern hemisphere astronomical Spring. For ease of compiling statistics and to reflect seasonal weather, meteorological Spring in the NH begins on March 1st.

March 23rd is World Weather Day, the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization in 1950.

March 23rd also happens to be the day I spent in Delphi, the navel of the Classical world, on a brief holiday in Greece in 1977. And it is a significant family Birthday this year.

Returning to the Liturgical Calendar, March 25th is Lady Day, the Feast of the Annunciation, when God asked the Virgin Mary through the Archangel Gabriel to become the Mother of His Son, and Mary said Yes, Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to Thy Word. We have 2 windows in St Michael's Church depicting this focal point in salvation history. (See a separate article.)

Discussion of Quarter Days, and why the UK Financial Year ends on 5th April rather than 25th March, is left as an exercise for the reader.

Checking the Calendar for March, there are several other names that resonate, Chad of Lichfield on the 2nd, Cuthbert of Lindisfarne rather than Trumpton, on the 20th, and the oft neglected faithful St Joseph husband of the Virgin Mary on the 19th.

In Roman history, a date that went down in 'Infamy' is March 15th, the Ides of March in 44BC, the Assassination of Julius Caesar, Et tu Brute and all that, as dramatized by William Shakespeare & Carry On Cleo.

This is not to be confused with the Marches of Ide, which are the borders of the archidiaconal village on the edge of Exeter.

And then there is March 14th, Pi-day when written as 3.14, and kept here as the Feast of St Pythagoras who worked 22/7 in the early 4th century as a bishop keeping the Light of Christ, music & mathematics alive in West Britannia.

May I return to the beginning; on St David's Day 2016, I wrote a poem about the place, the man, the Church. I have sung in St David's Cathedral on 4 or 5 occasions, including 11 years ago with St Michael's Choir in a trip organised by Dom Coad & Frances Clemson.

"Daffodils, dragons and leeks, rain and Welsh cakes,
Happy St David's Day, ancient Land of our Fathers.

Memories come flooding back,
Of visits to the tiny city of St Davids,
Beyond the M4, A40, past post-card Solva,

Over hill and vale,
Bright jewel on the index finger of Pembrokeshire.

Grand medieval Bishop's Palace
Now ruined by time and tide of human greed.
Your humble, wonky Cathedral

Still growing up from the ground
In its fertile green valley 'twixt land and sea.
Singing in the nave sloping from earth towards
heaven,
Myth and mist and mystery rolling in from the
Celtic Sea,"

https://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Poem_Dewi_Sant.pdf

That Spring I wrote a set of narrative poems, some better than others, about events & journeys. If you are interested, they are gathered in a pdf file on this link :-

https://www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Poems_Spring.pdf

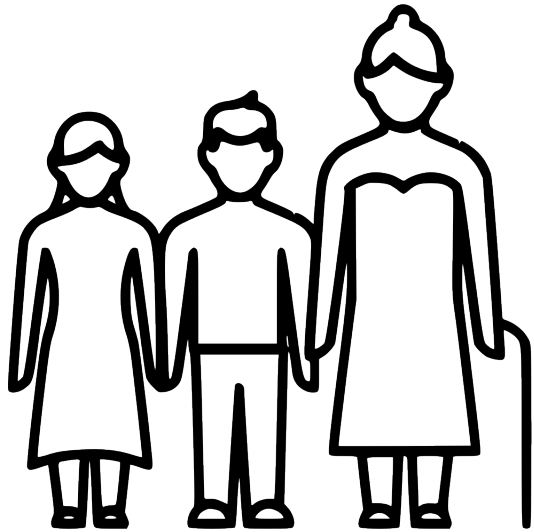


Richard Barnes – 21/02/21.



Step-relatives

Recently, I read another article about the difficulties that a stepmother faces. It's true that they are unpopular characters in fairy stories such as Cinderella, Snow White etc. Presumably, she would weigh up the pros and cons before signing the marriage register. However, step grandparents are presented with no option but to step (pardon the pun) into their role. I know because I am a step-grandmother several times over, and I am far from being alone in these days of frequent divorces or where a biological mother dies.

