

Trinity Times

The Parish of Holy Trinity Church , Barkingside

Holy Trinity is a lively, Family-Friendly Church. We have a Heart for the Common Good, seeking to make Jesus Christ known in Barkingside

**£12 subscription
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Who We Are

Holy Trinity Church, Mossford Green, Barkingside, IG6 2BX

We are a lively, Family friendly Church
with a Heart for the Common Good, and want to make Jesus
Christ known in Barkingside

Our Services

Sunday 10:30am & Wednesday 9:45am

The Church is open for Private Prayer, and as a Welcoming Space Monday,
Wednesday and Friday 10am - 12noon, and you are Welcome to Join us at our
Tuesday Drop-In 9am to 1pm in the Parish Hall

**'Drop In'
Every Tuesday
9am—1pm
Parish Hall**

**Tea, Coffee, Snacks
Games and Crafts
Good Company
Friendships**

*The church is open for
private prayer, and as a
welcoming space
**Monday, Wednesday
and Friday 10am -
12noon***

*You are also welcome to
join us at our **Tuesday**
drop-in 9am to 1pm in
the Parish Hall*

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PROPOSALS**

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Dear Family,

We hope that your journey through Lent is proving to be a reflective and renewing time as you walk with Jesus through your own desert place.

This might lead you facing up to things about yourself that are not so good. But please remember always that Jesus does not condemn us, but wants to work with our shortcomings and woundedness, and turn it into something wonderfully life-giving. Please believe Jesus that it is possible to be in the world in a new and fresh way. As we are humbled, we find growing freedom and grace as God offers us wonderful mercy and healing.

What made Jesus so special is that he never doubted that he was God's beloved son. This is how he was able to resist powerful temptations in the desert, and instead, live-out the life-giving love of his Father. So please always remind yourself of your divine identity: You are a beloved child of God. This is your identity and the foundation of everything. It should give you incredible assurance, strength, protection and hope. This is what we are looking forward to celebrate on Easter Sunday:

That we can access the resurrection life; that we are Easter People and Gospel People!

Here is a meditation and reflection you might find helpful:

'The other morning some of us were together in a church where the rector was saying Morning Prayer, and leading us in guided silent prayer. He said, "Let us pray for those whom we love." And that was easy. Then he said, "Let us pray for those whom we do not love." And there rose up before my mind three men for whom I had to pray. They were men who have opposed my work. In this they may have been wrong. But my wrong was in resentment and a feeling of letting myself be cut off from them, and even from praying for them, because of it. Years ago I read a quotation from Mary Lyon that recurs to me again and again: "If you want to know where pride nestles and festers in most of us, that is right where it is; and it is not the opposition of others, but our own pride, which causes us the deepest hurt. I never read a word that penetrated more deeply into the sin of pride from which all of us suffer, nor one which opens up more surgically our places of unforgiveness.'

So let us all pray:

O Son of God,	to redeem me
do a miracle for me	was more difficult
and change my heart.	than to transform
Thy having taken flesh	my wickedness.



We are so grateful for the ongoing goodness and blessings we see right in our midst. God is good! Our ministry teams are thriving and there are wonderful signs of life, from our new Stay & Play group for parents / carer and their children 0 to 4 years, to the Salsa Dancing Classes for the Community which regularly attracts around 20 people who are enjoying themselves and are building relationships. The Tuesday-Drop-In continues to bless our whole community; we have received £10,780 to continue fund our innovative and successful Edge Youth Club until 2027; and we are excited about the potentials of a renovation project currently under review on the west side of the church, benefitting from 2 new toilets (incl. one accessible one), new-fully equipped kitchen, storage room, and flexible space for play & meetings.

So, as always: Thanks so much for who you are, and for all you do! You are amazing and we are so grateful to journey with you. And please do contact me or Kate, or anyone else on our leadership team if there is anything we can do.

Every blessing, Fr Chris

Remembering Albert Einstein

Seventy years ago this month, on 18th April 1955, Albert Einstein, the German-born theoretical physicist, died. Considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century, he is known especially for developing the special and general theories of relativity.

He formulated possibly the best-known theory in the world – the special theory of relativity (including the iconic equation $E = mc^2$) – in 1905 while working as a technical expert, third class, at the Swiss Patent Office in Bern. He went on to become widely known and admired as a physicist of genius. He died in his local hospital in New Jersey of a haemorrhage, having become an American citizen. He was also a Swiss citizen.

Einstein's family were secular Ashkenazi Jews. He was never convinced that God intervened on a personal level, regarding such an idea as naïve. But he had a firm belief in God as creator and sustainer of the universe.

He had an ongoing and never settled debate with Niels Bohr, the Danish theoretical physicist, about the way the universe was described by quantum mechanics, holding that chance could not be behind it because "God does not play dice".

Einstein was clear that he was not an atheist – more a "religious nonbeliever". He was disappointed in the end by his failure to prove non-randomness and to come up with a unified field theory by including electromagnetism in his geometric theory of gravitation. He did receive the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his theory of the photoelectric effect.

Not long before he died, he wrote in a letter to physicist David Bohm: "If God created the world, His primary concern was certainly not to make its understanding easy for us."

Albert Einstein was married twice and had three children by his first wife, Mileva Marić. He also played violin – hence the subtle reference to him "playing electric violin" in Bob Dylan's Desolation Row.

5th April - Vincent Ferrer, Dominican who opposed a Pope

Leaving England to live in Spain was popular long before the TV show 'Location Location Location' was ever invented. Back in 1350 Vincent Ferrer's parents had left England to settle in Valencia, where their son Vincent was born and grew up. In 1367, when he was 17, Vincent felt called by God to become a monk, and joined the Dominican order. The reason for his 'call' was soon clear: Vincent had outstanding gifts as both a philosopher and as a preacher.

What is preaching? If you think of it as a way of bringing the reality of God and the love of Jesus Christ to people, then that is a good summary of what Vincent did for all who heard him. In the great tradition of John the Baptist, he called them to come to God by way of repentance for their sins. In the tradition of St Peter, the apostle to the Jews, Vincent was also heard by many Jews in Valencia. A great number of

these listened to his preaching and came to believe that Jesus was indeed their promised Messiah. (One of these Jewish converts went on to become bishop of Cartagena.)

Vincent's preaching met with extraordinary success in France, Spain and Italy. He seems to have been an evangelist at heart, for his topics were sin, the Last Judgement, and Eternity. In Spain such large numbers of both Gentiles and Jews wanted to hear him that no church was big enough to contain the crowds: and so Vincent preached in the open air.

When in 1414 the Council of Constance attempted to end the Great Schism (there were two Popes fighting for the same job), Vincent persuaded Ferdinand, King of Aragon, to withdraw his allegiance to the doubtful contender, Pope Benedict. The end result was that Benedict's credibility collapsed, and the schism was ultimately healed. Vincent went back to preaching and spent his last three years in Normandy and Brittany, where he died at Vannes in 1419, worn out by all his labours.

