

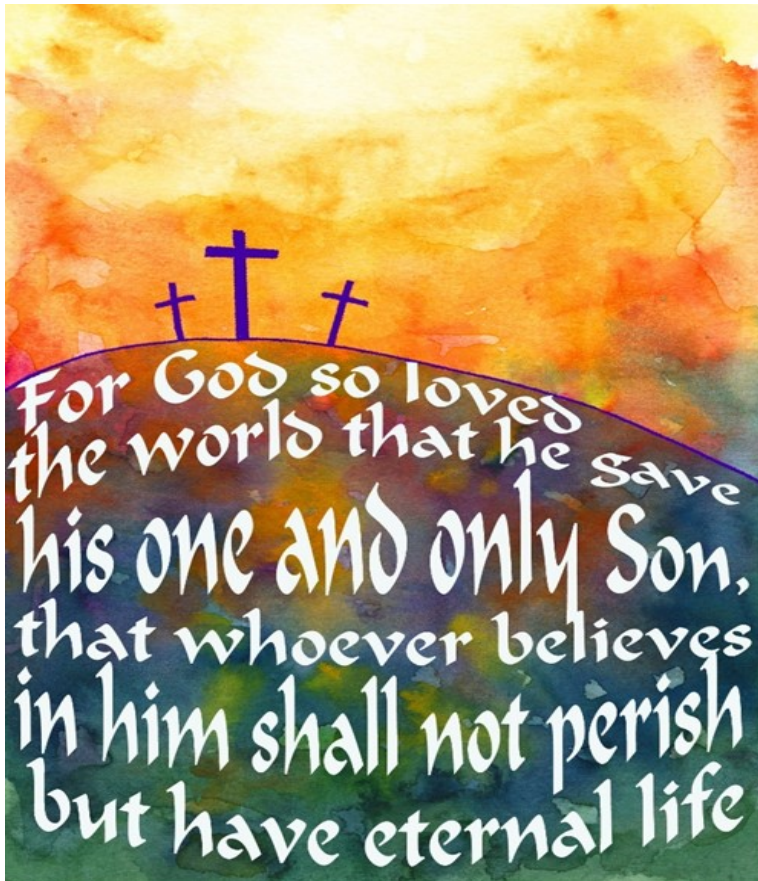


St. Paul's Church Ansdell & Fairhaven
Working In Unity To Share The Good News Of Christ



PEWS NEWS EXTRA

Issue No 150 ~ April 2021



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Letter from the Vicarage...

'Fake news' – that is a phrase that four or five years ago we might never have heard. But it is now part of our everyday vocabulary. From our current pandemic, the US presidential elections, and even sad royal storylines, the claim has been made.



Of course the claim is sometimes used to close down discussion, as if 'fake news' were sufficient enough to end a responsible exchange of views. But out there, there is also much which is untrue under the guise of truth.

Fake news is not something you can build your life upon, or look to for hope. It will harm rather than help. True news is the only basis for good news.

That is true of the Easter message. For many, it might be labelled as 'fake news' – a fanciful concoction with little relation to history. An attention grabbing headline – '*Jesus is risen*' but with no evidence to back it up.

But if Christianity is to be real, it has to be true. You can't have anything from what Jesus offers if it is all 'fake news'.

But John's gospel (as well as the other eyewitness accounts) challenge us to look deeper. To check the evidence for ourselves. For John, whom we have been studying through Lent, wants us to see there are real historical grounds for Jesus' resurrection. That it is not fake news, but true and good news!

John cared about history. In chapter 2, John records words of Jesus in the temple, promising that after destroying 'this temple' he would raise it up in three days. Jesus meant his body. He was pointing to the resurrection.

But the disciples didn't get that at the time. John doesn't fudge the issue. He records what Jesus said in history, and then adds '*After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scriptures and the words Jesus had spoken.*' John didn't confuse history with faith, or play loose with history. Rather history was the foundation for that faith.

In John 20, when Peter and John race to the empty tomb, we get details recorded as they were seen. Here is a second occasion where John does not present that Peter or himself believed immediately. Rather they carefully record the evidence they saw, which, as John makes clear later, became the foundation on which they believed. Empty and folded grave clothes. Not because Jesus had been stolen – which thief would stop to unwrap a dead body and then neatly fold the grave clothes as they were! The clothes were empty, for Jesus no longer had need of them!

Add to this John's recording of Mary's encounter with the risen Jesus, then the disciples, and finally Thomas. Whom the Lord gave concrete evidence to that he really was alive from the dead.

