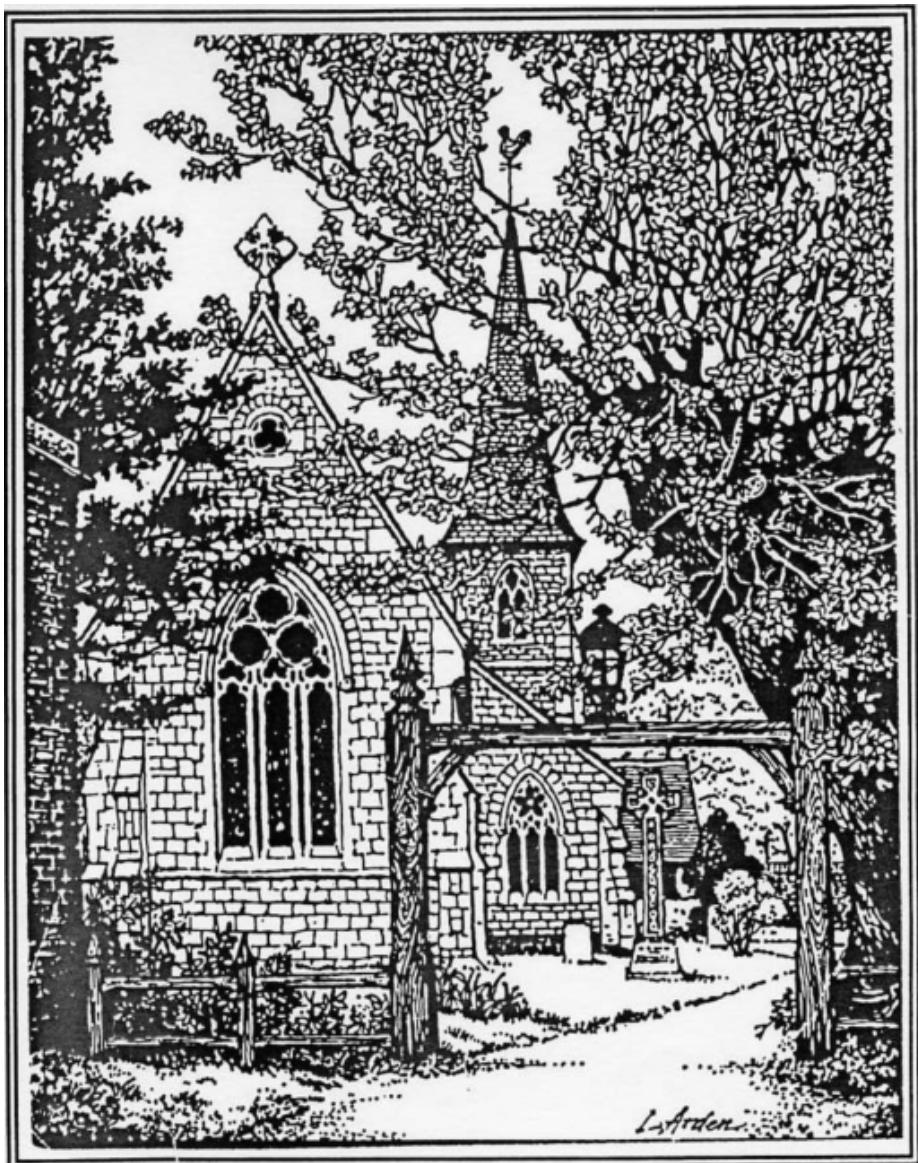


**The Parish Church of
St. James, North Cray**

**50p
April, 2021**

(Part of the Bexley Team Ministry)



St JAMES, NORTH CRAY PARISH STAFF

Team Vicar:	Reverend Ren Harding The Vicarage, 6 Tile Kiln Lane, Joydens Wood, DA5 2BB renharding@hotmail.co.uk	01322 528923
Lay Reader:	David Stevens	020 8300 0867
Church Wardens:	Suzy Higgs suzyjhiggs@gmail.com Maxine Heath maxinejheath@gmail.com	020 8302 5719 020 8468 7895
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)		

TEAM RECTOR'S LETTER APRIL 2021



We have been busy getting the church ready to reopen! The doors will be open for Individual Prayer on Good Friday (11am until 1pm) and Easter Communion on Easter Day at 9.30am.

