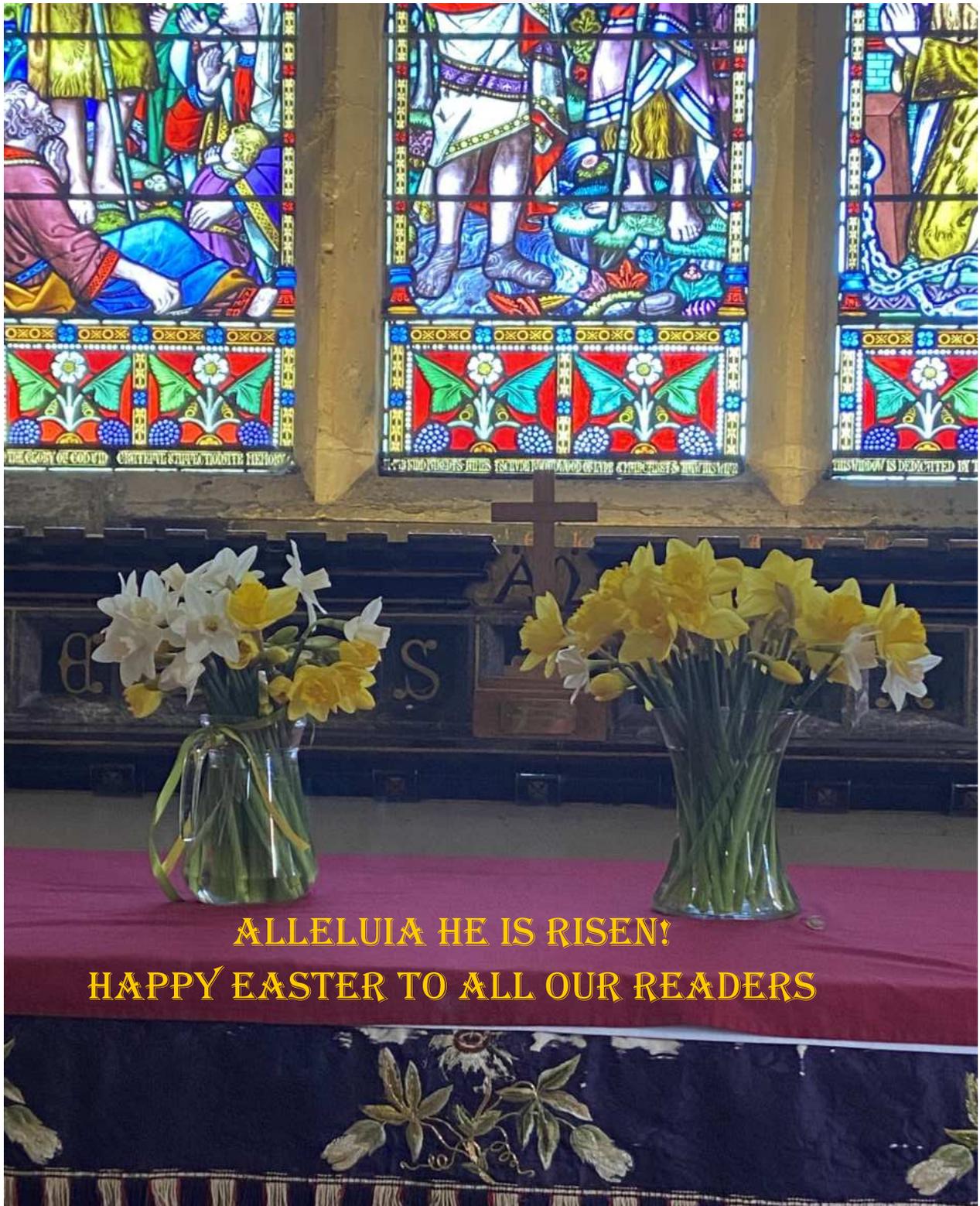


InSpire

The monthly publication for the Parish of Capel & Ockley



ALLELUIA HE IS RISEN!
HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OUR READERS

InSpire magazine Issue 102 April 2026

Free of Charge—donations welcome in honesty box in wall

ORGAN RECITAL

A Memorable Evening of English Music at St Margaret's, Ockley

St Margaret's Church, Ockley, was almost filled to capacity on Saturday 28 February for a very special organ recital — the first of its kind in the parish for many decades. An audience of just over 100 people gathered to enjoy an evening of English music, performed on the church's rare 1873 Holdich organ.



The recital was given by Benjamin Morrell, Organ Scholar Emeritus of Trinity College, Oxford, whose thoughtfully constructed all-English programme proved perfectly suited to both the instrument and the setting. He opened the evening with a stirring arrangement of Holst's *Jupiter* from *The Planets*, an especially fitting choice on a night marked by a rare alignment of planets visible in the sky above.

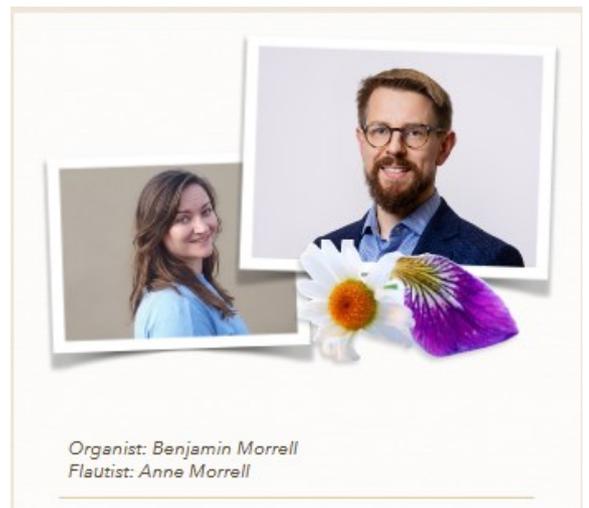
Highlights of the programme included Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*, beautifully rendered in a transcription for flute and organ with Anne Morrell, whose playing brought an added lyricism and grace to the performance. Other works by Elgar, Bridge and Walton demonstrated the expressive range and warmth of the Holdich organ, and were warmly received by the audience.

Throughout the evening, short and engaging introductions to each piece were shared by Benjamin Morrell and PCC Secretary, Chevalier Richard Winter-Stanbridge, enhancing the audience's enjoyment and understanding of the music.

The recital concluded with a generous canapé reception, providing an opportunity for performers and audience alike to meet and reflect on a most enjoyable occasion. The event was a great success, both musically and as a fundraiser in support of the Parish of Capel and Ockley.

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who contributed to making the evening possible.

Richard Winter-Stanbridge



ST. MARGARET'S



St. Margaret's Church, Ockley, Surrey

Benjamin Morrell trained as a chorister at Westminster Cathedral and later studied as Organ Scholar at Trinity College, Oxford (2015). He has performed as an organist for the past 10 years and directed choirs across the UK, Europe and the USA, alongside a full-time career in project management. He is joined by his wife, Anne Morrell (flute), who studied at Junior Trinity Laban Conservatoire. Her playing adds lyrical colour to the programme.

Issue 102 April 2026

Contents:-

- 3 Contents & Church contacts
- 4 Rev Liz writes
- 5 Services & Events
- 6 News from the Pews
- 7 News from the Pews
- 8 News
- 9 News
- 10 The Sunday Session
- 11 Alpha Course & Lent Reflections
- 12 High Days & Holy Days April
- 13 Thank you and Nudge Event
- 14 The new Archbishop of
Canterbury's First Presidential
address
- 15 The Archbishop's address contd
- 16 The Seven Deadly Sins: Envy
and High Days & Holy Days April
- 17 Prayers, Prose & Poems
- 18 Deacon's Diary
- 19 Reflecting Faith: Same old same
old and High Days & Holy Days
- 20 Some observations on our
Christian Walk and What's the
Big idea? - Lamentations
- 21 Resurrection Life
- 22 Editor's Letter
- 23 A History of our Easter
chocolate
- 24 Eco Church pages
- 25 Sustainable church flowers
- 26 Breakfast Together and The
Pavilion café
- 27 Book Reviews
- 28 When you mix children and
Religion
- 29 Church Tea dates 2026
- 30 Remembering the genius of
Richard D'Oyley Carte
and National Parks Fortnight
- 31 A Prayer for Bishop Andrew
and National Gardening Week
- 32 Puzzles
- 33 Sudoku puzzles
- 34 Puzzle solutions
- 35 Junior InSpire
- 36 Churchyard working party

*'I want to know
Christ—yes, to know
the power of his
resurrection...'
Philippians 3:10*

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This issue is sponsored by

JOHN ASHWOOD

Thank you John for your continued support
of InSpire magazine.