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

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

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

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

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

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

With our Christian faith in mind...

The Lord does not shine upon us, except when we take His Word as our light. - John Calvin

All other religions are oblique: the founder stands aside and introduces another speaker... Christianity alone is direct speech. - Soren Kierkegaard

The New Testament knows nothing of free-lance Christianity. It is the corporate witness of the redeemed fellowship that is used by the Spirit of God. - Geoffrey King

Christians would never dream of intentionally running down other people with their cars; then why do we do it with our tongues? - Doug Barnett

If you believe what you like in the Gospel, and reject what you like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself. – St Augustine

The church should be a community of encouragement. – Sir Fred Catherwood

Our God is a missionary God. - William White

Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread. – D T Niles
With Holy Week in mind...

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. - James A Francis

He suffered not as God, but He who suffered was God. John Owen

The death of Christ was the most dreadful blow ever given to the empire of darkness. - William Plumer

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. - E Thomson

The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the church. - WR Nicoll

The Christian Church has the resurrection written all over it. - E G Robinson

Christianity is the revelation of God, not the research of man. - JA Stewart

Our friends bring us to the grave and leave us there, but God will not. – Anon

Easter Thoughts in a Churchyard

Canon David Winter considers graveyards – and the Resurrection

It's a yearly paradox. You've brought some flowers to the churchyard to lay on the grave of a loved one. All around you are graves and headstones, reminders of the inevitable end of life's earthly journey. But it's Easter Day, and from within the church you can hear the singing: 'Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!' Perhaps then you notice a few other things. You're standing among the fresh daffodils and the grass that's suddenly green and growing again. For a moment you pause and reflect on the reverse of an old saying. In the midst of death - we are in life!

That essentially is what Easter is about - an annual reminder that death is not the end of the story. Cookham, in Berkshire, was once the home of the great 20th century painter, Stanley Spencer. Perhaps his most famous painting is 'Resurrection in Cookham Churchyard', which depicts local residents - many of them recognisable village characters - rising up out of their graves to be greeted by the risen Jesus, standing in the church porch. It's a glorious, vivid, shocking reminder of a great assertion. The graveyard is not a terminus, but a junction.

The resurrection of Jesus (and hence our resurrections, too) is the defining claim of Christianity. Christians don't follow the teaching of a prophet who died many centuries ago, or of a holy man whose life is an example to follow, excellent as that may be. They put their trust in a Saviour whom they believe is alive and with them now, and they also believe that through Him they too will move through the junction of death to the journey that lies beyond - a journey he talked about to His followers.

The annual paradox lies in the inescapable fact of death, indelibly represented by those graves and headstones, and in the equally inescapable fact that - in apparent defiance of all logic - human beings down the ages have clung to the belief that death is not the end.

Every culture has its story of the life beyond - the Elysian fields, Valhalla, Nirvana, Abraham's bosom. But only with the coming of Jesus, and the witnessed events of that first Easter morning, has our instinctive belief been given wings. The paradox is the heart of everything. Death is a fact, but life is greater than death. 'Because I live', said Jesus, 'you will also live'.

17th April – Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

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

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

20th April - 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 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd 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 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th 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.

20th April - Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

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

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



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A Common Thief

*I've lived a life of emptiness
A common thief am I;
Of no great use to man or beast
And now I have to die.*

*They've nailed me to a wooden cross
They took my clothes as well;
The pain and shame is all I have
And soon I'll be in Hell.*

*But this man nailed next to me
He's done no evil thing!
His innocence is clear to see -
They say He is a King.*

*There hangs, beyond, another thief
Just hear him swear and curse!
Demanding that He saves us all
He's making all this worse!*

*"We knew that this would be our fate!
"We've known it all along!
"But have respect for this poor man
"For He's done nothing wrong!"*

*"O Jesus, when Your Kingdom comes,
"My Lord, remember me!"
He looked at me with tender love,
Responding to my plea:*

*"The truth of what I say to you
"You'll shortly come to see
"For you will come, this very day
"To Paradise with Me."*

*I wept upon my painful cross
No thing I had to bring;
But yet He looked upon this wretch
And gave me everything!
By Nigel Beeton*

On the first day of the week, in the evening

(John 20: 19-23)

*Locked in, afraid,
Uncertain, even after Mary's story, even after that
behind closed doors seemed safest,
on the first day of the week,
in the evening.*

*And then, the world changed.
He was with us!
Suddenly and wonderfully with us.
Jesus, our Lord,
alive and with us
in a new and completing way,*

*to bless us with His Peace,
to send us out to witness
in the power of His own Spirit breathed into us.
What a day!
The day of our risen Lord.
The first day of the week,
In the evening,
Hallelujah!*

By Daphne Kitching

Prayer for April 2025

Living Lord Jesus,

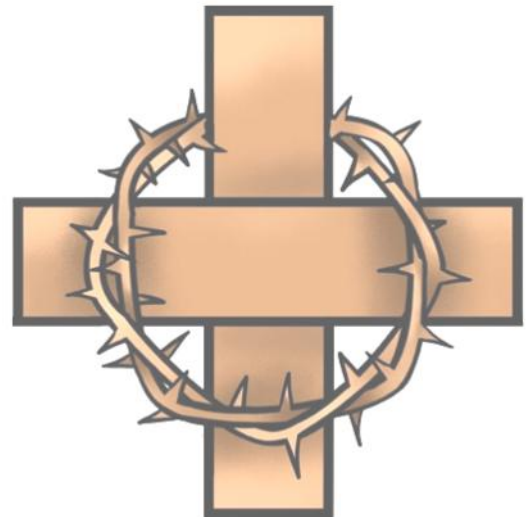
*We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the
Easter People of the Gospel accounts.*

*For the women, who loved You so much that they
went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was
still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept,
then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have
seen the Lord!"*

*Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted
his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples
who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter,
who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.*

*Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all
generations.*

*Thank you for Your true and living written Word,
proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived
and
died
and
rose
again
offer*



*to
us*

forgiveness and life.

*Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have
hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world
might bring.*

*Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again
Hallelujah!*

Ukrainians in desperate need of help

As Ukraine recently marked the third anniversary of the Russian invasion, charities have warned of the desperate need for humanitarian aid for the country.

An estimated one in three people in Ukraine have been displaced by the war. Roughly 3.6 million have been internally displaced, while 6.5 million have fled the country. 90 per cent of these refugees are women and children.

The children remaining are also traumatised, with schools destroyed, homes bombed, and an ongoing lack of food. As World Vision warns: "The emotional burden faced by Ukrainian children cannot be overlooked."

One Ukrainian mother says simply: "We see death. We see destruction every day. There's too much pain and sorrow."

Russia launched its largest-ever drone strike on Ukraine on the eve of the anniversary.

Could older people hold the key to church growth?

Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts

New research is highlighting the wide range of activities that churches are offering to older people – and the growing opportunities to present the Christian gospel.

The survey, carried out in the UK and Ireland by Christian charity Faith in Later Life asked churches what they were doing to minister to seniors in their congregation and beyond. The results reflect a broad spectrum of events and activities.

These include lunch clubs, exercise sessions, singing classes, tea and coffee times, outings and a broad range of social activities open to the community. Some churches offered a 'holiday at home' with special events organised, and one provided a monthly chiropodist's visit.

Many churches are visiting care homes and holding services in their lounges. One respondent recalled "It was so uplifting to see the joy on their faces. Many with severe dementia were recalling words long forgotten and joining in."

Alexandra Drew, chief executive officer of Faith in Later Life, explained, "There is something very powerful about ministering to those who are very old, and the experience of journeying with someone to the very end of life."

Community work goes hand in hand with reaching out with the gospel. The research showed that 83 per cent of those delivering social activities for older people are also running worship services, Bible study groups and groups to explore faith. A quarter of those who responded had seen people come to faith in the last year, and half had seen people grow in their interest in faith.

Faith in Later Life is a charity "dedicated to inspiring and equipping Christians to reach, serve and empower older people everywhere, through the local church."

The research highlights the important role of ministry to older people at a time when many churches are focussing on 'growing younger' – and perhaps overlooking increasing numbers of older people in our communities. Many respondents felt that ministry with seniors was marginalised or neglected within their church.

Alexandra Drew said, "The impact on the wider church of mission to older people is significant. More than half of those responding said their work is leading to greater recognition of older people, more age-inclusivity and greater awareness of older people's spiritual needs."

The Ultimate Offer to Humanity

The Ven John Barton considers Easter amid the evil all around us...

This Easter the media will rightly remind us of the carnage in Ukraine and the Middle East. For as we celebrate this great Festival, commemorating Christ's victory over evil, we are confronted with death, barbarity and terror in the world. Unless we choose to live in fantasyland, we have to relate the two.

First, Jesus Christ did not escape death. Nor did He promise His followers a trouble-free world. Actually, they themselves can expect an above average share of suffering.

Secondly, we believe that Christ's death was no accident, no mistake. It was typical of the evil deeds that human beings mete out to each other. Innocent suffering did not begin in Jerusalem and will not end there. But the crucifixion was a calculated risk: God's costly and unexpected intervention in human affairs. The Christian claim that God's Son was put to death is deeply offensive to religious groups who cannot believe that the remote and all-powerful God to whom human beings should submit, has Himself submitted to our brutality. Yet it is in this way that God enlists in His creation without violating it.

Thirdly, Christ's way of sacrifice, forgiveness and reconciliation is God's ultimate offer to the human race.

The first reaction of the people who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ was fear. Incredulity, too, but fear. And no wonder: they were seeing the King of Kings.

In the last book of the Bible, the Risen Christ is described like this: "I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across His chest. His head and His hair were white as white wool, white as snow; His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters..... When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead."

That is the proper first response of reverence and respect to a vision of God. Only then can we hear the words spoken by this terrifying figure:

"Do not be afraid: I am the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, and see I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and the world of the dead."

Chocolate – food of the gods!

Did you know that the botanical name for the cocoa bean is Theobroma – which means 'food of the gods'?

Millions of us obviously think chocolate is special – on average, each of us consumes 8.1 kilograms of it a year!

Certainly, chocolate makes us feel better. Some scientists believe that this is due to the chemicals it contains. These trigger the release of endorphins, similar to those we naturally produce when we fall in love.

But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a pick-me-up, especially in the evening. Chocolate eaten before bedtime can cause your blood glucose levels to plummet during the night, which will disrupt your sleep.

Chocolate eaten in quantity every day can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity. If you have mad cravings for it, you could have a problem with blood sugar, or a deficiency in magnesium, copper, zinc or iron.

But occasional consumption of cocoa can provide medical benefits. Chocolate containing 60 per cent or more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. Cocoa is also the highest natural source of magnesium.

Good as all this may be – most of us enjoy chocolate because of its high sugar and caffeine content. Chocolate simply gives you an instant sugar hit, providing a sudden burst in energy, unfortunately followed by a slump

It is particularly sunny today. Nature seems to be stretching its arms, perhaps expelling a breath in the form of a spring breeze that is stirring budding branches. Something of a relief from those previous occasions that many of us can remember when March winds have buffeted and damaged fences, gardens and buildings.

What ever the weather, no swinging pendulum is needed to remind the daffodils when to bloom, they will proliferate on time. Before we know it daffodils are everywhere in swathes or singly, nodding in the breezes.

Primroses and crocuses have already shownIt is particularly sunny today. Nature seems to be stretching its arms, perhaps expelling a breath in the form of a spring breeze that is stirring budding branches. Something of a relief from those previous occasions that many of us can remember when March winds have buffeted and damaged fences, gardens and buildings.



What ever the weather, no swinging pendulum is needed to remind the daffodils when to bloom, they will proliferate on time. Before we know it daffodils are everywhere in swathes or singly, nodding in the breezes. Primroses and crocuses have already shown the way. They too all arrive on time sunny or not. As does the white blossom on the blackthorn bushes that are so prominent in Fairlop Waters County Park. Surprising how that white blossom catches the eye.

Cherry and almond will also be on time adding their special pink colours on trees in streets, gardens and parks. Green shoots in all shades of green will nudge aside soil or burst open leaf buds to sprout their leaves. Almost before we realise the spring transformation is about to begin, it has happened.

Nurtured, sheltered plants eventually exhibit their hidden colours in keeping with their inner clocks. Grasses begin to stir from winter slow down, they may seem to have discovered a new supply of emerald colours for the new spring growth. Grazing animals will be grateful for that and gardeners will be checking their mowing machines lawns to be cut, edges to trim..

Nature does not need a clock to maintain the order of things although farmers may sometimes need an alarm clock to get them up early to start the annual planting of food crops while keeping a wary eye of the weather charts. Some of us also grow edible food, carefully reading the instructions on the seed packet. The tiny seed already knows the timing of its growth but we have to seek out that information.

There is real satisfaction in eating the first harvest of runner beans along with a lamb roast. Or growing, watching and eating a home grown tomato. It is a sort of magic to place a tiny, brown featureless seed in soil and watch it grow. The seed has all the information it needs to be punctual while we wait, worry and water.

Seeds that grow into what we call weeds are equally capable of growing into what we have designated an unwanted plant. Strange how weeds are, seemingly, so much more capable of survival than our cultivated ones!



Diary of HRH and WWP visit to EfW and a New Patron for MU.

Queen Victoria was the first Royal Patron of Mothers' Union (MU) and for many years we enjoyed and benefitted from the patronage of our late Queen and her mother before her. Patronages die with the monarch and there was no guarantee that any of the other royals would take us on. However, we were told at our Diocesan President's conference in November that a member of the Royal Family (but not who) had agreed to take on the patronage. Things didn't quite go according to plan and the expected announcement later that month didn't happen.

