

# InSpire March 2017

The monthly publication for St John the Baptist, Capel

Happy Mothering Sunday  
for 26th March

*LENT— A season of spiritual preparation*

Issue 2 March 2017

JESUS DOES NOT JUST  
BRING GOOD NEWS; HE  
IS THE GOOD NEWS

TIMOTHY KILLER  
PICTURE QUOTES

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### Rev Liz writes

This month we begin the season of Lent – another reflective time of the year, similar to Advent in the sense that both are times to take stock of our lives. It is a time to look back so we can see where we are, but also a time to look forward. In Advent we looked forward to the birth of Jesus with all the promise that it brings of the long awaited Jewish Messiah, born as a vulnerable baby in an occupied land. In Lent we prepare ourselves in preparation for Easter. During the forty days of this season we are reminded of Jesus' time in the wilderness following his baptism at the start of his public ministry. It is a time of study and self-examination; a time of penitence and preparation for Easter and of course a time for self-denial. I am sure the

latter is very worthy and helpful for healthy eating and so on, but I am more an advocate of including something I would not normally do rather than denial. That's not to say you now have permission to eat more chocolate than usual! But as usual I like to veer more on the positive rather than the negative in life! It may be doing something extra for someone else, or spending a bit of time studying or reading about Christian ideas and thought. We are studying John's gospel at the moment in our bible study groups which take place in people's homes. Do speak to me if you would like to join us.

So although reflective in nature, it is not all sackcloth and ashes because both seasons of Advent and Lent

are times of preparation and reflection for new birth and new life. Christmas gives us Jesus' birth and Easter brings us the joy of Jesus' rising from the grave to a whole new life – the resurrected life. Death is defeated once and for all. This is the Christian hope. Before we reach Easter Day of course Good Friday has to happen, when things looked very dark indeed but mysteriously in order for resurrection, new life to take place, death had to occur. We see this very much around us at the moment don't we as Spring tentatively will lift her head again this month. It never ceases to amaze me how plants completely die down, the ground is stripped bare, yet even now green shoots are appearing. It all begins again.

### The Editor writes

Welcome to our second edition of InSpire. This month we are focusing on Mothering Sunday which this year is on Sunday 26th March and Lent which begins shortly.

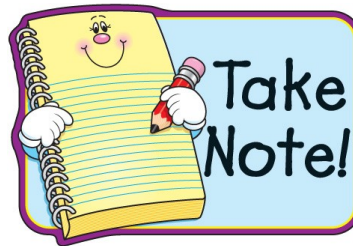
Rev Liz gives us guidance and her thoughts on Lent above. Inside you will find articles from clergy about Lent and personal reflections on motherhood and what Mothering Sunday means. We hope that the section for our Younger

Readers is enjoyed and we hope it might encourage some of them and their families to join us in church.

I pray that you will all find Lent a time of personal reflection and that it brings you closer to God.

With best wishes,  
Suzanne Cole





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### Coffee Rota Volunteers required!

So that some of our long-standing volunteers could stand down, we would love some new volunteers to come forward for the Coffee Rota? If you want to know what the role entails, please ask **George Ede**. She can be contacted on **01306 713247**.

### Church Teas starting soon ... Help needed!

The first tea of the 2017 season will take on Sunday 26th March. There will then be another 21 teas before the end of the year! Joy and her small band of helpers would welcome any help that you can spare, whether it is setting up, helping at the events or clearing up afterwards. This has been an amazing outreach opportunity over the years, together with the fundraising it has achieved. To keep it going effectively, we need more helpers! If you think you can help at all, please speak to Joy. Thank you.

### Christian Aid Volunteers wanted

If you can help with the house to house collections for Christian Aid at the beginning of May, please see Sue or Phil Partridge.



Or call them on 01306 711355.  
Thank you.

## Local Charities we support

### Dorking Foodbank

Please keep the donations coming as they are urgently needed! You can also put items in a box in Waitrose in Dorking for the Foodbank if you find it easier to do so at the time of shopping?

### Leatherhead Start

We also support Leather-HEAD START and their Newsletter can be found in church. Also, you can visit their website for more information:-

[www.leatherheadstart.org](http://www.leatherheadstart.org)

They aim to improve the lives of homeless people.

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

**Hebrews 13:16**



## from the Pews

Local news from St John the Baptist, Capel

### Study Groups

Two Study Groups have been running, one at The Vicarage with Rev Liz and one led by Dik Hoogmoed. Both are studying St John's Gospel.

