

Volume 24
Issue 4

75p

Holy Week, Easter & April 2024



EASTER The Rock

**The Church Magazine for the
Aune Valley Benefice of
Churchstow, Loddiswell, South Milton,
Thurlestone with Buckland & Bantham & Woodleigh**

Aune Valley Benefice Business

Benefice Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 28TH	6.00 p.m.	Benefice Eucharist (CW)	CH
SUNDAY APRIL 7TH	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist (CW)	L
ROGATION SUNDAY MAY 5TH	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Rogation Sunday Service at Shute Farm <i>See page 6 for more information</i>	SM
ASCENSION DAY THURSDAY MAY 9TH	6.00 p.m.	Benefice Eucharist (CW)	TH

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The Rock*

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The Benefice Online

The Sunday Service on YouTube continues, led by members of the Ministry Team with readings and intercessions recorded by Benefice members and recorded hymns to which you can sing along. This service enables those unable to come to church to have the chance of "attending" a Benefice Sunday Service. It reaches 40+ households from across the Benefice and beyond each week. The link for the service each week can be found at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html

Service of Prayer and Meditation by Zoom - **Tuesday April 2nd at 5.00 p.m.** led by Nell Stamp. Please contact on keithsteer50@btinternet.com for the Zoom link.

Monthly Benefice Breakfast

Saturday April 6th 9.00am South Milton Village Hall

This will be a good opportunity to catch up with what's happening across the Benefice, progress following the Churchwardens and Worship Service Leaders meeting with the Archdeacon on Wednesday March 6th, and to pray for the next stage in our journey together. For catering, please let Mike or Siân Hodges know if you hope to attend. *Mike Hodges*

Vacancy Update

Your Church Wardens, LLM's and Rev Collin Snell had a very positive meeting with the Archdeacon on March 6th sharing the visions for each Parish in the Benefice which you have created. The Archdeacon was greatly encouraged by the visions we shared and the work which has gone into collecting/integrating peoples individual vision statements. He commented that they will form a key component of the Parish and Benefice profile.

An integrated vision of the future of arrangements for worship, discipleship, pastoral care and community engagement in the benefice has started to emerge which will be developed over the coming months following consultation and agreement at all levels in the diocese, starting with the Archdeacon's meeting with the Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committee Thursday the 7th March. We ask that you continue to hold the future of our parishes and benefice in your prayers. *Mike Hodges*



Come and Celebrate Ascension Day, commemorating the Ascension of Christ into Heaven, which occurred 40 days after the Resurrection

Benefice Ascension Day Eucharist

THURSDAY MAY 9TH 6.00 p.m. at ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, THURLESTONE

The next edition of the Rock will be published on **Sunday May 5th**

Copy deadline for the May edition of The Rock is **Monday April 8th**

General items to the editor: Liz Webb. Old Mill Cottage, West Buckland, TQ7 3AG, e-mail: mewebbsite@btinternet.com

Parochial items to your Parish Magazine Contact (see Benefice Directory page 16)

Annual subscription £8.50 contact: South Milton: Cherry Bell (560526); Churchstow: Sally Cridland (856940)

Annual postal subscription, £25.50, contact Liz Webb (560090). (Cheques made payable to PCC Thurlestone)

The Rock is also available on cassette for the visually impaired - contact Jan Turner (560354)

Advertising: Annual subscription £48 for '8.9cm x 8cm' or '18cm x 4cm' box. A single month advertisement may also be possible for one off events at **£8** for '18cm x 4cm'. Contact Elizabeth Webb (560090/mewebbsite@btinternet.com).

The current issue of The Rock may be found at www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/welcome-to-all-saints-church



We hope you may join us for the Benefice online Service, especially if you are unable to attend a service in your church

A SUNDAY SERVICE ON YOUTUBE

www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/recorded-services.html



A Reader Reflects

Happy (whatever that means) Easter!

To all readers of The Rock: a very Happy Easter!

