

**SERVING THE PARISHES OF**

**ALL SAINTS'**  
Baschurch

**HOLY TRINITY**  
Weston Lullingfields

**ST MARY'S** 50p  
Hordley

Per issue



## Questions about Faith and Prayer

If this last year has raised questions for you about faith and prayer, then do give us a ring or email as we'd love to talk to you about them. It is hoped that in May/June we will host a short course of exploration for those who are interested and have questions. This will be informal and no knowledge of the Bible is required, it will simply be a place and opportunity to explore together and ask those questions you've been longing to ask but never dared!



**National Day of Reflection—23rd March 2021**

**The daffodil is the symbol of Marie Curie nurses.**

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## SUBMISSIONS FOR MAY MAGAZINE

Please send your stories, pictures or notices for the next issue by

**15th APRIL 2021**

to: **churchfamilynews@gmail.com**

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*Front cover: The Risen Christ Appearing to Mary Magdelene.*

*Picture in the public domain, artist unknown.*

## THE ASSOCIATE MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

The picture you see is a camellia sapling growing from the stump of an old bush we cut down several years ago. We thought that the stump and roots would rot down eventually to save us the trouble of digging it out, however the bush had not given up on life despite our efforts to kill it!

When I discovered this sapling it got me thinking about the events and amazing happenings which surrounded that first Easter Day. The Jewish authorities were desperate to silence Jesus once and for all, his followers were growing out of control and they didn't like what He was saying and doing, it made them feel uncomfortable and uneasy (that's not to say our original camellia bush was growing out of control – it had just grown old and the flowers didn't last long)!

However, just as this new sapling was proof that the bush had not died, we read in the Gospels that there were many occurrences, three days after Jesus was put to death, that proved that He had risen from the dead.

One of the first occurrences was *the empty tomb*. A few weeks ago I saw a church notice board which read, '*The church building may be empty but so was the tomb!*' Jesus was alive! The tomb with the large stone blocking the entrance could not contain Him. This year has seen almost every church building closed for worship for the majority of the time. However, although the buildings have been

empty, the *Church*, the people, has been very active within our communities. The *Church* has been more visible out where the people are than when it is in the church building. With our online services, Linda has reached out with the Gospel to many more people than we usually have in church on a Sunday morning.

When we cut down our camellia we intended to kill it - and for two years we thought that we had; but lo and behold, this past winter it has started to throw out shoots from the stump. When the Roman soldiers crucified Jesus, they intended to kill him - and they did; he was taken off the cross and buried in the sepulchre. But God had other plans, and two days later Jesus rose from death - not only alive, but with a new, glorified body, never to die again. This past year of lockdown has been for many of us a kind of death of much that had become familiar - family gatherings, going shopping, coming together in church to worship, gathering in homes to read the Bible and pray together, visiting people in hospital or who are at home alone - has had to be laid aside. And for each of us there are times in our life when the old order has died, and we feel it will never be the same again.

But the message of Easter is that our God is a God of resurrection and new life; and that Jesus IS alive, never to die again. This is the good news we are able to share with the world. So, as we look forward to the re-opening of our buildings this Easter Day let us continue to reach out to our communities, and in doing so introduce them to the 'Good News of Jesus Christ'.

May you know the love of our risen Saviour this Easter.

*Deborah*

**He is Risen  
He is Risen Indeed**

## Church Services

Our Church doors at all 3 Churches will re-open for public worship on Easter Day! Alleluia!

Services for the next 2 months will be as follows:

### **Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields**

4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day – 9.30am – Holy Communion

18<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30am – Holy Communion

2<sup>nd</sup> May – 9.30am – Worship for All

16<sup>th</sup> May – 9.30am – Worship for All

### **St Mary's Hordley**

4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day – 9.15am – Holy Communion

11<sup>th</sup> April – **No service**

25<sup>th</sup> April – 9.15am – Holy Communion

9<sup>th</sup> May – 9.15am – Worship for All with Annual Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> May – Pentecost – 9.15am – Holy Communion

### **All Saints' Baschurch**

4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day – 11am – Holy Communion

11<sup>th</sup> April – 11am – Holy Communion

18<sup>th</sup> April – 11am – Worship For All

25<sup>th</sup> April – 11am – Holy Communion

2<sup>nd</sup> May – 11am – Holy Communion

9<sup>th</sup> May – 11am – Holy Communion

16<sup>th</sup> May – 11am – Worship For All with Annual Meeting

23<sup>rd</sup> May – Pentecost – 11am – Holy Communion

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May is **Ascension Day** – there will be a service but time and venue to be decided.

