

april 2022

He is Risen

grapevine

50p

the magazine of st mary's church rushden
& st peter's newton bromswold

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grapevine

April 2022



Sage words from the **Dean of Peterborough, Chris Dalliston**. Confusion has become the new normal in the last two and a bit years and the Church of England and its Lectionary are no exceptions.

A confusing time of the year for Editors too. This edition should climax with Easter Sunday, but by then we shall be 'out for proofing' the May edition.

And with this edition we say a fond farewell to **Meet the Congregation** which first appeared in **February 2009** with a piece on Ruby Willmer and has stacked up somewhere around 130 appearances since.

We owe immense gratitude to [the still anonymous] 'Roving Reporter', who has interrogated so many of our congregations, translated their lives into print and has never been late filing copy!

Jude Curtis, Editor

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*Items for the
May 2022 edition should
be sent by*

Sunday 10 April

preferably by email to:
missjudecurtis@btinternet.com

Ron writes about . . .

The most important events ever!



Dear Friends,

During this month we remember the most important and wonderful events the world has ever seen. Jesus, at the age of thirty-three, allowed himself to be nailed to a rough wooden cross.

He died and his body was laid in a rock-hewn tomb. Three days later this grave was found to be empty. Within six weeks over 500 people had seen him – alive.

Today millions of people throughout the world have discovered that **Jesus is STILL alive.**

That number includes many Ukrainians.

During the 1990s the Ukrainian church was the fastest growing church in the world, and now there are Ukrainian missionary pastors all across Europe. In all the trauma of Putin's war the prayer of the Ukrainian church has been for an even greater turning to God of both Ukrainians and Russians; to enjoy a day-to-day relationship with Jesus, receiving from him God's gifts of Love, Joy, and Peace.

Through Jesus, God gives us the power to live as his children. He gives us New Life, with new attitudes and values. This is far more than believing in a religion and going to church on Sundays. It is a complete turn-around of mind and emotion; something only God can do for us.

There is NO problem that God cannot deal with,

NO sin that he cannot forgive,

NO fear that he cannot banish,

And NO emptiness that he cannot fill.

Although we live surrounded by confusion and uncertainty, God's love is absolutely certain.

Jesus suffered the agony of the Cross for us. The guiltless one died in the place of the guilty. He gives New Life to all who receive him as Lord and Saviour.

The most important question!

So, do you want to know him, or would you prefer to leave him as a stranger? That is the most important question any of us will ever face, - if we haven't faced it yet.

With every blessing for a very Happy Easter!

Ron Elverson



Foot Note

In the early 1920s, Nikolai Bukharin - a prominent Bolshevik leader - was sent from Moscow to Kyiv to address a vast anti-God rally. For an hour he abused and ridiculed the Christian faith until it seemed as if the whole structure of belief was in ruins. Questions were invited.

A priest of the Orthodox church rose and asked leave to speak. He faced the people and gave them the ancient Easter greeting: "Christ is risen".

Instantly the vast assembly rose to its feet, and the reply came back like a crash of breakers against the cliff: "He is risen indeed. Alleluia."

With thanks to Jenny Elverson



Trying to live in the present . . .



As I write we are still deep in Lent. Because of the way printing schedules work out, it still won't be anywhere near Easter Day when I start working on the *May* edition.

The perennial curse of publishing is that your editorial brain is split, pretty equally, between the near and distant future, and very rarely lives in the present. Fortunately grapevine does not - like the chunkier and more glamorous monthly commercial titles such as *Vogue* - publish its next edition somewhere around the first of the month *before* its cover date.

With grapevine that would result only in 28 or 32 blank pages depending on how optimistic I was feeling.

I accepted long ago that everyone else's priorities are not focussed on grapevine deadlines. There are, of course, a few stars, who *never* fail to produce copy on time - but to draw attention to their angelicalness might produce the opposite result and I'm far too grateful to risk it.

The trouble is you can miss a lot by living perpetually in the future. There is nothing quite like living in the present to give you real freedom and an emotional edge. But it is fraught with mighty pitfalls as I am discovering because I chose to use *Embrace The Middle East's* Lent Study Guide as my focus this year. It's brought unexpected dividends and genuine heartache in equal measures.

It looked so benign. A single email of pointers/thoughts/suggestions arriving each Sunday in Lent. Not too hard to focus on, surely? And arriving on a Sunday too: God's own day: set aside for His use. What could go wrong?