Those of you who are of an inquisitive and open mind might ask: "What does a really Happy Easter mean – to me or to anybody?"

We reach only a little help from reading the Gospel accounts of the disciples' reactions to the risen presence of Jesus. Although John tells us that the disciples "rejoiced" when they saw the risen Lord, that was only after Jesus had reassured them with "Peace be with you". The hearts of the Emmaus couple "burned" at the opening of the scriptures by the walking companion who broke their bread at the supper table. But after they had returned in excitement to the disciples in Jerusalem, Luke tells us that when Jesus appeared (and again spoke "Peace" to them) they were startled and terrified at first, and then "disbelieved from joy and in wonderment".

We can infer that the true joy of Easter is not to be found in the reaction to a pleasantry on Easter morning. Instead it comes – most often as a gradual flow-tide – to those who in some way have been accompanying Jesus in his passion, his suffering. The agony of loss or injury, injustice suffered, way of life destroyed, the humiliation of being misunderstood by those relying on doctrinaire opinions, false accusations of selfish motives – all these were suffered by Jesus in his last days and hours. They are suffered still today by faithful humble people; including by just and innocent people he loves who have never heard of him.

It is to these that Jesus most fully reveals his risen power to drive out the ruler of this world by the moral authority of his humility and by sheer love and commitment to those who have kept faith. Refugees, homeless, war victims, political prisoners, those suffering on long waiting lists and many others: these may find bodily pain, rejection, even martyrdom. To them, Jesus will reveal himself in his own time, and the happiness of Easter assuredly will be theirs.

We may feel that we shall not find much more than a shadow of that Easter happiness. But through prayer and selfless action towards the victims of today, the brilliance of the empty tomb can shine ever brighter in our lives. May it be so this Easter!

Happy Easter!

Please help us to support our community by making a standing order

kingsbridgefoodbank



We are always most grateful for all donations of food and/or money, no matter how big or small, but to help assure our monthly income please consider making a Standing Order



Bank Account Name: Kingsbridge Area Foodbank
Account No. 17928860 Sort Code: 77-09-24

We need your ongoing support to help those in need.

Thank you!

Thurlestone Telegraph



Sunday Services at All Saints' Church, Thurlestone unless shown otherwise

MARCH 24TH	Palm Sunday	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) (NOTE TIME) 11.10 a.m. Palm Sunday Family Service
MARCH 31ST	Easter Day	11.10 a.m. Easter Family Communion (CW)
APRIL 7TH	2nd Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m. Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Loddiswell
APRIL 14TH	3rd Sunday of Easter	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) (NOTE TIME) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship
APRIL 21ST	4th Sunday of Easter	11.10 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW)
APRIL 28TH	5th Sunday of Easter	8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (BCP) (NOTE TIME) 11.10 a.m. Morning Worship
MAY 5TH	6th Sunday of Easter Rogation Sunday	8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (said) (CW) (NOTE TIME) 10.30 a.m. Benefice Rogation Service at Shute Farm, SM

Midweek Services

MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 28TH	6.00 a.m. Benefice Maundy Thursday Eucharist at Churchstow
GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29TH	2.00 p.m. Last Hour Readings and Meditations
WED. MARCH 27TH APRIL 10TH, 24TH, MAY 8TH (?)	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (said)
THURSDAY APRIL 11TH & MAY 9TH	10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) (said) at Bantham

For variations and more information please see the Church Notice Boards & www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-services
The website can also be accessed by scanning the QR code on the right below

Please scan the QR codes:

← **To make a donation to All Saints' Church, Thurlestone**
or
to visit the website for more information about the church →

<p style="text-align: center;">Souper Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Homemade Soup, Tea/Coffee & Cake FRIDAY APRIL 12TH 12.30 p.m. ONLY £5 in aid of Church Funds</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch Club</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>for those living on their own</i> FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23RD 12.30 p.m. £10 for 2 Course Meal Please book on 01548 560655</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee-Time</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAYS 10.30 - 11.30 a.m. <i>Donations to monthly charity & church funds</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Aune Valley Toddlers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">for children under 4 years with parents/carers THURSDAYS 9.00 - 11.00 a.m. Contact Siân Hodges (561124/07784893405/ sian2.hodges@btinternet.com)</p>
<p>Disabled access - Wheelchair available</p> <p>More information on https://www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/church-events-diary.html</p>	