Can I encourage you to read John's accounts of that first Easter in the coming days? Look for evidence that this is true, not fake news.

For only if it is true, can it be good news for us. Good news that we need not give way to fear in the face of death, however terrible it is, because trusting in Jesus, he has defeated death and promises to do the same for us. We need hope. This year has taught us that. Vaccines, possible holidays, the sun coming out, offer a taste in the present. But we need something so much more enduring and strong. It is found only in Jesus' resurrection. An event which is not fake news, but true and so wonderfully good.

With Easter blessings

Paul



*An Important Date
for Your Diary*

*Annual Parochial
Church Meeting*

*Sunday 23rd May
(Time to be confirmed)*

**ARTICLES FOR
THE MAY PNE**

If you have an article for inclusion in the May PNE, please make sure that I have a copy by **Saturday 10th April**. Thank you.

Janet Kimber



Glory

*Glory with us
in the Easter message
from John's Gospel
this Holy Week*



Palm Sunday

Sunday 28th March	10am & 11am	Service of the Word
Monday 29th	4pm	Night Prayer (Compline)
Tuesday 30th	4pm	Night Prayer (Compline)
Wednesday 31st	4pm	Night Prayer (Compline)

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 1st April	7pm	Holy Communion
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Good Friday

Friday 2nd	10am	Service for All-Ages
	4pm	Good Friday Reflection

Easter Sunday	10am & 11. <u>15</u> am	Easter Service with Holy Communion
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(Further details regarding Easter Sunday to be confirmed as potential impacts of reduced restrictions on public worship are made known)

Blessed That We Might Bless!

*'And God is able to bless you abundantly,
so that in all things at all times, having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work.'*
2 Corinthians 9:8

For so many this past year has been difficult in so many ways. Not least financially. Many find themselves unemployed, furloughed, or on reduced hours, and worried about making ends meet. St Paul's itself has felt the financial impact of the pandemic significantly too.

However, I want to share an example of God's amazing generosity in this past year. Two years ago, the PCC set up the Outside Support Fund. This is a fund whereby we prayerfully decided at the beginning of each financial year to give some of our church income away. For the past two years that has been £1000 each year from central church funds, and 10% of profit from the Fundraising Shop. It was an exciting move – the first time we had formally decided to give church funds in this way. It involved being wise reflecting on what was it appropriate to give at this time. It involved trusting the Lord. We didn't know what each year would bring, but we wanted to say making Jesus known and serving others in his name was an important priority. It was a mark of us seeking to grow as a generous church.

Each year a quarter of the fund has gone to support the De Leeuws speaking of Jesus in South Sudan, a quarter to Christians Against Poverty helping people out of financial and spiritual debt and a quarter to the Bridge Project – serving vulnerable people in Jesus' name in Blackpool. The last quarter was left undesignated to enable us to respond to any needs as the year progressed.

This last year we planned to do the same, and I am so encouraged that we decided to maintain that commitment even when our finances had been impacted. I am also so thrilled that despite the year we had, the Fundraising Shop was still able to provide funds for us to give away.

We have used the remainder of the fund this year to provide three rounds of food parcels for ten families each time, who are struggling at this current time of pandemic. These families had been anonymously identified by a local school with whom we have been working. It has been a joy to drop off bags-a-plenty of dried and fresh food to support these families, especially over half term and the upcoming Easter holidays.

I don't share this story to make St Paul's proud. But to say the truth of 2 Corinthians 9:8 is still true and active today! God is so generous to us, even in difficult times. He provides for us so that we can be generous. And when we are, we find he then provides again and with more opportunities to give! God has indeed been kind, and it has been a joy to share what he has shared with us.



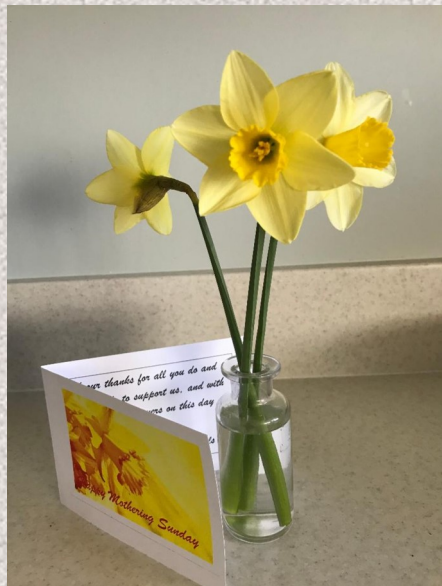
It has been a helpful reminder too about setting out financial priorities at the beginning of the year rather than seeing what is left over at the end, of seeking to be wise stewards of what the Lord has given us, and trusting the Lord and his promises. I would love this fund to grow in the coming years. I know a number of churches pledge 10% of their church income to mission and Christian ministry. We are not at that place yet but it is something to work towards!

