

# Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

St Mary

Stockport Parish Church

St Thomas

St Luke

## April 2021

Welcome to our parish news sheet.

This month takes us from Holy Week to Easter-tide and our plans to “unlock” lockdown.

After a year of restrictions (none of us could have imagined a year ago) most of us will most probably be looking at things a little differently this year—the world has been turned upside-down and the pandemic is not over yet. But—there is light at the end of the tunnel, although we all appreciate that we must be cautious as we move towards a little more normality in our lives.

There will have been over this last year sadness and joy for most of us I expect. There is sadness that we are unable to return to church in the usual way, to meet friends and family, as we would wish to, or just see those people we know so well but maybe haven't seen in person for such a long time. There is sadness at the loss of life over the last twelve months, the pressures put on every one of us, especially those who have lost loved ones, lost their job or livelihood, those who are suffering financial hardship or a heavy heart and a feeling of being unable to cope. This last year has surely affected all of us – physically, mentally, socially and spiritually.

Yet in the midst of the pandemic we have seen so many good things - “key workers” with various roles and responsibilities working so hard— all doing the best they possibly can. We have seen communities working together, new ways of communicating with the wonders of technology and the development and rolling out of more than one vaccine— what an achievement that has been. All this is surely a cause for joy and hope for the future.



**St Mary's will be open for private prayer:**

**Maundy Thursday  
7pm-8pm**

**Good Friday / Saturday  
& Easter Sunday**

**11am—12.30pm**

*A decision was reached by the Rector / PCC a few weeks ago that Lent and Easter services this year would be “on-line” but we expect to be back in church for Sunday worship [at all our churches] and for regular private prayer sessions at St Mary's as soon as possible after Easter.*

### Join us on-line

Monday 29th March—Sunday 4th April  
Holy Week Reflections—4pm

Thursday, 1st April—Reading of the Passion—8pm  
Friday, 2nd April—Stations of the Cross—12pm

Sunday, 4th April—Easter Celebration—10am



## Maundy Thursday & Good Friday

**Maundy Thursday** is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another. In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ. But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together – for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

**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).*

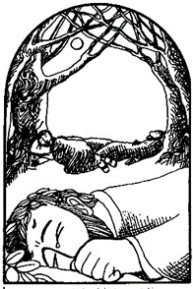
**Good Friday - the day the Son of God died for you.** Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9 a.m. in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. 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.

# Stations of the Cross

## Introducing our Stations of the Cross

Since the Late Middle Ages, Christians have used Stations to remember the events of Good Friday, so they can in some part, imagine themselves being there. Often the stations are arranged round a church, or in a garden. Sometimes hymns are sung as people move from one Station to the next, and prayers said, or passages from the Bible meditated on.

The exact number of stations has varied over time and in different places, as has the content, with some starting with the foot washing on the Thursday night, and some continuing to the Resurrection on the Sunday. This particular set and order of Stations came to public attention when used by Pope John Paul II in 1991, but has since been used worldwide to help Christians in some way to experience Good Friday as if they themselves were there.



Mt 26: v 36-41



Mk14: v 43-46



Lk 22: v 66-71



Mt 26: 69-75



Mk 15: v 1-5,15



Jn 19: v 1-3



Jn 19: v 6, 15-17



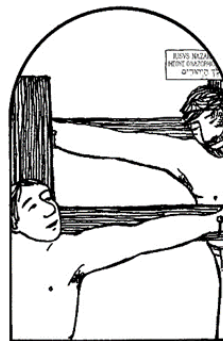
Mk 15: v 21



Lk 23: v 27-31



Lk 23: v 33-34



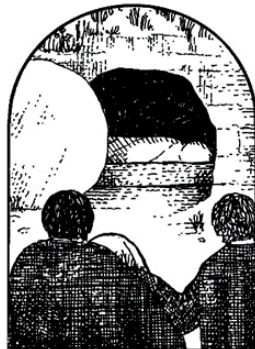
Lk23 v 39-43



Lk 23: v 44-46



Jn 19: 25-27



Mt 27: 57-60

**He is risen!**

*"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said"*

Mt 28 :6

**A Prayer before the Cross**  
*(Thoughts on the Passion of Christ)*  
 By Sam Doubtfire

Dear Lord, my sin is mine and mine alone:  
 That folly of my humanness which I must own  
 As having moved against the best-self  
 You, Lord, worked within my heart,  
 'til now my worst-self forms the greater part  
 Of what I see, and you must judge.

My Lord, it is no more than I deserve  
 For I indeed do let old Adam hide  
 Within the New Man you would forge.  
 So, Lord, my sin, in each and every part  
 Betrays that loyalty displayed upon the cross  
 Before which I, in penitence, now plead.

Dear Lord, forgive my fall from grace  
 And as I look into your eyes  
 Restore to me the robe of love you gave  
 That I may walk, full face, along your way  
 Towards our Father's house  
 Wherein a joyful welcoming will say –  
 'My child, now you are home at last.'



**[ 1st Anniversary on You Tube ]**

We're celebrating our first anniversary of being on YouTube with a lovely little film put together from some of our best bits by our (equally lovely) Curate, Marie Flint.

If you have not seen it yet please log-on your device and have a look.

**Easter faith in atheist Russia**

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him.

**Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection**

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

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

# Eastertide

Eastertide begins at sundown before East Sunday and lasts for seven weeks through to Ascension Sunday and celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ

## Easter Hope

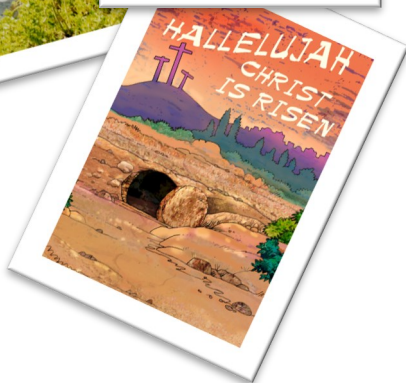
Canon Paul Hardingham considers the eternal promise of Easter

*“So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark.”* These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury’s sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus’ body. *‘But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.’* (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus’ death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?*

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: *“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”* (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus’ promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus’ resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus’ plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can’t return to the way they were: *“There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God.”* (Justin Welby).



# Can it be Easter Already?

*Nigel Beeton writes: 'I'm sure for many people isolated at home the time since Christmas has hung heavy. It can be challenging to make the most out of every day, and it is perhaps always a worthwhile exercise to consider our priorities:*

**Can it be Easter already?  
Can that be really so?  
The carols and the Christmas tree  
Don't seem that long ago!**

**Can it be Easter already?  
Do April showers splash?  
The weeks gone by since Christmas  
day  
Have gone in just a flash!**

**Can it be Easter already?  
The time of Lent has passed  
The forty days and forty nights  
Went by so very fast.**

**If it is Easter already,  
That time has sped away.  
Perhaps it's time to ponder, pause  
And savour every day!**

***By Nigel Beeton***



Photo by Paul Judson

**Spring is a time of new beginnings**

The daffodil symbolizes rebirth and new beginnings—the coming of spring—one of the first perennials to bloom after the winter frost.



## 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.



## Why Easter will never go away

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus. Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him? This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.



## Easter Morning—the “other” Mary

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



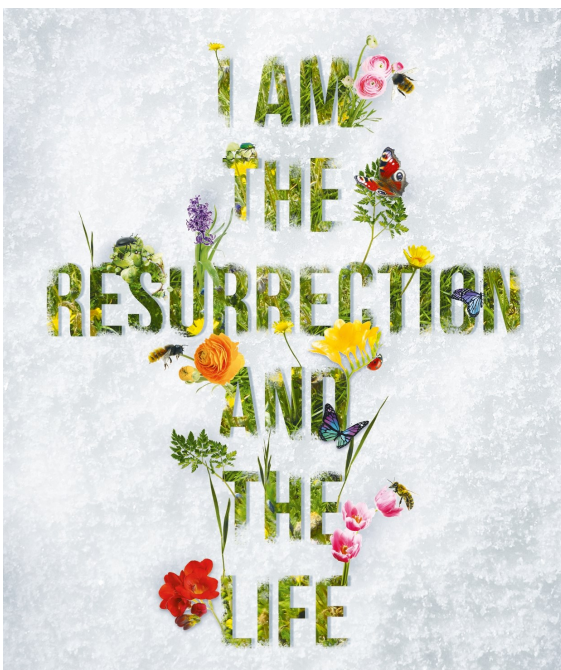
The Garden Tomb (Jerusalem)

Photo by Paul Judson

***Coronavirus re-opening roadmap:  
comment from the Bishop of London***

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Coronavirus Recovery Group, has recently responded to the Prime Minister's roadmap for reopening the country, saying that "we will refine our own advice for local churches in the weeks ahead.