The only change to services will be if there is another lockdown, which we very much hope will not happen. Please continue to keep an eye on the website and Facebook pages.

## **Bible Readings for April**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day**

Acts 10: 34-43 & John 20: 1-18

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April – The Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4: 32-35 & John 20: 19-end

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April – The Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3: 12-19 & Luke 24: 36b – 48

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April – The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4: 5-12 & John 10: 11-18

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May – The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8: 26-end & John 15: 1-8

## **Annual Church Meetings (APCMs)**

The Annual church meetings for each church will be held on the following dates:

**St Mary's Hordley – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 9.15am**

**All Saints' Baschurch – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 11am**

Both will form part of the Worship for All Services on those days.

Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields – Date still to be decided but likely to be in either the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> May or 24<sup>th</sup> May and will be a weekday evening.



# As the days lengthen—Spirituality for Springtime

I am grateful to Jeremy Sylvester, vicar of Darlaston, for reminding me that the word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word Lencton which was the word for ‘spring’ and literally meant ‘lengthen’. Our lives and that of our crops are governed by the seasons of the sun and as we pass the midwinter solstice around Christmas, the days grow longer until the Spring Equinox, this year March 20th. This is often seen as the first day of Spring which therefore ends with the Summer solstice around June 21<sup>st</sup>. Personally it makes more sense to follow what is often called a Celt-



ic pattern that sees the shortest and longest days as marking the middle of Winter and the middle of Summer and thus the equinoxes marking the middle of Spring and Autumn. So, for me Spring begins at Candlemas with the snowdrops and first buds and ends on May Day. But whenever you

count each season’s beginning, each has a spiritual character that sets a rhythm to the year that in many ways matches the rhythm of the seasons of our lives.

Spring is the time of new birth and exuberant youth. It emerges from the darkness of winter as a seed aroused from sleep, at first slowly amid the darker days and the cold of winter but like the snowdrops it rears its new life from out of the apparently lifeless sleeping earth. From these small beginnings the days lengthen until at the Equinox we pass from the dark half of the year to the light half and day becomes once again longer than night. The sun rises higher in the sky and its warmth draws closer and new shoots become full blossoms and trees come into leaf. The promise of new life becomes a fullness promising summer and autumn fruitfulness.



*An icon of the Annunciation*



Easter is often near to the Equinox, indeed in the early church there was a belief that the first Easter fell on March the 25th which was in the old Roman calendar also the date of the Equinox. It still is the date of the Annunciation when Gabriel came to Mary with the promise of Jesus' new life to come. These festivals remind us as they come in the spring-time that God is the one who brings new life in the times when our lives have entered Winter. For many this year the Covid 19 pandemic will feel like a long winter and this spring is a time of waiting for life to return as the days lengthen towards mid-summer on June 21<sup>st</sup>. If that winter is one many of us share, there will also be many individual winters, times of lost hope, grief, illness and many other ways that our lives can feel trapped, on hold or deeply dark that we long to emerge from. For those who feel they are in winter the new shoots of spring remind us of God's gift of new life waiting in the tomb, in the earth to rise up. For all of it is time to reflect and ask God what new life God wants to bring in us, and how from small beginnings like seeds sown great things come.

*Revd Steve Hollinghurst is the diocese's Evangelism Enabler with an environmental focus.*

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## **Ellesmere Workhouse.**

I recently discovered the remains of Ellesmere's workhouse, which was established in 1791 to serve the parishes of Ellesmere, Baschurch, Hordley and Myddle. A stone memorial cross is hidden in a small, fenced off and overgrown corner of a field close to the north-west end of The Mere. It is easy to miss, even when you know it is there. The photographs on page 13 show the inscriptions on two sides of the base; the one on the third side is too closely guarded by a thick growth of rhododendron to permit being even seen.

