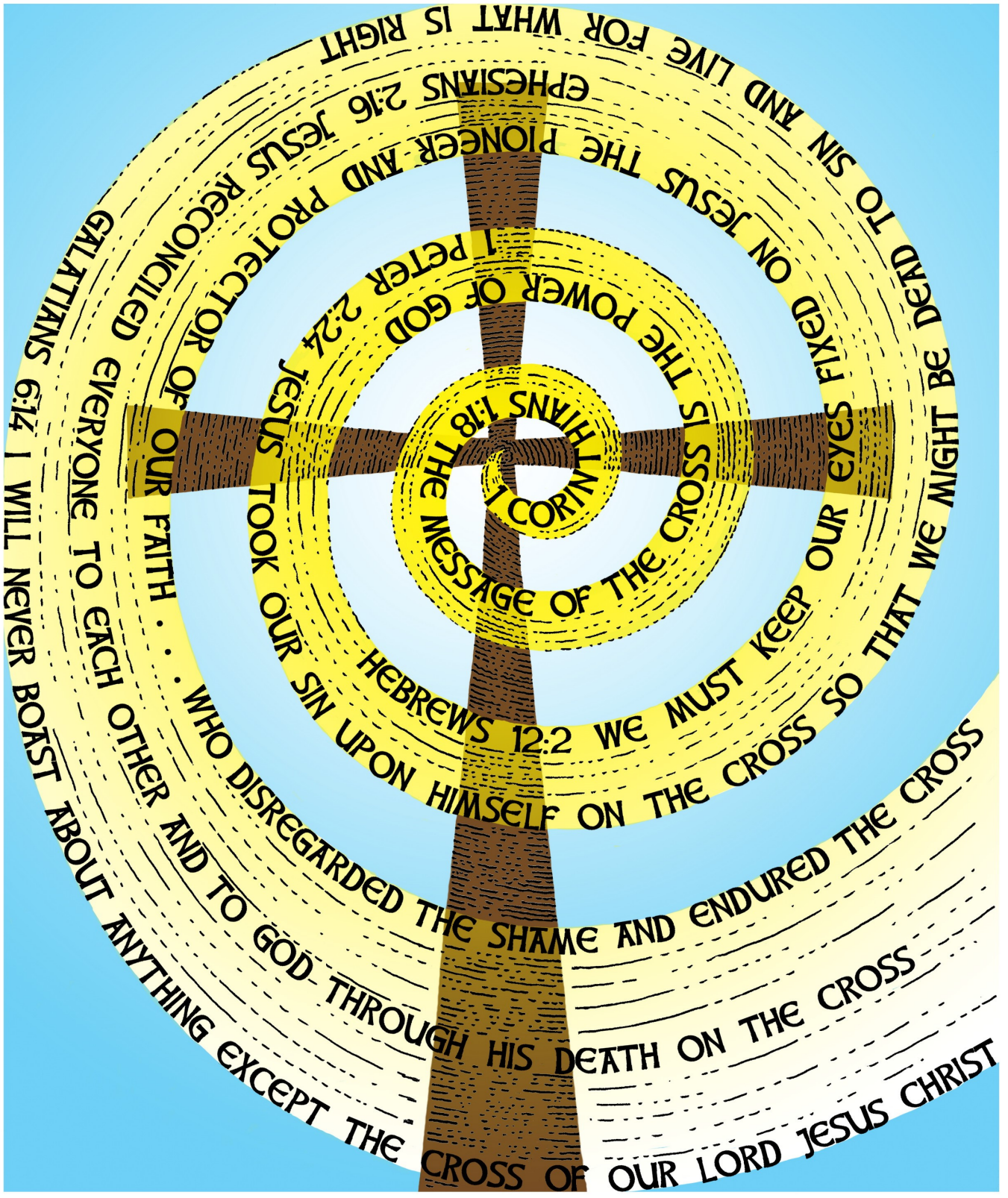


Issue 60 - April 2022 FREE of charge - please take a copy!

InSpire

Wishing all our readers a very Happy Easter



The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel and Ockley

Café Church



Francis McFaul

Songs and stories from Scotland's
"voice of Gospel Music"

Debut recording was Simon Mayo's album of the week
Follow up was Album of the Month in Christian Herald

All are welcome
10th April 2022

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St. John the Baptist
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Thank you! **Suzanne Cole, Editor**
editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk

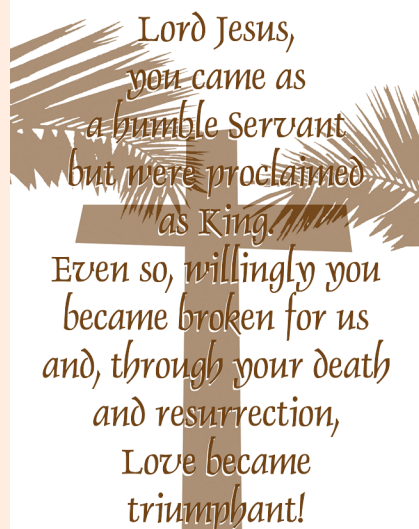
Issue 60 - April 2022

Contents:-

- 4 Rev Liz's letter
- 5 Services & Events for March
- 6 Café Church
- 7 For Ukraine
- 8 News
- 10 News from the Pews
- 12 An Easter reflection
- 13 High Days & Holy Days in April
- 14 Going to church at Easter
How to have some Happiness this April
- 15 The Passion Flower &
Easter recipe
- 16 Christian Basics: What about the
Resurrection?
Reflected Faith Series:
Togetherness
- 17 Handel's Messiah
- 18 Quotes for April
- 19 High Days & HolyDays
- 20 Prayer Diary for April
- 22 The Good, the Bad and the
Impossible Part 2 by Chris Cooper
- 23 Remembering Johannes Brahms
and Remembering Samuel Morse
of the Morse Code
- 24 Puzzle Page
- 25 An Easter Prayer
Quotes for Lent and Holy Week
- 26 Puzzle Solutions
Miscellaneous Observations on
Life
- 27 Junior InSpire

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

Thomas a Kempis



Lord Jesus,
you came as
a humble servant
but were proclaimed
as King.
Even so, willingly you
became broken for us
and, through your death
and resurrection,
Love became
triumphant!

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This issue is kindly sponsored by

Liz Arthur

Thank you to Liz and all our
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Rev Liz writes

Dear all,

Spring is finally here as we look forward to celebrating Easter this month. The gardens are really waking up now and its been wonderful to see the daffodils and other Spring flowers especially out in the villages. Easter Day took place in the garden as Mary meets the risen Lord Jesus thinking him to be a gardener. Rather wonderfully it was only when he called her name that she recognised Jesus and that somehow he was alright, that he was very much alive, even though he warned against touching his resurrection body.... This is the reason for the hope that Christians have, that although Jesus was put to death he rose on the third day as he predicted, breaking into a whole new life, an eternal life which he gives to us if we would but let him break into our lives. I often demonstrate this in my Easter Day talk by breaking a chocolate Easter egg! Before that though we continue to travel through the days of Lent and Holy Week.



