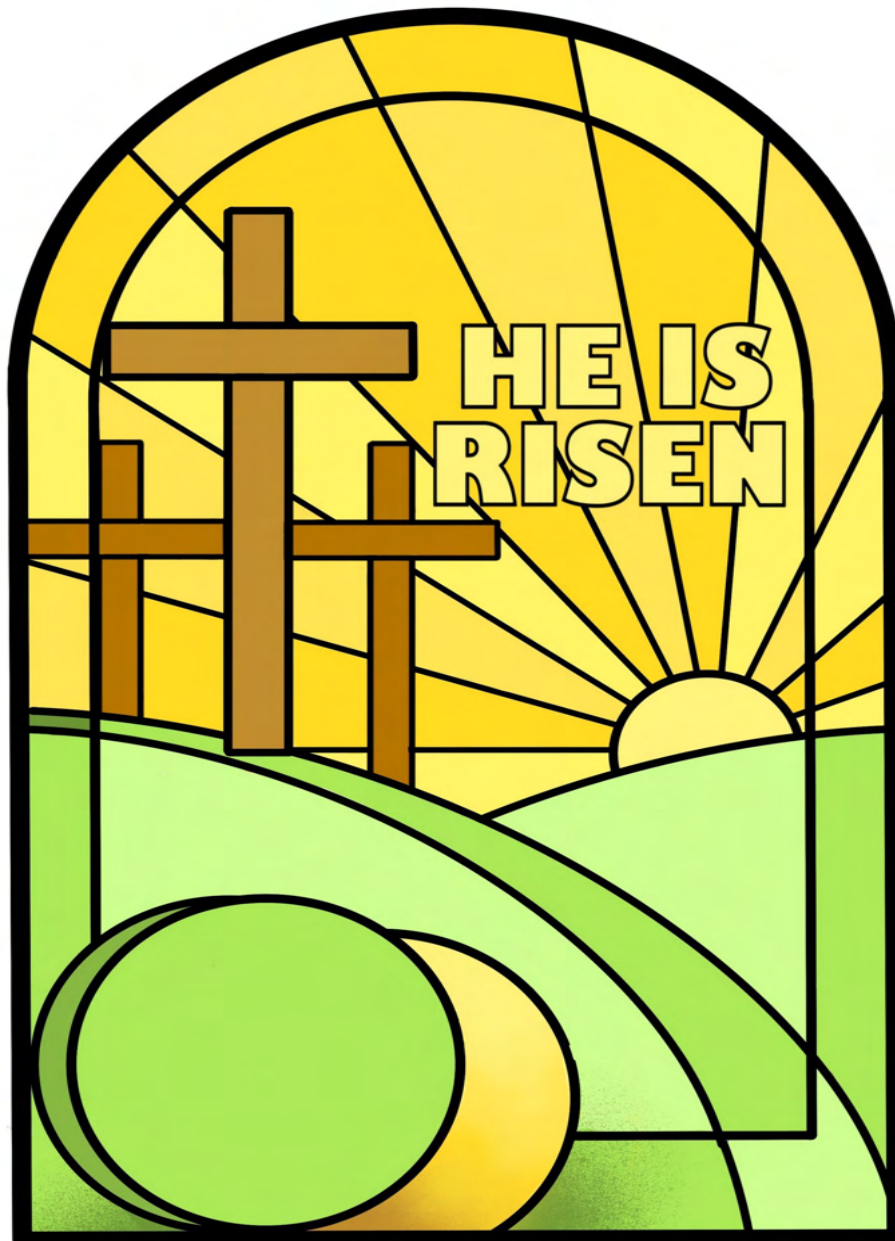


**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM**



**THE MESSENGER  
PARISH MAGAZINE**

**50p**

## **St Andrew's Clergy**

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**Email - [vicar@standrews-handsworth.org.uk](mailto:vicar@standrews-handsworth.org.uk)**

**Asst Priest – Father John Austen**

**Church Warden – Carl Hart – 07967 410155**

## **Lay Readers**

**Carole Sami – 07447 889657**

**Alison Thorne**

**Valerie Powell**

**Stuart Jeffs (Director of Music)**

## **Services**

**Sunday 10.00 – Parish Eucharist. This service is also live streamed via YouTube**

**Wednesday 7.00p.m. Evening Prayer/Book of Common Prayer. Wednesday Services take place via Zoom and are led by Lay Readers Valerie Powell, Stuart Jeffs and Alison Thorne.**

**Thursday 10.00a.m. Holy Communion Service**

**Church Website <https://www.standrews-handsworth.org.uk>**

**Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StAndrews.Handsworth>**

**Twitter @StAndrewCE\_HW**

**St Andrew's WhatsApp Group – if you wish to join, please contact Carl Hart 07967 410155, Valerie Powell 07540 890068 or Stuart Jeffs 07910 484505**

## **St Andrew's PCC**

**Carl Hart- Church Warden**

**Vacancy – Church Warden**

**Vacancy – PCC Secretary**

**Richard Paton-Devine – Treasurer**

**Mary Bairstow**

**John Emmins**

**Rachael Emmins**

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## Letter From The Vicarage

### **A journey from temptations to Alleluia**

Christians throughout the world begin their Lent with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our origin who we are. That we are dust, and to dust, we will return. I think our world would be very different – less corrupt and less cruel if we remember our destiny.

