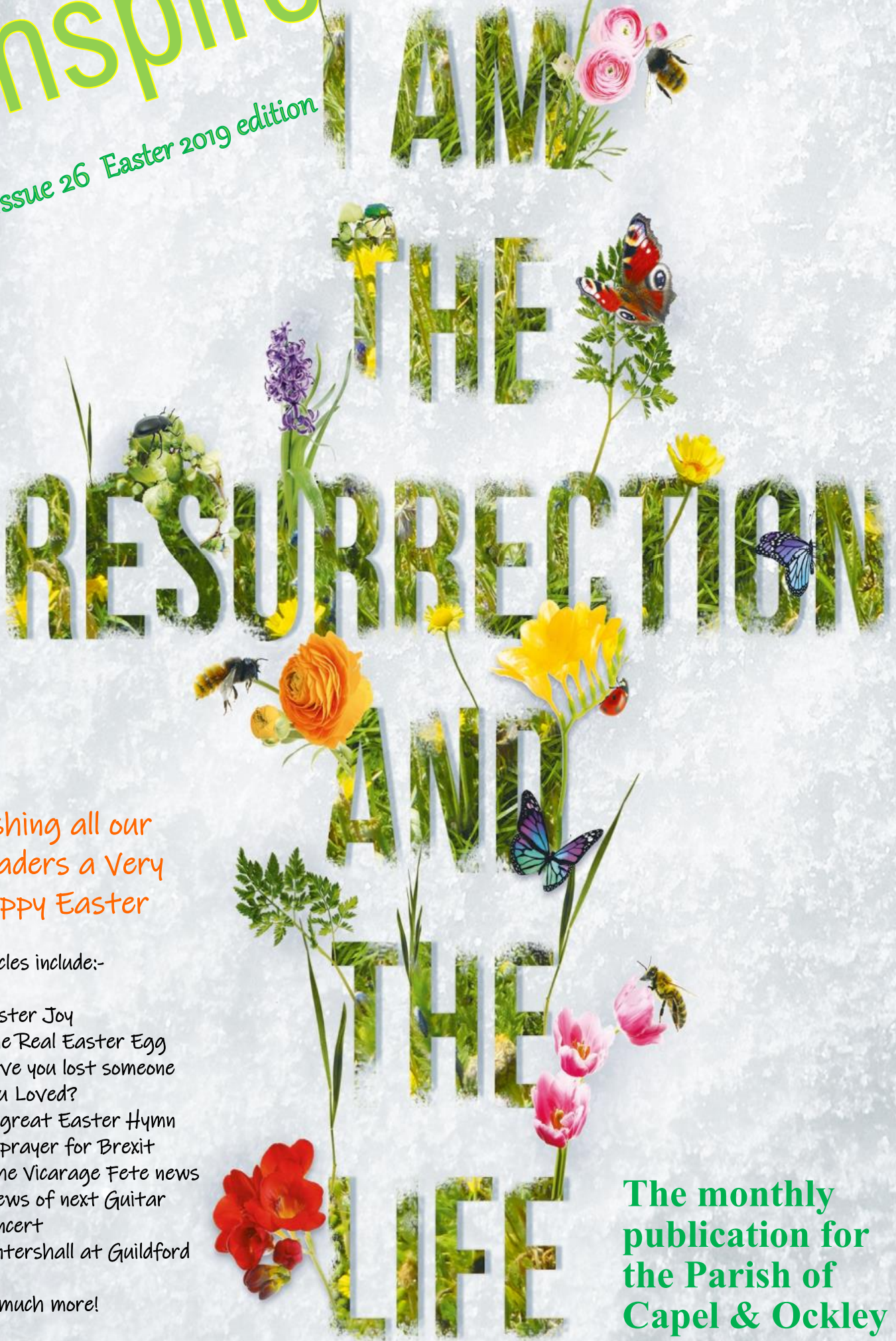


Inspire

Issue 26 Easter 2019 edition



Wishing all our
Readers a Very
Happy Easter

Articles include:-

- * Easter Joy
- * The Real Easter Egg
- * Have you lost someone you Loved?
- * A great Easter Hymn
- * A prayer for Brexit
- * The Vicarage Fete news
- * News of next Guitar concert
- * Wintershall at Guildford

and much more!

The monthly
publication for
the Parish of
Capel & Ockley

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This issue is kindly sponsored by

Capel Church Teas

our thanks to Joy and the team for all their hard work with the Capel Church teas and for sponsoring this issue.

Could you sponsor a month of InSpire? We still have a couple of months that need sponsoring this year. The average cost is approximately £60.00. If you can help, please let Debbie von Bergen know. Thank you.

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Rev Liz writes

Dear all,

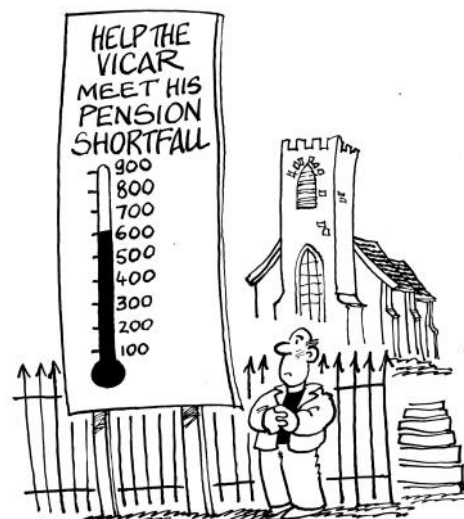
Writing this month's letter just a week before we were originally due to leave Europe I am minded to wonder just how the recent weeks and months before that will be seen in the course of time. How will history view these extraordinary times, of a divided nation, parliament and government as well as our prime minister, as our nation seeks to go it alone somewhat? This time will pass as all these things do; but what I wonder will be the legacy that is left behind? We will have to wait and see....

This month we celebrate Easter and I am reminded of how things didn't turn out as the disciples and others wished when the person they thought was going to free them from foreign occupation; someone who could perform extraordinary miracles, was put to death in the cruellest of ways alongside criminals. Where had it all gone wrong they must have wondered? As the people watching on jibed Jesus saying 'He saved others, let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!' no one could really understand or know what would happen next. Luke's gospel tells of how two of the disciples were wearily travelling back from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus, a nearby village, discussing as you would about all that they had just witnessed in Jerusalem. Jesus who appears as a fellow traveller joins them and hears how their hopes had been dashed; and goes on to explain the scriptures to them. It was only when they were eating with Jesus later that they realised exactly who it was who was sitting eating with them! What had at first appeared to be a hopeless situation; one which appeared certainly to be Godless too, was transformed into something that has and continues to stand the test of time some 2000+ years later; the birth of Christianity. God it seems was with them all the time.

For some leaving the European Union it will be a cause of great celebration but for others it will be a matter of great lament. But now we have to face the future, unknown for many, but we have to resist the temptation to be divided. It will be a new age and we can and should not be defined or define others by how we voted in the referendum. This is only the beginning of a new relationship with Europe and one thing that has always stood the test of time – in my view 'God' – and that is whenever there is death and destruction, there is always resurrection and new life; new chances and opportunities as new ground is dug over, ready to sow new businesses, ideas and jobs. Please pray with us that God will help us to build a future, where all may prosper and share as in the special prayer for the nation, published by the Church of England for this time of great change.

A Prayer for the Nation

God of hope, in these times of change,
unite our nation and guide our leaders with your wisdom.
Give us courage to overcome our fears,
and help us to build a future in which all may prosper and share;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Please note the choice of this cartoon is the Editor's not the Vicar's! Rev Liz is not suggesting we start fundraising for her pension shortfall!



With my love and prayers as ever and wishing you all a very happy Easter!

Revd Liz

ALPHA COURSE ...

Starts this month!