"When the first lockdown was introduced last year, we were – as we are now – in the midst of Lent, a time of preparation and self-reflection for Christians as we look forward with hope to Easter. This has been an incredibly testing time for the whole world. But we have also seen remarkable signs of hope. The rapid development and distribution of vaccines has been a phenomenal achievement and the way in which people have reached out to others has been inspirational. Our churches have loved and served their neighbours perhaps like never before and found ways to meet and worship God together we would not have imagined just a year ago. As we look ahead to the prospect of easing of restrictions, we know it is still a long road. Yet Easter reminds us we always have hope."



**Covid-19 should we have sacrificed the economy, or us?** John Barton considers the Government's policy on Covid-19

Suppose the Government had chosen an entirely different policy for dealing with coronavirus. Instead of building temporary hospitals and instructing us to wash our hands, observe social distancing, and then locking us down, they had let the pandemic run its course? Hundreds of thousands of people would have died: mainly those who were old, as well as some younger people with pre-existent health deficiencies. As these potential casualties were already costing the National Health Service much more per head than anyone else, their (slightly) premature deaths would have saved the Exchequer billions and freed up resources to improve the health and standard of living for the rest of the more vigorous population. Only the fittest would have survived. Isn't that the law of nature? Instead, the policy was deliberately to sacrifice the economy. At all costs, human beings were to be saved, whatever their longer-term prospects. Consequently, many businesses have gone under, unemployment has shot up and may get worse when the dust clears. Family relationships have been curbed, children may have lost a year's schooling, and leisure, hospitality and travel have been hampered. Why? Why choose this policy and not that? - The answer is a religious one. Perhaps without realising why, policy-makers chose to act as though each human being has a value which can't be measured by their state of health or wealth or status. That's not what 'nature' intends. It's what the Christian faith demands. Everyone, everyone without exception, is unique and marked with God's image. Everyone has the potential for adoption as a child of God. Christ died for each one. You can't put a price on that. Some countries have this faith ingrained in their national character. Some do not. In some, life is cheap, disposable and valued only by its usefulness for production or warfare. The fittest survive. Even then some are sacrificed as warriors, like suicide bombers paying the price of an ideology. Christianity doesn't happen by accident. It is the outcome of missionary activity and the conversion of one-time unbelievers. They then saw other people in a new light: equally worth saving, whatever the cost. Dreadful as it is, Covid-19 will eventually be controlled. In its wake will be a history of survival, not of the fittest, but of the God-given value of every human being.

When it comes to preaching the gospel to 21<sup>st</sup> century people should we be talking more about shame? And will the Covid pandemic change our thinking?

For many years, the Church has focused our gospel appeal around guilt, pointing out that men and women need to repent of their sins and turn to Christ. Which, of course, is perfectly true. But would our gospel message resonate better with today's generations if we first helped to address a widespread feeling of shame, before looking to guilt? **Guilt says 'I did something wrong.'** **Shame declares 'I am profoundly wrong.'** **That feeling of shame is one experienced by many today.**

Rebecca Winfrey, a theological and pastoral researcher for a homelessness charity, explains: "God is intimately concerned about relieving the shame of His people. Never has this been more relevant than in today's culture, in which shame is rife and yet largely unrecognised." In 'The Cross and Shame' (Grove Books), she says: "Shame is much bigger than guilt in most people's concept of what is wrong with themselves."

I believe the Covid pandemic could also make the situation much worse, with people experiencing the 'shame' of debt, redundancy or bankruptcy, or maybe the perceived shame of not being actively involved on the 'front line' of fighting the virus, or facing mental illness.

Jesus showed people on the margins that they were worthy of love and being connected with wider society.

In His interactions with the Samaritan woman at the well, with the tax collector Zacchaeus or the woman accused of adultery, He shows compassion and affirms the dignity and worth of the individual – addressing their shame – before implying any guilt.

## Fighting the pandemic of shame

*The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the power of shame.*

Jesus's death by public crucifixion was designed by the Romans to be painful, humiliating and shameful. Having been subjected to profound human shame, the resurrected Christ brings humankind salvation and redemption from shame's dehumanising impact. In the Hebrew scriptures, Adam and Eve experience shame after they have eaten from the Tree of Life in Eden and have to clothe themselves with fig leaves. The Exodus is an account of the Jewish people being released from the shame of slavery into the freedom of their worth in God's eyes. Paul writes to the Thessalonians of believers "sharing in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." To the church in Ephesus, Paul writes that "we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Rebecca Winfrey encourages church leaders to teach and model true humility, acknowledging their own struggles with shame, and ensure that churches are communities that care for people affected by shame. New Christians should be taught that they could face shame in a secular culture and to know their intrinsic value in God's sight. Winfrey recommends healing prayer and Ignatian-style meditation, where people encounter Jesus as they immerse themselves in gospel stories.

Confession of sin and repentance of our wrongdoings are vital parts of our Christian message, but maybe preachers and pastors could also be addressing the pandemic of shame in our society.

## SHOE BOXES IN A PANDEMIC WITH TEAMS4U



Although we were in lockdown for a lot of time in 2020 members and friends of St Mary's were able to prepare their Shoe Boxes filled with gifts for children and families in Eastern Europe. The boxes brought to St Mary's were blessed by Jess and after 'quarantining' were collected by Teams4U and transferred to their processing centre near Wrexham, another problem as different Covid restrictions in Wales.

Despite all the difficulties, restrictions and challenges of lockdown they managed to get all their boxes taken by lorries and distributed by Christmas in Belarus, Bosnia and Romania.

All the gifts from St Mary's were distributed by T4U partners to Orphanages in Belarus around Minsk area as well as marginalised communities in rural provinces.

Their Project Leader said "The love with which the gifts were collected brought hope to so many! Together with you, we gave hope and were a source of blessings in so many homes."

Other boxes were distributed through the Red Cross Internally Displaced People Group to deprived communities in Bosnia. In Romania boxes were distributed through schools and churches to vulnerable children and families.

The last lorry arrived in Moldova on 20<sup>th</sup> January which is considered to be the lowest income country in Europe and given to orphans and families.

The total number of boxes distributed was 48,756 which is wonderful and amazing considering all the problems of the pandemic.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THIS PROJECT  
Margaret Forster



*" We know these have been very hard times. For our friends and family at home and for so many people abroad. The pandemic has pushed millions of people over the poverty line and made desperate situations distressingly worse. We were so humbled, that in a time where a lot of us are struggling, to have witnessed such incredible acts of generosity and kindness, spreading joy to children. "*

*Dave Cooke, Founder*

## The coming judgement day

*The Ven John Barton reflects on God's mercy and judgement.*

As the Nicene Creed puts it, "He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end." This phrase echoes numerous passages in the Bible. Here's one: "I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books." We get one go at this.

In the British legal system, there is an unusual provision for the Court itself to appoint a Counsel to represent a defendant who doesn't have one and is facing serious charges.

Something like that is implied in some of the biblical descriptions of Christ's intervention on behalf of humanity: Jesus Himself is described as our Advocate: "But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."

The late Lord Hailsham, a distinguished lawyer who became Lord Chancellor, was asked how he would face God when he died. "I will throw myself on the mercy of the Court," he said.

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

On Easter Day when church bells ring out to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from death, we do not forget the immense cost of God's perseverance with us, for Christ's body continues to bear the scars of Crucifixion. Nor is this the end of the matter.

*Nigel Beeton writes: The opening verses of John chapter 14 are very special to many of us, they certainly are to me. They bring us great comfort in this time of fear and uncertainty, and I hope that this little reflection upon them might do the same for others*

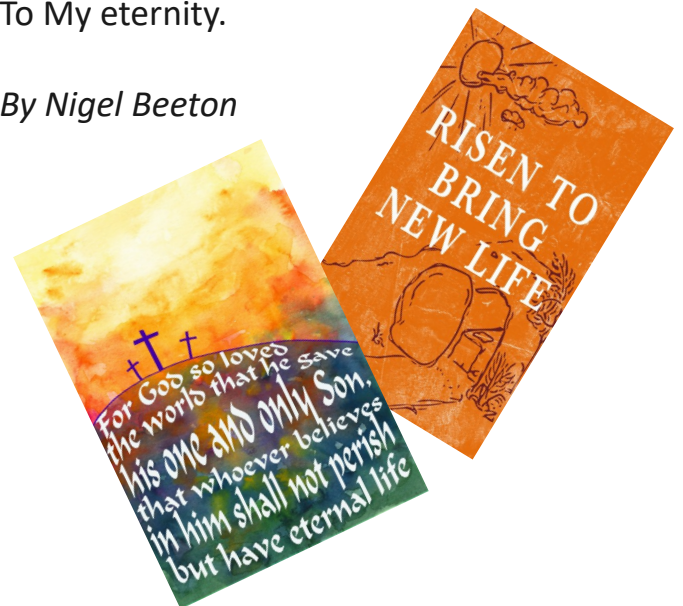
## The Way

Come, still your hearts, let troubles go  
For you believe in Me,  
And I am with you, I will show  
The way ahead of thee.