We begin this month by holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting - a chance to review and take account of the last financial year. Reports will be ready for you to collect inside our churches or to look at online. Please see information on our website www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk

The following week we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with Palm Sunday. This year we have the traditional Palm Sunday service with a dramatised reading of the Passion from Luke's gospel at St Margaret's at Ockley. At Capel we welcome back Francis McFaul who will be leading Cafe Church along with Bob and the Band, showcasing some of his new songs which will evoke the highs and lows of Palm Sunday.

Holy Week moves on then to Maundy Thursday where the Surrey Weald Team of churches, that's us plus Newdigate and the Holmwood, have a service of Holy Communion where we remember the events of the Last Supper and the arrest of Jesus. It is a moving service which we finish by taking off all the altar vestments in silence, keeping a watch and leaving in silence. The following day is Good Friday and there are two services to observe this significant day. The first is at Ockley with a service of reflection and silence using contemporary painted images of the Stations of the Cross. Called 'One Friday' it comes with an accompanying illustrated booklet and the paintings will be on display at St Margaret's throughout Holy Week. The second service on Good Friday is at Capel which has the combined choirs of St John's Capel and St Peter's Newdigate singing Stainer's famous choral work 'The Crucifixion'. A combination of choral singing, some narration and congregational hymns we hope this service will be a fitting tribute to the events of Good Friday as well as the recent terrible events in Ukraine who are undergoing their own Good Friday at the moment. Finally Easter Sunday dawns and both churches will have special Easter celebration services along no doubt with Easter eggs! Church teas of course will be back in strength so do look at our list of services and events here in the magazine for more precise details of timings.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter

As always my love and prayers,

Revd Liz

Revd Liz Richardson

liz@hostmyserver.co.uk 01306 711260

Vicar St John the Baptist Capel and St Margaret's Ockley

The situation in Ukraine

We and the national church continue to watch and pray for Ukraine and are here to offer help and support to any refugee families when they start to arrive in our country, especially if they are resettling near us. We are liaising with Capel Parish Council also, so that we as a community can seek to do the best for our Ukrainian friends.

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR THE PARISH OF CAPEL AND OCKLEY APRIL 2022

SUNDAY	3rd 9.30am 10.30am 11.30am 3-5pm	Fifth Sunday of Lent Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel APCM at St John the Baptist Capel Teas at St Margaret's Ockley
SUNDAY	10th 9.30am 10.30am	Palm Sunday Family Communion CW at St Margaret's Ockley. Cafe Church at St John's Capel with Francis McFaul musician/songwriter and theologian
THURSDAY	14th 7pm	Maundy Thursday Surrey Weald Team service of Holy Communion
FRIDAY	15th 9.30am 11am 4 - 5pm	Good Friday <u>One Friday</u> - tells the story of Jesus' final day using contemporary images of the Stations of the Cross - St Margaret's Ockley. <u>Stainer's Crucifixion</u> - combined choirs of St Johns and St Peter's Newdigate sing this moving choral work with narration and congregational hymns. Good Friday teas at St John's Capel
SUNDAY	17th 9.30am 10.30am 3-5pm	Easter Day Easter Celebration CW at St Margaret's Ockley Easter Celebration CW at St John's Capel Church teas at St John's Capel
MONDAY	18th 3-5pm	Easter Monday Church teas at St John's Capel
SUNDAY	24th 9.30am 10.30am	Second Sunday of Easter Matins at St Margaret's Ockley Family Communion at St John's Capel
MAY		
SUNDAY	1st 9.30am 10.30am 3-5pm	Easter 3 Matins at St Margaret's Ockley. Family Communion at St John's Capel Teas at St Margaret's Ockley
MONDAY	2nd 3-5pm	May Bank Holiday Teas at St John the Baptist Capel



BCP - service is from The Book of Common Prayer 1662
CW - service is from Common Worship 2005

Guidelines for your safety and comfort in church

At both churches the wearing of masks inside places of worship is encouraged.
Hand sanitiser will be available for use by the entrance door.
Holy Communion is given in both kinds and the consecrated wine will be served in individual glasses whilst we are still at risk from the pandemic.

Services & Events on website: <https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/>



So, where's your so-called God, then?

April. Spring. Easter. A time of hope and expectation. A war in mainland Europe.

As I write, the unthinkable is happening and the peace that we've all got used to in our part of the world is shattered. Countless innocent men, women and children are suffering and dying at the hands of others sent to impose one man's will on an entire nation. At least this is one conflict where the atheist leader of a country will not claim to have God on his side!

But where is God in all of this? It's a question that many in the world are asking and many in the church are asking too. Those, who are often the first to blame God when things go wrong but don't give him a second thought when life is good, have a point. It's that eternal problem of "how can a good God allow bad things"?

On the one hand, God appears to have resigned himself to the world being a troubled place. Look at the famous passage in Ecclesiastes 3:

A Time for Everything

- 3** There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2** a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3** a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4** a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- 5** a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- 6** a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- 7** a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- 8** a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

That chilling last line is all too resonant right now.

For what it's worth, I think that the problem lies not with a capricious God who changes his mind and teaching on a whim but more with the inability of those He created to live by the loving, caring standards He taught. If you want to see the perfect representation of that you need look no further than Easter, which we remember and celebrate this month. God's son, Jesus, who "knew no sin" was put to death by the very people he had come to show God's love to! Where was God the Father at Easter? He was both on the cross and in the resurrection. Where is God in the Ukraine? He is both in the suffering but also in the courage and tears of those who seek to defend truth and care for the widowed and orphaned. What's the best thing we can do? Cry, "Lord, have mercy", thank God for the grace He has shown us a pray that His peace will become a reality for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine who can only dream at the moment of living in the security and prosperity that we take for granted every day.

Bob Cranham

Café Church this month features the amazing Francis McFaul and meets inside St. John's church. It's a relaxed, welcoming get together for anyone and everyone. The band will play; songs will be sung; poems will be read; there will be laughter; there will be plenty to think about AND there will be FREE coffee and croissants!!!!

SUNDAY 10th April at 10.30am.

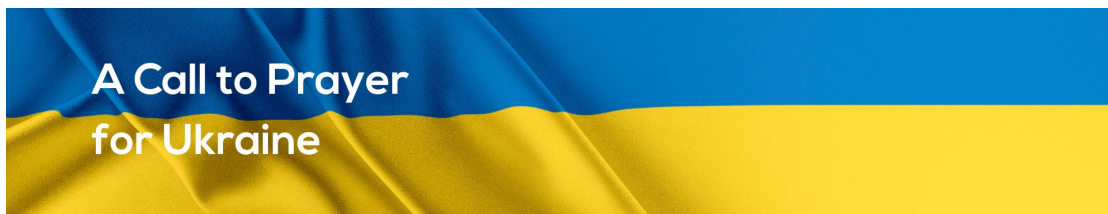


"I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

As we continue to watch with horror the pounding of Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, the Government 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme offers the potential for a number of individuals and church communities to provide profound hands-on help for some of those fleeing for their lives. The Church of England is urgently drawing up resources to help us think through the implications of the scheme (including issues relating to safeguarding); and we are also doing work on the ground here in Guildford, not least in response to queries about vicarages. Unlike our usual practice with the weekly Parish Brief we will send out updates as soon as they become available.