Lots, as it happened but I'll try and contain myself.

So, Week 1, and I planned to start the day with the meditation as soon as it arrived in my inbox. In your dreams, Jude! Get real!! Sunday morning is generally the most under-prepared day of the week, with a scrabble of hymn print outs, spare chant settings, double-spaced Prayers of Intercession never completed on time, notes for the Readings sometimes, and finding choir collar and cuffs in the washing machine looking hopeful but terminally crumpled etc. etc. The constant patting of pockets for reading glasses, mask, notes before leaving home - the list goes on. *This* is living in the present when it's not pretty.

So, in reality, I found myself reading the first email from Embrace at what might be described as a much darker, later, more contemplative part of the day. And I spent the rest of it, and what felt like half the night following, crying my heart out.

Tears are good. I have to be reminded of that occasionally. These felt like the only possible reaction. At school, and then in working life, that required at least a semblance of insouciance involved a lot of pretending about stuff like dismay, hurt or ever-present fear.

My cover was blown when I did Clown Training quite a few years back when my instructor pointed out that I had a face that could only show its underlying emotion and was incapable of dissembling. Sometimes you learn things too late to be of use.

Which brings me back to living in the present. And the tears were good. Tears are therapy. Particularly when they are honest, and to a purpose, and private.

But not solitary. How could they be? We - Father God and I - shook out a life time of only half-acknowledged pain, disappointment, and fear. Years and years of replacing proper acknowledgement of hurt or betrayal with irony and deliberate light-heartedness. A vast scattering of moments from great joy to utter misery. Disgrace, particularly showed up - rarely acknowledged at the time and generally rebranded.

Naturally I went back for more punishment the following day, examining the study again, with similar but shorter consequences. This time it was more contemplative; dare I say, more mature? A lot had been dealt with, acknowledged and forgiven and is gone. The sense of release and new beginnings is palpable.

I can't, of course, say that life is now 'dealt' with, but the material for Weeks 2 & 3 arrived and became more a means of learning than total dissolution. I have a sense of gentle acknowledgment, a spreading of wings, a definite shrugging off of burdensome 'stuff'.

Is this indeed the joy of 'Living in the Present'?

Jude Curtis, Editor

Christ is risen. He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

St Mary's News

From the Registers

Funeral

Monday 21 February 2022

David Clarke [91]

St Mary's Church Office is now regularly open on **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00 to 12 noon**. We ask you, please, to still be alert to current Covid regulations and avoid gathering inside the office.

Congratulations!!!!

... To **Helen and Dan Smedley** on the birth of a little boy, **Thomas George** on **Monday 14 March**.

Report of PCC Meeting - 1 March 2022

14 PCC members attended the meeting.

Marion Bates gave her report on **Finances and stewardship**. **Easter Holiday Club** will take place on **Monday 11 April**.

Family attendance and activities at church is an important focus for us. The **South Porch** issue could well be nearing conclusion, with more news expected in April. **Lockdown** restrictions have been eased but we remain mindful of our more vulnerable members.

HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations were discussed and suggestions for an event to be held **June 5/6** are welcome.

Dates to note:

APCM will be held on Tuesday 19

April at 7.00pm in church. Electoral Roll will be displayed at back of church, along with a list of PCC members and those up for re-election and vacancies, will also be displayed in church from **Sunday 13 March**.

There will be a single **Lent Lunch** this year: in St Mary's Church Hall on **Wednesday 6 April**, from 12noon - 2.00pm: A Meditation, led by Steve Pearman, will be held in the Pemberton Chapel at 1.00pm.

The Good Friday walk of witness starts at 10.45am at the Salvation Army **but will end in St Mary's Church grounds** for an open air Service.

Craft and Coffee

The next craft and coffee meeting is on

Tuesday 5 April, 10.00

to 12 noon in the Church Hall. We shall be making **Easter Cards**.

Admission is £1.50 which includes refreshments and watching the demonstration.

For more information give Lynne a call on 01933 353655 or email lynne@lateralflow.co.uk



St Mary's Ladies' Group

The group began their new year of meetings on **Wednesday 9 March** in the Church Hall at 2.15pm, with the **AGM**, followed by a talk from **Rev Dr Linnet Smith**. 35 members were present.

Leader, Cynthia Brown included in her summary much appreciation for the work of the Committee behind the scenes, and remembered the sad loss of both Jean Tombling and Wendy Muncey.