My Father's house has many rooms  
You know my words are so!  
My Spirit and my Word illumines  
The way that you shall go.

I am the Way, the Truth, the Life  
Believe and you shall see  
The way through tempest and through  
strife  
To My eternity.

*By Nigel Beeton*



## Remembering Easter 2014

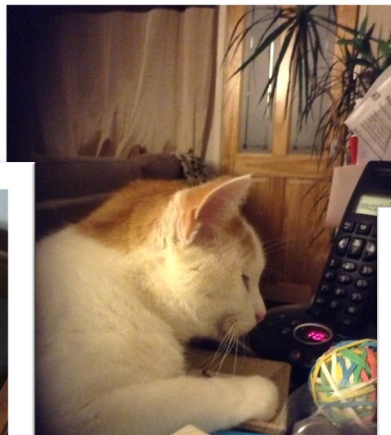
Who can remember this Easter Egg competition at St Thomas' Church – perhaps we can do it again one day!

Whilst we are still in lockdown from our premises a little reminder of "Easter Egg" past. These photos taken in 2014 whilst setting up the eggs from the Stockport Heritage Trust and St Mary's.



Hard to think that it was so many years ago now that the kitchen turned into a craft centre for the making of “eggs” for St Marys – which have been adjusted and added to over the years.

My Assistant back in 2014/15 was Chesney Cat. Although he enjoyed a session with the computer he wasn't a story writing cat. He preferred to check incoming phone calls and ensure the rubber bands were safe. Chesney (named by the neighbours) just arrived one day and never left. Whilst Tyke (my first Yorkie) and Lucy (Mum's little dog) lived indoors he drifted between the shed next door and my garage - kitted out with pet beds and blankets – already occupied by Ross (my name for another cat who equally appeared when his owners - two houses down -- “disappeared” to pastures new but he didn't). Both eventually moved in the house properly and became very much at home on a permanent basis for the rest of their lives. They were joined on a part-time basis by Garfie – again my name for a regular visitor but who it turned out had three homes and three names – we eventually twigged this and communicated exchanging phone numbers by sending messages attached to his collar. Dare I say that the “herb easter garden” – see below – is actually planted in what once was the cat litter tray (well one of them).



Did you make an Easter Garden for 2021?



*There has been activity in my kitchen again this year with the making of Easter Gardens. A little hard landscaping using self-hardening pottery clay and the painting of an "Easter Garden" theme picture with acrylic and oil paints – also used to "glaze" the clay – colour it at least. Still a bit messy, but nothing on the scale of those earlier easter eggs.*



**An "Easter Garden"  
The Empty Tomb**



Of slightly easier construction – the "Easter Herb Garden" – with the planting of herbs – chives, mint, parsley, dill, thyme and rosemary. It is a "working" garden – sitting in the kitchen ready for bits to be snipped off and enjoyed. Chives in salads, mint on new potatoes... and they smell nice too.



## The good news about your forgetfulness

You know the scenario – you go into the lounge, and then wonder what you wanted. Or you need to make a phone call but can't find the phone. You go to the cash point and forget your pin number. Or your car keys are lost in the kitchen, but even when you find them and go shopping, you forget stuff on the list.

If at times you find yourself living in an annoying brain-fog, the good news is that it is not because you are ill or getting old. To varying extents, everyone does it.

A recent study at the University of Edinburgh has found that forgetfulness is as common in people in their 20s as it is in people in their 50s. Although some of the people in the study were worried about getting dementia, a neuropsychiatrist at the university reassured them: "People think that if you are starting to forget things – something like misplacing your keys – that is something to worry about. But it is normal."

Good reasons for forgetting things range from the fact that too much was happening in your life at the time, you were stressed about something, not paying attention to what you were doing, or just too busy thinking about something else entirely.

**THE NICE THING ABOUT BECOMING FORGETFUL IS THAT YOU CAN HIDE YOUR OWN EASTER EGGS.**

Answers to chocolate quiz:

Aztec | Nutella | Switzerland | Guylian | White chocolate | Tempering | Switzerland | Cadbury's cream egg | Joseph Fry | Carbon Dioxide

## In praise of the afternoon nap

A short nap in the afternoon improves your memory and keeps your brain more agile. People who nap tend to speak more fluently, have greater mental agility, and remember things better than those who do not break up their day with sleep. Even a five-minute nap can offer your brain a chance to down-time and replenish itself, so that it is 'good to go' again. If you want longer than five minutes, try to stop at 40 minutes, before you enter the deepest stage of sleep. If you do carry on, sleep for two hours, which is a full sleep-cycle. The study was published in the British Medical Journal.

## The Chocolate Quiz

1. From the language of which people does the word chocolate come from?
2. Which Italian chocolate and hazelnut spread is made by Ferrero?
3. Milk chocolate was invented in 1874 in which country?
4. Which Belgian chocolate manufacturer is famous for its seashell-shaped chocolates?
5. Which type of "chocolate" contains cocoa butter and not cocoa beans?
6. What is the term used of heating and cooling chocolate that makes it look glossy and solid at room temperature?
7. Which European country eats the most chocolate per capita in the world?
8. What is the world's most popular chocolate egg?
9. Who invented chocolate bars?
10. What are the bubbles in an aero bar made from?



## Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via ZOOM

### 100 years of the PCC

*The Ven John Barton considers a beloved, national institution....*

It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an *ex officio* member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll.

The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the Agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.

If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC – congratulations – you are a hundred years old this year!

## The history of the PCC

*The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, considers the PCC.*

***And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28***

When you next attend a PCC meeting, which is probably more likely to be by zoom than in person, you could say “Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!” to your colleagues. It is a hundred years since The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1921 which was an important stage in the birth of PCCs.

During the First World War army chaplains found that many men who thought of themselves as church goers were ignorant of the basics of religion. This led to a new interest in mission for the church. There were national days of prayer during the war and in 1915 there was a National Mission of Repentance and Hope. The public were more in the mood for victory than repentance. After the Armistice there was a desire for change in the national church and this led to a discussion about the links with the state. There was a concern that Parliament was often slow to enact laws for the church and many people felt the national church should have more authority to govern itself. The setting up of Parochial Church Councils was part of that process. In the past a lot of local secular administration had been the responsibility of churchwardens in the vestry meetings. Gradually their functions were passed to local councils. Most of their remaining powers were transferred to PCCs by The Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1921.

The purpose behind these new councils was to give the laity a more prominent role in parish life to go alongside the diaconry, diocesan and national councils which became the synods and have an important role in church life. Some conservative clerics were concerned at this reform and felt that congregations would pick and choose clergy or object to a new incumbent chosen by a patron.

The process of starting PCCs to share in decision making in parishes was widely accepted but a few older incumbents and those in more rural areas, failed to do either out of reluctance or ignorance. A leading churchman in the reform movement was William Temple who became leader of the ‘Life and Liberty movement’ which hugely influenced the move towards democratic government in the Church of England. He was Bishop of Manchester in the 1920s, Archbishop of York from 1929 to 1942 and Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-4).

He had been a secretary of the National Mission of Repentance and Hope in 1916 and became chairman and joint leader with H. R. (Dick) Sheppard of the Life and Liberty movement. ‘We demand liberty for the Church of England’ he declared at a meeting in July 1917. One difficult issue was what level of commitment to church life enabled a person to be eligible to serve on a church council. It was decided that anyone on the electoral roll whether they attended services or communion regularly could participate. The then Bishop of Oxford resigned over the issue because he thought that councils must only be made up of committed regular communicants. The next Bishop of Oxford in his monthly diocesan magazine endorsed the principle of democracy and reassured people that it was a not negative step or would limit the powers of clergy or wardens. He encouraged the congregations to consider how to use each other’s gifts. In Aylesbury the idea of the new PCCs had been discussed as early as 1918. It was felt that they would support the clergy particularly with financial issues.