Day 1: So, it was a complete shock to receive an email from Bev Jullien, CEO of Mothers' Union, one Thursday afternoon in late January headed "Urgent query re Royal Patron" saying that the Royal in question was very keen to meet directly with those who benefit from MU work, and has a particular interest in women, peace and security. Bev mentioned that there was a programme running to help refugees (and others), especially women, learn English and the Palace office were very interested. And it had to be on Thursday 27th February – just one month away...

There followed a couple of hours of desperately trying to get hold of Susannah Owen, English for Women (EfW) project co-ordinator), phone calls with Bev and a WhatsApp group call with the three of us to work out the feasibility of such a visit. Needless to say, Susannah felt we could make it work and it was a go - er!

Week 1: Amid much secrecy, there was a flurry of email exchanges explaining the project over the next few days, getting a basic idea of how a visit could work, personal profiles exchanged, numbers involved discussed, etc and we still didn't know who it was!

Week 2: At the beginning of February, we had meeting at the YMCA (where EfW sessions take place) with the Mary Sumner House (MSH – MU Headquarters) co-ordinating team, which was made up of Bev, her personal assistant (Clare Howarth) and Adam Sach (MSH Director of Fundraising, Communications and Retail) with Susannah and me to see the building and get a better feel for the day. YMCA staff nearly as excited as we are! We now know that the new Worldwide President (WWP), Kathleen Snow, has changed her plans to come over especially for the visit which is to be combined with the official announcement of the new royal patron. We also learn that there will be a video link with Marthe Vira, the co-ordinator of one of the MU literacy, numeracy and agriculture projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We have worked out for ourselves that it will be HRH, Duchess of Edinburgh, but still cannot share...

At this point, the team from MSH wanted HRH to meet an MU member who volunteered for EfW, so I had to liaise with lovely Judy Halls who is co-leader of the Goodmayes branch of EfW to see if she could get cover to come to Chelmsford and meet Royalty. Of course, she could – thanks to Rev Janet Buchan and Sheila Ramasamy who held the fort there.

At the end of week 2, the Worldwide Board of Trustees and Provincial Presidents (PP) have been told, but it's still not to be widely known. At least, I can now approach Canterbury PP Comfort Fearon and arrange for WWP Kathleen to visit Chelmsford Cathedral and meet some of our members in the afternoon. I called an emergency CDMU Board meeting on a Friday evening – you should have seen the trustees faces when I told them what was going to happen on 27th Feb – absolutely classic! Frantic plans start to be put into place for a lunch for those involved in the morning after HRH had departed followed by a cream tea with members and Choral Evensong to finish.

Week 3: We are now sharing with people on a need-to-know basis, so we asked Dean Jessica if we could use the Cathedral, then had to wait for permission and timings to be sorted out.

Week 4: With just one week to go, it was all systems go for the Cathedral plan and we were able to invite members to come and meet the new WWP who just happened to be in Chelmsford that day.

The final few days were manic with scone baking, Zoom briefings, display arranging, deciding what to wear, practising curtsying...

The Day: We had to be in Chelmsford by 8.30, so a crack of dawn start for me from Woodford Green, meeting WWP Kathleen for the first time along with the teams from MSH and EfW. The YMCA had done a sterling job and the place was pristine, but it was still the YMCA and had to be transformed into MU... there were roller banners, back drops, leaflets to put up and out. Jon rushing back and forth between the car and the Cathedral with our noticeboards and the CDMU banner. Wi-Fi connections were tested – goodness knows what time it was in DRC for Marthe. Bags and coats to hide away, photographers everywhere. Then at 10am the dignitaries started to arrive – The Lord Lieutenant of Essex with her St John's Ambulance Cadet, The High Sheriff of Essex, The Mayor of Chelmsford – who had to be introduced to EfW and MU/CDMU.

Then she arrived - HRH, the Duchess of Edinburgh, so delicate in a pretty floral skirt and navy jacket, sporting a new hairstyle. Shaking hands one by one. Then it was my turn. Did my curtsy without falling over. Answered my question ("How long have you been in Mothers' Union – 38years – goodness, that's a long time!") and all in a flash, HRH, WWP and Lord Lieutenant went into the project session. This was EfW's time to shine for 40 min. leaving the rest of us to continue talking to the High Sheriff and the Mayor who were extremely interested in the Royal car (They are both Audi fanatics and were comparing...)

At 11.15 the MU team and the Duchess retired to the boardroom and the official MU briefing takes place. Although, I didn't have to say anything, I was allowed to sit in and it was a privilege to listen. WWP Kathleen gave a brief welcome, CEO Bev outlined the MU set up, Judy gave her MU testimonial and Marthe explained her literacy, numeracy and agriculture project in the DRC. HRH interacted and responded with impressive knowledge and understanding. What an ambassador for MU she will be. Then it was all over and she was gone... **WOW what a morning. Maxine Paul**

Foster for Redbridge Council.

If you would like to find out more about fostering for Redbridge Council, please call us on 020 8708 6068. Alternatively, join our next information session.

Visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringfaith> to book a place.

LOCAL COMMUNITY
Fostering
REDBRIDGE

Although I'm not their mother
I care for them each day.
I cuddle, sing and read to them
And watch them as they play.

I see each new accomplishment,
Growing and learning over the years.
They proudly show their work to me,
I give the loudest cheers!

No, I'm not their mother,
But my role is just as strong.
I nurture them and keep them safe,
Though maybe not for long.

I know someday the time will come,
When we will have to part.
But I know each child I cared for
Is forever in my heart.



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Where disability matters

**Redbridge Voluntary Care
Good Neighbour Scheme**

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Befrienders . Companions

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SUPPORT THEIR LOCAL
COMMUNITY**

For More Information:
Call: 020 8925 2435 for a chat
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We are looking for friendly individuals who can give a little time to support their local community.

Do you have some free time to spare to make a positive difference in your community.