Linnet's talk was about **'Psalms and How to Use them'**. She had prepared a helpful handout with suggestions for which Psalm to turn to in different circumstances. We were asked for our favourites : 23 came in way ahead, but 46, with its line, 'Be still, and know that I am God' had a very strong following. She also talked of less recognised reasons for writing the Psalms and our reading them - she mentioned David's shouting back at God - and their sheer variety: from praise to thanks; celebration to reflection; national or personal focus. It is, as she said, 'the most emotional Book of the Bible'.

It is also about joining in and she related a story of singing the Magnificat on St Cuthbert's Island, off Lindisfarne, when a bull seal decided to provide accompaniment!

April 2022

Behind the Communion Table

Flowers behind the communion table will recommence for Easter Sunday 17 April, as will decoration throughout the church.

24 - Ann Firm on behalf of **Ruby Willmer**

Memorial Chapel

April flowers

17 - Easter

24 - Julie West.

If you would like to give flowers in memory of loved ones please contact Brenda Dixon: 01933 358982

The Ladies Group has a full programme up to November 2022 and is hosting a stall at the Garden Fete in June.

If you would like to join them, talk to Cynthia: 01933 359590

Ladies Group Press Officer

Children Society - John's new Quiz titled 'There's No Place Like Home' is now on sale. Price £1 from Anne Riley, Pam Bailey, Mary Hadley and Joy Holloway on 01933 318415.

News continues over the page ...

News cont . . .

Thank You!

Thank you to all my friends at St Mary's for the beautiful book, lovely cards and good wishes on the occasion of my **Eightieth Birthday**. Bless you all.

Joy Holloway

Tony Coles would like to thank all of the friends at St Mary's for the gift and card received for his **Seventieth Birthday**. It was a very kind gesture.

Rushden and Newton WI Meetings are held at **The Windmill Club, Glassbrook Rd, Rushden, NN10 9RP** at **7:30 pm**.

The next is on **Thursday April 14**, which will be a **'Show & Tell'** - bring an item and tell us about it.

On **Thursday May 12** we will be **'Discussing Resolutions'** with **Malvina Keech**.

Please come along and give us a try! Visitors welcome! Contact is Julia: 01933 317846



Monthly event for dads, stepdads, granddads or male carers and their younger children [0-6 yrs]. Children enjoy a range of toys including bouncy castle, sit-on cars and inflatable ball pool.

Saturday 16 April

9.30am—12noon

St Mary's Church Hall

Adults £5: children free

Just turn up!

Newton News

Flower Rota

Easter Sunday - 17 April

Rosemary Coulson

The Church will be open for decorating for Easter on Saturday 16 April at 9.00am

There will be a **Cowslip and Fritillary Weekend** on **Sunday/Monday 17/18 April** from **2.00-4.00pm**.

Afternoon Teas
will be served



Good To Know

Shed, garage and garden security



A garden shed or garage often contain valuable items or tools that can help a burglar break into your home. If you have either, fit a good, heavy duty, padlock and lock up again any valuable items inside the shed. Use chains to lock together and secure them to shed walls or floor.

Secure your garden with substantial fencing, walls or gates locked with a good quality padlock. Look for a 'Secured by Design' or 'Sold Secure' standard.

Consider prickly planting near windows or around your fence but don't give burglars a place to hide.

Make sure rubbish bins or ladders can't be climbed onto to access upstairs windows that might be left open to air the home. Some people like noisy gravel so they can hear people approaching. Use permanent marking to postcode valuables stored in sheds and garages: engrave them or use a property marking kit. Use your postcode or your driver's licence number.

Consider buying a stand-alone shed or garage alarm or link the garage to the home alarm system.

christine.mackenzie@
northants.pnn.police.uk

*Live & Give
Responsibly . . .*



Crisp Packets

As from **21 April 2022 Walkers Crisps are no longer sponsoring the collection of crisp packets:** so TerraCycle will no longer pay Rushden Lions for collecting them.

They can still be recycled at the Soft Plastic Box at Co-op and other Supermarkets.

I still collect crushed Aluminium Cans for Air Ambulance; milk bottle tops for Brain Tumour Research and dud pens and felt tips for the same.

These can still be dropped off at 54 Avenue Rd, or I'm at St Mary's on Wednesday mornings. Thank you!

Marion Hollis

continues over the page ...

