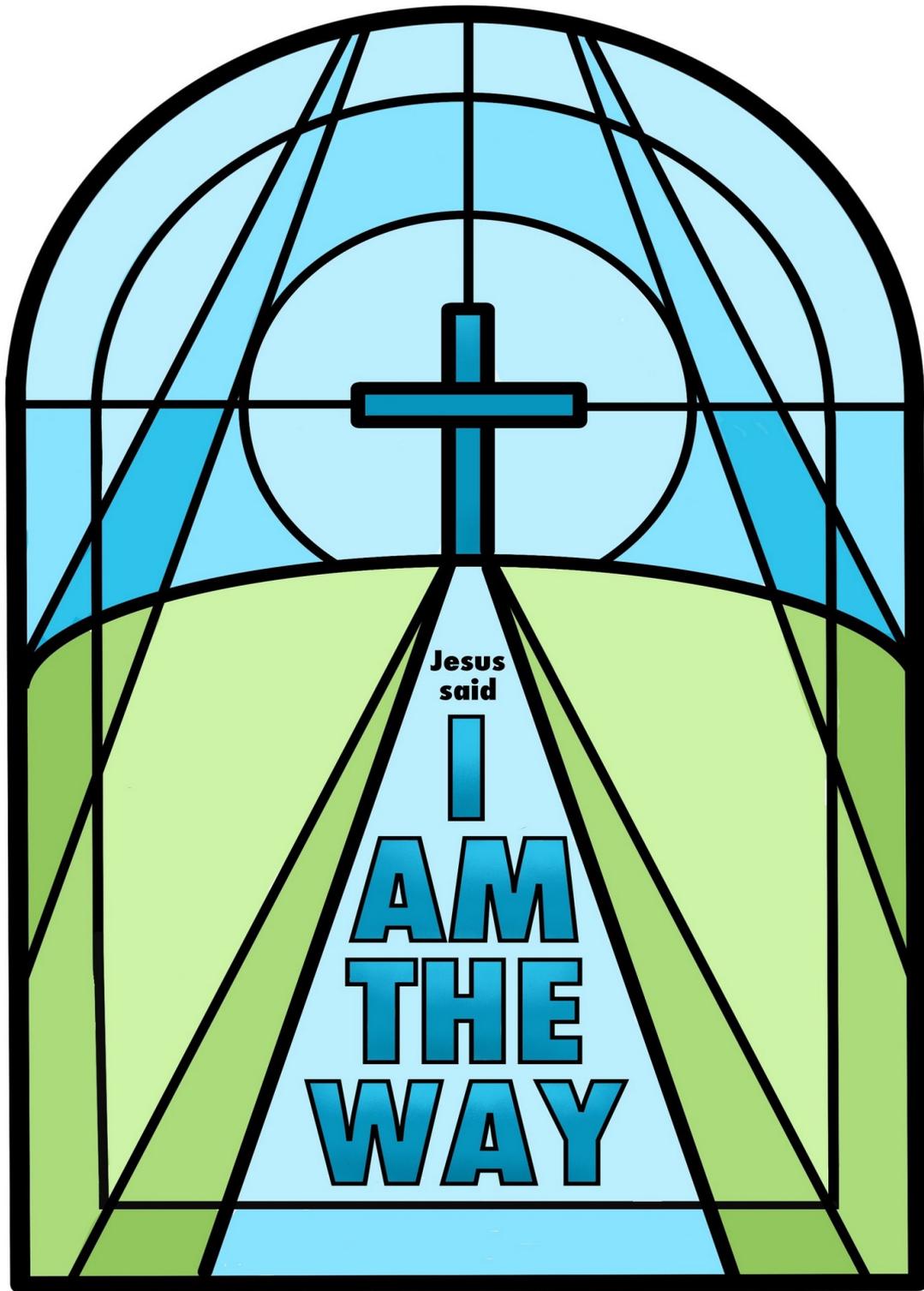


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# InSpire

Issue 82 April 2024

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley

St. John's, Capel

invites you to

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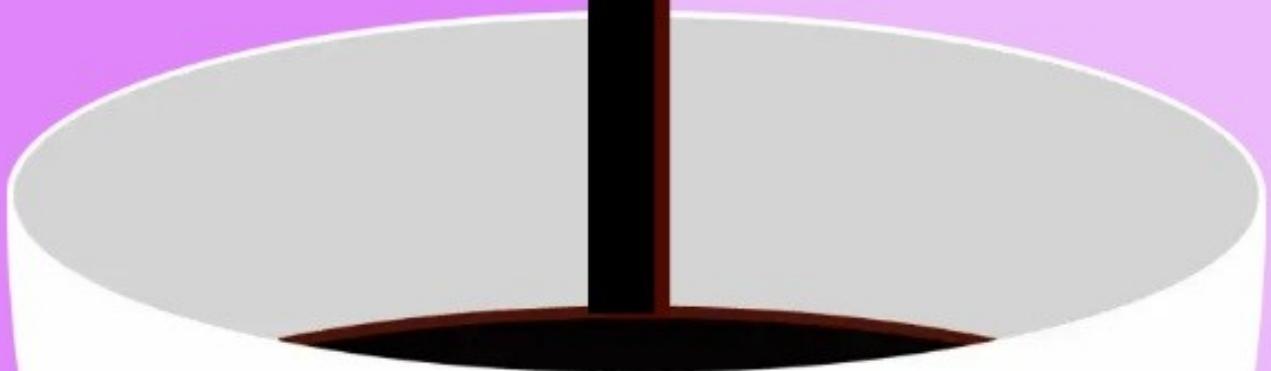
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*What is the biblical meaning of April? April is **the month for celebrating new beginnings!** On the biblical Hebrew calendar, in the months of Nisan and Iyar, we celebrate the children of Israel being released from bondage to the Egyptians.*

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[www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine](http://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine)

This issue is sponsored by

Margaret Zandonna

"In Memory of my beloved mother who remains forever in my heart"

Thank you Margaret for your support of InSpire

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## Rev Liz writes

Dear Friends,

How lovely that April has arrived. I hope, like you all I'm sure, that we have less rain, that the famous April showers won't appear. I think we have all had enough rain to last us the year but of course the reality of weather patterns are never quite right for the growing conditions our country needs.

At the beginning of this month we are holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting after the morning service in Capel. All are welcome to come and join us as we hand out the annual reports and generally review the last year's activities - April 23 to March 24. It was a year which saw King Charles' Coronation and what a stunning weekend that was in our village! With Capel's Got Talent, live screening of the Coronation itself, a wonderful afternoon tea at our lovely Crown Pub and a weekend long Flower Festival at Church. Two special services of Commemoration at St Margaret's and St John the Baptist where we were joined by children of Scott Broadwood wearing their crowns and special clothes for the occasion. There they were presented to our Deputy Lord Lieutenant Brigadier Roger Hood in a special royal parade which was very special. Oh and we mustn't forget the volunteering day on the Sunday where a village litter pick took place and some of us had a workout trying to bring some order to the school front garden. A terrific weekend and one which in part will be replicated by the same organising committee to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings which will take place in June.