It is strange to think that the proposal for clergy and congregation to work together for the benefit of the church could be controversial. The birth of PCCs was a major step in the life of the church. I wonder what the next one hundred years will bring?

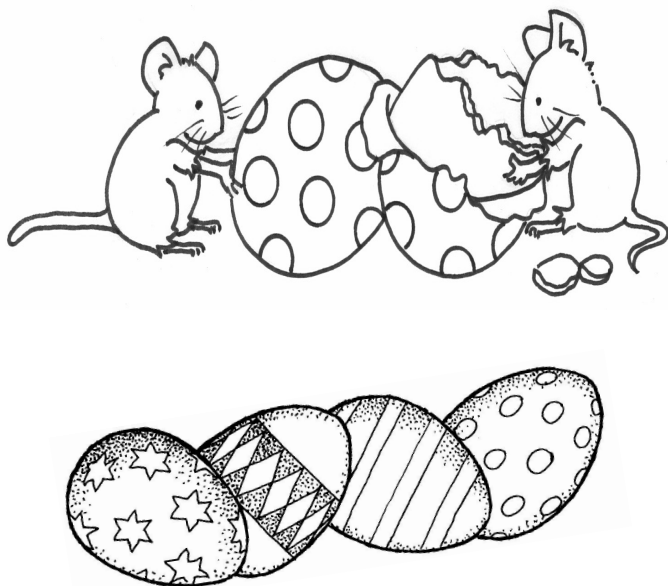
## Thank God for dentists

The good news is that dental surgeries are now back to relative normality. So – book an appointment if you need one!

Here is something gruesome: last year the sale of DIY dentistry first aid kits nearly doubled. People actually attempted to give themselves lost fillings, caps and crowns. Most popular were products that offered ‘long-lasting’ temporary repair for caps and fillings, and a first aid kit.

The British Dental Association understands why; because of lockdown, there were 20 million fewer dental treatments available last year than in 2019. That left some people desperate.

But experts warn against the damage that could be done. Dr Nigel Carter, chief executive of the Oral Health Foundation, says: “DIY home dentistry is a terrible idea and should be avoided at all costs. Home treatments in untrained hands ... can lead to permanent damage to your health.”



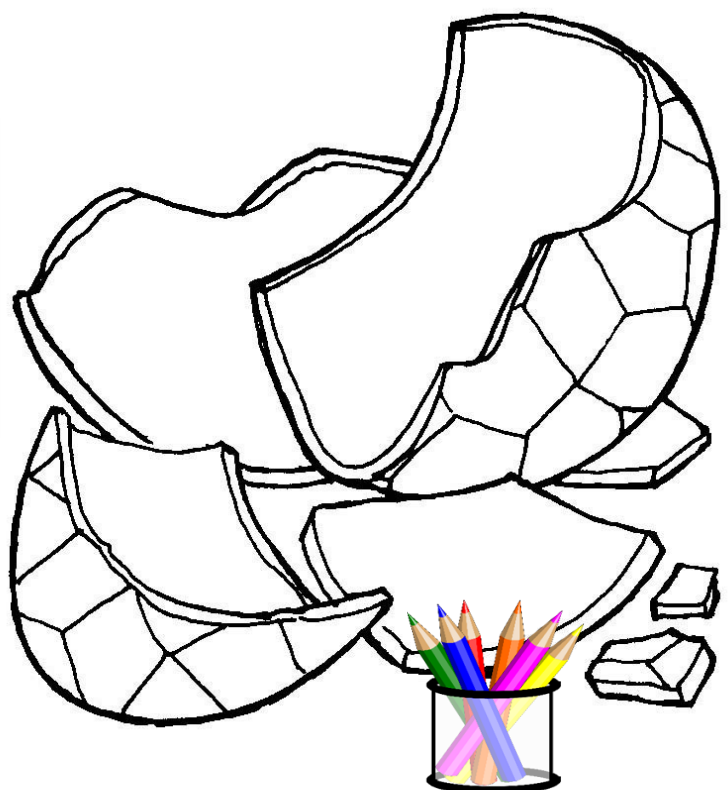
## MARS BAR CAKE

*This quick and easy cake is a favourite in many families.*

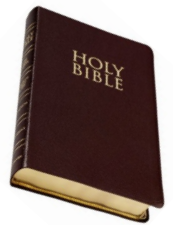
**Ingredients:** 3 Mars bars; 150g butter; 150g rice crispies; 150g chocolate

### **Method:**

In a pan, slowly melt the Mars bars and butter together. Remove from the heat and add the rice crispies, a little at a time, until they are covered with the mixture. Spread mixture onto a baking sheet and place in the fridge until hard. Melt the chocolate and cover the mixture with it. Return to the fridge for a further half an hour. Cut into pieces and enjoy.



## EASTER STORY BISCUITS— WITH CHILDREN IN MIND



Prep. Time: 20 minutes      Total Time: 1 day

**Ingredients:**      110 grams of pecan nuts                      5 grams vinegar                      3 egg whites  
1 pinch salt              200 grams sugar

You will also require a large plastic bag; a wooden spoon; tape and a Bible



### **Instructions:**

- > Preheat oven to 150C
- > Place pecans in the plastic bag and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.
- > Let each child smell the vinegar. Put vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross He was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.
- > Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.
- > Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.
- > Add sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. Read Ps. 34:8 and John 3:16.
- > Beat with a mixer on high speed until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the colour white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.
- > Fold in broken nuts.                      Drop by teaspoons onto non-stick baking parchment-covered baking sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.
- > Put the baking sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

**GO TO BED!** Explain that they may feel sad to leave them in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers felt despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

Roggie here....



I thought for one awful moment that I wasn't getting my slot in the magazine this month and that Mummy was writing it all herself.

You may have noticed a "new look" to the layout - we have moved magazine production from "Word" to "Publisher" to see how it looks. I will tell you a secret—don't tell Mummy you know—but she hadn't realised we had a new version of this software (on Microsoft 365) until a couple of days ago. Mummy says that she had an old version once upon a time—several computers ago—so it's basically new to both of us. I like lessons with Mummy—home school—although from time to time there are threats that we might go to doggie classes—but I don't think they are running at the moment. I remember my first puppy class—I was so frightened of the bigger pups, but then I met Ralph—another little Yorkie. I quite enjoyed it after that—we could play together and eat treats.

I am still at home and not allowed to sniff the streets or talk to strangers. We walked to the post box the other day and my paws hardly stopped all the way there and back again. Normally Mummy would like the opportunity to stop and maybe talk to someone - but not these days! I'd not really realised that us cats and dogs could be at some risk from the Kent variant of the virus - or a form of it - something about possible heart problems (I don't like the sound of that) so now I see why Mummy is being so strict. Dogs and cats beware avoid humans just in case and if anyone in your household has symptoms of Covid make sure they wear a mask when they are with you and make your dinner.

I've not a lot of news to tell you although Mummy did agree to a real meeting recently (the first in such a long time) at St Andrew's - a sort of site visit - but I sat in the car. She was meeting the Senior Assistant for Manor Ward so that he could prepare Covid compliance arrangements for the election next month - which way in - which way out. Mummy says that St Andrew's is a relatively easy Polling Station to sort "premises-wise" but if I had a vote I think I would apply for a postal one! Mummy has a postal vote - has done for years. So, I won't be going to visit a Polling Station with Mummy - but maybe you intend voting in person. Election Day (local government and Greater Manchester -combined authority - mayoral election) are to be held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May - all being well!



Do you like eggs?

I have been watching Mummy in the kitchen and she loves bacon and eggs for breakfast sometimes – or is it egg and bacon? Well I suppose it doesn't matter or depends on the number of eggs cooked. But there was great excitement the other morning - "Oh look Roggie double yolks" Mummy shouted to me – not that I had any idea what Mummy was so excited about – it's just an egg

and she had her head far too close to the frying pan for my liking.

So a single egg had two yolks then!

What are the chances of finding a double yolk I wondered so instantly went on Google—no Microsoft Edge I think we use now—to look it up.

Apparently the odds of cracking open a double yolk is 1/1000. A sign of good luck maybe – perhaps it depends where you buy your eggs.

Strangely enough a few days later another one (from the same box) – perhaps we are double lucky. Poached this time – but no don't like eggs not even toast dipped in yolk – I'll just have toast and butter – or butter with toast please. I don't actually like bacon either—rarely do I accept any and I only do that so Mummy has to do without or at the very least "share".



