

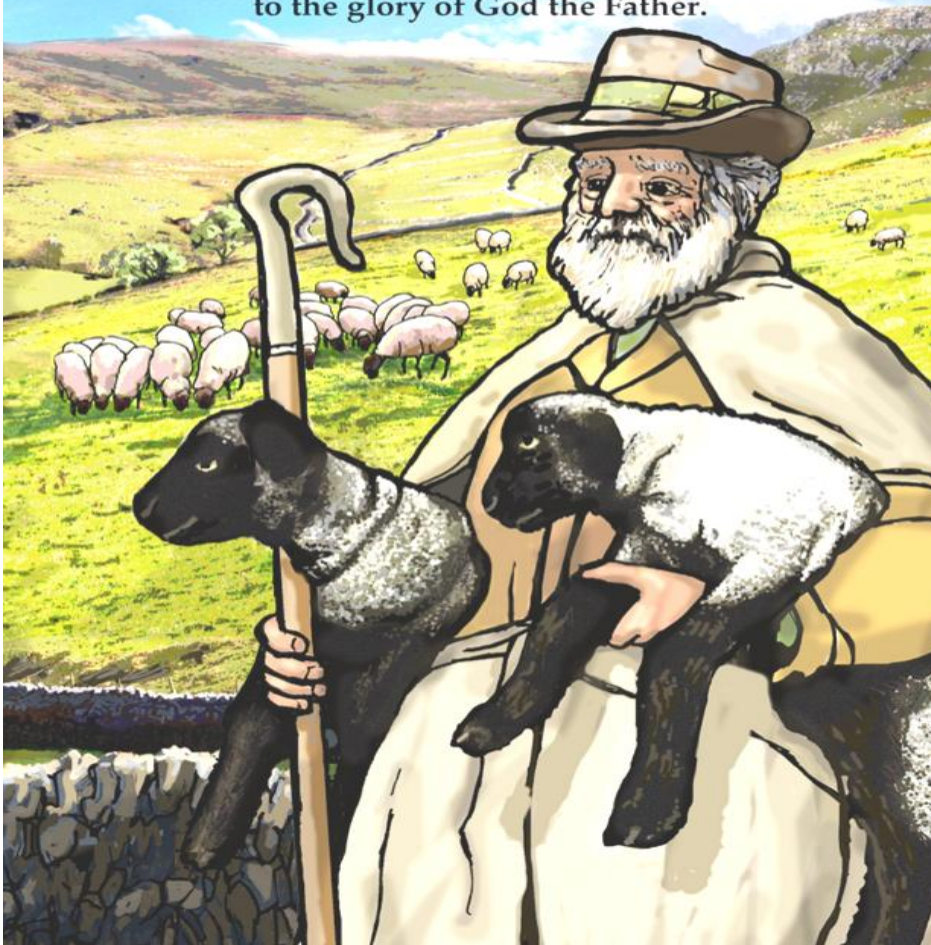
# Trinity Times

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

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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



**Dear Family,**

What a wonderful Easter Sunday celebration we had at our beloved Holy Trinity church, full of people of all backgrounds, young and old. Shouting “**Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed**” and celebrating together Christ’s resurrection and the life. This is the hope we hold against darkness. **Let’s journey through the Easter Season with Easter joy** and remind ourselves daily that our lives that are often limiting or stale, become the dance floor on which we celebrate.

Allow me to share with you my **Sermon from Easter Sunday** that focused on John 20:1-18, one of the richest texts in scripture. As I asked myself what it might teach us about the resurrection, I was drawn to Mary Magdalene and her experience. And I noticed that towards the end of the story something happened that “changed everything” for Mary. But before that, Mary really went through a terrible experience, realising that Jesus’s body was GONE – and so she ran to a mutual friend, Peter, to share her shock & pain. Then **Mary went back and started WEEPING because it all seemed OVER**: In one stroke all her HOPE was GONE! – Such a painful story!

It reminded me of **my recent 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration** where my sister and her family gave me a bespoke “Memory Game” as present. And as I opened it, I saw some of the best moments of my life and my family in pictures in front of me. But as I looked at the images, I also saw loss, pain and suffering, even in the midst of beauty: I looked at an image of my parents at our wedding nearly 30 years ago, smiling & happy: I have LOST both of them; there was an image of me playing lead guitar in a glorious punk rock band: The band dissolved and I haven’t cranked up my amp since then.



And as I reflected on all this, I realized that **moments of loss and pain, of having regrets or losing hope, are simply part of my life**. They are never totally gone and always come back – and I wondered about the similarities with Mary Magdalene’s experience.

But then I saw what happened next to Mary Magdalen, and I read how in the midst’ of pain and weeping she looked up and first saw two angels, and then Jesus; and they seemed full of compassion and asked her gently: “Why are you weeping?” And then the amazing thing happened after she “looks” and “pays attention”: **She recognized Jesus and EVERYTHING CHANGED. She realized that Jesus is HERE; that he will ALWAYS and FOREVER be here with us.**

This is what we celebrate on Easter! And **if we know the truth of who Jesus is, we also know more clearly who we are: Forever a daughter or son of God who he**



**created beautifully in his image** – and nobody and nothing can challenge this! EVERYONE has HIS love poured out to them ceaselessly and relentlessly – there is no shame, nor blame, nor guilt – but only forgiveness and love.

**So let us pray:** Father we thank you for your son Jesus Christ. Through your son Jesus Christ we find healing and loving transformation in the pain & suffering that we encounter – and we come closer to you. We pray that, like Mary Magdalen, we see and recognize Jesus Christ around us and in us – that we open up ourselves to him; that we remind ourselves daily to be “resurrection people” – making us smile and being kind and loving for those around us.