Photographic Competition
of the Thurlestone, Buckland & Bantham Area
to choose photographs for the 2025 Calendar

Entries by May 1st *Entry forms from Bantham & Thurlestone Shops,
 or www.thurlestoneparish.co.uk/photo-comp-form.html*

The photos (max. 10) must be of the Thurlestone area (Thurlestone, Buckland, Bantham, River Avon, Burgh Island, Thurlestone Rock, the local coast, beaches and adjacent area) and the **LOCATION MUST BE IDENTIFIABLE.**



Each photograph should be labelled with the location and spring/summer/autumn/winter.

PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE GOOD QUALITY DIGITAL (minimum 300dpi or 1MB), AND NEED TO BE SUITABLE TO "SELL" THE CALENDAR, ESPECIALLY THE COVER ONES

Main photographs should be landscape (ratio of width to height 4:3 if possible) + **a maximum of 2 portrait** photographs (ratio 5:7) for the calendar cover. **Entry fee:** 50p per photograph, to cover cost of printing.

You will then be asked to vote for the winning photographs at the **Photographic Exhibition with Cream Teas in Thurlestone Church Meeting Room May 25th - 27th**

Electoral Roll

The annual revision of the Church Electoral Roll starts on **April 21st** and finishes on **April 30th**. If your name is currently not on the Roll and you wish it to be, application forms are available at the back of church or contact Liz Webb (560090/mewebbsite@btinternet.com).

PCC: We currently have vacancies on the PCC in Thurlestone. We do not *need* to fill these vacancies, but we would like to be able to do so. We're looking for people who might be able to help shape the future of the Church's life in our communities, contribute to the practical mission of the Church and participate in governance and leadership.

Specifically we are in urgent need of someone to take on the following Rolls: Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and a Planned Giving and Gift Aid Secretary, the latter two roles are currently combined. If you feel that you might be able to fill either of these rolls or to actively participate in the life of the PCC, then please contact Liz Webb or Mike Hodges.

Advance Notice of the Annual Church Meetings

The Annual Church Meetings will take place on **Monday May 24th 10.00 a.m.** in the Church Meeting Room

Liz

Services at Loddiswell

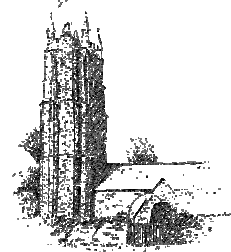
Services at St Michael and All Angels, Loddiswell unless shown otherwise

MARCH 24TH	Palm Sunday	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
MARCH 31ST	Easter Day	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW) with Baptism
APRIL 7TH	2nd Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Loddiswell
APRIL 14TH	3rd Sunday of Easter	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (CW)
APRIL 21ST	4th Sunday of Easter	9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
APRIL 28TH	5th Sunday of Easter	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
MAY 5TH	Rogation Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Rogation Service at Shute Farm, S Milton



The church is open during the day See page 2 for information of online services
 Currently St Mary the Virgin, Woodleigh is not open for services or private prayer

South Milton Grapevine



Services at All Saints, South Milton unless shown otherwise

EVERY FRIDAY		4.30 p.m. Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel
MARCH 24TH	Palm Sunday	9.30 a.m. Palm Sunday Family Service
MARCH 31ST	Easter Day	9.30 a.m. Easter Family Communion (CW)
APRIL 7TH	2nd Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m. Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Loddiswell <i>President: The Venerable Douglas Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes</i>
APRIL 14TH	3rd Sunday of Easter	9.30 a.m. Morning Worship
APRIL 21ST	4th Sunday of Easter	9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist (CW) <i>(to be confirmed)</i>
APRIL 28TH	5th Sunday of Easter	9.30 a.m. Sunday Morning Together
MAY 5TH	Rogation Sunday	10.30 a.m. Benefice Rogation Service at Shute Farm