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* See our **Safeguarding Notice** in 'News from the Pews' each month *

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Revd Liz writes

April's letter



Dear friends,

It is with profound sadness that the death of the Bishop of Guildford, Bishop Andrew Watson was announced following a short illness. He died surrounded by his family peacefully at home at Willow Grange. Bishop Andrew was our Diocesan Bishop and it is Bishop Paul, the Bishop of Dorking, who is the *Suffragan Bishop for Guildford, who will be holding the Diocese together for the next year or so whilst a successor for Bishop Andrew will be sought. We in our Diocese of Guildford are so blessed to have the episcopal ministry of Bishop Paul who previously served as Archdeacon. B. Paul has very strong pastoral skills and he has said that he wishes to focus on the pastoral side of ministry both in supporting and teaching as we move forward. He also will be focusing on the value of prayer, both corporate and personal. The Diocese is also blessed to have the assistance of at least three retired Bishops who are already involved in various aspects of diocesan life and training.

Our hearts go out to Bishop Andrew's family. Beverley his wife is also an ordained priest and I had the privilege of training for the priesthood alongside her at Salisbury some years ago. They have four grown up children who themselves have their own families to care for. You will find more details on the Guildford Diocese website cofeguildford.org.uk with an online book of condolence. At the Cathedral itself there is a 'physical' book of condolence. The funeral will have taken place by the time you read this but in the typical spirit of generosity and graciousness of Bishop Andrew and his family, many have been invited to attend the service at the Cathedral. The service will be live streamed at 12 churches across the Diocese. The service itself will be in a context of Holy Communion followed by a private burial at St Martha's Church Guildford. Bishop Andrew also wished that any donations in his memory should be given to support the ministry of Guildford Cathedral. As I write nearly £2000 has been donated. Once again you can do this online. Please let me know if I can help anyone with this.

In our own parish this month I think we can say we have all appreciated the warmer weather and to know that Spring has truly arrived. We are looking forward to Easter as I write and hope to see many of you at our Easter services. We also enjoyed the most wonderful organ recital at the end of February given by Benjamin Morrell at St Margaret's Ockley. It was wonderful to see so many people at this event - over 100! Delicious homemade soup and cake was served during Lent in our Capel church and Church teas are back again!

The Lord has risen. He is risen indeed. Hallelujah! Happy Easter to you all.

With my love and prayers as ever,

Liz

Revd Liz
Vicar St John the Baptist, Capel and St Margaret's, Ockley
vicar@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711260



CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS - APRIL 2026

at St John the Baptist, Capel & St Margaret's, Ockley

April

Thursday	2nd	Maundy Thursday
	7pm	Holy Communion with foot washing - Capel
Friday	3rd	Good Friday
	12-1pm	A Service of reflection using St Matthew's Passion - Capel
	2-3pm	The last hour at the cross using Art - Ockley



**Church Tea dates
for 2026
now announced!**
See page 29
Also available on our
website

Sunday	5th	Easter Sunday
	9.30am	Easter Holy Communion CW followed by Easter egg hunt - Ockley
	10.30am	Family Communion - Capel
	3-5pm	Easter Church Teas - Capel

Friday	10th	Funeral for John Heath
	2.30pm	St John the Baptist Capel

Sunday	12th	Second Sunday of Easter
	9.30am	Matins - Ockley
	10.30am	The Sunday Session - Capel
		<i>Church for the curious, the questioning and the confused!</i>

Sunday	19th	Third Sunday of Easter
	9.30am	Parish Communion - Ockley

Sunday	22nd	Fourth Sunday of Easter
	9.30am	Holy Communion BCP - Ockley
	10.30am	Morning Worship - Capel

May

Sunday	3rd	Fifth Sunday of Easter
	9.30am	Matins - Ockley
	10.30am	Family Communion - Capel
	3-5pm	Capel Church Teas



St Margaret's, Ockley
Easter Sunday
9.30am service

All this information and more available on our Parish website:
<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/>

NEWS from the Pews

From the Registers



We welcome into the family of the Church

Alfred Jensen Nicholas Hopkins

21st February 2026

In Memoriam

We remember with love

John William Heath

28th February 2026

May he rest in peace and rise in glory

CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

Thank you to all those who kindly came to help clear some more of the overgrown churchyard at Capel recently. We enjoyed sunshine all morning and everyone worked very hard with excellent results!

Thank you all.

Stuart Cole & Andy Carr

Churchwardens

St John the Baptist, Capel

church.warden@ansford.me.uk

See photos on back page!

PCC Members 2025—26

Vicar and Chair: Revd Liz Richardson (ex-officio)

Curate: Revd Gill Christie (ex-officio)

Churchwardens

Joy Harman (ex-officio) St John the Baptist

Stuart Cole (ex-officio) St John the Baptist

Andy Carr (ex-officio) Deputy Churchwarden, St John the Baptist

James Lee-Steere (ex-officio) St Margaret's

Deanery Synod:

Andy Carr (ex-officio) St John the Baptist

Shirley Dean Webster (ex-officio) St Margaret's

Elected members:

Helen Burt (Hon Treasurer)

Gordon Lee Steere

Wendy Goddard

Suzanne Cole

Sarah Pusey

David Silliman

Jessie Sutcliffe

Leigh Smith (Safeguarding Lead)

Hon Secretary:

Sir Richard Winter- Stanbridge

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Leigh Smith

Electoral Roll Officer:

Vacant

PCC Dates

16 March

11 May

31 May APCM - See more info below.

13 July

7 September

9 November

Annual Parochial Church Meeting - everyone welcome

This year's APCM will be held at St. Margaret's church at 11 am on Sunday 31st May 2026.

All reports should be submitted to Andy Carr well before the meeting for them to be included with other reports.

NEWS from the Pews

Used stamps for UK Air Ambulance Services

The UK's Air Ambulance Services are charities which receive no government funding and rely entirely on charitable donations to continue flying and responding to life threatening medical emergencies. All funds raised will be donated to the Association of Air Ambulances to be distributed equally to all UK Air Ambulance Services. All you need to do is cut or carefully tear the stamped corner from any envelope or packet that you receive in the post and start a collection.



Once you have a large bundle, would you please put them in a bag and take them into St John the Baptist, Capel to place in the marked box. Sue Partridge is going to post them when we have a good amount to send. Thank you to Sue.

With many thanks to everyone for the continued support of the Dorking Foodbank. Thanks to Sylvie who volunteers at the Foodbank, we always have an up to date list of items they need at this point.

Do you have any plastic carrier bags you can spare? Please do continue to donate non-perishable food, personal hygiene including shampoo, body wash and disposable razors, together with sanitary items, amongst other things. **ALL items are gratefully received.**

This month:

**Tinned fruit
Custard
Cooking oil
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Chocolate bars**

'DONATE TEN'

Could you donate ten items to the Foodbank, or maybe make a direct debit for £10 each month or arrange a one-off donation?

If you would like to hear more regarding this project please contact: Revd Liz Richardson - 01306 711260 or Pastoral Assistant Sylvie Beckett on 07711 849338



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 07732 825908 leighdesouza@yahoo.com or Revd Liz Richardson 01306 711260 liz@hostmyserver.co.uk

Diocesan contact number for reporting safeguarding concerns: safeguarding@cofeguildford.org.uk or call: 01483 790379 **and the contact details for our Safeguarding Officer and the Diocesan Safeguarding contact will be published in our weekly pew sheets as well as in the Church Contacts section in each issue of InSpire.**
(Updated August 2025)



C of E welcomes Government's Schools White Paper announcements

The Church of England has welcomed the Government's Schools White Paper and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) consultation, "recognising the opportunity they offer to secure long-term improvements for children, young people and families."

As the largest single provider of schools in England, and with a long history of serving the most vulnerable, the Church - through the National Society for Education - has committed itself to "engaging constructively with the consultation process."

Notable inclusions relate to strengthening support for children with SEND and improving the coherence of the SEND system. Also, the White Paper's ambition to enhance collaboration across the school system aligns with the Church's experience that "well-led, vision-driven school trusts can enable children and adults to flourish together."

'Still a 'long way' to go on working class vocations,' Synod hears

Progress has been made, but much more needs to be done, in order to increase the representation of people from working class backgrounds in lay and ordained leadership roles in the Church of England, the General Synod was recently told.

The Bishop of Barking, Lynne Cullens, who is heading a key advisory group to encourage working class vocations, said there was still a "long way to go. There was a poverty of both expectation and opportunity which restricts vocational journeys of many."

The Bishop of Chester, Mark Tanner, who Chairs the Ministry Development Board, said there is a 'cultural disconnect' experienced by people from working class roots.

"We heard those frustrations around vocations, discernment, training, finances, housing, and leadership progression, above all around a kind of cultural disconnect, where you are invited to be part of something, but you never fully feel that you belong. But at the same time, we heard hope - genuine hope, cautious, sometimes fragile, but a kind of real optimism."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, welcomed the work to encourage working class vocations. She highlighted shift workers, saying that 27 per cent of the UK work force regularly work evenings and nights - and they will include many potential lay and ordained ministers.

"Our current processes exclude shift workers, and we need to do more to ensure that our vocational processes are accessible to those outside traditional working patterns. Their experience brings gifts to the church that we urgently need," she said.

Synod approves motion confirming LLF programme to conclude and new working group to be established

General Synod recently gave its backing to establishing working and consultative groups to continue work on same-sex relationships and marriage as the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process came to a conclusion.

