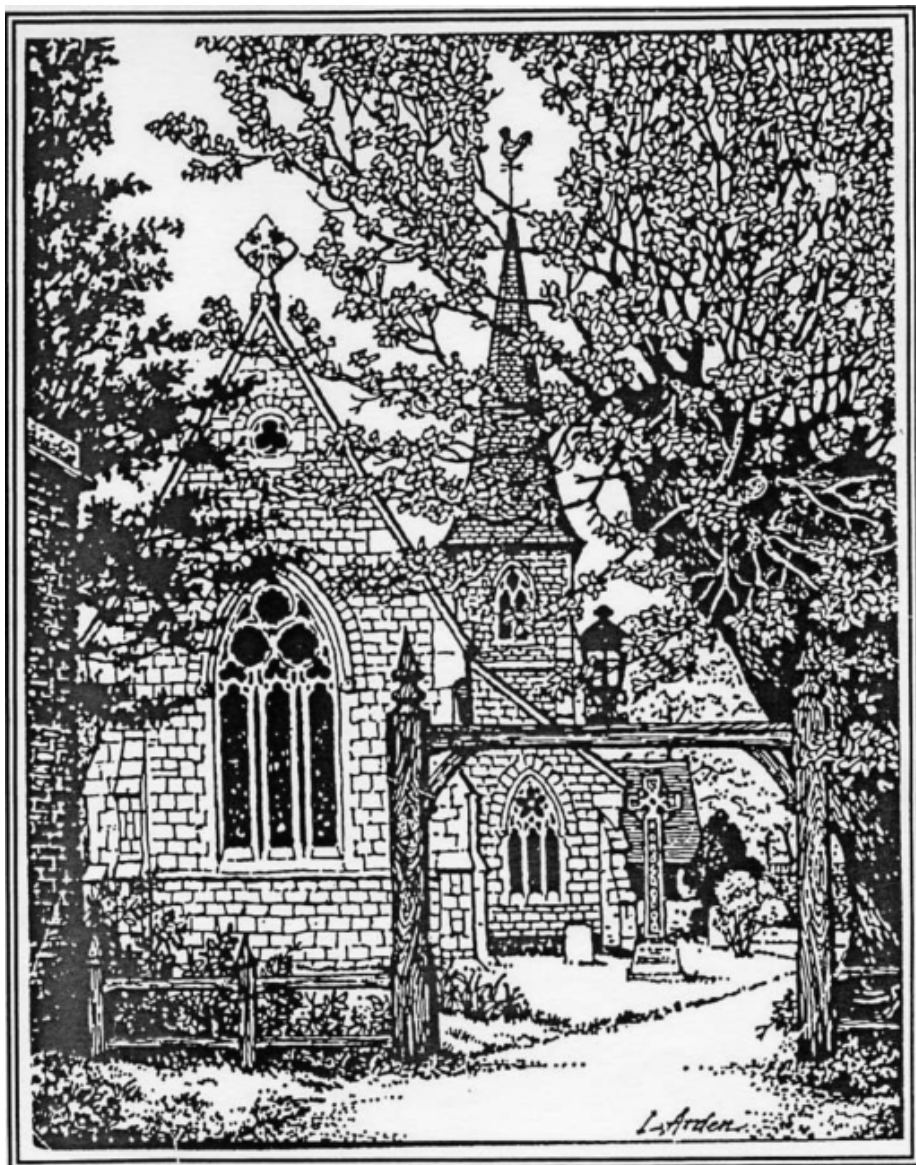


**The Parish Church of  
*St. James, North Cray***

**50p  
*April, 2020***

***(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)***



## St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

**Team Vicar:** Reverend Ren Harding 01322 528923  
The Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane,  
Joydens Wood, DA5 2BB  
renharding@hotmail.co.uk

**Lay Reader:** David Stevens 020 8300 0867

**Church Wardens:** Suzy Higgs 020 8302 5719  
suzyjhiggs@gmail.com  
Maxine Heath 020 8468 7895  
maxinejheath@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Position vacant