As you can imagine this has meant a very thorough Spring Clean, including the removal of some quite spectacular cobwebs festooning the archways of the church! (Our apologies to the spiders who may have been disturbed by our ministrations.)

While we have been cleaning and tidying and making our preparations to open the building, I have been thinking about the need we all have for some 'spiritual spring-cleaning'.

What do I mean by that? I mean that, when we take time to pause and reflect, we can discover that over a period of weeks and months, we have begun to accumulate mental and spiritual 'clutter'. It might be a sense of resentment concerning the words or actions of someone else. It might be a build-up of tension because of a raft of obligations and duties that we have foolishly taken on. It might be a habit of criticism, or of fixating on worries and problems. All these things sap us of joy and dull our ability to see things in their proper perspective.

Now I fully realise that some of you may be struggling with serious illness, financial worries, or griefs of many kinds, and if that is the case, my heart goes out to you. You should not feel guilty. Know that God is alongside you and be gentle with yourself as you find a way through the unavoidable emotional pain of those things. Remember I'm here to help if I can.

Rather, I am talking here about the needless worries that can weigh us down if we allow them to. What I refer to is encapsulated in what is called The Serenity Prayer...

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

I commend it to you as a prayer as you do your own 'Spiritual Spring Cleaning' and I wish you a very Happy Easter.

Reverend Ren Harding (Team Rector)

contact me at Joydens Wood Vicarage,

6 Tile Kiln Lane, Joydens Wood, Bexley, DA5 2BB

01322-528923

renharding@hotmail.co.uk

Can it be Easter Already?

Can it be Easter already?
Can that be really so?
The carols and the Christmas tree
Don't seem that long ago!

Can it be Easter already?
Do April showers splash?
The weeks gone by since Christmas day
Have gone in just a flash!

Can it be Easter already?
The time of Lent has passed
The forty days and forty nights
Went by so very fast.

If it is Easter already,
That time has sped away.
Perhaps it's time to ponder, pause
And savour every day!

By Nigel Beeton

THE BOTHY

**Are you looking for a small hall for a function?
The Bothy (in St James Church Grounds) has all the facilities
you need and can seat 35 people.
If you need further information please contact
Lynne Meads on 07966 315518**

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR APRIL 2021

The Team Rector, the Team clergy, and the PCC's of the Parish churches in the Bexley Team have been monitoring figures for Covid infections in this area. We are mindful of our responsibility for the safety and well-being of those attending worship in our church buildings.

However, in line with government and Church of England guidance, and with reducing infections it has been decided to begin the process of re-opening the St James church building.

GOOD FRIDAY

11.00 am to 1.00 pm

Open for Individual prayer

EASTER SUNDAY

9.30am

Easter Day Communion

During Holy Week we invite you to place a small cross at the foot of the large cross in the church grounds. You can do this in remembrance of something or someone you have lost over the past year, or you can place it in thankfulness of the love that God has for us all. You can bring your own cross (or use one of the ones provided) You might like to place a flower as well.

There will be music on this link:

www.stjamesnorthcray.org.uk/welcome/music/ to take us from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. We hope you find the music helpful and inspiring.

We will be monitoring the situation closely and – for the moment – hope to have our church building open throughout April for our regular 9.30am Sunday service.

We will continue to circulate worship material via email, and also make worship available online, on Zoom, or via a phone-in link on Zoom. Details are emailed out each week.

Please contact the Team Rector or a member of the clergy team to be included on the emailing list or see our website for further information.

Also, do contact any of our clergy team if you are concerned, or if you would simply like a chat, or prayer.

May God bless you all at this difficult and worrying time.

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."

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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.

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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

Daily Service Monday to Friday @ 9.45 am – on Longwave and DAB
Sunday worship @ 8.10am

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

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News and Issues



Coronavirus reopening roadmap: comment from the Bishop of London

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Coronavirus Recovery Group, has recently responded to the Prime Minister's roadmap for reopening the country, saying that "we will refine our own advice for local churches in the weeks ahead. "When the first lockdown was introduced last year, we were – as we are now – in the midst of Lent, a time of preparation and self-reflection for Christians as we look forward with hope to Easter.