Then the church's fundraising began in earnest in July with our refreshments stall at Capel Military Show, followed in August by a food stall at the Capel Show. October saw much fun with our annual Murder Mystery play and supper in both villages. Finally in November some more funds were raised (shared with the Motor Neurone Disease Association) through the Capel Christmas Fair. The monies we raise through these events help us maintain a clergy/ministry presence in Capel and Ockley amongst other things. If you would like to know more about our finances then do visit our Annual Report detailed on our website [www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk](http://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk) or better still come to our APCM at 11.45am on Sunday 7th April!

Meanwhile Sunday by Sunday we have met to worship our risen Lord in both churches in Capel and Ockley, with traditional and contemporary services on offer. We will shortly be returning to our monthly Cafe Church meeting outside in the Crown garden as the weather hopefully improves. Meanwhile Bob and the Band have led us each month throughout the year with Christian music and song, 'Thought for the Day', poetry and scripture accompanied by coffee and croissants! We had a memorable Cafe Church last August along with the parish churches of Ewhurst, Okewood and Forest Green in the Okewood Show marquee. As Autumn began, we observed the whole season of Creationtide exploring themes of God's creation and our care and stewardship of it.

Ministry wise, we have rejoiced with those celebrating joyful events of marriage and baptism and accompanied those who require our help with laying their loved ones to rest. We particularly remember with love all those who have died this year. Capel Church Teas have kept us well fed with tea and cake throughout the year along with so many others who work tirelessly to keep our two churches functioning as they should. I am so proud of our wonderful parish and all who are part of our church family. Most particularly though I am honoured and still have to pinch myself to believe that I am called to serve you, our wonderful community, as your parish Vicar. God bless you all!

With my love and prayers

*Liz*

**Revd Liz Richardson**

[liz@hostmyserver.co.uk](mailto:liz@hostmyserver.co.uk) 01306 711260

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

# CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - APRIL 2024 at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley

## APRIL

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1st</b> 3-5pm	<b>Easter Monday</b> Capel Church Teas
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7th</b> 9.30am 10.3am 11.45am	<b>First Sunday of Easter</b> Matins - Ockley Family Communion with Baptism - Capel Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Capel
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14th</b> 9.30am 10.30am	<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> Holy Communion CW - Ockley Cafe Church
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21st</b> 9.30am	<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> Parish Communion Ockley
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28th</b> 9.30	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> Parish Communion Capel

## MAY

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5th</b> 9.30am 10.30am 3-5pm	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> Matins - Ockley Family Communion Capel Capel Church Teas
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*Don't forget you can find details of all events & services on our website!*

<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>



Lent Appeal 2024



## Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund Lent Appeal 2024

### Lent Appeal for those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and the Covid pandemic

Good News! As a Parish we raised **£450.00** for this year's Appeal. Again, sincere thanks to Joy and Helen for providing such delicious lunches every Wednesday in Lent and thank you to those who came and enjoyed the lunches and gave generously.



## Exploring how the wisdom of St Benedict Supports and Guides us through our Lives

The Group will meet monthly for 2-3 hours. Days and times to be decided. Each month the group will read a chapter of the Rule of St. Benedict and reflect on how the wisdom that it contains can guide and support us in the many challenges we face in our daily lives.

In between meetings, members of the group will practice aspects of Benedict's Rule that has been the subject of the meeting. At the next meeting, the group members may share and reflect on what benefits this has brought to our everyday lives. A couple of times a year, the group will spend a day at St. Mary's Abbey in West Malling. There will be talk on one key aspect of the Benedictine way of life. Time to reflect in silence and to join with the community in the Daily Offices (if wished).

This course is a part of our Parish Development Plan (PDP) - Discipling the Core. Going forward, members of the group may wish to run Benedictine Spirituality Groups within the Parish.

If you are interested in exploring Benedictine Spirituality and its relevance to our every day lives, please email:

[joanna.elvidge1@googlemail.com](mailto:joanna.elvidge1@googlemail.com) with your name, together with the days and times that are best for you.

## New! CollecTin

We will shortly be introducing our new collection taker: CollecTin as pictured. This is our new creditcard donations machine that we have purchased with help (and a grant!) from the central Church of England. By all means familiarise yourself and if you would like to test it out you are more than welcome!

Our sincere thanks to Dineke for organising this new initiative. We hope it proves a new and valuable source of income as so many people attending services including baptisms, weddings etc. do not have cash on them. A great new initiative!

*Photo courtesy of Dineke van den Bogerd*



## SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

*This notice will appear each month in InSpire*

'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 732825908

[leighdesouza@yahoo.com](mailto:leighdesouza@yahoo.com)

or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 [liz@hostmyserver.co.uk](mailto:liz@hostmyserver.co.uk)

**Update January 2024:** New diocesan contact number for reporting safeguarding concerns:  
[safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk)

## How a 96-year-old law could stop Easter hopping around the calendar

*The 1928 Easter Act gives parliament the power to set the date of the long weekend, but there has been little appetite for it. Is that about to change?*

Jack Blackburn

History Correspondent

Friday March 29 2024, 10.00pm, The Times

This Easter is not overflowing with the joys of spring. It promises rain, wind and sleepiness as the clock change robs the four-day weekend of a precious hour. It's the price of an early Easter, but there is a law which could prevent it.

For 96 years, the statute book has had a trigger which would fix the date of Easter in early April. The law has lain dormant since the moment it was given royal assent as the conditions for its use have never been satisfied — but a movement could be building to change that.

In recent years the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, has expressed support for the idea and Anglican leaders discussed the matter with Catholic and Orthodox.

### The Pavilion Café

**Every Wednesday at Ockley Cricket Club Pavilion  
9 am until midday**

Come and enjoy a warm welcome and a delicious range of homemade cakes and savouries - including gluten/dairy free. Bacon butties every fourth Wednesday and freshly made teas and coffees.

The Pavilion Café was originally the idea of Kindred Spirits, the women's outreach group from Ockley, Okewood and Forest Green Parish, 11 years ago. It is run by a team of volunteers in support of charities, local charitable causes and Ockley events.

If you would like to volunteer, please let Liz know! 07951 710176  
lizthorne2053@hotmail.co.uk



## ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING SUNDAY 7TH APRIL 2024 11.45AM

This year the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will be held on Sunday April 7th at 11.45am at St John the Baptist Chapel. Please join us for this annual meeting where we can come together to review the past year in our wonderful parish. If you wish to be elected to serve on the PCC please complete a nomination form, with Proposer and Secunder and hand it to the Chairman or Secretary at the beginning of the APCM. Annual reports are available in advance of the meeting. If you'd like to read a copy, please see online at our parish website ([www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk](http://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk)) or pick up a copy in church.

## Café Church— April 2024

Happy Easter. Yes, the annual festival traditionally represented by fluffy chicks, chocolate eggs and hot cross buns is with us again, along with all the commercial hype that seems to accompany every special event on the calendar. Did you know, for example, that in the run up to Easter, Cadbury's Birmingham factory produces 1.5 million cream eggs.....every day!

Good Friday this year falls on 29<sup>th</sup> March and on one list of "special days" I found on the internet, Good Friday is listed 6<sup>th</sup> below, and I kid you not, World Piano Day, National Lemon Chiffon Cake Day and International Mermaid Day! Really? How has the world come to a point where the most important event in human history, the death and resurrection of Jesus, is considered less important than Niagara Falls Runs Dry Day?

