

# Grapevine

March, April, May 2023

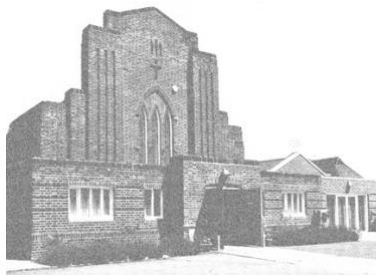


Ickenham United  
Reformed Church Magazine



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*In Vacancy*



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Please would you inform Shellie if you change address, phone number, or email address, in order to help us keep up to date records

**Children & Families Worker:**

*In Vacancy*

**Opinions expressed in Grapevine do not necessarily reflect the views of Ickenham United Reformed Church**

# *From the Elders*

*Dear friends*

A recent sermon given by Peter Williams on 'Mountain-Top experiences' based on Bible passages from Exodus 24 v.12-18 and Matthew 17 v.1-9 set me wondering how many of us might have been moved by an experience where we feel that we have been truly touched by the Spirit of God? This could maybe have been through an event or a place which has affected us, an encounter with the beauty of nature, or perhaps a moving piece of music or art.



It triggered a memory of a literal 'mountain-top experience' that I had many years ago. From the age of eight I lived in North Wales, near to the beautiful area of the Snowdonia National Park. Over the years I probably went up

Snowdon about six times, but it was more often than not disappointingly misty at the summit. One day I was walking there with two friends – it was 1<sup>st</sup> April and a beautiful sunny day as I recall – and when we reached the summit it was perfectly clear and all the amazing mountain scenery stretched out below us. It almost took our breath away!

We cannot expect to experience these kinds of revelations on a day-to-day basis, but at this time of year we are surrounded by the small everyday miracles of nature re-awakening after the dreariness of winter. Let's all take the time, when we're out and about, to appreciate this amazing time of re-birth.

During these months of March, April and May when we travel through the period of Lent, Easter and beyond to Pentecost, it is a time to think and reflect about our lives as Christians, together as a church, in periods of worship, prayer and bible study and each in our own personal ways. It is good to remind ourselves that the Christian Church came into being because the first followers of Jesus were truly convinced that he had risen from the dead and they continued to meet him at various times and in ways that left them in no doubt he was alive.

Let us pray that we may deserve to be numbered among those whom Jesus declared blessed, namely *“those who have not seen and yet have believed”*. (John ch.20 v.29)

In the months ahead we hope to see a progression of the plans for a joint pastorate with Christ Church URC/Methodist, Uxbridge and the hope of ministerial candidates coming forward. Please hold this situation in thought and prayer as we proceed with the process.

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April we hold our Church AGM & Church Meeting after the morning service. Church Members will be asked to give prayerful consideration to the names that will be put forward for the ballot for the voting in the Election of Elders, which will take place at the AGM. Our small number of serving Elders are working very hard and we really need to maintain the strength of our eldership if our church is to thrive. If you are approached to stand as Elder, we hope that you will give the matter much prayerful thought.

The anniversary of our Covenant with St. Giles' Church will be celebrated at a service at the URC on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Locally preparations are underway for the annual Memorial Service Remembering Loved Ones, organised by the joint churches' Bereavement Support Group, being held at St. Giles'

on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, and also for a return of the churches' Holiday Club for children at the end of July, held in the URC.

Of course, as a nation we shall be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, with many events being planned.

Do look in this issue of Grapevine, in notice-sheets, and in ICN, for full details of events and services taking place in our church community in the coming weeks and months.

May God bless you through this Lent and Easter period and do enjoy the springtime and any plans that you may have for any celebrations and holidays in the months ahead.

*Celia Miller*

*\*Could you share with us in another issue of Grapevine a 'mountain-top experience' of a kind that has that has moved you?*

## *Birthdays*



<b>March</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Keeley Wilson
19 <sup>th</sup>	Celia Miller Richard Boyes Kathryn Dungey
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sue Hughes
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ruth Piper
26 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Hughes
27 <sup>th</sup>	Heather Piper

<b>April</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Madadi
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pauline Woodham
26 <sup>th</sup>	Leigh Smith



## *Family News & Dates –*

### **Liaison Committee**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7.00pm

### **Finance & Property Meeting**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm

### **LAG Meeting**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm in Oasis

### **Elder Meeting**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2.00pm in Oasis

### **Prayer Group Meeting**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm in Hardwick Room

### **Coronation of King Charles III**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at Westminster Abbey

## *Church Services*

### **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am**

led by Jeremy Day

### **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am**

led by John Pearson

### **Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am**

led by Frank Murphy

Includes Holy Communion

### **Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am**

led by Frank Murphy

### **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 11.00am**

led by Frank Murphy





**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
Maundy Thursday  
7.00pm**

led by Revd Felicity  
Davies at the URC.  
Includes Holy  
Communion

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April  
Good Friday  
10.30am Walk of  
Witness starting  
at the St Giles**

followed by service and frugal lunch at URC 3.00pm Meditation  
at the Cross followed at 3.30 pm with a performance of Stainer's  
Crucifixion with Organ, Soloists and Combined Choir at the URC  
– *There will be a retiring Collection*

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday at 11.00am**

led by John Miller and In-house Group  
includes Holy Communion

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am**

led by Sue Clifford

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 11.00am – Joint Covenant Service**

led by Revd Felicity Davies includes Holy Communion

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am**

led by Revd Sue McCoan (our Interim Moderator)

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am**

led by Jeremy Day

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am**

led by John Pearson

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 11.00am**

led by John Mackerness

Includes Holy Communion

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am**

led by Denis Golden



*Memorial  
Service  
Remembering  
Loved Ones*

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May there will be a Memorial Service at 3.00 p.m. at St. Giles' Church for those who are bereaved. During the service the names of those who have died, whose funerals were conducted at Ickenham URC or by St. Giles' Church staff between the beginning of March 2022 and the end of February 2023, will be read out.

Members of the Bereavement Support Group will be present. After the service, the congregation will be invited for refreshments in the St. Giles' Church Hall. Anyone who would find this service helpful is welcome to attend.