"This has been an incredibly testing time for the whole world. But we have also seen remarkable signs of hope. The rapid development and distribution of vaccines has been a phenomenal achievement and the way in which people have reached out to others has been inspirational.

"Our churches have loved and served their neighbours perhaps like never before and found ways to meet and worship God together we would not have imagined just a year ago.

"As we look ahead to the prospect of easing of restrictions, we know it is still a long road. Yet Easter reminds us we always have hope."

Bishops lead churches' call to take up Covid vaccine

Church of England Bishops have joined an NHS-backed campaign calling on congregations, communities and individuals to play their part in encouraging everyone who is offered a Covid-19 vaccine to take up the opportunity.

With concerns over misinformation and significant numbers indicating mistrust, including in some UK BAME communities, the bishops were speaking as part of a recently launched united churches campaign called Give Hope.

The Archbishop of York, together with the Bishops of Dover, Durham and Truro added their voices to a video which was launched on Sunday, together with members of other churches and groups.

It is hoped that faith communities will use their networks to share trustworthy information about vaccines, helping to bust myths and reassure those who have been offered a vaccine of the true levels of associated risk.

The Give Hope campaign is being run by YourNeighbour.org, a convening group working with Government, the NHS and faith communities in response to the challenges of ensuring a wide uptake of the vaccine. It encourages communities to

- o Have a conversation,
- o Offer information,
- o give Practical support and
- o Engage through communication channels such as social media.

Resources are available to churches through the YourNeighbour.org website

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MEETINGS and Events 2021

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

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Phone: 07931 811620
Email: davis54@btinternet.com

ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

1900 years ago, on 26th April 121 Marcus Aurelius, Emperor of Rome (161-180AD) and Stoic philosopher (whose works are still read today), was born.

500 years ago, on 27th April 1521 Ferdinand Magellan, Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to circumnavigate the earth, died at the hands of natives in the Philippines. He was aged 41.

300 years ago, on 3rd April 1721 Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister.

250 years ago, on 13th April 1771 Richard Trevithick, British mining engineer and inventor of the first steam locomotive, was born.

125 years ago, from 6th to 15th April 1896 the first modern Summer Olympic Games were held in Athens. The original Olympics were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius (I or II) in either 393 or 426 AD.

95 years ago, on 21st April 1926 Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London.

90 years ago, on 14th April 1931 the first edition of the Highway Code was published in the UK.

75 years ago, on 21st April 1946 John Maynard Keynes, British economist, died. He was the most influential economist of the 20th century, whose ideas formed the basis of Keynesian economics.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1971 Igor Stravinsky, Russian composer, died. He was one of the most important and influential composers of the 20th century.

20 years ago, on 7th April 2001 NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of life and volcanic activity on Mars.

10 years ago, on 29th April 2011 at the wedding of Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton took place at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

**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.

Believing	Who is Jesus? The Bible
Belonging	The EucharistChristian Symbols
Behaving	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)
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Reflected Faith: with all your soul, strength and mind

By The Rev Dr Jo White

This month I'm thinking about what we are all 'doing' in times of 'waiting'. It's very easy to just sit quietly and let the time pass by or just fill it in. Not exactly wasting time, but not using it for any useful purpose either.

But as Christians we live in expectation all the time, don't we? We live in the hope and promise of Christ's return – even though we don't know the 'when' or the 'where'.

Of course, there's waiting and there's waiting. I won't say I'm the most patient person I know! If the internet goes down or something mechanical takes a few seconds too long to process, you can often hear me chuntering. But there are other times when the waiting itself is precious. I'm thinking this month of when we receive the bread and wine at the distribution of Holy Communion.

Perhaps you have avoided church since the original lockdown in March, or been going but not receiving communion, or indeed you have been participating with an online service with your own equivalents at home. Whichever it is for you, cast your mind back to when you were last in that position – or indeed look forward to when we are all able to gather together again and we 'queue' to approach the altar.