Please be encouraged by the God who blesses that we might bless!



Thank you St Paul's for your continuing care & thoughtfulness. The gift of a card & daffodils, to all ladies at the Sunday services, on March 14th, was very special & much appreciated.

Adrienne Kay



New Plans For A New Stage

'...a welcoming, accessible family of all ages, experiences and backgrounds, which learns, shares and works together;'

Over the past 6-12 months, reflection has been taking place regarding our future vision and shape as a church. This process began before the pandemic, but has been challenged, clarified and in some ways hastened by the times we are in. Part of the fruit of this reflection has been the formation of a vision statement which was shared in February's PNE. In many ways in the upheaval of the past 12 months, the Lord sets before us a challenge and opportunity.

One desire that has become clear is to be a truly multigenerational church. The line above from our vision statement seeks to encapsulate something of this. At St Paul's, we long to be a place where young and old, both in age and Christian maturity, can meet, learn and grow together. Before Lockdown One, we had different groups in the life of the church, but not necessarily much integration.

Another element that has been recognised, in part from the *Diocesan Vision for Children and Young People*, is that children, young people and families are significantly missing from much of church life. Statistically (though God is bigger than statistics!) 70% of Christians come to the Lord before they are 18, but also sadly 60% leave the faith before they are 24. The underrepresentation in the church of these groups, and this 'drop-off', is true nationally and is reflected at St Paul's. One recognition we have also had is that while we might wish it to be different, that the current timings and styles of some of our services can potentially act as barriers to reaching new people of all ages, but especially families.

As one means to address this need, an exciting plan is under formation and discussion – the beginning of a multigenerational service in the Parish Hall on a Sunday afternoon (4pm).

Its aim is to be: *An informal, contemporary, complementary, multigenerational congregation seeking to reach and disciple all ages together with a deliberate intention of incorporating children, young people and families, into the full worshipping life of the church.*

That is a mouthful – but seeks to do justice to what is being aimed for! It will meet around tables, with food afterwards, with a contemporary overall style. In style, shape and teaching it would seek to provide something different from our other services so as to complement them. It aims at being truly all-age so that all present, whatever age, are engaged, if at different levels.

By having it at a different time and location than Sunday morning services, and with a different overall style, we long that some of the barriers which exist for some currently outside of St Paul's will be lessened. As a service, we aim for it to be simple, but not simplistic.

We long for it to be a place which helps those present to be formed as whole-life disciples, whereby young and old, newer Christian and older Christian learn together and from each other. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have our young people being loved by 'adoptive' grandparents in the church, or young people sharing what it means for them to be a Christian in school with all its challenges, helping encourage our older members? Or a single person feeling a real sense of family, or new Christian parent being able to talk to an older Christian parent about their experiences?

Whilst seeking to be all-age, there will be deliberate incorporation of children, young people and families, recognising that reaching and discipling these groups is one motivation for it, and thus an area for particular (but not exclusive) attention in the congregation's shape.

We long that this service will enable all there to be equal members, empowering and equipping them to take their full place in the worshipping life of the church. This will mean seeking to 'apprentice' young and old to grow in their faith, and accordingly give opportunities to serve and be involved in the congregation.

(Continued over the page)

The formation of this service will have implications for some of the services which ran before lockdown began last year. These are not easy, and may be painful. That is a pain I understand. I am in the process of seeking to outline these implications to those who might be affected. One thing I need to make very clear. Engaging in these plans is not saying one group of people is more important to God or our church, than others. Especially where that group find significant changes to a service which we were involved in previously. I am committed to St Paul's being a church where all ages are fed and cared for, and needs met. However, it is to say that recognising the particular needs and aims we have identified, decisions do need to be made as to what will enable the most people to be reached and disciplined for Jesus. This has present and future consequences not just for our church, and the church more widely, but also people's salvation.

As plans are further clarified and practicalities decided, we will of course be in contact again. But I thought it was right to share this news at this present point. None of this is simple or easy! To be multigenerational involves serving others. It requires real thought. So please do pray for the Lord's leading at this time. We want to follow his direction. But I hope too there will be real excitement. Please do make contact if you wish to speak further with me.