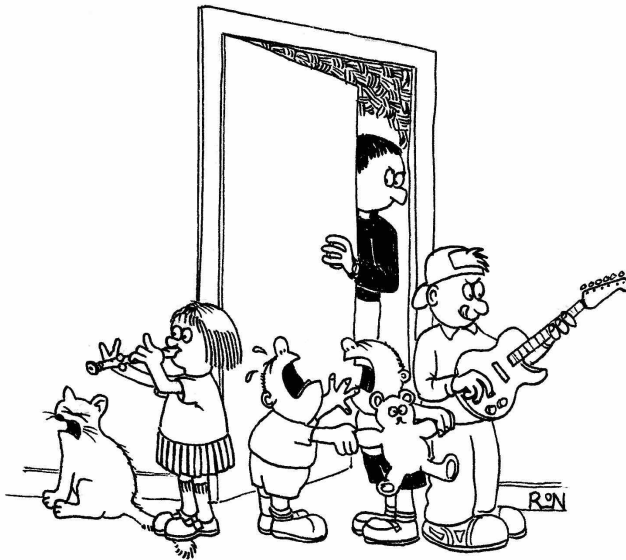


I have three sons, who acquired 2 children each. No. 2 son married a widow and, suddenly there were two girls, one 12 and one about 8. Both called my husband and I grandma and grandpa – my husband loved it, but I had grown up with 4 brothers and then had three sons, so hadn't much know-how about girls. This is in spite of once being one and being a teacher. We lived about 80 miles away so we had no day-to-day contact as many grandparents do. It was quite a long patient effort to establish a loving relationship which we now have. Later, there were two more girls, my no. 1 son's children. The eldest son, married a divorcee with two girls, one 10 and one 6. They too lived many miles away, so we took time to know each other. They called us by our first names. Son no. 3, who, in his forties, married a divorcee, confessed to us that we had acquired 2 teenagers, this time one was a boy. We have, now, got great-granddaughters and three great-great-granddaughters. My husband died 25 years ago. I have had and still enjoy much love from them all. During these difficult times they have encouraged me with frequent texts, phone calls, cards and letters. Also, they are thoughtful, sending me flowers, a cd player, dry shampoo (useful with no hairdresser) etc.

I can't tell new "steps", anxious about new young people in their lives, how to achieve such happy results. Just take it slowly, don't push hard to make them love you but treat them as sensible people. They will enjoy presents but don't try to buy their affection, outdoing their other grandparents and in time you, too, will be lucky and enjoy another dimension in your life. In these modern times family life has become more complicated, but, children still want someone to give them stability and someone to complain to when their parents are being a pain. So, if you are a new step-grandparent, be prepared to enjoy it. It's well worth it.



Eileen Jarman (5.2.21)



*Kevin took himself off to his
study to pray for peace*

Pychester Lockdown – Chapter 7

An affectionate satire on a fictional diocese.

Meet old Peregrine Stoop, Tenor when St Pythag's sings and author of many a piece in "New Loaves" their Parish Mag. He's daydreaming at his desk, adrift on the Sea of Retirement with a lifetime of memories welling up from forgotten depths.

Authors have Layers laid down by family, friends, colleagues, interests, activities, responsibilities, joys, frustrations – but he's feeling the rawness of layers stripped away by age, lockdowns and mediocre health.

Time to try that Christian arithmetic; count your blessings, discount your disappointments, multiply love and divide your burdens by the cross of Jesus. But he still feels a bit short-changed. Just as well that God doesn't deal in performance related Grace.

Strange times, strange dreams. He woke the other morning from Psychological Geologists hitting him with ideological hammers, redefining his strata as cis-gendered, heterosexual, partnered, white, middle-class, Christian male – lowest of the low. If he were a statue, he'd need an explanatory plaque. But it was only a dream.

Time for him to put into port at Pychester. Take a trip of lockdown imagination up the River Pyke. Past the romantic ruins of Pintern Abbey, its heaven-vaulted quire silent for 480 years or so. Renaissance prince became blustering King. Six marriages that don't get a mention in the CofE's Living in Love & Faith story...

Onwards to the headwaters high on Pykemoor, where the stream of consciousness tumbles over the boulders of destiny. A fine mist of ideas refracts the frosty sunlight into a fleeting rainbow and his mind's eye captures an image or two to be cropped, written and re-written.

Noah's Rainbow, God's Covenant with all flesh. Apt that it now covers our NHS. Also that it was taken up by Gay Pride, when the Church had wanted to limit God's covenant, to exclude some flesh.