... and more Good To Know

HMP Five Wells Prison

... are looking for people to be Prison Visitors, working with the Prison Chaplain.

Contact is Emily Green, Project Manager, The Welcome Directory, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH, 0753 812 9347 or Emily@welcomedirectory.org.uk

St Peter's Church, Midland

Road ... are looking to host a sports event on **11 June 2022 in Spencer Park**. They would like to connect with St Mary's for volunteers to assist.

Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust - Ride and Stride - an update from the organisers

It seems a long time since Ride and Stride day 2021 – the weather was kind, more churches were open with a welcome, and a record number of riders and striders.

And most importantly **we are delighted to report an incredible sum of £56,195, including Gift Aid, has been raised.**

This was the best year yet for the Ride & Stride in Northamptonshire

and reflects the sterling efforts of the Riders & Striders, the Area Organisers, and yourselves who

make the arrangements at your church and encourage riders and striders to take part. It is good to have a welcome in an open church and we really appreciate it if you can organise this. Thank you so much if you took part and thank you even more if you also raised money!

The website is in the process of being updated but the next **Ride and Stride day is Saturday 10 September** – make sure it is in your diary now! Thank you so much for your support.

Fish & Chips

Several ladies from St Mary's already knit 'fish and chip' jumpers and hats. They're called that because babies would otherwise be wrapped in newspaper when their mothers are too poor to afford proper clothing.

Most are sent to an orphanage in Africa. The set pictured on The Back Page was knitted by a local lady and the photo sent from Kenya.

They need to be bright colours - definitely not white as they do not get washed regularly!

If you are able to help knit the sets please **talk to Ellen Inwood** who has the patterns and more details.

Food for thought and prayer



6 March was the beginning of Lent in The Coptic Orthodox tradition and their liturgy includes this timely prayer for . . .

**‘Those, whose names we have mentioned,
and those, we have not mentioned,
Those, whom each one of us has in mind,
and those, who are not in mind...’**

A prayer in Lent and for the times . . .

**Listening God, hear the cries of our hearts,
that as we make our way through these troubled times,
we may find our home in you.**

**Fill us with your compassion for all
whose cries of pain, or for justice, remain unheeded
by those with the power to make a difference.**



**Keep us alert for the signs of your
Kingdom and help us to proclaim
your salvation throughout the
world. Amen**

April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land . . .

The opening words of T S Eliot's famous poem *The Wasteland* are not especially uplifting – and indeed that poem written in 1922 in the aftermath of the First World War and the Spanish Flu pandemic is a complex, dark and dystopian take on the way the world had emerged from those two catastrophes.

A century on and Easter is late this year with the first part of the month firmly rooted in Passiontide so Eliot's poem might not seem out of kilter with the times. We too are emerging from a pandemic and an uneasy world faces climate change, a resurgence of cold war rhetoric, profound economic challenges and a struggle to integrate different cultures and creeds with society in flux. The Church itself can seem out of sorts, lacking in confidence, struggling to pay its way with numbers apparently continuing to decline.

And yet this is also the month when we, as a church, celebrate the miracle of Easter.

Against all the odds and every expectation, we shall once again declare: Christ is Risen!
When all seems lost, and every hope dashed, Jesus comes to Mary Magdalene in the Garden and asks: "Woman, why are you weeping?"

The fact is that she like, the other disciples, like Jesus' enemies could never have imagined this moment. But here and now, in the Garden, Jesus

demonstrates that nothing can prevail against the unstoppable power of God's love.

That was a truth that TS Eliot owned. Twenty-two years after *The Wasteland*, as the Second World War reached its climax, he published another great work: *The Four Quartets* which ends by speaking of the fusion of pain and love (the fire and the rose) that unmistakably speak of Christ's self-sacrifice and by referencing the words of Julian of Norwich, "all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well" that assure us that, despite it all April is in fact the month when our hopes are rekindled and God's promises fulfilled:

*And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well
When the tongues of flame are in-folded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.*

May joy and peace be yours this Easter



The Very Revd Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough



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Gardening News

The gardening team has been reduced in numbers just recently but we still do our best to keep the churchyard looking lovely. I hope you've noticed the neat edge to the grass bordering the main path – thanks Mick. The path is now about a foot wider or as Mick would say 'a thousand mil'. Mind you the weather has not been that kind to gardeners and two weeks ago we had to move indoors. Peter mended the seat in the gentleman's toilet and I swept out the North Porch so not much gardening was done that week.