Mummy always asks if I want her to cook me some – but I stay quiet and decide when I see her plate. Of courses it annoys her more if I accept it and then leave it on the floor for Mr VAX. He's tall and thin – don't think he eats enough. He makes a noise for me to bark at and I chase him all over when Mummy is cleaning, but he does eat everything I leave on the floor – especially my vegetables.

But, we were talking eggs – weren't we :

What are Easter Eggs all about? I heard that a long time ago eating eggs was not allowed during the week leading up to Easter, so any eggs laid that week were saved and decorated to make Holy Week eggs, that were then given to children as gifts. Not nice at all if you don't like old eggs – but the Victorians adapted the tradition with satin covered cardboard eggs filled with Easter gifts – a much better idea!

I've not seen any Easter Eggs on Mummy's supermarket list – but then I'm not allowed real chocolate.

Whatever your eggs - real or chocolate – do enjoy! I will be sticking to doggie treats.

Have a happy Easter everyone –

Love Roggie





## CLIMATE CHANGE

Churches are being encouraged to raise their voice to speak up about the need to tackle climate change across the whole of society through the Climate Sunday initiative, starting by holding their own climate focused service.

The parish of Stockport and Brinnington are taking steps to support “Climate Sunday” by registering our interest with the Climate Sunday initiative and dedicating our Sunday services on the 8<sup>th</sup> August to focus on climate change.

Our newly appointed Environmental Officer (Pat Hamilton) will lead the way.

## New bishop for the environment appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury

The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, is to lead the Church of England’s Environment Programme with a charge to lead bold, deliberate, collaborative action across the Church to tackle the grave existential crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Bishop Graham will work with the Mission and Public Affairs department of the Church of England, continuing the commitment to net-zero carbon impacts across the Church of England by 2030 set by General Synod in February 2020. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: “This will be a key year for the UK’s approach to climate change internationally.” In June, the UK will host the G7. In November, Glasgow will host COP26. The Environment Bill will be coming to Parliament. “Now is the time for bold, deliberate, collaborative action.”

Bishop Graham said: “Responding to the climate and biodiversity crises is not a luxury in the ministry of the Church, but an urgent imperative for our mission.”

Churches are being encouraged to raise their voice to speak up about the need to tackle climate change across the whole of society through the Climate Sunday initiative, starting by holding their own climate focused service.



## Christian Aid Week Appeal

Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we STOP this climate crisis.



Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in

Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought.

Together we STOP this climate crisis.



One year on—church moves forward on carbon reduction target

**THE General Synod has set a 2030 target for net zero carbon emissions for the Church of England, rejecting the recommended target of 2045.**

The first findings from a nationwide study to capture carbon impacts in the Church of England have been published, a year on from a vote committing the Church to net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) is a simple dashboard which has been piloted by churches keen to reduce their carbon footprint.

Data in the report reveal:

- > that nearly 5,000 churches submitted data
- > that five per cent of churches sampled were already net-zero carbon
- > that 12.5 per cent carbon reduction has already been made across the country, when compared with a comparative, although smaller, 2006 study.

The estimated total net carbon footprint for the Church of England's church buildings (based on energy use alone) is around 185,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases, measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent or tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

World Environment Day (WED) is an international day of environmental awareness and action that happens on 5th June each year. Started in 1974 by the United Nations, each year WED is hosted in a different country, with events focusing on a central theme. World Environment Day 2021 is being held in Colombia, with Biodiversity as the central theme.

## It is never too late to start ...

This Lent the Diocese of Chester, led by the diocesan Environment Forum, invited us all to join in with the Lenten journey and to think about how we might all play our part in living more sustainably.

What can we do in our daily lives to show our love for God's creation and the environment.

You may already have given this initiative a go, but if not it is never too late to start – so here are the mini challenges suggested:

- > Cut out single-use plastics – try to avoid buying items that cannot easily be recycled.
- > Keep it local – cut back on packaging and food miles by shopping at local greengrocers, butchers and farm shops.
- > Introduce meat-free days – especially try to limit red meat.
- > Stop food waste – don't leave anything on the plate and resist overstocking the fridge.
- > Resist fast fashion – refrain from buying any new clothes in Lent (or any given period of time)
- > Reduce energy consumption – try to turn the thermostat down a couple of degrees and reduce car journeys – although with "lockdown" many of our vehicles may well have not been far from home for months now.
- > Encourage biodiversity – plant trees and flowers that will help local wildlife and organise a litter pick. Something to think about as the weather improves and lockdown restrictions are lifted.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER FOR THE PARISH OF STOCKPORT AND BRINNINGTON

The PCC {Parochial Church Council} have agreed that we hold Climate Sunday in our parish on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

The Climate Sunday initiative of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is calling on all local churches across Great Britain & Ireland to hold climate-focused services on any Sunday before 5 September 2021, in the run up to COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow from 1-12 November 2021.

At our services on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August, we are encouraged to make a commitment to greater action to address climate change in our churches and communities. We are also asked to use our voices to tell politicians we want a cleaner, greener, fairer future at the heart of plans agreed during COP26.

DOWNLOAD DETAILS:

<https://thetimeisnow.uk/declaration>



Meanwhile do read and sign the Climate Coalition 'Time is Now' declaration which is as follows:

**Dear Prime Minister,**

The time is now to lead the UK towards a healthier, greener, fairer future. Ahead of hosting the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow in 2021, we can build back better together if we:

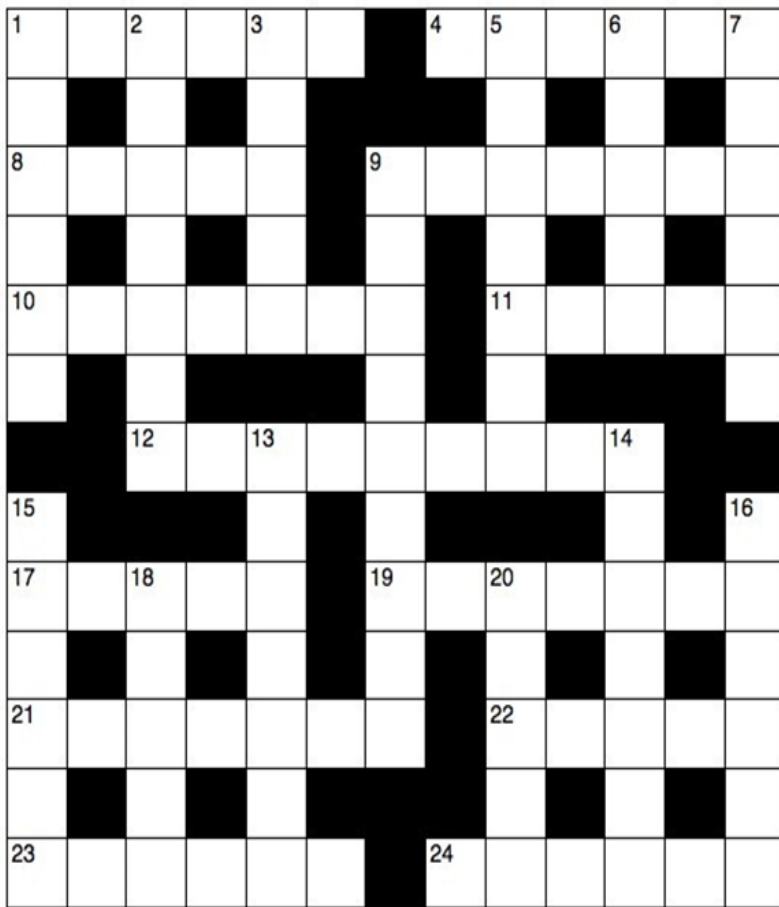
- **Unleash a clean energy revolution** that boosts jobs across the UK, making our transport, power and housing fit for the future
- **Protect, restore and expand our green and wild spaces**; allowing nature to thrive, taking carbon from the air and boosting the nation's health

**Leave no one behind** by increasing support to those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change at home and abroad

The UK must lead the world by ensuring our recovery gets us on track to net-zero emissions and limits the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees C. Our best chance of building a resilient economy goes hand in hand with tackling climate change. We are ready to play our part, and we call on you to join us.