Using the internet search term "Ellesmere Workhouse" anyone interested can find quite a lot of information, a sample of which is given here. The census 1861 lists some of the residents and their reasons for being there. For two the given reason is "an idiot"; for others it is "insanity"; and then there are those labelled as "weak mind and having a child". You only have to read the book or see the film of Oliver Twist to appreciate the callous mind set of those administering the workhouse system. This workhouse, along with most others, was closed in 1930.

# On the best way to run a church council meeting

*The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*



The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your church council yesterday. I began to suspect that my theme of why Eusebius's dislike of Sabellianism led to his condemnation at the Council of Antioch in 324 was a little misjudged, when the only question I was asked after my lecture was if Eusebius was on Facebook.

I never realised how much technology is needed these days just to discuss church matters. It seemed that everyone had brought their laptop, so they could refer to all the diocesan briefing documents and reports that you mentioned. I've been in the diocese 40 years and have never heard of most of those papers. But then I find it too easy to delete the diocesan mailings, unread, with a click of my mouse.

Our church meetings are far more traditional. Since the church floor seems to have been carved out of permafrost, our meetings circulate round members' houses. This introduces a nice element of competition, as each host tries to outdo the previous one in the baking of cakes. Meetings at Colonel Drinkwater's – a more inappropriate name one cannot imagine – are the shortest, since we are always promised wine once the meeting is over. It is remarkable how unanimity is achieved on every subject within minutes, and nothing appears under "any other business".

Mrs Eddington never troubles us with minutes, largely because she can rarely read the notes she takes. She just shares with us whatever she *can* decipher at our next meeting. Last month, she accidentally brought her shopping list instead, and so read that out. There followed a lively discussion on whether carrots from our local shop were better than those at the supermarket. When it was found out she intended to use

them in a venison casserole, endless recipes were keenly debated.

We always leave our church meetings well fed, up to date with village gossip, and totally untroubled by any church council business. And the lack of any minutes ensures that I can then make all the decisions myself, between meetings. I think you will find our system has much to be commended.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace.*

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### **Baschurch News**

We are looking for additional volunteers to help in the churchyard. We meet on the first Saturday on the month 10:00 till 12:00 commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Please either turn up on the day or contact Martyn on 01939 290777.

Martyn Lake

*See Martyn's photographs of the churchyard on page 31.*

#### **All Saints' lottery winners.**

Feb 2021	No 86	Mrs F Davies
	No 117	Mr E McIver
March 2021	No 32	Mrs J Sadler
	No 38	Mrs B Jones

## WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

In March, as I write this, we have already seen more signs of spring – snowdrops, primroses, aconites, crocus, scilla and daffodils in flower in gardens. We have seen celandine in flower on our walks. There are buds forming on many trees and bushes. We had not noticed the great variety of size and colour of catkins before. Grey Poplars have big pinkish red catkins. Hazel has male and female parts. Catkins are yellow. You have to look really closely to spot the female flowers – bright red spikes pushing out of buds along the branches. Willow catkins are not long but round and only just appearing – I think I knew them as Pussy Willow as a young enthusiast for flowers and trees as a child. The birds are still singing loudly as the males establish their territories and look to build nests. Locally we have observed two jackdaws watching with concern as a squirrel popped into the hole they had been guarding! The rooks in the belt of trees opposite our house continue to defend and repair nests. We are intrigued by the chaffinches which visit our bird table – one male and three females! It is great to wake up to light mornings again. Schools are slowly reopening.

Recent walks around Attingham have been quite interesting. There was widespread flooding at the end of January, which closed the walks in the deer park. The spectacular flooding turned the flood plain into a lake and has taken several weeks to go down. Even now (early March) the small river Teme is still quite high and fast flowing. The flooding extended into parts of the woodland but the deer park reopened the following week. It has however been extremely soggy and muddy! This has not spoiled our walks at all. The deer are nearly always visible at some part of the walk displaying some magnificent antlers. It has been fascinating to follow the changes in the trees in the woodland walk moving from autumn, through winter and now spring. The snowdrops have been a beautiful sight – carpets and carpets of flowers under the trees.

While our car was in the VW garage in Shrewsbury last month we walked to Battle church -something we have not managed to do in over 20 years. I studied Henry IV Part 1 for A-levels and I was particularly interested to see both the walk and the church. We were very lucky to be there at the same time as a family who had borrowed the church key and we were able to go inside the church too. It is beautifully kept even

though it is not currently in regular use. The information boards make it a very interesting walk. It was VERY muddy.