Perhaps it's because we choose to turn away rather than look on what St. Paul calls, "the offence of the cross"? We wouldn't be alone. After all, even those closest to Jesus, his disciples, were nowhere to be seen at the crucifixion. Only the gospel of John mentions one disciple who was "near the cross". It's not as though people are not drawn to scenes of tragedy. A serious accident on a motorway will see drivers slowing down to look at the carnage; people watched live television coverage of the 9/11 attacks as terrified office workers jumped to their deaths from the twin towers; we look for constant updates on the daily news from the war in Ukraine or the hostilities in Gaza and watch in awe at videos of the "precision bombing" of targets in which soldiers/civilians/terrorists/children lose their lives in an instant. So, why is it then that this seemingly unquenchable human appetite for the distressing and obscene is suddenly ignored when it comes to the cross? Maybe it's because it's personal. Maybe it's the realisation that the only reason a good man who has done no wrong is hanging there is because of us? Yes - you and me! Maybe it's because we have lost sight of the fact that the cross represents a Holy God's last, desperate attempt to get His fallen creation to realise once and for all that He loves us so much that He is prepared to allow His only son, Jesus, to make the ultimate sacrifice in order that our sins can be forgiven and we have an open door back to our Creator?

Does that all sound ridiculous, an awful fairy tale, a medieval myth? Well, it would be if it wasn't for the fact that God had been telling the world for hundreds of years through His many prophets exactly where Jesus would be born, what he would do, who would betray him, how he would die, why he would die and, finally, how he would conquer death through his resurrection. We have all "fallen short of the glory of God", i.e. done and said things that we know were wrong and harmed others and ourselves, but we *all* have the opportunity to place those things at the foot of the cross and move forward in a new life. Could it be that we should finally pluck up the courage to turn *towards* the cross and accept the eternal life that Jesus offers us rather than stay glued to the screens that show us only death and destruction?

Bob Cranham

**Café Church meets at St. John's Church, Capel  
on  
Sunday 14th April at 10.30am**

**Expect music, discussion, poetry, laughter and  
free coffee and croissants!**

**Informal – Inclusive – Inspiring**



## Living in Love and Faith: ‘the work goes on’ Bishop Martyn tells General Synod

Firm proposals for a settlement to enable the C of E to move forward together amid deep differences on questions of sexuality and marriage will be developed over the next few months, General Synod has heard.

The Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow - the lead bishop for the ‘Living in Love and Faith’ process – spoke of the growing desire in parishes for the C of E “to reach agreement and get on with serving our nation.”

This General Synod was the first since the prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and seeking God’s blessing for same-sex couples (known as Prayers of Love and Faith) came into use during public worship in the Church of England.

Separate proposals for special standalone services for same-sex couples to be formally authorised under canon law are also under consideration, alongside questions including clergy entering same-sex marriages and whether new structures may be needed to hold the Church together in a new context.

The debate concluded without a vote on the main motion after Synod members agreed to a procedural motion to move to next business.

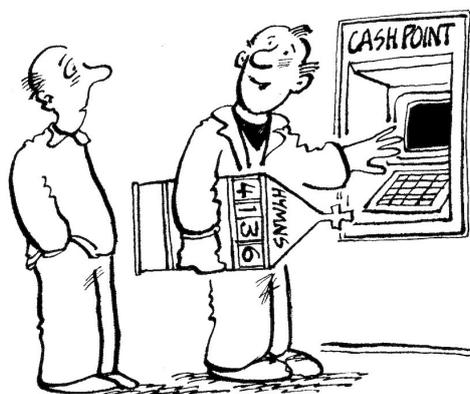
Speaking after the debate, Bishop Martyn said: “We’ve had an opportunity for an open, thoughtful - and gracious - debate about how we might move forward together as a church in the next stage of the implementing our decisions on Living in Love and Faith and the work of reconciliation amid our divisions.

“However, there is more work to be done to develop concrete proposals on really important questions we face and a number of people thought it would not be helpful to proceed to a vote without those concrete proposals. I can see the logic in that.

“I was struck by the generous and gracious tone of the debate and I’m grateful to Synod members. I believe my brothers and sisters on Synod would not have been here if they did not believe that some degree of communion is still possible. That gives me great hope and great reassurance that we will find a way through this.

“What I’m picking up very clearly though is a growing desire in parishes for the Church of England to reach agreement and get on with serving our nation.

“So that will be my priority in the next few months as we seek to develop concrete proposals before the next meeting of Synod this summer.”



*...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!*



*Editor: We have devoted this month's News to the recent reports from General Synod.*

## **General Synod backs action to tackle biodiversity crisis**

The General Synod has backed a series of measures to promote biodiversity on C of E land, from churchyards as havens of wildlife and plants, to the stewardship of agricultural and forestry land.

Members of the Synod welcomed progress already made by the Church Commissioners, the National Church Institutions, dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, and schools to manage their land for climate and nature.

The Synod approved further action to increase biodiversity including work towards drawing up environmental policy and land management plans for Dioceses and the recording of biodiversity in church green spaces.

The Synod also backed a request for the Church Commissioners to report back within three years on their progress in enhancing and supporting biodiversity across their agricultural and forestry land.

Introducing the debate at the Synod, the C of E's lead Bishop for the Environment, Graham Usher, said: "We are one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world - 2% of species are already extinct - 41% of species have declined since 1970, 26% of our mammals are at risk of extinction and 97% of UK's wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s.

"We need to act now to help the diversity of life on this single island planet home we share."

Bishop Graham said that churchyards are home to a range of wildlife. In many parishes the churchyard is the only remaining 'species-rich' grassland untouched by post Second World War cultivation and development. He added that in urban areas, churchyards are often the only green space.

"Our churchyards should be places of the living, not just the dead," he added.

## **General Synod backs code of conduct for Parochial Church Councils**

General Synod has voted in favour of a motion asking the Archbishops' Council to explore a Code of Conduct for Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and lay volunteers.

The motion, brought by the Diocese of Chelmsford, sought to address an imbalance of accountability in relationships where lay volunteers currently face no significant consequences for persistent departures from acceptable standards of behaviour.

An introductory paper explained that, whereas clergy are subject to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) process, there remains no proportionate and accessible means by which laity can be held to account for their actions.

The paper cited National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) advice that, while disagreement is a healthy part of decision making, it was recommended that charities should use a code of conduct for their trustees.

It highlighted instances of uncooperative or aggressive behaviour in meetings over a long period, where there was no mechanism to remove a member from the PCC.

Introducing the motion, the Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale from Chelmsford Diocese said: "When [things] do go wrong, there is currently no way to change the composition of a PCC. There is a lack of clear accountability.

"We seek a review into a code of conduct to encourage healthy cultures, and to give a possible remedy for intransigent behaviours that damage people, the church, and hinder our ability to share the good news of Christ Jesus."

## **Safeguarding independence: next steps discussed by General Synod**

General Synod has voted on the next steps following the publication of independent reports on safeguarding from barrister Sarah Wilkinson and Professor Alexis Jay, former chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA.

The next steps include setting up an internal team to engage with Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors/Diocesan Safeguarding Officers and others in dioceses and cathedrals. A survivor and victim focus group will also be set up, to hear the views of victims, survivors, and their advocates on the proposals.