- ◆ Would you like an opportunity to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share your point of view?
- ◆ Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.
- ◆ Alpha is inclusive to all – everyone is welcome!
- ◆ Alpha courses are run all around the globe, in cafes, churches, colleges, homes – you name it!
- ◆ The three key things they have in common are food, a talk and good conversation.
- ◆ There's nothing you can't say (seriously) and it's an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own thoughts and perspective on life in an honest, friendly and open environment.






If you would like to explore further contact:-

Liz Richardson 01306 711260 or Andrew Coe 01306 631469 for more information.

Course begins Wednesday evening 17th April

All Wednesday evenings in Newdigate Church, except Saturday daytime 11 May in Newdigate Church and themes are:-

Wednesday 17 April	Who is Jesus?
Wednesday 24 April	Why did Jesus die?
Wednesday 1 May	How can I have faith?
Wednesday 8 May	How do I read the Bible?
<u>Saturday 11 May</u>	Holy Spirit Day
Wednesday 15 May	How does God guide us?
Wednesday 22 May	How can I resist evil?
Wednesday 29 May	How do I make the most of the rest of my life? (with guest testimony)

SUNDAY 31 ST March	8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 pm	MOTHERING SUNDAY (Both churches will be distributing posies of flowers) Holy Communion BCP (Capel) Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at Capel Capel Church Teas begin!	
APRIL			
MONDAY	1 ST 7.30 pm	How to read the Bible (Lent Course) St Mary Magdalene South Holmwood	
SUNDAY 7 TH	8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Holy Communion BCP (Capel) Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion (Capel)	
FRIDAY	12 TH	WEDDING at St Margaret's Ockley - 12.00 pm Samantha Benham and James Phillip	
SATURDAY	13 TH 3.00—5.00 pm	PARISH PRAYER - 9.30 am - Half hour at St Margaret's Ockley Baptism Tea - Parish Hall Capel	
SUNDAY 14 TH	10.20 am 10.30 am	PALM SUNDAY – Capel and Ockley Joint Service Palm Sunday Procession begins Bennetts Green at 10.20am with our donkeys as we process to Capel church where we continue with all age worship sharing bread and wine, followed by Hot Cross Buns! <i>Bring branches or palms to wave!</i>	
WEDNESDAY	17 TH 7.00 pm	ALPHA COURSE St Peter's Church, Newdigate parishoffice@stpetersnewdigate.org.uk An opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith.	
THURSDAY	18 TH 6.00 pm	MAUNDY THURSDAY St Mary Magdalene South Holmwood host this year's Maundy Thursday Meal and Commemoration of the Last Supper	
FRIDAY	19 TH 11am – 12.15 2.00 pm 4.00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY Reflective service with Choir singing 'Wondrous Cross' by Alan Bullard.(Capel) Parish Good Friday Walk – meet at Capel Memorial Hall Good Friday Teas in Capel Church.	
SUNDAY 21 ST	9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00—5.00 pm	EASTER DAY Easter Day Celebration Communion followed by Easter Egg Hunt (Ockley) Easter Day Celebration Communion followed by Easter Egg Hunt (Capel) Capel teas in church	
MONDAY	22 ND	EASTER MONDAY 3.00 - 5.00 pm Capel teas in church	
SATURDAY	27 TH	PARISH PRAYER - 9.30 am - Half hour at St John the Baptist Capel	
SUNDAY	28 TH	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER 9.30 am Parish Worship at St Margaret's Ockley	
MAY			
SUNDAY	5 TH 8.00 am 9.30 am 10.30 am 3.00 - 5.00 pm	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Holy Communion BCP (Capel) Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion (Capel) Capel teas in church	

***Easter Production
by the Wintershall players***

They will be performing
‘The Passion’
in Guildford High Street on 20th
April at 12.00 and 2.30pm.

The performance lasts about 90
minutes and is free.

The Pavilion Café at Ockley

This community cafe is held at the cricket
pavilion in Ockley and opens each Wednesday
from 9.00 am—12 noon.

Do pop in for delicious
homemade cakes, freshly
brewed coffee and a range of
teas!



We hope to see you there!

***MORE New hymn books available for
Sponsorship!***

We have increased our hymn books in both
churches to take account of the full church
services we have had recently so if anyone
would like to sponsor one there are plenty
available!

Please contact Debbie von
Bergen for a form.



**Maundy Thursday Meal
at St Mary Magdalene, South
Holmwood**

Thursday 18th April at 6.00pm

St Mary Magdalene South Holmwood host this
year’s Maundy Thursday Meal and Commemoration
of the Last Supper. If you would like to join in,
please sign up on the list in church so that we can
inform those hosting of numbers. Thank you!

FROM THE REGISTERS

We mourn the loss of

Nora Stepheny Stockton
‘Stevie’

24th February 2019

And

Marion Helen Rosemary Mansbridge

25th February 2019

A new fun feature ...

Star of the month!



This month’s “Star of the
Month” goes to **Andrew**

Forsyth who does a lot for our

church Administering the Electoral Roll,
Designing and printing posters and publicity material
and as I discovered recently ... cleans the toilet, the
kitchen floor and the carpets in St John the Baptist,
Capel every Saturday! All that and a dedicated
member of the Car Show Committee that raises
money every year for The Friends of St John the
Baptist! Thank you Andrew and apologies if I’ve
missed anything else that you do!

The Editor

** Please help me by giving me your nominations
from Capel & Ockley as to who needs a little
thanks for everything they do!*

Let me know on slc@ansford.me.uk

*He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely
find Him the rest of the day. – John Bunyan*

CAPEL & OCKLEY CHURCH RUNNERS! A few of us from Capel & Ockley Churches are starting an informal running group. The initial plan is to meet and join in with the Park Run at Denbies on Saturday mornings at 9.00 am. If you are not familiar with Park Run you can find out more here: www.parkrun.org It is free to join, you register online [very quick & easy - go to register & our Home Run is the **Mole Valley Park Run**], print up your bar code and turn up at Denbies 8:45am on a **Saturday for a 9am start** and do a lovely 5km run (circa 3.1 miles) around the vineyard . There are normally 200-300 people who take part. Anyone can join in, it is completely inclusive all ages, speeds, experience. It is great fun and a good way to start the weekend. If you need help getting there let us know and I am sure we can work something out.

In addition to this we plan to have 3— 4 other runs each year – starting from the Churches and other places – details to be planned. I will set up a WhatsApp Group and we will use email to stay in touch. A few of us (James, Dean, Sophia, Vittoria and myself) are already meeting at the Park Runs at Denbies on Saturday mornings. We hope to see you there!

Tom Chambre

Any queries, please contact 0771 890 2345 or tom@chambrepm.com

St Margaret’s Bible Study Group

Held every fortnight on a Thursday at 2.00 pm at Gill Christie’s house:

‘Elderslie’, Stane Street, Ockley, Surrey RH5 5TD
Phone: 01306 711917 for more details.

T.L.C. Teas @ Ockley Village Hall

TLC meets monthly for a friendly afternoon chat, scrumptious teas and lots of Tender Loving Care.

Normally held on the THIRD Monday of every month from 3.00—4.30 pm in Ockley Village Hall

Our aim is to provide a happy and relaxed atmosphere for those who just want to meet together.

For further details contact: **Judie on 01306 888456 OR emailthoroldfuters@aol.com**



**Christian Aid Week
12th - 18th May 2019**

Join thousands of others to take part in the UK’s longest-running fundraising week!

Can you help with street collections?
If so, please contact Sue & Phil Partridge
on 01306 711355.

*Easter Peace: it does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.
- Anon*

NEW FOR 2019!

Ockley Mothers and Toddlers Group are starting a **“Mum to Mum”** market during the usual weekly sessions

on **Thursday mornings from 9th January 2019 at Ockley Village Hall 9.30am-11.30am.**

Good quality clothes and toys available for exchange or a small donation to the Group’s funds.



Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

We have a packed issue for you with this month's InSpire with news from our own Parish of events this month and well in advance, together with more national news too. Bishop Andrew wrote to all the local clergy recently, encouraging Churches to pray together as we face the uncertainty of Brexit. That prayer can be found on page 22 and is also featured in Rev Liz's letter. No matter what our individual views on Brexit are, it is certainly important as Bishop Andrew says, that we as Christians look to bring people together and encourage peaceful conversation and interaction.

We have lots happening for Holy Week including a Maundy Thursday supper at South Holmwood. Then on Good Friday, there is a special Reflective service with the Choir singing 'Wondrous Cross' by Alan Bullard at Capel, followed by the Good Friday Parish walk and finishing with the Capel Church Teas afterwards! As Rev Liz said at the recent APCM, we have had a busy and productive year together as a united Parish with so many events taking place in both villages to raise money for our Parish share and good causes that we donate to. There has been much to celebrate with Bob Cranham's guitar concerts (see details on page 11 of the next one in June!), the St Andrew's evening with magic organised by Helen and James Burt, the Spanish pop up restaurant and much more! And we're not stopping ... there's much planned for this year! Plans are going well for this year's Annual Vicarage fete but there is still much to do! These events don't just happen by themselves so please see page 9 for ways in which you might be able to help?

But amongst all the busyness of our daily lives, it is good to reflect as we find ourselves in Lent. 'Transforming Lent 2019' is available as a set of Daily Reflections from the Diocese. These can be downloaded from the church website or are available by signing up to receive them by email:- <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/lent>

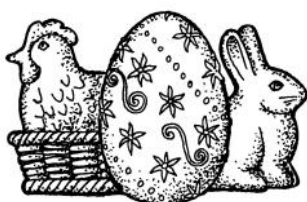
Day one was entitled 'Creating Space'. ***"... and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats at the shore of the Lake ... he got into one of them ... asked (Simon) to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat."***

Sometimes we just long for some breathing space away from life's relentless demands, even those that are worthy and valuable can press in and suffocate. Jesus gave himself space, breathing space, in order to continue his ministry. He was 'with' them but 'away' from them. Perhaps Lent may be an opportunity for you to explore and find space in your life. This is not about doing more or adding spiritual disciplines but rather it is about looking around to see what shoreline you've been pushed into and what might be your 'boat'? Jesus needed Simon to 'put out a little way'. Who or what might help you to do this?

I wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Best wishes,

Suzanne



EASTER

(An Acrostic poem where the first letter of each line spells the word EASTER)

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

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

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

By Megan Carter

Pop the date in
your diaries now!

22nd June 2019



Come and support YOUR Capel Annual Vicarage Fete

in aid of OUR local schools ... Scott-Broadwood Infant, Capel Pre-School
and The Weald C E (A) Primary

on Saturday 22nd June 2019
12.00 - 3.00 pm

We need your help with the following ...

*** Do you know anyone who might like a stall?**

We are keen to support small local businesses wherever possible. Cost is £15.00 per stall.

*** RAFFLE PRIZES - Can you donate a prize or do you know someone we could contact for a prize?** The following are a selection of what we have so far:

* Main meal for 2 at The Old House, Dorking * Glazed ham from Hillhouse Farm, Capel *
Oven cleaning * Treatment voucher from BEKE *

*** Can you help set up the Fete late Friday (21st June) afternoon/early evening -**
this would be to help put up gazebos and party tents to shelter our stalls.

*** Can you help on the day** with the BBQ, teas, stalls etc OR helping get the tables and
chairs from the Village hall and church and later on returning them?
We would be particularly grateful for any help with this!

***We are aiming to make this Fete a great success but in order to do so,
we need more help!***

This year, we have a Carousel coming, a Children's Theatre show (The Cat's Grin Theatre Co)
and an old-fashioned ice cream cart! Also the children from our schools will hopefully be
providing some entertainment for us!

Come and join in all the fun of the Fete on the day!

Any queries or offers of help ... please contact

Debbie von Bergen on debbievonbergen@icloud.com 07774 784008
or Suzanne Cole on slc@ansford.me.uk 07923 517202






THE
PASSION
OF JESUS
 LIVE ON GUILDFORD HIGH STREET

EASTER SATURDAY 20 APRIL 2019
FREE PERFORMANCES 12 NOON AND 2.30 PM

WWW.WINTERSHALL.ORG.UK
 Wintershall CIO, Charity Number 1167111

These performances contain a realistic interpretation
 of the crucifixion - parental guidance is advised.



Transforming Lent 2019

Lent Challenge Come with us on a journey this Lent to becoming more prayerful and confident disciples in daily life! Through interviews, email reflections and prayers the Lent Challenge will provoke, inspire and offer practical tips as we grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Themes

- 6 - 8 March: **Rev Sarah Hutton – Getting Started – creating space, place and time**
- 11 - 15 March: **Bishop of Dorking, Jo Bailey Wells – Praying with the psalms**
- 18 - 22 March: **Archdeacon of Surrey, Paul Davies – The Lord’s Prayer**
- 25 - 29 March: **Bishop of Guildford – Confidence in the letter to the hebrews**
- 1 - 5 April: **Dean of Guildford, Dianna Gwilliams – Work, rest and pray**
- 8 - 12 April: **Rev Matt Prior – Living Lent on the frontline**
- 15 - 19 April: **Archdeacon of Dorking, Paul Bryer – Discipleship in the shadow of the cross**

Available to download via our Parish website - see right hand side for 'News' OR

Sign up to receive them by email on the Diocese website: - <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/lent>

COTTAGE CONCERTS & ST. JOHN'S, CAPEL PRESENT

SMITH AND BREWER

Folk Americana at its best!



Virtuoso Guitarists ~ Sublime Harmonies ~ Great songs
"Hugely talented"

London Palladium ~ Cambridge Folk Festival - QEH
Ralph McTell ~ Fairport Convention ~ 10cc
.....and now ~ **CAPEL!**



Special Guest
Pickingsongs

Sat 8th June 2019
8pm

Tickets £12
from www.capelboxoffice.co.uk

St. John the Baptist Church,
The Street, Capel. RH5 5JZ

Photo: www.wall.com

The second of our series of concerts this year features the outstanding talents of Smith & Brewer. They first came to my attention at the Queen Elizabeth Hall last December when they were supporting Ralph McTell on the last night of his UK tour. In fact, during November and December alone they clocked up 40 gigs supporting either Ralph or 10cc. Earlier you could have seen them playing at the Cambridge Folk Festival, the Cropredy Festival, the AmericanaFest in Nashville and many other venues playing alongside Fairport Convention, Brian Wilson (of The Beach Boys), Joan Armatrading and the like.

But now the big time beckons. Yes - an evening at St. John the Baptist in Capel! A night of virtuoso guitar playing, beautiful vocal harmonies and great songs. Acoustic music at its very best. You could wait until October and go to see them at The London Palladium or you can save the bus fare and walk to your local church. Life is full of difficult choices.....

There's the added bonus of a support set from local singer/songwriter Pickingsongs.

Tickets are just £12 and are available from www.capelboxoffice.co.uk or on the night at the door.

Profits from the evening will once again go towards the work of our church.

Bob Cranham

'.. And surely I am with you always to the end of the age.' Matthew 28:20

'For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.' Luke 19:10

REFUGEES/SLAVERY

MONDAY 1st

Loving Father, today, we bring to You the forgotten people who were media headlines a while ago; who are still suffering, still fleeing for their lives, still dying for lack of medical provision and still seeing their world crumbling into dust. Comfort them, we pray.

TUESDAY 2nd

Father God, watch over migrants and refugees holding their families close on fearful journeys. Comfort and protect them. Pour out Your Spirit upon world leaders. May they see the tragedies and be moved to respond with wisdom, compassion and courage.