The book we have all been using is John for Everyone Part 1 Chapters 1-10 by Tom Wright. (ISBN: 976-0-281-05302-5)

Tom Wright is a Research Professor at the University of St Andrews and was previously Bishop of Durham.

### Scott Broadwood School

We continue to pray for **Scott Broadwood School** as they discern the way forward. They are preparing to consolidate the school on one base. Please pray for everyone involved as they face difficult times, particularly the staff for whom there is great uncertainty. We pray that it's future is debated with care and the decisions taken are done with wisdom and compassion at the heart of them.

### From the Registers

**Baptism**— We welcomed **Ethan Saint** into the church when he was baptized on Sunday 26th February.

We pray for Ethan, his family and Godparents.



### Women's Word Day of Prayer

This will take place at St John's, Okewood Hill on Friday 3rd March at 2.45pm. This year's theme is prepared by the women of the Philippines and is 'Am I Being Unfair to You?'

The artwork pictured is by Artist Rowena 'Apol' Laxamana-Sta.Rosa.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Wednesday 1st March**—Ash Wednesday Service 7.30pm at South Holmwood.

**Friday 3rd March**— **Women's World Day of Prayer** 2.30pm at St John's, Okewood Hill

**Sunday 5th March**—First Sunday in Lent 8am BCP Communion & 10.30am Café Church.

**Sunday 12th March**— Second Sunday in Lent 8am & 10am Services

**Sunday 19th March**— Third Sunday in Lent 8am & 10am Services

**Tuesday 21st March**—3.15pm **MESSY Church** in the Memorial Hall.

**Sunday 26th March**—Fourth Sunday in Lent & Mothering Sunday. 8am BCP Communion and 10am Family Communion and Parade.

Teas at 3pm.

#### Looking Ahead to April:-

**Sunday 16th Easter Sunday & Monday 17th Easter Monday**—Church Teas from 3pm

**Sunday 30th April** 11.30am after the 10am service, the next APCM will be held. All welcome.

# InSpire for our Younger Readers

## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Jn 1:29-34, Mt 3:13-17, Lk 3:21-4:13, Mk 1:9-12

People came to John to be baptised - washed in the river Jordan - to say sorry for what they had done wrong. Then Jesus came...

Please baptise me.



No, it should be the other way round.

No, this is the right way now to complete God's plan




So John baptised Jesus in the river Jordan.

The Holy Spirit filled Jesus and God spoke.




This is my precious son.

Jesus then went into the desert for 40 days.



He didn't eat or drink, and at the end was very hungry



The Devil came to test him.


Show me you are God's Son by turning this stone into bread.



The Bible says 'You need more than bread to keep you alive.'




The Devil took him to the highest roof of the temple in Jerusalem.



Why don't you jump? God would make sure His angels would catch you

The Bible says 'Don't try to manipulate God.'



The Devil took Jesus to where he could see the whole world.



I have power over all this, and I could give it to you.

Just worship me



Go away! Only God is to be worshipped!

Then angels came to care for Jesus



## Testing Times Word Search

Have you read the story on the  
opposite page?

a	m	d	a	l	i	v	e	b	g	z	u	g
o	j	e	s	u	s	l	w	w	r	a	f	n
s	d	s	s	m	p	s	t	o	n	e	d	o
r	o	e	j	m	k	x	q	r	r	h	a	e
n	p	r	e	c	i	o	u	s	n	l	f	d
e	j	t	r	q	r	b	h	h	l	e	d	l
g	o	d	u	y	t	i	a	i	h	n	f	k
p	r	n	s	b	y	b	v	p	e	d	n	q
j	d	w	a	s	h	e	d	e	t	i	w	d
m	a	m	l	w	d	s	p	i	r	i	t	y
a	n	g	e	l	s	j	o	d	e	g	s	n
b	v	u	m	a	n	i	p	u	l	a	t	e
j	u	m	p	j	o	h	n	g	o	b	t	k

alive

washed

God

Jesus

manipulate

jump

Jerusalem

precious

Spirit

Devil

world

stone

temple

river

John

drink

baptise

eat

sorry

bread

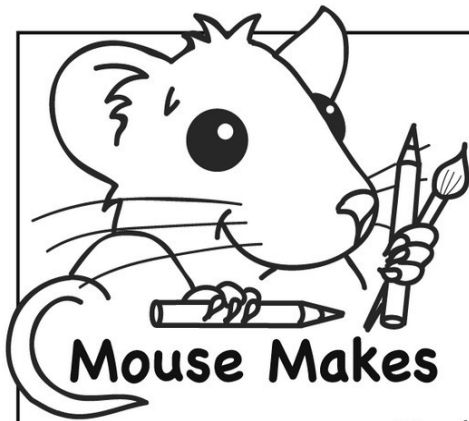
angels

desert

worship

Jordan

The Solution to the wordsearch can be found on page 18



**Mouse Makes**

**SHROVE TUESDAY**

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did.

Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk



on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said** or **thought** or **done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance.

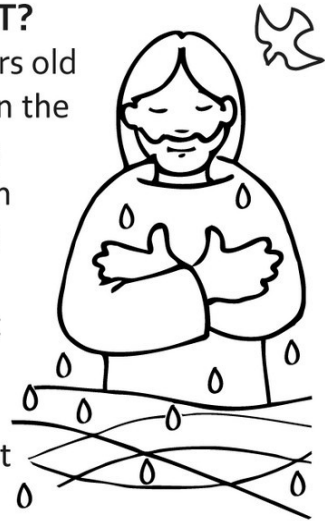
In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



**WHAT IS LENT?**

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone.

For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.



Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.

This time is called LENT



While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil *three* times.

**Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.**



**1** The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."

**Read** Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**

**2** The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

**Read** Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**

**3** The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."

**Read** Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,  
Please forgive me for

Amen



### MAD MARCH GALES

The month of March has a reputation for a wild and blustery start but usually changes to much milder weather before it ends ... as the old saying goes 'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb'.

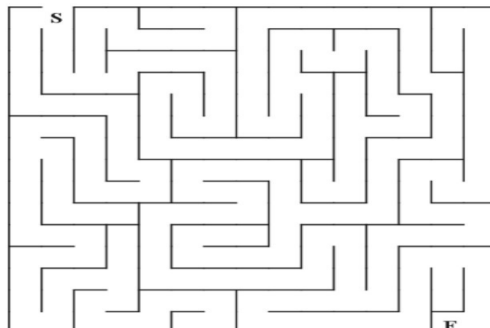
People's homes are flooded or big trees uprooted in high winds. Even if it doesn't happen to us we see the pictures of other people's suffering in the media.

There was a time when Jesus' friends were frightened because a fierce storm blew up while they were fishing. The disciples thought their boat was going to sink and they were very frightened. You can read about it in St Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses 35-39.

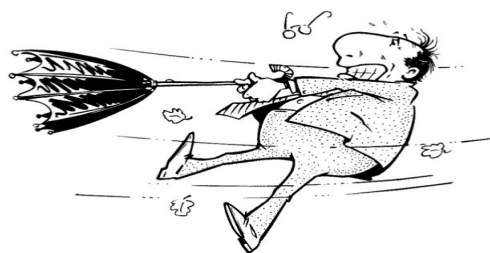
I get frightened when the wind blows so hard that the trees bend and the lights flicker but then I remember that Jesus is with us all the time. Just as He was with the disciples in the boat, He is with us when we are afraid. Jesus gives us hope, courage and strength.

### SAFELY HOME

Can you find your way home through the maze of streets?



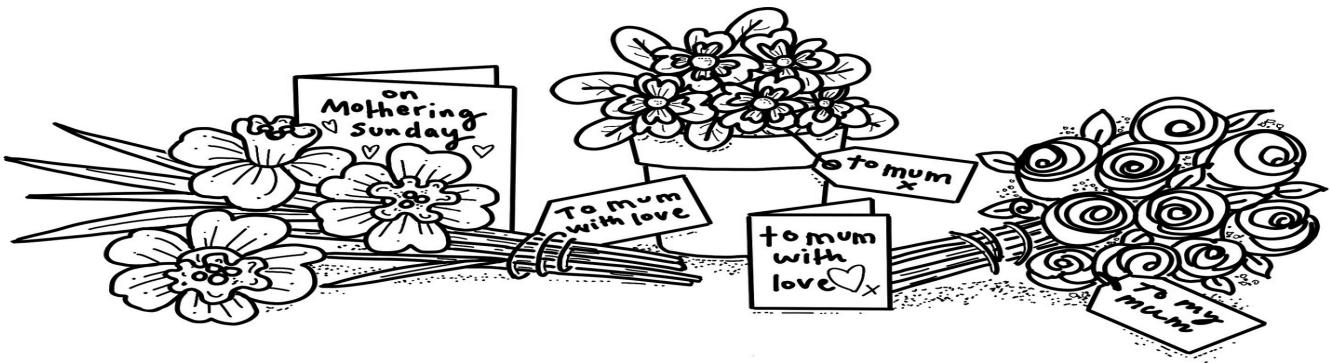
**What did the north wind say to the east wind?**  
Let's play draughts