Synod also voted to support apologies, expressed by the Archbishops, to survivors impacted by the matters described in the Wilkinson Report, and to apologise to all members of the former Independent Safeguarding Board.

## **Bishop welcomes MPs' recommendations for end-of-life care**

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has responded to the publication by The Health and Social Care Committee of its report on *Assisted Dying/Assisted Suicide*.

Bishop Sarah, a former Chief Nursing Officer for England, said: "In over 20 years of working in the NHS, I witnessed first-hand the critical role that palliative care plays for patients and for their families. Particularly in my time as a cancer nurse in the capital, the difference I saw it make was deeply moving and inspirational in equal measure. This country has some of the best palliative care services in the world - but they are currently underfunded and overly-reliant on charitable donations.

"This is why I welcome the report's call for the Government to ensure universal coverage of palliative and end-of-life services, including hospice care at home, and its recommendation that the Government commits to an uplift of funding to guarantee support for hospices in need of financial help. I also welcome the call for better mental health support for terminally ill people.

"In 2022, the Church of England's General Synod members voted overwhelmingly to oppose a change in the law and the DPP's guidelines on Assisted Suicide and called for adequate funding and resourcing of palliative care services. This is about offering compassion and direct support for the terminally ill, to ensure the highest possible standard of care for all."

## **Ukraine is paying for our security 'with money and blood' – Archbishop Justin**

General Synod has issued a call to reaffirm support for Ukraine, as the Archbishop of Canterbury said he could not be "neutral" in the face of the aggression of Vladimir Putin.

Archbishop Justin Welby, who visited Ukraine ahead of the second anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion, said the country is "paying for our security with money but also with blood".

He also said the current international situation is possibly more dangerous than at any time, other than the Cuban Missile Crisis, since the run-up to the Second World War.

He was speaking as Synod overwhelmingly supported a motion calling on all UK political parties to affirm their continued support for Ukraine and supporting the work of churches and others working for "peace, justice and reconciliation" in Ukraine.

Archbishop Justin highlighted recent warnings about the global situation.

"We are on the edge of something that none of us have seen in our lifetimes, and it involves powers with nuclear weapons," he said.

Continued on page 12

"I am not neutral - I will listen to both sides and I hope we all will - but Ukraine is paying for our security with money but also with blood.

"We are paying with money. It is so utterly different.

"They are defending the international rules-based order and settling that question, to use a phrase of Bismarck's, with iron and blood.

"As someone said to me three weeks ago in Ukraine - a soldier who had just come back from the front, battle-shattered needing trauma treatment ... 'we have the 21st Century drones and the First World War bayonet and we are using both equally'."

He spoke about developments in military technology including the development of AI-assisted drone attacks.

"This is an immensely dangerous time, immensely dangerous, and we have probably not seen a time as dangerous, apart from Cuba, since 1938," he said.

"And what we do looking forward will put into a shadow all the other things we discuss, what we do as a nation."

Opening the debate, Mark Sheard, chair of the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Council, highlighted the "staggering numbers" of people killed and injured and said support for Ukraine must be for the "long term".

Mr Sheard, who recently retired as Chief Executive of World Vision, the Christian relief and development agency, spoke of his personal experiences of meeting refugees fleeing Ukraine and the mounting challenges of mental health, psychosocial support and rehabilitation for those affected by the war.

"We should not forget that behind each statistic there is an individual, made in the image of God, whose life has been shattered or destroyed," he said.

"The reality of war is suffering and loss and its effects will last long after the guns fall silent.

"Our response therefore cannot be fleeting - we need to be there for the long term.

"Our response must evolve as we better understand the war's costs – whether that be helping individuals, families and communities deal with PTSD or supporting efforts at community reintegration."

He added: "Synod, I recognise that as we pass the war's second anniversary there is a risk of fatigue with the war's slow attritional grind.

"We can feel overwhelmed by a series of crises around the world – Gaza and Sudan, Myanmar and Nagorno-Karabakh to name but a few.

"We can feel disheartened by electoral politics in the US and what it means for the war effort in Ukraine, the future of Nato and our own wider security.

"But Synod, I take comfort and encouragement from Galatians 6:9 – 'Let us not become weary in doing good; for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up'."

## Pasque Flower

In this part of the South East we often associate Easter with bluebells. However, there is another flower that traditionally comes into flower on Good Friday - *Pulsatilla vulgaris*, or Pasque Flower.



It is one of the earliest blooming perennials and is a member of the buttercup family. It was once thought of as being a type of anemone and has numerous common names including April fools, blue money, flower of the wind, hart's horn plant, prairie smoke, and rock lily. Whilst the flower used to be relatively common there are now only a handful of sites where it may be found in the purple wild form. It likes to grow on dry chalk grassland and is hardy but will grow easily in gardens in this area.

There are an additional five types which are available:

- Rubra has red flowers;
- Alba has cream flowers and is slower growing and later blooming;
- Papageno is semi-double white, pink, red, violet and blue flowers;
- Rote Glocke has crimson flowers and is later blooming; and,
- Gotlandica has more rounded petals.

You will be able to find a selection of these in garden centres, but normally only the wild form is available as seed. It is a low-growing plant which has been used medicinally in the past as a sedative, painkiller, and remedies for eye conditions such as cataracts. Now all parts of the plant are considered toxic. It has a fibrous rootstock that becomes woody with age. The finely divided, stalked leaves are first seen in early spring, followed by the flowers and then most leaves after flowering is over. It will grow to a silver hairy mound about 10" tall before dying back in late summer. The flowers on single stems about 6" tall are about 1 ½" in diameter, hairy on the outside and silky on the inside, with purple petals and bright yellow stamens. The flowers change to spherical silvery seedhead which remain on the plant for a few weeks before being blown away by the wind.

By Stuart Cole

*Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers a very ancient feature found in some churches*

## **Reflecting Faith: Easter Sepulchres**

Over the last few months we've been looking at churchyards, grave memorials and the lychgate where the coffin may be rested on its entry.

This month we are going inside the church building to find a somewhat different and only really found in older churches that have survived re-ordering and renovations: the Easter Sepulchre.

A sepulchre is essentially a place of burial – a tomb – but in churches it can also be a receptacle for religious relics.

Easter Sepulchres can be very grand affairs. I'm aware that many writers say that they are constructed in wood, but I have only seen stone ones. They can be plain or intricately carved. They can be low to the ground or reaching up to the roof. Each style, of course, reflects both the richness and generosity of the patron, as well as their theology.

Some have 'layers' of carvings, with the angels at the top, then the patriarchs, followed by the Fathers of the Church and so on. Others are very simple and almost plain.

They are normally set into or against the northern side of the sanctuary in which stands the altar, and which is traditionally considered to be the 'holiest' place in a church building.

Their use is given in their name – on Good Friday some consecrated bread and wine and often a crucifix (rather than an 'empty' cross) is placed inside it and people take it in turns to 'stand watch' until Easter Sunday morning, when it is taken out with great ceremony and often paraded through the building. The reason is to reflect the death of Christ, His being placed in a tomb and His subsequent resurrection.

Today's ceremonies are usually less ostentatious, and whilst folk often take turns keeping watch on the Maundy Thursday, reflecting the disciples being asked to stay awake whilst Jesus went and prayed alone in the Garden of Gethsemane, less is made of the Sepulchre watch.