**PCC Secretary:** Rhonda Collins 020 8300 3797

**Sacristan:** Stephen Hills 020 8302 7236

**Bothy Bookings:** Lynne Meads 07966 315518

**Parish Safeguarding:** Rhonda Collins 020 8300 3797

**Magazine Editor:** Steve Blake  
sblakestjames@virginmedia.com

### **St James Sunday Service**

9.30am

Holy Communion

(All age service with Uniformed Organisations on second Sunday)

## BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. .”

**2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)**

### **PRACTICAL ADVICE**

**Wash hands frequently** with soap & water or alcohol-based hand rub. It has been suggested that instead of singing Happy Birthday to ensure we wash our hands for long enough - that we say the Lord's Prayer!

**Avoid touching eyes, nose & mouth** as this can transfer the virus.

**Stay informed (but not obsessively so!) on the latest developments about COVID-19.** Follow advice given by your own healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer. National & local authorities have the most up to date information for your area.

### **A CALL TO PRAYER**

*Wherever you are, and whatever your personal circumstances, we invite you to pause at midday each day, to join with your brothers and sisters across the Bexley Team Ministry to pray for our churches, our community, our nation and the world. We pray the prayer that unites all Christians, the Lord's Prayer. This is the Traditional version:-*

***“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory; for ever and ever. Amen.”***

You may wish to use this prayer written by Malcolm Duncan of Spring Harvest: -

***“May you be given the gift of simple faith. When the world around you is full of uncertainty, may God remind you that you are not alone and you do not need to be dominated by fear. May you find peace amidst chaos from God's promises. Hold onto the God who holds you.”***

### **Pray for those infected or in quarantine**

*Loving Jesus may they feel your power of healing through the care of medical staff. Take away fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.*

### **Pray for those at high risk**

*Dear Lord, we lift to you the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty.*

*Adapted from prayers of World Vision*

<https://www.worldvision.org/disaster-relief-news-stories/prayer>

## **WORSHIPPING AT HOME**

The following are resources which you may like to use as aids to your own personal prayer and worship. As the weeks progress we will make additions to the list via a weekly newsheet, and will endeavour to make these prayer resources available in paper form in the coming days.

If you have access to the internet this is a good site to visit.  
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-liturgy-and-prayer-resources>

### **Radio 4**

Prayer for the Day @ 5.43 am – if this is too early for you it can be found at a time to suit you online at [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

Daily Service Monday to Friday @ 9.45 am – on Longwave and DAB

Sunday worship @ 8.10am

Lent Talks Wednesday @ 8.45pm

### **Radio 3**

Choral Evensong Wednesdays at 3.30pm or Sundays at 3pm

### **Radio 2**

Pause for thought at 5.45 am and 9.20 am

### **Television**

Songs of Praise BBC1 Sunday at 1.15pm

Church of England. [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org)

Live Lent Daily Reflections via internet, app or print. Daily Prayer via internet, app or print

The Bishop of Rochester has recorded a podcast, offering a theological reflection on the current situation. He explores where can we find refuge and comfort and how as Christians we can support others. Listen to it here:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-727736776/bishop-james-a-reflection-during-the-coronavirus>

There is an 'Alexa' smart speaker app to be used with a smart speaker Offers Prayer for the Day,

Enables you to ask the Church of England for Prayers

Enables you to ask questions of the Church of England

Other online resources which may be of interest:

corrymeela.org has under its media tab some interesting and a wide range of short programmes based on biblical texts.

Northumbriacommunity.org has morning, midday and evening prayer for each day of the week.

24-7prayer.com lots of ideas on ways to help you pray and some interesting articles based on journeys of faith

Hillsong Worship - for those who enjoy modern worship there are plenty of YouTube videos

**Live streaming services** - users can watch live streams of services from a range of churches

[All Hallows by the Tower](#)

[Buckingham Parish Church](#)

[St Nicholas Church, Canvey Island](#)

[St James' Church, Clitheroe](#)

[St Mary's Kenton](#)

Canterbury Cathedral YouTube channel will stream The Daily Eucharist and Evening Prayer each day

Ren, is available to talk to anyone who is feeling the need of a church minister at this time, to talk over a difficult circumstance or to ask for prayer. We also have a resource that can be used at home if you are unable to attend a funeral because of the current restrictions, and a weekly newsletter that is going out on email, with news, reflections and prayers. All you need to do is ring, or email me (see inside cover) and I will do what I can to help, and I can also put you on the circulation list so you receive weekly information. Your email will not be given to anyone else.