We thank you that **WITH THE RESURRECTION EVERYTHING CHANGES: Our friendship with Jesus is forever, and we will be able to dwell forever in YOUR love.** Amen

As always: Thanks so much for journeying together! Let's be encouraging and supportive to one another; let's celebrate all the blessings that God pours out, and shine out God's glory to those around us. And please do not hesitate to contact me or Rev Kate, or anyone else on our leadership team if there is anything we can do.

**Every blessing,**

**Fr Chris**

## **2nd May - Athanasius,**

The theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed

This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was 29 years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325.

Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council's debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, 300 bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is He the Son of God? Is He God or man or both together? Did He exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the

Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, Athanasius contra mundum, 'Athanasius against the world.'

**May 1945**

Barbara Youngs

There is much talk of memories of VE Day 1945. I was living in Clayhall Avenue at the time having just returned from staying in Croydon with grandparents. I had left Barkingside in June 1944 to go to Yorkshire with my mother and baby brother.

I imagine D Day had sparked fears of how the war was going and it was thought best we should get away from London. So to be back home for VE Day celebrations was a joy. I remember there was a horse and cart giving children rides round Beaminster Gardens but it was such a relief to have no more air raids. I recall there was a public shelter in the Recreation Ground we had to use in emergencies.

I was lucky that my father didn't go to war but he did join "Dad's Army" Their meet up point was The Chequers Inn en route for the drill hall in Horns Road. The comradeship was wonderful and our back room was often used for card games when fire watchers and air raid wardens would call in.

For the next few years banners would appear over front doors welcoming home various family members having been demobbed from the services.

### **With Ascension Day (29th May) in mind:**

What? Do we place Christ midway among the spheres? Or do we build a cottage for Him among planets? Heaven we regard as the magnificent palace of God, far outstripping all this world's fabric. - *John Calvin*

When Jesus came to earth, He did not cease to be God; when He returned to heaven, He did not cease to be man. - *Anon*

Triumphant, Christ ascends on high,  
The glorious work complete;  
Sin, death and hell low vanquished lie  
Beneath His awful feet. *Anne Steele*

Our Lord is risen from the dead!  
Our Jesus is gone up on high!  
The powers of hell are captive led,  
Dragged to the portals of the sky.  
*Charles Wesley*

Astronauts sink into insignificance beside this ascension! *Vance Havner*

### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

**ACROSS:** 1, Baby, 3, Stimulus, 8, Liar, 9, Forsaken, 11, Episcopacy, 14, Eagles, 15, Clergy, 17, Strengthen, 20, Holiness, 21, Obed, 22, Bethesda, 23, Stay.  
**DOWN:** 1, Believer, 2, Beatings, 4, Troops, 5, Musicology, 6, Like, 7, Sent, 10, Acceptance, 12, Prohibit, 13, Dying day, 16, Sensed, 18, Ahab, 19, Blot.

### **Taking action on climate change is the 'right thing to do' - Bishop of Norwich**

Acting to prevent global warming and biodiversity loss is the 'right thing to do' and a sign of Christian compassion for those who are suffering as a result of the climate crisis, the Church of England's lead bishop for the environment said recently.

Bishop Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich, has thanked parishes for their 'hard work and commitment' towards making churches Net Zero by 2030 and their support for churchyards to become havens for biodiversity. Both aims have been backed by the General Synod.

He said the Net Zero programme is already building up a 'huge impetus', resulting in helping make many churches sustainable into the future.

Acting to tackle climate change is the 'right thing to do' he told the recent gathering at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, attended by 120 Diocesan Environment and Net Zero officers as well as ecumenical representatives.

"If we truly believe that we are brothers and sisters in Christ we should have a concern and a compassion for where biodiversity and climate change loss is impacting people's lives."

## 14th May - Matthias the Apostle, called by lots

Have you ever happened to be in the right place at the right time, with certain qualifications, and suddenly realise that God is singling you out for a special task? If so, Matthias is a good patron saint for you!

In Acts 1 (15 – 26) the apostles had a task to do: Judas had betrayed Jesus and died, and so a new apostle needed to be chosen. He had to have been a follower of Christ from the Baptism to the Ascension, and also a witness of the Resurrection in order to qualify. In the event, the choice fell to one of two: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias.

Lots were drawn, and Matthias was chosen. How confident he must have felt in his calling: what encouragement that would be when the going got rough in later years! Matthias is thought to have ministered in Cappadocia and even Ethiopia. His emblem is usually an axe or halberd, regarded as the instrument of his martyrdom. His supposed relics were translated from Jerusalem to Rome by the empress Helena.



## 20th May - Alcuin of York, Abbot of Tours, a teacher of genius

Here is a saint for all primary school teachers who have a passion to help children learn to read and write.

Alcuin was born near York in about 735. His family were of noble stock, and they sent him to York Cathedral School, which had the best teachers in the land. They soon realised that Alcuin had a genius for learning, and within a few years he had become master of the school himself. Under his guidance, the fame of the school grew, with more pupils and an ever-increasing library.

In 781 Alcuin visited Rome, where he met Charlemagne, then King of the Franks, who persuaded him to move to Aachen and become master of the palace school – in effect his minister of education.

Alcuin did a magnificent job – he went on to establish a primary school in every town and village, and because the teachers were the clergy, he saw to it that their own literacy and education were improved. But Alcuin did much more – he set up scriptoria for the copying and preservation of ancient manuscripts, for which we owe him the survival of many classical authors. He is also credited with inventing cursive script – or as we know it, ‘joined-up writing’ – as an aid to speedier copying.