Meanwhile thanks for all that you are already doing in response to the tragedy unfolding before our eyes. All our praying, giving, lobbying and planning is precious in God's sight, as we see the face of Jesus in the desperate faces of those seeking our help.

Bishop Andrew.



Prayer for the People of Ukraine

God of peace, your prophet Isaiah promised
swords would be turned into ploughshares,
and your son's mother Mary proclaimed
the mighty would be put down and the humble exalted:
visit the people of Ukraine;
deliver them from fear, violence,
attack, injury, destruction, death;
and give them courage, solidarity and allies
in their hour of vulnerability and sorrow.
Turn the hearts of those bent on war and invasion.
Strengthen the hand of all seeking to halt conflict,
restore order, and pursue justice.
And make this moment of peril
an occasion for your Holy Spirit to show your world
the cost of conflict and our dependence on one another.
In Christ our Lord, who went to his death because of our hatred,
and rose again because our hatred
is never stronger than your indomitable love.
Amen

Please note that there will
be three special
collections for the
Ukraine crisis in the next
couple of months.
Details on page 10

For more resources go to: <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/i-am-resources/interested-in-supporting-ukraine>



Attack on Ukraine ‘an act of great evil’ - statement from Archbishops of Canterbury and York

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell have condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine as “an act of great evil”. They are urging Christians to keep praying for Ukraine, for Russia, and for peace.

In a joint statement they said: “The horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil. Placing our trust in Jesus Christ, the author of peace, we pray for an urgent ceasefire and a withdrawal of Russian forces. We call for a public decision to choose the way of peace and an international conference to secure long term agreements for stability and lasting peace.”

Praying for Ukraine

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued a pastoral letter to the clergy and people of the Church of England, calling on them to pray for peace in Ukraine.

They wrote: “This attack is an act of evil, imperilling as it does the relative peace and security that Europe has enjoyed for so long. The attack by one nation on a free, democratic country has rightly provoked outrage, sanctions, and condemnation.

“We lament with the people of Ukraine, and we pray for the innocent, the frightened and those who have lost loved ones, homes, and family.

“We continue to call for a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces as well as wide-ranging efforts to ensure peace, stability and security.”

Editor: Bishop Robert Innes, Bishop in Europe, has been to Ukraine many times, as the Anglican church has a chaplaincy in Kiev. Here he calls on Christians in the UK and across Europe to pray for their brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Prayers across Europe for peace in Ukraine

The Bishop in Europe, Bishop Robert Innes, writes:

“Our little church in Kyiv are right at the centre of this crisis,” he explained. “Some of them have fled the city by car, others are still there. These are our people, our brothers and sisters, and of course we are very concerned for their wellbeing and safety.

“In the face of military action and aggression, we feel powerless. What can we do? One thing that we can all do is pray.”

“The situation in Ukraine is very deeply troubling. President Putin is leading a completely unjustified and aggressive war against Ukraine, a war which many ordinary Russians deeply deplore.

Leaders from many Christian churches, including the Ukrainian Orthodox (Russian Patriarchate) Church have condemned the invasion of Ukraine. Our hearts cry out for justice and peace. We are most especially concerned for the wellbeing of those in Ukraine who are directly affected by the war.

This includes particularly the members of our own congregation of Christ Church, Kyiv. The Churchwarden there, Christina, messaged us this morning saying: ‘Please pray for us as we are standing here for our land and for our roots. The battle for Kyiv has begun; it is fierce and intensive. Pray for us.’

In the face of military action, we can easily feel powerless and fearful. But one thing we can do is pray. We can pray in solidarity with those most affected. We can pray that God will yet overrule in the hearts and minds of those with power and authority. We can pray that the victims will be few and that the innocent will be protected. We can pray that peace will come through justice and not through the infliction of the will of a stronger party on a weaker.



Editor: The following is a list of some of the Christian charities which are working in Ukraine.

How YOU could help someone in Ukraine

Ukraine is in crisis. Only God knows how the situation will unfold in the coming days and weeks. Meanwhile, there is a need for food and other basic humanitarian aid.

The following Christian charities are at work in the country, and would welcome your immediate support:

Barnabas Fund. <https://www.barnabafund.org/gb/>

Christian Aid. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

Methodist Church UK. <https://www.allwecan.org.uk>

Operation Mobilisation <https://www.uk.om.org/Appeal/ukraine-in-crisis>

Samaritan's Purse <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk>

Transform Europe Network: <https://www.ten-uk.org>

World Vision <https://www.worldvision.org.uk>

Tree planted at Lambeth Palace as part of The Queen's Green Canopy

The Archbishop of Canterbury has planted a fig tree in the garden at Lambeth Palace as part of The Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "The beauty of trees reminds us of our responsibility to care for God's creation, for each other and for generations to come. It's a fitting tribute to Her Majesty The Queen's seven decades of service, and the trees we plant this year will be a sign of our gratitude and celebration of this remarkable occasion for many decades to come. I encourage everyone to get involved in The Queen's Green Canopy, and plant a tree to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee."

Synod approves rules to help churches meet carbon-reduction target

The Church of England's General Synod has approved new legislation to help churches meet carbon reduction targets.

Most of the changes will make it easier for churches to make adaptations such as insulating pipes, draft-proofing doors and windows, fitting new non fossil fuel boilers, electric pew heaters, electric car charging points and soft furnishings to help worshippers feel warm and comfortable.

Meanwhile the installation of like-for-like fossil fuel boilers and new oil tanks will now be subject to a full faculty application.

The rules come as part of a wide-ranging approach to meet the 2030 net-zero carbon target set by General Synod in February 2020. In July (2022), Synod will discuss a full proposed route-map to net zero which is currently out for consultation.

The changes have been called a "positive and proportionate" part of the Church's response to the Climate Emergency. The proposals do not compel parishes to make changes, but help to foster an informed approach to decisions when they are made.

The Church of England's lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs, Graham Usher, who is Bishop of Norwich, said that the General Synod's 2020 commitment had been "noticed and praised" at the COP26 summit in Glasgow last year.

He said: "Our parish churches can be exemplars, leading the way in communities, for sustainable living." The rules will be laid before Parliament and come into effect on 1st July 2022.

All news articles on these pages from Parish Pump



IN CHURCH AGAIN SOON!
We will publish the date in the weekly notes



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Thank you
Suzanne & Stuart Cole

DON'T FORGET 10% goes to our Parish Churches!

Church Mailing List

Do you know of anyone who would like to be added to the Church mailing list? This would ensure they received the weekly notice sheets and readings, amongst other things.

If so, please get in touch with Debbie von Bergen:- debbievonbergen@icloud.com

We must have their permission before adding them to the list. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

'The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of the church. If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.'

If you have any concerns please contact our Safeguarding Officer:

Leigh Smith 07732825908
leighdesouza@yahoo.com

or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260
liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

This notice will appear each month in InSpire and the contact details for our Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor Jackie Broadfoot will be published in our weekly pew sheets as well as in the Church Contacts section in each issue of Inspire.