A prayer from the Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer comes to mind:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: Send down upon our Bishops, and Curates, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.





St. Paul's Tots hopes to be meeting in person from **Tuesday 18th April**. Please keep watching for details.



St Paul's Tots At Home

St Paul's Tots is a new toddler group from St Paul's Church...

It's here!

Beginning online from 9th February

Watch our 'At Home' sessions premiering on our Facebook and YouTube pages

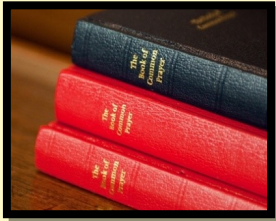
Tuesdays at 10am
or watch back later

www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.Ansdell.Fairhaven/

You can also join us online via the website at: <https://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/st-pauls-tots.html>



Mid-Week Book of Common Prayer Service of Hbly Communion

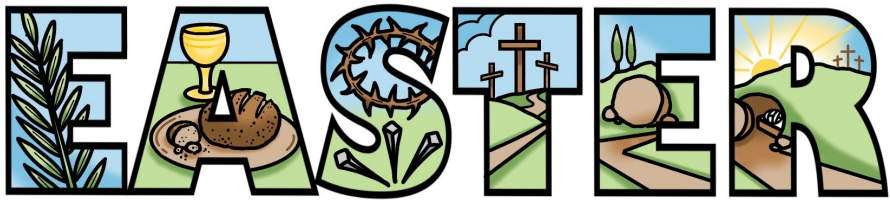


From CofE website

Wednesdays weekly – 10am

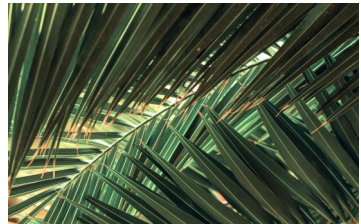
Please keep watching your weekly e-mails and printed notice sheets for any changes that occur due to coronavirus restrictions.

A few pages of Easter poetry ...



The Crossroad

The road was hard, no turning back
The way ordained by mighty God,
'Your will not mine' was all He said
As humbly down that path He trod.



The crowd that cheered Him once with palms
Began to shout for Him to die,
They chose Barabbas in His stead
And with one voice cried 'Crucify!'

Between two thieves on Calvary's hill
They put to death the Prince of Life,
One cried for help, the other cursed
The first was promised Paradise.



This promise now is for us all
Christ gave His life to set us free,
The cross divides, it always will –
The question is: what side are we?

By Megan Carter



Which Man!

This is the Man who took My Cross;
The wound was in His side.
See how the nails went through His hands,
Remember, once He dies!

This is the man who knew my thirst;
And Vinegar they gave,
This is the man who knew my need;
His living waters save!

This is the Man who gave a feast,
And broke the Bread of Life,
His Blood o'er flowed, ran from the cup,
And caused the world Her life!

O walk the road to Calvary!
And hold your Cross with pride,
For He who rode that borrowed ass,
Walked also on the Tide!

They nailed Him to the Cross of Life;
They laid Him in a borrowed tomb;
And all but Thomas knew Him
In that silent Upper Room!

This is the Christ who'll take my Cross;
The Sea of Faith is deep!
The boat will wrestle with the Tide,
But Fisher-men n'er sleep!