Alcuin also revised the Latin liturgy, wrote nine biblical commentaries, revised the Vulgate Bible, and supported the orthodox doctrine of the procession of the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son.

By 796, Alcuin was over 60 and ready to retire. Charlemagne appointed him Abbot of St Martin's at Tours, and here, in his declining years, he built up a model monastic school as he had done at York and Aachen. He died in May 804, but his influence lives on today, and affects hundreds of millions of us – all of us, in fact, who use joined-up writing!

## Remembering VE Day – 80 years on by Tim Lenton.

80 years ago, on 8th May 1945, VE Day took place – marking Victory in Europe at the end of World War 2. It was celebrated as a public holiday, and came exactly a week after German radio announced the death in action of Adolf Hitler.

In reality, Hitler had committed suicide on 30th April. His successor, Grand Admiral Karl Dönitz, quickly negotiated an end to the war with the Allies – at the same time trying with some success to prevent as many Germans as possible from falling into Soviet hands.

Field Marshal Montgomery accepted the unconditional surrender of German forces in the Netherlands, north-west Germany and Denmark at a ceremony near Hamburg on 4th May. All German forces then surrendered to Supreme Allied Commander General Eisenhower on 7th May at Reims, France. Soviet leader Josef Stalin had his own ceremony, in Berlin.

The announcement that the war had ended in Europe was broadcast to the British people by the BBC late on 7th May. It was decreed that there would be a national holiday the next day, and the stage was set for huge celebrations. Prime Minister Churchill had been assured that there was enough beer in the capital, and commemorative items, including VE Day mugs, were quickly produced.

St Paul's Cathedral held ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each one attended by thousands of people, and churches throughout the country rang their bells. The Royal Family played a central role, appearing eight times on the balcony of Buckingham Palace while huge numbers of people flocked down The Mall.

In the United States, VE Day coincided with President Harry S Truman's 61st birthday: he dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D Roosevelt, who had died of a stroke less than a month earlier. But both Truman and Churchill pointed out that the war against Japan had not yet been won. That final victory was still more than three months away.

Of course, the end of a war could never be neat. In Europe the last known shots on the Eastern Front were actually fired on 11th May, and on 25th May the battle of Odžak ended in a Yugoslav Partisan victory.

Tragically, in French Algeria, Muslims celebrating the end of the war (some also peacefully protesting for independence) were “inexcusably” massacred by colonial authorities and militias – leading eventually to the Algerian War nine years later.

### Why you need a holiday

They are more than an indulgence – a holiday can be vital for your health and mental well-being. Here are five reasons why:

**Better sleep:** after two or three days on holiday, most people average an hour more of good quality sleep. And deep sleep improves problem solving and cell repair.

**More vitamin D:** Our bodies make this in response to sunlight. It is important for bones and immunity, but one in five of us are thought to be deficient.

**Help your heart:** Researchers at Syracuse University in New York found that those people with the lowest risk of heart disease had taken their full annual leave in the past year. Conversely, infrequent holidays led to a greater risk of coronary heart disease.

**Reduce stress and get your energy back:** As one doctor explains, living under stress “is like squirting steroids into your body every day”. Stress triggers the production of cortisol, which lowers your sex hormones and affects your thyroid. Your hair will thin and your energy decrease. For the best rest, take an occasional complete break from your work mobile and emails.



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## Happy 1700th Birthday, Nicene Creed!

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

### **The Nicene Creed**

*We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is,  
seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made.*

*For us men and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made  
man.  
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day He rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen*



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## US Evangelicals not happy with Trump

US President Donald Trump has angered some US evangelicals because of his recent cutbacks on foreign aid.

Now the humanitarian branch of the US National Association of Evangelicals is urging the government to reinstate funding grants lost in the recent executive order cuts on USAID.

Although other US Christians are also critical of Trump, the evangelical voters are a core demographic of Trump's supporter base – which makes criticism from them unusual.

World Relief, the humanitarian branch of the National Association of Evangelicals, has now urged the US government to "follow through on other past grant commitments and to resume continued funding for lifesaving humanitarian programmes."

## Third Most Dangerous Country in the World for Christians

After North Korea and Somalia, where in the world is it most dangerous to be a Christian?

***The World Watch List puts Yemen in third place.***

Yemen lies just south of Saudi Arabia and just east of Ethiopia. Torn apart by civil war, the extremist Islamist Houthi group are increasing in power, and both they and al-Qaeda and Islamic State are determined to uphold strict Sharia (Islamic law).

All Christians are in danger in Yemen. No one knows their exact numbers, but it is probably between 3,000 and 20,000.

The main threats are from clan oppression and Islamic oppression. Their families disown and disinherit them. They are divorced, lose custody of their children, are banished, and often murdered. The government puts Christian in detention, where they face torture, ill-treatment and often murder.

Open Doors helps Christians in Yemen through prayer, some relief aid, secret training for pastors, and livelihood support. If you want to help, please go to: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

## Sleeplessness is catching

You probably already know this: when your partner can't sleep, it is very likely that you won't be able to, either.

A recent study from the University of East Anglia has found that sleep problems are contagious. The study looked at the impact of workplace bullying on sleep, and it found that not only does stress and abuse disrupt the victim's sleep, but it also disrupts that of their partner. As one researcher put it: "bad energy passes across the bed sheets."

Yet sleep is crucial to good health. A recent study by Harvard University found that regular restful sleep may extend life by nearly five years for men, and by more than two years for women. The study also found that eight per cent of deaths from any cause may be attributed to poor sleep patterns.