# Puzzle Pages for April

## Crossword



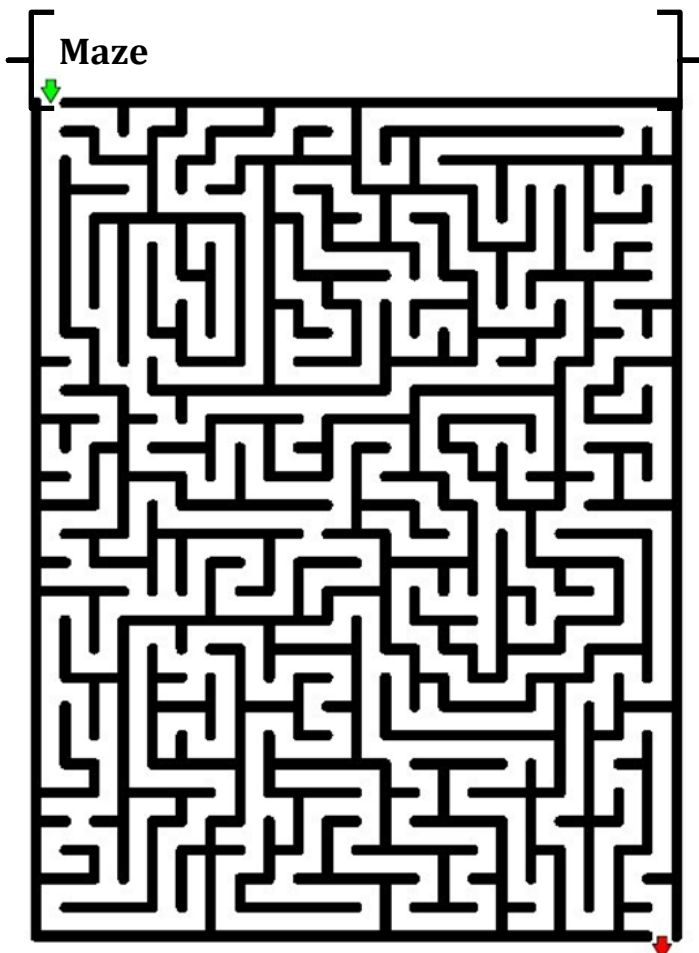
### Across

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

### Down

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

## Maze





Can you find these names of Jesus in the word search?

**SON OF GOD**  
Matthew 3:16-17

 **KING OF KINGS**  
Revelation 17:14

**PROPHET**  
Luke 24:19

**PRIEST**  
1 Timothy 2:5

**ROCK**  
1 Corinthians 10: 4

**LORD**  
1 Corinthians 1:9

**AMEN**  
Revelation 3:14

**LIFE**  
John 11:25-27

**MESSIAH**  
John 1:41

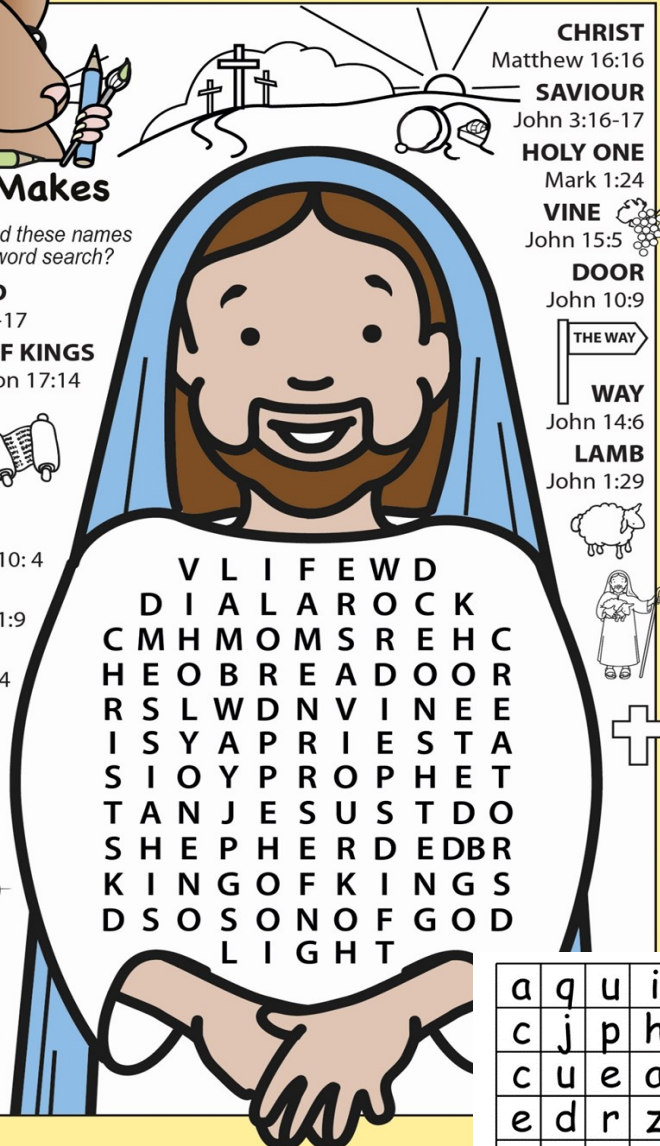
**SHEPHERD**  
John 10:11

**LIGHT**  
John 8:12

**WORD**  
John 1:1-50

 **BREAD**  
John 6:35

**CREATOR**  
1 John 1:3



**CHRIST**  
Matthew 16:16

**SAVIOUR**  
John 3:16-17

**HOLY ONE**  
Mark 1:24

**VINE**   
John 15:5

**DOOR**  
John 10:9

 **THE WAY**

**WAY**  
John 14:6

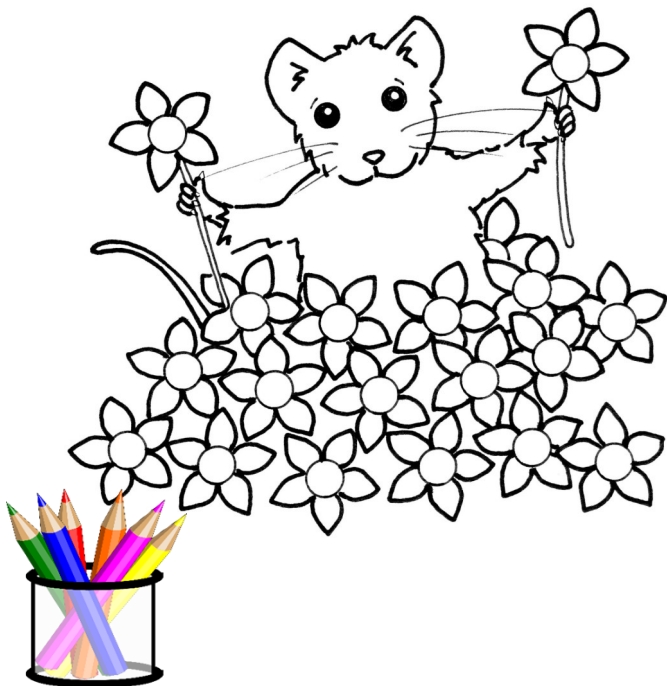
**LAMB**  
John 1:29



frishpump.co.uk

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

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



- |          |         |           |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| scatter  | sauce   | accepted  |
| morning  | Jesus   | bread     |
| betray   | Peter   | quickly   |
| disown   | leaders | person    |
| denied   | Jewish  | Passover  |
| tomorrow | never   | disciples |
| sheep    | Judas   | shepherd  |
| prison   | John    | money     |

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

# Wordsearch

**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.**

- |          |            |           |             |
|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Passover | bread      | wine      | body        |
| Blood    | betrayal   | Jerusalem | Pilate      |
| Judas    | Gethsemane | trial     | crucifixion |
| Soldiers | cross      | nails     | vinegar     |
| Temple   | curtain    | tomb      | angel       |
| Stone    | risen      | gardener  | Mary        |

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

# Sudoku

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

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Wordsearch grid with words circled in red:

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

Wordsearch grid with words circled in red:

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

Wordsearch grid with words circled in red:

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

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Matthew 26:20-25, 31-35, Mark 14:17-21, 27-31  
Luke 22:22, 31-34, John 13:21-30, 36-38

The Jewish leaders wanted to kill Jesus.  
One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, had  
accepted money from them to betray him.

As Jesus and his disciples ate the  
Passover meal, Jesus said



John was sitting  
next to Jesus, so  
Peter said



So John asked Jesus



It is the person I give  
this piece of bread to.



Jesus dipped a piece  
of bread in sauce, and  
gave it to Judas.



What you are about to do  
you must do quickly.



Why has Judas gone out?