We still need Clergy, announces the new Archbishop of York, in response to newspaper leaks of wholesale reduction and retrenchment by a cash-strapped CofE. . Good to know. Don't panic yet, Fr Mainwaring, it's a misinterpretation of a work stream of a strategic review of options going forward. But it does seem if you want to get on in today's Church of England, it's Vision & Strategy one needs not Theology or Liturgy. So forget

about Staggers & Cuddesdon for your training, should've gone to SoulSavers.

Let us not be too hard on our bishops this month. Bishops have layers too. Bishop Ric has many layers between the bland collegial uniformity required by the House of Bishops and his ruff-hewn Faith in Jesus which crystallised as a chorister. The public voice of comfort & hope, the pastoral care for clergy & people, the whoso layer (wife husband or significant other) that keeps one grounded, and his layer of fun.

This enlivened the House of Bishops February Meeting with a fun Richard Osman House of Games style Diocesan Answer Smash. The aim is to 'mash' a Diocese with another name, e.g. from popular culture. Thus:- Canterbury Tales of the Unexpected, Sheffield Wednesday, Chelmsford Anglia, Pychester-le-Street. You get the idea.

As a triple smash Bristol Rovers Return is rather good.

Also Durham Miners Gala, the topical Oxford Astra-Zeneca, and Leicester Square. Over to you.

There's not much new across the Churches of Pychester Diocese. They keep calm and carry on on the surface, while clergy, wardens & PCCs Zoom about in the layers below. While there are some wrong answers, people have learnt there is no single right answer to Church in a time of plague. Each must find their own place or places on the spectrum of options – closed, online, private prayer, safe-enough Services or some other variant.

St Pythag's has spiced up its set of recorded and streamed Services with weekly Plainsong Vespers by shimmering candlelight.

Curate Lee's Just4Advent 'THRIVE' Sunday afternoon Zoom Service is after 3 months, well, thriving, offering an informal space for questions, prayer & reflection, without forcing answers on people. As for the Zoom Ash Wednesday Service, DIY-Ashing is a new skill for most and there was no doubting old Peregrine's Penitence.



And so it is Lent, days of lengthening, branches budding, bulbs bursting forth, the sharp scratch of the Cross, and a stone's throw beyond, Jesus singing, 'You've got a friend in me.



Richard Barnes 21.2 21



Perhaps he's heard that we're
losing our churchwarden



Lent Course:

Our five week Lent course at St David's is based on the pandemic stories of people from across Devon who have had an extraordinary 12 months. It will encourage us to reflect into where our faith fits in to our experiences of the last year. All sessions will be on Zoom and invitations can be found in the weekly Parish email.

The dates and times are as follows:

Tuesday 23rd. February 2pm

Tuesday 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March at 2 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Persecution and the Early Church:

a series of three Zoom Talk-Discussions

Thursdays March 4th, 11th, 18th: 7 pm to 8 pm



March 4th: "The destroyers of our Gods": pagan motives and their consequences

The Romans were not in general intolerant of strange religions, so why did they persecute the Christians? What did the Christians do to deserve it? Or was it what they did not do?

Reading: Pliny the Younger *Letters* X, 96-7. Emperor Maximinus Daza: Rescript to the City of Tyre of 312 AD (in Eusebius *HE* IX, 7, 2-15 = 283-85)

March 11th: Fear, apostasy, flight and defiance: the range of Christian reaction

Our idea of the persecutions is dominated by the passions of individual martyrs, but many of these are fiction. Even the authentic passions record only the last stages of the martyr's trial and execution; it is as if all we had of *Hamlet* was the pile of bodies at the end of the final Act. A more rounded picture of Christian experience under persecution, especially of the fear that it engendered, can be gleaned from reading a wider range of sources.

Reading: Letters of Dionysius Patriarch of Alexandria (*HE* VI, 40-42 = 205-10)

Peter, Patriarch of Alexandria *Canons* of Easter 306

March 18th: "Being made perfect": the spirituality of the martyrs

The *inspirata patientia* of the martyrs their 'inspired endurance', aroused admiration. Where did the inspiration come from?

Reading: Extracts from Origen *Exhortation to Martyrdom*

Passion of Polycarp (Musurillo 3-21 odd)

Passion of Phileas (Musurillo 330-345 or 353 odd)

THE TREASURES OF ROMANIA.