The church is open during the day

See page 2 for information of online services

As last month 'No mention of the weather', I think that the seasons are a wee bit awry this year. However, our church seasons progress as usual according to the Common Worship lectionary. We approach the Season of Easter with Palm Sunday on March 24th. Palm Crosses will be distributed as usual which your PCC hope you will treasure until next year. Tradition has it they should be burnt before the next Palm Sunday when new ones will be in use. They are made in the Holy Land by workers who realise their significance.

Mothering Sunday was attended by mums but sadly no children. However we presented our posies and shared a cake and a cuppa and were thankful for each other's company. Pam conducted the service with her new thoughts, as well as the usual thoughts of the day.

The Easter season will be with us before we know it and the services are listed above. Please note the venues and times of these services as they are different this year. We are very grateful for all the help we have received from retired clergy as they come along to take a service for us.

We wait patiently for the 'powers that be' to make their decision as to our future as a Benefice, and hope that all will be well and that our church will continue to flourish.

Sadly I have to report the death of John Sterry. We send our thoughts and prayers to Ben, Hannah and Jo and their families at this sad time.

Pam Patey is still in a care home until she is fit to return to her home in the village.

The rest of us continue to thrive and live happily together.

Take care and look after yourselves and your neighbours.

Love Jan T

Please make an effort to come to the outdoor Benefice Rogation Sunday Service

to celebrate God's wonderful creation and
to ask for God's blessing on the crops

SUNDAY MAY 5TH 10.30 A.M.

SHUTE FARM, SOUTH MILTON

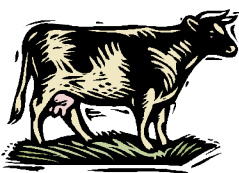
(Take left fork just before South Milton church or sharp right after church & continue to end of lane)

Parking available ~ Coffee/tea and biscuits/cake after the service

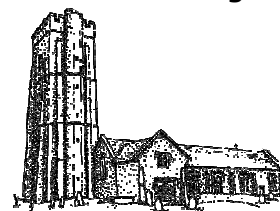
**This is a good occasion to meet people from across the
Benefice in a more informal setting.**

8.30 a.m. Benefice Holy Communion (CW) at Thurlestone

If it is wet, please check venue with your churchwardens



Churchstow Chimes



Sunday Services at St Mary the Virgin, Churchstow unless shown otherwise

MARCH 24TH	Palm Sunday	11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)
MARCH 31ST	Easter Day	11.00 a.m.	Easter Family Communion (CW) <i>President: The Venerable Douglas Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes</i>
APRIL 7TH	2nd Sunday of Easter	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist (CW) at Loddiswell <i>President: The Venerable Douglas Dettmer, Archdeacon of Totnes</i>
APRIL 14TH	3rd Sunday of Easter	11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion (BCP)
APRIL 21ST	4th Sunday of Easter	11.00 a.m.	Morning Worship
APRIL 28TH	5th Sunday of Easter	11.00 a.m.	Parish Communion (CW)
MAY 5TH	Rogation Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Benefice Rogation Service at Shute Farm, SM

The church is open from 9.00 a.m. until 4.15 p.m.

See page 2 for information of online services

Plant Sale

This year's plant sale will take place on **Saturday May 4th** 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon. Come along and purchase your plants, cuttings and seedlings, flowering or vegetable, and garden related items. There will also be coffee, cake and a raffle. All proceeds are in aid of St. Mary's Church. For more information call Judy Martin on 852428. *JRW*



Churchstow Village Store and Post Office

I'm sure you will have seen the works and improvements we've been making to the shop and hope you like what we've done. The extra space will enable us to extend the range of products we sell and to add other services for the community. We feel passionate about the need for the village to continue to have a shop and post office at the heart of a vibrant and thriving community. We would like the shop and post office to be looked upon as a meeting place for the community to shop, enjoy a coffee and snack and use the post office facilities.

