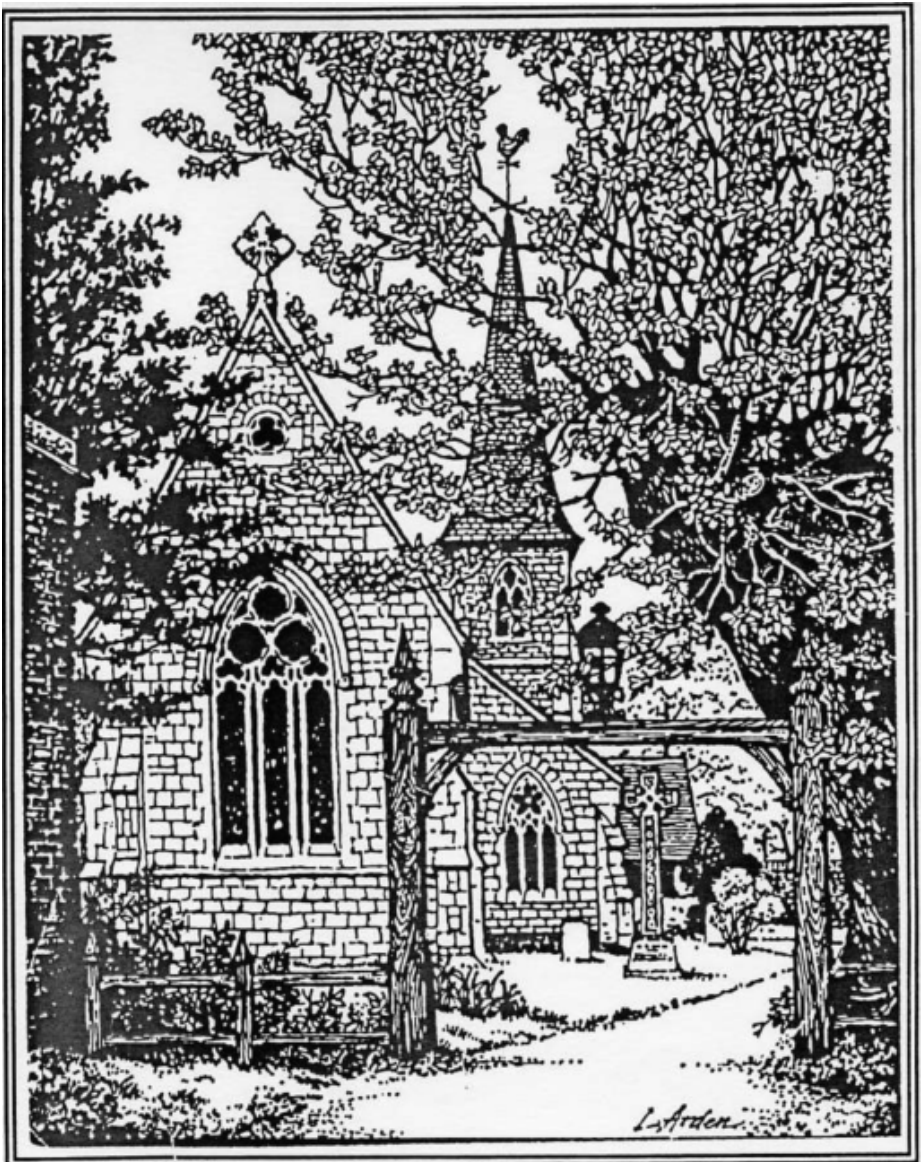


**The Parish Church of
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p
*April, 2019***

(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)



St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

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Magazine Editor: Steve Blake
sblakestjames@virginmedia.com

St James Sunday Service

9.30am Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER APRIL 2019



We are now well on our way through Lent, which began on Wednesday 6 March – Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday is the time that traditionally people come into church and have the sign of the cross marked in ash on their foreheads. It begins a period of prayer, fasting and charitable acts, and a time when Christians reflect on their own journey of faith.

It was a great privilege for me to be involved in the 'Ashing' at one of the Team's schools, Old Bexley Church of England Primary School, with the Team Vicar Reverend Clive Wood and the Team Curate, Reverend Gary Best.