The council have begun to cut the grass so we know that spring is on the way. Another sign of spring is the bulbs which are beginning to show buds and flower. The grape hyacinths have spread quite a lot so we will not be counting these like we do the hyacinths. Most of the rose trees have now been pruned and we are still struggling to finish pruning the many fuchsias, this always brings back memories of David Clarke who grew them all.

Those who go to T & C wondered if it was possible to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by setting a couple of trees in the churchyard. It was decided to set apple trees so on Wednesday 9 March we dug two holes in preparation for the ceremony. Fortunately the apple trees - a James Grieve and a Lord Lambourn - arrived that morning, so all was set for the next day.

It was a glorious sunny morning and about 30 people gathered on the grass overlooking the War Memorial and after a prayer from Ron the trees were set and everyone helped to fill the holes. After that Ann thanked everyone for the support that they give to the church and hoped that they enjoyed their time at T & C. Therefore in a few years you may be able to pick and enjoy the apples.

Our main task now is to clear the weeds and no doubt this will take all summer. Cosmos and Nicotiana seeds have been set to provide summer colour. We also hope to set some Auntie Madge tomato plants again as the crop last year was good, so look out for these.

Bob Bates

Book Reviews

Captain Tom's Life Lessons, Captain Tom Moore [Penguin/Michael Joseph, 2021]

The gift of a subscription to an audio book service brought this autobiography to my attention. Captain Tom became a celebrity in 2020 through the walks in his garden that raised £40,000,000 for charities supporting the NHS.

The coverage of his efforts and his subsequent knighting by the Queen at Windsor Castle gave us a narrative that provided the nation with a much needed good news story at a time when Covid, an NHS crisis and lock-down, set the daily news agenda. This book was completed shortly before his death in 2021.

Thinking that the author's 'life lessons' might be informative I decided to listen to this book: a decision that, for me, proved to be a very good one.

Wisdom is a characteristic that - it is often assumed - can best be acquired in the course of a long life. [Although teenagers are prone to dispute this assumption]. As I read Captain Tom's book I came to the conclusion that in his case he had indeed acquired a lot of practical wisdom during his life time.

Towards the end of the book he shares thoughts on personal

spirituality. It is clear that he was, perhaps reluctantly, agnostic, but the life lessons he recounts often reveal the influence of his upbringing in a church-going family that had, indeed, shaped his thought processes. *Life Lessons* might be best characterised as a twenty-first century *Book of Proverbs* – full of sound advice.

In one chapter Tom reflects on how disasters can have good outcomes. He points out that the reason he began his walks in the garden was that he needed therapy after breaking his hip. Without his fall he would not have raised forty million pounds.

After receiving his Knighthood from the Queen he travelled to Yorkshire to visit his old regiment. This involved an overnight stay in a hotel. As his daughter wheeled him into the restaurant his entry brought an abrupt halt to proceedings.

Everyone in the dining room stood and started to clap. When a surprised Captain Tom asked "why are they applauding" his daughter replied "because you gave them hope" - which to me sounds like a very Christian message and a pretty good epitaph for an old soldier.

Here Are Your Gods: Faithful Discipleship in Idolatrous Times, Christopher J. H. Wright. [IVP, 2020]



Some members of St Mary's will remember the author of this book preaching in our church on behalf of the Langham Partnership, one of our Mission Partners.

If, like me, you look at the world with its bewildering array of problems and hope to better understand the issues they raise and their underlying causes then I recommend this book to you.

If, like me, you are trying to listen to God and discern his will for yourself, his church, and our country, then this book can be a helpful voice to hear.

However, this comes with a health warning. If you do not want to have some of your assumptions challenged or are disturbed by the prospect of radical changes to your thinking, then this book is not for you.

The book is divided into: The Lord God and other Gods in the Bible, Political Idolatry Then and Now, and God's People in an Idolatrous World. The first part explains how the Jewish nation's understanding progressed from seeing the Creator God as one of many gods, to seeing

Him as their special God amongst many, to the final realisation that their God is the one and only true God, all others being no more than the product of mankind's imagination, a process that leads inevitably to lives shaped by idolatry.

In the second part Wright presents many clear examples of how Western civilisation generally, and God's people in particular, have fallen into the trap of uncritical collusion with the false gods of the culture in which we are living.