ANN BROOKS

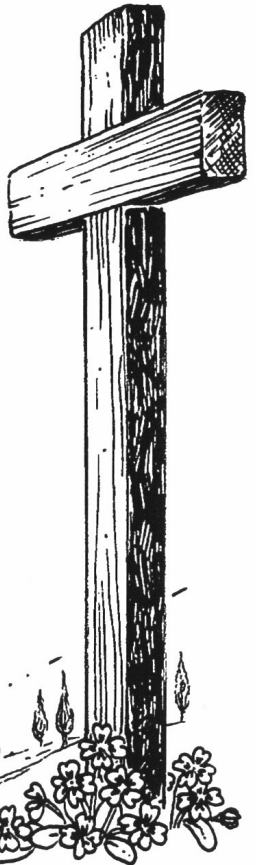


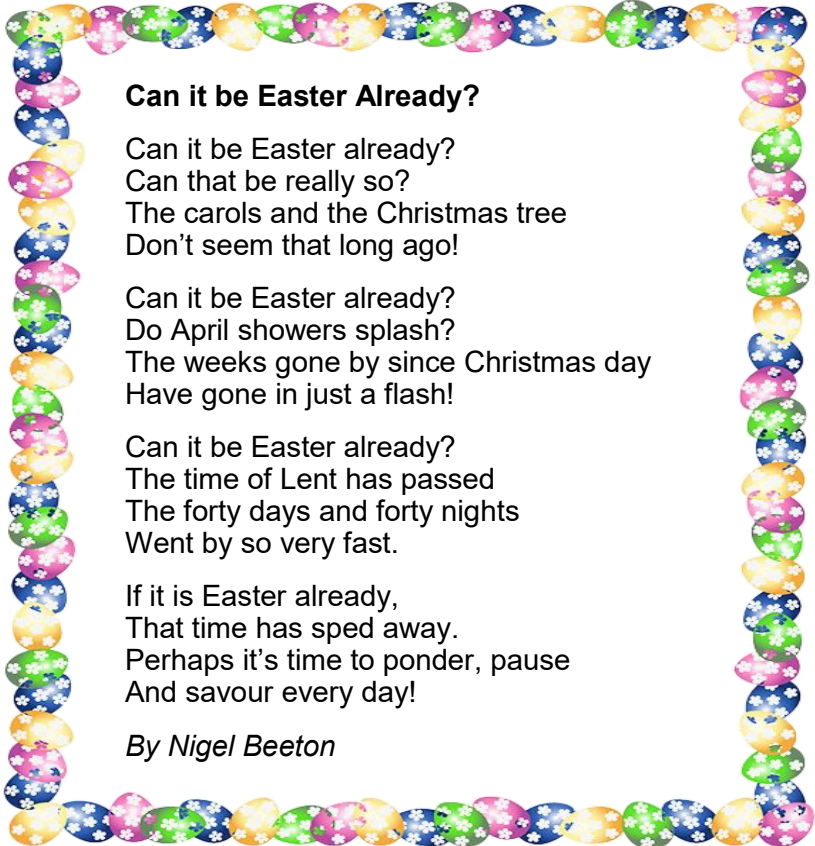


Photo by Grant Whitty on Unsplash

LOST

I was lost and couldn't think,
Then Jesus said to me
Come and stand beneath this tree
And tell me what you see.
I saw a mother's grief, friends in despair,
I heard a rending of the air,
The day turned into night:
Then light and peace came there to me,
And hope of better things to be,
As Jesus died upon that tree.
'Twas one of three on Calvary.

by a Parishioner



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

Easter Sunday

Mary sought the Silent Tomb,
It was the Break of Day,
The Tomb was cold and Empty,
And The Stone was Rolled away!

She thought He was the Gardener:
And She asked :'Where does He Lay?'
He then revealed His Presence,
And She Knew Her Lord that Day!

He went into the Upper Room,
He brought them Bread and Wine,
Remember do this often, Teach!
The Body, and the Blood is mine!

He spoke to Doubting Thomas,
Who touched His wounded Side!
Declared He was The Risen Lord,
Still doubting that He Died!

Remember that First Easter:
The Cross upon the Hill;
The Robbers there on either hand,
And how the Earth was still!

Come Share this Easter Breakfast,
New Life to Each I Bring!
Rejoice, and know this Easter,
That Jesus Christ is King!

ANN BROOKS



Easter Prayer

Dear generous, loving Father,
How can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him?

We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth - and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve.

Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah! Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The Reality of Continuing Restrictions and Questions for Christians to Consider

by Kyle Mulholland

On 22 March 2021, a senior epidemiologist warned that face masks, social distancing, and other basic restrictions "could last years." I highlight this, because I think it raises important questions for the church.

Mary Ramsey, head of immunisation at Public Health England, said this (the full article is available on the BBC website):

[P]eople have got used to those lower-level restrictions now, and people can live with them, and the economy can still go on with those less severe restrictions in place ... So I think certainly for a few years, at least until other parts of the world are as well vaccinated as we are, and the numbers have come down everywhere, that is when we may be able to go very gradually back to a more normal situation.

These comments were made a full year after the initial lockdown announcement in March 2020. If Ramsey is right, and we must wait until other, much poorer, countries are "as well vaccinated as we are" before we can begin to live normally again, we could be waiting some time!

The clear message is, "Don't expect a return to normal any time soon." Mark Drakeford, the Welsh First Minister, indicated on the same day that a return to normal in Wales was "very unlikely" in 2021. The Prime Minister is already using language of a coming "third wave."