They continued  
the Passover meal



Jesus then told the rest of the  
disciples



Peter said

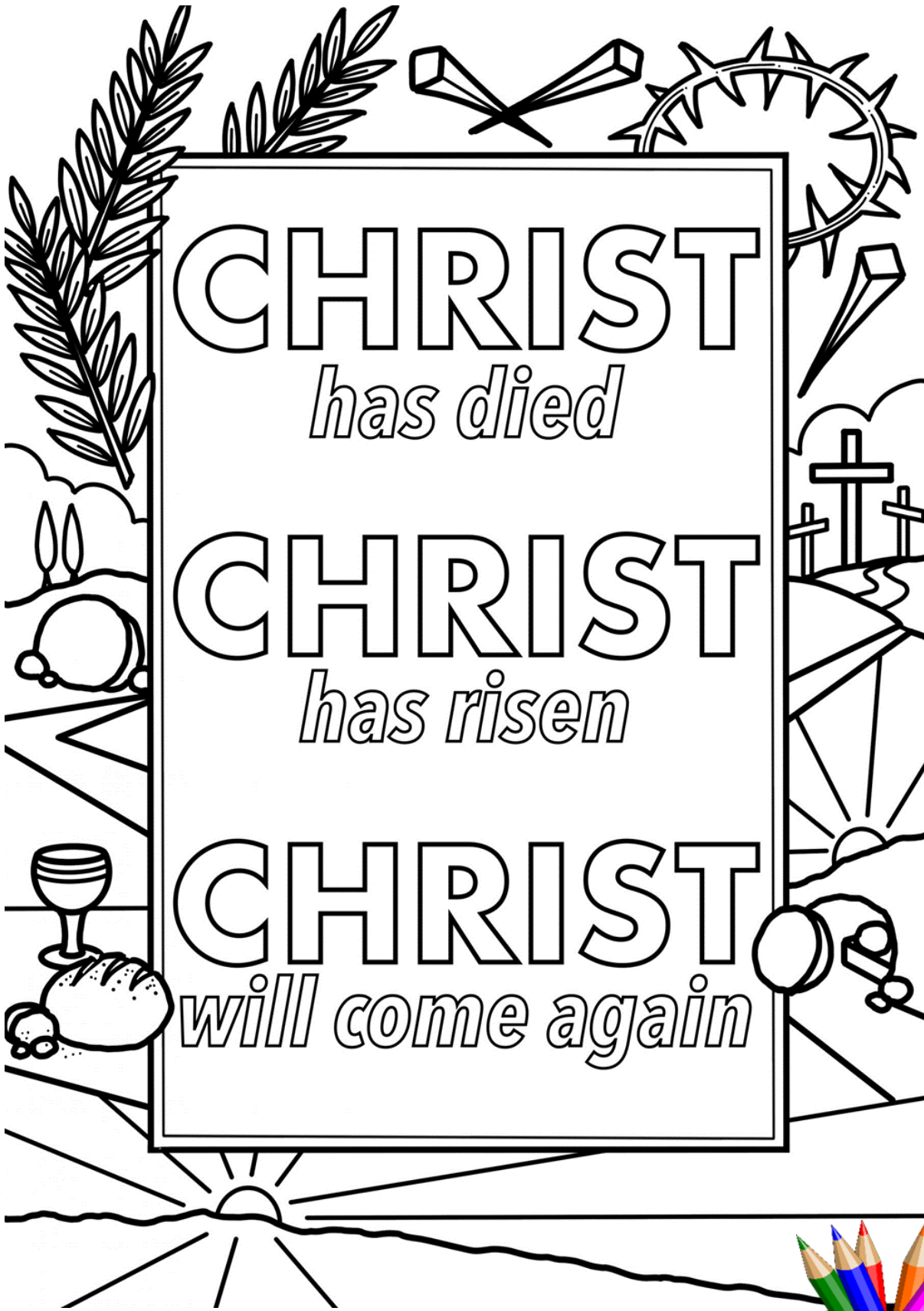


Before tomorrow morning  
you will have denied you  
even know me 3 times.



Even if I have to die, I  
will never disown you!





CHRIST

*has died*

CHRIST

*has risen*

CHRIST

*will come again*



## The Easter Quiz

1. Which Roman governor of Judas ordered the death of Jesus?
2. How much was Judas paid to betray Jesus?
3. What role did Simon of Cyrene play in the Easter story?
4. Where was Jesus crucified? The name means 'place of the skull'
5. In which garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives was Jesus arrested?
6. Which prisoner was released instead of Jesus?
7. What is the English translation of the words "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani" spoken on the cross by Jesus?
8. What was written on Jesus' cross?
9. Who was the first person to see Jesus after the Resurrection?
10. Which apostle was absent when Jesus appeared to the group and doubted the Resurrection?
11. How is the Sunday before Easter known?
12. How did Judas indicate Jesus to the Roman soldiers?
13. Which Jewish feast was being celebrated in the week of the crucifixion?
14. According to John's gospel, which disciple cut off the high priest's servants ear in an attempt to prevent Jesus' arrest?
15. What position, previously held by Annas, did Caiaphas occupy during the Easter story?
16. According to Mark's gospel, what crime had the two men crucified with Jesus committed?
17. According to John's gospel, for what did the soldiers cast lots?
18. After Jesus died, for how long did darkness descend?
19. The resurrected Jesus appeared to Cleopas and an unnamed disciple on the road to where?
20. How many days did Jesus remain on Earth after the Resurrection?

Quiz answers:

Pontius Pilate | 30 pieces of silver | He was forced to carry Jesus' cross | Golgotha | Gethsemane | Barabbas | My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? | King of the Jews | Mary Magdalene | Thomas | Palm Sunday | He kissed him | Passover | Peter | High Priest | Robbery | Jesus' clothing | Three hours | Emmaus | 40

## Our first ever National Park

by Tim Lenton

Seventy years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1951, the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first national park, and it was formed partly as a result of a mass trespass on Kinder Scout – the highest point of the park – just under 20 years earlier, which helped gain open access to moorland that had previously been in private hands and closed to walkers.

The precise effect and extent of the trespass, in which Young Communists were prominent, is still widely disputed by rambling associations.

The Peak District is mostly in Derbyshire, but includes parts of Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. It is usually split into the higher Dark Peak and the gentler White Peak, in the centre and south of the district. Altogether it covers 555 square miles: it is reckoned that 20 million people live within an hour's journey of it.

It contains only one town – Bakewell – but several others, such as Buxton, are on the fringes. It is now the fifth largest of the 13 national parks in England and Wales. The land within it is a mixture of public and private ownership, and there are many planning restrictions imposed by the national park authority to prevent inappropriate development.



It was:

## All in the month of April

1900 years ago, on 26<sup>th</sup> April 121 that Marcus Aurelius, Emperor of Rome (161-180AD) and Stoic philosopher (whose works are still read today), was born. He was the last of the rulers known as the Five Good Emperors, and the last emperor of the Pax Romana, an age of relative peace and stability for the Roman Empire.

**500 years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1521 that Ferdinand Magellan, Portuguese explorer who led the first expedition to circumnavigate the earth, died at the hands of natives in the Philippines. He was aged 41.**

300 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1721 that Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister. **250 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1771 that Richard Trevithick, British mining engineer and inventor of the first steam locomotive, was born.**

125 years ago, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 1896 that the first modern Summer Olympic Games were held in Athens. The original Olympics were banned by the Roman Emperor Theodosius (I or II) in either 393 or 426 AD.

**95 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1926 that Queen Elizabeth II was born in Mayfair, London. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. Her father became King on the abdication of his brother King Edward VIII in 1936, from which time Elizabeth was the heir presumptive.**

90 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1931 that the first edition of the Highway Code was published in the UK. **80 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1941 that Bobby Moore, British footballer, was born. He was Captain of the English team that won the 1966 World Cup and died in 1993.**

75 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1946 that John Maynard Keynes, British economist, died. He was the most influential economist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, whose ideas formed the basis of Keynesian economics.

**70 years ago, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1951 that the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first national park.**

60 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1961 that Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann went on trial in Jerusalem. He was convicted on 12<sup>th</sup> September and executed in June 1962. **50 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1971 that Igor Stravinsky, Russian composer, died. He was one of the most important and influential composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.**

40 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1981 that the Brixton riot took place in London. 5,000 youths rampaged through the streets, attacking police officers and damaging buildings, looting shops and setting cars alight. **30 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1991 that Graham Greene, novelist, short story writer, playwright and journalist died. Author of *Brighton Rock*, *Our Man in Havana* and many more.**

20 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2001 that NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of life and volcanic activity on Mars. It went into orbit around Mars and remains operational (though it will run out of propellant in 2025). It is the longest surviving continually active spacecraft orbiting another planet. (It has successfully mapped the distribution of water below the surface and discovered a vast amount of ice below the equatorial regions.)