The final third of this book addresses the question "What is required of us now, as God's people?". The author's answer begins with the advice that we must resolve to turn away from the multiple false gods that so easily infect our Christian lives with idolatry. We are reminded of Joshua's words (Joshua 24) "choose this day whom you will serve. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord". What this can mean for us in practical terms is spelt out in the final chapters of this challenging book.

Tony Smith

To find out more about Cynthia
Spencer go to
cynthiaspencer.org.uk



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stmaryschurchoffice@btinternet.com
or ring 01933 412235 from 10.00-
12noon on Tuesday - Thursday

Last Minute

The next **East Northants Community Leaders' Lunch** will be taking place on **Wednesday 30 March** at 11.30 for 12 noon at 19 - 21 Church Street, Rushden, NN10 9YU, formerly part of the SERVE headquarters, but now the main headquarters of ENCS.

The lunch will follow some short talks on current community services and projects, including:

An update from East Northants Community Services, PLUS any short talks that YOU want to give about any community projects.

A buffet lunch will then be provided alongside welcome drinks and refreshments.

There will also be lots of time for catching up with others and networking.

Although there is no cost for this event, we suggest a donation of £5 on the day to cover food and other costs associated with setting up of the lunch.

Who is this event for? Anyone who is interested, whether or not an official leader of anything. Places can be booked online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/east-northants-community-services-leaders-lunch-tickets-294806563367> More details are available from Andrew Presland, 01933 316927; email andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com



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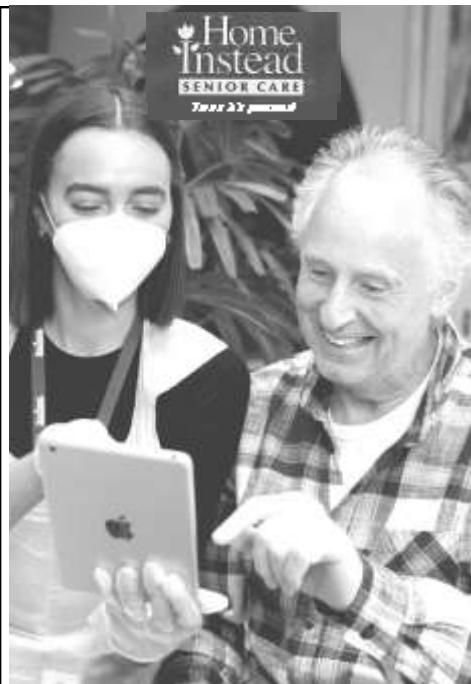
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Looking Back at Parish Magazines

50 years ago
April 1972

The Rector's Letter

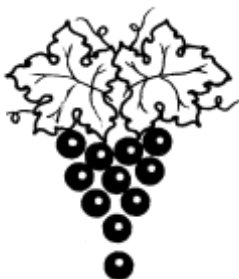
My prayer

... My prayer this Easter is that Jesus Christ may be very real to all who read this letter and that we each one of us may be faithful witnesses to Him so that others who yet know Him not may come to know in their lives the power of His resurrection.

In the joy of the risen Jesus from us all at the Rectory I wish you a very Happy Easter.

Yours in the service of our risen Lord

Rev Michael Wilson
Rector
St Mary's Magazine 1972



25 years ago
April 1997

From Quentin Chandler

... So much for politics. What about religion?... It's Easter ... should be a time of resurrection when we celebrate Jesus' victory over evil. It's time to reflect on Jesus' loving, self-giving way that always puts others first, and how, even though things looked distinctly gloomy back there on Good Friday, that way will always win through in the end...

... The issues of the day are complex, the questions we must ask ourselves are many and baffling and undoubtedly your answers to some of them will be different to mine. What really matters is that we allow our Christian faith to inform our decision.