We had arranged for Years 4 and 5, (so aged 8 to 9 years) to come into the school hall for the Ashing Service and the two hundred children were joined by some parents and grandparents. Reverend Gary began by checking who had enjoyed pancakes for Pancake or 'Shrove' Tuesday the day before, and what the favourite toppings were. Nutella seemed to be the favourite (other chocolate spreads are available!). He then went on to explain the meaning of Ash Wednesday and what would happen in the service. He emphasised that this was a time to be quiet and to think about our own behaviour and our relationship with each other and with God.

Slowly the children formed into three lines, each line queuing in front of the three clergy there, and we began to make the sign of the cross in black ash mixed with oil, using the simplified words... "Remember you are dust... trust Jesus."

I was impressed by the way in which each child seemed to take the little ritual seriously, moved by how most, if not all of them made eye contact with me as I gently touched their forehead with the black, slightly gritty ash and said the simple words, reminding them of their mortality. I saw a sense of awe, of wonder, and perhaps a little puzzlement in their eyes, as if they knew that all this was important but couldn't quite understand exactly why...

When I returned home, it was to the evening news full of more discussion about the stabbings of young people on the streets of British towns, young people not so very much older than the children I had met in the school.

Well, as you read this, the beginning of March will seem a long time ago,

we will have moved through the season of Lent towards Easter Day, and those same school children who were 'ashed' will be looking forward to the school holidays and Easter eggs and (hopefully) having fun in the warm sunshine, as children should.

The Christian faith is centred on the God who brings healing and reconciliation to the broken places of the world. As our children grow – and society's children belong to us all - may God protect each one of them from the hatred, fear and disillusionment that gives rise to the violence on our streets. May God give wisdom to those in authority as they seek solutions. And may God bring comfort to those whose children will never come home.

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)

contact me at The Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane

01322-528923

renharding@hotmail.co.uk



EASTER

Even though the darkness raged
And all was still, the sun had gone
Still they shouted their abuse
Taunting Him – 'you're not God's Son!

Elijah hasn't rescued you,
Renounce your claim, you're just like me,
Everyone can see you hang
Arms outstretched, nailed to a tree'.

So it seemed that all was lost,
Their hopes their dreams forever gone –
Eternity had other plans
Resurrection Day was soon to dawn.

By Megan Carter



WHAT'S THE POINT OF EASTER?

By The Rev Paul Hardingham

As we celebrate Easter, it raises the question: *What difference can the Resurrection make to my life?*

My past is forgiven:

Have you ever been half-way through a project and wanted to start again? In life we all have regrets about things we have done, said or thought. The good news is that Jesus died to forgive these things: *'All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's cross.'* (Colossians 2:14, The Message). The resurrection is the guarantee that we can know Jesus' pardon and forgiveness. Do we need to let go a load of guilt and unforgiveness that we are carrying?

My present is under control:

How often do we say *'My life is out of control.'* We can't control life, but God can! The *'incomparably great power at work for those who believe'* is the same power that raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:20). God promises us the power that we need to face any situation, as we trust Him: *'I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'* (Philippians 4:13).

My future is secure:

Death is the great certainty, *'one out of one dies!'*. Yet Jesus overcame death by the resurrection, that we might experience the life of heaven, both now and for eternity. *'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.'* (John 11:25,26). We don't need to fear death; but if we are to really live, we have to be ready to die! How does the resurrection affect our view of death?

'The best news the world has ever had came from a cemetery near Jerusalem: the tomb was empty!'

CHARLES WESLEY'S GREAT HYMN FOR EASTER: CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY!

By The Rev Dr. Herbert McGonigle



Jesus's death on the cross, and His resurrection on Easter morning are both part of the redemption story. Paul links them in this way: 'He was delivered for our offences [the Cross] and raised again [the Resurrection] for our justification' (Romans 4:25). Charles Wesley does likewise in his glorious Easter anthem.

*Christ the Lord is risen today!
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your songs and triumph high
Sing, ye heavens, thou earth reply.*

Charles wrote the hymn in 1739, a year after his Pentecost Sunday evangelical conversion, and the year in which he began his open-air preaching. Like all his hymns that followed in the next four decades, this hymn is full of New Testament references and allusions. A great stone was rolled into the opening of the grave where Jesus was laid, and as Matthew records, the Jewish authorities 'made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting a guard' (27:66). But all to no purpose! Christ, the Lord of Life, could not be imprisoned by death!