LLF was originally set up in 2017 to explore the Church's approach to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. It led to the introduction, following a key Synod vote in 2023, of public prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and asking for God's blessing for same-sex couples - known as the Prayers of Love and Faith (or PLF).

The Prayers of Love and Faith are now in use as part of regular Church of England services but the House of Bishops confirmed last month that new special or 'bespoke' services for same-sex couples would need full formal authorisation under canon law.

Millions face 'relentless struggle' to make ends meet, General Synod hears

The General Synod has backed a call for the C of E to recommit to ending poverty. General Synod members voted to mark the 40th anniversary of the publication of the landmark report *Faith in the City*, and its impact on Christian social action, including the work of the Church Urban Fund.

Churches must listen to people who are living in poverty, the General Synod agreed, in their mission to witness to the love of God through service to their communities. The battle against poverty should include 'asking questions' about the causes as well as responding through services such as food banks, the Synod said.

Mark Sheard, from the Archbishops' Council, said that 40 years on from *Faith in the City*, poverty continues to hinder the health, wellbeing and life chances of millions of people. "The awful truth is that there are 14 million people living in poverty in our nation, one in five of our population," he told the General Synod. "Each has their story, their own struggles, their own reason to feel hopeless and abandoned by society – and maybe even by God."

Faith in the City, published in 1985, was commissioned by the then Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie amid concerns about inner city decline and the 1981 riots in English cities. The report was a catalyst for Christian social action and led to the founding of Church Urban Fund.

The latest figures from the Church of England show that more than 31,300 social projects are run or supported by Church of England churches. These include nearly 8,000 food banks and more than 3,000 community cafes.

General Synod approves motion to strengthen safeguarding

The General Synod recently voted to approve a new strategy designed to rebuild trust and deliver professional, independent safeguarding across the C of E. At the core of the reforms is the creation of a new national safeguarding charity. This organisation will operate independently of Church hierarchy, governed by a majority-independent Board.

The charity's lead safeguarding professional will oversee 'protected' operational powers. This will ensure that day-to-day safeguarding decisions remain entirely independent of Church leadership. The Rt Revd Dr Joanne Grenfell, the Church of England's lead bishop for safeguarding, said: "What has been agreed is a single, unified system that brings independence and scrutiny together. This is needed to rebuild trust. It will deliver consistency of practice at every level of the Church - from parish to palace."

For more info: [Safeguarding Structures Programme webpages](#).

Give clergy training in how to support people with mental health challenges - Synod

General Synod has backed calls for the training of ordinands, curates and priests on how to support people with mental health needs, amid rising levels of mental health challenges in communities.

In a debate on mental health and the Church, Synod members acknowledged the pressures facing clergy, and also requested that the National Society, which leads the C of E's national work in education, develops more training materials on mental health for church schools and children's groups.

"Mental health issues can appear from nowhere or follow significant periods of overwork, loss, or other life events, or just the pressure of ministry in a hard place.

"Being self-aware, being open to the wisdom of others, such as a spiritual director, should trigger the need to seek further guidance and help and we pray that will be available.

"So if we look beyond ourselves - the needs and concerns of our parishes, our communities, our schools - this is a mission imperative, it is a Gospel imperative, for we have Good News to share, that we might be informed and able to act through our work, welcome and support which the Church can and should offer."



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

What is it with some people? You know the type - always angry; ready to lash out at the least thing; constantly feeling that someone is trying to get the better of them; forever looking for problems where none exist. They could start a fight in an empty room. There is something about confrontation and aggression that is the fuel that drives them. These people are difficult enough when you encounter them in daily life, but things take on a whole new level of difficulty when they're allowed to run countries!

At the time of writing a substantial part of the middle-east is in flames with no prospect of an early end to hostilities. Would it be unkind to suggest that this has mainly been triggered by thin-skinned men (why is it *always* men) with enormous egos but a minute capacity for tolerance and understanding? Men whose greed is only matched by their innate conviction that the biggest bully always wins. Men who value land over people; oil over food; war over peace. And, by the way, there is still a terrible war going on in Ukraine which, to the delight of another dictator, can be pursued without the "inconvenience" of generating front-page headlines and top billing on the evening news.

Some of these world leaders even have the audacity to claim that they are pursuing their selfish desires to dominate another nation because God is on their side. Really? What, that same God who says, "*For I Know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" or "*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*"? If they *really* knew the God whose name they are happy take in vain then they would know that He is all about conflict resolution.

The bible is full of helpful advice on what to do when relationships turn sour.

"...everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1:19

"Bear with each other and forgive one another" — Colossians 3:13

"...do not let the sun go down while you are still angry." — Ephesians 4:26

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

There is little we can do to change the face of world politics but we *can* make a difference in the small "wars" that erupt in families, friendships and communities. We can be quick to listen and slow to speak; forgiving of the weaknesses in others; try to live at peace with everyone, and seek to resolve any issues before we turn the light out at night. It may not change things on the global stage but a little bit of love and understanding can go a long way. After all, 2,000 years ago a carpenter's son chose 12 ordinary people to be his disciples, preached about a God of love and mercy and started a revolution that has billions of followers today.

The next **Sunday Session** is on 12TH April and we'll be at looking conflict. So, if you're curious, questioning or confused, come along and join the rest of us. You'll get a warm welcome, a cup of coffee, a croissant and plenty to think about.

Bob Cranham

ALPHA COURSE CONTINUING IN CAPEL

We are continuing with our **Alpha** course each **Tuesday evening at 7.00pm**. If you or someone else would like to join **Alpha** please do encourage them. Please contact Rev Liz or Rev Gill for further information (contact details on page 3 of this magazine).



Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

**Come and join us at
The Cottage, 97 The Street, Capel, RH5 5JX.
We look forward to welcoming you!**



Lent reflection

Revd Jo Winn-Smith explores Jesus' refusal to worship the devil in Luke 4, emphasising that true worship belongs to God alone. She highlights the deeper meaning of worship in Hebrew—*Avodah*—a word that unites worship and work, reminding us that our daily actions reveal where our hearts truly lie. Worship is not confined to Sunday services but lived out through the orientation of our lives toward God. Lent offers a moment to pause and examine what we prioritise, asking where our focus may need realignment so that our work, service, and whole being are directed towards loving God first.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlFQjeraS8w>

High Days & Holy Days - April

2nd April – Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "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 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared 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.

*Don't forget there is a service on Maundy Thursday (2nd April)
at St John the Baptist,
Capel at 7pm with foot washing.*

5th April - Easter morning, the 'Other' Mary

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person to actually meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it *was* Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.



Thank you!



As ever, a huge thank you to Helen Berry for our beautiful flower arrangements in church each week. These flowers were some of the ones that adorned St John the Baptist for Mothering Sunday recently. Also thank you to Helen for kindly running the Capel Church teas this year and the Lent Lunches. Helen ... you're a STAR! Thank you from us all. The Editor



Nudge Event

Tuesday 5 May, 7.30 pm, St John's Stoke, Guildford

Is God nudging you to explore how he wants to use you? Perhaps you're feeling that God has something more for you or someone else is encouraging you to explore where God might be calling. If that's you, then consider our diocesan Nudge Event.

[For further information about support in exploring your vocation, visit our website.](#)

Register to attend

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=RQb6MSIL6UKs30M5H_bJTZvK7UxIukxDmtLEt2J3TLdUNIU2WFc2S0FaQ0RGR1pRTEE2VDdJVDFGMy4u&route=shorturl

Editor: Below are some highlights from Sarah Mullally's address.

The new Archbishop of Canterbury's first Presidential Address

Here are some highlights from the first Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, at the February 2026 General Synod group of sessions.

I stand here among you by no means for the first time, but for the first time as the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a humbling privilege to be called to serve in this role. It brings with it huge weight of responsibility, at a time when people love to remind me that the church faces significant challenges.

But when the wind and the waves are rocking the boat, I am reminded that what I need to do is to focus on Christ, who calms the waters and stills the wind. With your help and with God's grace, I pray that I am able to approach this ministry with calm, consistency and compassion – as we seek to be what the Church has for so long been: a stable presence in an unstable world.

Do, please, continue to pray for me in the months and years to come, as I will always pray for you. I do not carry my new responsibilities alone. We serve God's church together, lay and ordained; uniquely reflecting God's image into one another, and remembering His prayer that we should be one in our love for God and of one another.

At my Confirmation of Election, I was deeply moved to be asked, during the Charge which was given to me, to 'help the Church love itself more ... believing that its best days are still to come'. And I do believe that this is true. Through every challenge, our hope in Christ remains - and our confidence in the Gospel, as good news for our nation and for God's world, is not shaken.

I see God's Kingdom, the pearl of great price, revealed in countless places across the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. The Church of England is a Christian presence in every community. In parishes and chaplaincies across the country, day in and day out, faithful clergy and congregations worship God and love their neighbours. With every Eucharist that is offered, with every prayer said; with every child helped to flourish in our schools; with every family cared for in times of celebration and of sorrow; with every night shelter and food bank; with each worship service, youth group and community lunch; with every effort to work for justice, dignity and fairness in our nation and our world – with all of this and so much more, we live out our calling to share the love of God with those around us.