Throughout the past twelve months we have had parcels and post delivered to our doors by Royal Mail and courier services; supermarket deliveries; prescriptions being delivered; a national health service which has of course been stretched to unprecedented limits; food and other essential shops which have remained open; dentists, surgeries and opticians which have been available for mostly emergency appointments; scientists have produced several vaccinations. A very large number of people have continued to work so that we benefit from things we may have taken for granted before. More recently the NHS vaccination programme has had a splendid start to give us protection from Covid. Our warmest thanks go to all of them.

**Anita Weeks**

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## **Ellesmere Workhouse—continued from page 9.**

Note the recently placed bunch of daffodils; somebody still cares, do they remember a former resident?



## Hordley News

More Good News! Services in St Mary's will resume, starting on Easter Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> April. It will be good to get back into the church where we can see Linda, Debbie, Steve and our friends again, even if from a distance and behind a mask.

At the time of writing and after ten weeks with no services John and Charmaine have been cleaning the church in readiness for being open on 23<sup>rd</sup> March for The National Day of Reflection organised by the Marie Curie charity to mark the anniversary of the first lockdown and to remember all those who have died during the pandemic.

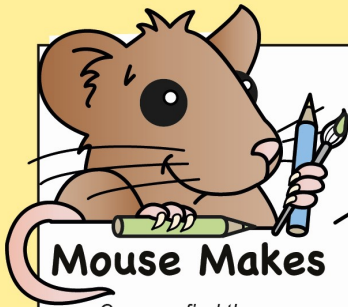
This year Team Thomson plan to repeat their successful fund-raising event of last year when they walked from Salisbury Cathedral to Winchester Cathedral over four days, raising £2,500 in the process. The aim this time is to walk 30 miles of The Cotswold Way from Chipping Campden to Cheltenham, starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Proceeds will be divided equally between St Mary's church and Marie Curie Nurses. The choice of Marie Curie is in memory of Mary's sister-in-law who sadly died at the end of December. It was her wish to remain in her own home and this was made possible in no small measure by the nursing provided over twenty-four nights by Marie Curie nurses.

If any of you should wish to support this venture you may do so either by cash or a cheque (payable to PCC of Hordley) given or sent to Andrew or Mary, or by going to <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AndrewThomson56> As he did last year, provided he has your email address, Andrew will send out a daily bulletin during the walk, including photographs.

During the two lockdowns our two churchwardens have kept a close eye on St Mary's and its frequent murine visitors (mice!). We are very fortunate in having such dedicated and conscientious custodians of our 12<sup>th</sup> century treasure and we are grateful to them.

The winner of the lottery draw in March was Elsie Sinker with the winning number 56.