Lent is a time of fasting, prayer, almsgiving, reflection, renewal, and preparation before celebrating Easter. We read in the scripture that Jesus was driven to the wilderness. The wilderness is a hostile environment that provokes fear. It is a harsh reality - barren, dry, lifeless. After forty days and 40 nights, Jesus felt hungry. The devil tempted Jesus on an empty stomach. Jesus resisted every temptation. In contrast, Adam and Eve were tempted in the Garden of Eden - in paradise, where they had everything but failed to resist the devil and give in.

On his journey, Jesus liberated people from diseases and made them whole. Restoring in them the image of God, bringing the outcast and marginalized back to the centre. Building the kingdom of God on the way to Jerusalem. He also predicted what this journey would cost him – his life. He would be handed over to the elders - priests and scribes, being rejected, mocked, and crucified. But this is not the end of the journey. He would rise again, conquering death – *'Where, O death is your sting'*.

Jesus' willingness to take this journey reminds us of one thing. The willingness of our Creator to subject himself to the conditions under which we live – God is intensively interested in the hurts, sadness, grief, emptiness, despair, disappointment, and sorrows that attend to the human condition. Jesus has touched someone on the journey between his birth and death.

Jesus' journey continues even after the resurrection. Jesus meets two disciples on the road to Emmaus, walking back from Jerusalem – from the centre to their village in the dark. Jesus joins them as a stranger. He meets them where they are – doubtful, sad, disappointed, discouraged and even without hope. Jesus meets us, too, on our journey and talks to us. He wants to know more about us and our conditions.

Jesus asks them what they are talking about and why they look so upset and sad. Immediately they reacted by saying, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days? But then Jesus takes over the conversation. Trying to cheer their spirit up by explaining the prophecies about the Messiah, starting from the Old Testament. They felt something in their hearts. The events that looked so meaningless began to make some sense.

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They asked him to stay for it was getting dark. Jesus stayed and broke the bread in front of their eyes. At that very moment, they recognized the risen Lord. Notwithstanding the darkness of night, they got up and returned to Jerusalem.

Easter is a story of listening to the Resurrected Christ, who joins us on our journey at work, home, marketplaces, garden, and in solitude. He cheers us up even in our mess, disappointments, and disbelief. Easter is a story of recognizing the Risen Lord in breaking the bread. Easter is a story of the women who were told, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

Let us celebrate the life of the Risen Lord. Alleluia!  
Happy Easter to all of you!

**Fr Paskal** (Vicar)

## **Holy Week & Easter Services**

**2nd—9th April 2023**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April Palm Sunday**

**10.00 am: Procession from St Andrew's Community Centre, College Road,  
Passion Narrative & Holy Mass**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**7.00 pm: Eucharistic Service**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**7.00 pm: Eucharistic Service**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**6.30 pm: Eucharistic Service & Bring & Share Passover Meal after the service**

**Maundy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>**

**7.00pm: Eucharistic Service with washing of feet & Holy Hour silent vigil**

**Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**

**11.00 am: Walk of Witness**

***(from St Augustine's Catholic Church, Avenue Road)***

**11.30 am: Open Air Service (St Andrew's Community Centre, College Road)**

**12noon: Lunch**

**1 – 1.30 pm: Silence**

**1.30 – 2.00 pm: Stations of the Cross**

**2.30 pm: Giving of the Communion**

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>**

**7.00 pm: Service of the Light, blessing of  
The Paschal Candle & Holy Eucharist**

**Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00 am: Family Service**

## **Good Friday, the day the Son of God died for you**

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9 a.m. in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

**c/o Parish Pump**

## **EASTER, the most joyful day of the year**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**c/o Parish Pump**

## **Reflecting faith – Easter Flowers**

Many types of flowers are used in churches, but during Easter, there is one that is especially loved: the Easter Lily. It is a tall, stately flower topped by large, graceful, white trumpet-shaped blooms.

While commercial bulb production of Easter lilies only began in the 19th century, Easter lilies make many appearances in both the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing the flower's importance to Christianity. King Solomon spoke of them, and Christ referenced them, too.

These strikingly beautiful flowers are highly perfumed, with the central stamens covered in bright yellow or orange pollen. Unfortunately, the pollen can be a hazard, as it can permanently stain cloth due to chemicals it contains! For this reason, good florists and especially church flower arrangers will remove all the stamens before bringing them anywhere near church fabrics, or near to where ministers wearing white might brush against them.

It's thought that Easter lilies came to symbolise Christ because they embody purity - the trumpet-shaped blooms recall the horns that heralded the resurrection of Christ. This is also why lilies are identified with the Virgin Mary, and in artworks depicting the Annunciation to the Virgin they are often found in the angel Gabriel's hand.

The second reason that Easter lilies represent Christ is because of their life cycle. Each one grows from a bulb that for several years has lain quietly beneath the earth, before growing tall and stately, and blossoming into magnificent flowers. What a picture of Jesus' life and resurrection!

Have a look around the church over Easter. Daffodils and Easter lilies are often displayed, because they are the first flowers of spring, when Nature is being reborn. Their life after the death of winter reminds us of the Resurrection. For we cannot imagine the death and the passion of Christ without having in mind the empty tomb, radiating hope. Christ's death has no meaning without His Resurrection.

**c/o Parish Pump**

## **The story behind the story of *Ben Hur***

*(Luke 24:1-12)*

There is a story to be told of the writing of *Ben Hur*, the book that became the 1959 blockbuster film featuring Charlton Heston.