WEDNESDAY 3rd

God of hospitality, we are thankful that refugee crises are reported in the media and we give thanks for the sanctuary provided by our nation. But when the cameras stop rolling, may our welcome and our compassion be unceasing. Lord, may our love for those seeking refuge be steadfast.

THURSDAY 4th

Heavenly Father, In a world which cares more for the needs of self than others, give us a heart for the vulnerable, the refugee, the forgotten and the lost; a heart that is based on Yours, poured out for the needs of many and not for the comfort of a few. Give us a heart which looks out and sees Your beauty in all people, and welcomes them as a friend.

FRIDAY 5th

Lord of the lost, we pray for all those who are victims of human trafficking: people lured from their homes and families; people deceived while trying to find a better life; people who are desperate to trust anyone. Help us to be more vigilant and watchful; to be aware of those who may need our help, and those who do not know where help may lie.

SATURDAY 6th

Lord of changed hearts, we pray for those involved in trafficking and human slavery. We pray that in their heart of hearts they know that what they do is

evil. We pray that they will give up the lures of money, greed, control and repent the harm they have done and the suffering they have caused.

SUNDAY 7th

Lord of creation, we thank you for all who are working to combat modern slavery. Help us to be part of love's movement, to work for a world where human beings are valued, where no one is enslaved, and no one used against their will for another's pleasure or need.

LOVE

'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.' 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

MONDAY 8th

Faithful God, we thank You for Your love and faithfulness. We thank You that You have given us the power to love and that Your love is perfect, it never fails.

TUESDAY 9th

Lord, we pray for Your Holy Spirit to bring Your love alive within our hearts and flowing through our lives. We can't do it on our own. More than ever, our world needs to see what true love looks like; Christ's love within us.

WEDNESDAY 10th

Father, thank You that Your love to us is patient. Help us to show patience with those around us. Thank You that Your love is kind. Help us to extend kindness to others.

THURSDAY 11th

Dear Lord, we thank You that Your true love for us shows no jealousy. Help us to cast aside feelings of jealousy or hatred towards others.

FRIDAY 12th

Loving Father, Your love does not brag and is not arrogant. Therefore, help us not to live with pride or arrogance but to choose to walk with humility and grace.

SATURDAY 13th

Lord, thank You that Your love does not take

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY 15th

Dear Lord, You have guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray, as we move towards the darkest day, that You will always be close and remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in Him, Your precious son, Jesus.

TUESDAY 16th

Heavenly Father, thank You that You strengthen our lives by the example of Jesus. Help us to be closer to You this week as Your precious Son demonstrates His love for us.

WEDNESDAY 17th

Father, we want to turn to You with the same trust Jesus had in You. Help us to be humble, accepting and trusting of Your love.

THURSDAY 18th Maundy Thursday

Father God, You sent Your Son into the world and before His hour had come, He washed the feet of His disciples. Lord, help us to learn from His example to strengthen our hearts and our wills for love and for service. Bless all who come to the supper tonight to prepare for You.

FRIDAY 19th Good Friday

'God demonstrates his own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'
Romans 5:8
Healing and gentle Lord, when there is trouble, suffering and death and we cry out to You for help as Jesus did on the cross, be near to us and save us so that we may praise You for Your deliverance.

SATURDAY 20th

Lord Jesus, we await You. Be risen anew in our hearts as the light of Easter dawns tomorrow.

SUNDAY 21st Easter Day

'Do not be afraid for I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as He said.' **Matthew 28:5-6**

Gracious God, we praise You for the light of new life made possible through Jesus and we pray that the Easter message of hope, light, life and joy will live in our hearts every day and that we will be bearers of that message for others.

RESURRECTION

'For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.' **1 Corinthians 15:21-22**

MONDAY 22nd

Loving Father, we thank You that Easter is for all who confess with voices, hearts and lives that the tomb is empty because Jesus is risen, that we might know forgiveness and that lives might be reborn.

TUESDAY 23rd

God of Truth, help us to believe the simple truth that through Your word, sin is defeated and we can become the people we were always meant to be by Your grace through Jesus Christ.

WEDNESDAY 24th

Everlasting Lord, remind us that when we are feeling proud, arrogant, pleased with ourselves and self-sufficient in our ways, that You walked a road to a cruel cross and rose again to show us how we can be saved.

THURSDAY 25th

Lord of Life, You defeated death to show that we can overcome all that binds us to the world; pride, envy, anger, fear, the debt of sin that holds us here. Christ the Lord is risen!

FRIDAY 26th

Lord of Hope, You defeated death to demonstrate a love that is beyond our understanding and that reaches out to us all. We thank You and praise Your Holy Name.

SATURDAY 27th

God of Wisdom, grant us a spirit of understanding as we reflect on the meaning of the resurrection in our lives.

SUNDAY 28th

Dear Lord, may the communion that we take in our services to remember You, open our eyes and our hearts to a deeper communion with You in all our praise and worship.

HOLY SPIRIT

'The one who keeps God's commands lives in him and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us; we know it by the Spirit he gave us.' **1 John 3:24**

The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world, with some 2,300 works spanning the centuries. During this year we are journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month.

Article by the Rev Michael Burgess.

The Mond Crucifixion – by Raphael

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

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



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

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

Source: Parish Pump

APRIL

All in the month of April

It was:

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

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

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

90 years ago, on 14th April 1929 that the first Monaco Grand Prix was held in Monte Carlo.

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

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

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

40 years ago, on 1st April 1979 that Iran was proclaimed an Islamic Republic.

30 years ago, on 14th April 1989 that the Hillsborough Disaster took place in Sheffield. 96 Liverpool FC fans were killed in a crush during the F A C Cup semi-final football match against Nottingham Forest.

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

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

20 years ago, on 5th April 1999 that Libya handed over to the United Nations two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. They were taken to the Netherlands to face trial. Abdelbaset al-Megrahi was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment and later released. Died May 2012. The other suspect was acquitted.

Also 20 years ago, on 26th April 1999 that Jill Dando, TV presenter, newsreader, journalist and former Crimewatch reporter was shot dead on the doorstep of her home in London. It is still a mystery who killed her.

Great expectations

At a baptism the young minister was full of enthusiasm. He held the baby in his arms and speculated aloud as to the child's possible future. "He may become a captain of industry, a great scientist, or a gifted teacher – someone on whom hundreds of young boys may model themselves." Then turning to the parents in a rather grand manner, he asked, "And so what name to you give to this child?"

Timidly, the reply came: "Amanda Jane."

The Lord's Prayer

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime. She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail."

Source: Parish Pump



HIGH DAYS AND HOLY DAYS IN APRIL

2 April - Hugh of Grenoble – he fought corruption and built hospitals

Murky crimes committed by various church leaders, local shops in trouble, roads needing repair, and hospitals in a sorry state.... wanting to retire, but the law said no... it seems that Hugh of Grenoble was dealing with 21st century problems in the 11th century.

Born at Chateauneuf in 1052 as the son of a knight, Hugh attended the cathedral school of Valence and became a canon. He was talented and learned, good looking – and yet bashful. Sounds a bit like a shy public-school boy. Certainly, Hugh's parents' contacts and his privileged schooling earned him a good job early on – as secretary to the Bishop of Die, who was also a papal legate. In 1080 Hugh was taken along to the Synod of Avignon, where the deplorable state of the diocese of Grenoble was reviewed. It was afflicted with widespread simony and usury, and clerical promiscuity was rampant.

Hugh was outraged at what he heard – and was soon in a position to do something about it. He was made Bishop of Grenoble by Pope Gregory VII and went on to fight the excesses and sins of the clergy with notable success. He became virtual co-founder of the Carthusian order. The common people soon came to love him, for as well as reforming their churches and restoring their cathedral, he built a bridge, a marketplace and three hospitals for them.

In later years Hugh wanted to retire, but like many people today, was not able to do so: in his case the Pope would not let him. During the last few weeks of his life Hugh went back to basics: he seemed to forget everything but the Lord's Prayer and the Psalms. He was greatly loved, and so canonised only two years after his death in 1134.