Don't forget to recycle your

STAMPS AND OLD PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Don't forget that you can drop off your used printer cartridges in the box in the church porch at Capel. These are sent to a recycling firm who give a small amount towards our church funds.

Also, don't forget to keep bringing your used stamps to church - again a box is in the porch at Capel.

Thank you

2022 CAPEL MILITARY SHOW

The Church and the Capel WI are providing hot refreshments together at this year's Capel Military Show.

CAN YOU HELP AT ALL?

If so, please contact Norman Ede
norman@nightlesscope.co.uk
There will be a sign up sheet in church in due course.

Thank you

Editor's Note ...

There is no Editor's letter this month. My mother has now been in hospital in London for over a month and I've just about managed to produce a slightly shorter version of *InSpire*, but haven't managed the inspiration for a letter as well!

I hope you all enjoy the Easter 2022 issue and you still have the far more important letter which is that of Rev Liz!

Happy Easter to you all! Suzanne

FROM THE REGISTERS

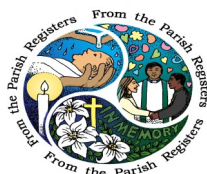
Capel and Ockley

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of

Stephen Frederick John Dendy (John)
7th March 2022

May he rest in peace and rise in glory
Amen



For Ukraine

It was decided at the recent PCC meeting that *three special collections* will be taken in aid of the Ukraine crisis. The collections will be taken on

**Mothering Sunday (27th March),
Easter Sunday (17th April)
and a date in May to be
confirmed.**

Alternatively, you can transfer a donation to the PCC bank account and mark the reference 'For Ukraine'.

Sort Code: 09-01-53 Account no: 89053287

The Pavilion Café

We are open every Wednesday morning from 9 to 12 in the Cricket Pavilion on the green in Ockley.

We serve homemade cakes and savouries and offer a range of teas and fresh coffee. On the last Wednesday of the month we also serve bacon butties which are very popular. We ask for donations and, after expenses, the money goes to charity. We like to donate to our local churches, local amenities and charities and also national ones. We have become very popular over the years and there is plenty of parking and disabled access to the building.



IMPORTANT UPDATE: There are plans to *resume the Post office at the Pavilion in Ockley on a Wednesday morning starting at 11.15am*. Please share this news as it will go if we don't use it! Thank you.

Editor: by Canon David Winter.

An Easter reflection

“When you die, that’s it. Nothing. Out like a light.” That’s what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn’t really quite so certain. Still, it seemed to make sense.

After all, we know what ‘dead’ means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it’s all too easy to go from alive to dead, we’ve got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task at Easter. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died - but didn’t stay dead - in fact, that He’s alive now. That ‘return journey’ has happened, they say.

That’s the problem about Easter, Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn’t that make sense? And wouldn’t that fill the churches again?

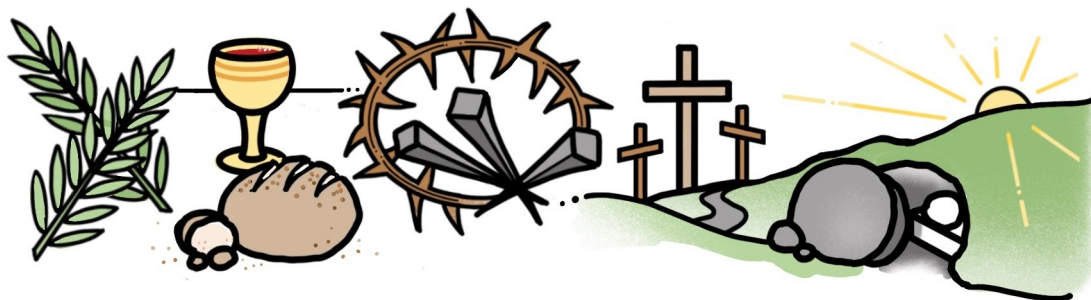
Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn’t be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days.

After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone rolled across the doorway. Yet the following Sunday, the third day after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him.

So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They couldn’t deny His resurrection, because they were absolutely convinced that it had happened. Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn’t have been difficult to prove that a dead man had stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn’t do it, because it couldn’t be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of ‘ordinary’ men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians, and because in many cases their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus - a relationship that wouldn’t make sense if He were dead!

Christians don’t put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in someone who is alive and *active in their own lives and in the world*. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter.



HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS IN APRIL

3rd April: Richard of Chichester, wanting to see 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 3rd 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."*

17th April: EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Editor: David Pickup considers going to church.

Going to church at Easter

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122 1

I read in an old book that Easter Sunday is the one time when everyone *has* to go to church, apart from those who are excommunicated. The book is called *The Parson's Handbook* and was first published in 1899. It was popular and went through various editions until the 1930s. It was written by a cleric called Percy Dearmer, who also made his name in music circles, strongly supported women's ministry and the church's mission to the poor.

For worship style he wanted a return to a distinctly English traditionalism, and his book was a guide to how to take services and much more.

It would be great if more people went to church at Easter, to celebrate the high point of the Christian year. Years ago, many churches would have had six services on the day, starting early to fit everyone in. As Covid ends, will our congregations return to what they were two years ago, or will the steady decline continue?

Sadly, even among keen, committed, Christians, going to church is sometimes thought of as an option. People have busy lives in the week and Sunday is often just another day to 'do stuff'.

But Easter is different. We celebrate the resurrection of the Son of God – and rejoice that, because He lives, so the way is open for us as well. The challenge for the churches now is to build on the tentative faith of some people who turned to services during Covid, and bring back those faithful who have left, as well as speak to the people who would never normally dream of going to church. Not an easy task. Perhaps Dearmer has left us a hint, in being committed to tradition and beauty in worship, but also wanting to embrace the whole mission of the church. We are to witness to the risen Christ!

How to have some happiness this April

'April is the cruellest month,' wrote TS Eliot at the beginning of his magisterial poem, *The Wasteland*. And it is a good description of what April may bring us, between the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices.

But apparently, major problems do not mean that we can't enjoy anything. According to the 'science of happiness,' fuelled by advances in brain-scanning technology and a cultural shift towards seeing happiness as a key index in human development, there is a way through the deep gloom that hangs over this month.

Neuroscientists suggest that even while we are dealing with the big problems of life, we can also make room for 'small, fleeting moments of fulfilment'. These can range from holding the hand of a loved one, to appreciating the daffodils in your garden, to enjoying a cup of tea with a good friend. Such moments of quiet contentment are 'joyful vignettes' which can be the bread and butter of our daily human happiness. As one writer has said: "Hold on to the small moments and the bigger picture of gloom doesn't have to be as overwhelming as it first seems."



April
2022

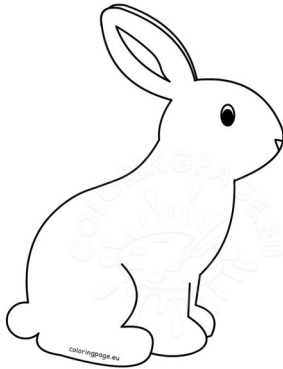
How passion flowers got their name

Why is the passion flower known as the passion flower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens is not native to the UK, but comes from South America. It was first discovered by Spanish missionaries working there, centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.