It was written in 1880 by Lew Wallace, an American lawyer, Union general during the Civil War, and then governor of the New Mexico Territory. (His statue still stands today on Washington's Capitol Hill).

Wallace had told his wife that he intended to examine the New Testament, and then write a book that would explode what he called "the myth of Christ's resurrection". Wisely, his Christian wife did not argue with him, but simply prayed.

The months passed, and Wallace read and reread the New Testament, and wrote and re-wrote his draft chapters. Finally, he confided to his wife that he could not refute the resurrection of Christ, and that therefore his book would not be written.

Wallace's wife disagreed. She persuaded him to write his book, but from a new and different standpoint altogether. *'Ben Hur - a tale of the Christ'* was the result. It is the story of a high-born Jewish man who is taken prisoner by the Romans, who encounters Jesus, and whose life is gradually transformed. Oh, and there is a battle at sea and a chariot race in the story as well!

In the past 143 years since it was written, *'Ben Hur - a tale of the Christ'* has never been out of print.

**c/o Parish Pump**

### Easter Story

*Remember Gods gift of his resurrection  
For our journey in life in the right direction  
A life that was given to save us from sin  
So we could be cleansed and to follow him  
The stone to his tomb was rolled away  
Jesus Christ rose on this Easter day  
He conquered death so we all could live  
The ultimate sacrifice a Father could give  
His pain and his agony, blood, sweat and tears  
None could withstand his heart filled with fears*

*Oh Jesus! We love you this day is our pain  
To know and to realise just what we have gained  
The cross that you carried all the way to Calvary  
Every aching step you took the pain we could see  
Oh Father forgive us for all that we do,  
Help us to remember our true love for you  
So let us think this Easter of the true story told  
Churches play out and the crucifixion unfold  
Let this Easter story be a reminder for all  
That Christ is amongst us as we await his earthly call*

*Valerie Powell  
Poetry Emotions*



## The faith of a man not like me...

My daily activities bring me into frequent contact with a man, we'll call him D, and I'd like to share what the faith of D has come to mean to me.

D once lived a life of crime and extreme violence - debt collecting, football hooliganism and body guard duties, within the darker places all across God's world. He valued power, prestige, possessions. Earthly treasures and pleasures. His peers called him Satan, and he took pride in this name. He looks exactly how you'd imagine - Strong, scarred, perhaps a bit scary!

I listen to this man with deep surprise as he talks about his fears and vulnerabilities - a man like this! I watch this man as others talk openly about how much he serves them, the ways he helps them. He doesn't bristle with pride; he seems embarrassed and undeserving. I think to myself, this man he's not what he seems...

Sometimes people come into our fellowship and bring disruption and anger, I can feel afraid, I sense it from others, and we look to this man who steps up to protect us. He seems to sense that this duty has fallen to him, and he acts with a different kind of strength to what one might imagine... a gentle strength. Yes, I think, this man's actions reflect the qualities of a Man I know but I can't quite place it yet...

It is certainly eye opening when he starts to talk about his daily prayers, how frequently he withdraws from the hustle and bustle of life to seek God's guidance, God's will, God's power. It seems so at odds with my stereotypical notion of a man of faith who laughs and jokes using the odd curse word here and there.

This wouldn't happen in church!

One day I'm sat in a room with lots of people, I don't want to be there. I'm anxious, I feel unattractive, I feel annoyed. Why are all these people looking at me? Are they looking at me? I'm sick of people not realising how hard it's been lately...I nearly had a panic attack leaving the house to get here today...they're just sat there, probably got in a nice car, and drove here, I've never had a car... I wonder if they'd all be here if they had to catch buses and walk in the rain! Into the room walked this man and, in his usual custom, he's taking the time to talk to everyone, enquiring after them with a genuine interest, remembering things from their lives and demonstrating compassion and care. He even spoke to me. I felt better for a moment... my mind no longer on my worries, my messy hair, my hard day. He took his seat and when his time to talk came he gave thanks for various things then said in his usual way... "my mom died today"...

Shock. Sadness. Shame.

I walked into that room feeling sorry for myself, I sat there head racing with thoughts about me, occasionally drifting to think the odd thought of someone else, yes I had thought of others today alright...thoughts of judgement and how I could keep myself apart from them... because I was afraid, because I was prideful.



A lot changed for me that day. I had faith but my faith bore no fruit. I, who every week shares in Christ's broken body, had to admit, wasn't living His risen life. And here was a man whose life had fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control, gentleness and above all faithfulness! This was a faith in action! A heart made pure, a spirit made steadfast, a life reborn. Here was a man walking in the footsteps of my Saviour! Following the example of the Shepherd! He even watches over God's sheep. Yes there was death here.... a death of self.... may God be praised for His work in and through this man.

If prayer and service of others can yield such results in D what could it do for me? Today I look upwards and outwards when my self-pity, ego or fears start talking.... I don't sit in that room I serve in it. I don't walk in the rain; I sing in it. I don't judge in my head; I look from my heart and I ask "what can I do to serve this person that might point their eyes to God?".

Be the light that helps others to see.  
Just like D did for me.

**Rebecca Gaskin**

### **BOOK REVIEWS by Parish Pump**

**3 Days that Changed the World – the three most significant days in history**  
**By Roger Carswell, 10Publishing £3.99**

The crowds shouted, 'Crucify Him!' ... So began the three most significant days in world history. Three life-changing days that have the power to transform your world.