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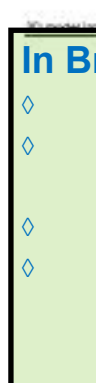
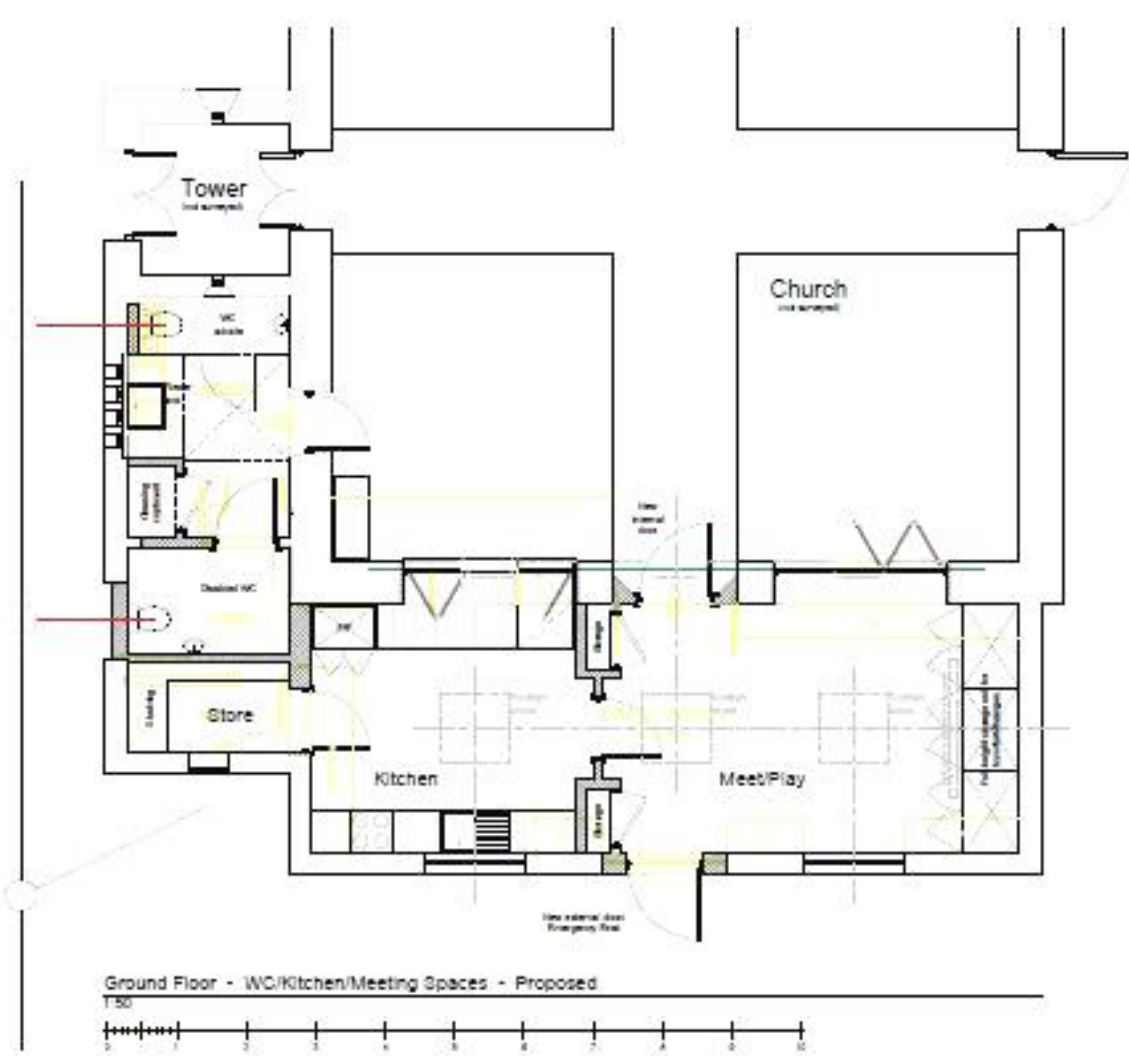
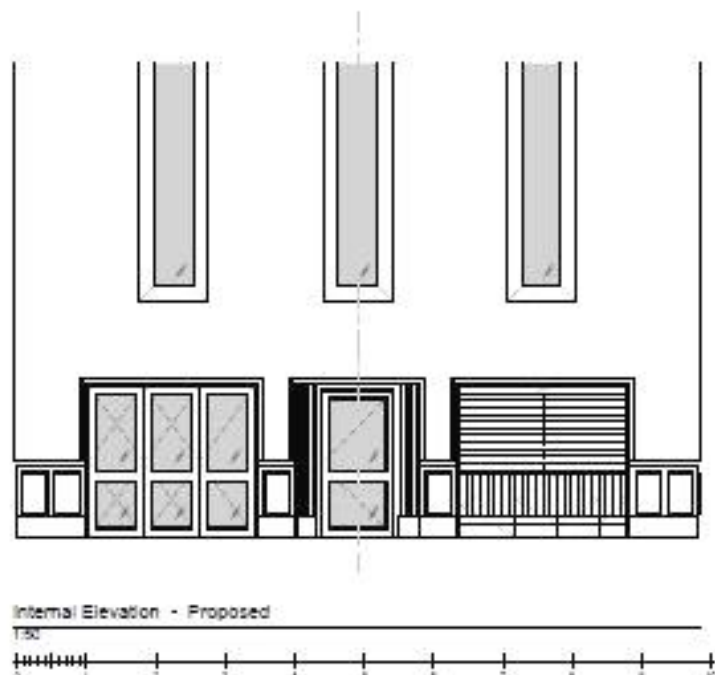
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Our exciting Renovation includes new toilets (incl. disabled), play & meetings.

A provisional total of £150,000.

We have some major work to do. We will also apply for grants.

However the school is still open.



novation Project currently under review on the west side of the church, benefitting from 2 (one accessible one), new-fully equipped kitchen, storage room, and flexible space for

l costing ranges between £40-60k - we are getting precise costings soon.

money in our accounts to pay for some of this from the generosity of past benefactors.
y for grants to enable this project which promises to benefit future generations.

eme will also depend on more fundraising and your generosity.



rief.....
The estimated cost is £40,000 - £60,000.
We have some money in our Accounts. This is from the generosity of
past benefactors.
However if we wish to do all of this scheme, we will need your help!
We will apply for Grants, but will also need your Vision and Financial
support to ensure the success of this scheme for future generations.