*Vain the stone, the watch, the seal
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids Him rise
Christ hath opened Paradise!*

The NT teaches that Christ's resurrection was the Father's seal of approval on His obedient life and atoning death. His resurrection was the proof that He was indeed Jesus Christ the Lord, as Paul argues in Romans 1:4. 'Declared to be the Son of God ... by the resurrection from the dead.' Charles Wesley works these great salvation truths into his verses. 'Love's redeeming

work is done.' 'Once He died our souls to save.' 'Lives again our glorious King.' 'Where, O death, is now thy sting?' 'Second life we all receive.' In our Heavenly Adam live.' As our Lord promised His disciples long ago – and still promises us; 'Because I live, you will also live' (John 14:19). The Resurrection of Christ, viewed as a historical fact, is only part of the NT teaching. His conquest of death He now shares with all His people. Christians are the people of the Resurrection! We are now 'made alive with Christ;' 'raised up with Him,' and already seated 'in heavenly places' (Ephesians 1:4-6). And Charles Wesley takes up this great theme of how believers share in their Lord's resurrection power.

*Soar we now where Christ hath led
Following our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.*

Christ has conquered hell! Death has lost its sting! The grave is spoiled! What a Saviour! What a gospel! What a glorious hope!

David Hemsley

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EASTER MORNING: THE 'OTHER' MARY

By Canon David Winter

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first human being actually to meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to Him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because his resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the male disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they couldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.



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News and Issues



New code of practice on ecumenical cooperation approved

The General Synod has given overwhelming backing to new guidance which will help Church of England congregations to share mission and ministry more easily with a range of churches in their areas.

Members voted in February in favour of a code of practice giving guidance to bishops, clergy, lay workers and Church of England Readers on how to work more flexibly with other Christian denominations in their communities.

The vote came after an overhaul of rules underpinning ecumenical relations was given final approval by the General Synod last year, opening the way for parishes to take part in joint worship and share buildings with more churches than previously possible.

The new rules include churches without a large national presence which will particularly affect newer independent evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic groups, including many black-led churches.

The Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, addressing the General Synod, said: "We hope and pray that this will be a sign of encouragement and enthusiasm, which will lead to the renewal and deepening of our life together and our witness to Jesus Christ."

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EASTER JOY

By The Rev Tony Horsfall

I remember vividly a simple poster I saw on the notice board of our local Methodist Chapel. It had a silhouette of three crosses on a hill, and underneath the words, 'FOR YOU'. Nothing fancy or clever, but a clear presentation of the Easter message, and it struck me deeply.

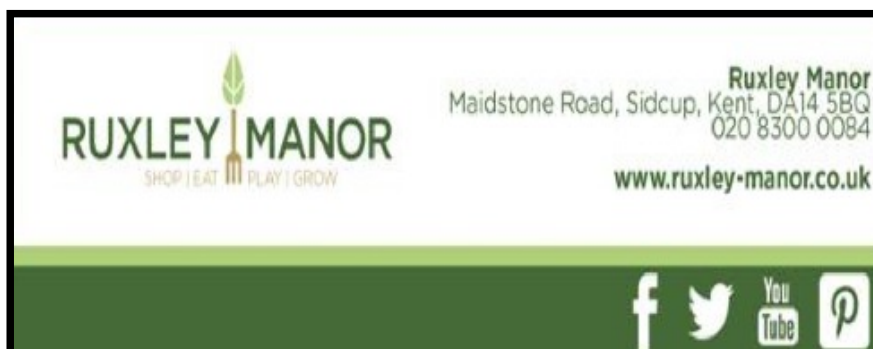
At Easter our thoughts are drawn to the death and resurrection of Jesus. These events are central to our faith, but sometimes we can over-complicate their meaning. The heart of it, though, remains very simple: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and on the third day was raised to life (1Corinthians 15:3).

He died to show his love for you. He gave his life as a demonstration or proof of the love He has for each one of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. He was motivated to lay down His life for us, not out of duty or obligation, but compassionate love. See Romans 5:8

He died to set you free. Sin has entangled every one of us. We are under it's power and unable to ourselves to loosen its grip. At the cross Jesus dealt with sin once and for all by dying in our place. Now, when we turn to Him for help, we can be released from the hold it has on us and find complete forgiveness.