Suzy Higgs, Churchwarden

## **Who moved the stone?** *By the Rev Tony Horsfall*

*‘When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’ Mark 16:4*

Frank Morrison was an investigative journalist who was a sceptic when it came to religion. He decided to write a book to disprove the claims of Christ, specifically focused on the last week of His life.

However, when he came to consider the evidence for himself, he was drawn reluctantly to a different outcome than he had imagined. He found that the evidence proved the story to be true, including the fact that Jesus not only died but rose again. In the end he wrote a different kind of book called ‘Who Moved the Stone?’ with the first chapter entitled, ‘The book that refused to be written.’

The veracity of the Christian faith is grounded on historical fact. Not only was Jesus a real person, a figure of history, but His death was real, and so was His resurrection. Examine the evidence for yourself. Read the gospel accounts openly and honestly and see what happens. The truth is there for anyone willing to consider the facts.

Easter reminds us that our faith rests on solid ground. It is why we celebrate Easter Sunday with such gusto. The Resurrection proves that Jesus was who He said He was (the Son of God) and that He did what He set out to do (save us from our sin). But more than that, it reminds us that He can deliver what He promised and help us today because He is alive for evermore.

Jesus is not a figure of history, locked away in the past. No, He is a risen Saviour who is alive today and who invites each of us to receive the gift of salvation, and to live a new life in fellowship with Him.

**BEXLEY TEAM MINISTRY**  
**“EXPLORING CONFIRMATION” 2020**



This series of informal sessions is designed to help you discover more about the Christian faith and to explore it in greater depth.

It is also designed to help you to decide whether it might be right for you to take the step of being ‘confirmed’ as a member of the Anglican Church.

**THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE ON 3 MAY HAS BEEN  
POSTPONED - TBA**

The preparation sessions will take place at  
The Joydens Wood Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane  
Joydens Wood, DA5 2BB

PLEASE NOTE... Coming to the sessions does NOT commit you to being confirmed. That is your decision nearer the time.

Each of the three sessions will help you to look at some aspects of the Christian faith, and give you plenty of opportunity to bring and share your own questions, doubts, hopes and uncertainties.

<b>Believing</b>	Who is Jesus? The Bible
<b>Belonging</b>	The Eucharist Christian Symbols
<b>Behaving</b>	Prayer and the wider church
	Preparing for the Service

There will be a Rehearsal at St Francis, Petts Wood nearer the time

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)  
01322 528923  
07836644782

# The Hubble Space Telescope

*By Tim Lenton*

The Hubble Space Telescope was launched 30 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1990. It was named after Edwin Hubble, an outstanding expert on extragalactic astronomy in the 1920s and 1930s.



The launch, originally scheduled for 1983, had been delayed by technical and budget problems and by the Challenger disaster. Ironically the NASA error that caused the Challenger tragedy was similar to the one

that led to the Hubble telescope being launched with a defective mirror – unwillingness to accept technical warnings when there was great pressure from above to go ahead.

In the case of the Hubble telescope, also built by NASA with help from the European Space Agency, a more basic machine revealed the problem with the mirror, but those in charge did not believe it because a newer, more complex machine had given the go-ahead.

The problem was put right by astronauts in 1993 – the telescope was always designed to be serviced in orbit – and since then its position outside the Earth's atmosphere has enabled it to record many detailed visible light images that have enabled scientists a deep view into space, leading to new theories in astrophysics.

The telescope is estimated to remain in working order until 2030-2040.





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## William Wordsworth – the ‘Church of England pantheist’

By Tim Lenton

William Wordsworth, the Romantic poet always associated with the Lake District, was born 250 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1770. He was Poet



Laureate from 1843 to 1850, though he produced no new poetry during that period.