And across the global Anglican Communion, in its profound diversity, we see Anglicans offering that same hope to a world around them: working for peace in places of war, caring for the sick and lifting up new generations of young people, and speaking of the hope that we find in Jesus Christ.

Because with Christ, the Church is there in all those places and with all those people, and the Kingdom is made known. I rejoice in every example I see of this – the pearl of great price - glimpsed in faithful, local, sensitive, intelligent ministry which embodies and speaks of the Kingdom.

So, what sort of Archbishop do I feel called to be? As I said when I accepted the nomination, as I respond to the Call of Christ in this new ministry, I remain rooted in my first calling: to follow Christ, to know Him – and to make Him known in the world. My Christian vocation first led me to become a nurse – then later a priest, then a bishop, and now an archbishop. The theme that has run through of all of these chapters of my life has been washing feet, and in serving and caring for others.

And so, I believe that I have been called to love and serve the Diocese of Canterbury, the Church of England, and the Anglican Communion, not through developing new programmes and initiatives, but by being a shepherd, who works collaboratively and in partnership, enabling others to flourish.

And I will work with you, Synod, with my fellow bishops, and with our national church bodies, striving to ensure that the Kingdom is being nurtured everywhere - in parishes, chaplaincies, cathedrals and schools, in the smallest and most fragile communities, as well as the larger and more confident expressions of church, wherever disciples seek to be salt and light.

Contd on page 15

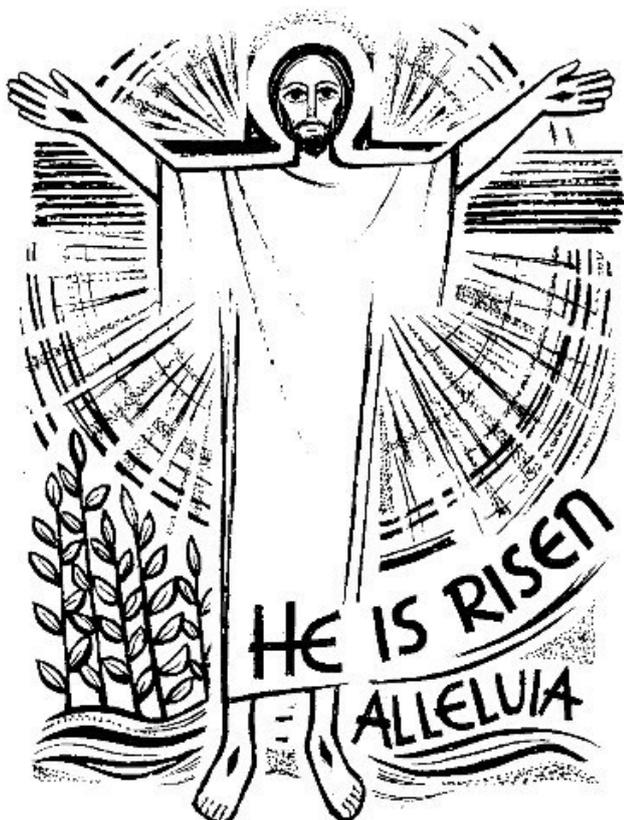
The role of the Archbishop of Canterbury is a complex and challenging one. But at its heart is something profound and simple. Along with my fellow bishops, I am called to share the hope that we have found in Jesus Christ – and what that means for us all as individuals, and as a society. I pray that the thread running through my time as Archbishop will be that of nurturing confidence and hope, rooted not in institutions, but in God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With our confidence in God, we can believe that indeed, the best is yet to come for the church that we love and nurture, and therefore for the world that the church is called to serve.

As Archbishop of Canterbury, I commit myself to nurturing, supporting and praying for all our parishes, chaplaincies, cathedrals and schools, where quiet faithfulness is coupled with a readiness to respond to every opportunity, however small, to embody the hope of the Gospel at the heart of a community; where people, together, become places where the Kingdom happens.

As a shepherd, I will strive to be calm, consistent and compassionate to all. I commit myself to enabling the Church to be the Church. May we continue to offer ourselves in God's service for God's world: our hope rooted in the Gospel, and our confidence rooted in God, who holds the Church and its future in love. Please pray for me as I pray for you. Amen.



THE ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTERBURY



Amazing

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

By Isaac Watts

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his seven-part series. This will run until the July issue.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Envy

'A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.' (Proverbs 14:30).

This month we are looking at the Deadly Sin of *envy*. As a consuming desire to have what others have got, it's a major source of unhappiness.

It is different to jealousy: *'Envy is wanting something that someone else has. Jealousy is the fear of losing something you already have to someone else'* (Brene Brown). We can envy things like wealth, looks and possessions, resulting in resentment, bitterness and anger. The pursuit of possessing what others have will always leave us empty and dissatisfied, as the use of social media demonstrates.

How do we overcome envy in our lives?

Gratitude: 'Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus'. (1 Thessalonians 5:18). A grateful heart has no room for envy, when we focus on God's love for us and what He has given us, rather than looking at others' gifts and opportunities. God has created us uniquely to be the people we are and different to others. As a result, we are better able to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep.

Trust: 'And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.' (2 Corinthians 9:8). One of the chief causes of envy is FOMO: Fear of Missing Out! We can trust that God knows everything that we need and so we don't need to worry about missing out. By entrusting our lives to Him, we can confidently depend on God meeting all our needs.

Is God truly enough for me? *'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.'* (Psalm 23:1).

Nice

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

High Days & Holy Days - April

25th 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.

PRAYERS, PROSE & POEMS

That Day

That day was a day like never before
As the Saviour died and the darkness grew,
Earth shuddered and rocks were split apart
As the veil of the temple was torn in two.

The centurion who witnessed all these things,
The earthquake, the One who was nailed to the wood,
Seeing Him die could only say,
'Surely this man was the Son of God'.

Death was defeated, the stone rolled away -
And man was released from all his bonds,
Christ rose as victor that glorious day.

The Light had pushed the darkness back,
He now stands resplendent for all to see,
Forgiveness, redemption all wrought on the cross,
The eternal fruits of Calvary.

By Megan Carter

Resurrection Light

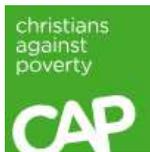
Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us
may your dawn beckon.
When fear paralyses us
may your touch release us.
When grief torments us
may your peace enfold us.
When memories haunt us
may your presence heal us.
When justice fails us
may your anger ignite us.
When apathy stagnates us
may your challenge renew us.
When courage leaves us
may your spirit inspire us.
When despair grips us
may your hope restore us.
And when death threatens us
may your resurrection light lead us.
Amen.

Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/easter-prayers/resurrection-light>



*See also Bishop Paul's prayer for
Bishop Andrew on page 31*



Easter Prayer for Peace

Father, we call upon the prince of peace, the Lord Jesus Christ to keep the whole world in a place of peace despite all these challenges. We know that we find peace in you. A peace beyond understanding, a peace that at times doesn't make sense to others. This Easter, O King of glory, let peace overtake our fears and our worries. Let peace and faith arise in us anew, and draw us ever close to the prince of peace.

Amen

<https://capuk.org/news-and-blog/prayers-for-easter>

Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,
Thank you for Jesus; for His life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by His work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us.

In joy and thankfulness, we praise and honour you this Eastertime.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The way

When Jesus bowed His head,
And dying took our place,
The veil was rent, a way was found
To that pure home of grace.

By John Elias



Deacon's diary

Dear friends,

As promised in last month's Inspire, here is a quick round-up of your deacon's activities in the second half of February; attending the Surrey Weald Team's Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes, assisting at a baptism in Ockley and ending the month with the super organ recital at St. Margaret's as well as the usual round of weekly commitments both in the community and in church. It was a busy, but happy month.

March began well with my hosting of the diocesan curates training day in St. John's, Capel. What this actually entails is that each month some 15-20 of the Guildford diocese curates with 3 tutors visit one curate's church for a day of training. The hosting curate is required to provide refreshments on arrival, (the same for a mid-morning break and drinks at lunchtime), led a 15 minute opening worship session and then support the tutors with anything they might need to assist with the training. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing some churches in Guildford, Ashted, Dorking, Westcott and this month it was my turn.

It was a beautiful sunny morning when I arrived at the church at 8.15am. I had been recommended to order pastries from Carters in advance and I was thrilled with the result. The hot freshly made croissants etc delighted everyone who attended with a number of people wanting to know their source! The church was warm and welcoming, particularly as Rev Liz's husband, Doug, kindly prepared fresh filter coffee both for people's arrival and also for the mid-morning break. The curates and the tutors alike clearly relished visiting a truly country village church with some exploring the churchyard and others examining the windows and other monuments inside the building. I felt very privileged to claim this church building as one of the two from which I carry out my ministry and I was very relieved that the day passed successfully.

Thereafter March did not progress quite as planned! The next day I had an unplanned visit to Horsham Minor injuries clinic, having tripped over a ball belonging to my dog and hearing some snapping sounds as I fell. I was very relieved to be informed I had broken only two bones in my foot, but some of the consequences have been tedious. The subsequent two weeks have been spent on a sofa with strict instructions 'not to move'. I have benefited enormously from the kind enquiries and visits made by friends with my husband commenting to my son that the living room resembles a florist's showroom! I am truly grateful for all the kindness everyone has shown me (including Rev Liz and one of my tutors who came to my home to carry out my annual appraisal).