Roger Carswell explains what led to the events of the first Easter, and shows how Jesus' death and resurrection still impacts our world — and each one of us — today.

**The Day the Earth Shook**  
**By Helen Buckley and Jenny Brake, 10Publishing, £3.99**

This book, aimed at 4-to-7-year-olds, is about the earthquake in Jerusalem on Good Friday. The earth quaked. The rocks split. All because someone incredible died. But just who was this man powerful enough to shake the earth, and why did He have to die?

This book introduces children to 'super powerful, super strong love in action', as they discover just why this was the most incredible day in history. If you're planning to give these away, there is a special pack available, costing £50 for 50 copies.

**c/o Parish Pump**

Our Mindset

*My sisters of courage, diversity and strength  
Let's share our mindset, with our feelings so intense  
Alter our visions; Let us shake up our vibes  
Don't let society dictate what we do with our lives  
The world is all negative dangerous and dark  
We shake off those boundaries and dare to make our mark  
We are women of substance powerful and strong  
Let no one possess us or make us feel like we're wrong*

*Shake up that mindset and hold out for what is right  
Follow Gods path for us and shine in his light  
Always tell yourself 'I am able, I am worthy, and I am just me  
What you see is what you get as the truth will set you free'  
So fix up your mindset hold your head up stand out and be proud  
Let everyone see that you don't follow the crowd  
Let us have that great mindset that stands out a mile  
And be proud of your womanhood; fix your crown and just smile.*

*Valerie Powell  
Poetry Emotions*



## **Church House Westminster achieves Bronze Eco-Award**

Church House Westminster, which hosts some meetings of the General Synod together with some of the National Church Institutions, has been awarded an Eco Church Bronze Award for steps taken to help achieve net zero carbon.

The Eco Church Award, given by A Rocha UK, a Christian environmental charity, is given to churches and other church buildings that can demonstrate a movement towards greater sustainability and caring for the environment.

As well as office space, Church House operates as a large-scale events venue, hosting a range of conferences and events throughout the year both for church and external groups.

The site has adopted a number of practices to minimise the environmental impact of its operations, such as bottling its own water in-house, reducing plastic usage, and donating surplus food to the local community. Current renovations to the building include the installation of green-energy appliances to replace old gas equipment, sensor-operated taps, motion-sensitive lighting, and smart-energy management systems.

Church House is now also requiring its suppliers to demonstrate environmental awareness, including ensuring food suppliers source produce locally, and use ingredients with the minimum carbon footprint.

### **c/o Parish Pump**

## **Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme to invest £1.1m in Charity Bank**

The Church of England's Social Impact Investment Programme has recently made a £1.1m investment in Charity Bank, and will take a 3.6% stake in the bank.

Charity Bank uses savers' money to provide much-needed loans to UK charities and social enterprises working to drive positive social change – bringing benefits for people, communities, and the environment. The recent investment will enable Charity Bank to make more than £8.8m in new loans to charities, social enterprises and faith-based organisations serving their communities.

**Vanessa Morphet, Head of Social Impact Investment at the Archbishops' Council, commented on the investment:** "Charities, social enterprises and faith-based organisations provide key services to communities in areas such as housing, social care, food banks, skills development and tackling loneliness.

"Charity Bank loans are a vital part of the funding landscape for these organisations enabling them to sustain, improve and grow their services."

### **c/o Parish Pump**

## **Archbishops' Commission on Racial Justice releases Second Biannual Report**

The Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice has released the second of its biannual Racial Justice reports.

Mandated to drive 'significant cultural and structural change on issues of racial justice within the Church of England', the Archbishops' Commission's job is to support the implementation of the 47 recommendations of the Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce

Lord Boateng has praised the Church Commissioners for their "ground-breaking work" in the forensic audit undertaken on Queen Anne's Bounty and its links with transatlantic chattel slavery. The Commission welcomed the £100 million of funding to deliver a programme of investment, research and engagement over the next nine years, but stressed that there is much further work to be done, as this is "not the end of the story".

The Second Report draws particular attention to the witness heard from representatives of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Christians about the "indifference, neglect and outright hostility" at the hands of both church and state.

General Synod in 2019 urged dioceses to establish a chaplain to these communities. The Commission heard that twelve such chaplains have been appointed, and calls for the remaining dioceses to do likewise.

**c/o Parish Pump**

### **14 conversations to have with your neighbours at a King's Coronation Street party**

We have all known that awkward moment at a party when your conversation with a stranger suddenly dries up. But if you are going to one of the King's Coronation Street parties next month, you don't need to worry.

An information pack called the Coronation Big Lunch 'conversation menu' has been published, offering 14 handy ideas for keeping the conversational ball rolling. The ideas range from asking your neighbours whether they have ever met a member of the Royal Family, to what is their favourite way to spend a bank holiday. The 'menu' even includes a couple of jokes you can tell if you get really desperate. More than a million people, and more than 7,000 street parties and community events, have so far signed up to the Coronation Big Lunch initiative.

Buckingham Palace is hoping the celebration will bring neighbours together across the country. Certainly, chatting with our neighbours is no longer common. One poll from 2019 found that half of us had not chatted over the garden fence or outside our homes in at least a month, while almost one in five of us have never spoken to our neighbours at all.

The Coronation Big Lunch will take place on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, the day after the King and the Queen Consort are crowned at Westminster Abbey.