Monday 20th - Wednesday 29th September 2021

Bishop Martin and Elspeth Shaw invite you to join them on a journey into the landscape, history, spirituality and resilience of a nation in its traditions and development. From the vibrancy of Bucharest, through rural Marmures' ancient villages; wooden churches; staying at an Orthodox Convent, we will move across the Carpathian Mountains to the famous World Heritage [UNESCO] Bucovina monastery churches. Via Moldavia, We will come to the mysterious culture of Transylvania, staying at the historic mansion of Szekerland. Our journey will be completed by a visit to a Children's Hospice, cared for by an Orthodox priest. This journey is a pilgrimage into the heart of the Orthodox tradition. We'll have a daily Eucharist and time to enjoy new as well as deepen friendship.

Cost: £1695 [which includes a deposit of £200].

If you are interested to receive more information and a booking form, please get in touch with Bishop Martin:

07801 549615 or amartinshaw@gmail.com The Pilgrimage company is: Worldwide Christian Travel, 36, Coldharbour Road, Bristol BS6 7NA. Email: info@christian-travel.com Website: www.christian-travel.com





We have a team from St David's walking in a Covid-secure way- doing our own walks with at most 2 people. If you would like to support Hospiscare through our Justgiving page we would be delighted and grateful.
<https://www.justgiving.com/team/StDavids>

The Widow's little coins



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE JESUS WAS WATCHING PEOPLE BRINGING GIFTS TO THE TEMPLE

HE SAW THE RICH PEOPLE BRINGING THEIR MONEY

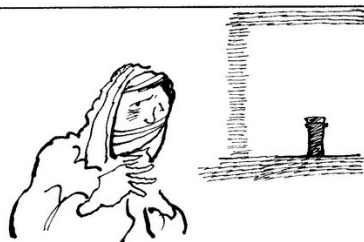


THEY MADE A BIG FUSS

THE PROUD PEOPLE WANTED EVERYONE TO SEE HOW RICH THEY WERE.



THEY MADE SURE EVERYONE COULD SEE THEM PUTTING THEIR MONEY IN THE BOX



BUT THEN JESUS WATCHED A POOR WIDOW CREEP UP TO THE TEMPLE...

...AND DONATE TWO SMALL COPPER COINS.



"THE WIDOW HAS GIVEN THE GREATEST GIFT", EXPLAINED JESUS. "IT IS WORTH SO MUCH MORE THAN ALL THE RICH PEOPLE'S GIFTS!" see Luke 21.1-4

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 14 verses 15-24

Jesus was at a dinner when one guest said
how good it would be to be at God's feast
for His people at the end of time.

So Jesus told a story -

A man once gave a great feast.



He sent his servant to
invite his guests.



When everything was
ready, he sent his
servant to tell his guests.



But they all
made excuses.



One said, 'I've bought some
land and I need to see it.
Sorry!'



The next said, 'I've bought some
oxen and I need to try them out.
Sorry!'



And another said, 'I got
married so I'm not coming.'



The master was
very angry.



He told his servant to go to every
street in the town and fetch
everyone who was poor or
disabled



His servant did that
and there was still
room.

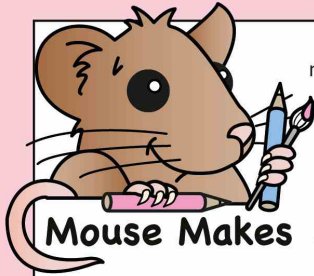


He told his servant to
search outside the town
and fill the house.



The master of the feast said,
'None of those I invited but who
wouldn't come will get even the
leftovers!'





Mouse Makes

Who is my mother?