## *World Day of Prayer service 2023*

This year's service will be at 2pm on 3rd March in St Martin's Church Ruislip. The service is entitled "I have heard about your faith" and has been prepared by Christian women in Taiwan. Taiwan has for many years been caught in a superpower struggle and has been isolated internationally for decades. China continues to claim Taiwan as its sovereign territory although a large majority of Taiwanese reject reunification with China. This raises a constant risk of conflict, so the people of Taiwan are very much in need of our prayers at this time.

The worship service includes letters of encouragement for women who face suffering and injustice/ These stories of faith focus on issues that are shared by women and girls around the world, which challenge us to prayerful action. The Bible passage from Ephesians 1: 15 to 19



allows a reflection about managing when your faith is challenged, regaining hope when facing challenges and moving forward with God's love.

Those who attend will receive a postcard showing the artwork from the Taiwanese artist Hui-Wen Hsaio, who uses several motifs that highlight Taiwan's best-known features to express how the Christian faith brings peace and a new vision to Taiwan. The women in the painting are sitting by a stream, praying silently and looking up into the dark. Despite the

uncertainty of the path ahead, they know that the salvation of Christ has come. Two endangered species are featured: the Mikado Pheasant and the Black-faced Spoonbill, which are both of unique significance to the Taiwanese people. The Mikado Pheasant is endemic to mountainous regions of Taiwan and is usually regarded as one of Taiwan's national birds. The Black-faced Spoonbill migrates thousands of miles every year to spend the winter in Taiwan. Their distinctiveness symbolizes a characteristic of the Taiwanese people—confidence and perseverance in times of difficulty. The green grass and Phalaenopsis (Butterfly) orchids stand out against the dark background. They are the pride of Taiwan, which has a worldwide reputation as the "Kingdom of Orchids." In recent decades, Taiwanese orchid's exports have increased, and Butterfly orchids have frequently



been featured in international competitions. This beautiful island is known by its rich natural resources. Green grass represents the Taiwanese as simple, confident, strong and under God's care.

Please hold the people of Taiwan in your prayers.

*Julie Dungey*

*(Adapted from WDP online resources)*

## *Margaret Stokes (1933 – 2022)*

*Eulogy read at Margaret's Funeral on 24 January 2023*



Margaret was born in July 1933, the eldest of three children. She grew up in London, firstly in Paddington and later in Kenton. At just five years old, she was evacuated to Illogan in Cornwall.

She had vivid memories of this time starting with being taken for some mysterious medical appointments by her Mum and then one day to a school where there were lots of other children gathered, but with no idea why, and then travelling on a train, with her name on a label tied to her – and the gas mask she was terrified of in a box. On arrival, the children were gathered

together in the village school, to be allocated to local families. She was the youngest in the group and consequently the last to be taken, as no one wanted to have to look after such a young child.

However, she remembered that the family she stayed with were very kind to her and recalled “Granfer” showing her the flowers in his garden and especially the peonies that she thought were magical. She also remembered the beautiful hedgerows in Cornwall, and putting her lollipop in the local stream with her friend from next door so it tasted nice. She showed her husband the exact spot many years later. When her mum came to visit after a year, she didn't recognise the lady that got off the train but chose to go back home to London, as she was

missing her little brother. She then spent the rest of the war and childhood in Kenton where her family had moved to to escape the more intense bombing in central London.

One of the stories she told of this time was of sitting on a low wall outside a pub in Kenton, her Dad at the bar inside. When a buzzbomb went off nearby and she was blown off the wall, her Dad rushed out of the pub to pick her up - and put her back on the wall. She also remembered sharing the Morrison air raid shelter in the front room every night with her family and lodger, Violet, and all of Violet's worldly goods in her bag.

Margaret's Dad turned their large garden over to self-sufficiency, growing vegetables and keeping chickens. It was Margaret's job to feed the chickens and in so doing avoid her legs being pecked by the hated Cockerel. She also helped her Dad on the allotment pushing the heavy home-made cart to and from, with handles made just the right height so Margaret was the only one who could push it! Margaret was a clever girl, who gained a place at Grammar School, Kingsbury County School for Girls. Her parents could not afford the promised reward of a satchel so her Dad made her a wooden case out of an old 'Pork Box', which must have been very heavy to carry and described years later as 'fierce' by her Mother-in-Law.

Margaret left school at 16 and worked briefly in the local Brylcreem factory accounts office. Following this she got a good job working for Lloyds Bank in Pall Mall in London. She described her work as being on the "forerunners of computers" and although a noisy environment she enjoyed the buzz of working in the city and the camaraderie that she had with the other girls in the office. Margaret had an encyclopedic knowledge of London, which was probably largely passed on by her Dad and throughout her life she was always proud to be a Londoner.

Margaret met John at a dance at the local technical college in Hendon. Their first date was to Battersea pleasure gardens, part of the Festival of Britain, where they went on the tree walk. John has fond memories of that time of dancing with Margaret at Hendon Technical College and Wembley Town Hall. Margaret always enjoyed these occasions and the cream cakes in the interval!

They married when Margaret was just 21. She wore a head-dress of wax orange blossom flowers made by French nuns and she was delighted that it was subsequently worn at the weddings of her work-colleagues in the Bank and then later on by her daughters on their wedding days and also by her granddaughter Sophie, just last May.

In those days, women had to leave their job when they had a baby, so when her first daughter Jacqueline came along, it ended her career at Lloyds Bank. Her second daughter Nicola arrived two years later. Margaret always described her time at home with her young family as the happiest days of her life. Throughout her life, she always said that she was '28' if ever asked her age, as this was such a happy time for her. Family trips out took place in the motorbike and sidecar; Margaret with a daughter snuggled on each knee. Later, family holidays were spent in caravans in Devon, The Isle of Wight and Scotland and there are many treasured memories of these times spent together.

While she was at home looking after her young daughters, Margaret set up and ran what in those days was called a "play group", and today would be a pre-school, at the local church, St Edmunds. Margaret must have found her true vocation there, as when Nicky started school, she began formal teacher training. She enrolled at Newlands Park College of Education in Chalfont St Peter in Buckinghamshire, intending to make Rural Studies her main subject, but when that course didn't run, she signed up to do Art instead. Margaret hadn't done very much formal Art before, but was a creative person and discovered that she had an artistic talent, especially oil painting and pottery. This became the start of a life-long hobby, which gave her, and others, much pleasure.