3 April - Richard of Chichester - more clearly, dearly and nearly

Ever wonder where the prayer ... *'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day'* comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

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

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

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

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

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full: *"Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day."*

Editor: Antoine is a Christian in Kigali, whom Anne Coomes, the editor of 'Parish Pump', met on a visit to Rwanda last September. We subscribe to Parish Pump for material for InSpire.

The Rwandan genocide began 25 years ago this month, in April 1994. The Rev Antoine Rutasiyrie, now the pastor of a large church in Kigali, recalls the beginning of that terrible 100 days, when up to one million Tutsi were slaughtered by the Hutu.

"My family were Tutsi and we lived in Kigali. We had experienced Hutu aggression before: they had killed my father in the early 1970s, and then burned our family home in the 1980s. It had taken me years to forgive them, and only with God's grace."

But by the Spring of 1994 ethnic tensions were escalating once again, the country crackling with tension. Antoine recalls: "My wife and I were on our knees for at least two hours every evening, pleading with the Lord for our country, and for our protection."

Then, on April 7th, 1994, the president of Rwanda was shot down over Kigali. That first morning after the plane crash, Antoine and his family nearly died as well.

"Just before dawn by the sound of gunfire exploded in the street outside our home. We rushed to our windows and also tuned into the radio. Running battles had begun across the city, between the Hutu militia and the Tutsi RPF soldiers."

As the morning wore on, Antoine and his wife heard explosions and screams in the distance, and he could see smoke rising below him as the city burned. Then came news that road blocks had been set up all over the city. The Interahamwe (Hutu soldiers) were everywhere.

Antoine and his wife were terrified, especially as they had young children. Antoine says: "We were in a panic, but we dared not leave the house - where would we go? So, we poured out our fears to God."

At 3.30pm that day the Interahamwe arrived at his front gate. Antoine locked the children and the housemaid in a bedroom in an effort to shield them and peered through the window. He could hear the Interahamwe arguing about the best way to break in.

I thought to myself: "So this is the end. Are they going to cut us in pieces? I shuddered to think what they could do to my wife, my children. I wondered if I could fight them, even kill a couple of them before they killed us.

"Then I remembered the promise the Lord had given us: 'He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.' And again, 'Have mercy on me oh God, I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.'

"I felt my spirit grow calmer, and I heard a quiet voice saying; 'You have been preaching sermons on loving and praying for your enemies. Instead of trying to 'die like a man', why don't you just die like a Christian?"

"So, then I prayed: 'Lord, give me grace. If it is your will that I and my family die now, have them give me time to die praying for them, as you did for us on the cross.' At that moment a feeling of deep peace that I had never experienced before flooded through me. I now knew I was ready to face death with a Christ-like attitude."

Meanwhile the Interahamwe soldiers had broken down the gate into their compound and were heading straight up the path towards the house. Antoine looked into their faces as they came, at the machetes which they carried. He prayed.

Suddenly, staccato bursts of machine gun fire burst out, just outside the compound. The Interahamwe wheeled round in fright, "The cockroaches are coming!" It was their name for the RPF soldiers. In their panic, the Interahamwe veered off the front path, and ran around to the back of the house, where they scrambled over the back wall, pursued by the RPF soldiers, who chased them off down the hill. Antoine and his family were left alone.

After the genocide, Antoine and his family ended up in a displaced persons camp in Kigali. "It was tough, but Jesus' spirit of peace and forgiveness stayed with me, throughout all the hardships and hunger." In the years that followed, Antoine was ordained, and became dean of the cathedral in Kigali for a time.

The Rev Tony Horsfall considers the pain of loss.

I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. How the mighty have fallen! 2 Samuel 1:26

A lament is a passionate expression of grief, a heartfelt cry of sadness. Here David, who composed some of the most memorable and uplifting songs of praise, allows himself the opportunity to pour out his heart to God because of his deep sorrow.

Christians are sometimes confused about how to express grief. Some contemporary teaching has emphasised the power of praise, and of praising God in all circumstances, so they feel guilty about the pain inside them and do not know how to release it.

Whilst Paul does say we are not to grieve 'like the rest of mankind' (1Thessalonians 4:13), he means we should not grieve in the hysterical way that characterizes those who have no hope in God. He does not mean that we should not grieve at all, or that we should suppress our true feelings. That would be cruel, unnatural and unhealthy. Grief is best acknowledged and expressed, and in a way that is consistent with our belief in heaven.

David's own heart feels most keenly the loss of his dearest friend, Jonathan. Those who have known the loss of a 'soul mate' will understand the depth of his feeling and the pain in his heart. His lament enables him to get in touch with his grief, to express it, and so begin the slow process of healing and recovery.

If you are grieving yourself today, be encouraged to pour out your heart to God. You could pray aloud or write your prayer down. You may find a song that helps, or a piece of music. You might talk with a trusted friend. You may just want a good cry. Whatever you do, remember that it's OK to grieve.

Editor: There have been many deaths in our united Parish recently and Rev Liz has conducted a lot of funerals, so it seemed appropriate to share an article on grief which must surely be touching many of our friends and neighbours currently.

Sadly it is something we all have to bear at some point in our life and as someone wise once said "Grief is the price we pay for love". I also love the quote from a Hebrew proverb below.

SAY NOT IN GRIEF
'HE IS NO MORE'
BUT IN THANKFULNESS
THAT HE WAS

HEBREW PROVERB

The Rev Dr Herbert McGonigle considers a great hymn....

Charles Wesley's great hymn for Easter: Christ the Lord is risen today!

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

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

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

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

The NT teaches that Christ's resurrection was the Father's seal of approval on His obedient life and atoning death. His resurrection was the proof that He was indeed Jesus Christ the Lord, as Paul argues in Romans 1:4. 'Declared to be the Son of God ...by the resurrection from the dead.' Charles Wesley works these great salvation truths into his verses. 'Love's redeeming work is done.' 'Once He died our souls to save.' 'Lives again our glorious King.' 'Where, O death, is now thy sting?' 'Second life we all receive.' 'In our Heavenly Adam live.' As our Lord promised His disciples long ago – and still promises us; 'Because I live, you will also live' (John 14:19).

The Resurrection of Christ, viewed as a historical fact, is only part of the NT teaching. His conquest of death He now shares with all His people. Christians are the people of the Resurrection! We are now 'made alive with Christ;' 'raised up with Him,' and already seated 'in heavenly places' (Ephesians 1:4-6). And Charles Wesley takes up this great theme of how believers share in their Lord's resurrection power.

Risen with Him we upward move
Still we seek the things above ...

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

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

Word Search



plotting
disciples
prepare
Passover
water
crowds
silver
coins

teacher
Judas
priests
meal
pay
Jesus
room
Jerusalem

rescue
help
John
evening
alone
upstairs
Peter
city

Solution on Page 31!



Short Easter prayer for children

God made you and God made me,
He made the world for us to see.
God loves you and long ago,
He sent his Son to tell us so.

Jesus showed us many things,
To love and share and dance and sing.
To learn and pray, to help and care,
He promised he'd always be there.

He died but then came back to life,
Let's celebrate for he's alive!

Amen.

Why do we have Easter eggs?

A lot of us may chomp on chocolate eggs at Easter, but originally eating eggs was not allowed by church leaders during the week leading up to Easter (known as Holy Week).

So any eggs laid that week were saved and decorated to make them Holy Week eggs, that were then given to children as gifts.

Victorians adapted the tradition with satin-covered cardboard eggs filled with Easter gifts.

This has now developed into the tradition that many people enjoy today.

Why are they made of chocolate today?

The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany in the 19th Century, but they were bitter and hard.

As chocolate-making techniques improved, hollow eggs like the ones we have today were developed.

They very quickly became popular and remain a favourite tradition with chocolate-lovers today.