## 25th May - The Venerable Bede, a great historian

The Venerable Bede was an outstanding scholar who accomplished several 'firsts'. He was the first historian to date events from the birth of Christ. He was the first person to write scholarly works in the English language. And, of course, his world-famous, magisterial Ecclesiastical History of the English People, completed in 731, is still in print today.

Bede was born in about 673, and sent as a child to Wearmouth monastery, and then later transferred to the monastery at Jarrow. His was a quiet life: he probably never travelled further than Lindisfarne to the north, and York to the south. In about 692 Bede was ordained deacon, and then, in about 703, he was priested.

Bede once described his own life: "I have devoted my energies to a study of the Scriptures, observing monastic discipline, and singing the daily services in church: study, teaching and writing have always been my delight." It sounds unremarkable, but Bede's fruitfulness has been extravagant: his writings have informed and influenced millions of people over 14 centuries.

As a theologian, Bede translated the Gospel of John into Old English, completing it on the very day that he died. He also wrote commentaries on various books of the Bible.

But Bede's outstanding gift was as an historian. His Ecclesiastical History of the English People is one of the most important sources that we have for understanding early English history. Bede was scrupulous in his use of sources, clearly identifying them. He also was careful to distinguish between fact, hearsay and legend. He had a healthy scepticism, and certainly did not believe that everything he was told was necessarily true.

His Ecclesiastical History tells the history of Britain up to the year 729. It starts with the story of the Celtic peoples, who converted to Christianity in the first three centuries after the death of Christ. Bede then moves on to the invasion of Britain by the pagan Anglo-Saxons, in the 5th and 6th centuries. They themselves were in turn converted by Celtic missionaries from the north and the west, and by Roman missionaries coming up from the south and the east.

Bede himself lived during the time of the Anglo-Saxon church, of which he was a wise observer of its various problems. He urged that episcopal visitations, confirmations, and Holy Communion should be held more frequently – for the good of the Church.

## Douglas Adams

the author of 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'.

In the beginning the Universe was created. This has made a lot of people very angry and been widely regarded as a bad move.

A learning experience is one of those things that says, 'You know that thing you just did? Don't do that.'

The single raindrop never feels responsible for the flood.

Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the

experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so.

You can tune a guitar, but you can't tuna fish. Unless of course, you play bass.

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing noise they make as they go by.

We are not an endangered species ourselves yet, but this is not for lack of trying.

I refuse to answer that question on the grounds that I don't know the answer

We are stuck with technology when what we really want is just stuff that works.

## 26th May - John Calvin, Reformer

John Calvin was a towering figure in the Reformation. His influence on Protestant theology is still felt today.

Calvin was born in Picardy, north-east France in 1509, and went on to study law in Orleans, Bourges and Paris, where he absorbed the great humanistic and reforming movements of the time. Then, in his mid-20s, Calvin was converted to Protestant Christianity. He later wrote: "God subdued and brought my heart to docility. It was more hardened against such matters than was to be expected in such a young man."

Having renounced Roman Catholicism, Calvin set out for Strasbourg, to work with the reformer Martin Bucer. But when warfare in Europe diverted him to Geneva, he met the reformer Guillaume Farel, who persuaded him to stay on in the city.

Thus began a love-hate relationship between Calvin and Geneva. On the plus side for them, Calvin greatly improved life in Geneva: supporting good hospitals, a proper sewage system, care for the poor, and new industries. But when Calvin urged them to sign a Protestant statement of belief, they rebelled, and he had to flee the city for three years. Eventually he made the city into a welcoming centre for Protestant refugees, but he never quite succeeded in enforcing the Church's personal moral discipline on the people.

In the end, it was Calvin's writings which proved to be his major contribution. His massive work of Protestant systematic theology, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, was first published in 1539. It covers the sovereignty of God, considers the doctrines of election and predestination, the sins of pride and disobedience, the authority of Scripture, and how a Christian life should be led.

Calvin's influence was enormous throughout Europe, England and Scotland, and is still felt today. He died on 26th May 1564 and at his request, was buried in an unmarked grave in Geneva.

## **'Assisted Dying' Bill fails to protect the vulnerable, Bishop of London warns**

The Bishop of London has warned of the 'serious risk' that people would opt for 'assisted dying' because they felt they were a burden. She said the risks of this happening would be multiplied by the pressures on the NHS and social care – if the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill comes into force in England and Wales.

In a recent submission to the Terminally Ill Adults Bill Committee, Bishop Sarah Mullally, a former Chief Nursing Officer, says there are no measures in the proposed legislation nor are there safeguards that could prevent people opting for assisted suicide because they felt a burden, should the Bill come into force.

Evidence from Oregon and Washington state in the US and Canada where 'assisted dying' is legal shows between 43 per cent and 59 per cent of the people who opted to die by assisted suicide reported feeling a burden, she says.

The danger of this happening in the UK would be exacerbated by the pressures on adult social care, in which people increasingly pay for care, she says, and the long-term challenges facing the NHS and palliative care.

"The Church of England's opposition to the Terminally Ill Adults Bill is rooted in the impact the Bill would have on the most vulnerable members of society," she says.

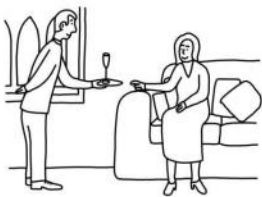
"This is a concern shared by people of many different faiths as well as people with no faith."

She adds: "The irreducible value of every human person means that no one is a burden, every life is precious, every life is worthy of care. No one should feel compelled to hasten their own death."



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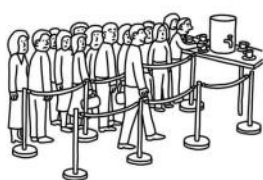
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**Nominations for Elections** to be Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Members, Parochial Church Council Members, and Sidespersons should be submitted soon to ensure that your views are considered.