# Mouse Makes

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

## SON OF GOD

Matthew 3:16-17



## KING OF KINGS

Revelation 17:14

## PROPHET

Luke 24:19



## PRIEST

1 Timothy 2:5

## ROCK

1 Corinthians 10: 4

## LORD

1 Corinthians 1:9

## AMEN

Revelation 3:14

## LIFE

John 11:25-27

## MESSIAH

John 1:41

## SHEPHERD

John 10:11

## LIGHT

John 8:12



## WORD

John 1:1-50



## BREAD

John 6:35

## CREATOR

1 John 1:3



## CHRIST

Matthew 16:16

## SAVIOUR

John 3:16-17

## HOLY ONE

Mark 1:24

## VINE

John 15:5



## DOOR

John 10:9

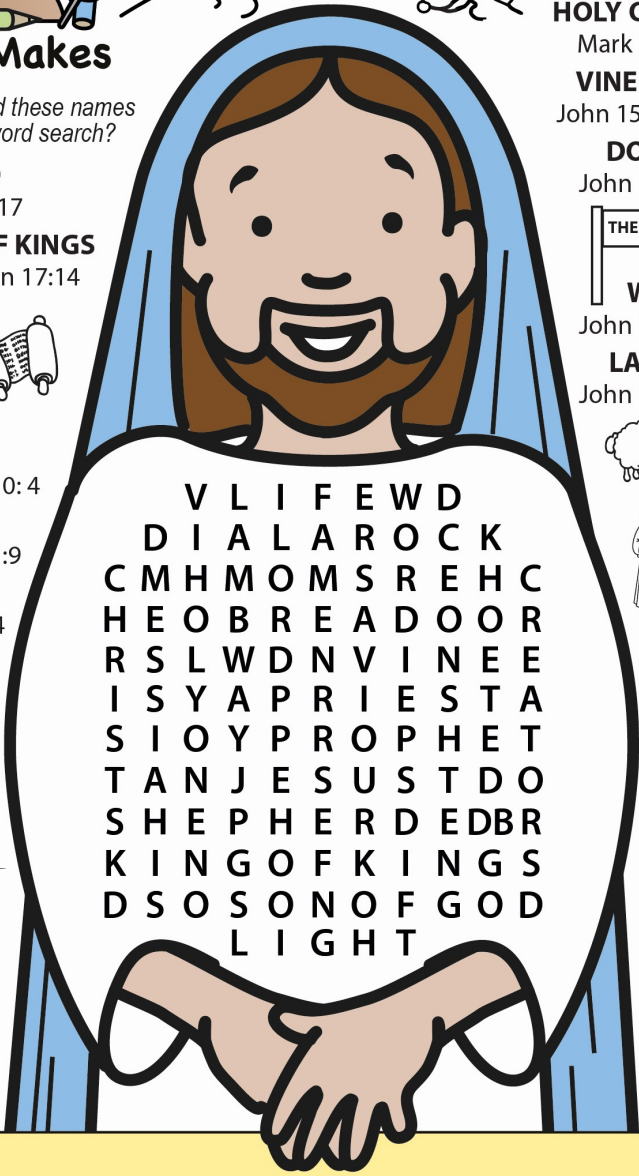
THE WAY

## WAY

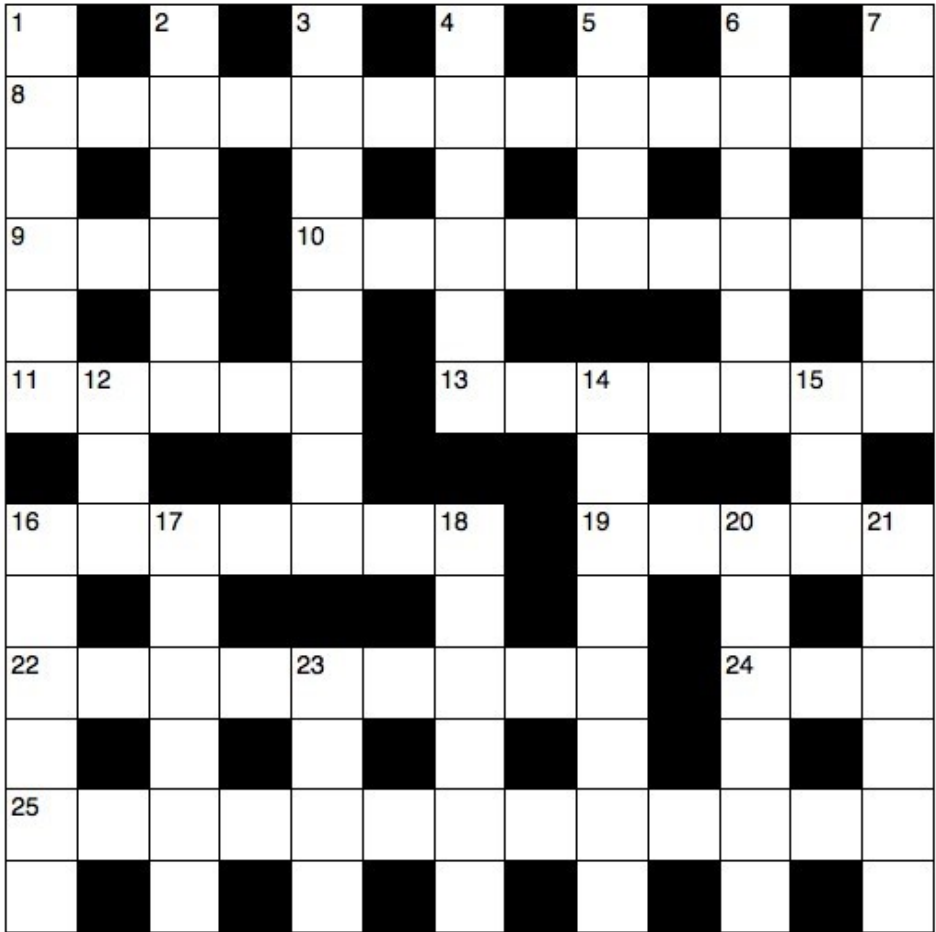
John 14:6

## LAMB

John 1:29



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



**ACROSS**

8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the —'  
(Isaiah 53:12) (13)

9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives  
(Matthew 26:30) (3)

10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)

11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)

13 Muslim holy month (7)

16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)

19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)

22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)

24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)

25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

## DOWN

1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)

2 Festival of the resurrection (6)

3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)

4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)

5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)

6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)

7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)

12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)

14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)

15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)

16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)

17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)

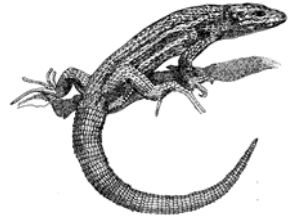
18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)