PRELIMINARY



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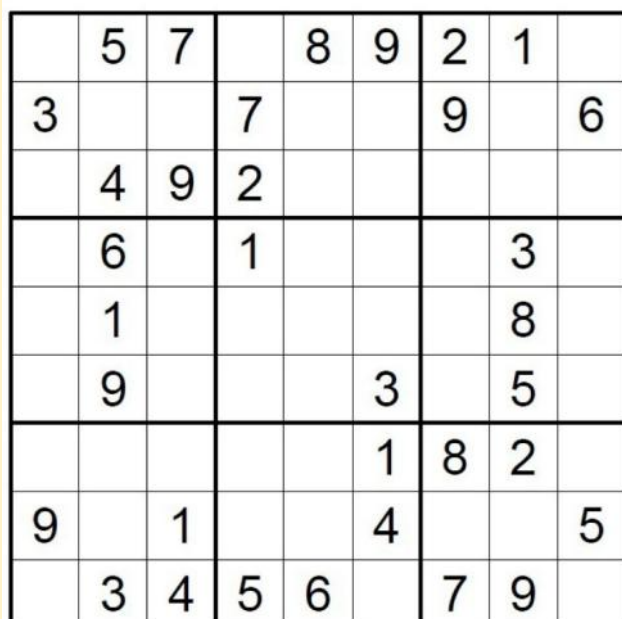
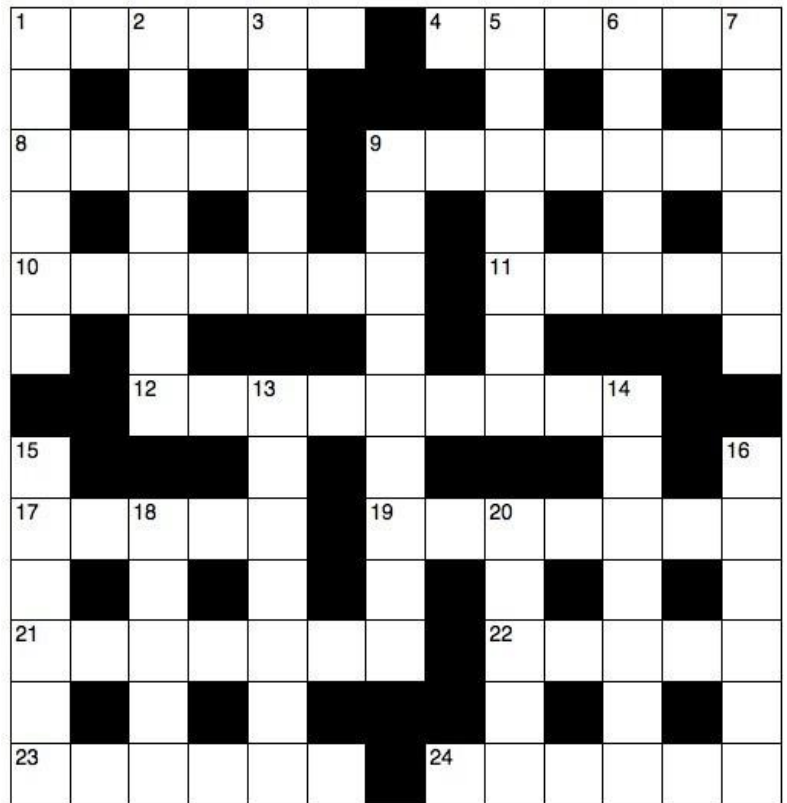
Easter Crossword

Across

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

Down

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



The Rectory St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

On why you should never encourage your congregation

There are times when I indulge you too much; why I ever let you run your course 'Taking Responsibility for your Church' among our congregation, I am now unable to understand. I had hopes that it might encourage a few more people to volunteer for the flower rota, or to give occasional help mowing the churchyard. I even had a vague fantasy that someone might turn detective, and discover who had been eating the chocolate biscuits between Sundays, condemning the rest of us to munch on Rich Tea after Services.



Unfortunately, your course turned out to be inspirational, and it has fired up our members to take on all sorts of new initiatives. Enthusiasm in a congregation can be a very dangerous thing, especially if people start making decisions on their own.

Those who formed a welcoming group are admittedly well-meaning – although it was more than a little traumatic for those coming through the door the next Sunday to be greeted with frenzied handshakes, big toothy smiles, and even hymnbooks. That is unheard of in this church – we always ignore people and leave them to find hymnbooks – if they can.

Naturally, all those offering to take the prayers, produce new Orders of Service and even to give the occasional sermon have been booked on the appropriate training courses. By the time they have been completed, I can only hope they will have gone off the idea.

But it was the group which decided to "beautify" the church who have proved the most tiresome. Hanging the Christmas tree lights round the altar made it look as if I was standing behind a fair-ground stall, waiting to invite people to throw hoops round teddy bears – although I would have rather enjoyed making winners sit for the rest of the Service holding a polythene bag containing a goldfish.

Our pulpit has also been given a makeover, with the various panels painted in contrasting colours; I am sure the sixteenth century Flemish woodcarvers would be delighted with the result, although the next time any medieval historians come to view it, I shall take the day off – probably travelling abroad.

My dear Darren, your course took the stopper out of the bottle; would you please run another to put it back?

Your favourite Uncle, Eustace

Five-minute parking rule is scrapped

Have you ever pulled into a private car park, and then had trouble paying because of a poor internet signal, or other problem beyond your control?

Last year a motorist in Derby was taken to court by a private parking company which demanded a £1,906 fine from her, because she had not paid within five minutes of arrival.

The publicity that her case generated led to the industry's two trade associations deciding to update their code of conduct, to provide a 'safeguard'.

The British Parking Association (BPA) and the International Parking Community (IPC) have now stated that in privately owned car parks, which have fixed camera monitors, no driver should be issued a ticket for a delay in paying, so long as they pay before they leave.

However, the AA and RAC are sceptical. They want more - a government-backed code of practice. The RAC points out that: "As there's no information on how the change will work in practice, we fear it will make little difference to drivers." In the meantime, private car park companies across the UK are giving drivers more than 41,000 parking tickets a day. Be careful !



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."



Mary wished she'd never mentioned Fresh Expressions of Church

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

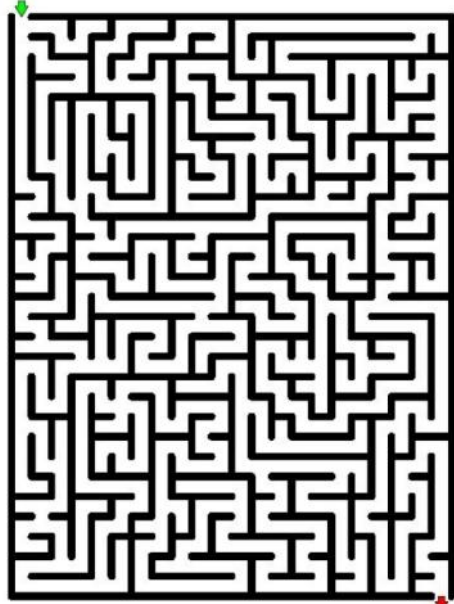
ACROSS: 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Deliah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

DOWN: 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.



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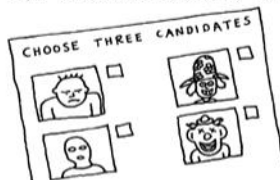
...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!



THE ELECTORAL ROLL

REASONS TO JOIN IT

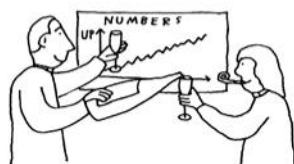
① YOU WILL DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE ON THE P.C.C. AND DEANERY SYNOD



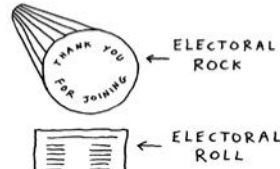
② YOU CAN PLAY A FULL PART IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



③ IT WILL BOOST THE MORALE OF THE CLERGY



④ THERE MAY BE A THANK YOU PRESENT - SEASIDE CONFECTIONARY PERHAPS



⑤ YOUR NAME WILL BE EXHIBITED IN CHURCH FOR 14 DAYS



24th April - Mellitus, the Saxon pagans, and St Paul's Cathedral

Our present bishops have big troubles within the Church. Mellitus had big troubles outside the Church.