With the closure of banks locally and the expansion of PO services we're aware, more than ever now, of the need for post office services, they offer a real alternative to banking. We've made a considerable investment in the business and have plans to expand services further but, if there is anything else you feel the PO could offer, please ask and we can look into obtaining those services.

Likewise the shop. If there are any specific items you would like us to stock, then subject to availability, we will do our best to stock them. For the shop to continue and be successful we do need your support. The phrase 'use it or lose it' is often proved to be correct. We welcome ideas from you that would enable you to use the shop more frequently and to support us financially. We will be making more changes and improvements over the coming months, which will mean more investment from us so your support will be invaluable.

We do our best to be as competitive on price as we can and often compete successfully with local supermarkets. We also do our best to use local suppliers for a large number of products and are constantly seeking new local suppliers. Most of our fruit, veg, bread and cakes, fish, meat, pasties and sausage rolls are sourced locally. Newspapers and magazines can be ordered and kept for collection.

We have tried to support the community and parish since opening and we have some exciting ideas to improve this with local competitions and quizzes etc, we'd welcome any ideas or suggestions.

So, get involved. support us by using us and let's work together to ensure we provide what you need and the shop and post office become even more a part of our community.

Massive thanks to our amazing team Julie, Charlotte and John for their constant unwavering support.

We all very much look forward to seeing you, from the team - Julie, Charlotte, Gill, John, Nick and David

Activities & Events in the Church Hall



Whist Drive
EVERY
SATURDAYS
7.00 P.M.

£3 in aid of Church Hall
Contact John Woodley on 857916



Soup & Puds
THURSDAY
APRIL 18TH
12 NOON

£6 in aid of Church Funds
Contact Phyllis on 858836

Coffee Break

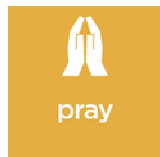


THURSDAY
APRIL 4TH
10.30 A.M.
- NOON

Proceeds in aid of Church Hall



Diocesan News



'The Lord is Here' John 20:11-18

When one of our sons was working abroad, I remember the excitement of going to the airport to meet him on his return. The date had been in the calendar a long time with a big ring round it, and David and I got to the airport ridiculously early. Then there was the moment when we knew the plane had landed and passengers began to emerge through the big glass doors. We were scanning, searching, peering on tiptoe through the crowd. Suddenly we see him, for a split second before he sees us, and then great joy, smiles, and tears; the hugs and happiness of a son returned, of coming home.

I picture Jesus waiting in that garden like that, waiting for Mary to come to the tomb (there is a hint of mischief here), waiting for her to turn around and see him, to recognise him, and anticipating the moment of greeting - the utter joy and happiness to come. But Mary, weeping, not expecting that Jesus is anywhere other than dead, laid in the tomb, is slow to recognise him. It only happens when Jesus calls her name. Mary hears his voice and turns towards him and is brought face to face with the most wonderful new reality - he is not dead, he is risen, Jesus is alive and standing before her.



I wonder how often Jesus is waiting for us, though we do not see him. How often he is standing, as if at that airport, longing for our arrival, but we do not notice him in the crowd. We too need him to call our name - which he does, loving and persistent, so we might turn and see him there with us, waiting for us, all along.

We pray for our world this Easter – that a world in need would hear the One who has conquered death, who calls us by name and who opens the gate to eternal life.

And may we know joy this Easter. Like children being welcomed home, may we know the welcome and delight of his love and joy, and hear his calling, always, into the life and love of God. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Rt. Rev'd Jackie Searle, Acting Bishop of Exeter

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Holy Week & Easter



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 'maundy' 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.