In his youth Wordsworth travelled in France and came to share the radical politics of the French Revolution. He also fell in love with Annette Vallon, by whom he had a daughter in 1792. They were kept apart by the difficult relationship between England and France, but eventually met again, and the poet supported his daughter, though he married

Mary Hutchinson, a friend of his beloved sister and muse, Dorothy. He had five children with Mary, three of whom predeceased them.

Wordsworth’s political views soon softened, and he never rejected Christianity. He has been described as a “Church of England pantheist” and saw himself as a people’s poet. He produced *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798 with his friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who inspired his last great poem, *The Prelude*.

Many Christians, especially those in the Anglo-Catholic movement, deeply admired Wordsworth. During his later years and in the next generation, he was regarded as a defender of the Faith. He himself seemed content that many found his poetry helpful in trying times.

**MIDWEEK COMMUNIONS HAVE  
BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE**

TEAM RECTOR  
Reverend Ren Harding  
01322 528923

**God's hands**

Our times are firmly in His hands,  
The hands that fashioned all that's made,  
Giving life and breath and purpose,  
Touching all He came to save.

The hands that gave themselves to nails,  
Has gathered sheep that went astray  
And raised them up to heavenly places  
Waiting for the Coming Day.

As life and years roll on together,  
Our times are set, on this we stand,  
Secure and safe in God's own keeping  
As none can pluck us from His hand.

*By Megan Carter*



# MEETINGS and Events 2020

Planning for The "Welcome to the Meadows"  
Educational Day 19 July 2020  
is on hold.



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## ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

500 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1520 Raphael, Italian Renaissance artist and architect, died, aged 37. (Unknown illness.)

250 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1770 William Wordsworth, British Romantic poet, was born. He was Poet Laureate 1843-50.

200 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1820 the famous Ancient Greek statue of the Venus de Milo was discovered on the island of Milos in the Aegean.

150 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1870 Vladimir Lenin, Russian communist politician and revolutionary was born. First head of state of the Soviet Union, founder of the Russian Communist party, leader of the Bolshevik Revolution, and founder of Comintern (Communist International).

100 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1920 Britain was assigned the Mandate for Palestine. It officially took control of Mandatory Palestine in September 1923 and held it until the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

75 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April: Austrian-born German Nazi Party leader and dictator Adolf Hitler married his long-term partner Eva Braun in his Berlin bunker. They committed suicide the next day.

30 years ago, on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1990 the Hubble Space Telescope was launched. 15 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2005 that Charles, Prince of Wales married Camilla Parker Bowles, who gained the title the Duchess of Cornwall.

10 years ago, from 15<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> April, Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull volcano erupted explosively, sending a plume of volcanic ash across NW Europe. Air travel was disrupted for six days.

**SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR APRIL 2020**

**ALL SERVICES AND EVENTS ARE  
CANCELLED**

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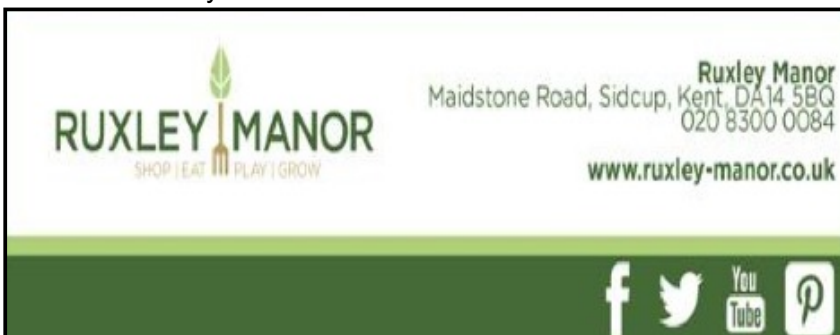
**BRANCHES IN SOUTH-EAST LONDON, PETTS WOOD AND  
BIGGIN HILL**

## FROM THE MEADOWS

As you read this I hope we are beginning to enjoy some warmer, drier weather. Its certainly been a blustery, damp winter. The meadows are looking lush and rich but sadly our beautiful river wildlife has not been quite so lucky. Not only have numerous branches, trees and shrubs been uprooted or fallen into the Cray but our last cygnet has had to be rescued and taken to the Swan Sanctuary because she had a fish hook caught in her beak and was unable to eat. This now leaves our male, alone, defensive and with a future that is uncertain. Last summer he lost 6 cygnets to horrible avoidable deaths. His mate was killed in a dog attack. With the departure of the remaining cygnet the male is now isolated. Who can blame him for being defensive and angry?