## EIGHTY YEARS ON ....

Here we are eighty years after the end of World War Two. To me as a six year old at the outset, war was normal. It was what the grown up world did. Being taken away from my parents, labelled as if I were a parcel, and sent off to a strange place and deposited amongst people with different accents and habits seemed, at the time, to be what happened.

I was never aware of being in a world of peace, of families that were not separated. I always knew that Wales was not really where I belonged. There was some relief when I was re-homed to where my older brother Leonard had been evacuated. And again months later when my mother went to a remote house outside Bridgend, Wales and we were invited to join her.



For us London urchins, it was adventures everywhere in fields and woods, farm animals all around us. There was also the excitement of an occasional visit from my father.

Then there was a war-time lull. Evacuees returned to their home towns only then for the night raids by German bombers to proliferate, the Blitz! Nightmare nights of loud bangs, bombs vibrating the ground, local Ack Ack guns bang, bang, banging, searchlight criss-crossing the sky. Some foolhardy parents daring to stand outside, oblivious of the lumps of red hot jagged metal flying about. Death in split seconds!

The next day was the time for us kids to seek out the shrapnel. Sometimes we could watch 'dog-fights' in the sky, Spitfires and Hurricanes combating German bombers. Yes, we really did see that happening above us. We were war-time children, was there ever any other sort of child? Not in our world. It was always wartime. Shortages of food, disturbed nights, some dad's away fighting and perhaps dying in those so called foreign fields.

And then, one might almost say, suddenly. it was over. Quiet nights. The luckier fighting men and women returning home, some damaged by the conflict; others injured for the rest of their lives. Us children? What was this talk about celebrating peace, Street Parties?

Mums and dads stepping out of their domestic roll, organising Street Parties. Tables and chairs in

**Redbridge Council Fostering Team are recruiting foster carers with transferrable skills to foster children in one of our specialist pathways with allowances of up to £1300 per child per week.**

We are actively recruiting foster carers for three specialist pathways. Please take a look at our video to find out more about the three specialist pathways:

<https://youtu.be/0RxpnJW8Nyk>

The full video can be viewed on our website [www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering)

If you have a place in your heart and home to foster a child and would like to join our Redbridge family of foster carers, please call us on 020 8708 6068 or join us on our next virtual information session.

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

A recruitment poster for Redbridge Council Fostering. The top section is orange with the text 'LOCAL COMMUNITY Fostering REDBRIDGE' on the left and 'London Borough of Redbridge' with a leaf logo on the right. The main text in the center reads 'Do you have the transferable skills to become a specialist foster carer?'. Below this is a row of three images: a young boy in a wheelchair waving, a close-up of a person's face, and a woman holding a baby. The bottom section is orange with the text 'Foster for Redbridge Council', a QR code on the left, the phone number '020 8708 6068', and the website 'www.redbridge.gov.uk/fostering'.

the street. Jellies and cakes, lemonade and fruit juices. Mums pouring teas for everyone, some dad's crazily dressed in pyjamas others playing banjos, children's entertainers. Cartoons showing on the side of a house....

Austerity still abounded but us kids did not really know much about that. That was a mum and dad's problem. Some how we, they, got through! Us kids remained protected. We played football and cricket, joined the Cubs and Scouts or life Boys  
An ordinary world ensued, food rationing relaxed, sweets in sweets shops. Clothes rationing eased. Such a different world.

And now it is the eightieth anniversary of the war that did not, as was hoped, end wars.

Bill Godfrey

## **Mental Health Awareness Week - 12th – 18th May**

In May we observe Mental Health Week, at a time when sadly many of us, as a nation, are struggling. Roughly one in four of us now experience a mental health problem every year.

According to the Health Foundation, for young people aged 10–24 a staggering 45% are experiencing mental health disorders.

While the medical profession is helping with medication and medical care, many Christians are also deeply concerned.

As one theologian, Professor John Swinton, has said: “Mental-health professions play a significant part in the healing process for people. Most people, however, are not acutely unwell... they live in ordinary communities, and work out their lives amid family, friends, society and church. It is there that the Church can offer important gifts and insights.

“The central intention of the Gospels is to enable people to come to know God, and to live with God for ever. Within this perspective, mental health is not the absence of symptoms or distress, it is assurance of the presence of a loving God who cares.”

There is plenty of emotional and mental pain in the Bible: just read the Psalms of lament, which express sorrow and desolation. (They include Psalms 3, 6, 13, 22, 28, 42, 44, 56, 57, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 120, 130, 137, 142.) Here you will find desolation and sorrow – but also hope and assurance that at the end of all things, God is still there for those who turn to Him.

The Bible assures us that God will “never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). As Jesus told His followers: “I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you” (John 14:18)

The Bible reminds us that we should not be surprised by deeply painful times in our lives, as these are not outside the experiences of people who know God. However, it assures us that He will draw close to us (James 4:8) and that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28).

## **Reflecting Faith: where to hold a Baptism** Revd Dr Jo White

For the last couple of months we've been thinking about baptism, it's place within church life and what it means to each of us on a personal level.

This month, let's look at the actual font where baptisms usually take place.

Over the years Christians have used a wide variety of 'fonts': the sea accessed from the beach, a swimming pool (hired for the occasion), an especially built permanent baptistry, many varied stone fonts, a stainless steel portable font and even the beach in Philippi, Greece where Paul is said to have baptised Lydia and her household. Imagine the sunshine, warmth, flowing clean water and a gathering of your family and friends from your local church who have all travelled there together to celebrate this special moment, and themselves renewed their baptismal vows!