He decided that the five petals and five sepals could represent the ten disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona could be seen as Jesus' crown of thorns. The stigma could be seen as the cross or nails, and the five stamens could be seen as the number of wounds Jesus received.



RECIPE IDEA



Butterfly or bunny biscuits

These are pretty biscuits for Easter. You will need:

Biscuit: 120g butter; 60g caster sugar; 180g plain flour; a little lemon zest

Icing: a few drops of vanilla essence, icing sugar, lemon juice, few drops of food colouring

Cutters or paper templates in the shape of a butterfly or bunny

Method: Mix together the biscuit ingredients, add water to bind them. Knead the dough, wrap it in cling-film and chill for two hours. Roll out to a thickness of 8mm and cut out the shapes using a butterfly cutter or a paper template. Bake in preheated oven at 180 degrees C (gas mark 4) for 20 minutes. To make the icing, mix the icing sugar with lemon juice and food colouring. Pipe the icing and leave it to set.

Hymns for the lukewarm

The Laodicean church is described in the Bible in the book of The Revelation as being lukewarm. If the Laodiceans were to have a hymnal, suitable for their conviction, here's a list of some of the hymns it may contain:

- Teach Me, Lord, Thy Easy Way
- We Are Milling Around in the Light of God
- When Peace, like a Trickle
- When the Saints Go Sneaking In

Items for Reflection

Editor: Paul Hardingham continues a year-long series on the very foundations of our Christian faith. Here, he considers what the Resurrection achieved.

Christian Basics No 4: What about the Resurrection?

'Easter is not primarily a comfort, but a challenge. Its message is either the supreme fact in history or else a gigantic hoax.' (CS Lewis).

As we celebrate another Easter, what is the significance of Jesus' resurrection for us? As Paul writes, *'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'*. (1 Cor 15:17). What does the New Testament affirm about the resurrection?

It affirms that Jesus' death on the cross was not a defeat but a **victory** over sin, death and Satan, in which we share. *'But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him'* (Acts 2:24).

It points to our own **bodily resurrection** after death, *'The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable'* (1 Cor 15: 42).

It guarantees the **forgiveness** of our sins, *'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'* (1 Cor 15:17).

It ensures that we can know the reality of His **risen life** today, *'just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life'* (Rom 6:4).

The story is told of Russia under the Communist regime. A member of the Communist Party addressed a packed audience at length, seeking to discredit the resurrection of Christ. At the end an Orthodox priest rose and asked if he might reply. He was warned that he only had five minutes. *'Five seconds is all I need!'* He turned to the audience and gave the traditional Easter greeting: *'Christ is risen!'* Back with a deafening roar came the traditional reply: *'He is risen indeed!'*

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White continues her series on aspects of Christianity.

Reflected Faith Series: Togetherness

Last month we began our Lenten journey with ashes on Ash Wednesday, reminding us of our beginning and our ending; and this month we will conclude that time with Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Such a relatively short time for so great a distance.

I'm reminded of this by the opening words used in Church of England services at the Palm Sunday services:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord's death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the Church throughout the world. Christ enters His own city to complete His work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with Him in faith and love, so that, united with Him in His sufferings, we may share His risen life.

It's all about togetherness.

Together as a small group of people in that one church where we worship. Together with 'the' church across all denominations and throughout the world. Together with Christ Himself.

It's one of the reasons that we process on Palm Sunday. Ideally a joyful and noisy procession with banners and rejoicing – reminding us of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as much as into our own lives.

Continued on page 17

This month

It's in this joy wherein lies the contrast with our solemn and silent procession on Good Friday. We need them both. One on its own doesn't tell the full story. Just like a play on Good Friday without its follow-up on Easter Sunday leaves you hanging.

We all know that social media tends to only show happy occasions but that underneath all those meals and holidays and smiling faces there can be great heartaches and sorrows. It's the togetherness of both of those emotions where the true depth of joy is to be found and not on the surfaces.

How do we greet Christ anew on Resurrection Sunday without the devastating loss of Good Friday, or that long week travelling in and out of the city walls? May you find real joy in togetherness this Easter!

Editor: The Ven John Barton considers the most famous of all Handel's works.

Handel's Messiah

The original idea was not Handel's, but his collaborator's, Charles Jennens, a passionate Christian who wanted to demonstrate that Jesus really was the 'Christ', or Messiah. This was being denied by Deists in the 18th Century, who believed God created the world and then stayed distant from it.

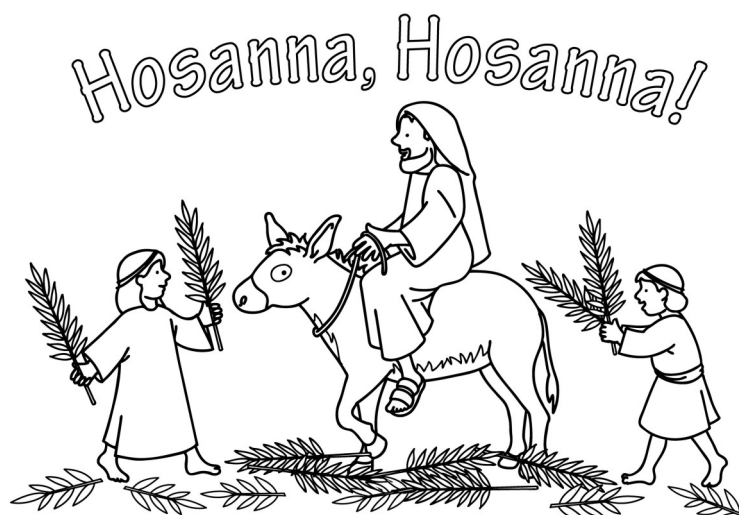
Jennens combed the Old Testament for texts which anticipated God's continuing activity in the world, with the expectation of greater things to come: *Comfort ye my people; Every valley shall be exalted; And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed ...* and so on. Then there were poignant passages anticipating suffering, with deep significance for Christians: *Behold the Lamb of God; He was despised; Surely He hath borne our griefs.*

Throughout the work, there is the strong sense that God is both omnipotent and also intimately involved with the human race: *How beautiful are the feet; the kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ.* The Hallelujah Chorus, the best known of the work, concludes the second part of 'Messiah', before the focus shifts mainly to the New Testament and Christ's resurrection and triumph: *The trumpet shall sound; Death where is thy sting; and finally, Worthy is the Lamb.*

Handel composed the music in 24 days, writing across the final manuscript, "To the glory of God". As he finished the Hallelujah Chorus, he said, "I did think I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself."

The work caused a stir by being presented in concert halls, rather than churches where some felt sacred works belonged. The first performance was in Dublin in 1742 and raised funds for charities. One of the soloists was Susanna Cibber, a woman of questionable reputation, whose rendering of "He was despised" so moved the Revd Patrick Delaney, that he cried out, "Woman, for this be all thy sins forgiven thee".

German-born Handel, who became a British subject and whose finances were sometimes precarious, didn't always get on with the wealthy Jennens, but the two men shared a single mission. The oratorio 'Messiah' is the result.