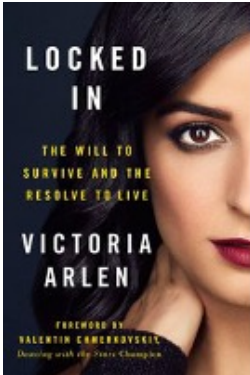
He died to bring you home. The Cross makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God. Like the prodigal son we were once far away from God, but now because we have been forgiven, we can return to our true home in God. A welcome awaits us, and a joy-filled reunion is possible.

This Easter, why not think about these two simple words: FOR YOU.



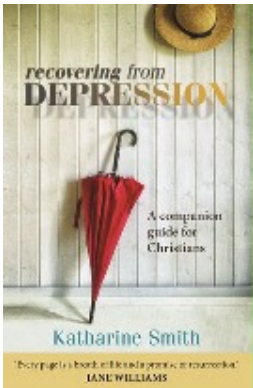


Book Mark



Locked in by Arlen Victoria, Authentic, £9.99

Paralympics champion Victoria Arlen shares her courageous and miraculous story of recovery after falling into a mysterious vegetative state and how she broke free, overcoming the odds and never giving up hope, eventually living a full and inspiring life. Victoria shares her story - the pain, the struggle, the fight to live and thrive, and most importantly, the faith that carried her through. Her journey was not easy, but by believing in God's healing power and forgiveness, she is living proof that, despite seemingly insurmountable odds and challenges, the will to survive and resolve to live can be a force stronger than our worst deterrents



Recovering from Depression - a companion guide for Christians by Katharine Smith, SPCK, £9.99

Depression is a devastating illness, and the road to recovery can appear very long and winding indeed. However, for those who are slowly feeling their way towards a life of greater equanimity, this encouraging book will prove reassuring. A complete cure from depression might not always be possible, but there is much to be gained from trying to identify the issues that gave rise to negative patterns of thinking and behaving in the first place. We might find, as we attempt to integrate these into our lives in a healthy way, that our faith and hope take on a new maturity.

FROM THE WEB

1. Dr. Ruth Pfau (1929-17) - the 'Mother Teresa of Pakistan' at <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/headlines> (Type 'Ruth Pfau' in search box)
2. 'The Little Black Dog' - a poem by Elizabeth Gardner Reynolds at <http://onemanshow.org/2013/03/29/the-little-black-dog/>

(The above links may be copied and pasted from the online magazine)

THE EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS OF ROBINSON CRUSOE

By Tim Lenton

It was 300 years ago, on 25th April 1719, that Daniel Defoe's novel Robinson Crusoe was first published. The book is believed to be second only to the Bible in the number of translations made.

The author was born Daniel Foe in London in 1660 and added the De to his name when he was 40. His father was a butcher and a Presbyterian, and he himself had thoughts at one time of becoming a Presbyterian minister.

He had various business and commercial interests and was declared bankrupt more than once. He was also a journalist and pamphleteer, and in 1703 he was jailed for publishing *The Shortest Way with the Dissenters* – a rather unsuccessful satire seen as a 'seditious libel' – but was released after five months and became a government agent.

He turned to fiction and published *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* at the age of 59.

Presented as an autobiography by Mr Crusoe, the book was at first thought to be true but was later believed to be based on the experiences of Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk, who lived for four years on a Pacific island 400 miles west of Chile. Now renamed Robinson Crusoe Island, it bears little resemblance to the island in Defoe's novel.

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MEETINGS and Events 2019

20th June at 7.30pm

St James, North Cray Church

Concert as part of the Old Bexley Music Festival.

* * * * *



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**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN OLD BEXLEY
LENT COURSE 2019
“THE MYSTERY OF GOD”**



“The Mystery of God” is the title of a course prepared for Lent 2019 by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The course aims to enable us to delve more deeply into the mystery of God, seeking to rediscover what it is that draws us so deeply in our search for God. We will follow Jesus through the Lenten readings, allowing him to draw us, in love and wonder, into the mystery of God’s plan of salvation.