More than 17.2 million people took part in Big Lunch events last June, for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

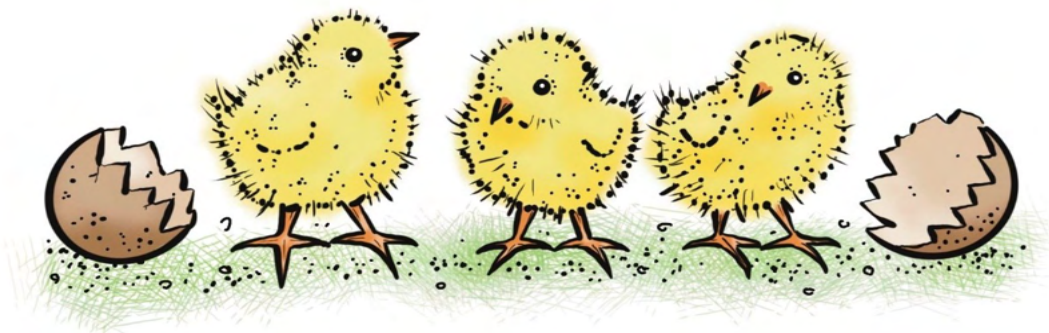
**c/o Parish Pump**

## CHILDREN'S SECTION



### BIBLE QUIZ

1. How many disciples did Jesus have?
2. Who was the King that wanted to kill Baby Jesus?
3. Who betrayed Jesus to the Chief Priests?
4. How much was he paid for the betrayal?
5. Who denied Jesus when he was arrested?
6. How many days was Jesus in the tomb?
7. Who was the first person to see the risen Christ?
8. What is the First Book of the New Testament?
9. What river was Jesus baptised in?
10. What was the first miracle that Jesus performed?



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

king

bless

name

thousands

Passover

village

needs

miles

anyone

Jerusalem

saddle

donkey

teachers

friends

Lord

outside

feast

stones

cloak

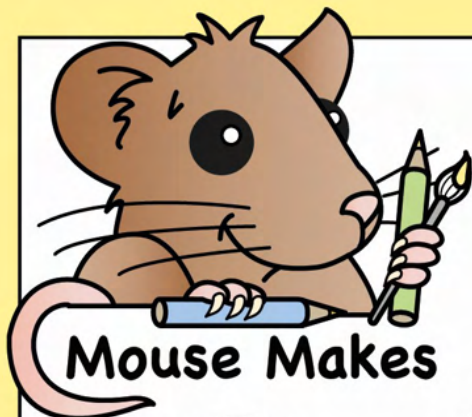
road

branches

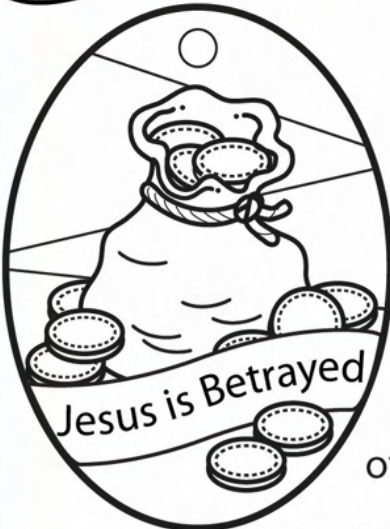
God

crowd

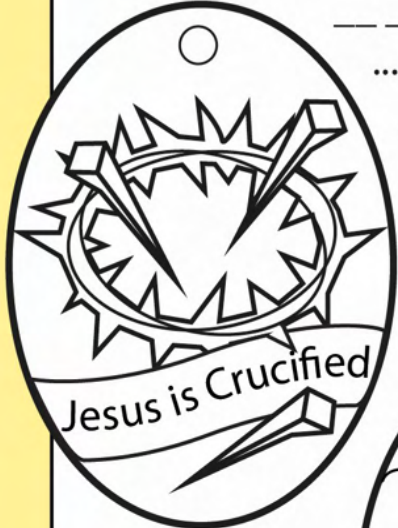
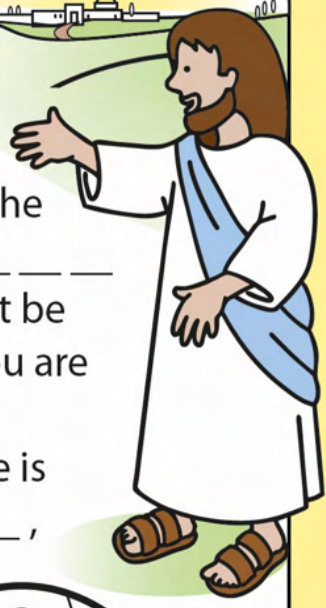
welcome



**HE IS RISEN!**  
Read the story of  
The Resurrection in  
*Matthew 28:1-20*



An \_\_\_\_\_  
of the Lord came down from \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and going to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ rolled back the \_\_\_\_\_  
... the \_\_\_\_\_ said, "Do not be  
\_\_\_\_\_, for I know you are  
looking for Jesus who was  
\_\_\_\_\_, He is  
not here; he has \_\_\_\_\_,  
just as he said!"



Glue this page onto card. Cut out the ovals then colour in. Punch a hole at the top and hang up for Easter

## **Hedgehogs need your help this Spring**

During the winter when hedgehogs hibernate, their heart rate drops from around 190 beats per minute to just about 20. They breathe only once every few minutes. So, to rouse themselves from that depth of torpor and get back into normal life takes a huge surge of energy.