**10 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2011 that the wedding of Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton took place at Westminster Abbey in London. They were given the titles the**

### SPRING (*Acrostic Poem*)

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,  
Petals of every colour and hue,  
Rain and sun caressing the earth  
Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view  
Now is the time of new beginnings  
Giving us pleasure all season through.

*By Megan Carter*



## Thy Kingdom Come global prayer movement's plans for 2021

Thy Kingdom Come, the ecumenical prayer movement for evangelisation, uniting Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide from the Ascension to Pentecost, will be run differently this year, from the 13<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May.

Thy Kingdom Come – which is led by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and has attracted the support of His Holiness Pope Francis in recent years – will offer a selection of new resources and ways in which worshipping communities can participate – despite ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

New resources for 2021 will include an 11-part family-friendly animation series; video reflections from influential Christian voices such as Bear Grylls, Bishop of Dover Rose Hudson-Wilkin and Archbishop Angaelos, and this year's Prayer Journal, penned by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell.

A special video message from Archbishop Justin Welby, who will be on study leave during this year's 11-day prayer period, will also be shown.

While prayer for evangelisation remains at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come, this year the resources are designed to encourage worshipping communities, families and individuals who may have struggled with the idea of Church at Home.

For families, there is an 11-part children's video series called Cheeky Pandas – packed with Bible stories, prayers, animation, worship songs and interviews with special guests including Adventurer, Bear Grylls, CBeebies Presenter Gemma Hunt, Revd Nicky Gumbel (HTB and Alpha) and Pastor Agu and Shola (Jesus House) to name a few. The video series (which will be available from early April onwards) can be used as part of church at home, gathered church (online and offline) and in school assemblies. Similar to last year, the series will be the main content in the Family Prayer Adventure Map and App.

For Youth, Thy Kingdom Come are working with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust to produce a selection of youth resources including a series of video reflections from young influential Christians such as the current Methodist Youth President – Phoebe Parkin, rapper and author – Guvna B, Worship Leader- Elle Limebear, Spoken Word Artist – Joshua Luke Smith and many more.

Other new resources include the Prayer Journal, written by the Archbishop of York, – aimed at inspiring readers to re-encounter the love and joy found in Jesus Christ and this year's Novena.

The award-winning Thy Kingdom Come app, available in nine languages, will for the first time, include audio content from 24-7 Prayer's Lectio 365 with audio reflections from Pete Greig, Archbishop Justin and 24-7 Prayer GB UK Director, Carla Harding.

This year Thy Kingdom Come is also giving away 100,000 copies of the Prayer Journal and Family Prayer Adventure Map to UK churches, as long as P&P is covered.

Emma Buchan, Thy Kingdom Come Project Director, said: "We really want TKC to inspire people in their relationships with Christ, and to resource children and young people in fun, spiritually nourishing ways.

"We hope and pray Pentecost is a time of great joy after what has been such a challenging season."

Now in its sixth year, Thy Kingdom Come has grown from an initial call to prayer from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Anglican Communion, to a worldwide ecumenical prayer movement.

## St George's Day

- and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually learn to live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

## St George – our Patron Saint who isn't English

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day. It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country. The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'. However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ. The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers – 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil. St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' – one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty – they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration.

## The first British Prime Minister

by Tim Lenton

Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister 300 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1721. It was a title he rejected, but historians agree that he effectively created that office for himself.

He was one of the greatest politicians in British history, but he had intended to be a clergyman, until his older brother Edward died in 1698, leaving him responsible for the considerable Walpole estate.

His country seat was Houghton Hall in Norfolk, which he used as a base for generous, sometimes extravagant hospitality and built up an impressive art collection, most of which was later sold and now resides in the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.

Another part of his legacy is 10 Downing Street, which was offered to him personally by George II, but which he accepted as the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury. He was knighted in 1726 and made Earl of Orford on his resignation in 1742.

His skills as an orator and negotiator played a significant role in sustaining the Whig party over a long period, and in ensuring the Hanoverian succession. He rebuilt the tower of the medieval church on his Houghton estate as a memorial to his grandfather.

## Chelsea Flower Show moves to the Autumn

For the first time ever in its 108-year history, Chelsea Flower Show will not be held in the Spring, but in the Autumn.

The 2021 Chelsea Flower Show will now take place from 21st to 26th September. The Royal Horticultural Society, the show organisers, will still hold it at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. The hope is that by September, millions more people will be vaccinated, so that mass outdoor events will be able to happen safely. 140,000 people are predicted to attend this year's Chelsea, over the six days.

Sue Biggs, RHS director general, says: "We believe many designers and nurseries will look forward to working with different plants that would not be available or at their best in May. We will do our utmost to deliver a beautiful, uplifting and different RHS Chelsea safely in September 2021."

## Gang violence and our children

One in 20 children aged 11 to 17 is vulnerable to falling victim to serious violence, or even becoming a perpetrator by being sucked into gang membership in the UK. The worst blackspots are Middlesbrough and Manchester, where the percentage is not one in 20, but one in three. Based on these figures, the children's commissioner believes that beyond the 34,000 children thought to be in street gangs, or on the periphery of them, there are still almost 180,000 more at risk of becoming involved in the world of serious violence. Of especial concern to the government and police chiefs are the rise of county lines gangs, which exploit ever younger children in order to sell more drugs. Police warn that these gangs use 'ultra-violence', with young recruits maintaining status by acts of 'increasingly outrageous savagery.'

*The worst hit areas are: Middlesbrough (37 per cent), Manchester (36 per cent), North East Lincolnshire (29 per cent), Blackpool (28 per cent), Kingston upon Hull (27 per cent), Hartlepool (26 per cent), Liverpool (22 per cent); Leeds (22 per cent). Newcastle upon Tyne (21 per cent) and Rochdale (19 per cent). The data is from Crest Advisory, a crime think tank and consultancy.*

# Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

25th April Via ZOOM

*The Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting will again be held via Zoom this year, for the overall safety of all. Permission to do this was given to PCC's by the Bishop of Chester in February. Our Annual Meetings will therefore take place on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm. The revision of the Electoral Roll is presently being undertaken by our Electoral Roll Officer, Eric Tomlinson. Nomination forms (for the appointment of Churchwardens at the Meeting of Parishioners) will be required no later than the 18<sup>th</sup> April and forms will also be available for persons wishing to be nominated as an elected representative to the Parochial Church Council (for a period of three years). Four such appointments will be made at the ACPM, replacing those retiring on that date. There are no Deanery Synod elections this year.*

## **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS**

### NOTICE OF A MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

A meeting for the election of churchwardens will be held via Zoom on the Twenty-fifth (25<sup>TH</sup>) day of April 2021

This meeting may be attended by:

All persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish and

All persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of

local government electors by reason of use residence

[See full notice details on our website and as displayed on church premises from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021]

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held via Zoom on the Twenty-fifth (25<sup>th</sup>) day of April 2021

For election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows:

To the Parochial Church Council 4 (four) representatives

For the appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor

For the consideration of:

A report on changes to the Roll since the last annual parochial church meeting;

An Annual report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;

The financial statements of the council for the year ending 31st December preceding the meeting (2020);

The annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches in the parish;

A report of the proceedings of the deanery synod; and

Other matters of parochial Church interest.

[See full notice details on our website and as displayed on church premises from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021]

**Contract us at:** *St Mary's with St Andrew's Parish Office*  
*St Andrew's Community Church, Hall Street, Stockport, SK1 4DA.*

**Telephone:** *0161 429 6564 - not in use at the present time*  
*(Sue) 0161 456 0262*

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**Stockport Parish Church** *[St Mary's in the Marketplace]*  
*Churchgate, Stockport, SK1 1YG*

**Telephone:** *0161 480 1815 - not in use at the present time*

**Website:** *stmarysinthemarketplace.com*

**Email:** *st.marysstockport@gmail.com*

**Facebook:** *Stockport Parish Church - St Marys*

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**St Thomas' Church, Stockport, Holt Street, Stockport, SK1 3PY.**

**Telephone:** *0161 429 9524*

**Website:** *st.thomasstockport.org.uk*

**Email:** *info@stthomasstockport.org.uk*

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**St Luke's, Northumberland Road, Brinnington, SK5 8LS**

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**Website:** *stlukesbrinnington.co.uk*

**Facebook:** *St Luke's Brinnington*

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**RECTOR:** *Rev Lynne Cullens*

*St Mary's Rectory, 24 Gorse Mount Street, Stockport, SK1 4DU Telephone: 0161 477 1938*

*Email:lynne.cullens@gmail.com*

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