As I reflect, I am moved to ask: Does this pose problems for Christians? Behaviour influences psychology: how we act, especially over a long period of time, influences how we think. The longer we go on with these measures, the more difficult we will find it to return to our old way of life. We must, of course, seek to take care of one another in every way - including our health! But the issue for Christians is, that some integral Christian practices will be difficult to reconcile with an increasingly germophobic culture. Could too much be sacrificed in the name of safety? Three particular practices come to my mind, which I think are worth considering:

Singing. The evidence isn't very strong on singing; but the official advice - not law - against singing in indoor spaces has been commended by the Church of England. The basis for this advice is that singing causes more droplets to enter into the public space, which could increase infection risk. Let's say that this is the case, and that singing is more "risky" than speaking: when will we return to singing? What level of Covid risk, or flu risk, will the government, the national church, and local congregations tolerate?

The peace. The passing of the peace was an ancient Christian liturgical practice, scripturally-based, and revived in modern times. Some people never liked it: especially when it became an occasion for a free-for-all in the midst of a solemn act of worship! But the peace has real value: we are physical beings, and our peace with God is expressed in real, body-and-soul peace with fellow believers. An affectionate greeting, naturally including a handshake or hug or kiss, is a simple but powerful way to express this. But will we ever return to the practice, given the year that we have had? Will we prefer the "cautious," non-tactile approach because it has made us permanently wary of catching something? What impact would that have on relationships if we didn't return to it?

The common cup. Even before the events of early 2020, there were those who didn't like the common cup for different reasons. But the common cup, ordained by the Lord, is a profound and tangible expression of the depth of our unity in Christ: we even, as it were - and this will sound horrible to some! - take something of one another into ourselves, as we share together. This is the reality to which Christ testifies, when he speaks of our oneness in him in John 17:11. How long will it be before the cup is restored? Will we permanently settle for something less, such as individual cups, because of our experience over the last year? What will be lost, if this is what we decide to do?

I'm not here providing definitive answers: I'm raising questions that churches will be considering in the coming months and years. They arise in my mind, both because we've reached that dreadful anniversary, and because it won't be long before I'm ordained priest, and these things will be more immediately relevant to me and my position - I will be invited to preside at the Lord's table for the first time. I'd be very interested to know what friends at St Paul's think about the way ahead in these challenging times. We've certainly got much to think about!

Lessons of Lockdown

This past year may have altered your perspective on life. Some of the following statements may be worth thinking about....

- ❖ Life is precarious
- ❖ A nurse is worth more than a professional footballer
- ❖ Spare time isn't a waste of time
- ❖ A smile is precious
- ❖ Being alone isn't the same as loneliness
- ❖ Hard work doesn't guarantee employment
- ❖ I'm spending more on food & drink and less on church & charity
- ❖ Silence opens us to creative ideas
- ❖ Social media are a mixed blessing
- ❖ Shopping needn't be addictive
- ❖ Driving less and walking more is good for humanity
- ❖ Isolation teaches us we need each other to generate energy
- ❖ Getting back to 'normal' isn't God's plan for the human race
- ❖ When everything else is shut, God is open

We Are Reading More Books



More than 200 million print books were sold in the UK last year, according to an estimate from the official book sales monitor Nielsen BookScan.

It was the first time since 2012 that the volume of physical books sold has exceeded 200million, and it was the biggest volume rise in the books market since 2007, says The Bookseller magazine.



Picture by Pisit Heng on Unsplash

Easter Hope

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the eternal promise of Easter

“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.” These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the

tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus’ body. *‘But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’* (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus’ death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?*

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: *“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”* (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus’ promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus’ plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were: *“There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.”* (Justin Welby).

Who'd Be A Teacher?



"How old are you Miss Taylor?" "Well David, it isn't considered polite to ask a lady her age!" (Pause) "How old do you think I am?" The 5 year old eyed me up and down, then replied solemnly "Oh about 100!" I was 22 at the time and certainly did not feel anything like a hundred years old! Indeed I was feeling very excited and very dependent on God's help as I began my first job as a teacher in a small Church School in my home parish of St. James Hope, Salford.

An awareness of being called to teach had grown during the 2 years of Teacher Training at St. Mary's College Cheltenham 1956 — 1958. The focus of my training was the Infant age group — four and half to seven year olds. I had chosen that area of training because I felt I needed to know the "hows" of early education as the foundation of learning. At that time little did I realise the wisdom of that choice, but it stood me in good stead teaching our own children when we lived in the Canadian Arctic. Then, later on back in England, helping children with learning difficulties to lay foundations in English and Maths and become more confident in their own abilities to progress.