Baptism is not only a personal acceptance of Christ, but a huge celebration for Christian family and friends. Think back to a time of success in your life such as passing an exam or getting a new job. Didn't everyone around you also celebrate? So it is when a new person wants to follow Jesus.

Baptism for older children and adults have always followed a period of instruction. People as far back as the 3rd century weren't just grabbed off the street and immediately baptised and able to join in all the services. Rather, they were carefully taught about Jesus and what being a Christian means.



This month millions of Christians worldwide, of every denomination, will once again join in with **Thy Kingdom Come**, a prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost (29th May to 8th June), to pray for the nation to know Jesus Christ. It is a time to seek the empowering of the Holy Spirit, that we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives. As Paul writes: 'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.' (Colossians 4: 2-4).

**Thy Kingdom Come** encourages us to choose five people who we can pray for regularly. Why not ask God to guide you, as you settle on five names and commit to praying for them daily, perhaps by using the following prayer:

'Loving Father, in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth. Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends the life of your Son and your love for all. Strengthen me as a witness to that love as I pledge to pray for them, for your name's sake. Amen.'

## The Venerable Bede – the father of English history

Tim Lenton looks back on the man who gave us 'Anno Domini'.

1300 years ago, on 26th May 725, the Venerable Bede died. This English Benedictine monk, historian, linguist and teacher is known as "the father of English history." He helped to popularise the idea of dating years from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini – AD).

Bede was certainly born into a well-to-do family, but we have no details except that he was sent to a monastery – Monkwearmouth in Northumbria – at the age of seven. He later moved on to Jarrow under the tutelage of Abbot Ceolfrith, both of them surviving the devastating plague of 686.

He was never a great traveller, preferring to spend most of his life studying and writing in Northumbria, except for visits to Lindisfarne and York. He completed about 60 books, most of which have survived. Not surprisingly, he was considered the most learned man of his time.

Bede was ordained a deacon at the early age of 19 and became a priest when he was 30. He was known for his devotion to prayer, for studying the Scriptures and for his faithful observation of the monastic discipline. His most famous work is the Ecclesiastical History of the English People (Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum), which is widely relied on as historical source material.

He was particularly interested in the academic discipline of computus – the science of calculating calendar dates, particularly, and controversially, the date of Easter. The word 'computer' stems from this work. Bede was also a skilled translator, and he made the writings of the early Church Fathers accessible to the English people.

Bede died at the age of 61 or 62 at Jarrow and was buried there, but his remains were later moved to Durham Cathedral. He was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1899.

**He's so glad he came**

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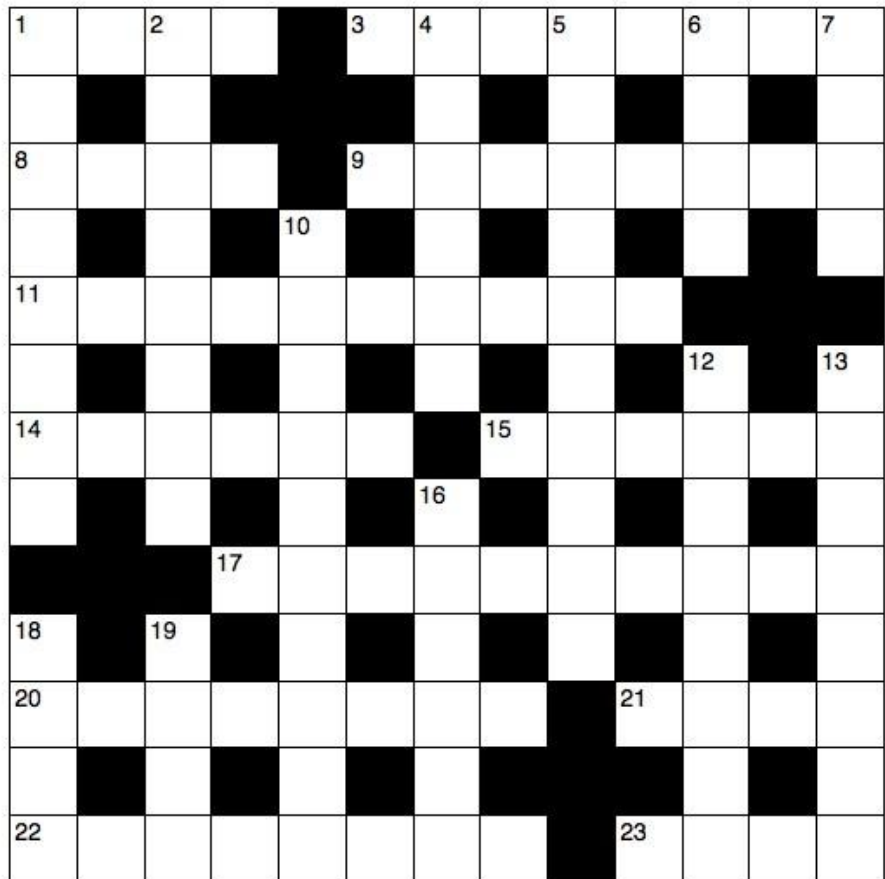
## Crossword Clues

### Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)  
 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)  
 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)  
 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)  
 11 Anglican form of church government (10)  
 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)  
 15 Ministers of religion (6)  
 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)  
 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)  
 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)  
 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)  
 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

### Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)  
 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)  
 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)  
 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)  
 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)  
 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)  
 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)  
 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)  
 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)  
 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)  
 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)  
 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)



(Answers on page 29)

## Christian Aid Week – 11th to 17th May

For more than 75 years, Christian Aid has been working with some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 29 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

This annual week invites Christians in the UK to help fundraise for the work by holding community events and taking on individual challenges. It has been called 'seven days of fundraising fun – your way'.