Quotes for April

Editor: looking forward through Lent to Palm Sunday and Easter ...

Good Friday, in a way...is not Good Friday at all. It is Black Friday - a very Black Friday. It is Good Friday only in the sense that we know Easter will follow. - *J E Lantz*

He has outsoared the shadow of our night; envy and calumny and hate and pain,
And that unrest which men miscall delight, can touch Him not nor torture Him again.
- *Percy Bysshe Shelley*

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption... It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. - *1 Corinthians 15:42-4*

If we would live aright, it must be by the contemplation of Christ's death. - *C H Spurgeon*

He Himself was forsaken that none of His children might ever need to utter His cry of loneliness. - *J H Vincent*

Easter is when everybody dresses up for Jesus' big coming out party. - *Anon*

Christ's blood is heaven's key. - *Thomas Brooks*

This precious Lamb of God gave up His precious fleece for us. - *Christopher Nesse*

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. - *Edward Thomson*

The Lord who vacated His tomb has not vacated His throne. - *G R Beasley-Murray*

All history is incomprehensible without Christ. - *Ernest Renan*

The cross of Jesus Christ is a two-way street; we have been brought to God and God has been brought to us. - *Donald Grey Barnhouse*

Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear; not the Jews, for envy; but the Father, for love! - *Octavious Winslow*

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

The doctrine of the death of Christ is the substance of the gospel. - *Stephen Charnock*

The wounds of Christ were the greatest outlets of His glory that ever were. The divine glory shone more out of His wounds than out of all His life before. - *Robert Murray M'Cheyne*

On Good Friday, the most sacred day of the year, when God's justice and mercy are intertwined, I take heart for myself and the whole human race by meditating on this text: "There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people". [1 Timothy 2:5) - *Archbishop John Sentamu*

© *Parish Pump*

True, but odd

The Bible is among the topmost shoplifted books in the world, according to several sources, including CNN and the New York Times.

HIGH DAYS & HOLY DAYS IN APRIL

Editor: This helpful overview is an edited version of an article that comes from: <https://christianity.org.uk/article/the-first-easter>.

10th – 17th April – An overview of Passion Week

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week. It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, 'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

17th April: Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

The following list of witnesses may help you put all those references in order....

Mary Magdalene	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
Other women at the tomb	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travellers on the road	Mark 16:12,13
10 disciples behind closed doors	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
11 disciples WITH Thomas	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
7 disciples while fishing	John 21:1-14
11 disciples on the mountain	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of 500	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother – James	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who saw the Ascension	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8



PRAYER DIARY

APRIL 2022

Compiled by Belinda Kerry

'Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. 'Abba, Father,' he said, 'everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.' Mark 14:35-36

HOPE

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.' Romans 5:1-2

FRIDAY 1st

God of Power, we come before You today helpless and weak. We need Your hope for a better life, Lord and for a better world. We ask that You fill us from head to toe with Your everlasting light, Your love and Your peace.

SATURDAY 2nd

Dear Lord, You are the hope of all who trust in You, the wisdom of all who serve You and the unifier of all who worship You. We thank You for Your presence in our lives.

SUNDAY 3rd

Loving Father, may You show us the greatness of Your goodness, that we may overflow with thanks every day. May You bless us abundantly with rest for the heart, power for virtue, wisdom for life, and patience in suffering. May You bless us with joyful hope.

INCLUSION

'But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.' James 3:17

MONDAY 4th

Holy Spirit, help us to remember that the body is made up of many parts, each one unique and every one necessary. Teach us to embrace diversity and to overcome the discomfort that may arise from it. May we celebrate the fact that we are unified through the blood of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY 5th

Dear Lord, forgive us when we build a wall between ourselves and those we may consider different from us in body or mind. Grant us wisdom and understanding. Give us the grace to include all people in our communities.

WEDNESDAY 6th

Merciful Father, just as You welcome us into Your kingdom, help us to love each other deeply, offer hospitality to one another without grumbling, and encourage each other to use the gifts we have received by Your grace.

FRIDAY 8th

God of Love, we thank You for Your presence in our lives. We ask that You teach us to love our neighbour, have compassion on them and embrace diversity so that we truly understand what it is to love.

SATURDAY 9th

Lord, we pray for an end to discrimination in all its forms. We pray that each person will be valued and respected as a child of God. We pray that each of us will be cleansed of any feeling of racism or discrimination.

SUNDAY 10th

God of Hope, we pray for all those in the world who are suffering injustice. We pray for those who are discriminated against because of their race, sexuality, colour or religion. We pray for those who are deprived of basic health care and education.

HOLY WEEK

"When the centurion and all those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'. " Matthew 27:54

MONDAY 11th

Loving Father, during this week, help us to keep in mind our Saviour's gift and promise of new, abundant and eternal life for all who believe and trust in You.

TUESDAY 12th

Merciful Lord, we pray that we would not be counted as the doubters hiding in the shadows or deny You as Peter did. We give thanks that You are there when we call on Your name for forgiveness bringing us comfort, peace and love.

WEDNESDAY 13th

Dear Lord, we may have been affected by many sad items in the news recently. Help us to turn our eyes to the One who comes in Your Name, and to call on the One who opens the gates of righteousness.

THURSDAY 14th

Servant God, You sent Your Son into the world and before His hour had come, He washed the feet of His disciples. Help us to strengthen our will for love and for service.

GOOD FRIDAY 15th

Heavenly Father, 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 we pray. Help us to feel how close You are, help us to live in union with You.

SATURDAY 16th

Father God, as we come to You in prayer, remove the thoughts of this world that demand our attention. Be risen anew in our hearts as the light of Easter dawns tomorrow.

EASTER SUNDAY 17th

Hallelujah! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed! Gracious God, we praise You for the light of new life made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus and we pray that the Easter hope of light, life and joy will live in our hearts each and every day.

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 18th

Dear Lord, 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 our lives might be reborn.

TUESDAY 19th

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

WEDNESDAY 20th

Lord our Provider, 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 21st

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 22nd

Loving Father, we thank You that You are close to us. We can do all things through You for You are the source of our strength. Let all we do honour You, Father. As you encourage us, let us be an encouragement to those around us.

SATURDAY 23rd

Saviour God, we pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit so that we will keep Your essential commands; to believe in our Lord, to love one another and to confess our sins.

SUNDAY 24th

Father, You defeated death to demonstrate a love that is beyond our understanding but that reaches out to us all. May the communion bread and wine open our eyes and our hearts to a deeper communion with You in all our praise and worship.

LIGHT

'Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.' Psalm 119:105.

MONDAY 25th

Father, help us to live for Christ and to glow with His love so that we may show others what Christ is like. We pray that we will have the courage to speak and the wisdom to explain our reflected light to others.

TUESDAY 26th

Dear Lord, may we accept with all our hearts the great news that You are with us and when we ask You to come into our lives, Your light will shine out to others to invite them to the feast! Let us pray with the understanding that You will hear our prayer and grant us Your mercy and Your grace.