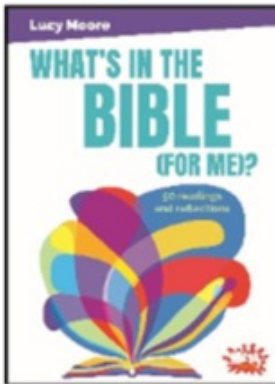
Plans are underway by the Foots Cray Meadows Action Group and others to organise an educational fun day near the bridge in July. It is hoped that more people will feel encouraged to care for this beautiful oasis if we all have more understanding of the environment. More on this event at a later date. In the meantime if you want to support our wildlife you can now buy Swan and Duck food at the new pet section at Kelsey's Farm Shop just along the North Cray Rd.

I do hope you can all find time to visit the meadows and enjoy the new Spring growth: the smell of freshly cut grasses, new buds bursting into life, the warmth of the sun on your back. Perhaps immersing in these signs of new life you might feel able to share a smile with each other or a friendly 'hello' as we meet.



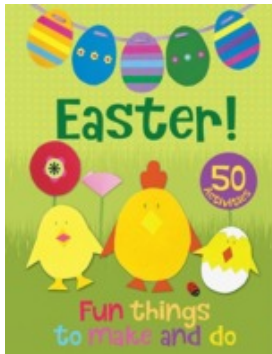


# Book Mark



**By Lucy Moore, BRF, £4.99**

Lucy Moore's pocket-sized guide to the Bible takes readers on an epic journey through 4,000 years of history. With wisdom, insight and humour, she connects Old and New Testament stories to each other and to 21st-century experience. For anyone who wonders where to start reading the Bible, this is the perfect introduction and companion.



**Easter! Fun Things to Make and Do**  
**By Christina Goodings, £6.99**

Crammed with 50 crafts and creative ideas perfect for spring and Easter. Each craft is accompanied by simple step-by-step illustrated instructions. Make fun decorations, Easter baskets, chirpy chicks, creative cards, and more!

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## **JESUS' APPEARANCES AFTER HIS 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

## **SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday 12th July

All Age Service at 9.30 am

A celebration for 75th anniversary of  
North Cray Guides and Brownies

All welcome

## **Giving and Receiving**

*By the Rev Tony Horsfall*

*'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35).*

This unique saying of Jesus, not recorded in the gospels, is quoted by the apostle Paul in the book of Acts. These few words contain a powerful truth about giving and receiving love.

Stage 1 – receiving love. As children we love to receive presents, whether for birthdays or Christmas. It is natural at a young age to think more about receiving than giving. This is self-love.

Stage 2 – giving and receiving love. As we grow older, we begin to consider others, not just ourselves. We learn not only to receive, but also to give. However, at this stage we tend mostly to give to those who give to us. This is reciprocal love.

Stage 3 – giving love without the need to receive love. This is the kind of love Jesus demonstrated during His earthly ministry, and which the Spirit desires to produce in His followers. When we give freely in this way, we find great joy and experience the blessing of God in our lives. This is other-love.

However, we never grow out of our need to receive love (stage 1). The danger of giving without receiving is that we neglect our own need to be loved, supported and encouraged. This is why many active believers experience burnout and depression. We cannot give to others indefinitely without receiving for ourselves. It is not a sign of weakness, immaturity or failure to say, 'I need to receive'. There are times when we all need affirmation and appreciation, rest and recuperation.