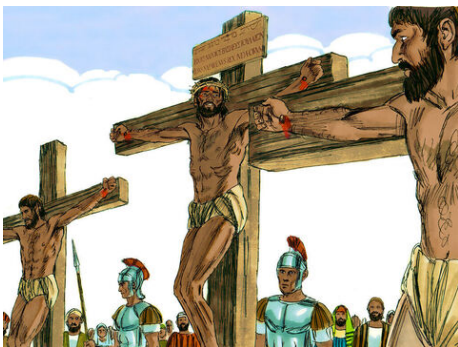
After Judas, who was to betray Jesus, had left, Jesus went with the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. Filled with anguish and deep dread over what He would soon experience, Jesus withdraws with his inner circle, the three disciples closest to him, and takes refuge. There, alone on his knees in the dark night beneath the shelter of olive trees, he cries out to his Father God. And then, resolutely, he does what he needs to do to save all humankind, as Judas identifies him with a kiss and he is arrested.

Good Friday - Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?



The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

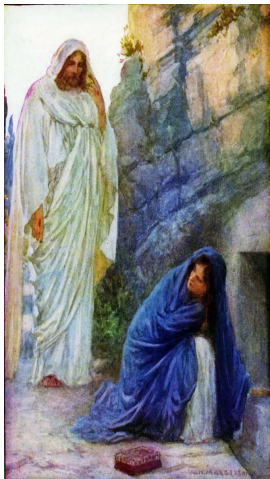
In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).

Easter Day - The 'Other' Mary

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again, 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.

Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

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

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






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The Bible Matters

The Treasure of Easter!



It's amazing what treasure can be unearthed with metal detectors! In this season of Easter, let's rediscover the greatest unburied treasure of the Resurrection.

The Apostle Peter reminds us that God *'has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.'* (1 Peter 1: 3,4). What does he say about this treasure?

On the one hand, it is the *reason for hope*. Peter was writing to Christians in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey) who faced persecution under the Emperor Nero. In an uncertain world we know that Jesus suffered, but by his resurrection has secured eternal life for us. This inheritance not only guarantees life now, but also for eternity, as it *'is kept in heaven for you'* (4). Do we share this confidence? D.L. Moody, the 19th Century American evangelist, spoke of the time when people would read his obituary: *'Don't believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now'*.

On the other hand, this treasure is a *source of joy*. This unburied treasure fills us *'with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.'* (8,9). We face all kinds of trials in our lives, but God uses them to refine our faith and character, *'These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.'* (7).

We reflect this treasure by developing the Jesus' character and becoming more holy, obedient and loving.

'Christmas is the promise, and Easter is the proof'

Canon Paul Hardingham

The Easter Glow

For three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – he was gone.

Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

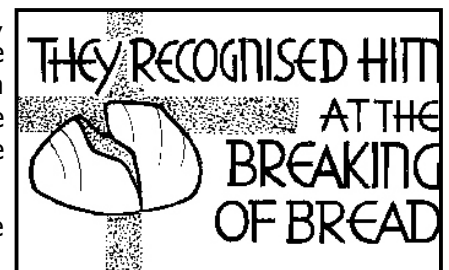
Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The 'scattering' process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ's arrest, when Jesus had quoted to his disciples from the prophet Zechariah: "It is written 'I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'" (Matthew 26:31).

The dream was over. "Let's go home - back to Emmaus." Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire rebuilding of a worldview. As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The stranger says, "Let me fill in those bits for you." Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – 'Why.... it's Jesus'.

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can't keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean - would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of him!



"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')

St James the Least of All

On why a church should always resist change

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Matins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle

Eustace

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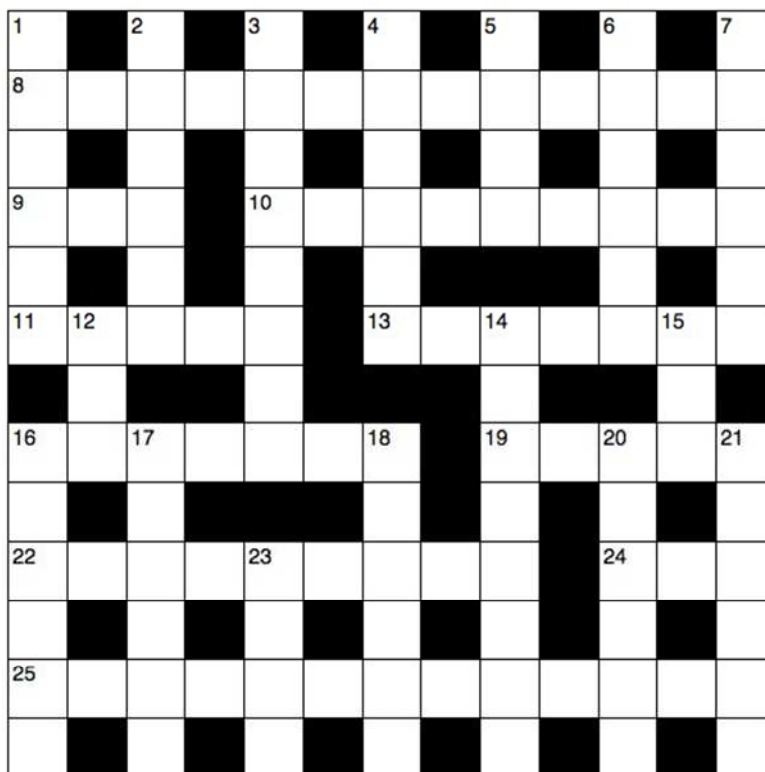
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Crossword Puzzle

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 Philippians (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)

*The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.
Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon,
originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).*

Answers:

DOWN: 1. Utmost, 2. Easter, 3. Assemble, 4. Archer, 5. Isis, 6. To hand, 7. As a son, 12. Hoe, 14. Monastic, 15. Apt, 16. Nuclei, 17. A piece, 18. Tied up, 20. Ararat, 21. Hatred, 23. Dome, 24. Ant, 25. Excommunicate

ACROSS: 8. Transgressors, 9. Out, 10. Ephesians, 11. Throb, 13. Ramadan, 16. Nearest, 19. Neath, 22. Childless,

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(John 19:17, 1:4)

Carrying the cross by Himself
 He went out.
 Sent out,
 Yet choosing to go.
 Word of life,
 Choosing death,
 Knowing the end
 from the beginning,
 Carrying the cross by Himself
 He went out.
 The only one who could,
 The only way He could,
 He went out
 To the Skull Place,
 For me.

Daphne Kitching



The Crossroad

The road was hard, no turning back,
 The way ordained by mighty God.
 'Your will, not mine' was all He said,
 As humbly down that path He trod.

The crowd that cheered Him once with palms
 Began to shout for Him to die,
 They chose Barabbas in his stead
 And with one voice cried 'Crucify!'

Between two thieves on Calvary's hill
 They put to death the Prince of Life
 One cried for help, the other cursed.
 The first was promised Paradise.

This promise now is for us all:
 Christ gave His life to set us free.
 The Cross divides, it always will -
 The question is: what side are we?

Megan Carter

Emmaus

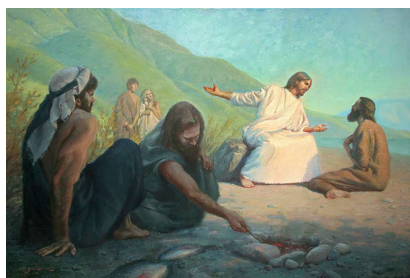
(Luke 24:13-32)

In the breaking of the bread
 Our eyes were opened,
 We knew Him then.
 The Lord was with us
 In Emmaus,
 There was no doubt.
 He was alive and with us,
 The scriptures made sense.
 What a difference!

But thinking back
 To that journey –
 To the grief that overwhelmed us,
 The discussions, disagreements
 And debilitating disappointment –
 A different opening of the eyes,
 We never *were* alone.

Before the word and bread,
 Because of the word and bread
 He was there,
 He is here,
 Always,
 Walking with us.