The items are simply removed before any Easter resurrection service takes place, either on Easter Saturday evening or early Easter Sunday morning.

### *This month*

See if you can find an Easter Sepulchre near you. Look at the decoration and consider all the different symbolisms it is trying to convey. If you cannot find one, then think what you would want to convey today?

### **Who is he?**

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "He looks a tough customer," she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?" The Governor paused and smiled. "Ah, actually, he is the chaplain."



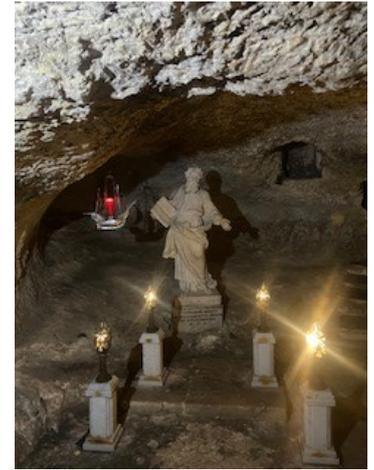
## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

April 2024

It was lovely to see our church so full yesterday for the Easter morning service! Also the Good Friday service was well attended and the choir had worked hard on the Stabat Mater by Pergolisi. It is lovely to see the choir stalls full when our friends from St Peter's in Newdigate choir join our choir for special occasions like this. When we came to Capel in September 1990, the choir stalls were full on both sides for a few years and it's a lovely sight to behold when it happens these days!

Stuart and I have just had a very enjoyable week in Malta with temperatures in the 60's (Fahrenheit) and mostly sunshine. It made a very welcome change from the continuous showers here! I had last gone to Malta in the mid 1980's and nearly 40 years on, a lot had changed! For a small island, it has an enormously diverse history because of where it is geographically and is well worth a visit. The churches are extraordinary and often built by the parishioners who live there. There were a couple we visited that had been enlarged and not only had the local parishioners funded the changes themselves, but also they had given up weekends, holidays and any spare time they had to lovingly work on their parish church. After all the rain and cold weather we have had recently, I had forgotten just how relaxing a bit of warmth and clear skies for a few days can be! One of the most moving moments for me was a repeat visit to the Grotto of St Paul in Rabat where St Paul stayed after being shipwrecked off of Malta. It is very moving to stand where St Paul began to preach to others so many years ago and began Christianity in Malta.



*Photo: St Paul's Grotto, Rabat, Malta*

As I write, it is Bank holiday Monday and we are going up for church teas shortly. Do support the teas whenever you can. Joy works incredibly hard to put these events on regularly and over the years, they have been an incredible fundraiser for the Friends of St John. The dates for 2024 can be found inside the back cover on page 31. I attended the recent Lent course 'Be Still' which was inspiring and so enjoyable to share fellowship with others each week. I'm sure all the group would like to thank Mairi Inglis-Jones for her kind hospitality each week. Going forward from that and the recent Quiet Day of reflection, there is the possibility of joining a '**Exploring How the Wisdom of St Benedict**' and how it can support and guide us in our daily lives'. For more information, do see some information from Rev Jo Elvidge on page 6.

Next Sunday, we have our important Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 7th April after the service and commencing at 11.45am. Annual reports are available in advance of the meeting. If you'd like to read a copy, please see online at our parish website ([www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk](http://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk)) or pick up a copy in church.

There are many of the regular items in this month's issue including the series of looking at Books in the Bible (see page 16) and an associated Quiz on page 27. On page 26 there is an interesting article '**Prayer Walking in our community** - *Prayer walking is just what it sounds. You pray as you walk. What is the point? Think of it as stepping out as God's children, to intercede for those who are living in your community. Be intentional about praying for God's blessings on what you see and feel.*' At the recent Lent course 'Be Still', many of us said that we prayed whilst out walking. This helpful little article makes suggestions that we might like to take on board.

On page 23, there is **God in Music** in which The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music. This month's article looks at '**Glorious the song when God's the theme': Allegri's Miserere**. I absolutely love this piece having come to it relatively late in life but I find it incredible moving. I imagine many of you love it too.

Wishing you every blessing for the month ahead and maybe just a little less rain!

*Suzanne*

[inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk)

(Please note NEW email address - thank you)

*Editor's note: As we enjoy the beginnings of the new Spring, I do love this quote.*

*"The probability of life originating by accident is comparable to the probability of the complete Oxford dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory". - Edwin Conklin*

Photo: Suzanne Cole

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues a new series which will run for the next two years.

### **What's the Big Idea? *An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy & Joshua***

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The 'shema' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: *'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.'* (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: *'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.'* (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua (*'The Lord saves'*) is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1-11).

See Quiz on the Book of Joshua on page 27 (solutions on page 30)

### **Church of England awards £2.4 million to boost participation of Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people**

The Church of England has awarded £2.4 million to fund a series of measures aimed at boosting the participation of Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent people in parish life.

This ranges from encouraging vocations to the priesthood, to grants for improved access to buildings.

Under plans over the next three years, the funds will back projects including lay and ordained vocations events, leadership programmes, and guidance to churches on more accessible signage.

The schemes will be developed and managed by the Church of England's Disability and Deaf Ministry Task Groups.

A pilot scheme is planned for seven dioceses for café style spaces in churches, in partnership with mental health professionals and the charity Renew Wellbeing, aimed at providing welcoming spaces.

© Parish Pump



April  
2024

## High Days & Holy Days in April

### \*New 9<sup>th</sup> April - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and martyr

Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tubingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

### 25<sup>th</sup> April - Mark, disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion, and is much in evidence in Venice.

© Parish Pump



The two hardest things to handle in life are failure and success. - Anon



# PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

## Prayer for His Majesty King Charles

Heavenly Father, whose love enfolds us with healing and hope, we pray for Charles our King as he faces the challenge of cancer.

**May your healing touch bring him quickly back to health and wholeness.**

Look with kindness on Queen Camilla and all the Royal Family at this testing time.

Amen

© Diocese of Lincoln

<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/news/prayer-for-the-king/>

## Prayer for HRH The Princess of Wales

*Gracious God,  
we pray for the continued recovery  
of the Princess of Wales,  
for her husband, and for their family.  
Grant to them,  
and to all who are affected by sickness,  
faith, hop, hope and the knowledge of your love,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

© The Diocese of Guildford

Taken from the Parish Brief 26/03/2024

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.  
Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.  
We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.  
Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.  
In Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

© The Church of England

Almighty Father,  
you have given your only Son to die for our sins  
and to rise again for our justification:  
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and  
wickedness  
that we may always serve you  
in pureness of living and truth;  
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our  
Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## The God who answers prayer

There is a God who answers prayer  
Who intercedes before the throne,  
The Son of God who ever cares,  
Do not believe you walk alone.

When life seems hard, no answers come  
He knows the path that you now tread  
Believe on Him though all seems lost  
He knows about the tears you shed.

Hold on to Him who is your strength,  
Although it seems there's no way through,  
Though pain and heartache both are near,  
Who holds the world holds also you.

There is a day when all is clear  
A day when we all understand  
That all our lives but marked a way  
That led us to the Promised Land.