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

CAIN and ABEL
Genesis 4:1-2

JOSEPH
Genesis 30:22-24

ISHMAEL
Genesis 16:15

TIMOTHY
2 Timothy 1:5

RUBEN
Genesis 29:32

GAD
Genesis 35:26

SAMUEL
1 Samuel 1:20

OBED
Matthew 1:5

ISAAC
Genesis 21:3

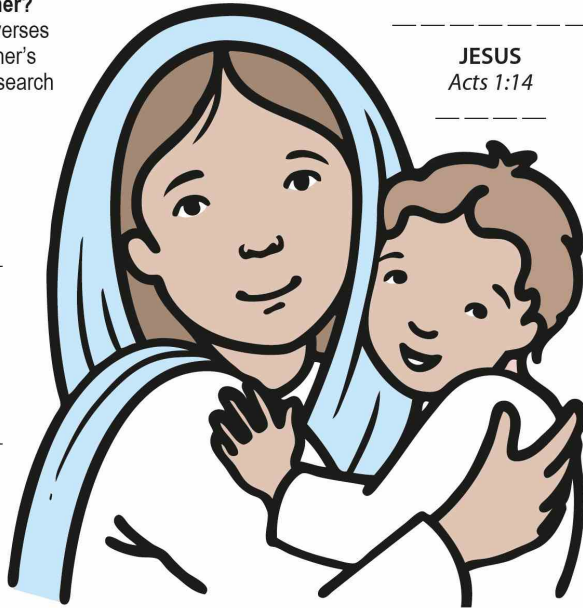
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

SOLOMON
1 Chronicles 3:5

JOHN
Luke 1:57-60

ESAU and JACOB
Genesis 25:24-26

JESUS
Acts 1:14



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

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

Smilelines

Observations on modern life

Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

Save the earth. It's the only planet with chocolate.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk I have a workstation.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a cash advance.

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a flat tyre.

The darkest hour is just before dawn. So, if you're going to steal your neighbour's milk, that's the time to do it.

Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

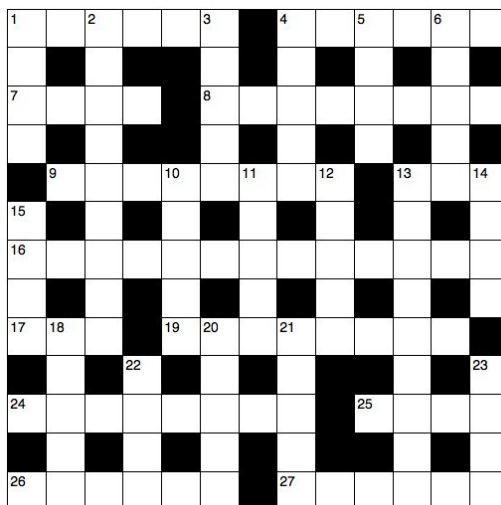
A filing cabinet is a place where you can lose things systematically.

If you think the problem is bad now, just wait until we have solved it.
(Arthur Kassel)

Two choir members recently got married. They met by chants.

The most welcome guest is the one who knows when to go home.

Why do they lock petrol station bathrooms? Afraid that someone will clean them?



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)

- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel'(Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this(Genesis 41:19) (4)

Sudoku - Medium

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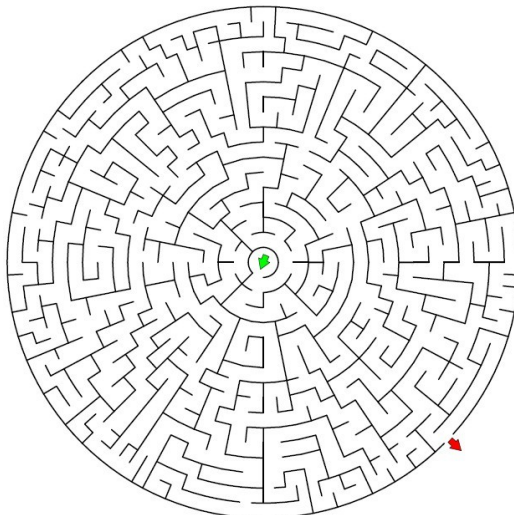
Word search

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dinner	story	excuses
land	bought	Jesus
time	feast	married
generous	everyone	servant
guest	dressed	rude
street	God	oxen
invited	house	town
angry	master	leftovers

Maze



Days of Note - March

1st March: **St David's Day, time for daffodils**

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



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

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

17th March: **St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland**

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he “knew not the true God”.

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius’ mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick’s writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

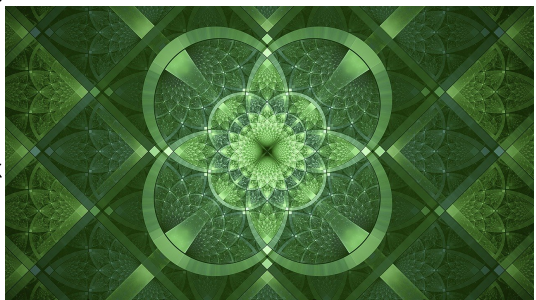


Image by Barbara A Lane from Pixabay

**19th March: St Joseph,
patron saint of fathers and holy death**

Why should St Joseph’s day be in March? Surely, he belongs to Advent and

Christmas, at Mary's side in millions of nativity scenes around the world.