20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)

21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)

23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

## Looking for Lizards



April is one of the best times of year to search for reptiles such as lizards as they are getting active in the spring but need to bask a lot to warm up and so can be quite easy to spot. Reptiles are **poikilothermic**, meaning that their internal temperature varies, depending on the weather, as opposed to **homeothermic** animals like us, who can maintain a nearly constant internal temperature. These characteristics used to be called cold or warm blooded. In the spring reptiles need to be warmed in order to be active, but later in the year, when the weather is hotter, they do not need to come out into the open where predators might find them and may actually need to shelter to cool down.

Churchyards can be brilliant for all reptiles because they contain a mixture of warm places to bask such as stones and short grass, which are usually close to places where they can shelter such as gaps and cracks within stone walls, long and tussocky grass, uneven ground with holes and also larger gaps within the joints of monuments such as chest tombs. Churchyards are also rich in invertebrate food, in part due to the absence of chemicals such as pesticides.

When searching for lizards look several metres ahead of where you are walking, going slowly and quietly. Reptiles can pick up vibrations from sudden movement and are aware of shadows falling on them. Search on flat stones and south-facing banks of short grass, close to good hiding places. First light is the best time, when they are cold and need the warmth of the sun. Lift flat stones and pieces of wood to search for slow-worms (a lizard without legs), who often 'bask' underneath something that will transmit heat. Roofing felt is a favourite and you can put half metre squares of this out if you want to search for slowworms. Give them a few weeks to discover the felt squares then peep under them at the start and end of the day. Please let us know if you spot any of these fascinating reptiles in your churchyard.