*By Megan Carter*

## Our God

Our God is able – (Daniel 3:17)  
able to save (Hebrews 7:25)  
able to help (Hebrews 2:18)  
able to provide (2 Corinthians 9:8)  
able to do far more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)

## Archbishops welcome publication of Future of Church Safeguarding Report

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have welcomed the recent publication of the *Future of Church Safeguarding* report from Professor Alexis Jay, with an outline of next steps for how the Church responds.

Professor Jay, the former Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, agreed in July 2023 to develop proposals around independence in safeguarding in the Church. The work was commissioned following the termination of the contracts of the original Independent Safeguarding Board, ISB.

In a statement the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said:

“We thank Professor Jay and her team for this fully independent report, and the wisdom, expertise and meticulous proposals contained within it. We recognise her criticism of our safeguarding structures and processes, and we welcome this scrutiny and challenge.

“For the sake of all those who come into contact with the Church, particularly victims and survivors, we welcome the plans that are in place to take forward this work as swiftly as possible to give everyone confidence and trust in our structures and processes.

“Professor Jay rightly acknowledges the excellent work that is done up and down the country by experienced and committed Safeguarding Officers and others, but her challenge to us all is how our safeguarding structures and processes reach that same standard. This is a constructive challenge that we must all take very seriously.

The Church of England’s lead safeguarding bishop, Joanne Grenfell, who is chairing the Response Group for the Wilkinson and Jay reviews said: “The report from Professor Jay contains important recommendations for the structure of safeguarding in the Church with a clear emphasis on independent scrutiny and the importance of independent professional advice in all our safeguarding work.”

© Parish Pump

### World Autism Acceptance Week, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Autism is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree. And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

*Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.*

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this ‘acceptance week’, by going to the National Autistic Society’s website, <https://www.autism.org.uk> and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.

# Junior Inspire

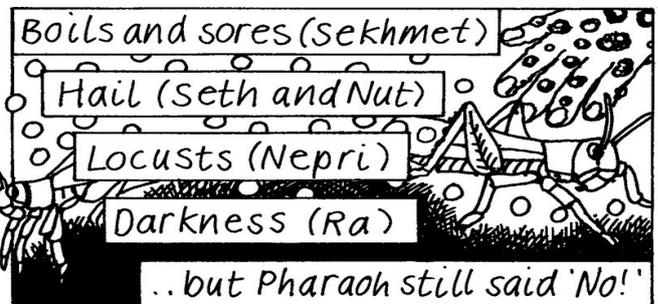
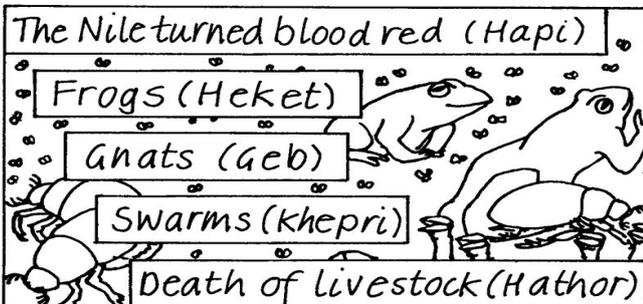
You might be on your Easter holidays so why not read the following story, have a go at the Wordsearch and maybe colour in the Easter mice? Enjoy your Easter break!

## Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-23, 29-33, 14:5-29

God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)...



God told the Hebrews to prepare to leave, and each family to kill and cook a lamb. He told them..



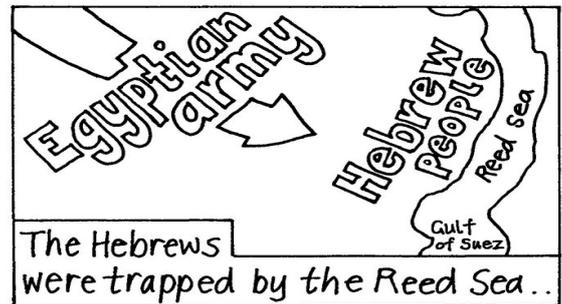
Mark your house door with the lamb's blood.



That night, in each un-marked house, the eldest son died.



The Hebrews left Egypt...



God made a cloud to hide them from the Egyptians..



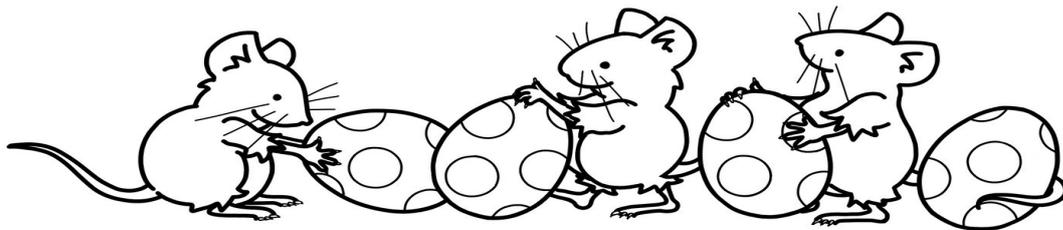
and sent a wind. By morning the sea bed was dry and they walked across..



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

Nile	door	house
locusts	lamb	power
army	wind	Egyptians
slaves	water	Pharaoh
gnats	swarms	hail
sea	Hebrews	blood
family	frogs	cloud
darkness	livestock	death

Colour in Easter mice!



Editor: Paul Hardingham considers foolishness and wisdom...

## Called to be Fools!

April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement. He had an influential role in the court, because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a *'fool for Christ'* (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

*A foolish message:*

*'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'* (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

*A foolish community:*

*'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'* (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

*A foolish ministry:*

*'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.'* (2:4,5). Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

*'A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.'* (William Shakespeare).

## 50 years of ABBA!

Fifty years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1974, the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song *Waterloo*. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

The victory, in Brighton, was just the first step on the road to conquering the world, as far as pop music was concerned. The songs, written mainly by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, were matched by the passion, exuberance and good looks of singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid 'Frida' Lyngstad, who later married them – and even later, divorced them.

The name of the group came from the initials of the four Christian names. Some have suggested a link to the biblical Abba and looked for Jewish themes in their songs, but this is wishful thinking. While Anni-Frid (who was born Norwegian) may be Christian, Björn is definitely an outspoken atheist. In fact, ABBA is the name of a Swedish canned fish company that had to give permission for the singers to use it – a decision they are unlikely to have regretted.

Both *Waterloo* and ABBA achieved worldwide superstar status quickly – no small feat for a group performing in a language that is not their own. The film *ABBA – the Movie* and the musical *Mamma Mia* and its sequel, featuring their compelling songs, were huge successes. It is estimated that the musical has been seen by more than 60 million people worldwide.

ABBA hit the jackpot again when their revolutionary new project, *ABBA Voyage*, launched in 2022. In it, Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid perform their love-songs digitally with a live 10-piece band, in a purpose-built ABBA arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Not bad for four divorcees in their 70s.

## God in Music

*The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.*

### **'Glorious the song when God's the theme': Allegri's *Miserere***

In the 1980s thanks to Godfrey Smith, a columnist for The Sunday Times, there was a series of letters about particular pieces of music that have the TQ – the Tingle Quotient. As we listen, the music sends a shiver of excitement up and down the spine and opens out for us a new world of beauty and wonder.