WEDNESDAY 27th

Loving Father, help us to remove whatever covers and obscures Your light; complacency, resentment, embarrassment, stubbornness or disobedience.

THURSDAY 28th

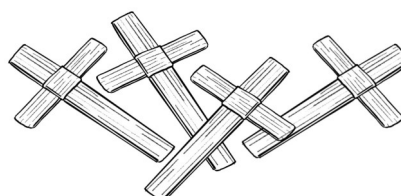
Almighty God, we thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. When we follow His light we can avoid falling into sin. He lights the path ahead so that we can see how to live. Let Christ guide our lives so that we need never stumble.

FRIDAY 29th

Dear Lord, hear our prayer and let the radiance of Your love scatter the gloom of our hearts. The Light of Heaven has restored us to life. Free us, we pray, from the desires that belong to the darkness.

SATURDAY 30th

Precious Saviour, we thank You for the light and warmth of the sun in the longer days of Spring. Send the radiance of Your light to shine in our hearts. Keep us true to Your teaching and free us from error and sin.



The Good, the Bad and the Impossible'

by Chris Cooper

Part 2 (First part published in the March 2022 issue)

The inspiration was still East Grinstead, and it was to take many more years of fundraising and plain digging to remove the last obstacle, the Imberhorne rubbish tip! Over many years, since the original line was lifted, the local council had used the empty cutting, sixty foot deep and over a quarter of a mile long, as a dump. We were told many times that moving the tip was impossible but then the whole project was impossible according to many. Now as I watched the rubbish being loaded into railways trucks by three huge diggers, the words ***"I am the Resurrection and the Life"*** as spoken by the Lord, came to me. Through him we had shifted 80,000 tons of rubbish, built a five mile long line, restored a viaduct and spent £11.5 million in today's money.

So why do we do all this? The answer to me lies in giving access to the countryside south of East Grinstead to all those who do not have cars. To promote enjoyment and to enhance the life experience of others. To make a physical connection with the Main Line so as to be able to accept through trains from other parts of the United Kingdom, and to provide instruction to those at school as to how railways were built and most of all why they were.

To me, I visualise life as a journey with all it's ups and downs, challenges and solutions. John Bunion calls it 'Pilgrim's Progress'. In Ely, the Pickering tomb epitaph claims: ***"The line to heaven by Christ was made, with Heavenly truth the rails were laid, from Earth to Heaven the line extends, to eternal life where it ends."*** To me, the Bluebell brings joy to many, especially the disabled. I well remember the story of a young man who had an accident on his motorbike. He was badly injured and had lost his speech. His mother had tried shining lights and other therapies to get him to talk, but to no avail. As he was interested in railways, she asked us to provide books on the Bluebell. I suggested "Bluebell Steam in Retrospect", and as a result, while he was looking at the cover suddenly shouted "BLUEBELL!". His voice slowly returned and I saw it as a miracle from God, that I will never forget.

I am sure that there have been other miracles too to a lesser extent, when I see the faces on the children from the nearby Chailey Heritage school. Their faces light up on seeing the steam engines and they always seem happy when they leave. I have known during my time at the railway, at least one person who came depressed, but left uplifted. So we bring joy, excitement, education and the atmosphere of the steam era to many, whilst someone else wants to close us down because we burn coal.

Who will win?

By Chris Cooper

Chris Cooper has been awarded a Lifetime achievement Award by the National Transport Trust of Great Britain, which was presented by HRH the Princess Royal on 20th October 2021.

Some general observations on the spiritual side of life:

No amount of good deeds can make us good persons. We must be good before we can do good. - *Chester A Pennington*

As Christ is the root by which a saint grows, so is He the rule by which a saint walks. - *Anon*

Can't sleep? Try counting your blessings. - *Anon*

Christians are like tea; their strength is drawn out by hot water. - *Anon*

Some minds are like concrete - all mixed up and permanently set. - *Anon*

Don't wait for the hearse to take you to church! - *Anon*

Editor: Tim Lenton looks back on an outstanding composer.

Remembering Johannes Brahms

Some 125 years ago, on 3rd April 1897, Johannes Brahms, the German composer, piano virtuoso and conductor, died – of either pancreatic or liver cancer.

He had been something of a child prodigy: his father was poor and worked as a jobbing musician, mainly on double bass and French horn, but later his prospects improved. It has been suggested that the very young Johannes played in dance halls and similar establishments to supplement the family income, but this is not certain.

He was undeniably a brilliant composer and pianist, his writing having been praised as both classically traditionalist (he was strong on structure) and Romantic. Robert Schumann was so impressed with his talent that he wrote an essay entitled "New Paths", which gave Brahms a lot of publicity. They also became close friends. When Schumann succumbed to mental illness and died in 1856, Brahms based himself in Düsseldorf with Schumann's widow Clara. Their precise relationship is unclear, but they were undoubtedly close.

Earlier, in 1850, he met the Hungarian violinist Ede Reményi and gave a number of recitals with him – leading to the presence of "gypsy-style" music in some of his most popular compositions.

Brahms composed for symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, piano, organ, voice, and chorus. He played piano at the premieres of many of his own works.

Brahms was baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran church, but he was regarded as an agnostic and a humanist, much to the horror of the devout Catholic composer Antonín Dvořák.

Asked by conductor Karl Reinthaler to add specifically Christian text to his acclaimed *German Requiem*, Brahms is reported to have said: "I would gladly omit even the word German and instead use Human ... and I would dispense with passages like John 3:16."

Editor: Tim Lenton considers the founder of the famous Morse Code

Remembering Samuel Morse of Morse Code

Samuel Morse died 150 years ago, on 2nd April 1872. The American artist and inventor is best known for developing a commercial single-wire telegraph system - and the Morse Code, with his friend Alfred Vail.

He was born in 1791 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, the son of Calvinist preacher and geographer Jedidiah Morse. He found a great deal of interest in lectures on electricity, which was then poorly understood. His parents were somewhat disconcerted that he also enjoyed painting miniature portraits.

It was in 1832, while returning by ship from Europe, that Morse had the idea of a commercial electric telegraph – after hearing a conversation about the newly discovered electromagnet. The idea of an electric telegraph had been put forward in 1753, but Morse believed it could be put into action.

His eagerness stemmed partly from an early tragedy. His first wife Lucretia was taken seriously ill in 1825 while he was working on a portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette in Washington, but the message took ages to reach him by horse messenger. By the time he got home to Connecticut, his wife was not only dead, but buried.

By 1838 he and Vail had developed the system of dots and dashes that became known throughout the world as the Morse Code, and by 1844 the first telegraph line in the United States, from Baltimore to Washington, was completed, and he sent the first message: "What hath God wrought?" This had been suggested to him by Annie Ellworth, the teenage daughter of the commissioner of patents.