**How easy is it for wind gusts to talk to each other?**  
It is a breeze.

**What does a cloud wear under her raincoat?**  
Thunderwear!

**LOVE LIFE**  
**LIVE  LENT**  
**TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD**



## MOTHERING SUNDAY

**Sunday 26th March 2017** 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally celebrating their mother and trying to ensure she has a special day to remember!

### What does motherhood mean to me?

For me personally, two of the happiest (but most tiring!!) days of my life were giving birth to my sons, James and William now 22 and 17. I think that the miracle of life given to you as you hold your child for the first time and feel that unconditional love for someone you don't yet know as a person, is astounding and God given. I remember being concerned as I was in labour with William that somehow I wouldn't be able to give him as much love because he would be a second child, but I remember someone saying that you didn't have to 'halve the love' for your two children, it would simply 'double'! How right they were! The other thing that I felt immediately in the days after becoming a Mum, was a new and profound love and admiration for my own mother. Suddenly as you become a mother yourself, your understanding and appreciation of your own mother is radically different to how you felt and thought before! But in my joy at the good fortune given to me of being a mother, I am also always conscious of those who are not so lucky. I have friends and work colleagues who were not destined to become mothers and this has been a source of great heartache and sadness for them. So on Mothering Sunday, let's celebrate motherhood, a God given joy that so many of us are able to enjoy and at the same time remember those for whom the day is tinged with sadness. For some it will be because they did not have the children they desired, for others who had stillborn babies, or those who mourn a child lost either in infancy or later in life. This has to be one of life's greatest sorrows. So let us be sympathetic and kind to them as we celebrate our good fortune as Mums on Mothering Sunday and let us all give thanks for our own mothers too!

Suzanne Cole



**Editor:** Here Norma Murrain of Silverfishjewellery pays a loving tribute to her mum.  
**(Source: Parish Pump)**

'Her children rise up and call her blessed' (Proverbs 31:28)

I find it difficult to write this as it is only the second Mothering Sunday since my Mum was promoted to glory. Still Mothering Sunday is a great opportunity to appreciate and give God thanks for our beloved Mothers.

My mum's name was Edith Nancy Burrell, her first sun rise was on 27th October 1927 and her final sun set on 20th May 2015; she was 88 years young. I was the youngest of her nine surviving children.

She emigrated to England in the 1950's from Jamaica and persevered to build a home for her children with selfless dedication. She was passionate about her family and close friends. Her kindness was legendary, and many hungry friends were fed whilst those who found themselves homeless and outcast by their own family found safety and shelter in our home. Her kindness and gentleness were completely natural offered with a humble, 'down to earth' humour, she always made us smile, even in difficult situations.

It was wonderful to watch her grow in faith in her later years. I loved our family meetings at her home on Sunday afternoons where we would eat, pray and laugh together. She radiated faith, joy, peace, wit and wisdom even in her final moments.

Today I thank God for my Mother and for the gift of Motherhood. As Mary was chosen by God to incubate, nurture and raise up the saviour of mankind, so you and I are called and chosen to play our part in the continuing circle of life.

Motherhood takes...  
 the strength of Samson,  
 the wisdom of Solomon,  
 the patience of Job,  
 the faith of Abraham,  
 the insight of Daniel  
 and the courage of David!

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*A season of spiritual preparation*

### **Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry**

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

*Editor: The Rev Paul Hardingham says that Lent is an ideal time to find yourself...*

### **Mirror, Mirror on the Wall – how do you see yourself this Lent?**

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: social action, political power, and religious identity (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus looked into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He would be.

We can also think of Lent as an opportunity to hold a mirror up to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I? It is a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and the world in which we live. How will you keep Lent period of 40 days running up to Easter? What will you see when you hold up the mirror to yourself? Alongside taking time to read Scripture, study a Christian book and pray with fasting, why not give up texting for Lent and simply talk on the phone; commit ourselves to just working 40 hours a week or spend five minutes each day in silence!