That said, we must not get locked into stage 1 again (spiritual infancy with the focus always on me), but bravely move on the more mature expressions of love, mutually supporting one another, but also reaching out to those who need our help but have nothing to offer in return.

## WORDSEARCH

w	p	s	e	r	v	a	n	t	d	c	f
a	a	k	x	p	x	s	e	n	x	j	r
s	s	t	a	e	l	e	a	s	t	e	d
h	s	o	m	t	f	t	s	g	t	a	i
k	o	w	p	e	s	e	n	a	o	f	s
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teacher

Passover

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bickering

road

celebrating

feet

servant

serve

Jesus

important

least

bowl

Peter

later

robe

disciples

bath

wash

towel

understand

(Solutions on page 27)

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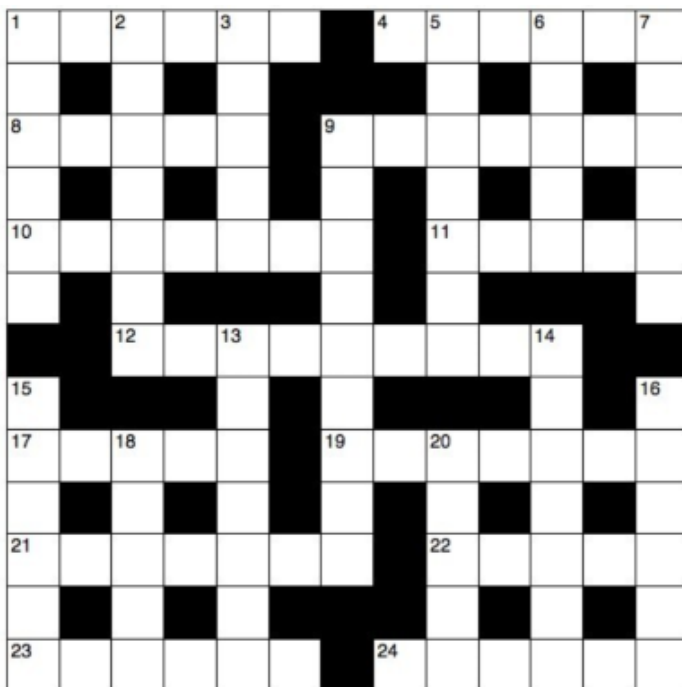
## APRIL CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

### Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)



15 The human mind or soul (6)

16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is —' (Graham Kendrick) (6)

18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not —' (Matthew 11:17) (5)

20 Bared (anag.) (5)

(Solutions on page 28)

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## ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL



Letter from St James the Least of All –

### **When guitars and amplifiers meet choral Matins**

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It was kind of you to send your music group to us last Sunday morning while our choir had a Sunday off for its celebratory lunch. Miss Timmins' ninety-fourth birthday brought the combined choir's age to 1000, which is quite a distinction for twelve people. Clearly a Sunday commitment to 'Hymns Ancient and Modern', consumption of industrial quantities of peppermints and pleasant naps during sermons has a positive effect on longevity.

I had rather looked forward – naively in retrospect – to hearing some Bach motets from your group, but now have learned that guitars, drums and choral Matins is not a marriage made in heaven. All your group lacked was a drum majorette leading the procession up the aisle.

It was quite obvious the music was going to be a little different when I arrived to see that the lectern, Lady Tadcaster's flower arrangement and the verger had all disappeared behind amplifiers. The only person not disconcerted by this was the verger, who realised it presented an excellent opportunity to do the crossword unobserved during Divine Worship. That would not have been too bad if he had not wandered over to me during the Bible reading to ask if I knew the answer to 12 down.

Your display of the hymns on a screen (but did it have to be in front of the pulpit? I had to balance on several kneelers to be seen over it and throughout the sermon could only think of how to look dignified should the whole pile collapse mid-sentence) left the congregation paralysed in fear. For the first time in their lives they had nothing to hold and hadn't a clue what to do with their hands. You could see them experimentally stuffing them in pockets, holding on to the pew, searching for handkerchiefs, totally at a loss with this unwanted

freedom of limbs. Perhaps even worse, they were obliged to look up rather than stare at the floor. I fear some may be traumatised for life.