Actually, we don't 'queue'. We 'process' to the altar. We join the procession – a line of like-minded people with a similar intention to receive Christ. A time of physical movement and spiritual anticipation for holding those elements of Christ Himself: God being placed into our hands. How amazing is that!

This month: What do you think about when you are processing and waiting for Holy Communion? Are you conscious of those around you or immersed in the moment? Do you pray quietly to yourself, join in with the singing or let your mind focus on the moment?

WORDSEARCH

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

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 21



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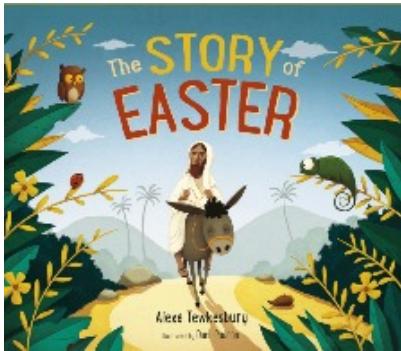
www.ruxley-manor.co.uk





Book Mark

The Story of Easter by Alexa Tewkesbury, SPCK, £6.99



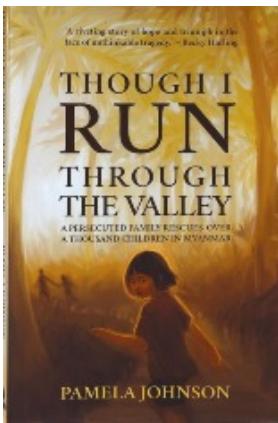
Award-winning children's author Alexa Tewkesbury offers a timeless retelling of the Easter story in this delightful picture book for 3-5 year-olds.

Spanning events from Palm Sunday through to the last supper, crucifixion and resurrection, *The Story of Easter* is an excellent way to introduce children to the Bible story that

lies at the heart of the Christian faith.

Bright, colourful illustrations from Dani Padron bring the book to life, and children will love spotting the many different animals that are dotted on every page. The clear, simple text is ideal for young children just starting to read and for adults to read aloud.

Though I Run Through the Valley by Pamela Johnson, Authentic, £9.99



Amid decades of war and political strife in Myanmar one family has fought back with their weapon of choice - the Bible. Three generations of Emmerline's family have been living out their love for God by rescuing children who have been orphaned, abandoned or made destitute by their country's upheaval. Daring to trust God, the family has made many sacrifices to provide a home for orphans so that the children of Myanmar can hope for a better future. Royalties from the sale of this book will go to Vision Beyond Borders and the Daw Gyi Daw Nge Orphanage.

The first British Prime Minister

By Tim Lenton

Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister 300 years ago, on 3rd April 1721. It was a title he rejected, but historians agree that



he effectively created that office for himself.

He was one of the greatest politicians in British history, but he had intended to be a clergyman, until his older brother Edward died in 1698, leaving him responsible for the considerable Walpole estate.

His country seat was Houghton Hall in Norfolk, which he used as a

base for generous, sometimes extravagant hospitality and built up an impressive art collection, most of which was later sold and now resides in the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.

Another part of his legacy is 10 Downing Street, which was offered to him personally by George II, but which he accepted as the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury. He was knighted in 1726 and made Earl of Orford on his resignation in 1742.

His skills as an orator and negotiator played a significant role in sustaining the Whig party over a long period, and in ensuring the Hanoverian succession. He rebuilt the tower of the medieval church on his Houghton estate as a memorial to his grandfather.

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David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the legal details of Jesus' arrest and trials

Was the trial of Jesus legal?

We have high expectations of the legal system. In criminal cases we want criminals punished and innocent people protected. I have been involved in many court hearings and all clients want a just result. Some disagree with the decisions, but few actually question the basic fairness of the legal system.

As a lawyer, I have thought about the legal trial Jesus faced. I find the biblical accounts of what happened on Good Friday challenging to read, not because the gospels differ a lot, because they are remarkably consistent; not only because the subject matter is harrowing. They are difficult because the subject matter is complicated.

The legal system was very different to ours. For a start, Jesus was in the centre of three different legal jurisdictions: the Jewish legal system with its council, the law of the occupying Romans and also that of King Herod, who ruled Galilee, where Jesus came from. There was not one trial, but several. One writer has counted six. There were at least two hearings before the Temple council, two procedures with Pontius Pilate and a hearing of sort with King Herod. These were interspersed with beatings and abuse.