When she qualified as a teacher, Margaret spent the whole of her teaching career at the same school, Minet Junior in Hayes, Middlesex. There, she taught several generations of children to read and because of this she was well known in Hayes Town where she could not walk down the High Street without at least one call of "Hello Miss Stokes!" She specialised in teaching those who needed additional help, many of whom would come back to the school years later as adults to thank her for the support she had given them.

In 1970, the family moved to her much loved home in Ickenham and her family was complete a year later when her third daughter Elisabeth was born, a baby sister for the two older girls. Margaret's family was everything to her, and she dedicated her whole married life to caring, guiding and supporting them, above all else. Nothing gave her more pleasure and pride than the successes and achievements of her daughters and Grandchildren.

Margaret loved looking after people and providing them with her wholesome cooking. The only two exceptions were the infamous apple crumble that she finished off with a liberal dusting of sugar, that turned out to be salt! And then there was the experiment with microwaved toast.....

Margaret loved being a grandmother and was much loved "Nanny" to her three Granddaughters and four Grandsons. Each was special to her, and she always made time for them. Margaret was a great storyteller and made-up stories and songs to entertain her children and grandchildren. Once, many years earlier, when making up one of these stories for her daughter Jacqui and telling it in her special style, Jacqui looked up and asked, "Where's the book?". She was astonished that her Mum could tell such a story without one! Grandchildren were encouraged to finish their meals by being allowed to wear the "clean plate hat" that resided for that purpose on the top of the fridge. Sons-in-law who were considered by her to be inadequately fed by her daughters were often given boxes of biscuits at Christmas.

Margaret enjoyed taking her grandchildren to the places she loved including Kew Gardens, where she knew the names of all the plants, the Chiltern Open Air Museum, which was on the site of Newlands Park where she had undertaken her teacher training, "Oddballs" farm and the local National Trust properties. Picnics were composed of spam rolls, sausage rolls, Wagon Wheels and "Kit-e-Cat" chocolate biscuits. Margaret was willing to join in the childrens' games and adventures, like the time when grandson John was about 4 years, and old he imprisoned her in the wooden playhouse at Pennywell Farm, so that she had to play tea parties with him for the whole afternoon.

After retirement, Margaret had more time for her hobbies. In addition to the painting, she loved tending her beautiful garden in Ickenham and was a skilled flower arranger. She helped her husband John win many prizes at the Ickenham Horticultural Society show with her spectacular

arrangements of his dahlias and she created the church flower arrangements and bouquets for her daughters' weddings. Knitting and Crochet were another lifelong hobby and she made prodigious quantities of 'holey' blankets, jumpers, hats, mittens and toys for her children and grandchildren, and later for the shoeboxes sent to various countries at Christmas time. Not forgetting of course, the Aston Villa coloured coat that she knitted for Poskin her dog, Granddaughter Fiona's Christening Gown and the crocheted matching ponchos for her three girls- the height of 1970s fashion!

Margaret was a very resourceful person and could not bear waste. She could always use her ingenuity to make something out of nothing, for example, a seat made out of an old Greengrocer's barrel when she was first married and had no furniture. She always found pleasure in simple things: The trip to the local park, fish and chips by the seaside, doing the Saturday crossword with her daughters, a shared bar of chocolate. Margaret also loved shopping – and could never resist a bargain!

Margaret made the most of her life and opportunities. After their daughters left home, Margaret and John spent a lot of time exploring the County of Kent with their Springer Spaniel Sally. They also enjoyed many excursions and activities with the U3A. Margaret loved to learn about the world around her, and always had her own opinion on things!

Margaret was a very kind and thoughtful person, who always put others first and helped those around her. She was one of life's givers, a very special lady. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed by all those who knew her, especially her husband John of 68 years, her daughters and grandchildren and her dear friend Eve.





## *From the Fundraising and Social Group*

2022 ended on a high note, with a wonderfully successful Festive Community Night. There were more people than in 2021, on both the Friday and at the Saturday coffee morning, admiring the magnificent decorations in the church by John and Shellie, enjoying refreshments in the Oasis [thank you Margot for all the mince pies and plum jam!] and spending money at the stalls. The raffle, ably run again by Dennis and Janice, raised £113 compared with £78 last time, in part an indication of the increased footfall, and the CLICKRukiga stand provoked a lot of interest. The stalls looked festive and attractive, for which thanks are due to Esme and Sally for the expert merchandising as well as the quality of stock that was donated or made, the latter in particular by Wendy and Pat S. They stayed up longer than intended but went on taking money and I reckon that they must have made more than £500 overall out of a total exceeding £800. At least as important as the money is the fact that we made a significant contribution to a community event and had lots more people on the premises, so many thanks to all those who made a contribution.

It was a good end to a good year, which saw almost £3000 go to the church and £800 each to Rukiga and the Samaritans, and now we have to try to do it all again! The main offering will again be the forecourt sales with Sylviane's famous plant stalls, quality bric-a-brac, loads of books, collectables, boxed games and pretty well anything else that people give us, except clothes and shoes. The dates are 22 April, 10 June and 9 September so please note them [and the preceding Friday afternoons!] down and be thinking about how you can help.

We're already up and running with a coffee morning, which I enjoyed personally as it was my first outing since before Christmas excepting medical appointments! There didn't seem to be many "strangers" but I thought it worked well as a fellowship occasion and it raised £63.20 for the coffee and cakes and £35.37 from the coin mountain supervised by Elaine G. There was also, of course, a successful New Year lunch, which I was unfortunately unable to get to but is covered elsewhere by Keith. Another recent development was a call from Ridley Partridge of Adam Partridge Auctioneers, who have taken over from Bainbridges, confirming their willingness to continue the arrangement whereby we are one of the charities offered left-over items. I was not able to take

advantage this time for health reasons and because of the time delay before our first sale, but Ridley said that we will still be top of their list!

Hopefully the start of another good year, raising money for our church and the chosen external charities [British Red Cross and Asthma+Lung UK] while having some fun and fellowship together.

*Richard Piper*

*Why I shall be eating a sausage for Ash Wednesday 2023, and why you should too!*



Eating a sausage on Ash Wednesday 2023 marks the 501st anniversary of a very important event, and sausage is far more appropriate than an act of piety at home or in church! The Reformation began in Zurich on Ash Wednesday 1522 – 501 years ago this year – and it all started with a sausage, or rather several sausages.