Next month in Junior InSpire ... 'Why do we have the Easter Bunny'?

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16


It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem.

The Chief Priests were plotting



How can we get rid of Jesus? He always has crowds around him.

Jesus' disciple Judas came to them...



I could help you.

We'd be happy to pay you





How much?

30 silver coins



30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed
Ex.31:32



I'll let you know when Jesus is alone.

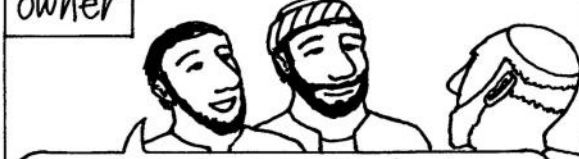
Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?

Go into the city and follow the man carrying a water jar to his home

They did, and asked the house owner



Our teacher wants to know where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples


The room is upstairs on the roof, ready to use



Peter and John got the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples went to the room to eat the Passover meal.



You are what you think about

Negative thoughts can actually harm you, physically. In a recent study by the universities of Exeter and Oxford, it was found that if you listen to that critical inner voice, you will end up with an increased heart rate, consistent with feelings of being under threat and distress.

On the other hand, positive thoughts have the opposite effect. Those in the study who were encouraged to be kind to themselves when things went wrong, reported more self-compassion, connection with others, and had feelings of relaxation and safety.

No wonder that Paul urges us: "Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things... And the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4: 8,9)

Source: Parish Pump

a prayer for the nation

God of hope,
in these times of change,
unite our nation
and guide our leaders with your wisdom.
Give us courage to overcome our fears,
and help us to build a future
in which all may prosper and share;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Get moving!

It is April - time to get the family outside and enjoy more exercise! One in three children are doing less than 30 minutes exercise a day, according to a recent Sport England report.

That means that 2.3million kids nationwide do less than half the Chief Medical Officer's recommended level of daily activity of at least an hour. As one expert said: "This is a big wake up call. Parents need to get active alongside their children so that exercise feels like a normal thing to do."

Source: Parish Pump

The Contemplative Response – *leadership and ministry in a distracted culture*

By Ian Cowley, BRF, £8.99

Here is wisdom and sustenance for all Christians who struggle to maintain a still, quiet centre in the midst of a 24/7 contemporary culture shaped by worldly ambition, consumerism and information overload.

Cowley explains: "I find that three particular words – achieve, acquire, indulge – seem to point to the compulsions I recognise in my own heart and in what I see being constantly reinforced by our society and culture." He hopes his readers "will come to see that they need to actively pursue the remedies that Christian spirituality and the teachings of Jesus Christ offer us: contentment, detachment and self-control. The need for us to talk about these things is as great now, perhaps, as it has ever been in the history of the Christian Church."

Faithful Grandparents – *hope and love through the generations*

By Anita Cleverly, BRF, £9.99

Here is a call for grandparents to understand and step into the hugely influential role they can play in the lives of their grandchildren.

Arguably, there has never been a more important time to find meaningful ways of passing on faith from one generation to the next, and Anita believes that Christian grandparents have a crucial role to play here.

She writes: "This is a book about what it means to be a grandparent today. But it is not just about what it might mean to be a grandparent, but also about being one who identifies as a Christian – a disciple of Christ."

Editor: My thanks to Daphne Parkins for forwarding this article. She was granted consent by the author of the article to share it with us. It was part of a series of twelve revelations of Jesus Christ taken from the Book of Revelation.

"Mary Magdalene" - Mary's encounter with her risen Lord.

The Holy Spirit led John to record in his gospel a scene which may seem to be a quaint little aside. On this glorious resurrection day, standing just outside the empty tomb was a weeping heartbroken young woman (John 20: 11-18). She pours her heart out to one she thinks is the gardener. This story is the most beautiful testimony to the character of our Saviour. In the Psalms it is said that '*He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds*'. Here we find Jesus, in meeting Mary, doing just that. He comes to comfort her and help her take in the good news'.

But note He goes on to say, '*Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father.*' We go back to the vision of heaven. The Father on the throne, the living creatures, the elders and more than 200 million angels, all waiting expectantly on this the most glorious of all days. What do we find Jesus doing? Taking time to comfort the broken hearted. Such is His love for those who love him.

Church leaders give blessing to plastic-free faith Easter Egg

The Archbishop of York and the lead Bishop for the environment have welcomed a 'plastic free' version of *The Real Easter Egg*.

Out of the 80 million eggs sold in the UK every year *The Real Easter Egg* is the only one which includes a 24 page copy of the Easter story in the box, is Fairtrade and supports charitable causes. And now, this year *the Real Easter Egg* is going plastic-free.

The change is in response to a survey which found that 96% of Christians think it is important for Easter Eggs to be plastic-free and news that 11.5 million tonnes of food packaging waste is produced every year.

David Marshall from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, who make the Real Easter Egg, said: "Easter eggs don't have to cost the earth. We have replaced plastic bags, tamper-seals and Best Before stickers with paper versions. There is still the same amount of chocolate in the Real Easter Egg and the box sizes are the same, but the redesign means our Dark and Original Egg will save at least 5 tonnes of plastic and 175 tonnes of card in the next five years."



The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, said; "I am delighted that an Easter Egg, which shares the Story of Easter, is leading the way by reducing packaging."

The Bishop of Salisbury, The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, said; "As the lead bishop on the environment for the Church of England I am delighted that an Easter Egg, is taking seriously the care of our planet."

The Real Easter Egg and the complete range of products is available direct from <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk> OR Waitrose or Tesco shops.

foodbank
donation



You can also donate a Real Easter Egg to a local Foodbank! What a great idea! The cost is £3.49

Go to: <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk>

If you select to 'Donate a Real Easter Egg' they will charge you the advertised price and they will cover the additional costs of sending a full priced single Real Easter Egg to a foodbank.. It's a great way to make sure a family in need receive a Fairtrade Real Easter Egg this year.

PLEASE NOTE:- YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE THE EGG, it will be donated to the food bank along with other eggs which have been purchased for donation. Due to logistics it is not possible to nominate a food bank or have eggs delivered to a food bank which you run yourself. They will share news of the donations made just before Easter.

Each egg is £3.49. The 2019 plastic free design includes a large 24 page Easter story-activity book, a prize competition and a super thick milk chocolate egg (150g) with a lovely creamy taste. 35% cocoa – Palm Oil free.

Wording taken from <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk>

Easter joy



The Rev Tony Horsfall...considers Jesus' death and resurrection

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

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

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

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

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

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



Why do they do that?

Aiming to take away the mystery of some of the things which happen in Church

Editor: Continuing with The Rev Dr Jo White series entitled 'Why do they do that?'. It will look at things that happen in churches which don't need to remain mysterious...

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

Oils and creams loom large in the Bible just as they do in our world today. We use healing creams for all sorts of ailments, and moisturising lotions to soothe, but also often for the pure sensual pleasure that they give us. What can be better than your favourite hand cream after time spent gardening?

Oils in church are just the same. Set aside for specific works: for healing, encouraging at times of change and uncertainty, and for the special purposes of people, places and objects.

The Holy Oils are blessed (and one is consecrated) each year, usually on Mandy Thursday in Holy Week. This is done by the Bishop at a special annual service in every cathedral with all the clergy in the Diocese. It's an amazingly colourful and meaningful service which if you ever have the opportunity to attend do go.

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

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

Source: Parish Pump

General Synod backs drive to create new churches on estate

The General Synod of the Church of England has given its overwhelming backing to a drive for a church to be set up on every significant social housing estate in the country, as part of a programme of Renewal and Reform.

All dioceses will now be asked to include evangelism on social housing estates in their strategies and clergy deployment plans.

The Bishop of Burnley, Philip North, who heads the Church of England's Estates Evangelism Task Group, told the General Synod that in the past, the Church had closed churches and withdrawn clergy from social housing estates.