Which is where you can come in. Hedgehogs are hungry in the Spring. Very hungry. Most of them will have slept until mid-March, and so will now be awake - but starving.

So why not put out some shallow dishes of meaty cat or dog food or cat biscuits and water?

You can even buy or make special hedgehog feeders.

Hedgehogs have always been popular, but they are now sadly classed as 'vulnerable to extinction'. Numbers have been plummeting, and now there are less than one million left in the UK.

"With their coat of prickles and inquisitive nose, alongside a penchant for snuffling around our back gardens snaffling up slugs and earthworms, hedgehogs are a childhood memory of delight," said one scientist. "Sadly, hedgehogs might be banished to memories alone and lost as a source of wonder for our children and grandchildren."

**c/o Parish Pump**

## **More volunteers needed to ring church bells for the King**

The Coronation's 'Ring for the King' challenge is still urgently looking for more volunteers – several thousand more of them, in fact.

The new recruits will be needed if all the church bells in the country are to be rung on 6<sup>th</sup> May, the day of the Coronation.

As we go to press, so far the Ring for the King campaign has attracted less than 500. But there is still time, and organisers remain upbeat.

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) says that new recruits need about 15 hours of training to be able to manage a bell alone. And the CCCBR hopes that once volunteers have discovered the fun of bellringing, "they'll want to continue to grow their skills and friendships made through this journey of discovery."

There are 6,000 sets of bells across Britain, containing almost 38,000 bells, which require one ringer per bell. However, there are only about 30,000 bell-ringers across the country, with some teams working across several churches.

Anyone aged eight and over can get involved in bell-ringing. It has been described as "gentle exercise" and does not require a certain level of fitness, although ringers often have to climb a church's spiral staircase to get to its belfry.

**c/o Parish Pump**



## **Transform Care through a National Care Covenant, says Archbishops' Commission**

The Archbishops' Commission on Reimagining Care has proposed “a radical and inspiring vision” for adult social care in England.

‘Care and Support Reimagined: a National Care Covenant for England’ calls for a re-thinking of attitudes to care and support; a rebalancing of roles and responsibilities; and redesigning the social care system.

The National Care Covenant sets out the roles and responsibilities of government, communities, families and individuals.

Key elements of the Covenant are: investment in communities; a stronger role for the state; a new deal for unpaid carers; and commitment to our responsibilities as actively engaged citizens

The report argues that tackling negative attitudes to ageing and disability must be the starting point to reimagining care and support. Furthermore, the report makes radical recommendations for redesigning the care system, with a long-term aspiration of making care and support a universal entitlement, including:

- Simplified assessment that leads to a guaranteed budget

- People being trusted to manage their own care and decide what help they need

- Independent advocacy to help people to access their rights and entitlements

The Commission recognises the lack of progress that has been made in implementing the proposals of previous high-profile reports, and highlights the need for a broad coalition – including politicians, faith communities, charities, and user-led organisations – to take action.

Welcoming the report, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby said: “This report gives me hope that we can rise to the challenge of fixing our broken social care system.”

**c/o Parish Pump**

## **Ukraine: church leaders targeted by Russian forces**

Church leaders in Ukraine are being singled out for persecution by Russian forces in occupied areas. Some pastors have been arrested, interrogated, tortured, and even expelled from their towns by the Russian military and their supporters.

Occupying forces have confiscated church buildings and Christians have received harsher treatment at Russian military checkpoints, say partners of Release International, which serves persecuted Christians around the world.

According to reports, Russian forces broke into a Baptist place of worship in occupied Berdyansk, in Zaporizhzhia. After checking the identity of everyone present, they searched the church and sealed it. The next day they seized another Baptist church nearby.

Later that month, according to Forum 18, Russian forces seized a priest of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in occupied Kherson.

In the following account, names have been changed to protect the individuals:

Before the war Pastor Ivan led a growing congregation of more than 200 people in a town in the Kharkiv region. He also supported a thriving network of five evangelical churches in the area.

Last spring when the Russian military were poised to take the town many fled, including families with young children. Only some elderly people remained. Pastor Ivan and his wife Viktoria stayed behind too.

They felt called by God to serve the elderly and vulnerable in their occupied town. So, they did what they could to provide those who remained with food, prayer, and comfort from the Bible.

But the Russian forces came to Pastor Ivan's home to arrest him. They threw him into prison and tortured him, accusing him of being an American spy. They are suspicious that evangelical pastors are agents of the West.

Enduring their beatings, Pastor Ivan tried to talk about God with them. And when he was stuck in a tiny cell with eight other prisoners, he prayed for them. Two days later the Russian soldiers interrogated him again and beat him so badly he thought he would die.

"Other prisoners tried to help me and called for help. The Russians sent me to a hospital, which I believe was divine grace and intervention. I believe God saved my life through the Ukrainian doctors who helped me."

After two weeks, Pastor Ivan was allowed home where he recovered slowly. And, as the Russians tightened their grip, Pastor Ivan and Viktoria left for Poland. As soon as their town was liberated by Ukrainian forces, they returned.

Says Release International CEO Paul Robinson: "Pastor Ivan is again leading a congregation of more than 300 people, many of whom are new to church. God is using him and others like him to share the gospel and to help people in practical ways in the liberated areas of eastern Ukraine."