But the worst moment was when the group gave its 'solo number' – couldn't it have been called an 'anthem'? Half way through, dear Mrs Ffitch, who has always been somewhat excitable, felt called to contribute with a spontaneous religious dance in the aisle. The congregation froze in horror and we all found varying devices for not catching her eye after the Service. But the greatest social problem is how we react when we see her in the village tomorrow morning. I have advised those who asked my opinion that we all stay indoors for a few days.

Perhaps your music group could visit us again when our choir holds its two-thousandth anniversary – when I suspect it will still consist of the same people, as they are all tenacious of note, opinion and age.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



"The organist isn't too sure about it,  
he says he can't play that fast."

## Signs and Symbols

By the Rev Dr Jo White

### Reflected Faith: the role of the Sacristan



The traditional marks on an altar are five crosses representing either the five wounds of Christ or perhaps more matter-of-factly, Christ at the centre of what holds up the table – and indeed what holds our lives.

This month let's consider the work of the person responsible for preparing the altar for worship.

So often when we arrive in church, everything is already set up for the service and by the time we've drunk our coffee afterwards it's all cleared away – as if some altar fairies come in the dark and do it all very quietly. Well, in fact that's exactly what happens! Except that rather than fairies this is the job of the *Sacristan*. A busy priest with many churches may conduct several services on a Sunday and so rely on the altar to have been prepared before their arrival.

There are set ways of preparing all altars so that, wherever you go to worship, the same things should be found and folded/laid in the same ways. This not only helps in times of business, but principally it allows all who conduct or serve at the altar to engage with the words of the service, rather than get distracted by wondering 'where so and so' is today.

Some churches are more stringent than others in their preciseness, but there is a minimum level of acceptability. Otherwise the priest must spend time before the service checking everything is 'right' – or getting an inconvenient surprise when something is missing!

When the 'moment' comes in the Eucharistic prayer at the words, 'We break this bread', you should be able to hear the sharp 'snap' at the break. Making sure that the wafer is crisp enough is the responsibility of the Sacristan.

The story is told about one church where the wafer tended to go a bit soft – until the Sacristan began putting it on the radiator for a few minutes beforehand, until they were 'dry enough to snap'.

Another solution, of course, would have been to find an airtight container...

*This month*

If you are able to attend a communion service on Easter Day listen out for the 'snap' and think what that sounds tells you of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection.



## The great Raphael

*By Tim Lenton*

Five hundred years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1520, Italian Renaissance artist and architect Raphael died in Rome of an unknown illness. He was 37. Born Raffaello Sanzio at Urbino, he was orphaned at the age of 11 and led something of a nomadic life. He was immersed in neoplatonic philosophy, as was the pre-Reformation Church of his time, which combined wealth, intrigue and political power, often to the detriment of spiritual coherence.

Raphael's work, however, was of the highest quality. Best known for his Madonnas and for his large figure compositions in the Vatican, he achieved tremendous clarity and lucidity, trying to develop a calmer, more accessible style than Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.



He spent his early years in various North Italian centres, then absorbed a great deal from the artistic hub of Florence before spending a celebrity-style last 12 years in Rome, working for two Popes. He eventually put together an impressive – possibly uniquely large – workshop of 50 pupils and assistants.

He never married, but was deeply attached to 'La Fornarina' – Margherita Luti, the daughter of a baker from Siena. His grand funeral was attended by large crowds: four cardinals in purple carried his body, and he was buried at the Pantheon, at his own request.ning: "Woman with a veil (La Donna Velata)", 1516)

## GOD AND THE ARTS

*By The Rev Michael Burgess*

### **‘He gave us eyes to see them’: Murillo’s ‘St John the Baptist with the Lamb’**

The nursery rhymes we learnt as children often focused on lambs: Mary had a little lamb, Baa baa black sheep, Little Bo-Peep and Little Boy Blue. They come to mind in springtime when we see lambs in the field jumping for joy or bleating as they run to the ewes for warmth and safety.