It all began quietly enough in Rome, where Mellitus was born into a noble family, and became abbot of a monastic community. Then in 601 Pope Gregory the Great sent him to help Augustine, who had arrived in Canterbury in 597.

In 604/5 Augustine consecrated Mellitus to be first Bishop of the East Saxons. Mellitus settled in the capital, Londinium (London), and his wooden cathedral stood on the site of what is now St Paul's.

Mellitus began to evangelise but struggled to make any progress. The Anglo Saxons were very attached to their pagan temples and celebrations. Then Pope Gregory had an inspiration: he told Mellitus not to destroy the pagan temples and banish the pagan feasts. Instead, he should adapt them. So, Mellitus simply cleansed the Saxon temples and removed the Saxon idols. He then re-dedicated the buildings to God and re-directed the pagan Saxon feasts towards Christian feast days.

Bede reports that Pope Gregory had reasoned: "If the people are allowed some worldly pleasures ... they will more readily come to desire the joys of the Spirit." The Pope was right – the new approach certainly transformed and spread missionary endeavour throughout the Saxon kingdom.

But then, in 616, Kent and the East Saxons had two new kings. These new rulers reverted to paganism but demanded that Mellitus still give them the Eucharist.

Mellitus refused, was banished, and then fled to Gaul for safety. When it was safe to return, he got as far as Canterbury, where in 619 he was chosen to be the third Archbishop of Canterbury

Terry Pratchett Quotes

- When you look into the abyss, it's not supposed to wave back.
- Real stupidity beats artificial intelligence every time.
- Divide by cucumber error. Please reinstall the universe and reboot.
- It doesn't stop being magic just because you know how it works.
- I'll be more enthusiastic about encouraging thinking outside the box when there's evidence of any thinking going on inside it.
- The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.
- In the beginning, there was nothing--which exploded.
- Chaos is found in greatest abundance wherever order is being sought. It always defeats order because it is better organized.
- He's out of his depth on a wet pavement.
- Just because things are obvious doesn't mean they're true.
- Two types of people laugh at the law: those who break it and those who make it.
- It is often said that before you die, your life passes before your eyes. This is, in fact, true--it's called living.
- Always be wary of any helpful item that weighs less than its operating manual.
- Adventure! People talk about the idea as if it were something worthwhile rather than a mess of bad food, no sleep, and strange people inexplicably trying to stick pointed objects into bits of you.
- There is always time for another last minute.

Please pray for Holy Trinity's ministry areas,
and discern whether you feel called to join any of them —
support and training is given

HOLY TRINITY MINISTRY AREAS

PLUS LEADERS: PLEASE FEEL ENCOURAGED TO SPEAK TO THEM!

Family Fun Zone, every two months (Christine, Kate & Lorraine)

Tuesday Drop-In, Tuesdays 9am-1pm (Maxine, Tricia & Jon)

Salsa Dancing Classes for the Community, fortnightly Wednesdays
7:30-9:15pm (David & Irene and Revs Chris & Kate)

Stay & Play Toddler Group, Thursdays 8:45-10:45am (Kate & Ronda)

Edge Youth Club, Thursdays 6-8pm (Revs Chris & Kate, Helen)

Bible Study group, fortnightly Wednesdays 7:30-9:00pm (Rev Kate)

Eco Team (Kaye, Erica, Rev Chris)

Friends of the Vulnerable (Revs Chris & Kate, ChrisS)

Flower Team, Fridays 10am-12noon (Stephen, Kathleen, Andy)

Mother's Union (Tuesday-Drop In / monthly worship service 2nd Tues
of month / fortnightly Contact Centre on Sat am (Tricia, Maxine, Jon)

Website & Facebook (Rev Chris & Mike)

Ministries linked with the 10:30am Sunday worship service

-**Welcome** (Maxine, Hyacinth, Christine, Tricia)

-**Families & Children** (Christine & Rev Kate)

-**Coffee & tea** (Chris Stoneham & Maxine)

-**Sound & Visual** (Nigel)

-**Food Bank** (Mark)

-**Worship** (Rev Kate, Gemma & Mike)

-**Prayer** (Tricia, Mark, Revs Chris & Kate)

-**Sacristan** (Rev Chris & Mary)

-**Holy Communion Assistant** (Revs Chris & Kate)

-**Assistant Service Leader / Preaching** (Revs Chris & Kate)

NEW in the Community!

Stay & Play



**Parents/carers
and their
children
0 up to 4yrs**



Snacks and drinks,
craft, songs, fun &
friendship

**Thursdays
8.45—10.45am
£2 per family; term time**



Place:

**Holy Trinity Church
Mossford Green
Barkingside, IG6 2BX**

Contact Kate: 07876 318 718

DO YOU NEED HELP?

We are here for you and would love to meet you! The church is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10am – 12noon; and you are welcome to join us at our Tuesday drop-in 9am to 1pm in the Parish Hall, or during Worship Services on Sundays 10:30am and Wednesdays 9:45am. You can also contact our Vicar Chris or the Church Office via phone or email. There are, however, many areas where it's best if you seek professional help. Please see the "Help" page on our church website for useful information.

URGENT - I NEED HELP NOW

If you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis – you can call **Mental Health Direct** 24 hours a day on **0800 995 1000**.

If you are experiencing **suicidal thoughts**, please call **Samaritans** on **116 123** for free. Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan will give you free, confidential, and non-judgmental emotional support.

If you are experiencing **domestic abuse**, please call one of these two 24-hour helplines: **08 08 2000 247** (Refuge National Domestic Abuse Helpline) OR **08 08 16 89 111** (Victim Support).

If you are at immediate risk of **physical harm** because of mental health concern or feel like you need immediate assistance, please call **999** or visit your local **A&E**:

- 1.6 miles away: King George Hospital, Barley Lane, Ilford, Essex, IG3 8YB; tel.: 0330 400 4333;
- 3.3 miles away: Whipps Cross Hospital, Whipps Cross Road, London, E11 1NR, tel.: 020 8539 5522.

Shout Crisis Text Line is a 24/7 text service for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. Text **85258**.

Holy Week & Easter

@
Holy Trinity Church

Mossford Green, Barkingside

Family & Children: You are welcome!