Ulrich Zwingli was the Pastor of a church known as the Grossmünster in Zurich, Switzerland. This wasn't the first time Zwingli was in trouble – he had form from preaching along the same lines as Erasmus and

Luther, but this was Zwingli's first rift with the established religious authorities. During the Lenten fast of 1522 Zwingli was invited to join a sausage supper that Christoph Froschauer, a printer in the city, served to his workers who were seemingly worn out from printing a new edition of *The Epistles of Saint Paul*. Various civic and church leaders were present, and the meal involved Swiss Fasnachtskiechli (a type of pancake) and some slices of sharp smoked hard sausage. The eating of meat during Lent was prohibited, and Froschauer was arrested.

Though Zwingli did not eat the sausages himself, he quickly defended Froschauer from allegations of heresy, giving a detailed defence of this call in a sermon called "*Von Erkiesen und Freiheit der Speisen*" (*Regarding the Choice and Freedom of Foods*), in which he used Martin Luther's teachings to show that "Christians are free to fast or not to fast because the Bible does not prohibit the eating of meat during Lent.", that is to say that fasting should be entirely voluntary, not mandatory. Zwingli was setting out the view of the Reformers that Lent was a matter for personal choice, rather than a rule for everyone.

Once news of this outrage broke, Hugo von Hohenlandenberg, the Bishop of Konstanz, was so wound up by Zwingli's preaching that he called for a rule banning the preaching of any of the Reformation doctrines in Switzerland. This was too little and too late, as Zwingli went on to be a revered figure in Swiss Protestantism.

The Zurich sausage affair was seen as a demonstration of Christian freedom and is generally accepted to be of similar importance for the Reformation in Switzerland as Martin Luther's 95 theses were for the German Reformation in Germany. Will you join in remembering and celebrating this with a sausage?



## *CLICKRukiga Child sponsorship*

Some of you may be involved with this as one of the 50-plus sponsors since 2013. Others will have supported us indirectly through our fundraising as a proportion of this money tops up the bursary and other extra needs. Some of the children who have received support from an early age wish to continue their education to gain qualifications and practical skills for employment. The bursary was therefore established to support these young people by covering the financial costs of further education in addition to their sponsorship provision. Some are taking practical courses such as mechanics and hairdressing. Others have enrolled on university courses in nursing, law, education, social work and administration.

Sponsorship itself not only provides education but also helps the families in Rukiga to feed and care for their children. Without this support, many children would need to remain at home to help in the fields and with other chores. The sponsorship funding provides school uniforms and shoes, equipment such as books, paper, pens and pencils, meals for lunches and payment for extra teaching sessions and workbooks. The families receive a variety of articles according to need, from basic hygiene products, bedding and cooking utensils plus food, to goats, medication and materials to maintain the mud houses in which they live. Some of the children have been provided with beds and seats so that they can do their schoolwork at home if necessary. Each year we receive a detailed inventory of costs and items provided. It makes for interesting reading! Many parents/caretakers of the children are illiterate and do not know the value of their children's education but Hillary the project director in Uganda does good work in advising and supplying items based on each family's needs and he frequently visits to ensure that children are attending school.

The sponsorship scheme has made an incredible difference to the lives of many young people in the area and we hope that it continues to do so for many years to come. Thankyou for your continued support.

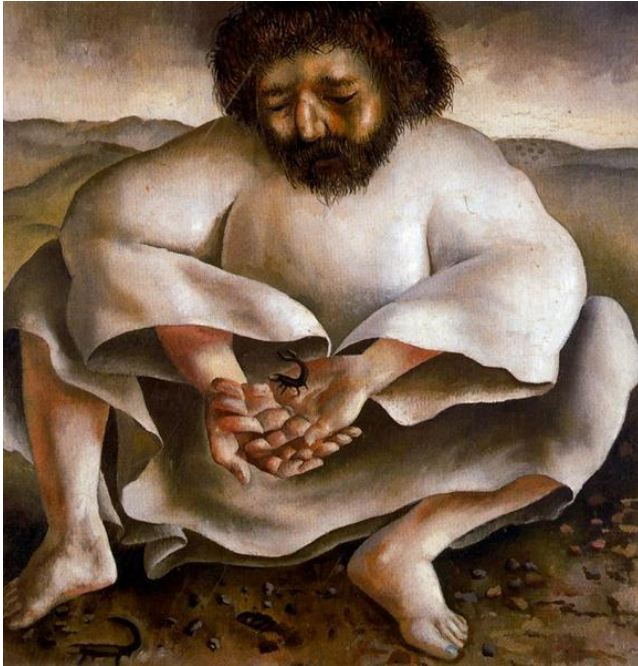
Julie Dungey (Committee chair and URC representative)

[www.clickrukiga.org.uk](http://www.clickrukiga.org.uk)



*Julie Dungey*

## *Forty Days and Forty Nights*



<https://www.wikiart.org/en/stanley-spencer/christ-in-the-wilderness-the-scorpion>

At the end of this month we enter the season of Lent: those 40 days when we follow Jesus into the wilderness and prepare ourselves to celebrate His Easter victory. In the last century an artist called Stanley Spencer planned to create a series of 40 paintings, each depicting a day in the wilderness. In the end he completed nine, one of which is this month's painting from 1939: 'Christ in the Wilderness – Scorpions.' It is held in a private collection.

Stanley Spencer lived and worked in the village of Cookham in Berkshire. The village and the local countryside were the setting for many of his paintings, and the village's inhabitants his models. Through their everyday life he was trying to glimpse and convey the transcendent. 'Angels and dirt' he called it: the divine seen in the ordinary. So, in a painting of Christ carrying His cross, Jesus has the face of the local grocer.

Another villager modelled for this Jesus in the wilderness: a strong, hefty, broad figure. This is a great contrast to the Christ of stained-

glass windows who often seems too good to be part of our world. Here is real life: a large man filling the canvas with His head, His hands and His feet. This figure of Jesus comes as a shock: a very human model, ordinary with nothing handsome or special about Him, apart from His tunic which seems to sprawl and undulate like the hills around. Here is a Jesus born into this world and one with this world.