You can download the material for the course from the internet by going to the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent/>

If you are unable to access this, please let Ren know and we will print off a copy for you, charging £2.00 to cover our costs

Dates and Venues

WEEK 1	THE MYSTERY OF GOOD & EVIL
10 for 10.30am	Tuesday 12 March Baldwyns Park Baptist
7 for 7.30pm	Thursday 14 March URC, Bexley
WEEK 2	THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S GLORY
10 for 10.30am	Tuesday 19 March Baldwyns Park Baptist
7 for 7.30pm	Thursday 21 March URC, Bexley
WEEK 3	THE MYSTERY OF SIN, SUFFERING & HOPE
10 for 10.30am	Tuesday 26 March Baldwyns Park Baptist
7 for 7.30pm	Thursday 28 March URC, Bexley
WEEK 4	THE MYSTERY OF RELATIONSHIP & RECONCILIATION
10 for 10.30am	Tuesday 2 April Baldwyns Park Baptist
7 for 7.30pm	Thursday 4 April URC, Bexley
WEEK 5	THE MYSTERY OF LOVE & SACRIFICE
10 for 10.30am	Tuesday 9 April Baldwyns Park Baptist
7 for 7.30pm	Thursday 11 April URC, Bexley

We encourage you to attend all five sessions, but each session’s teaching can also ‘stand alone’ so don’t worry if you miss one!

**Further information from Reverend Ren Harding
Team Rector, Bexley Team Ministry**

01322 528923

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR APRIL 2019

SUNDAY 31st March

9.30am

Tuesday 2nd April

10am

Wednesday 3rd April

12.30pm

Further details, Julia Wickham, St John's Bexley, 01322 556686

Thursday 4th April

10.00am

7.30pm

Saturday 6th April

9.30am

SUNDAY 7th April

9.30am

Tuesday 9th April

10am

Thursday 11th April

7.30pm

Saturday 13th April

SPRING CLEANING DAY AT ST JAMES

SUNDAY 14th April

9.30am

1.30pm

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Holy Communion

Lent Course 4 at Baldwyn's Park Baptist Church

Bexley Team Gentlemen's Lunch at the Three Blackbirds

Daytime Housegroup fellowship meeting – venue tba

Lent Course 4 at URC, Bexley

Barney's Cafe Prayers at St Barnabas, Hall behind church

Holy Communion

Lent Course 5 at Baldwyn's Park Baptist Church

Lent Course 5 at URC, Bexley

PALM SUNDAY

All Age Worship

Baptism Service

HOLY WEEK

Monday 15th April

7.30pm

Tuesday 16th April

7.30pm

Wednesday 17th April

7.30pm

Thursday 18th April

7.00pm

Team Compline at St Mary's, Bexley

Team Compline at St Mary's, Bexley

Team Compline at St Mary's, Bexley

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Team Meal at St Barnabas followed by Maundy Thursday Eucharist

Friday 19th April

12 noon

GOOD FRIDAY

Churches Together in Old Bexley
Stations of the Cross Service at St James,
Blendon

SUNDAY 21st April

5.45am

9.30am

EASTER SUNDAY

Dawn Service at St James North Cray
Holy Communion

Thursday 25th April

8.00pm

Annual Parochial Church Meeting in The Bothy

SUNDAY 28th April

9.30am

Holy Communion

Bexley Team Gentleman's Lunch on the first Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm at The Anchor, Bridgen Road, Bexley

Further details, Julia Wickham, St John's Bexley, 01322 556686

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**THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WITNESSED THE APPEARANCES OF
JESUS AFTER THE RESURRECTION**

Mary Magdalene	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
Other women at the tomb	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travellers on the road	Mark 16:12,13
10 disciples behind closed doors	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
11 disciples WITH Thomas	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
7 disciples while fishing	John 21:1-14
11 disciples on the mountain	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of 500	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother – James	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who saw the Ascension	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

300 years ago, on 25th April 1719 Daniel Defoe's novel Robinson Crusoe was published.

125 years ago, on 16th April 1894 Manchester City Football Club was founded. It was a reorganisation of a church team that was established in 1880, initially as St Mark's (West Gorton), and, from 1887, Ardwick Association Football Club.

100 years ago, on 11th April 1919 the International Labour Organisation was founded as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended WW1. It later became part of the United Nations. Its first act was to establish an 8-hour working day and maximum 48-hour working week.