Editor: Canon David Winter looks at what self-denial really means.

### Lent, and true Self-denial

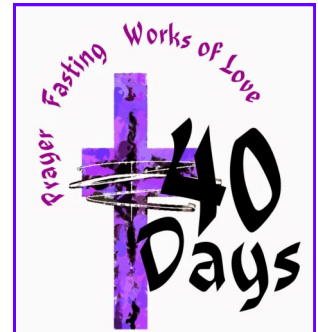
The whole of this month is Lent – bad news for smokers desperately waiting for Easter so that they can get at the fags again; but for those who take self-discipline seriously, it's a reminder that Christianity isn't a short-term option. Among the harder sayings of Jesus was this one: 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me'.

The phrase 'deny themselves' is the challenge of Lent, and the origin of the idea that for those six weeks we 'give up' something. Once upon a time it was meat; nowadays it's more often something that we know is damaging to our health or well-being. Neither option really meets the demands of 'self-denial'. Jesus was certainly not thinking of dieting or giving up luxuries. For one thing He and His followers were known to enjoy their food and drink (and were criticised for it!). They knew about fasting as a religious discipline, because at specified times it was part of their Jewish faith – a discipline, but not 'self-denial'.

For Jesus, self-denial is a total mental attitude. It's not self-loathing or seeing ourselves as valueless. We are made in God's image and of infinite value to Him. Jesus demonstrated true self-denial in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He simply prayed 'Not my will, but yours, be done'. 'Me first', 'looking after Number One', is self-indulgence. Self-denial is its precise opposite. Oddly enough, putting God's will before our own seems to make for happiness, not misery – even in Lent.

### As we approach Lent

Loving God,  
 You have chosen us to minister to others as Jesus taught us to.  
 Sometimes we turn our backs on them,  
 Sometimes we turn our backs on you.  
 Sometimes we use the worlds role models in place of yours.  
 Forgive us; guide us through this Lenten period, show us our faults as we learn more of Jesus thoughts, words, actions, his sufferings and ultimate death.  
 Thus enabling us to apply a good listening ear, alert mind and with eyes fully open attend with sensitivity the needs of those around us.  
 With your guidance, we can make a difference.  
 Amen



The Editor recommends:

**tearfund**

**Lent thoughts to your inbox  
 day from Tearfund ...**

**each**

*Living Water: Come to the Fountain*

*Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a fount of water springing up to eternal life. (Joh 4:14). An excerpt from the first day of Lent's reflections.*



You can sign up via Tearfund's Facebook page to receive the daily thoughts and reflections, together with prayers and readings.

# NEWS



News from The Church of England website dated 16th February 2017

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to members of the General Synod setting out the next steps following the vote on General Synod not to take note of the paper on Marriage and Same Sex Relationships after the Shared Conversations. The full text can be read below:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Following the vote in General Synod not to take note of the paper on Marriage and Same Sex Relationships after the Shared Conversations (GS 2055) we are writing to set out the way forward in the next few months.

First, we want to be clear about some underlying principles. In these discussions no person is a problem, or an issue. People are made in the image of God. All of us, without exception, are loved and called in Christ. There are no 'problems', there are simply people called to redeemed humanity in Christ.

How we deal with the real and profound disagreement - put so passionately and so clearly by many at the debate - is the challenge we face as people who all belong to Christ.

To deal with that disagreement and to find ways forward, we need a radical new Christian inclusion in the Church. This must be founded in scripture, in reason, in tradition, in theology and the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it; it must be based on good, healthy, flourishing relationships, and in a proper 21st century understanding of being human and of being sexual.

We need to work together - not just the bishops but the whole Church, not excluding anyone - to move forward with confidence.

The way forward needs to be about love, joy and celebration of our common humanity; of our creation in the image of God, of our belonging to Christ - all of us, without exception, without exclusion.

Nevertheless while the principles are straightforward, putting them into practice, as we all know, is not, given the deep disagreements among us.

We are therefore asking first for every Diocesan Bishop to meet with their General Synod members for an extended conversation in order to establish clearly the desires of every member of Synod for the way forward.

As Archbishops we will be establishing a Pastoral Oversight group led by the Bishop of Newcastle, with the task of supporting and advising Dioceses on pastoral actions with regard to our current pastoral approach to human sexuality. The group will be inclusive, and will seek to discern the development of pastoral practices, within current arrangements.