There are two focal points in the painting – the neat, little scorpion and the massive, unkempt head contemplating each other. One is life in all its hefty reality; the other a tiny creature able to squeeze that life out by one swift flick of its tail.

Jesus is shown in the wilderness pondering the life and ministry called of Him by God – a life and ministry that will take Him from the countryside into the towns and villages and take Him also to the death of Good Friday. Will He find the strength and renewal to embrace that ministry during His time in the desert?

During Lent as we follow Jesus, we seek to live for God. That may mean dying to all that separates us from God. He has a ministry, a calling for each of us. As we contemplate that calling in this season of Lent, we may find it is a calling that leads us through these 40 days to life and Easter life – we may find it a journey that calls us to die to self to find our God.



## *Foodbank for Lent*

As we are all aware the Foodbanks are under considerable pressure this year so instead of 'GIVING UP' something for Lent why not 'GIVE TO' by donating items to the Foodbank?

AdLent Calendars will be available with suggestions of items which they are most in need of at this time from 26<sup>th</sup> Feb until 31<sup>st</sup> March.

when they will be taken to St Gregory's by Alan and Patricia in time for distribution before Easter. Please ensure that there is 3 months shelf life on all items. Thank you.

*Patricia Potter*



## HAPPY HELPERS



## AND



## CONTENTED DINERS MAKE A GREAT NEW YEAR'S LUNCH

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 25 members and friends joined in our annual New Years lunch, which as usual started with Bucks Fizz and nibbles in the Oasis. Then followed a delicious meal of Chicken Hot Pot and vegetables, with a Fish Pie choice for vegetarians and those

who are gluten free, all accompanied by a choice of alcoholic/non alcoholic wines.

Then it was time for desserts, a real treat, with a choice of Lemon Cheesecake, Chocolate Fudge Cake, Profiteroles, Homemade Fruit Salad (by Esme) and for the first time we also had ice cream. It was nice to be able to choose a selection and for there to be more than enough for “seconds”.

Then it was coffee/tea and mints and some light entertainment with members offering up poems, jokes and even a Bernard Miles monologue from Leigh (how did he remember it all).

This was the first time we had attempted to cater for a lunch, using an in-house team, but it worked well, and in fact despite the more reasonable ticket price, we still managed to make a small surplus.

Our very special thanks to all those who helped with the preparation of the event, from sourcing supplies to laying out tables etc and a special thanks to Cathy Wilcox for overseeing the cooking and serving on the day.

We were delighted with the way we were able to clear up from the event, so quickly, thanks to engaging Ben and Katies, to undertake washing up and clearing tasks, and hope that this formula can be used again for future events.

*Keith*



*What is it?*

Where was this photograph taken.  
See the answer on page 33



by Patience Strong

My garden is my kingdom  
It's here I'd like to spend -  
every hour the good Lord gives  
from dawn to twilight's end -  
but crowded are the busy days  
and rarely can I spend -  
the time to work with fork or spade -  
and odd hour here and there -  
for can there be greater pleasure under heaven above-  
than working or leisure  
in the garden that you love?

I came across the above poem when I was in my late teens working in London. I cut it out and stuck it inside a tin pencil case I used at work. Over the years it faded, became disfigured and I thought lost to me. However, thanks to the internet and a bit of research, I found it to reproduce here to share with you all.

*John*

## *EcoChurch (A Rocha UK)*

Our church have become a member of the Eco Church project being run by A Rocha UK, as suggested and promoted by the Synod, we have completed the survey have applied for our Bronze Award. This has been acknowledged and await their answer. In the meantime, we will continue to work and look for ways forward in improving our status and look forward to applying for the Silver Award.

Just want to share with you some information recently received from A Rocha UK about the work that Lee Abbey are doing to help House Martins.

The summer heatwave propelled some of our Partners in Action to find creative ways to continue their support of an A Rocha UK project called Target 25 - caring for once common species and habitats that are now in decline in the UK. House martins are one of these species and some of our partners and reserves are working hard to restore their declining numbers.

House martins are greatly affected by weather, and need wet mud to create their nests which consists of over 1000 individual drops of mud mixed with the bird's saliva. In an average year there are significant areas of muddy puddles within easy reach of nesting areas, but in the summer of



2022 they had all dried up. Lee Abbey is one of our Partners in Action and, during the heatwave last year, the team filled upturned bin lids with a mixture of mud and water to provide this vital nest building resource for these birds. Their quick thinking and creativity meant that the House martins had a typical breeding season with around 20 or more occupied nests. A Rocha UK also provided Lee Abbey with several artificial nests, which have been put up this winter to help support next spring's population. Your church can find more information about Target 25 and ways to take practical action and speak up for God's creation on our website [arocha.org.uk](http://arocha.org.uk)

Thank you for standing with us as we take action together to protect and care for God's earth.



## *A Franciscan Blessing*

May God bless you with discomfort,  
At easy answers, half-truths,  
And superficial relationships  
So that you may live  
Deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression,  
And exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for  
Justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears,  
To shed for those who suffer pain,  
Rejection, hunger and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand  
To comfort them and  
To turn pain to joy.

And may God bless you  
With enough foolishness  
To believe that you can  
Make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do  
What others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness  
To all our children and the poor.  
Amen

*Supplied by our friend Suzie Cooper*

***Further internet research about this blessing brought up the following:-***

If you have the courage to accept these blessings, then God will also bless you with:

**Happiness** — because you will know that you have made life better for others.

**inner peace** — because you will have worked to secure an outer peace for others.

**laughter** — because your heart will be light.

**faithful friends** — because they will recognize your worth as a person.

These blessings are yours – not for the asking, but for the giving – from One who wants to be your companion, our God, who lives and reigns, forever and ever. Amen.

### *Think On! – About the Jesus Prayer (revisited)*

In the December 2015/January/February 2016 issue of Grapevine Leigh Smith wrote an article about the speaking and presentation of the Lord's Prayer during our church services.

I have heard various conversations about this subject lately within our community, and at the latest meeting of Keith Holland's house group, which Leigh attends, they discussed the latest media "woke" items and reports about how it should be said.

I thought it was us worth revisiting Leigh's article about a very important prayer which is said many times in our churches and lives. *Editor*

For those who can remember the original article in 2015 I have presented it here with an adapted intro. Changed to suit the season we are now in and this has been checked and agreed by Leigh.