The letters started with a novelist writing about his travels across the Sahara. In moments of desolation and loneliness he would think of music that meant the most to him and which he thought he might never hear again. Then a schoolmaster in Rochester wrote of a production of 'Romeo and Juliet' where the funeral scene virtually brought the house down. Juliet entered a darkened school hall, lit only by glimmering candles with music sung that brought the audience to tears.

For both novelist and schoolmaster, the work that had that TQ factor was Allegri's *Miserere*. It provided consolation in the cold desert nights, and it created the impact in that production of Shakespeare's play. Other readers supplied their list of TQ music, and always the *Miserere* was in the top five. I suspect that this music strikes the TQ for many of you as well.

Why is it, I wonder? We can provide an answer by talking of the contrast between the plainsong sung by the men's voices and the responses from the choir that lead to that small group of solo voices where the treble or soprano reaches a high C and comes down the scale to the cadence. We can point to the intriguing history of this work for the setting by Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) was the exclusive possession of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. To copy the music was a crime punishable by excommunication.

In spite of this, a 14-year-old Mozart heard the piece in 1770 and wrote it down from memory, paying another visit to verify some of the notes he had copied down. The Emperor, Leopold 1, the king of Portugal, persuaded the Pope to grant him a copy. When it was performed in his own imperial chapel, he was disappointed. He even thought the Pope had palmed him off with an inferior work. Then he realised that the beauty and magic of the music lay in its being sung in the Sistine Chapel where the plainsong and the high C cadences could ring out among the pillars and arches of that great building.

The *Miserere*, or Psalm 51 is the heart-felt cry of the Church for mercy. As one of the penitential psalms, it is a very personal expression of sorrow for sin and a moving appeal to God for mercy and restoration.

In Allegri's setting that high C is reached as the individual acknowledges his sin, and again as he cries for mercy and finally as he proclaims that his tongue will sing of God's grace and righteousness. A single voice in the music scales the heights of heaven to represent all of us as we turn to God with that same awareness of sin, that same plea for mercy, and that same affirmation that we will then turn to God with thanksgiving and the offering of a humble and contrite heart.

And so with the psalmist and with Allegri, we can pray 'Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness.'

*Editor's note: Music is so evocative and I remember exactly when I heard this piece properly for the first time! We were on holiday in Devon in 1997 and this was on the radio. I was so moved by the music particularly the soaring high notes. I have loved it ever since and am sure many of you do too!*



# BOOK REVIEWS

by Parish Pump



## **The Empty Tomb - a story of Easter**

By Brian Sibley, SPCK, £6.99

Here is an illustrated retelling of the Easter story in short chapters, ideal for 6+ years. It would be a good introduction to the stories of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the death and resurrection of Jesus, His Ascension, and Pentecost.

The book includes the procession of the singing crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem, and the moment Jesus shared the bread and the cup at the Passover meal. It also tells of how the disciples' sorrow turned to joy and wonder when they saw Jesus once again after His death, eating and drinking with them. The book also relates the excitement of Pentecost. The stories can be read alone, or read aloud.

## **Facing Fear 365 - daily reflections for hope, peace and courage**

By Dan Blythe and Rocky Nti, SPCK, £13.99

Every day we face a choice: to give into fear, or meet it with faith?

From health concerns to comparison-rife social media, the world offers us plenty of reasons to live in fear. Yet God offers us countless reasons to live life to the full, facing cowardice and stepping forward with courage.

This book of 365 daily reflections can help you cultivate courage to fight fear with faith, as you begin each day.

## **A Christening Gift Prayer and Memory Book** Various authors, SPCK £8.99

This book could be a good gift for a grandparent, godparent, or family member, to give to a young child.

It is an illustrated gift book to commemorate a young child's

christening. It includes a collection of prayers, Bible verses, and pages for recording details, memories, and messages of the special occasion.

Parents can add their own memories, with spaces for photos and special blessings from the guests, as well as recording key milestones in their child's early years.

## **Yearning for the Vast and Endless Sea - the Good News about the Good News**

By Chris Russell, Canterbury Press £16.99

This book's title is taken from a quote by the author Saint-Exupery: "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the people to gather wood, and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea."

Drawing on writers like Bonhoeffer, Newbigin and Pope Francis' landmark *Evangelii Gaudium*, Chris Russell asks how the church and individual Christians can communicate the love of God in language and action, and also explores how the good news is received.

## **On Mission with Jesus - changing the default setting of the church**

By Graham Cray, Canterbury Press. £18.99

January 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the start of the Fresh Expressions movement, which has since spread internationally and denominationally from its origins in the Church of England. Graham Cray was its first national Leader.

In the last 20 years, countless new forms of church have emerged through Fresh Expressions, the Church Army, New Wine, and various pioneer networks. This book offers a theological understanding of the missional nature of the church, which will inform local practice and assist ministerial and pioneer training.

## **Grandparenting for Faith: sharing God with the children you love the most**

By Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99

Grandparenting brings the opportunity to walk spiritually alongside our grandchildren, offering tools and skills for the journey.

Whatever your circumstances, God has positioned you to be a unique voice, speaking into your grandchildren's lives, helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them.

This book will help grandparents to encourage and equip their grandchildren to know God better.

## Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

Three hundred years ago, on 7th April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.

Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.

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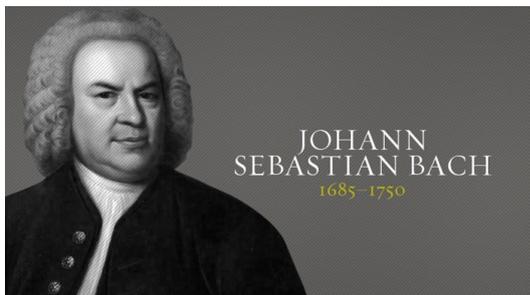


Photo: Courtesy of Christianity Today

<https://www.christianitytoday.com>

### With the Easter season in mind...

Of all the things that will surprise us in the Resurrection morning, this I believe, will surprise us most: that we did not love Christ more before we died. - *J C Ryle*

The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the 'gospel' or good news which the Christians brought; what we call the 'gospels'... were composed later....The miracle of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, comes first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. - *CS Lewis in 'Miracles'*.

God fits our souls here to possess a glorious body after; and He will fit the body for a glorious soul. - *R Sibbes*

Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope. - *Anon*

Jesus can be contacted 24 hours a day: just go on-line via your knee-mail. - *Anon*

### With Annual General Meetings at church in mind...

It was not an accident that 17 of the 36 parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship. - *William James Dawson*

Stewardship is what a man does after he says, 'I believe'. - *WH Greaves*

All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them. - *J Hudson Taylor*

I believe in loyalty to the local church. I don't believe in that view of the invisible church that makes you invisible at church! - *Vance Havner*

Don't stay away from church because there are so many hypocrites. There's always room for one more. - *A R Adams*

## Prayer Walking in our community

Prayer walking is just what it sounds. You pray as you walk.

What is the point? Think of it as stepping out as God's children, to intercede for those who are living in your community. Be intentional about praying for God's blessings on what you see and feel.

Simply praying: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done..." is an excellent start.

Prayer walking is NOT about being seen to be praying, you are not doing it to 'show off'. It is about seeing your neighbourhood with compassion, and then praying for God's mercy and blessing to be upon it.