Secondly, we, with others, will be formulating proposals for the May House of Bishops for a large scale teaching document around the subject of human sexuality. In an episcopal church a principal responsibility of Bishops is the teaching ministry of the church, and the guarding of the deposit of faith that we have all inherited. The teaching document must thus ultimately come from the Bishops. However, all episcopal ministry must be exercised with all the people of God, lay and ordained, and thus our proposals will ensure a wide ranging and fully inclusive approach, both in subject matter and in those who work on it.

We will also be suggesting to the Business Committee a debate in general terms on the issues of marriage and human sexuality. We wish to give the General Synod an opportunity to consider together those things we do affirm.

In the meantime, we commend to your prayers our common concern for every member of this church, of all views, and most especially our concern for the mission of God to which we are called by the Father, for which we are made ready by the Son, and in which we are equipped by the Holy Spirit.

Justin Cantuar:

+Sentamu Eboracensis

## News from The Diocese

### Dorking vicar welcomes refugees into his home

A local vicar has provided a home for six people who otherwise wouldn't have a place to call home and has spoken of the theological reasons behind his actions.



Peter Nevins, curate at St Paul's church in Dorking, and his family have helped a number of refugees and homeless people by offering up room in their home. In light of the Government's decision to cap the number of children allowed into the country under the Dubs Amendment, Peter spoke about the reasons which led him to take in refugees on the [Sunday Morning with Emily Jeffrey](#) radio show on BBC Surrey & BBC Sussex.

Peter said: "Ultimately it's a theological conviction. We wanted to worship with the resources God had entrusted to us. We had the space and felt hospitality was a great and practical way to demonstrate the welcome we receive from God. That type of hospitality, opening up your home and welcoming in the 'other' with grace and mercy and love and compassion it shows something of who God is what God is like and what we received from Him in Christ."

This theological conviction first drove the Nevins family to open up their home four years ago when they hosted a British teenager who found herself sofa surfing and at risk of homelessness. With a stable place to call home, she was able to continue with her apprenticeship, and is now transitioning toward independent living. The family remain in contact with her and enjoy celebrating holidays and birthdays together.

Working with a charity called Refugees at Home, the family have hosted refugees from Syria, Iran, Nigeria and Ghana for varying amounts of time, from three days to three weeks, reflective of the diocesan Transformation goal of 'reaching beyond our borders'.

Speaking about the experience Peter said: "It has been a positive experience and we are now investigating foster parenting. Our four kids have been on board the whole time they were engaged in the decision making and they have found hosting to be a blessing, even if challenging at times."

The *Sunday Morning with Emily Jeffrey* show is available on [iPlayer](#), the interview with Peter begins two hours and 21 minutes into the episode.

### A transforming Church, transforming lives

Our vision as the Diocese of Guildford is to be a Transforming Church, Transforming Lives, and we are together committed to 12 diocesan goals. Our calling is to join with other Christians in living out and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ across the region we serve and beyond, responding to Jesus' Great Commandment to: "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... and to love your neighbour as yourself*";

and his Great Commission to: "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you*".

Articles taken from The Diocese of Guildford website: <http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk>

## A Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Loving God,  
 Thank you for mums and children  
 and for all the joy of family life.  
 Be with those who are grieving  
 because they have no mother;  
 Be close to those who are struggling  
 because they have no children;  
 Be near to those who are sad  
 because they are far apart from those they love.  
 Let your love be present in every home,  
 And help your church to have eyes to see  
 and ears to hear the needs of all who come.  
 We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.



### FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY

Thank you God for the love of our  
 mothers:  
 thank you God for their care and  
 concern;  
 thank you God for the joys they  
 have shared with us;  
 thank you God for the pains they  
 have borne for us;  
 thank you God for all that they  
 give us;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

# PRAYERS

## PRAYER FOR LENT

LORD JESUS, you have called us to follow you into the desert of Lent so that we might confront the powers of evil and, with your assistance, overcome them. Give us the courage to face the truth about our lives, both the blessings we have received and the failures we have experienced. May these forty days of prayerful observance strengthen us in faith, renew us in hope and fill us with love to share with our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need. Amen.

### We remember those who ask for our prayers at this time ...

For Duncan Jennings and all those who are suffering ill health.

For those experiencing improvement in health concerns, we give thanks.

For those who have died and those who are grieving their loss.