In the 1980s God opened the door to me to train to teach children born with hearing impairment. Obviously further training on my part was necessary involving an area which particularly appealed to me — the development of spoken language. In due course I passed the appropriate exams and became a Qualified Teacher of the Deaf.

A move to Blackpool in 1982 opened the door to an opportunity to set up a new unit for hearing impaired children at secondary level at St. George's High School. The following eleven years were challenging but rewarding as staff and pupils worked together to enable the hearing impaired pupils to benefit from a normal setting and achieve much of their potential.

It is now almost 30 years since I retired from teaching, thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord Jesus in that profession; thankful too for the guidance and insistence at Training College on class organisation and discipline, and the need to teach well. Parents and pupils have figured largely in my prayers throughout my career. Wherever I have taught I have tried, with God's help, to make it the "best school". May I encourage you, our readers, to pray for any teachers, pupils and schools you know — bearing in mind that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". (Psalm 110v10 and Proverbs 9v10)

Jill Maddock (née Taylor)

St George's Day - 23rd April

Canon Paul Hardingham considers our national patron saint.

The film *How to Train your Dragon* is set in a Viking village under attack by dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture them. However, when he catches the most dangerous one, Night Fury, he cannot kill it. This is because when he looks into the dragon's eyes, he sees that he is just as frightened as himself. Through their friendship, the people and dragons eventually come to live in harmony.

It's appropriate to think about dragons this month, when we remember St. George, England's patron saint, famed for slaying a dragon. Whether he actually killed a dragon is open to question! We do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

So, we have here St George who slayed a dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. They seem like opposites: one a brave soldier and the other a weak boy! However, both acted according to their conscience, going against what people expected and not worrying about the cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up

for his faith in Jesus, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in a daily life, despite the personal cost. We need to look into the eyes of apparent enemies and meet their hostility with love and compassion. And for all of us the most important place where we need to slay evil is in our own hearts. Don't forget that we have the power of the Resurrection at our disposal!





Walking and Talking

During the pandemic, I have enjoyed walking. In many ways, getting out daily for a good walk has not only helped me physically, but also bolstered my mental well-being. Often, I have arranged to walk with a friend, and we have enjoyed good conversation and fellowship.

Today I was walking alone, and I noticed it seemed further and to take longer. When you are walking and talking, you hardly notice the distance or the time. I am not usually able to think much when I am walking alone, but today the reminder came into my head of a saying: 'If you want to go

fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.'

It made me thankful for all the friends who have encouraged me this year and helped me to keep going. We can walk alone, and sometimes that's a good thing; but it is easier to be able to walk through life with others.

Who has walked with you this year? Do they know that you appreciate their companionship on the journey?



In Praise of the Afternoon Nap

A short nap in the afternoon improves your memory and keeps your brain more agile.

People who nap tend to speak more fluently, have greater mental agility, and remember things better than those who do not break up their day with sleep.

Even a five-minute nap can offer your brain a chance to down-time and replenish itself, so that it is 'good to go' again.

If you want longer than five minutes, try to stop at 40 minutes, before you enter the deepest stage of sleep. If you do carry on, sleep for two hours, which is a full sleep-cycle. The study was published in the British Medical Journal.

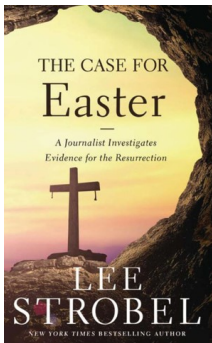
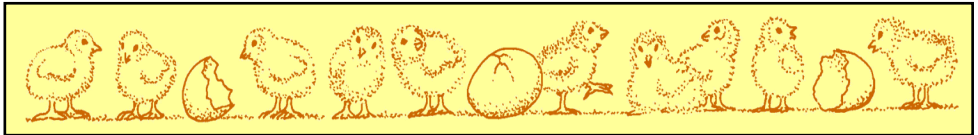


Easter Anagrams

ACE Chair, Sally Churchus, offers these anagrams for Easter:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Airy odd fog | - - - - -/- - - - - - |
| 2. Rags see get | - - - - - -/- - - - - |
| 3. Layman spud | - - - - -/- - - - - - |
| 4. Coin uric fix | - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - |
| 5. Brunch so toss | - - -/- - - - - -/- - - - - - |
| 6. Apples rust | - - - - -/- - - - - - - - - - |
| 7. Acid air just so | - - - - - -/- - - - - - - - - - - |
| 8. Torch frowns on | - - - - - -/- -/- - - - - - - - - - |
| 9. Hen irises | - - -/- -/- - - - - - - - - ! |

(The answers are on page 25.)