Grapevine April 1997

Crossword No 387

ACROSS

7 '--- --, my hope is found', (hymn),

(2,6,5)

9 United Arab

Republic (1,1,1)

10 Apologetic (5)

11 Act of anointing

(7)

13 Eatable (6)

14 Swampy (6)

16 -- West, life jacket

(3)

17 Italian name

meaning messenger

(6)

18 Nine days of devotion (RC) (6)

19 'The God of -- praise', (hymn) (7)

21 Peasant (5)

22 Witch (3)

23 In a state of disgrace (2,3,8)

DOWN

1 '--- -- the Baptist's cry', (hymn) (2,7,4)

2 Bluer hit (anag.), censer (8)

3 Christmas tree (3)

4 Reconciliation of God and man (9)

5 Oversupply (4)

6 'My hope is built --- --', (hymn) (2,7,4)

8 Flatfish (3)

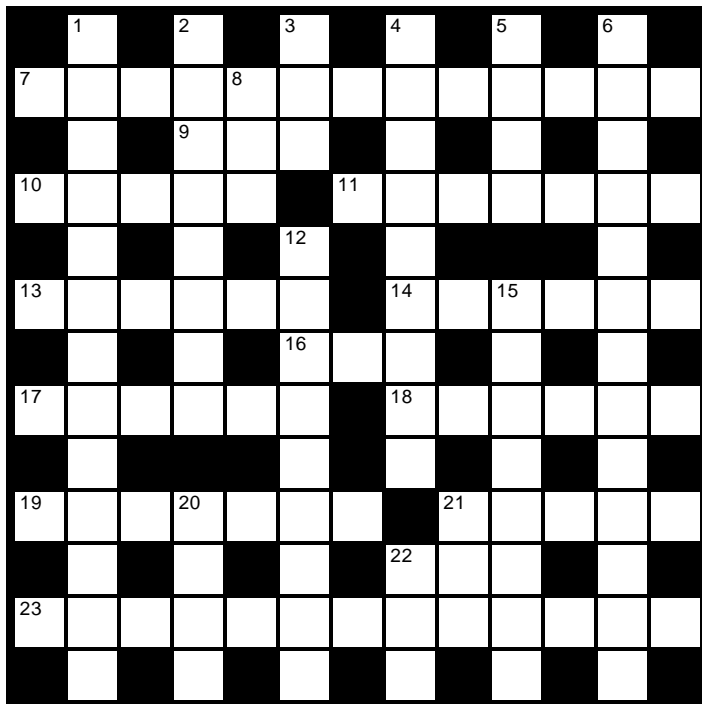
12 Informal letters (9)

15 Deity of a large stream (5,3)

20 Affected by a dull pain (4)

21 Expression of disgust (3)

22 Heavy goods vehicle (1,1,1)



Solution to No 386





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Belfry Gossip

During the storms recently we suffered some minor damage in the tower when the bird protection mesh was dislodged from the inside of one of the bell chamber windows, which now allows the birds to get into the building to leave droppings on the bells and floor and to nest in the alcoves. At the same time some sound modulation panels were also broken off. Measures to get repairs done are being taken.

Service and practice ringing continues, but often only on six of the eight bells and we thank everyone who comes from other towers to ring with us. We are continuing to ring the Jubilee methods with anticipation of a quarter peal for the celebrations in June along with other methods, and Kaylee is forging ahead with Plain Bob Doubles.

Our Annual Belfry meeting, mentioned last time, has now taken place, kindly hosted by Jim and Sarah. We reviewed 2021 with Reports of our limited activities. Our officers were re-elected to their posts with the addition of Sarah becoming Chairman and Roger becoming Assistant Tower Keeper and Maintenance. We aim to keep the bells ringing each Sunday, as well as ring quarter peals for St George's Day, the Jubilee celebrations and other anniversaries and notable events, not forgetting to progress ourselves with new methods and occasional quarter peals, and a quarter peal for Kaylee. We will again be joining with the Branch Outing instead of having one of our own and a BBQ will be held in July at Simon and Cathy's as well as a social get together at Brenda's after practice at the end of the year. After the meeting refreshments were consumed while chatting together.

The Wellingborough Branch of ringers have held practices at Grendon (6 bells) and Orlingbury (6) which were both well attended by members around the area, and the Peterborough Guild held a 10-bell practice at Towcester which attracted 19 ringers from around the Guild.

Tintinnabulum



Mission Matters - Valery, Anya, Alison

These are the names of people serving the Lord in Ukraine with the Church Mission Society.



The latest news, as I write this on March 10, is that they have left Kyiv and reached a place of relative safety further away from direct fighting, although there are still air strikes in the wider region.

Valery has a ministry of preaching the Gospel, making disciples and forming new churches, in Ukraine and abroad. He writes, “I was born into a communist military family during the Soviet Union, where I never heard about God until 1988, when an audible voice said, ‘I exist, seek me!’ This search took two years, till I personally experienced God’s presence and forgiveness after watching the ‘Jesus’ film. I didn’t find an evangelical church until 1994, but there I understood that I should not just sit in the pew, but serve God with my whole life.” Due to Ukraine’s history of Communism, many people do not know Jesus as their personal Saviour, and 20,000 towns and villages have no evangelical church.