Jesus faced two separate sets of legal accusations: one for blasphemy before the religious council and one of rebellion before Pilate. The Romans would not have been interested in the Jewish religion, but sedition meant trouble.

Very few of the participants come out of the story well. Many of them could have stopped at the different stages, but they did not. The whole procedure was a setup, the illegal murder of an innocent man.

So, what was illegal about it? Here are some points:

There was an unholy and unfair rush to accuse, convict and kill Jesus before Passover.

The judges had conspired to arrest and charge Jesus, the procedure was muddled, and they tried to fit the charge to suit the evidence. The judges were prejudiced and determined to kill Jesus. It is not the judge's role to find witnesses, but to be impartial.

It was illegal to try capital cases at night. By doing so the Sanhedrin broke the law. When a person's life was at stake, the trial could only be held during the day and they should have delayed judgment until the next day. It was illegal to try someone on the day before the Sabbath or before some holy day.

Jesus was forced to incriminate Himself, which was not allowed and not acceptable evidence. Jesus had no-one to support Him or given time to defend Himself.

The trial should not have taken place in anyone's home.

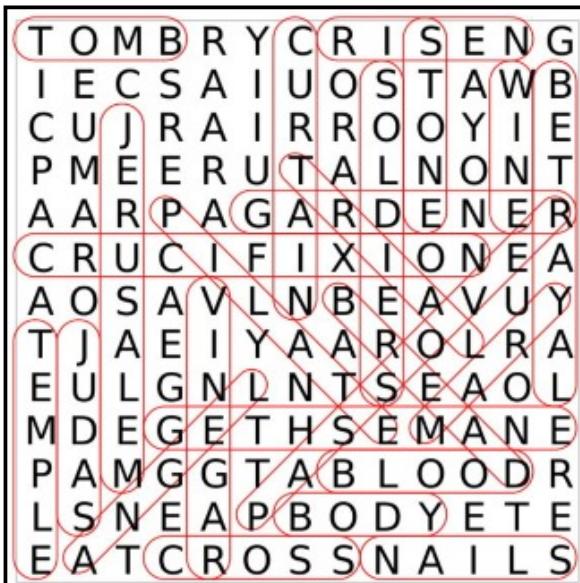
The whole thing was a travesty of justice. Jesus was illegally murdered.

This is a very brief introduction to a complex subject. There are many websites which analyse this, written by much more learned people than me. Two books stand out which are readable authoritative and available:

Grieve, V, (1990), The Trial of Jesus, STL Bromley

F F Bruce, (1985) The Real Jesus Hodder & Stoughton, London

SOLUTIONS TO WORDSEARCH



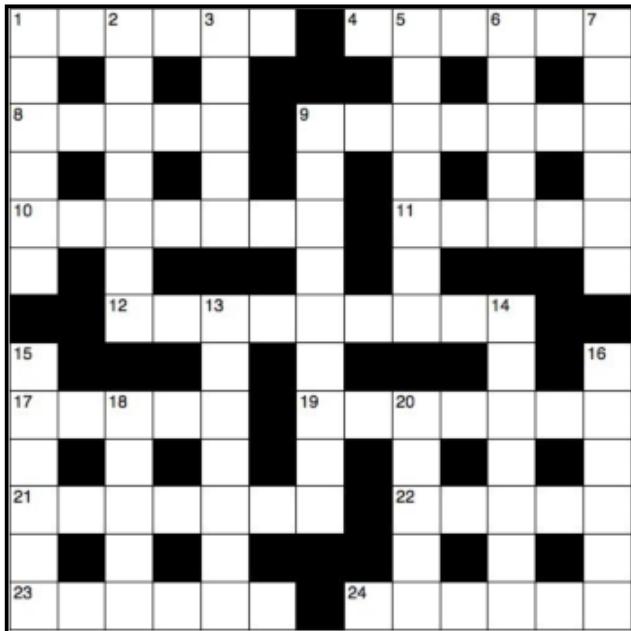
APRIL CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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 (Gen 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’ (Ex 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)



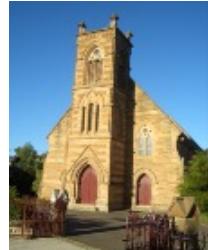
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy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

ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL

On why a vicar should avoid taking weddings

The Rectory



My dear Nephew Darren

Offering to take last week's marriage service for you in your church, so you could attend your weekend plumbing course, proved to be an unwise act of generosity on my part.