In any case, as the foster-father of Christ and husband of Mary, Joseph played a major part in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ. All that we know about him for sure is in the gospels. Read especially Matthew 1 – 2. He was of Davidic descent, but his trade as a carpenter shows that he was not at all wealthy.

Joseph's gentleness and decency towards Mary, and his willingness to do God's will when it was revealed to him, portray him as a kind and godly person. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers of families, and he makes an excellent example. He comes across as a protecting, loyal, thoughtful, self-controlled person, full of integrity, and willing to work hard. Who wouldn't want a father like that?

Joseph is also the patron saint of all who desire a holy death. Thus, countless churches, hospitals and religious congregations are dedicated to Joseph.

21st March: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury & Reformation Martyr

If you have ever been caught up in a great event at work, which has gone on to change your own life, then Thomas Cranmer is the saint for you. He was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome, and set up the Church of England.

Born in Nottingham in 1489, Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. He was adviser to both Henry VIII and Edward VI. He helped Henry with the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and along with Thomas Cromwell, supported the principle of Royal Supremacy (where the king is sovereign over the Church in his realm).



Under Edward VI, Thomas Cranmer made major reforms to the C of E. He

put the English Bible into parish churches, compiled the first two versions of the Book of Common Prayer, and worked with continental reformers to change doctrine on everything from the Eucharist and veneration of saints.

But kings and queens, like American presidents, change, and the Catholic Queen Mary I was determined to wipe out Protestantism. Thomas Cranmer was imprisoned for two years, found guilty of heresy, and burned at the stake on 21st March 1556.

24th March: Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, martyr 1980

Oscar Romero was a bit of a modern Thomas Becket – loyal to the authorities until he was given great responsibility for the Church. Then, like Becket, there was trouble.

In Romero's case, it all began when he was born Cuidad Barrios in El Salvador back in 1917. Devout from a young age, he was ordained in 1942, and became a parish priest in the diocese of San Miguel.

For 25 years Romero worked hard in his parish, where he was a traditional priest, very conservative, ascetic, and devoted to the Virgin Mary. In 1967 he was appointed Secretary to the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador. He was elevated to be Bishop of San Salvador and then Bishop of Santiago de Maria. An admirer of the conservative Opus Dei movement, Romero firmly opposed any liberation theology.

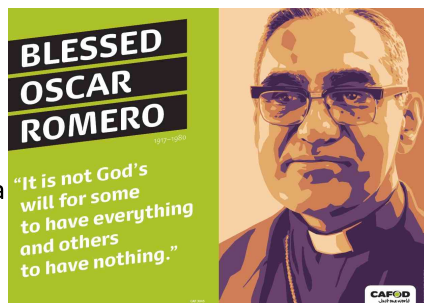
Then in 1977 Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador. The Salvadorian government saw him as a safe pair of hands for the job.

But they were in for a shock. For Romero's new responsibilities made him look afresh at the relationship between Church and State in El Salvador. He did not like what he saw. Romero saw that social unrest and poverty were the direct result of government repression, and even worse, that the Church played its part in the on-going violence of Salvadorian society. After the murder of several outspoken priests and then the expulsion of several allegedly Marxist Jesuits, Romero felt compelled to speak out.

The right-wing Latin American governments were well used to priests who

worked with the poor speaking out against them. But this was the first time that an Archbishop had raised his voice, and they were furious.

But Romero became a champion of liberation theology. He condemned government violence and championed the right of the poor to economic and social justice. He even wrote a pastoral letter from the Salvadorian bishops, supporting proportionate counter-violence towards the oppressive right-wing regime. When, nonetheless, he also still tried to act as a mediator between the rival groups, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.



For several years Romero received death threats from both left- and right-wing paramilitary groups. Finally, while celebrating Mass, he was shot through the heart by a government assassin. It was 24th March 1980, and 40 more people died in the gunfire and explosions at his funeral. The Church worldwide mourned for him.

Palm Sunday & Holy Week

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving from to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the money-changers and

merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, *'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'*. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

30th 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.

Puzzle solutions

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The deadline for inclusion of articles for the April issue of New Leaves is Sunday 28th 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.