Palm Sunday 13 April	10:30am	Service
Monday 14 April	7:30pm	Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion
Wednesday 16 April	9:45am 7:30pm	Service Lent Reflections & Worship
Maundy Thursday 17 April	7:30pm	Service incl. Foot Washing & Holy Communion followed by All-Night Vigil
Good Friday 18 April	10:00am 2:00pm	Family Fun Zone Easter Experience Veneration at the Cross
Easter Sunday 20 April	10:30am 12noon	Easter Service incl. Service of Light Easter Egg Hunt

Who We Are

Holy Trinity Church, Mossford Green, Barkingside, IG6 2BX

We are a lively, Family friendly Church
with a Heart for the Common Good,
and want to make Jesus Christ known in Barkingside

Our Services Sunday 10:30am & Wednesday 9:45am

The Church is open for Private Prayer, and as a Welcoming Space
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10am - 12noon, and you are Wel-
come to Join us at our Tuesday Drop-In 9am-1pm in the Parish Hall



Vicar: Rev Dr Chris Szejnmann
priest@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk
07804 641931



Associate Priest: Rev Kate Szejnmann
kate.szejnmann@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Churchwarden: Chris Stoneham
chris.stoneham@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Safeguarding: Kaye Larbi—07847 324955
psr@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Tuesday-Drop In for all in Parish Hall @ 9am-1pm —
alternating fortnightly on Wednesdays @ 7:30pm: Salsa
Dancing Classes for the Community meeting new
people and having fun / Bible Study group — Thursdays: Stay & Play Group
for parents / carers and their children 0-3 years @ 8.45-10.45am (2025
start) Edge Youth Club for all 10-14 year old Thursdays 6-8pm —
Family Fun Zone monthly events.

Any questions? Want to get involved? Want to Hire the Parish
Hall? Please find us online or ring our Parish Office @ 07478
187010.



Facebook



Website

30 April
14 & 28 May
11 & 25 June
9 & 23 July
Holy Trinity Church
Barkingside,
Mossford Green, IG6 2BX
ring Chris@ 07804641931
just turn up — it's free!
everyone welcome!

Wednesdays 7:30-9:15pm

Salsa Dancing Classes

Beginners & Improvers
refreshments—joy & laughter
meet new people



The Real Easter Canon Paul Hardingham considers the effect of Easter...

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:

'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and His resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, 'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection' (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: 'Oh, you're real, you're real!'

We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

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www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding

Promoting

a safer church

*The care and protection of
children, young people and
adults involved in Church
activities is the responsibility
of everyone who participates
in the life of the Church*

**House of Bishops
Safeguarding Policy
for children, young
people & adults**

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED

*that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or
presents a risk to others, please seek advice from a
Safeguarding Adviser or if necessary report the matter to the
Local Authority Social Care Services or the Police without delay.*

Local contacts available to speak to
if you have any concerns:

Name:	Kaye Lardi
Role:	Safeguarding Officer
Tel:	07847 324955
E-mail:	ksl@holymirymbarkingside.org.uk
Name:	Chris Szejnmann
Role:	Vicar, Holy Trinity
Tel:	07804 641931
E-mail:	priest@holymirymbarkingside.org.uk
Name:	Danielle Law
Role:	Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel:	01245 29 44 44
E-mail:	dlaw@chelmford.anglican.org

Local Authority Social Services:

Children's Social Care: 020 8708 3885
Emergency Duty Team: 020 8708 5897

**IF THERE IS IMMEDIATE RISK OR DANGER
PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE ON 999.**

OUR COMMITMENTS

- Promoting a safer environment and culture
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children and vulnerable adults
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse or other affected persons
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns/allegations of abuse and other affected persons
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk.

HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
- Family Lives: 0800 800 2222
- Childline: 0800 1111
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 2000 247
- Stop It Now: 0800 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0800 801 0331
- Men's Advice Line: 0800 8010 327
- Samaritans: 116 123
- National Careline: 0800 0699 784

29th April - Catherine of Siena, or how to survive in a large family

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

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

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

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

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

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

11-17 May 2025

Christian Aid Week

Will you help fund vital tools and training, so farmers can support their community to escape hunger?

CHRISTIAN AID CONCERT
Saturday 17th May 7pm

In Parish Hall

Tickets Available soon !!

Where did your Easter egg come from?

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.

Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.



This year, why not buy an extra Easter egg or two, and join our church in donating them to our local food bank? You will make some local children very happy! For more details, ask anyone on the PCC....

Who are the most generous Christians?

Those who attend church and read their Bible at least once a week.

So says Stewardship, in its 2025 Generosity Report. Stewardship, which manages charitable donations from church, charities and individuals, has found that, in donating an average of £314 a month, not only do 'committed Christians' give away almost five times the UK monthly average, but they experience "the most joy" from doing so.

Stewardshop's recent survey found that 'Committed Christians' give an average of 11.6 per cent of monthly income, 'Practising Christians' give 7.99 per cent, 'Churchgoing Christians' give 5.30 percent, and 'Cultural Christians' give 0.84 per cent.

The C of E's National Adviser on Giving and Income Generation, Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, points out: "The more we realise that everything we have is a gift from God, the more we are able to give it away," he said.

The LEGAL STUFF

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All contributions are welcome but the Editor cannot guarantee to publish everything that is given to us.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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Ilford, Essex. IG6 2BX

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 am – 12 noon
(07478 187 010)

parishoffice@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

HALL LETTINGS

hallbookings@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

please contact:

Rev Dr Chris Szejnmann

020 8637 4859 to arrange an Interview

PARISH OFFICE (in Church)

e-mail parishoffice@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

– normally open: Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am – 12 noon

or phone **07478 187 010**

VICAR:

Rev Dr Chris Szejnmann - 07804 641 931

The Vicarage, 36 Mossford Green, IG6 2BJ

priest@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Associate Curate Rev Kate Szejnmann

kate.szejnmann@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

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chris.stoneham@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

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Maxine Paul

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

psr@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Kaye Larbi 020 8491 8178

Ordinand

Mike Priestman

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Sacristan / Verger:

(& Organist) Mary Fabb - 020 8550 9694

Magazine:

parishmagazine@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Mothers' Union:

mothersunion@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Music Group:

musicgroup@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

Webmaster:

webmaster@holytrinitybarkingside.org.uk

PARISH DIARY

Every Tuesday 9am - 1pm 'Tuesday Morning Drop In'
Parish Hall (continuing weekly).

Lent Reflections at HT 16 April - 7:30pm start

Wednesday 9th April—Salsa Dancing 7.30pm.

Sunday 6 April (Lent 5): Passiontide begins

Holy Week

13 April Palm Sunday	10:30am	Service & distribution of Palms
14 April Monday	7:30pm	Stations of the Cross with Holy Communion
16 April Wednesday	9:45am 7:30pm	Service Lent Reflections & Worship
17 April Maundy Thursday	7:30pm	Service - Foot Washing & Holy Communion followed by All-Night Vigil
18 April Good Friday	10:00am 2:00pm	Family Fun Zone Easter Experience Veneration at the Cross
20 April Easter Sunday	10:30am 12noon	Easter Service incl. Service of Light Easter Egg Hunt