Although invited, attending Bishop Andrew's funeral at Guildford cathedral was out of the question, but a dear friend kindly took me to St. Paul's, Dorking where the cathedral service was being streamed live. The occasion was suitably splendid with beautiful music, some laughter, some interesting accounts of the Bishop's life from the different perspectives of family and friends and some deeply poignant moments; just after the commendation, the Bishop of Dorking lifted Bishop Andrew's crozier from on top of the coffin and passed it to the dean of the cathedral. The dean then raised this six foot symbol of authority horizontally above his head and processed alone and in silence from the altar at the chancel to place it on the high altar. The visual act emphasising the end of Bishop Andrew's holding of office. It was both magnificent and sorrowful!

Please do let me or Rev Liz know if you would like any prayers for anyone or any situations as we continue to live in a very beautiful part of a broken and war-torn world.

Best wishes,

Rev Gill Christie

curate@capelandockleychurch.org.uk 01306 711917

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers reading the gospel in church.

Reflecting Faith: Same Old, Same Old

Last time I wrote I suggested you listened carefully to your own internal thoughts and feelings before and after listening to a sermon – be it in church live or on a video or broadcast. Well, here we are at Easter – and guess what the sermon subject is likely to be? Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

In so many ways it really could be ‘same old, same old’ and the preacher could just repeat last year’s sermon. Let’s face it, nothing will have changed in the Easter story in the last 12 months.

Or has it? For me, and I suspect for most folks, 12 months can be a ‘long’ time; and things change in our lives. Babies are born, youngsters change school, teenagers leave school, young people move out, friends die, accidents happen, and pains and sorrows come and go. Around all of that personal business the world turns: there are holidays, seasons, catastrophes, people hurting people, people caring for others and on and on it goes. Things might repeat but they are never truly ‘the same’.

So it is with the Easter story. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed! Really? In the midst of my life and the world around me? In the centre of your life and your community? Is it any less amazing today than it was last year, or the year before, or a decade previously or when the women went to the tomb that first Resurrection Day?

In so many ways I need to hear this story again – but anew. New, not just because the preacher will (hopefully) have made it register with what’s happening around my small community today and new because I am not the same person I was a year ago – for better or worse!

I shall hear those words differently this year than ever before. Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!

This month

Before you listen to this year’s Easter Sermon, think about the changes you’ve had in your life since last year and the world around us. How much more do you need a living Christ today? May you say in your depths, with me: *Christ is risen – He is risen indeed!*

High Days & Holy Days - April

12th April - Zeno of Verona, the more things change

Zeno of Verona (d. 371) should be the patron saint of all ministers who suspect that the more things change, the more they remain the same.

For instance: ethnic diversity...church-planting... teaching.... concern for the poor... women’s ministry in the church... sound like modern-day Christian concerns? Not a bit of it – this was the life work of Zeno, bishop of Verona in the fourth century.

Ethnic diversity? Zeno was an African who had been consecrated a bishop in Italian Verona. Church-planting and teaching? Zeno had a reputation as a hard-working pastor and dedicated preacher who founded churches throughout his domain. Some of his sermons still survive.

Concern for the poor? Zeno was zealous in alms-giving, and encouraged others to do the same. Women’s ministry? He founded nunneries and encouraged virgins living at home to be consecrated long before ever Ambrose did the same in Milan.

As for down-time? Zeno may well have been addicted to fishing in his spare time – he is, after all, usually represented with a fish. Nothing wrong with that: the links between fishermen and Christian leaders go back a long way!

Some miscellaneous observations on our Christian walk....

The trouble is, we won't let God help us. - George MacDonald

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position. - Anon

Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible. - Anon

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord. - Anon

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point. - Anon

Prayer is more than meditation. In meditation the source of strength is one's self. When one prays he goes to a source of strength greater than his own. - Anon



Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his series on the books of the Bible.

What's the Big Idea? - An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Lamentations

The Book of Lamentations consists of five laments over the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of Judah's leading inhabitants to Babylon. Tradition ascribes the book to Jeremiah, who witnessed Jerusalem's destruction in 586 BC. Each lament is an *acrostic* i.e. each verse begins in order with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet (except the fifth).

The themes of the laments can be summarised as follows: Jerusalem in Agony (1); the LORD's Anger (2); Judah's complaint against Adversity (3); Jerusalem's Anxiety (4); and Judah's prayer to the Almighty (5). Lamentations portrays the overwhelming sense of loss that accompanied the destruction of the city, along with its Temple with its worship and sacrifices. However, the book is not simply concerned about Jerusalem's destruction, but for the lessons that can be learned from it.

Jeremiah sees the Babylonians as human agents of God's judgment upon Judah's sin. It was God Himself who destroyed the city and temple. However, God's action was not arbitrary, for the people had deliberately sinned against Him and broken their covenant with Him. Although the people's tears and cries for vengeance are understandable, God looks for a sincere heartfelt sorrow from the people. The book begins with lament, '*How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she who once was great among the nations!*' (1:1), but finishes with repentance, '*Restore us to yourself, Lord, that we may return; renew our days as of old*' (5:21).

However, in the middle of the book there is a reminder of God's goodness and faithfulness: '*Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*' (3:22-23).

Editor: The following is written by the Revd Roy Shaw, a retired but active priest in the diocese of York, where he is a spiritual director.

Resurrection life

Did you have 'a good Lent'? Were you able to make the journey with Jesus through the turmoil of those last days of His earthly ministry as He set His face to go to Jerusalem, knowing He would be killed there? I find the Lenten journey, particularly Holy Week (the week leading up to the crucifixion) harrowing, and by 3 o'clock on Good Friday - the hour at which Jesus traditionally died - I am wrung out.

All of which makes Easter Day and the weeks that follow, with the joy and reality of new life, so much the sweeter. No wonder Christians make this the most important day of the year - much more so than Christmas. God, in the resurrection of Jesus, has vindicated the way of love, truth, sacrifice and service, kindness and hope over the self-serving and grubby ways that seek power, self-advancement, privilege, hatred and division. Hallelujah!

It's all summed up in the poem 'Easter Wings' by the 17th century poet and priest George Herbert. For me, it's not the words of the poem so much as its shape - it's written in the shape of a butterfly's wings. Now that's clever; - to let both shape and words express something lovely, like the freedom and beauty of a butterfly on the wing. That sums up Resurrection life.

We are not asked to explain how the Resurrection took place. That is known to God alone, and we would trip ourselves up in all sorts of ways as we seek to find a rational explanation as to how it happened. But we are invited to live it - yes, live the Resurrection in ourselves - as we ask the Risen Lord to lead us through each day. In time, this constant invitation to live out the Resurrection changes our whole being, as we try, in the words of Mother Teresa to 'do little things with great love.'

The more I try and live out Resurrection life (more properly, the more I allow Jesus to live the Resurrection life through me) the more boundless I find it to be. Which I guess is why God gives us a season - seven weeks up till Pentecost - to allow this stupendous fact of the Resurrection to sink into us, call out a response from us.

Enjoy your Easter eggs, your Easter bonnets, your egg-pacing; in fact, have a great Easter. But don't let the Resurrection pass you by. It's the gateway to what Jesus calls 'life in all its fulness'.

Commandment

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked: "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill."



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear friends,

Welcome to the April and Easter issue for 2026! It has been a sad month with the Bishop's illness announced and since then his death and funeral. Rev Liz and a couple of members of our church attended the service and said how very moving it was. I'm sure we all join in sending our love and prayers to his family at this very sad time. Bishop Paul's prayer which has been in all the Diocese churches can be found on page 31 for further reflection.

We have plenty going on at our churches this Lent and Easter. There is are two special services on **Good Friday - A Service of reflection using St Matthew's Passion at Capel and at 2-3pm, do join in at St Margaret's, Ockley for 'The last hour at the cross using Art'**. The **Lent lunches** have been superbly run by Helen Berry once more with assistance from Margaret Zandona. Delicious soups, bread, cheese and biscuits, together with our own 'Mary Berry's' (Helen!) cakes! Easter Sunday offers us several opportunities for worship and refreshment! At 9.30am at St Margaret's there will be **Easter Holy Communion CW followed by an Easter egg hunt!** Then at 10.30am there will be **Family Communion at St John's**. In the afternoon, we can again sample Helen's delicious cakes at the **Easter Church teas!** You can find the list of the 2026 teas in this magazine on page 29.

As well as all the church dates, you may be interested that it is **National Parks Fortnight on 4th-18th April** and **National Gardening week on 28th April to 4th May**—more details on both on page 31.