So, as you go along, you can pray quietly, or in silence. If you do want to pray out loud, take a friend along, so that it will seem merely as if you are chatting. In fact, when you do a prayer walk, it is best not to do it alone. Always try and go with someone else. After all, Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs.

On your prayer walk, try and be aware of what God is saying to you as you move around the community. As the former Archbishop of York, Lord Sentamu, once advised: "If any Bible verses pop into your head or if you have any pictures, visions or words of knowledge, turn these into prayer."

At the end of the prayer walk, share with others what you prayed for, and heard from God. Write any impressions down, so you can keep track of how you have prayed for your area.

Again, to quote Lord Sentamu, "If you feel that God has highlighted specific needs or challenges, think about how to take action. Could you or the church be part of God's solution practically, as well as prayerfully?"

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### **Worry**

I have so many problems that if a new one comes along today, it will be at least two weeks before I can worry about it.

### **Do it**

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and *then* cross them off!

### **Problem**

I don't have a problem with caffeine. I do have a problem without it.

## Quiz on the book of Joshua

1. Whom did Joshua succeed as leader of Israel?  
Jacob  
Aaron  
Moses
2. What was the name of Joshua's father?  
Carmi  
Nun  
Eleazar
3. To what city did Joshua send two men to spy upon?  
Jericho  
Ai  
Gilgal
4. What was the name of the woman who hid the spies Joshua sent?  
Rachel  
Rahab  
Rebekah
5. How many stones did the Israelites take from the dry river bed of the Jordan?  
7  
12  
40
6. Once the Israelites had entered the Promised Land, what happened in the days after they had celebrated the Passover?  
God stopped providing manna  
Joshua apportioned land to each tribe  
The Amorites attacked them
7. What did the captain of the Lord's host command Joshua to do?  
Gather his army against Jericho  
Build an altar to the Lord  
Take off his sandals
8. How many priests were chosen to carry the rams' horns as they marched round Jericho?  
3  
7  
70
9. What was the name of the man who violated God's command not to plunder anything from Jericho?  
Phinehas  
Zabdi  
Achan
10. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua into making a covenant of peace, but as what did he make them serve the Israelites?  
Woodcutters and water-carriers  
Brick makers and messengers  
Stone-carriers and armour-bearers
11. What natural phenomenon helped Joshua defeat the Amorites?  
Sandstorm  
Earthquake  
Hailstones
12. What was the only tribe not to receive an inheritance?  
Levi  
Reuben  
Manasseh
13. How old was Caleb (one of the original 12 spies) when he was given Hebron as his inheritance?  
40  
70  
85
14. What tribe was given a portion of Judah as their inheritance?  
Ephraim  
Simeon  
Benjamin
15. For what sin were the cities of refuge created?  
Accidental murder  
Theft  
Adultery



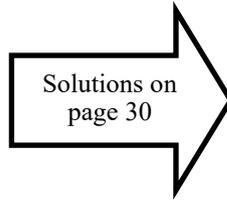
See page 16 for the following article

**What's the Big Idea? *An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy & Joshua***

### Easy Sudoku

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

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### Medium Sudoku

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

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### Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? (Theological Version)

Billy Graham: The chicken was surrendering all.

Rick Warren: The chicken was purpose driven.

John Wesley: The chicken's heart was strangely warmed.

John Piper: God decreed the event to maximize his glory. OR . . . it was an act of Christian hedonism. The chicken realized that his greatest joy would only be found on the other side.

C.S. Lewis: If a chicken finds itself with a desire that nothing on this side can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that it was created for the other side.

N.T. Wright: This act of the chicken, which would be unthinkable in British barnyards, reeks of that American individualism that is destructive to community.

Pluralist: The chicken took one of many equally valid roads.

Universalist: All chickens cross the road.

Tim LaHaye: The chicken didn't want to be left behind.

Emergent: For this chicken, it's not the destination that's important. It's the journey itself.

## CROSSWORD CLUES

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

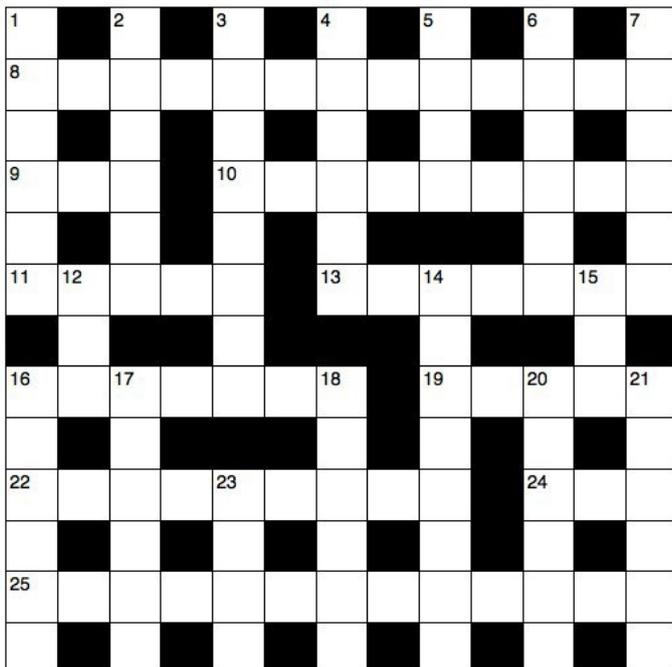
### Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philipians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

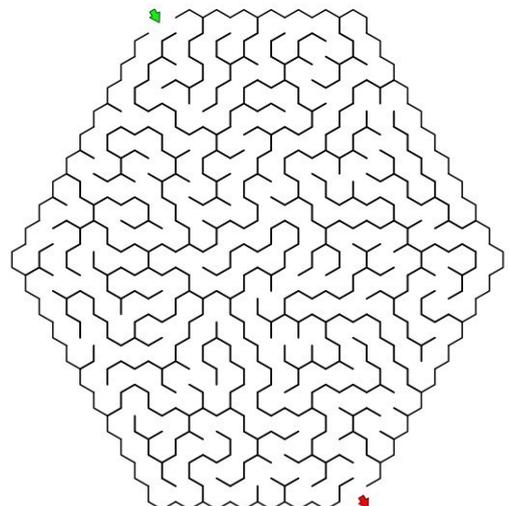
### Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

**Puzzle  
Solutions on  
page 30**



### April's Maze





# Church Tea dates 2024

Please note that all teas will take place  
between **3.00 and 5.00 pm**

<b>Monday 1st April</b>	Easter Monday	St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 5th May</b>		St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Monday 6th May</b>	Early May Bank Holiday	St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 26th May</b>		St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Monday 27th May</b>	Late May Bank Holiday	St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 16th June</b>		St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 4th August</b>		St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 25th August</b>		St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Monday 26th August</b>	Summer Bank Holiday	St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 15th September</b>		St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 6th October</b>		St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 3rd November</b>	All souls service 3pm TEAS START AT 4PM	St John the Baptist Capel
<b>Sunday 24th November</b>		St John the Baptist Capel

***Don't forget you can find details of all events  
& services on our website***

**<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>**





An extract from a beautiful memorial tombstone in the Cathedral at Mdina, Malta

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to  
Suzanne Cole [inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk](mailto:inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk) **By 20th of each month please.**  
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