You may now be qualified to unblock church hall kitchen sinks and install drainage to the font, but I will not be taking another marriage ceremony for you again, no matter how much you have set your heart on that electrician's course next year, so that you can re-wire the vestry and put strobe lighting in the sanctuary.

At first, I was delighted when the bride's mother called, inviting me to the reception. I assumed that Charnley Hall would be a fitting location for the reception, even if it was a little puzzling not to be able to find the venue in the directory of stately homes. I did not realise until too late that it was the name of the public house next door to your church. Clearly the regulars in the Saloon Bar were not used to seeing a gentleman of the cloth in their establishment, because someone was sent over to ask me where the fancy dress party was.

At least I had been placed with the happy couple and both sets of parents, although the privilege was rather spoiled when I was told that my presence there was to stop the bride's mother attacking her newly-acquired son-in-law. My presence may have kept the peace at our table, but had no effect on some of the others.

Well before the speeches, remarks between bride's and groom's supporters had moved from sarcasm to the point where I expected tactical nuclear weapons would be deployed. Phrases such as "Who are you looking at?" and "Want to come outside and sort it out?" that I'd only ever read in the sort of cheap fiction one buys for long train

journeys echoed round the room. Battle lines were drawn. The Archduke Ferdinand moment came when a bridesmaid slapped an usher.

Chairs were overturned, fists made contact with noses and bottles were being thrown. I decided it was time to step in and command order, knowing they were bound to obey the Rector of St. James the Least. Approaching one gentleman who was wielding a bottle, I took it from him and then held it aloft above his own head, to demonstrate how threatening such a pose looked.

Unfortunately, that was the moment the police arrived, who, unlike our local village constable, were deaf to explanations. Were our churchwarden, Lord Jelleby to have been on the bench that day, matters could have been settled quite amicably. It was not to be: you may enthusiastically pass the peace in your church; I am now bound over to keep it.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



"It's not quite as bad as it looks –
they're only withholding payment
until we publish our expenses."

GOD AND THE ARTS

By The Rev Michael Burgess

Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest

I like the story of the vestry notice board of a church in Hampshire: after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion', the choirmaster wrote: "The Crucifixion" – well done, everyone! Later that day, someone had added, 'The Resurrection – well done, God!'

For the two disciples treading the road to Emmaus, there was no such sense of victory and celebration. Their minds and hearts were numb with the sense of loss and failure. They had seen their Lord tried and crucified. As Luke recounts that walk in his Gospel, he shows how it began with absence and loss, but journeyed to presence. It was a road that took the disciples from blindness and despair to sight and insight. They talked over past events with the stranger who joined them, and Luke uses ten different Greek words to describe that



conversation – all stages in their understanding. And when they share a meal with the stranger, who becomes the host, taking the bread and giving thanks, then the understanding becomes vision and insight.

That meal is the theme of Caravaggio's painting of 1601, 'The Supper at Emmaus.' Caravaggio had a reputation for being a violent, irrational artist, given to bouts of anger and forced to spend part of his life in exile in Naples and Sicily. His paintings as well as his lifestyle shocked and provoked comment. This portrayal of Jesus with a plump, youthful face and his depiction of the apostles as ordinary labourers upset the church authorities. But by giving Jesus a beardless face, Caravaggio was trying to show Him in the new likeness of Resurrection – an Easter image of our Lord. The light from that Easter Jesus fills the scene as the two disciples look on, astonished and finally understanding.