We have been very busy working on our **Parish Needs Process** over the last few months and as a result of that, one focus is to get back to improving our **Eco Church** status. Stuart has written an article on page 24 about the new Eco Team, all of whom are on the PCC and he is outlining some of what we need to look at going forward and what actions we might take. We had another excellent churchyard clearing party early in March and about 12 of us turned up. This time, unlike before Christmas, we were bathed in sunshine and not fog for the whole morning! There will be more working parties in the future and Stuart and Andy will give us notice when they want our help again! Thanks must go to Richard Winter-Stanbridge for kindly organizing the very successful Organ Recital at the end of February at St Margaret's. It sounds like it was a wonderful evening which we were sorry to miss due to a holiday. Do read Richard's report on the evening on page 2. Let's hope we can enjoy more of the same sometime in the future! A wonderful evening of entertainment and of course, vital fundraising for our two Parish churches.

There are several **High Days & Holy Days for April** featured and one fascinating one is on page 19 for 12th April - Zeno of Verona. *For instance: ethnic diversity...church-planting... teaching.... concern for the poor... women's ministry in the church... sound like modern-day Christian concerns? Not a bit of it - this was the life work of Zeno, bishop of Verona in the fourth century.*

I hope everyone enjoys the Easter break and I'm sure we will all enjoy all the services and events on offer to us at this time. I wish Gill a continued recovery with her foot and hope we enjoy her back amongst us all very soon!

"The great gift of Easter is hope." — Cardinal Basil Hume.

Happy Easter to all our readers!

With my best wishes,

Suzanne

inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk



Shirley caught the flower ladies
red-handed, dealing trugs

A history of our Easter chocolate

Chocolate. Just a mention of the word can trigger off all kinds of emotions: craving, greed, passion. Few foods have the ability to get such a hold on people. As you buy your Easter eggs and bunnies and whatever else this month, here are some of the facts of chocolate:

Where does chocolate come from? Chocolate is made from the seeds of the tropical cacao tree, *theobroma cacao*. The Greek word 'theobroma' means literally 'food of the gods'. The Cacao Tree is found in Latin America.

Who first discovered it? The Aztecs. The cacao beans were used to prepare a hot, frothy beverage with stimulant and restorative properties, something like hot chocolate.

Who was (probably) the first chocoholic? The Emperor Montezuma. He drank 50 goblets a day of the frothy drink.

Who used chocolate as currency? The Aztecs. 100 cacao beans would buy a slave; 12 cacao beans bought the services of a courtesan, etc.

When did chocolate as we know it today begin? Surprisingly, not until 1879. That year Rodolphe Lindt had the inspired idea of triglyceride cocoa butter. The cocoa butter in chocolate contains saturated fat, but a normal level of consumption doesn't have any bad effects.

At what point does a chocolate lover become a chocoholic? It is generally considered to be when a person feels impelled to consume 12 or more 60 gram bars of chocolate per week. Chocolate contains its own cannabinoid (a chemical that prolongs pleasurable sensations) and when you eat chocolate, there is an increased blood flow in areas of the brain which are also activated by addictive drugs such as cocaine. But scientists agree that occasional over-indulging will cause no long-term problems... except perhaps around your waistline!



Articles & Features

Many members of our parish have contributed to the Parish Needs Process which is a method of identifying our priorities for the years ahead. One of those priorities that we identified was the need to reinvigorate our working towards Eco Church. Currently we hold a bronze award, but we would like to do better.

Eco Church was launched in 2016 by A Rocha UK. It is a Christian charity committed to equip Christians and churches to bring care for the natural world into the heart of their communities. There is a lot of information on their website about Eco Church - arocha.org.uk. Please take time to have a look and consider what you can do. As a now retired advertising slogan once said – Every little helps.

Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes open to all denominations. It provides a framework to support the local church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth. It includes a toolkit of resources and an online award survey. There is also the opportunity to take part in online events, and conferences.

The aim of the survey is to identify areas where we could do better in 'going green' as well as reward the work already done by the granting of Bronze, Silver or Gold Eco Church award. It is all designed to equip our church to express care for God's world through five key areas of church life:

- ◇ **Worship and Teaching**
- ◇ **Buildings and Energy**
- ◇ **Land and Nature**
- ◇ **Community and Global Engagement**
- ◇ **Lifestyle**

Eco Church accommodates churches in very different settings - churches with large to small buildings or no buildings at all.

Obviously, we would like to progress through the various stages. Three of us, Helen Burt, Sarah Pusey and myself are starting to identify what we can do using Eco Church's resources as a guide. This will take some time as there are a lot of areas to consider, and over the coming months we hope to include articles in Inspire giving background to the five key areas, and later also what we have identified can be done. Whilst it would be nice to be able to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 in line with the national church we have to accept that resources are limited – not only financially, but also in time and effort. It is also important that we do not scrap something early in its useful life because it is not net zero in use, only to replace it with a new thing that is net zero in use, but not in its original manufacture or is made using modern slavery or supports despotic regimes.

Stuart Cole
Churchwarden, Capel

Please see article on opposite page about a Sustainable Flowers motion

General Synod backs Sustainable Church Flowers motion

The General Synod recently backed a Diocesan Synod Motion from the Diocese of Worcester encouraging churches and cathedrals to explore ways of arranging flowers that are both beautiful and environmentally responsible.

The Sustainable Church Flowers movement began as a grassroots initiative in the small rural parish of Harpley, Worcestershire, when volunteers started exploring how traditional flower-arranging methods could reflect the Church's commitment to caring for creation. It has since grown into a national and ecumenical network offering practical support to parishes, arrangers and clergy.

It encourages churches, wherever possible, to consider using seasonal, locally sourced flowers and foliage, and to phase out single-use floral foam - a 1950s-era plastic product which cannot be recycled or composted, sheds micro-particles when handled, and contains the equivalent of up to ten carrier bags' worth of plastic per block. The Royal Horticultural Society has already prohibited floral foam at its shows, including Chelsea, since 2021.

The motion highlights long-established alternatives such as reusable vessels, twigs, moss, chicken wire, and metal "frogs", which for centuries enabled churches to create arrangements without single-use plastics. It also celebrates the creativity of volunteers and the opportunity to support local growers and community gardens.

The Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick, said: "The Sustainable Church Flowers movement rejoices in flowers and foliage in church, and encourages us to source them locally and seasonally wherever possible: remember Jesus on that hillside, rejoice in what's around you. Think simple, natural, beautiful."

The Sustainable Church Flowers provides online resources, tutorials and local ambassadors. More at: <https://suschurchflowers.com>





Breakfast Together with Guest Speaker
8.30am Saturday 16 May 2026 – Okewood Village Hall

Come and join us for a delicious full English breakfast (healthier options also available!) followed by a fascinating talk by Simon Pinchbeck.

After 23 years in the Metropolitan Police, Simon left the force having received a not guilty verdict on an assault charge. He became obsessed with money and material things and entered a life of crime. After being ripped off for a large sum of money he was left at the lowest point of his life, facing either prison or death.

That was when God threw him a lifeline in the shape of Tough Talk's Bryan Robertson. Seeing the change that faith had brought to Bryan, Simon made a choice to invite Jesus into his life and embark on a personal relationship with him, made real through the Alpha course. Come and hear his amazing testimonial.

Tickets: from **Liz Thorne 01306 628227** or email **lizthorne2053@hotmail.co.uk**

This is a donation-only event (suggested donation of £10 per person for those who are able)

Tickets are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment!

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 on either 07951 710176 or lizthorne2053@hotmail.co.uk

Book Reviews

The PCC Strikes Back – more Dave Walker Guide to the Church Cartoons By Dave Walker, Canterbury Press, £10.99

Dave Walker, cartoonist, cyclist, web editor and former church and youth worker is the UK'S most shrewd observer of the quirks of church life.

His distinctive *Guide to the Church* cartoons appear weekly in the Church Times, and have made their way into books and calendars, and on to mugs, tea-towels and T-shirts. This ninth collection includes, among other things: - those new church chairs – rejected designs. - some handy suggestions for the church app – a hierarchy of needs for when you get locked in the church

Dare to be True – George Herbert: Verse and Prose By Wendy Cope, SPCK, £16.99

A fresh and affectionate celebration of George Herbert - the greatest devotional poet in the English language - introduced by award-winning poet Wendy Cope.

Herbert's verse, playful in form yet profound in reflection, continues to speak across the centuries, uniting poetic artistry with questions of meaning, belief and the human condition.

Drawing on Herbert's friendships with John Donne and Lancelot Andrewes, Cope situates him within the rich world of 17th-century literature and faith. As T. S. Eliot once wrote, Herbert is "a major poet" and in this volume, readers will see why.

From his celebrated poem *Love (III)* - described by Simone Weil as "the most beautiful poem in the world" - to lesser-known works revealing his honesty and humour, this collection invites a new generation to rediscover the clarity, depth and craftsmanship of Herbert's voice.

Perfect for readers of poetry, literary history, and those drawn to reflections on art, faith and human experience.