80 years ago, on 1st April 1939 the Spanish Civil War ended. General Franco's government was officially recognised.

70 years ago, on 4th April 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

50 years ago, on 22nd April 1969 British sailor Sir Robin Knox-Johnston became the first person to circumnavigate the globe non-stop and single-handed.

25 years ago, on 6th April 1994 the Rwandan genocide began when a plane carrying Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundian president Cyprien Ntaryamira was shot down by extremists. Civil war broke out the following day. An estimated 1 million people were massacred during the next 100 days.

Also 25 years ago, on 27th April 1994 post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million native Africans eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president and took office on 10th May.

The Rev Dr Jo White continues her series on 'Why do they do that?'

Signs & Symbols: Holy oil, and even more holy oil

Oils and creams loom large in the Bible just as they do in our world today. We use healing creams for all sorts of ailments, and moisturising



lotions to soothe, but also often for the pure sensual pleasure that they give us. What can be better than your favourite hand cream after time spent gardening?

Oils in church are just the same. Set aside for specific works: for healing, encouraging at times of change and uncertainty, and for the special purposes of people, places and objects. The Holy Oils are blessed (and one is consecrated) each year, usually on Maundy Thursday in Holy Week. This is done by the Bishop at a special annual service in every cathedral with all the clergy in the Diocese. It's an amazingly colourful and meaningful service which if you ever have the opportunity to attend do go.

These oils are then distributed to every parish priest for use in their area. At the end of a year they are poured into the earth and replaced with the new year's Holy Oils.

If you are facing challenges and change in any area of your life, why not talk with your priest and ask them for some of this holy oil – these are meant for you and me, for all of us.

THE BOTHY

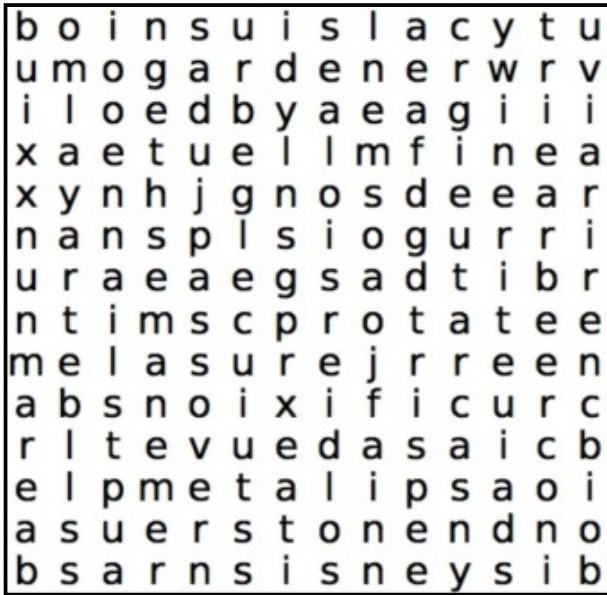
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WORDSEARCH



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|----------|-------------|----------|----------|
| Passover | Jerusalem | Soldiers | tomb |
| Bread | Pilate | Cross | angel |
| Wine | Judas | Nails | stone |
| Body | Gethsemane | Vinegar | risen |
| Blood | Trial | Temple | gardener |
| Betrayal | Crucifixion | curtain | Mary |

(Solutions on page 27)

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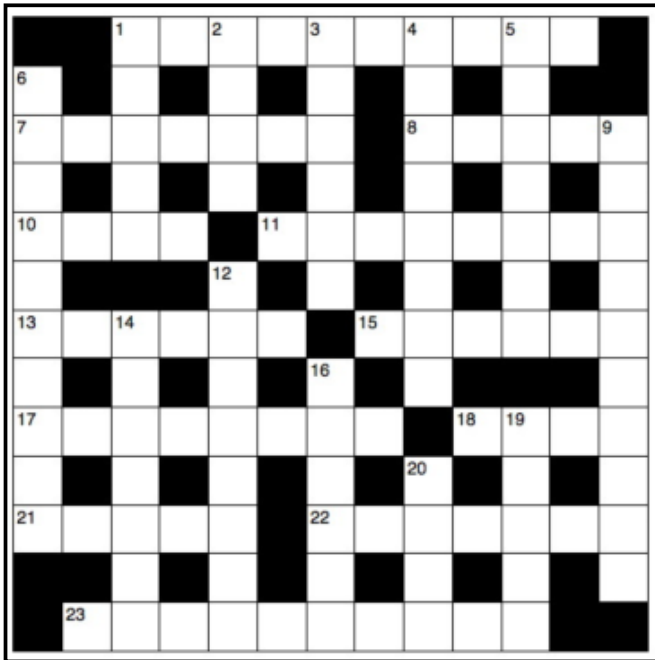
Across