Murillo, a 17th century artist from Seville, had that world of childhood in mind when he painted ‘St John the Baptist with the Lamb.’ He looks back to the little child of Isaiah 11 leading the animals, but also we are called to think of the adult John the Baptist, who sees Jesus walking by and exclaims, “Look, here is the Lamb of God.” In the painting, St John is a child with his arms around the lamb. He stands on rocky ground with a reed cross at his feet that has the words ‘Behold the

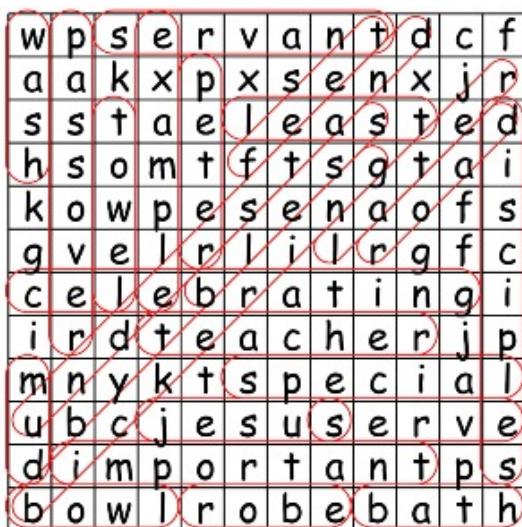
Lamb of God’ on the ribbon.

The painting hangs in the National Gallery, and it certainly lacks the strength and brilliance of other Spanish artists. But Murillo is telling us how the drama of salvation is played out by children and lambs. He is inviting us to look from that world of childhood to another part of Isaiah’s prophecy, where he talks of the Messiah led like a lamb to the slaughter. We enter that drama of salvation in Holy Week this month. On Good Friday Jesus was led to His crucifixion, just as the lambs were being killed for the Passover.

We think of the world of Old Testament sacrifice, where the high priest on the day of Atonement would enter the Holy of Holies and sacrifice a ram. And we focus on Jesus who is for us both priest and sacrifice, and realise that there is a divine chemistry at work that leads us from Good Friday to Easter Day.

The writer of Hebrews meditates on this theme and proclaims that in Jesus we have a high priest of the good things that have come - eternal redemption. We are invited to appropriate that great gift for ourselves in this Holy Week of our salvation. So, we journey from the childhood days of Murillo's painting to Calvary and the Easter garden. And we can also journey beyond to the heavenly city, where Revelation tells us that all the nations walk by the light of that Lamb - the Lamb of God.

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25<sup>th</sup>

## Mark: disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man,



described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as

his 'son'. Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist, the lion, is much in evidence at Venice.

### **SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS:** 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:** 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.



### HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on 5<sup>th</sup> April this year. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.



The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with the disciples, what we now call the Last Supper. The Latin words are 'Madatum novum do vobis' – a new commandment I give you'. Do you know what that commandment is? You can read the whole account in St John's Gospel, chapter 13.

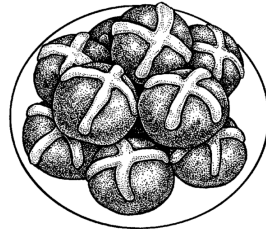
Then comes Good Friday. A lot of people can't see why a day that commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called 'good'. It was a black day but Christians know that without the events of that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter Day, no glorious Resurrection.

### HOT CROSS BUNS

One of the pleasures of Easter is eating hot cross buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme

Hot Cross Buns,  
Hot Cross Buns,  
One a penny, two a penny,  
Hot Cross Buns.  
If you have no daughters,  
Give them to your sons,  
One a penny, two a penny,  
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have some time to spare, see how many words you can make from the letters in the words **HOT CROSS BUNS**. Words of at least 2 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.



**What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?**

A hot cross bunny.

**Why couldn't the rabbit fly home for Easter?**

He didn't have the hare fare.

FROM THE REGISTERS

*Baptisms*

*Weddings*

-

*Funerals*

*Memorial Services*

-

*Year's mind for April 2019*

*13<sup>th</sup> April*

*Jack Longbon*

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CONTACT the Team Rector

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