To Hell's Mouth and Back: pilgrimage, suffering and hope By Trystan Owain Hughes, BRF, £9.99

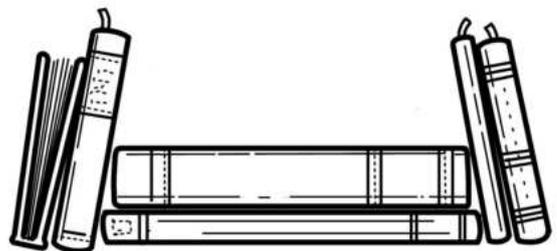
After a gruelling 140-mile pilgrimage walking across the rugged terrain of North Wales, Trystan Owain Hughes finds himself facing another, very different pilgrimage as he recovers from a serious injury sustained on the walk.

In *To Hell's Mouth and Back* he explores his experience of suffering, considering how God can redeem and transform pain and disability, and examines how common experiences of pilgrimage are echoed in the challenges of our life journeys. Along the way, the reader is led to consider the journeys we all face, as we search for God's presence and hope in our joys and pains.

Stories of the Saints By Margaret McAllister, SPCK, £12.99

A beautifully illustrated children's book featuring 12 inspiring stories of Christian saints, ideal for ages 7 to 11. From Saint Peter and Saint Paul to Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Teresa of Avila, Saint Bernadette, Padre Pio, and more, each story brings to life the courage, faith, and compassion of these beloved saints.

Lively and vivid, some tales are told in the first person, others through onlookers' eyes, with each story including extra information about the saint's life. Graceful illustrations, inspired by ancient art and architecture, make every page a visual delight. Perfect for young readers, families, and Sunday schools, this faith-based collection inspires children with stories of heroism, kindness, and devotion.



"If we are imprisoned in ourselves, books provide us with the means of escape. If we have run too far away from ourselves, books show us the way back."

– Holbrook Jackson

When you mix children and religion...

You get some unexpected gems. The following are extracts from religious exam papers...

In the first book of the Bible, Guinnesses, God got tired of creating the world, so He took the Sabbath off.

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark because Noah built an ark. The animals came on in pears.

The Jews are a proud people and throughout history they've had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The Seventh Commandment is: Thou shalt not admit adultery.

Moses died before he ever reached Canada.

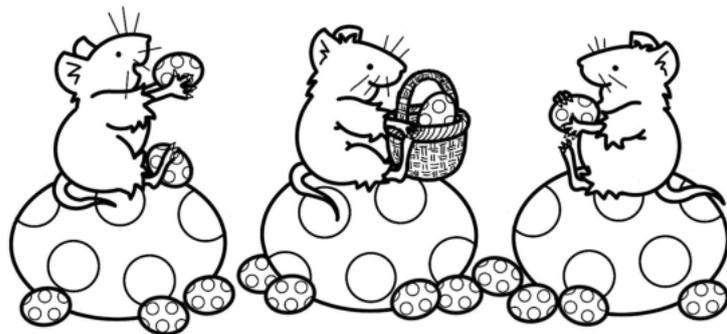
Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.

It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.

The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels.

St Paul cavorted to Christianity down the Damascus Road. There he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.



Church Teas 2026

All teas at St John the Baptist, Capel

Timings: 3pm—5pm

** Please see different time for Sunday 25th October*



Sunday 5th April

Easter Sunday

Sunday 3rd May

Sunday 7th June

Sunday 12th July

Sunday 2nd August

Sunday 30th August

Sunday 27th September

Sunday 25th October *

*** Please note the tea begins at 4pm after the All Souls Service beforehand at 3pm**

Sunday 29th November

Remembering the musical genius of Richard D'Oyley Carte

It was 125 years ago, on 3rd April 1901, that Richard D'Oyley Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.

Best known now for his association with Gilbert and Sullivan, Carte operated during the late Victorian age as a talent spotter/agent and theatrical impresario, as well as building a hotel empire. Among his many clients were Jacques Offenbach, Clara Schumann, James McNeill Whistler, Matthew Arnold and Oscar Wilde.

Carte was born in 1844 in Soho, but when he was a boy the family moved to Dartmouth Park in Islington, North London, where he was brought up in a large, detached house by an artistic family who spoke French at home two days a week. The name D'Oyley is French/Norman, and the family also had Welsh ancestry. Musically gifted, Carte studied violin and flute from an early age, then took up composing.

While risqué French musicals were popular on the London musical stage in the 1870s, Carte felt that wholesome, skilful English comic opera could take over. So, he recruited dramatist W S Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, whose first joint venture was the short, experimental *Trial by Jury*. This became a huge success and led to the 13 'Savoy' operas, whose clever wordplay and magical tunes exhibited such staying power that they are still in constant demand today.

To exploit his 'find', Carte founded the D'Oyley Carte Opera Company, which was run after his death by his second wife, Helen. He also built the state-of-the-art Savoy Theatre, and next to it the Savoy Hotel. Other hotels followed.

Biographer Hesketh Pearson said: "He took what other people thought were risks, but he felt were certainties."

National Parks Fortnight - 4th to 18th April

This month would be a good time to visit at least one of our 15 National Parks, and to appreciate once again the role they play in conserving our environment and encouraging people to enjoy outdoor activities.

Just some highlights:

Oldest: The Peak District was designated as the first UK National Park in 1951.

Largest Park: Cairngorms National Park in Scotland, covering 1,748 square miles.

Smallest: New Forest National Park, at only 150 square miles.

Most populated: South Downs National Park, with about 12,000 people living within it.

Most visited: Lake District National Park, with about 18 million visitors a year.

Longest coastline: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, with a coastline of 186 miles long.

Altogether, there are ten National Parks in England, three in Wales and two in Scotland:

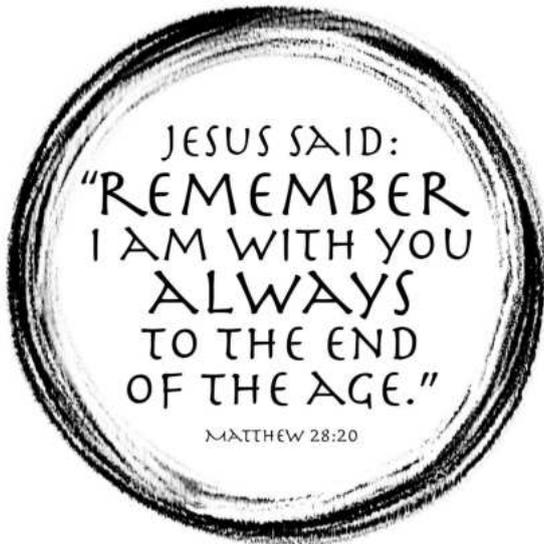
England - Dartmoor, Exmoor, the New Forest, the South Downs, the Broads, the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District, the North Yorkshire Moors and Northumberland.

Wales - Snowdonia, the Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast.

Scotland - Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and Cairngorms.

Altogether, the National Parks make up roughly 10% of the total landmass in the UK.

More details at: <http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/>



A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Bishop Andrew

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for Andrew, our brother and bishop: for his faith and faithfulness to you, in life and in leadership.

As we mourn his death and commend him to your everlasting arms, give us the same faith, hope and love, rooted in the death and resurrection of your son, Jesus.

We pray especially for Beverly, Hannah, Sam, Joe, Lydia and the whole family.

Comfort them with your Holy Spirit and protect them in their grief.

And bring us, at the last, with Andrew and all your children, to that eternal joy

where you live and reign in glory forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayer by Bishop Paul

National Gardening Week - 28th April to 4th May

Led by the Royal Horticultural Society, this annual premier UK celebration encourages everyone to experience the joy of gardening.

Aimed especially at beginners, events and activities are run up and down the country, offering tips, events, and resources to promote the health, wellbeing, and environmental benefits of cultivating plants. The RHS provides expert tips, how-to guides, and fun, easy gardening challenges to build confidence in new gardeners

More at: <https://www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk>



All in the month of April ...

100 years ago, on 21st April 1926 that Queen Elizabeth II was born.

50 years ago, on 3rd April 1976 that the UK won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest with *Save Your Kisses for Me* by Brotherhood of Man.

40 years ago, on 11th April 1986 that Halley's Comet made its closest approach to Earth during its most recent visit. It will return to Earth's vicinity in 2061 and 2134.

15 years ago, on 29th April 2011 that Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton were married at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

10 years ago, on 22nd April 2016 that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was signed. It came into effect on 4th November 2016.