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

Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
- 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
- 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
- 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
- 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
- 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
- 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
- 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
- 14 See cape (anag.) (7)
- 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
- 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
- 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

(Solutions on page 28)



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ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

. Letter from St James the Least of All –

On the perils of small study groups

The Rectory
St. James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are about to run an Alpha course in your parish; I am sure your bishop will be delighted. I remember him from my Oxford days. He was just starting his course as a gangly undergraduate when I was finishing my doctorate on Eusebius.

I recall him as a keen rugby player who took early morning dips in the Isis, who led intense discussions on Saint Paul's theology of "the body" over cups of cocoa in the evenings in his rooms and who spent his holidays laying paths for the National Trust in the Lake District while lodging in Youth Hostels. He's exactly the sort of person who will empathise with your ministry – hearty, enthusiastic and overflowing with compassionate intensity. We were not close friends.

We tend not to go in for those sort of things here at St. James the Least, preferring matters a little more relaxed and understated. If we ever do hold discussion groups (and they are a regrettable necessity during Lent), they always start with a good lunch, finishing with coffee and one of Mrs French's excellent Madeira cakes. Once we have removed from the table, those who manage to stay awake will start to tackle the chosen topic.

However, we always seem to veer off to discussing more interesting matters, such as why Col. Chorley is never allowed to sing solos in the choir any more, or who moved Mrs Cholmondeley's flower arrangement from the font the previous week. Apparently she has given notice that her weekly contributions on the plate will be much reduced unless an appropriate apology is received.

These matters may not seem as important to you as deciding what the

“sardine stone” in Revelation 4 is all about, but let me assure you that to members of our congregation, knowing why the second verse of the National Anthem is no longer sung at our Remembrance Services is of pivotal importance.

At 2pm we wake up those who have enjoyed an hour’s slumber and totter off home, knowing we have once again done our bit for faith in the parish.

I am sure your own group will also return home after your sessions - even if a digestive biscuit and weak tea is all that has been offered – invigorated and braced to tackle the heathen in the parish. We all take our pleasures in different ways.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



The vicar had assured the vergers that the clock repairers had promised to come as soon as possible

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GOD AND THE ARTS

By the Rev Michael Burgess

The Mond Crucifixion – by Raphael

This month's painting in the National Gallery is known as the Mond Crucifixion. It has an interesting history, because Ludwig Mond, the German born scientist and industrialist, offered to lend the painting to the Gallery in 1892. The trustees for some reason declined the offer. Ludwig Mond was undeterred and at his death in 1909 he bequeathed to the Gallery over 40 paintings. It was an amazingly generous gift, and included this Crucifixion by Raphael.



It belongs to the artist's early years and was painted when he was just 20, for a church altarpiece in Urbino in 1503. On Good Friday we hear those words from Lamentations, 'Is it nothing to you who pass by? – look and see.' We might look on the cross of Jesus and see a sign of agony and death. But here in the Mond Crucifixion, all seems serene and still. It is a far cry from the harshness and cruelty of the Gospel accounts. Look at the angels with their ribbons and feet resting on the clouds, the hands and feet of the four bystanders so delicately painted, and beyond, the softly lit Umbrian landscape with a river, trees and low hills stretching away into the distance.

It is as if Raphael has frozen this moment of death on his canvas to tell us that here is an enduring message of love and generosity for Mary, John, Mary Magdalene and Jerome gathered below. Our Lady and John look at us, inviting us to discover there the solemn beauty that moves their lives and that can move us.

In our worship on Good Friday we encounter this paradox of the cross – a sign of suffering and death, but a sign also of generosity. We can think of the generosity of Ludwig Mond, the generosity of Raphael sharing his gifts with us, but above all the generosity of our Prince of Glory. Here, in the words of Isaac Watts' hymn, we see how 'love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.'