This year you might like to consider taking on the '70k in May Challenge'. It is simple to do: just travel 70k during the month of May, in whatever way you want. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you or even complete the challenge with you.



More info at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>



**The Rectory  
St James the Least**

**My dear Nephew Darren**  
**On why people should ALWAYS sit in the same pew**



I have to say that the couple who complained that you never noticed they had been missing from church for a month had a point. There is a simple way of noticing when someone is absent: everyone sits in the same pew. Every Sunday. Always.

Little Miss Margison sits in the pew after the third pillar on the right here at St James the Least. As she walks up the aisle, you can sense her counting the pillars until she reaches the right one, which then allows her to sit in front of it. I have speculated that if I ever had that pillar removed, then the following Sunday, she would have a complete mental collapse.

One Sunday a visiting family arrived early and sat down; three people in an empty church seating 200. Colonel Wainwright and his wife were the first of our regulars to arrive and froze in horror. The Colonel said in a deafening whisper to his wife: "There's someone sitting in our pew."

At least they had the grace – no matter how reluctant – for one week, to sit somewhere else. Unlike the Prentice family of husband, wife and three children, who arrived to discover that a visiting family of husband, wife and four children were sitting in their pew; six people in a pew that held eight. Or, it normally holds eight. That Sunday, it held thirteen.

We at least have one iconoclast in Miss Pemberton, who makes a point of sitting in a different place every week. This thoroughly unsettles the rest of the congregation, who fear she may sit in their seats during her nomadic wanderings. I sometimes wonder if she has a chart at home with all the pew spaces marked on it and she strikes one off each week as she returns home after Mattins.

Occasionally the unexpected can happen. Mrs Cholmondeley arrived one week in good time, settled herself in her accustomed place, but half-way through the Service suddenly ran out of the building. Ten minutes later, she was back and in her usual place once again. When the church filled with the smell of burned bacon, we understood.

That is why replacing pews with chairs in your church was a mistake. Pews can never be moved. You know where everybody is – or should be!

**Your favourite Uncle,**

**Eustace**

The telephone rang in the church office of the church that the MP attended when visiting his constituency. An eager voice inquired: "Do you expect the MP to be in church on Sunday? If so, I was thinking of coming along."

"That," said the clergyman, "I cannot promise. But we do expect that God will be there, and we fancy that that should be incentive enough for a reasonably large attendance."

After the local *Churches Together* meetings had concluded, the four ministers were discussing the results with one another.

The Methodist minister said, "What a success! We gained two new families."

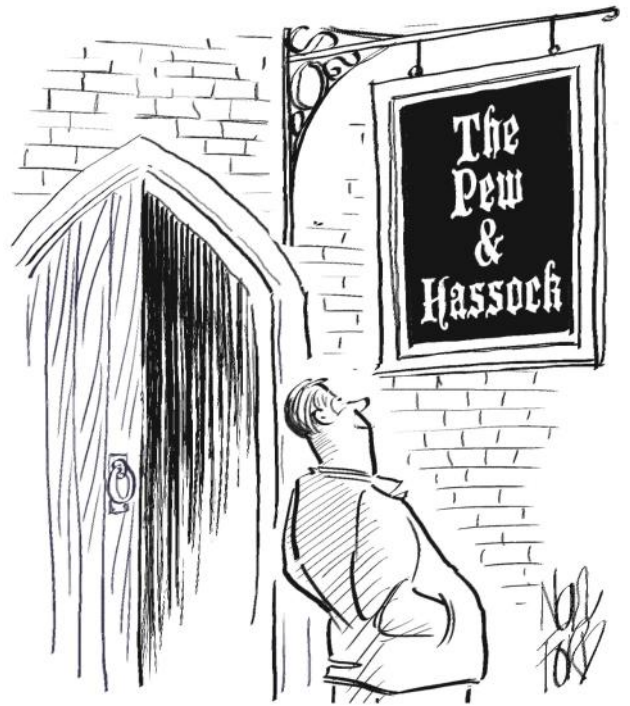
The Baptist pastor said, "We did better - we gained three new families."

The URC minister said: "That's nothing – we gained five new families!"

And the Anglican vicar smiled gently. "We did best of all. We just said goodbye to our 10 biggest troublemakers."



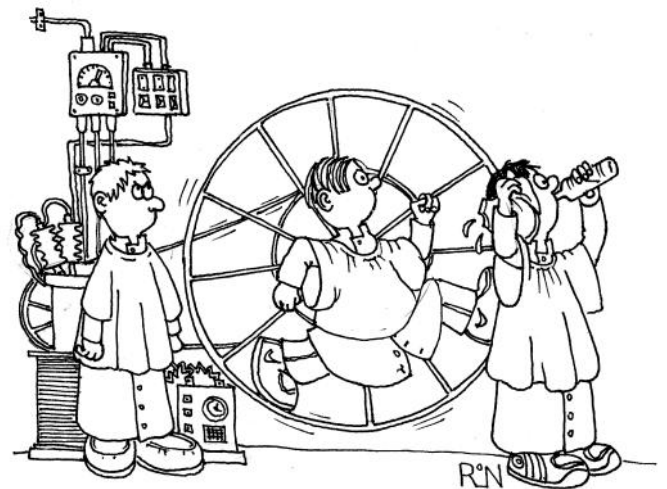
Phillip was never at his best at the 8.00 service



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services



...and the theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of Simplicity'...