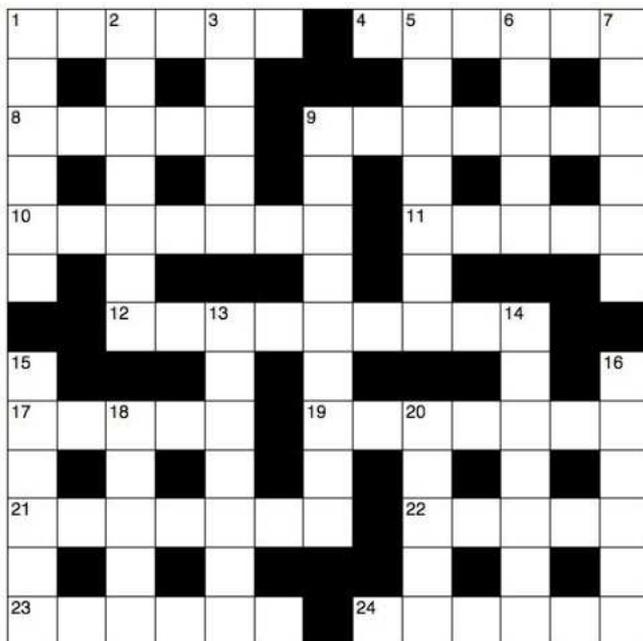
CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)



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

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Easy Sudoku

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

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Medium Sudoku



Puzzle solutions
on page 34



Puzzle Solutions

Sudoku Easy Solution

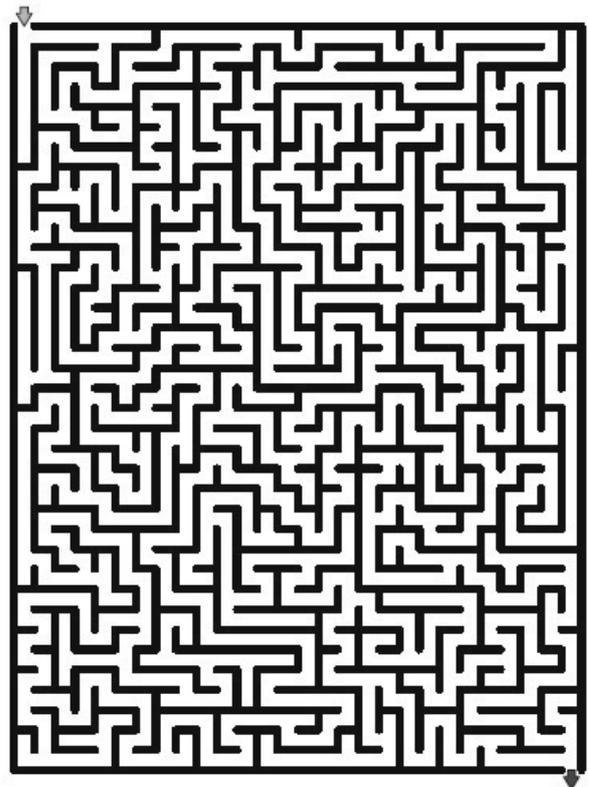
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1	9	6	2	4	3	8	7	5
2	3	5	8	7	1	4	6	9
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7	6	1	9	3	8	2	5	4
3	2	9	7	5	4	6	1	8
9	1	3	5	8	6	7	4	2
5	4	7	3	2	9	1	8	6
6	8	2	4	1	7	5	9	3

Sudoku Medium solution

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

Crossword Solution

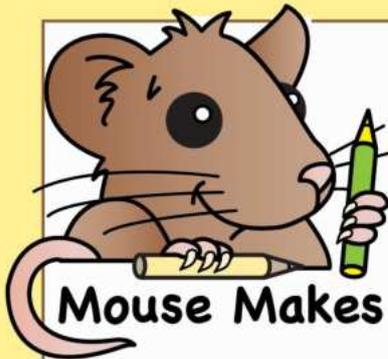
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L	C	S				O	O	P			
I	N	H	I	S		D	E	L	A	I	A
F	O	U	E			Y	S	E			
F	A	L	W	E	L	W	A	T	E	R	
S	A					I	A				E
						R	E	C	O	V	E
P						A	E				S
S	I	D	O	N		R	A	D	I	A	N
Y	A	D	E			E	C	O			
C	E	N	T	A	U	R	B	R	O	I	L
H	C	C				A	N	E			
E	L	E	V	E	N	P	R	I	S	O	N



Can you find your way out of April's maze?

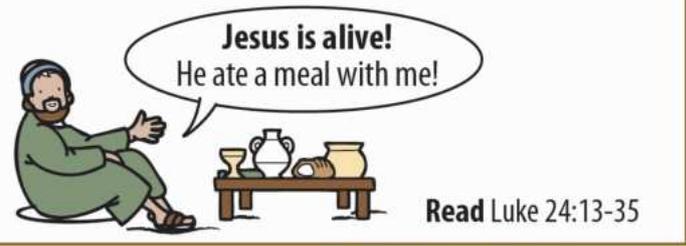
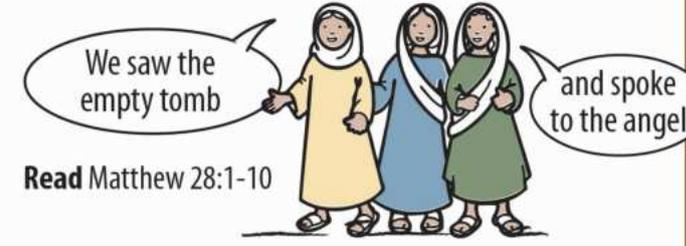
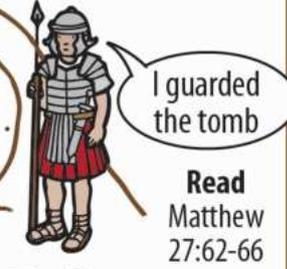
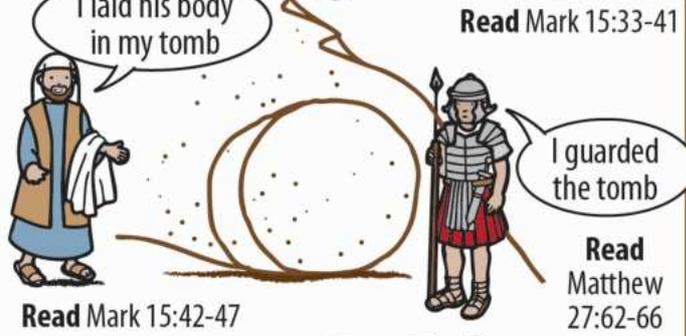
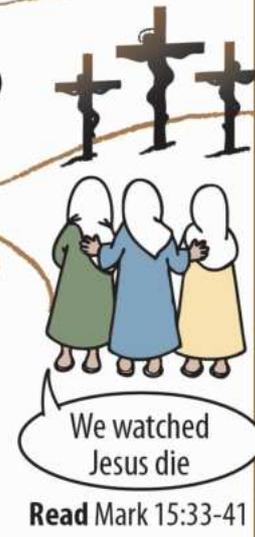
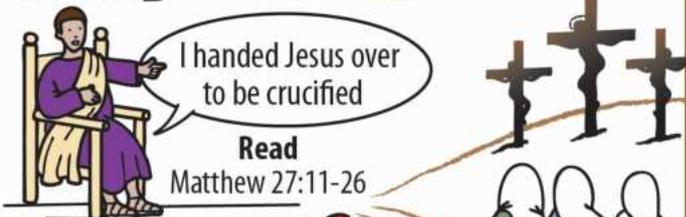
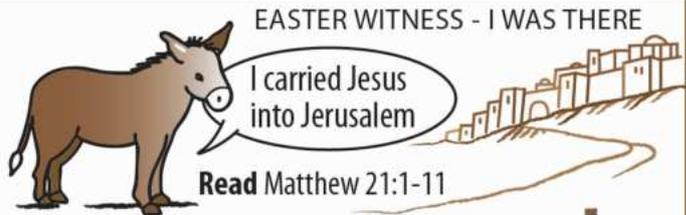


Junior InSpire



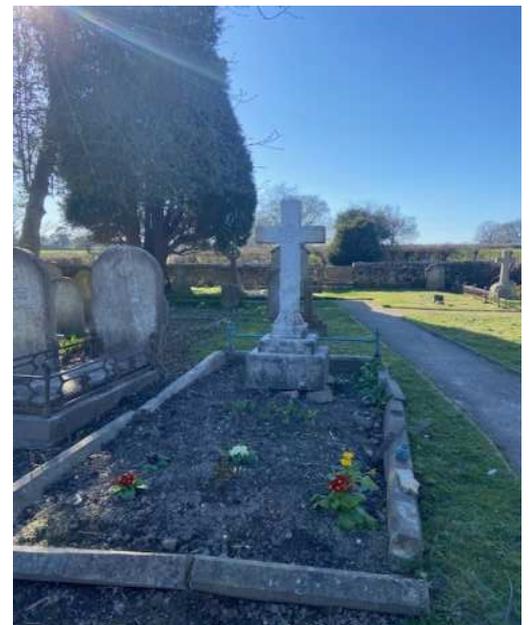
GOOD NEWS
 OHOSANNA
 DEATHQB
 VNCOEUI
 UAHNAARO
 MIREVSU
 ALIVETDR
 RISENEOK
 YOTHORNS
 PALMSQKA
 RPILATEN
 CRUCIFYG
 RHIQUAKE
 OCJESUSL
 STOMBVDY
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY





Our hardworking Churchyard Task Force



A huge thanks to all who turned out for the most recent Churchyard working party! Great care was taken to preserve any wildlife. Thanks to Leigh de Souza who has planted some flowers on the grave she has cleared and the headstone she has cleaned with great care.

Your contributions would be most welcome and any copy for this publication should be sent to Suzanne Cole inspire@capelandockleychurch.org.uk **By 20th of each month please.** If you would like to receive *InSpire* by email, you can subscribe to InSpire via the church website:- www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/inspire-magazine