Look out, hot-cross buns! – Easter is coming, and the lambs are getting.....worried! It's nearly "In your Easter bonnet with all the frills upon it" time again! I want to take an in-depth, serious look at the familiar prayer we know – the one and only prayer Jesus gave us. You could say that is an "Appeal on Behalf of the Lord's Prayer!" Why? Because it should be prayed thoughtfully and meaningfully – not rattled off like children chanting their "Times Tables" on school. Sadly, that is the way it is so often said, in my experience. I am always disappointed



at the casual manner in which it is spoken, even by the odd Bishop (I don't mean the Bishop was odd, but that.... oh, forget it). It is as if it is said on "auto-pilot", without conscious thought, because it is so familiar. It sounds flat, bland and without expression. Maybe, because it is an "obligation" to include it in the service, the Leader "gets it said" and then, "duty done", proceeds with the service.

In church the prayer is introduced by the Minister/Leader – and then they lead it! Why? It does not need to be led, for goodness sake! We all know it and should be allowed to pray it at our own speed, in our own way as individuals, and not dominated by the loud voice of the Leader on the P.A. system! This interferes so with my own feelings and expression that I just give in and trail along with the Leader's own delivery, which is rarely to my personal thought and feeling. If only the Leader would introduce it – then shut up and leave us to our own devotional way of praying. In my view it is not a communal prayer in the "chorusing-all-together" sense – but an individual one, prayed on behalf of us all. I admit I prefer the traditional form of the prayer, I first knew of from my Mum and Dad: then when I could read, at the age of four or five, it was the big blue frame on my bedroom wall. It greeted me every day when I sat up in bed!. (I don't like the modern version – it sounds more like a set of instruction to God than a supplication!)

So, how do I see it? Let me set it out with stressed words **underlined**. It is the stresses which indicate the expression and meaning:-

**Our Father who art in heaven**

(He is our own, personal Father in Heaven, in addition to our own father here on earth – no comma after "Father")

**Hallowed be Thy Name**

(Long revered and respected, His very name is to be reckoned with – let alone His power and omnipotence)

**Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

(ie God's Kingdom and Will and no other!)

**Give us this day, our daily bread.**

(That is, not just food, but all we need to live)

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

(Only in this way does it make sense. We pray that we may be forgiven if we forgive others – a fair exchange, so to speak. So often the accent is on “trespasses” – which does not make the “tit for tat” meaning clear at all.)

**Lead us - not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

(I do not believe a loving God would deliberately lead me into temptation – I cannot accept that. Satan is the Tempter – not God! So the only way I make sense of it is to pause after stressing “Lead us” – it becomes a prayer of leadership, guidance and deliverance from evil!

**For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, for ever and ever!**

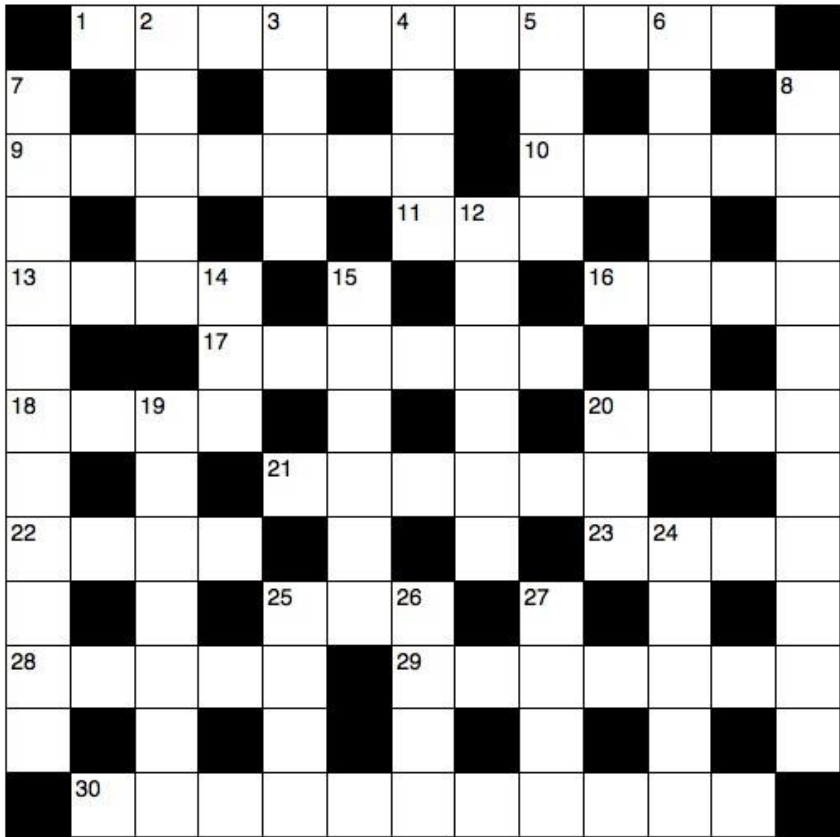
(This means we acknowledge God’s ability and power to bring to pass and fulfil all that for which we prayed.)

**Amen** – (simply means “so be it”, I agree this is my wish!)

**Think on** – Please let us re-evaluate the Jesus Prayer and let us make it more real, more meaningful and relevant!

*Leigh Smith*





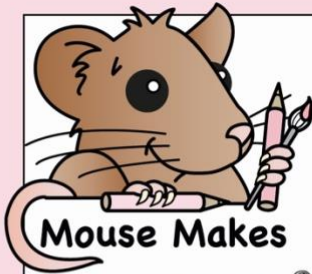
**Across**

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)

- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

### Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus ( John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



## Mouse Makes

### WHO IS MY MOTHER?

CAIN	ELIZABETH
ISAAC	HANNAH
JESUS	RACHEL
JACOB	REBEKAH
TIMOTHY	EVE
JOSEPH	MARY
SAMUEL	SARAH
JOHN	EUNICE

Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search



REBEKAH  
ELIZABETH  
EUNICE  
RUTH  
MARY  
RACHEL  
LEAH  
ZIPLAH  
MOTHER  
MUM

### BIBLE MOTHERS

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

— — — — —  
Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

— — — — —  
Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

— — — — —  
1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

— — — — —  
Ruth 1:1-5

Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

— — — — —  
2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

— — — — —  
Exodus 6:20

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

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.