Daphne Kitching



Him and me

(John 21, John 16:23)

In the end it's all about Him and me,
 And my relationship with Him.

He fed me with fish,
 Caught at His command,
 He forgave me
 For my denials and my doubt,

And He called me
 To emulate His feeding and forgiving.
 He called me to love Him
 And His sheep,
 To feed them,
 To make known His love.

But in the end
 it's really all about Him and me,
 And my relationship with Him.

Never mind the others, He said,
 In this world you will have trouble,
 You will be persecuted
 And criticised
 And accused
 And undermined,
 But *never mind*,
Never mind,
 Look up,
 Be steadfast,
Never mind the others,
 You ... follow me.

Daphne Kitching

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.

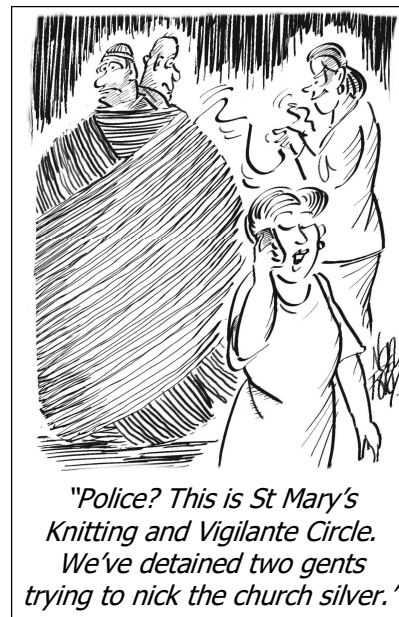
N.T. Wright: This act of the chicken, which would be unthinkable in British barnyards, reeks of that American individualism that is destructive to community.

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

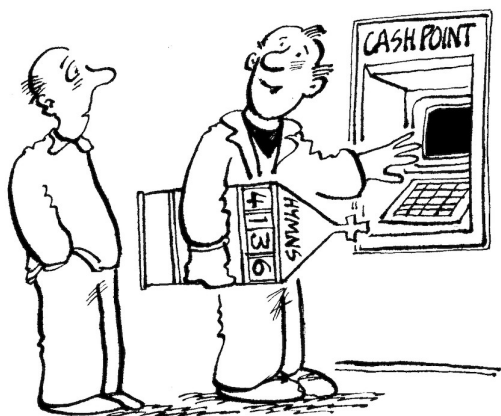
Universalist: All chickens cross the road.

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.



"Police? This is St Mary's Knitting and Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."



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

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."

The Fifth commandment

In reply to a question in Sunday school, one little boy said that the fifth commandment is: 'Humour thy father and thy mother.'

Long prayer

A friend took her small daughter to church. The vicar's prayer had gone on for several minutes when suddenly a small voice piped up: "Has he forgotten how to say Amen?"

From Church Magazines:

Heaven: We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

Choir: Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.

Rolled: The restoration of the churchyard was finally completed by the resurfacing of our driveway. The following Sunday, the church wardens praised everyone who had helped, and gave special thanks to the vicar and his wife who had rolled in the gravel.

Annual Meetings: The church's Annual Meetings will be held on April 22nd

Holiday Respite: While the vicar is on holiday, massages can be given to the church secretary.

Choir: More sinners wanted for the choir.

On Church Noticeboards

Wages: Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.

Who?! *Seen in a West Country church:*
Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.
So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

Aune Valley Benefice Directory

RECTOR: Currently there is a vacancy, please contact a churchwarden concerning parish matters

ADMINISTRATOR: During the vacancy please contact Elizabeth Webb 560090 thurallsaints@btinternet.com for general enquires, including weddings, baptisms and funerals

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	<i>Vacancy</i>	Michael Hodges 561124	<i>Vacancy</i>	<i>Vacancy</i>	Tristan Bertie 550592
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ELECTORAL ROLL:	<i>Vacancy</i>	Joan Booth 561537	Pam Latimer 559038	<i>Vacancy</i>	Penny Fenton 561539
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