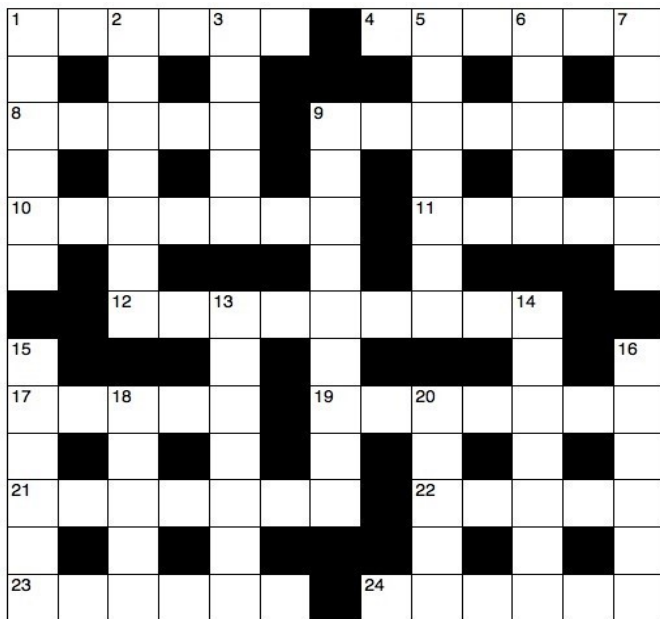
Evidence for Easter?

Have you ever considered the evidence for the first Easter – that Jesus died and rose to life again – as an adult? Maybe it was something you thought about when you were younger? Maybe you’ve never thought about it? Why not borrow a copy of ‘The Case for Easter’ and consider the evidence for yourself?

Lee Strobel was a former investigative journalist for the *Chicago Tribune* and an atheist. He decided to look into the claims of Christianity when his wife became a Christian. Putting his investigative skills to use. In this book, he considers the evidence for the first Easter. Easy to read, written in an interview style, and asking the questions you would want to ask, it is a great book to help us think through this important topic.

APRIL 2021 CROSSWORD

(The Bible version used in these crosswords is the NIV.)



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)



Answers to the Easter Anagrams:
 1. Good Friday; 2. Easter Eggs; 3. Palm Sunday; 4. Crucifixion; 5. Hot Cross Buns; 6. Last Supper; 7. Judas Iscariot; 8. Crown of Thorns; 9. He is Risen!

Crossword Solution March 2021

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



parish pump
www.paritypump.co.uk

Many of the articles and pictures in the Pews News Extra are sourced from the Parish Pump Website and

the Association of Church Editors monthly edition of "Ideas Forum".

Church Editors
 Member editor 2021

Time for a Smile

Divine Intervention?

A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in.

When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.'

Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, since you're out there already, please will you pass me the broom?'

Lot's wife

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.'

His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'



Picture by Sebastian Staines on Unsplash

April 
He is risen!



... rumours that we would be giving out Easter eggs are unfounded - er, there aren't any left!

Sabbath

Our great-grandfathers called it the holy Sabbath; our grandfathers called it the Sabbath; our fathers called it Sunday; today it's known as the weekend.

Red Light

A woman was found guilty in traffic court and when asked for her occupation she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' He then smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write "I will not run a red light" one hundred times.'

Signs found outside churches....

- ❖ Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!
- ❖ Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- ❖ Dusty Bibles lead to Dirty Lives.
- ❖ Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.

Nice

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

Diplomat

A diplomat is someone who always remembers a woman's birthday, but never remembers her age.



Vitamins?

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

Expensive boat

A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when he found it would cost her £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. 'That might be true,' replied the travel agent, 'but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked.'

'Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,' he replied, 'I am not surprised!'



A Prayer

Dear Lord, please keep your arm around my shoulder -- and your hand over my mouth.

And finally



He is Risen! May God bless you with all hope and peace this Eastertide.



Safeguarding

St Paul's Church takes safeguarding very seriously. You can view all of our safeguarding information at:-

<https://stpaulsfairhaven.weebly.com/safeguarding.html>

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others please seek advice from the Parish or Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary, report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.