**M** — — — — —  
Matt 1:16

**O** — — — — —  
2 Tim 1:5

**T** — — — — —  
1 Kings 1:11

**H** — — — — —  
1 Sam 1:20

**E** — — — — —  
Gen 34:1

**R** — — — — —  
Gen 30:22



How many other words can you make from:

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**





Mothering Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent. Although it's often called Mothers' Day it has no connection with the American festival of that name. Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit

their mother and family. Today it is a day when children give presents, flowers, and home-made cards to their mothers.

**History of Mothering Sunday** - Most Sundays in the year churchgoers in England worship at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'. Centuries ago, it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So, each year in the middle of Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church - the main church or cathedral of the area. Inevitably the return to the 'mother' church became an occasion for family reunions when children who were working away returned home. (It was quite common in those days for children to leave home for work once they were ten years old.)

And most historians think that it was the return to the 'Mother' church which led to the tradition of children, particularly those working as domestic servants, or as apprentices, being given the day off to visit their mother and family. As they walked along the country lanes, children would pick wildflowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

**Children of the Gospel** - Another thought is that the name comes from one of the Bible readings for that day, which refers to motherhood in a different way.

*But the Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all,*  
Galatians 4:26

The writer of the text wanted to explain to the Galatian community what their relationship as Christians was to the Jewish Law. In the full passage (*Galatians 4:21-31*), the two children born by Hagar and

Sarah to Abraham are seen as symbolising two promises from God. One is the Law (or Torah), which is restraining and earthly. The other is the Gospel, which is spiritual and liberating. The Galatians are told to regard themselves as children of Gospel. The attitude that the passage displays to Judaism is uncomfortable to modern readers, but made perfect sense to its intended audience at the time it was written.

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**Traditional foods** - Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed that day. Originally, both Old and New Testament lessons on mid-lent Sunday made a point of food. The Gospel reading from the New Testament told the story of how Jesus fed five thousand people with only five small barley loaves and two small fish.

*Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.*

John 6:10-12

**Simnel cake** - The food item specially associated with Mothering Sunday is the Simnel cake. A Simnel cake is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. The cake is made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.

**Why Simnel?** - The name Simnel probably comes from the Latin word *simila* which means a fine wheat flour usually used for baking a cake. There's a legend that a man called Simon and his wife Nell argued over whether the cake for Mothering Sunday should be baked or boiled. In the end they did both, so the cake was named after both of them: SIM-NELL.

Having read about Simnel Cake do you fancy trying the recipe found online and letting us know if it was an excellent cake and even maybe letting us sample your success!!





(Yields: at least 11 slices)

- 100 grams glace cherries • 500 grams mixed dried fruit
- 175 grams soft unsalted butter • 175 grams caster sugar
- zest of 1 unwaxed lemon • 225 grams plain flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder • ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger. • 25 grams ground almonds
- 3 large eggs. • 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 kilogram yellow marzipan to decorate • icing sugar for rolling
- 1 tablespoon apricot jam (melted) • 1 egg white (optional)

### **METHOD**

Take everything you need out of the fridge so it can get to room temperature. Preheat the oven to gas mark 3/170°C/150°C Fan/325°F.

Butter and line the bottom and sides of a 20cm / 8 inch springform cake tin with a double layer of brown baking paper. Chop the cherries very finely and add them to the rest of the fruit.

Cream the butter and sugar until very soft and light, and add the lemon zest. You could do this by hand, just with bowl and wooden spoon, but I own up to using my freestanding mixer here. But it's not crucial, not least because the intention with fruit cakes is not to whip air into them. Measure the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger and ground almonds into a bowl and stir to combine.

Add 1 of the eggs to the creamed butter and sugar with 2 tablespoons of the dry flour-and-spice ingredients, then beat in the remaining eggs in the same way. Beat in the rest of the dry ingredients, and then the milk. Finally fold in the fruit.

Dust a surface with a little icing sugar and then roll out about 400g / 14oz of the marzipan. Cut it into a 20cm / 8 inch circle which will fit in the middle of the cake later. Spoon half of the fruit cake mixture into the cake tin, smoothing it down with a rubber spatula, and then lay the marzipan circle on top of it. Spoon the rest of the mixture into the tin on top of the marzipan circle and smooth the top again. Bake for half an hour and then turn the oven down to gas mark 2/150°C/130°C Fan/300°F for another 1½ hours or until the cake has risen and is firm on top. Let it cool completely on a rack before you spring it open.

Unspring the cooled fruit cake, and unwrap the lining from the cake. Roll out another 400g / 14oz circle of marzipan, paint the top of the cake with the melted apricot jam, and then stick it on.

Make 11 apostle balls out of the remaining marzipan, roughly 2.5cm / 1 inch in size. Beat the egg white — just till it's a bit frothy and loosened up a little, no more — and use that as glue to stick the apostles around the edge of the cake. Now for the bit I love, but you can ignore altogether. Paint the whole of the cake with egg white, and then blow-torch the marzipan so that it scorches slightly, giving a beautifully burnished look.

## *What is it?*

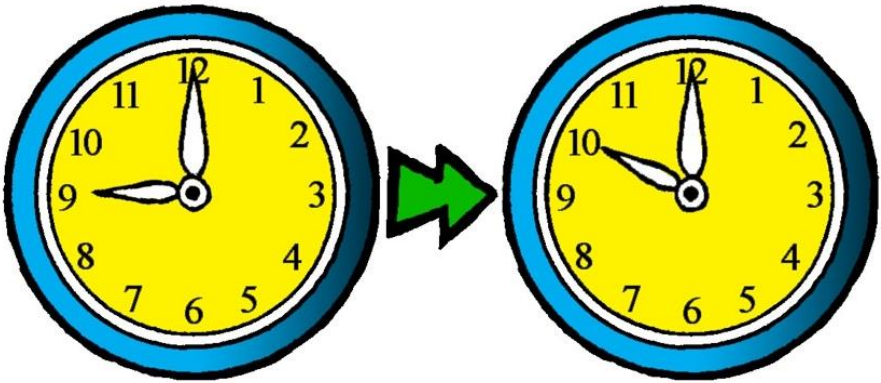
Picture on page 22 is a photograph of the entrance to the “Hillingdon Bunker” on the site of the old RAF station in Uxbridge.