Release International has launched an [appeal](#) to help Christians in Ukraine and around the world who are suffering oppression for their faith. If you would like to help, please go to:

<https://releaseinternational.org>

**c/o Parish Pump**

## All in the month of APRIL

It was: 150 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1873 that the Kennel Club was founded in London. It oversees dog shows and dog agility competitions and operates Britain's national register of pedigree dogs. The Kennel Club licenses dog shows throughout the UK, but the only dog show that it actually runs is Crufts. The Kennel Club recognises 221 breeds, of which the Labrador Retriever is probably most popular.

100 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1923 that insulin became generally available for the treatment of diabetes. Also 100 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1923 that Prince Albert, Duke of York (later King George VI) married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (later Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother) at Westminster Abbey in London.

90 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1933 that the first flight over Mount Everest took place. British pilots the Marquis of Clydesdale and Donald McIntyre flew two biplanes over the summit.

80 years ago, from 20<sup>th</sup> April to 13<sup>th</sup> May 1943 that the final phase of World War 2's Tunisia campaign took place. An Allied victory, and the Axis forces were ejected from North Africa. Also 80 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1943 that the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp was established in Germany. The former prisoner-of-war camp was converted into a holding camp, mainly for Jews. Tens of thousands of people died of starvation and disease in the overcrowded, unsanitary conditions.

75 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1948 that the World Health Organization (WHO) was founded in Geneva, Switzerland as a specialist agency of the United Nations. Also 75 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1948 that the Land Rover, a British all-terrain vehicle, was officially launched at the Amsterdam Motor Show. According to Yougov.co.uk, nowadays 95% of us have heard of them, and 58% of us admire them. 70 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1953 that Queen Elizabeth II launched the Royal Yacht Britannia. It was decommissioned in 1997. The Royal Family no longer owns a royal yacht.

60 years ago, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1963 that American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jnr. wrote his famous 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' while imprisoned in Alabama. He stated that the Black community was forced to protest when the white power structure left them no choice. 50 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1973 that the World Trade Centre in New York City was officially opened. It was destroyed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001. Also 50 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1973 that Pablo Picasso, Spanish artist died. Co-founder of the Cubism movement, he is considered one of the greatest artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

40 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1983 that tens of thousands of anti-nuclear weapons protestors formed a 14-mile human chain in Berkshire. They linked the US airbase at Greenham Common, the nuclear research centre in Aldermaston, and an ordnance factory in Burghfield. 40 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1983 that Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch writer and Holocaust survivor, died. She wrote about her experiences in Christian books that became best-sellers.

30 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993 that Stephen Lawrence, an 18-year-old British teenager, was murdered in a racially motivated attack while waiting for a bus in Eltham, London. The high-profile case was widely covered by the media, and an inquiry found that the Metropolitan Police Service, which originally investigated the crime, was institutionally racist. 30 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1993 that Queen Elizabeth II announced that Buckingham Palace would open to the public for the first time, to raise funds to repair fire damage at Windsor Castle. Also 30 years ago, on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1993 that CERN, the creators of the World Wide Web, announced that it could be used for free by anyone. That decision has shaped the modern world as we know it.

25 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1998 that the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Northern Ireland.

20 years ago, on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2003 that US troops took control of Iraq's capital city, Baghdad. Jubilant Iraqis celebrated the end of Saddam Hussein's regime. Also 20 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2003 that the Human Genome Project was successfully completed, with over 99% of the human genome sequenced and mapped, including all of the genes.

**c/o Parish Pump**

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

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

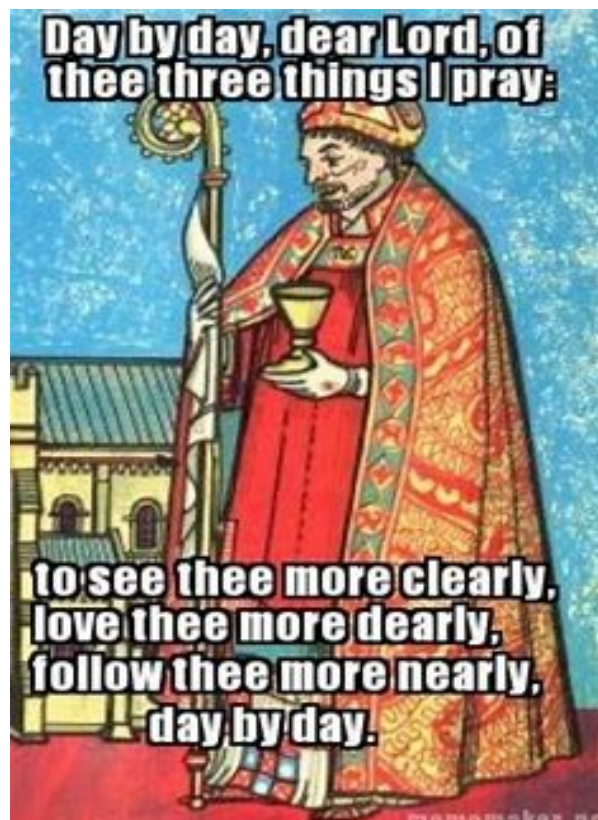
He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

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

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

c/o Parish Pump



## **29<sup>th</sup> April: Catherine of Siena, or how to survive in a large family**

Catherine of Siena, who was born 1347, should be the patron saint of anyone who has grown up in a large family, and mastered the two vital skills for survival: how to stand up for yourself, and how to make peace with others.

Catherine had siblings! At least 19 of them, and Catherine was the youngest. Her father was a Sienese dyer, and wanted her to marry, but Catherine did not. She became a nun instead, a member of the Dominican Third Order.