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PUZ?LES

The last Passover

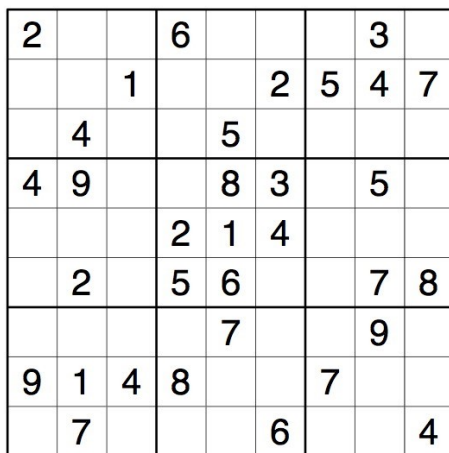
On the night before He died, Jesus ate His last Passover meal with His disciples. He then transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying of the bread and wine that, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood'. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was preparing to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died *at the same time* that the Passover lambs were killed.

Jesus then astonished the disciples by washing their feet. He said: "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another. In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'maundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command).



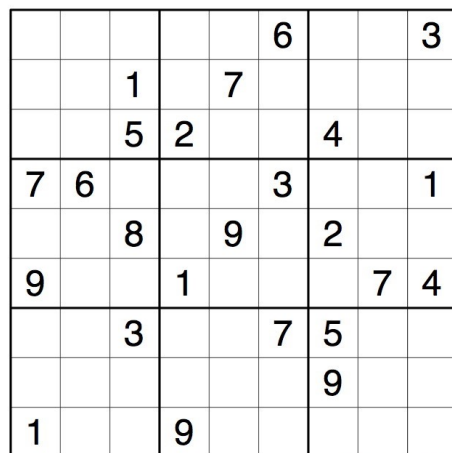
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|-------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| Passover | Lord | Blood | World | Washing |
| Ate | Supper | Lamb | John | Love |
| Last | Bread | God | Gospel | Command |
| Disciples | Wine | Die | Killed | Service |
| Transformed | Body | Sins | Feet | Maundy |

Easy Soduko



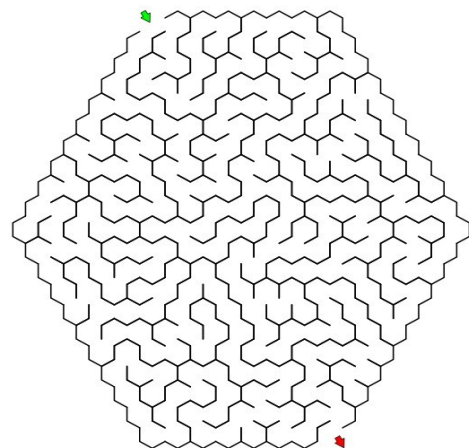
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Medium Soduko



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Puzzle Solutions on page 26



An Easter prayer

Karh Barth was the prominent Protestant theologian of his day. Much of his life was devoted to resisting the Nazis.

O Lord God, our Father, You are the light that can never be put out; and now You give us a light that shall drive away all darkness. You are love without coldness, and you have given us such warmth in our hearts that we can love all when we meet. You are the love that defies death, and you have opened for us the way that leads to eternal life.



None of us is a great Christian; we are all humble and ordinary. But your grace is enough for us. Arouse in us that small degree of joy and thankfulness of which we are capable, to the timid faith which we can muster...to the wholeness of life which you have prepared for all of us through the death and resurrection of your Son. Do not allow any of us to remain apathetic or indifferent to the wondrous glory of Easter, but let the light of our risen Lord reach every corner of our dull hearts.



Palms

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, young James stayed home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," James fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up."

Puzzle Solutions

Easy Sudoku solution

2	5	7	6	4	8	1	3	9
8	6	1	3	9	2	5	4	7
3	4	9	1	5	7	6	8	2
4	9	6	7	8	3	2	5	1
7	8	5	2	1	4	9	6	3
1	2	3	5	6	9	4	7	8
6	3	2	4	7	1	8	9	5
9	1	4	8	3	5	7	2	6
5	7	8	9	2	6	3	1	4

Medium Sudoku solution

2	7	9	4	8	6	1	5	3
4	8	1	3	7	5	6	2	9
6	3	5	2	1	9	4	8	7
7	6	4	5	2	3	8	9	1
3	1	8	7	9	4	2	6	5
9	5	2	1	6	8	3	7	4
8	9	3	6	4	7	5	1	2
5	2	7	8	3	1	9	4	6
1	4	6	9	5	2	7	3	8

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

Wordsearch Solution

Editor: finally, some miscellaneous observations on life:

The real purpose of a child's full name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Never buy a car you can't push.

City life: Millions of people being lonesome together. – *Thoreau*

Conference: The confusion of one person multiplied by the number present. – *Anon*

Commuter: A person who has a complaint of longstanding. – *Anon*

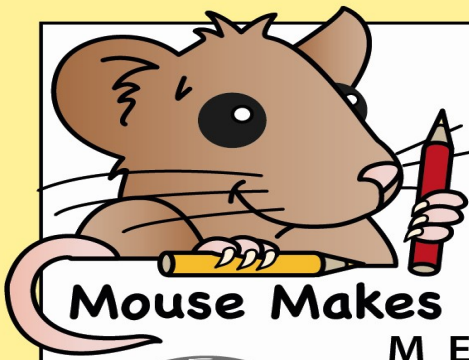
Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly. – *Anon*

This is not my bald patch; it's a solar panel for brain power. – *Anon*

Why was the Easter bunny upset? *He was having a bad hare day.*

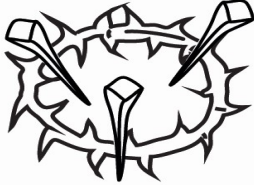
What is Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? Hip-hop, of course!

What do you call a rabbit that can tell a good joke? A funny bunny.



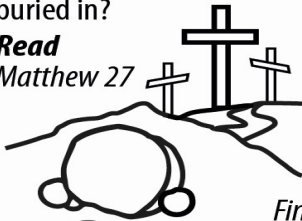
Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?

Read Matthew 26:17-75



What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?
What time did Jesus die?
Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?

Read Matthew 27



HAPPY EASTER!
Jesus has risen!
Jesus is with us!
Jesus will come again!

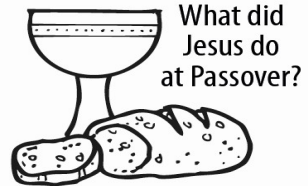
M E S S I A H W I N E
E T R E D O N K E Y
A Q C H R I S T I T P
L R G O D H A O S H A
R O B E A E N V T R S
A O O B R A N C H E S
N M J O K V A P O E O
G O O D N E W S R D V
E R Y Y E N V A N A E
L N J E S U S V S Y R
P I B D S Q U I P S C
E N L I N E N O I C U
A G O T E L L U R R P
C R O W N N D R I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

Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:
DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER



What did Jesus send the disciples to find?
What did the crowd do?

Read Matthew 21:1-11

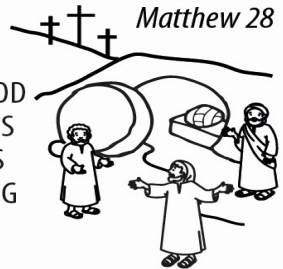


Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?
What had happened to Jesus?

Read Matthew 28



Wishing all our readers a very Happy Easter

'I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.'

John 16.28



He is Risen

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to
Suzanne Cole editor@capelandockleychurch.org.uk **By 25th of each month please.**
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