18 meters (60 feet) beneath this in-swinging doorway lies a control room that played a decisive role on the Battle of Britain and had significant impact in the conduct of the Second World War.

Prayer for today: Lord grant that you may never be so busy or so pre-occupied with my own existence that I fail to see the value of the people and things that are right under my feet!!

Thanks to Mike Young for the picture (on page??) and this item.

If you have never visited “The Bunker” and want to know more, then talk to Mike.



***Do Not Forget - the Clocks go Forward.....***

.....by 1 hour at **2.00am Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

So remember to put them one hour forward when before going to bed on Saturday evening.

## *Reflecting faith – what birds can remind us about our faith*

There are many depictions of ‘creatures’ used in decorations in and on our church buildings. Some are beautifully carved in the highly decorated ends of choir stalls. Others can be found on the pew-ends. One small animal Celia and I look for in churches was carved by Robert Thompson of Kilburn in Yorkshire who became known as “The Mouseman” owing to the small mice he carved in his church creations. Sometimes there are carvings of birds, such as the pelican and peacock.

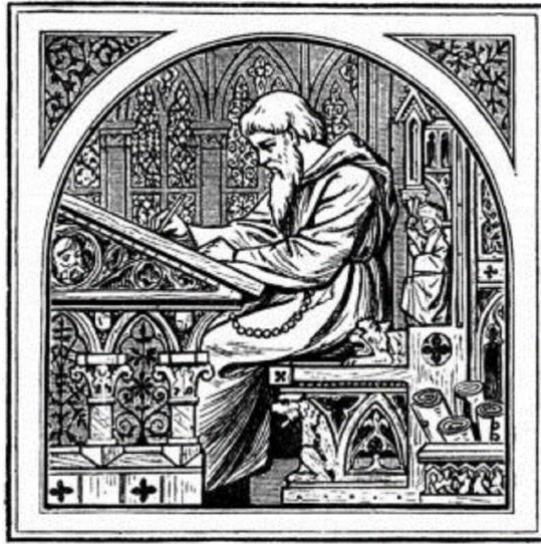


The peacock is known for its magnificent tail feathers, which it displays to both impress and deter aggressors. From the early days of Christianity, the peacock has been used to symbolise eternal life, and so is often seen carved into memorial stones in the churchyard. This is because

it renews itself each year, by shedding its old feathers and growing new ones. Of course, this also links to Christ’s resurrection, as the peacock is visually reborn and whole again.

The pelican is a less obvious Christian symbol, although quite common in all art forms. It’s seen as a symbol of atonement because when observed by naturalists many centuries ago, they misinterpreted the red tip on its long bill. They saw the pelican started to prune its feathers, and it appeared to them to be ripping open its breast, so as to feed its young with its own blood. This story became symbolic for the Atonement, where Jesus allowed Himself to be pierced so that we may live. And although ornithologists view the red tip differently today, the pelican continues in its representation.

*John*



## *Co-ordinator's Ramblings!!*

Welcome to a part of my world of editing and preparing our church quarterly magazine, fortunately, not like the “gentle man” in the picture above with coloured inks and parchment but with the aid of modern technology. Over the years of development, computers have taken away jobs in the typesetting and print trade. But things move on and adapt giving all the opportunity to prepare and create their own abilities in all forms of working life, particularly our young who have taken to new technologies like ducks to water.

However, it must seem at the moment that nothing in life is going the way we would like: industrial action, rising costs and Inflation, money shortages and the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine. When will it all end and everything get back to normal, one must be asking oneself?

We all must be looking forward to the weather improving with Spring, when the flowers begin showing different shapes and colours, the trees forming and developing their buds in to intricate patterns of leaves. All of nature continues with it regular work of getting on with the job.

The seasons we experience come and go every year in the pattern that has been created by God's hand and existing for millions of years changing and adapting to the needs of its pressures and change of surroundings in some shape or other.

As we approach Lent and Easter we follow the story of Jesus giving his life in sacrifice for us and rising again in glory to give us light and joy in our lives and above all, hope for a better future. Part of prayers to God must pray for our future "adaptions" to his will.

Hopefully soon, one of those "adaptions" will be the opportunity to have a minister come and preach with a view, as the work of this church's committee and that of Christ Church work in harmony with our Interim Moderator, Sue McCoan, to bring that "adaption" into effect.

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"*  
Romans 12:2

*John*

**The next issue will be for June/July/August 2023.  
The deadline for copy is 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**



*Meet the Mad  
Hares of Winsley .*

*Easter Blessings  
to you all*



## *Regular Activities*

<b>Sunday</b>	10.00am	Choir Practice
	11.00am	Morning Worship (Children's Space available)

Holy Communion is normally included in the third Sunday morning service each month.

<b>Monday</b>	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
<b>Wednesday</b>	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
<b>Thursday</b>	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
<b>Friday</b>	10.30 - 12.30pm	Tea/Coffee in The Oasis Café
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00 - 12.00 noon	Coffee Morning (at main fundraising events)

**Church Office** - 01895 634 280

Shellie D'Arcy

(Administrator/Lettings Officer) 01895 634 280/07792 143 888

**Children & Families Worker:** Position Vacant

### **Prayer Group Meeting**

Everybody are welcome to attend – Led by Esmé Young

Third Wednesday in the Month at 2.00pm in The Hardwick Room

### **Food For Thought:**

(Soup & a roll with speaker)

First Wednesday in the Month at 1.00pm in The Oasis Café

### **For Cubs, Scouts and Beavers -**

Chris Potter (Group Scout Leader) [chrisspotter\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisspotter_@hotmail.com)

**For Guides** - Hilary Parker - [hilaryjparker@hotmail.com](mailto:hilaryjparker@hotmail.com)

**For Brownies** - Susannah Parker [susannah.may@ledvance.com](mailto:susannah.may@ledvance.com)

**For Rainbows** – Nicola Joyce - [nickyjoyce72@googlemail.com](mailto:nickyjoyce72@googlemail.com)

**Happy Days Pre-School** – [happydayspreschoolickenham@gmail.com](mailto:happydayspreschoolickenham@gmail.com)

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