Perhaps after sharing a house with at least 22 people, Catherine wanted some peace and quiet: in any case she spent six years in solitude, giving herself to prayer and penance. Then she moved back into the world, through nursing the local sick people, and then beginning to travel. Catherine travelled frequently, with a number of her 'disciples' – a mix of Dominicans and Augustinians, and even an English Friar. Wherever they went, people listened to their proclamation of the total love of God through Jesus Christ, and their calls to reform and repent. There were some spectacular conversions.

Catherine could not write, but soon someone else was taking down her 'Dialogue' by dictation – it ran to 383 letters. Catherine's thoughts centred on Christ crucified, the supreme sign of God's love for man. The quality of these letters made them widely read for years to come.

A godly woman who could lead and teach! Soon new opportunities presented themselves: in the last five years of her life, Catherine found herself involved in the politics of both State and Church. This included trying to make peace during the Great Schism in the Church after 1378, when Pope Gregory XI died, and two new popes – bitter rivals – claimed the papacy. Catherine wore herself out in trying to promote peace, had a stroke on 21 April 1380, and died eight days later.

Catherine soon became Siena's principal saint, loved for her writings and her example of godliness and self-sacrificing love. Her house and an early portrait survive at Siena, and her memory lives on today: she was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970, nearly 600 years after her death.

**c/o Parish Pump**



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**DO YOU KNOW OF A LOCAL BUSINESS WHO MAY WISH TO ADVERTISE? ADVERTS CAN NOW BE PLACED IN THE MAGAZINE. PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR (EILEEN) FOR DETAILS. THANK YOU.**

**ST ANDREW'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/APCM**

St Andrew's Church Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 23rd April 2023 after the Service. Please mark this date in your diary. Your presence and your contribution will be highly appreciated. If you hold key responsibilities in the church please send me your report/s before 10th April. Many thanks.

**Fr Paskal**

## Wordsearch For April

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup of suffering might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. Because of Easter we can approach God through his Son, Jesus Christ. He has opened the gates to heaven for us!

Jesus	Ate	Last	Passover	Meal	Disciples	Warned
Betrayed	Bread	Blessed	Wine	Thanks	Drink	
Covenant	Law	Old	New	Body	Blood	Gethsemane
Cup	Removed	Will	Easter	Approach	God	

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

## **NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

I hope you enjoyed this month's edition of the magazine. A warm welcome to Father Paskal and his wife Akhtar who have now arrived at St Andrew's. This month we again see the amazing talent of our very own poet Valerie Powell who continues her journey with Ministry training. Thank you to Rebecca (Becky) for sharing a personal account of her Christian journey.

In the next magazine I hope to have articles from Mary Bairstow about the climate crisis and the environment, an article from Chris Baker about Walsingham and an article from Joan Wild about the Church Garden. New ideas for the magazine are always welcome.

Thank you for your contributions; all articles are gratefully received. Please email [parishmagazine949@gmail.com](mailto:parishmagazine949@gmail.com) (Written articles are also accepted and can be given to me directly or placed in the Magazine Box at the back of Church). Thank you.

I hope you all have a Happy Easter.

Eileen.



### **Answers to Bible Quiz.**

1. 12.
2. Herod.
3. Judas.
4. 30 pieces of silver.
5. Peter.
6. 3.
7. Mary Magdalene.
8. Matthew.
9. Jordan.
10. He turned water into wine.

**Please note that the magazine is also available online at St Andrew's website and is accessible to the public.**



## Taken from The Liturgical Calendar

### LENT

**Ash Wednesday marks the start of the observation of Lent, a season of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter.** Lent is often described as lasting forty days (excluding Sundays) which recalls the Biblical account of Jesus's temptation in the wilderness (Luke 4.1-13).

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages onward it has been a custom to begin Lent by having the sign of the cross marked on one's forehead in ash. Lent is a time of preparation, particularly for those who are to be baptized at Easter, but the whole Christian community is encouraged to join them in study and self-reflection.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens. Bible readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death. Holy Week begins with the re-enactment of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This is the beginning of a journey of the imagination which takes us to the Upper Room for the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, through Jesus' betrayal, trial and crucifixion on Good Friday.

In the Vigil on the night before Easter Day, the Church gathers to commemorate the mighty works of God through reading of scripture in preparation for the proclaiming of Christ's resurrection.

### EASTER

Easter Day commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In the Church today, it provides a real experience of new life, as people are baptized and baptismal promises are renewed. Those who are baptized are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. Traditionally, new fire is kindled and from this the Easter candle is lit and held aloft with the proclamation: 'The light of Christ.' This passing from darkness to light offers hope to all the faithful.

Since the late fourth century, on the fortieth day of Easter the Church celebrates Christ's ascension to heaven. This marks the end of his earthly ministry and the **Feast of the Ascension** is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The season of Easter is celebrated for fifty days, culminating in the **Day of Pentecost**.

Matthew's Gospel ends with Jesus's final words to his disciples, that they should go to all nations and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28.19-20). In John's Gospel, Jesus instructed his followers to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit (John 14.15-17). The feast of Pentecost celebrates the account of the Holy Spirit coming on the disciples empowering them for mission (Acts 2.1-47). Ascension and Pentecost are closely linked. The Church is now to be the new body of Christ, filled with his life through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

c/o The Church of England Birmingham Website

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