When the solar panels weren't working, there was Plan B



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

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Christ-likeness, or simply becoming like Jesus, is God's purpose for every follower of Jesus. The following article is adapted from an article by the Langham Partnership (UK and Ireland). <https://uk.langham.org>

## Must a church keep moving or can we rest?

There is a healthy tension at the heart of the Christian journey. It's the push and pull of staying, or of getting up and going. And the Bible speaks of both as part of the normal Christian life.

In 1 Corinthians 15:58 Paul seems to be spurring his readers on to do even more, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters...always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

But then we hear Jesus warning us in John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches.... apart from me you can do nothing". Who wants to find they have moved on and achieved nothing?

In the process of transformation (becoming like Jesus) there seems to be this healthy tension between 'doing' and 'abiding'.

Some churches try to solve the tension by ticking the 'abiding' option. No one is challenged, the training of a new generation of leaders is half-hearted, and resources are safely banked. We create a pathway that leads nowhere much, and then happily walk up and down it each week. We just 'are' Christians.

Other churches rush helter-skelter in the opposite direction. Exhaustion and burnout are their trademarks. They pile up meetings and programmes and use people until they are burnt out. There is no depth, no profound mystery, and nowhere to rest and refresh the exhausted traveller.

Perhaps if the journey into Christ-likeness needs us to rest, as well as to get going, then as churches, we need to plan for both. We need to be prepared to roll up our sleeves, sacrifice

## Prayer for Ascension Day

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father, Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven, You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today. That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven. Lord, in these strange, topsy-turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus every knee shall ultimately bow - and we pray, thankfully in His name, Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*

## Life (Jn 6:68)

Life is not always fair, or kind.  
Life batters,  
People betray, let us down,  
Even those we trusted with our hearts and health.  
Landscapes change,  
Things we knew and understood  
Are tossed in the air  
To come down damaged and different.  
It all seems too hard,  
Too hard to bear.  
And it isn't fair.

What then?  
Give up, turn back,  
Collapse and concentrate on the disintegration?  
Or with Peter, look up and say,  
"Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
We believe and know that  
You are the Holy One of God."

Life is not always fair, or kind.  
That's why Jesus came.



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)

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Snacks and drinks,  
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For more information, or to apply please contact:

**020 8925 2435**

**[info@oneplaceeast.org](mailto:info@oneplaceeast.org)**

## **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.**



## 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.



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Website

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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  
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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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**CLUB**

**Empower Grow**

**Hope Joy Vision**

**FUN**

ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS

**FREE**

OF CHARGE!

**MAKE NEW FRIENDS**

**EAT GOOD FOOD**

**Thursdays in term time**

**6pm-8pm**

**Parish Hall, Mossford Green,**

**Barkingside, IG6 2BX**

For info or to register scan QR code or email

**hello@edgeyouth.co.uk**



**All 9-14 year olds welcome**

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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**

## 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.

### 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.



**Name:** Kaye Leeb  
**Role:** Safeguarding Officer  
**Tel:** 07847 324955  
**E-mail:** ps@holymtrinitybarkingside.org.uk



**Name:** Chris Szejnmann  
**Role:** Vicar, Holy Trinity  
**Tel:** 07804 641931  
**E-mail:** priest@holymtrinitybarkingside.org.uk

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

**Name:** Danielle Law  
**Role:** Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser  
**Tel:** 01245 29 44 44  
**E-mail:** dlaw@chelmsford.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.**

## HELPLINES

- NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
- Childline: 0800 1111
- Stop it Now: 0800 1000 900
- NAPAC: 0800 801 0331
- Samaritans: 116 123

- Family Lives: 0800 800 2222
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0800 2000 247
- Men's Advice Line: 0800 8010 327
- National Careline: 0800 0699 784



## 29th May - Ascension Day, 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and to have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

**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 !!**



## 31st May - Mary, the Blessed Virgin, visits Elizabeth

Mary – the virgin mother of Jesus. For centuries, the eastern and western churches have considered her pre-eminent among all the saints.

In the gospels, Mary makes her first appearance as a teenager. Nothing is known of her childhood, and what we do know of her is found mostly in Matthew 1 – 2 and in Luke 1 – 2. If you read both accounts, you'll notice that Luke's account seems to give the story from Mary's standpoint, whereas Matthew concentrates more on Joseph's side of things. In both accounts the virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated. Mary's quiet devotion to God and her total acceptance of His will shine forth.

Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving and poignant account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background, and makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross.

Mary's last appearance is in Acts chapter one, just before Pentecost.

Mary obviously joined the early Church, but her role was never one of teaching and preaching, and indeed she remained so much in the background that nothing more about her is known for certain. Both Ephesus and Jerusalem have claimed to be the place of her death.

*Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in the history of mankind. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed"*



### The LEGAL STUFF

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### HALL LETTINGS

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## PARISH DIARY

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

**Monday 6th May—PCC Meeting (for the APCM)**

**Saturday 10th May : - Church Work Day! All Welcome !!**

**Saturday 17 May: Christian Aid Concert (Christian Aid week: 11-17 May)**

**Sunday 25 May: APCM**

**Thursday 29 May: Ascension Day**

**Sunday 1 June: Service of the Word**

**Sunday 8 June: Pentecost (Ordinary Time resumes on the following Monday)**

**Saturday 12 July: Summer Community Party**

**Sunday 3 August: Service of the Word Sunday 10 August Service of the Word**

**Creationtide / Season of Creation: 1 September – 4 October**

**Black History Month: 1- 31 October**

**Sunday 5 October: Harvest Meal / Festival – Homelessness Sunday**

**Sunday 2 November: 'All Saints' / Service of the Word**