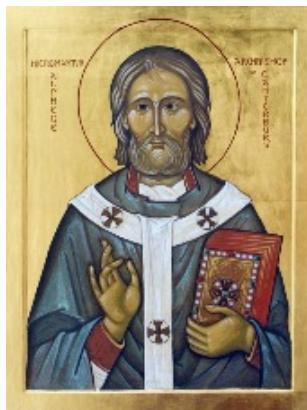
When we read the Gospel, we are drawn into the scene. For Caravaggio the movement is the other way: the scene reaches out to us from the canvas. Look at the outstretched hand of Jesus, the elbow of one disciple and the left hand of the other: they are being projected into our world. And that basket of fruit, full of apples and figs and grapes, symbols of the fall and the eucharist: it is about to topple off the table and into our laps. It is an Easter encounter two thousand years ago, reaching out to us through light and shade and the skill of the artist.

In many ways the Gospel story in Luke is of an ordinary encounter between travellers and a stranger. But it is made extraordinary by the transforming power of the risen Lord, talking with the disciples in the open air and then going inside for a meal. However, the doors are not shut to us. For Caravaggio shows how that special moment of encounter for the two disciples can reach out to enter our world. And he shows the hand of the risen Lord beckoning us to step into that Easter world of sacrament and new life.

19th Alphege – the archbishop taken captive by Danes

This is a tale of courage and self-sacrifice that is still poignant today. Alphege began like many other leading churchmen of his time; born of a noble family, with a good education,

he decided to become a monk. Alphege joined the Benedictine Abbey at Deerhurst in Gloucestershire, and then became a hermit at Bath, before becoming Abbot of Bath. From there, he was appointed to be Bishop of Winchester, where he was loved for his frugal lifestyle and great generosity towards others.



In 954 King Ethelred the Unready sent Alphege as a peace envoy to the Danes, seeking some relief from the constant Viking raids against England. Alphege se-

cured a time of peace, and in 1006 was made the 29th Archbishop of Canterbury.

But the Viking raids increased again, until the south of England was largely overrun. In 1012 they surrounded Canterbury, and with the help of a treacherous archdeacon, Elfmaer, captured and imprisoned Alphege. A vast sum was demanded by his captors, so much that it would have ruined the people of Canterbury. And so Alphege refused to be ransomed.

This infuriated the Danes, who wanted the gold of Canterbury, not the Archbishop. After seven months of ill-treating him, one night they got very drunk and began pelting him with ox-bones from their feast, until in a frenzy they hacked him to death with an axe. Alphege was mourned as a national hero and venerated as a martyr: he had given his life in order to protect his people from harm.

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delilah. 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.



EASTER JOY!

When you wake up on Easter Day it feels different – really full of joy - because we are celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus.

But on the first Easter morning the friends of Jesus were very sad when they woke up because they didn't know that Jesus had risen. They wouldn't believe Mary when she told them she had seen Jesus in the garden by the tomb. Thomas refused to believe unless he saw Jesus and could feel his wounds (that is why we still call someone a 'doubting Thomas'). But Jesus wasn't angry and he invited Thomas to see for himself the marks the nails had made. Why don't you read about the first Easter Day in each of the Gospels? The accounts are easy to find as they are at the end of each Gospel.

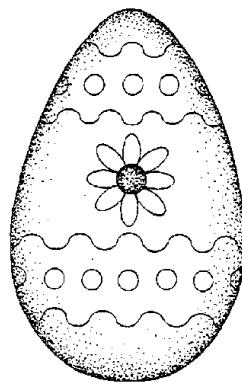
We can't see the actual marks like Thomas, but we can know the real truth, that Jesus is risen. Jesus told Thomas, and all of us. "Happy are they who never saw me and yet have found faith." So Easter Day must be the happiest day of the year!

EASTER EGGS

Melt 6 oz plain Fairtrade chocolate in a bowl over a pan of hot water. You might need some help with this.

Take the bowl with the chocolate in it away from the hot water. Add 2 eggs yolks, 1 oz butter and 2 teaspoons single cream. Beat the mixture until it is thick then put it into the fridge to chill until it is firm enough to handle.

Shape the mixture into 12 eggs and roll them in chocolate strands.



And here is an Easter egg to colour in - you could trace the pattern off to make Easter cards if you want.



What did the mother egg say to her baby on its first Easter?

Don't get over-eggcited.

FROM THE REGISTERS

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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.

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