For Scott-Broadwood school that everyone involved may find your peace and wisdom to make informed decisions as they face a difficult journey ahead. Please pray for all the children at this time of uncertainty, the Staff who are understandably worried about their jobs and the Head-teacher, Governors and all those involved in making the decisions of how to move forward.

**For all who have come into our church and put prayer requests on our Prayer Boards. We bring their prayers to you dear Lord.**

We hope this feature will be a regular one with different contributors! Please do let me know your favourite hymn, piece of scripture or prayer and WHAT it means to you and how it affects or enhances your faith?

## My Favourite ....

*This month's contributor is .... Dik Hoogmoed*

From a young age I have always liked the melody. The music is identical in Dutch and the translated words carry similar meaning. However the English original hits home for me: more grounded and to the point. Especially the 4th verse (actually the 5th - One verse appears to be often omitted).

For me verse 4 sums up everything we are here for on Earth: To live in and for God's glory, which is our single most important purpose. Everything else we do in this life flows (or should flow) from that.

Just 23 words and they say it all.

*How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
and drives away his fear.*

*It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary, rest.*

*Dear Name, the rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding-place,  
my never-failing treasury, filled  
with boundless stores of grace!*

*Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
my Prophet, Priest and King,  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
accept the praise I bring.*

*Weak is the effort of my heart,  
and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.*

*Till then I would thy love proclaim  
with every fleeting breath;  
and may the music of thy Name  
refresh my soul in death!*

Our thanks to Dik for sharing this with us. We all worship together regularly but how much do we really know about one another and our individual faiths? I hope that this regular feature will bring joy to us all as we discover more about one another and how God speaks to each of us through hymns, scripture or poetry. Or maybe Art? If you have a favourite painting or other piece of Artwork that brings you closer to God, would you share that with us? I look forward to lots more contributions in the future to share with you all. The Editor.

Last month, George Ede kindly became the first contributor to the 'My Favourite' item. Her chosen hymn was 'Great is thy Faithfulness'. Daphne Parkins has now sent us her thoughts on this great hymn too. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

The Editor

I was reminded where in the Bible the hymn-writer had taken the words to express the faithfulness and the constancy of God's love. It is in the Book of Lamentations, Chapter 3 that the Prophet Jeremiah cries out to God in his deepest despair in the first 20 verses but then in verse 21 he says

" Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope.

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

I says to myself, 'The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.

The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;

it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. "

*How we can thank hymn-writers down the years who have been inspired to use the words of scripture to express deep-seated truths about our Wonderful God and Saviour, Jesus Christ - and what's more, set to beautiful music!*

### 2017 Faith Easter Egg launched

The new look Real Easter Egg 2017 range has been launched, and churches are being asked to encourage people to support this unique way of sharing the story of Easter.

This year a 24 page Easter story-activity book, illustrated by Alida Massari, is included in the Original, Egg Hunt and Dark eggs. The Special Edition has an Easter traditions booklet inside. The Sharing box, with 30 eggs, comes with 30 colour-in posters.

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from sales.

The Real Easter Egg was launched in 2010 but the supermarkets turned down the idea. It was left to churches and church schools to place orders to fund The Meaningful Chocolate Company so they could make The Real Easter Egg.

David Marshall, creator of the Real Easter Egg, said; "With the support of churches more than one million eggs have been sold with 750,000 of these sent through the post directly to churches and schools. The rest have been sold through independent retailers and supermarkets.

"The success of The Real Easter Egg has meant that the production of Fairtrade chocolate has moved to the UK. Over £250,000 has been raised from sales for charitable causes. Due to production restrictions, this year we have slightly few eggs available so we recommend people order as early as possible."

**\* Please see Sue Partridge or call her on 01306 711355 to order yours today! \***

OR the whole range can be ordered online at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk) (with free delivery) or from Traidcraft, Eden.co.uk, TLM trading.com, Embrace the Middle East. Christian bookshops and some cathedrals also have stocks. You can also buy the blue Original egg from Tesco, Waitrose and Morrisons.