But now, the Church has a new vision. "It's a very simple one. To have a loving, serving, worshipping Christian community on every significant social housing estate in the nation. To plant back in the estates we have abandoned, to better support our presence in the places where we're struggling. If we can do that, the impact on church and nation will be transformative."

A fifth of the Church of England's 12,500 parishes are estimated to be 'estates parishes', meaning that they include at least 500 social housing units.

Prodigal Son Prayer

Since the 1960's there has been a move to put our services into modern language. Some of these work and some do not, but as I get older I have seen the move from the Book of Common Prayer, Series 2, Series 3, Alternative Service Book and more recently Common Worship. I personally do not remember Series 1 (if it was ever used) and before all this change there was the unapproved 1928 update of the Book of Common Prayer too.

We all have our own personal likes and dislikes of the changes made over the years and I suspect many have their own preferred version of Holy Communion including the variations on the Eucharistic Prayers. Of all the changes made, the one that I did not like was the change from Series 2 to Series 3. I just thought it was too much of a step change at the time. It did away with the rhythm and lilt of the old books completely and introduced a bland bare language which you could read in any report. But even in this change there was one element that I liked and have been please to see that it has been kept in both for the ASB and Common Worship. The element that I like about Series 3 is one of the prayers after communion that was written by David Frost and designed to be said by the President:

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.**

The original version that you will find in some prayer books replaces '**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us**' with '**Keep us firm in the hope that we have grasped**' which synod members did not like because it suggested that we could do something for our own salvation.

The prayer is sometimes referred to as the 'Prodigal Son Prayer' because of the introductory words. To my mind, it is the one part of an otherwise unloved Series 3 service that has been worth keeping. It is now a prayer for the whole congregation and whilst being modern it is written so that it might be remembered just like 1662 and the Authorised Version of the Bible was. Then, when not many could read or write they were written in language to make it easily memorised and although some of it might now be archaic, just think of the everyday expressions that we use that originated in 1662 and the Authorised Version. '**Till death us do part**', '**read, mark, learn and inwardly digest**', '**peace in our time**' are just a few examples.

My prediction is that 400 years on David Frost's prayer will still be used, loved and quoted.

Written by Stuart Cole

Crossword Clues

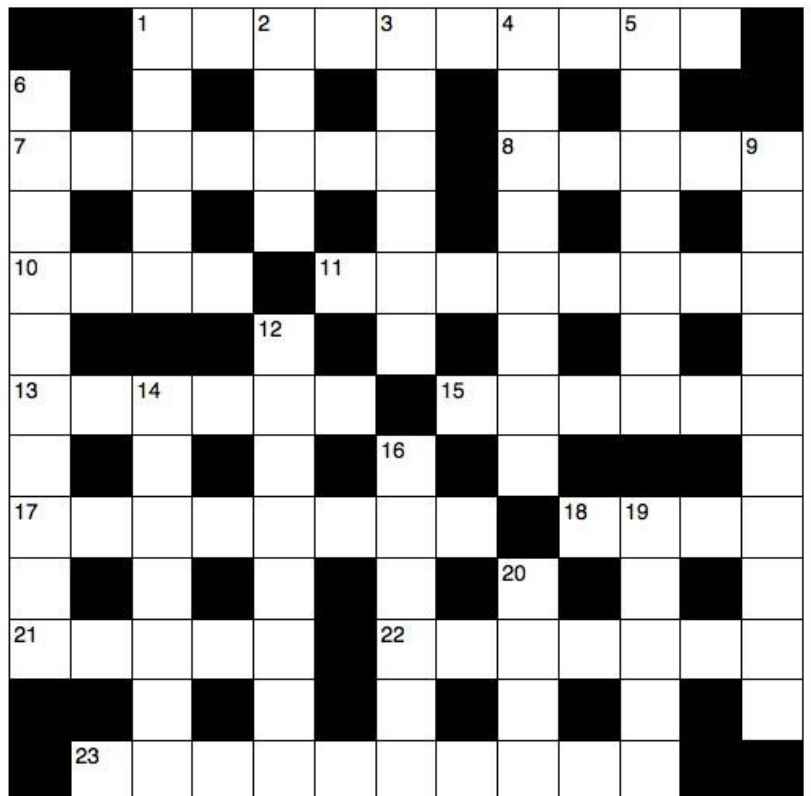
Across

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

Down

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

**ALL PUZZLE SOLUTIONS
ON PAGE 31!**



Wordsearch Clues for Easter 2019

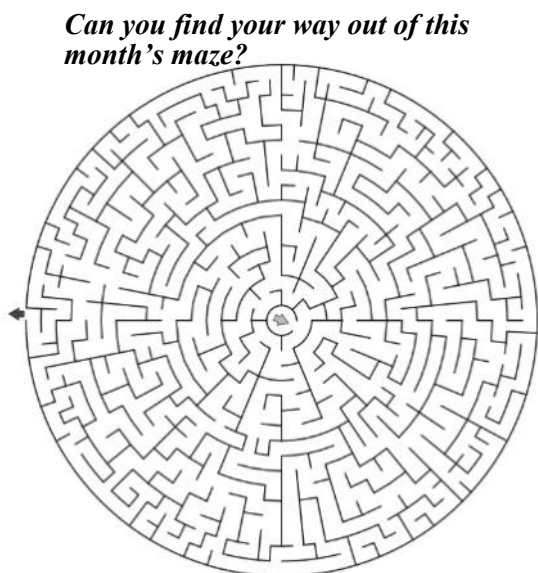
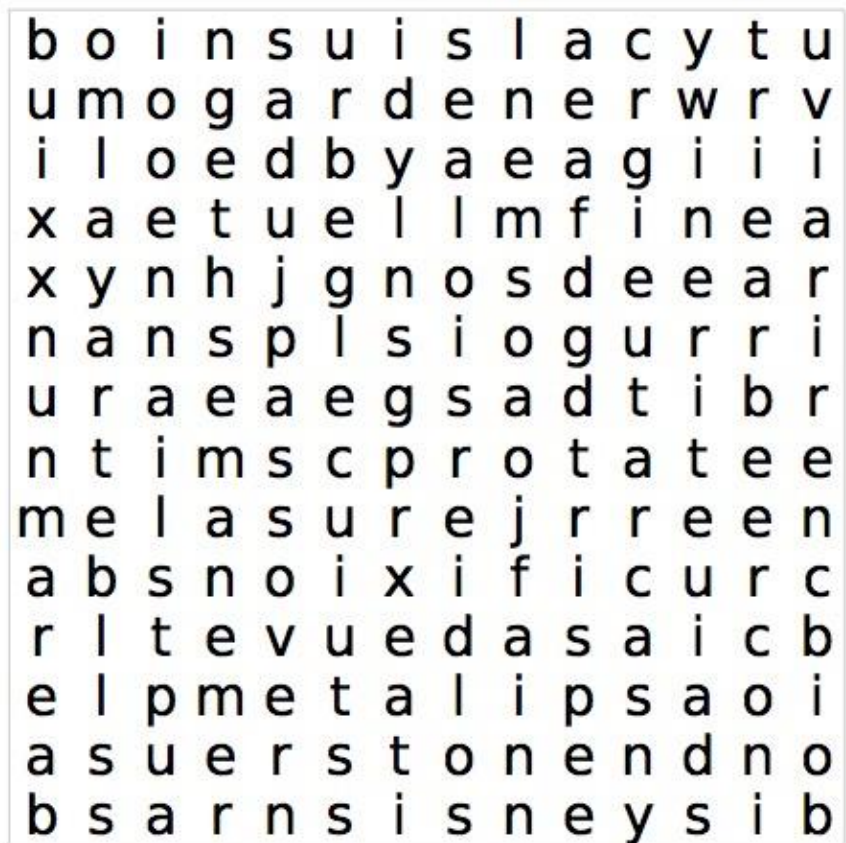
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.