All the best, Harriet Carty

*Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*

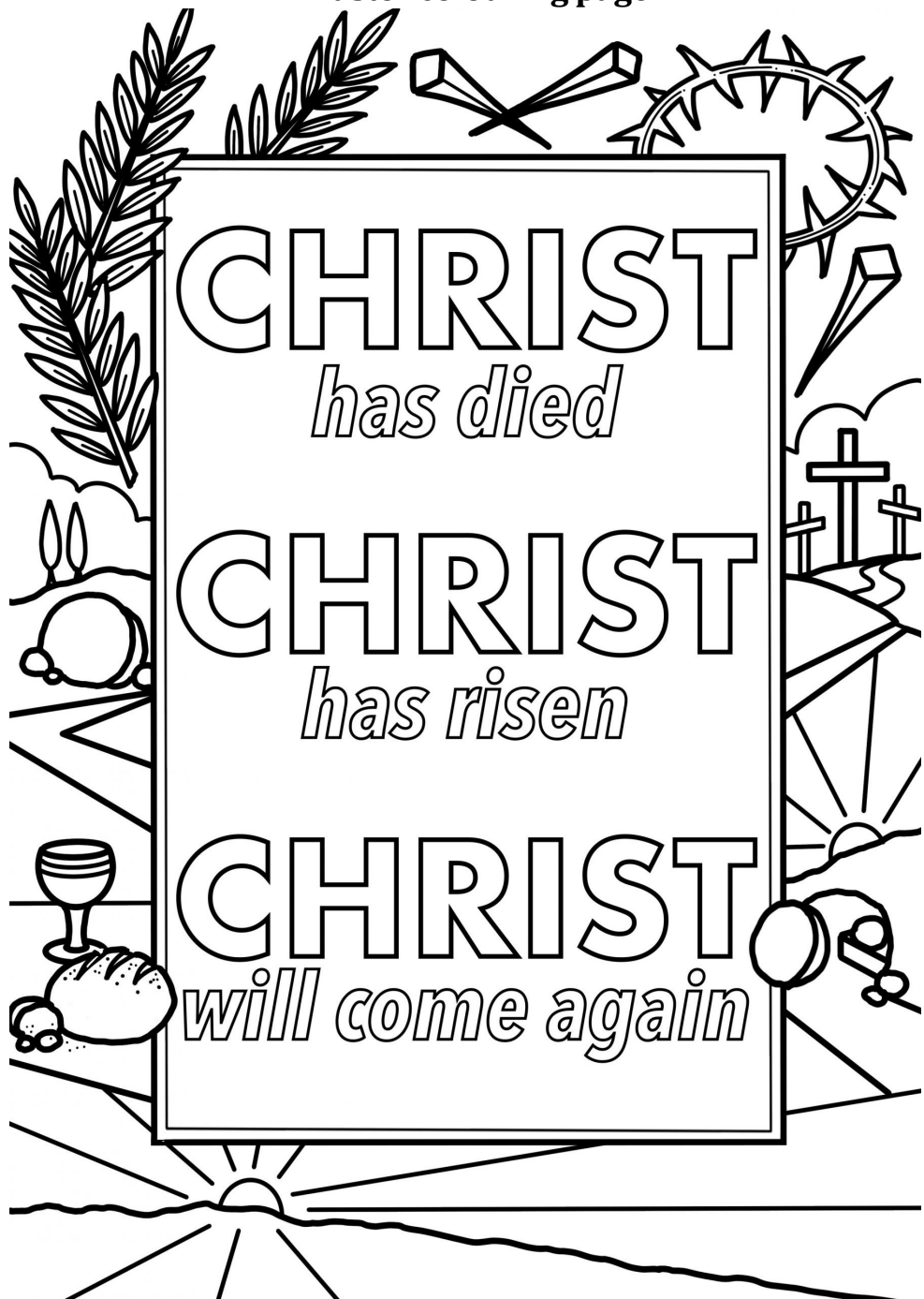
## Most Glorious Lord of Life

As we approach the great festival of Easter Day, this lovely sonnet, Amoretti LXV111 by the English poet Edmund Spenser (1552-1599) is, I think, an inspired reflection on our Lord's death on the Cross and of His glorious Resurrection. Spenser's 89 sonnets are said to be taken mainly from the daily readings and psalms in the Book of Common Prayer.

Most glorious Lord of Life, that on this day,  
Didst make Thy triumph over death and sin:  
And having harrow'd hell, didst bring away  
Captivity thence captive, us to win:  
This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,  
And grant that we for whom Thou diddest die  
Being with Thy dear blood clean washed from sin,  
May live for ever in felicity.  
And that Thy love we weighing worthily,  
May likewise love Thee for the same again:  
And for Thy sake that all like dear didst buy,  
With love may one another entertain.  
So let us love, dear love, like as we ought,  
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

**David Morgan**

An Easter colouring page.





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**ACROSS:** 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

**DOWN:** 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

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## WHO'S WHO

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**We're on the Web** - Check out our website where you'll find up-to-date information about the three parishes and much more!

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Thanks to Martyn Lake for the above pictures, and to John Weeks for those below.



Scarlet Elf Cap



The flood plain at Attingham, looking across to the Mile Walk. 31



## The Goldfinch

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Dancing in our flower bed  
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Their joyful song restoring calm.

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We've always loved their plumage bold;  
As they gathered round to feed  
Seeking grubs, and thistle seed.

So, go ahead, and plant some thistles  
You will see, among the bristles.  
Golden birds who dance and dart  
Bringing joy to warm your heart.

*By Nigel Beeton*



*Goldfinches on the feeder in my garden.*