## Review from Rev Liz of February's 'Hidden Treasure' themed MESSY CHURCH!

**Messy Church** last month was again a great success! A good number of children and their parent/carers joined us to hunt for hidden treasure. The session was based on Jesus saying in the Bible that 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.' Jesus also compared the kingdom of heaven to a merchant in search of fine pearls but on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it'. Matthew 13.44-46

So we made treasure maps, moved ping pong balls which looked like big pearls (!) from one box to another by the help of a drinking straw (don't ask). Our edible crafts were making oyster biscuits and finding chocolate 'thank you bars' in a treasure chest. When the bar was found there was a label which might say 'person', 'place' or 'object' and this helped us thank God for someone we knew, for somewhere that is special to us, or for something that was precious to us. There were beautiful coloured playdough jewels to make and place on the face of a laminated picture of a king or queen, a treasure chest with a secret message written on it, a money box and an extremely messy activity finding pearls among seaweed (green coloured cooked tagliatelle) as mentioned in last month's InSpire! And yes, Marion did arrive back from the US in time to be with us ... Hurray! But somehow she managed to be on a much neater, less messy craft. Well done Sue for getting literally stuck in to the tagliatelle!



Our celebration for all this treasure hunting involved our youngsters trying to guess the value of some necklaces and one team managed to almost guess the price to the last 5p, although the vicar's pearl necklace threw them a bit. Sylvie and Eric did some wonderful miming to the two stories about finding treasure which all ages enjoyed and we thought about who we were most like in the story. Were we like the one who found treasure? Did we stumble into Messy Church today and then found out something intriguing about Jesus? Or were we like the man who searched for pearls: Had we been looking for something wondering if maybe it is God? Or perhaps we had already discovered the kingdom of heaven and are now Jesus' friend.

We finished off by eating pearls in seaweed or more recognisably meatballs and spaghetti followed by cupcakes prepared for us by Joy. It was lovely to see so many of our local children and families from the Surrey Weald area and hope they will come and see us later on this month once again in the Memorial Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> March from 3.15pm onwards. Thank you to all the team and look forward to planning the next session. We've yet to meet to decide on our theme but it could be smelly in the sense of perfume? We wait to see!

**The planning session for our next MESSY CHURCH is being held at 11.00 am  
in church on MONDAY 6TH MARCH!**

Make  
a note



**Naughty mummy** A mother asked her young son, as they waited for the bus, to tell the driver he was five years old, because then he would ride for free. As they got into the bus the driver asked him how old he was. "I am five years old," said the little boy proudly.

The driver had a son of his own that age, and smiled. "And when will you be six years old?" he asked.

"When I get off the bus," answered the boy.

**Present** For the elderly minister's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. He was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, and said: 'Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit.'

**How God works** A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day. Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes, and God did it left handed, too." In astonishment, the grandmother asked what he meant. "Well, he must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

**Spring**

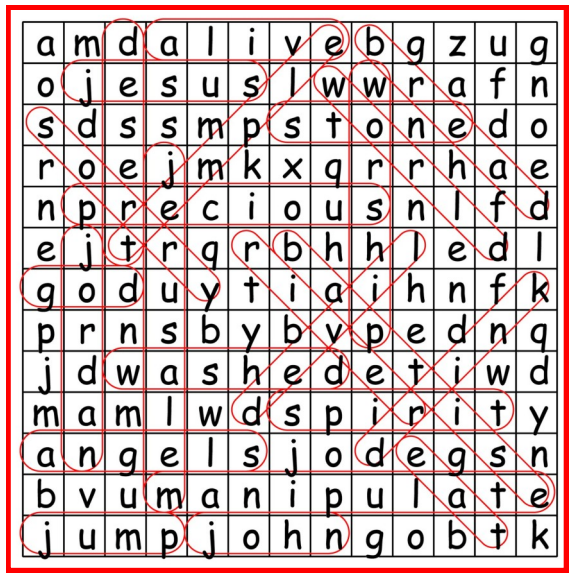
Another winter finished;  
Our hearts are full of joy!  
The icy frosts diminish  
And summer sun's ahoy!

Last summer seems so distant  
The autumn leaves long gone;  
But now, each passing instant  
Is full of sunny song.

The seasons flow reminds us –  
The climbing, sinking sun;  
That death's dread cords won't bind us  
Our time with Christ will come!

by Nigel Beeton

**Testing Times Wordsearch Solution**



Any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole [editor@stjohnthebaptistcapel.org.uk](mailto:editor@stjohnthebaptistcapel.org.uk)  
**BY 16<sup>th</sup> of each month please.**

If you would like to receive *InSpire* by email, please let me know on the above email address.

Any queries, please do contact me either by email or phone: 01306 711449. Thank you The Editor