- Passover
- Bread
- Wine
- Body
- Blood
- Betrayal

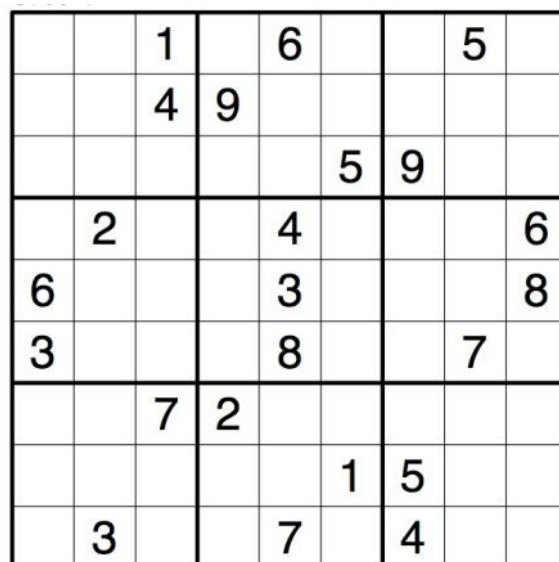
- Jerusalem
- Pilate
- Judas
- Gethsemane
- Trial
- Crucifixion

- Soldiers
- Cross
- Nails
- Vinegar
- Temple
- curtain

- tomb
- angel
- stone
- risen
- gardener
- Mary



Medium level soduku



'Reasons to Believe' conference with Amy Orr-Ewing and team: Saturday 15 June 10am-1pm

Amy is a brilliant and internationally recognised communicator in this field. Speaking alongside her colleagues, Simon Edwards and Lara Buchanan, Amy will equip us to talk confidently to others outside the church by setting out the rational basis of our faith - why we can be confident that God is real, Jesus is risen and the Bible can be trusted – and helping us to answer tough questions, for instance on 'God and science', other religions and why a loving God 'allows' suffering in the world.

You can book free places now at www.cofeguildford.org.uk/reasonstobelieve. The conference will take place from 10am to 1pm at St Paul's Howell Hill, SM2 7HS and be followed by an optional networking lunch with Amy and her team, which offers an opportunity to explore how the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics might be able to partner your parish in mission.

The conference is still some way off but I suspect that the available places will go quickly. Please join us if you can and encourage others in your congregation and networks to come too. We look forward to seeing you.

May the Lord bless you and yours,

Bishop Andrew

The Diocese of Guildford, Church of England

MINDFULNESS COURSE

Mindfulness simply means paying attention to our experience in the present moment, on purpose and with an attitude of kindly acceptance. This course, based on Mindfulness based stress reduction, will explore Mindfulness within a Christian perspective, explaining the concept and exploring how it can be used in our daily lives, our prayer life, with or without meditation, a time of stillness.

All are welcome regardless of faith or none.

Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Rd, GU2 7YF

Thursdays from 24 January 19:00 –21:00

Register your interest -Suzette.jones@cofeguildford.org.uk

CROSSWORD solution

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

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

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Wordsearch solution

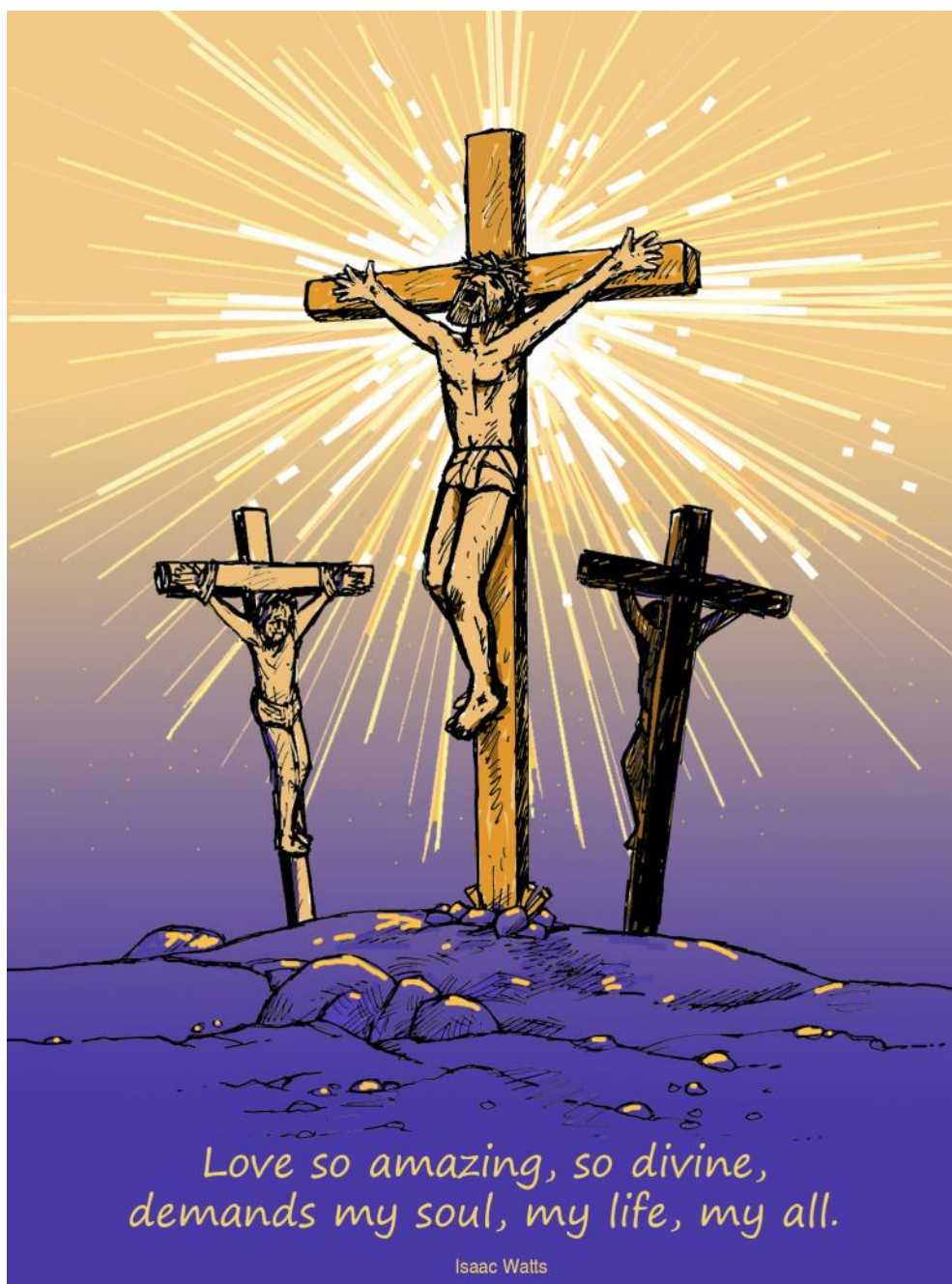
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Medium Sudoku solution

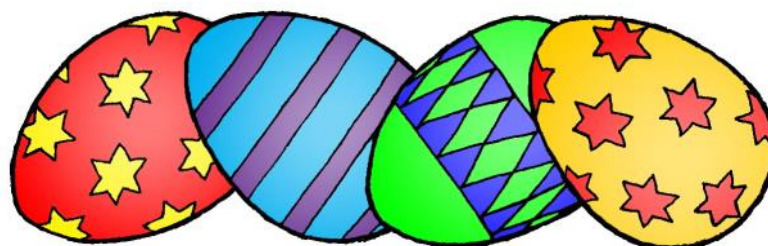
Junior InSpire Bible Bite's Wordsearch

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



Wishing all our Readers a very Happy Easter

Carry the cross patiently, and with perfect submission; and in the end it shall carry you. – Thomas a Kempis



Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole
editor@stjohnthebaptistcapel.org.uk By 20th of each month please.

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