Anya grew up in Crimea, where her father was pastor of their village church. Even as a child, she had a burning desire to tell people about Jesus. When Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, God led Anya to Kyiv, where she joined Valery in his work. She feels called to encourage young people to share the Gospel and to reach out to their communities with Jesus’ love.

Alison answered God’s call to mission at the age of sixteen, and has been engaged in Christian work since 1993. She leads the ‘Genesis’ ministry in Kyiv, which helps people to replace destructive beliefs and behaviour with God’s truth and freedom. She also helps facilitate evangelism in Ukraine and abroad - due to corruption, conflict, economic instability and high levels of drug and alcohol addiction many Ukrainians struggle to find hope.

As you pray for Ukraine, please remember Valery, Anya and Alison, as well as all their fellow Christians, that they may be kept safe, strong in the Lord, and able to share his love and truth with others in these very difficult days.

Sue Eagles, for The Mission Committee

Church Diary

April

- 2 **Saturday: 10.00-12 noon** - Litterpick organised by Higham Deanery at Stanwick Lakes - meet at the Old Bridge, Station Rd, Irthlingborough: Bring your own gloves: other equipment provided. Queries to Andrew: 01933 316927 or andrew.presland.harborough58@gmail.com
- 5 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon** - **Crafts & Coffee/Tea** meets in the Church Hall. Further information from Lynne Prior on 01933 353655 or lynne@lateralflow.co.uk.
- 6 **Wednesday: 12.00 noon** - **Lent Lunch** in St Mary's Church Hall followed by meditation in the Vestry Hall.
- 11 **Monday: 10.00am - 3.30pm** - **Easter Holiday Club** - **Church Hall**: check posters for more information.
- 13 **Wednesday: 2.15pm** - **Ladies' Group** meet in the Church Hall - Speaker: **Maureen Trusler: 'Joyce Grenfell'**
- 15 **Friday: 10.45am** - **Good Friday Walk of Witness**. Leaving from Salvation Army in Church Street to a Service outside St Mary's Church this year.
- 16 **Saturday: 9.30-12 noon** - **Who Let The Dads Out?**, in the Church Hall: see Box on p10
- 17/18 **Sunday/Monday: 2.00-4.00pm** - **Cowslip & Fritillary Weekend** at Newton Church - see p 10
- 19 **Tuesday: 7.00pm** - **St Mary's Annual Meeting [APCM]** in Church

May

- 3 **Tuesday: 10.00-12noon** - **Crafts & Coffee/Tea** meets in the Church Hall, Further information from Lynne Prior on 01933 353655 or lynne@lateralflow.co.uk.
- 11 **Wednesday: 2.15pm** - **Ladies' Group** meet in the Church Hall - **Speaker: Mrs Ann Smith - "Pollen"**
- 21 **Saturday: 9.30-12 noon** - **Who Let The Dads Out?** in the Church Hall: see Box on p10

Planning Ahead in June

- 5 **Sunday: 6.00pm** - **Council of Churches Pentecost Service** at Park Road Baptist Church.

Services for April 2022



St Peter's
Newton Bromswold

Sunday 3 April - Fifth Sunday of Lent - Passion Sunday

9.30am	Holy Communion	11.00am	Family Service
11.15am	Morning Prayer		

Sunday 10 April - Palm Sunday

9.30am	All Age Service		
11.15am	Morning Prayer	11.00am	Holy Communion

Friday 15 April - Good Friday

9.30am	All Age Service
2.00pm	Meditation

Sunday 17 April - Easter Day

9.30am	All Age & Parade Service	11.00am	Holy Communion
11.15am	Holy Communion		

Sunday 24 April - Second Sunday of Easter

9.30am	All Age Service	11.00am	Family Morning Prayer
11.15am	Morning Prayer		

Midweek Services in St Mary's Church

Thursday April 7, 14 [Maundy Thursday], 21, 28 at
10.30am - Holy Communion [BCP]

Live-Streaming

St Mary's Sunday Service at 9.30 will continue to be live-streamed and can also be found later through our website on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/stmarysrushden>.

— The Back Page —

12



Live & Give
Responsibly... 11



HE IS RISEN



10



15