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**BRANCHES IN SOUTH-EAST LONDON, PETTS WOOD AND
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3rd Richard of Chichester - more clearly, dearly and nearly

Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote the famous prayer, *'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day.'*



He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese.

He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3rd April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1, Priesthood. 7, Replica. 8, Get up. 10, Calf. 11, Governor. 13, See you. 15, Not see. 17, Incident. 18, Sake. 21, NSPCC. 22, Trample. 23, Perishable.

DOWN: 1, Papal. 2, In it. 3, Shalom. 4, Huguenot. 5, Outings. 6, Procession. 9, Perseveres. 12, Mordecai. 14, Escapee. 16, Snatch. 19, Apple. 20, Lamb.



EASTER SYMBOLS

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



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

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



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

Lilies are used to decorate churches. The large, white flowers remind us of the new life that comes through the resurrection of Jesus.



EASTER WORDSEARCH

All the words hidden in this word-search are spring and Easter - can you find them all?

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

BIRD BLOSSOM BUD
 BUNNY CHICK CLOUD
 CROCUS DAFFODIL DUCK
 EGG FLOWER GARDEN
 GRASS HARE LAMB LILY
 SPRING TULIP



Who tells chicken jokes?
Comedihens.



How do baby hens dance?
Chick to chick.

Why does the chicken go to the theatre?
For hentertainment.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

-

Weddings

-

Funerals

-

Burial of Ashes

-

Year's mind for April 2018

5th April

Adeline Chapman

Waiting in the darkness for the light to come

Arise!

Lift up your head,

lift up your eyes.

Do you not see?

I don't yet hold the prize

but as hope's dawning tints the darkened skies

and I press on,

Eventually

I will take hold of that for which He took hold of me.

By Helen Brocklehurst

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Advertisers and readers should be aware that an advertisement in this magazine does not imply the Church recommends or endorses the services being advertised.

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY - POINTS OF CONTACT

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CONTACT the Team Rector

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website www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/

CONTACT the Team Rector

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

If you are going to attend our church and you have accessibility needs please let us know and we will be happy to make arrangements for you. There is level access to the church and the Bothy and we have a sound loop system and large print orders of service. Please feel free to telephone the Team Vicar Rev Ren Harding who will be happy to discuss the matter with you.

Articles for publication to be submitted by 2nd Sunday of each month. Please note that for reasons of copyright, poems and articles obtained from the Internet or published sources cannot be printed in the magazine.

The North Cray Neighbourhood Centre



Youth Action Diversity Trust proudly manage the North Cray Neighbourhood Centre in Sidcup where we focus on encouraging youth and family engagement and participation in activities and learning, whilst ensuring that everything we do is inclusive and a whole lot of fun! Our activities cost £3 for young people and between £3 and £5 for adults! We look forward to welcoming you and your family soon!

Play Rangers for 5 to 7 years

Mondays
4pm to 5pm
'High 5 Activity Club'
Wednesdays
4pm to 5pm
'ADHD Social Club'

Youth Inclusion for 8 to 11 years

Mondays
5pm to 6pm
'Girls Social Club'
Wednesdays
5:30pm to 6:30pm
'ADHD Social Club'

For Adults

Tuesdays
11am to 12:30pm
Adult Coffee Club
Wednesdays
10:30am to 12noon
Adult Drama Players
Fridays
11am to 1pm
Kingfisher Social Club

YADT Behavioural Support Service

Living in today's world is challenging, and we understand that some young people need extra support to help them get a positive start in life or overcome obstacles along the way. We aim to help young people with the issues that affect them. These can be issues such as anger management, social anxiety, improving confidence and dealing with stress. The one-to-one support service gives young people the freedom and safety to explore issues that affect them. This service is for 8 to 17 year olds. Contact us for more information and fees.

YADT are delighted to be able to offer the Care for the Family Courses under our Behavioural Support Service. These courses are run by our behavioural team who have extensive experience working with families and young people with diverse needs. Courses run throughout the year and include 'Handling Anger in the Family' 'Children with Special Needs - ADHD' and 'Children with Special Needs - Autism'. Courses cost £50 per person or £80 for a couple. Contact us for more information.

Visit our website: www.YouthActionDiversityTrust.co.uk
call us on 0208 308 3862 or email yadt@sky.com