

# CHURCH PAMILY NEWS April 2024



#### SERVING THE PARISHES OF

**ALL SAINTS'** 

HOLY TRINITY

Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S Hordley 50p Per issue

Baschurch

### Editorial

Welcome one and all to Church Family News for April. This month, Linda Cox asks what it means for us to say 'Christ is Risen', as we do at each service during the Easter Season—it is something about loving others with the sacrificial love that Jesus exemplifies (see pages 4 and 5).

On page 17, I print some of the things Archbishop Justin said in his presidential address at the General Synod in February—his address, focusing on the present suffering of many in the world, makes sobering reading.

I am grateful to Anita Weeks for writing about Earth Day (22nd April) - which signals the way that the earth itself is suffering at our hands, and urges us all to take action (pages 13 and 14).

Is there a theme emerging? In any act of sacrificial love we turn our attention away from self-centredness to the needs of the other. Jesus said that to be his followers, we must deny ourselves and take up his cross. Is this too much to ask when the life of future generations depends on it?

I hope the following pages gives us all food for thought and prayer.

Roger Paul (Editor)

## **CONFIRMATION 2024**

The Confirmation Service this year for Ellesmere Deanery is booked for Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in All Saints' Baschurch.

We will be running confirmation classes for adults and young people from June onwards. The exact starting date, time and place, will be decided once we know who wishes to take part in these sessions.

If this is something you are thinking about then please get in touch with the Rector sooner rather than later for a conversation.

linda@allsaintsbaschurch.com

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#### SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

Please send your stories, pictures or notices for the next issue by **15th April 2024** to the CFN email address: **churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com** 

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## **RECTOR'S LETTER**

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, is our reply.

I wonder what we understand by that and what it means for us in 2024. Have you ever really stopped to think?

We hear increasingly in the news about how those who profess a Christian faith have decreased in number. Certainly, weekly attendance in churches is down. There is even talk about how relevant or not the Christian faith is in today's world. This got me thinking, as two weeks ago (at the time of writing), in our Sunday readings we were looking at the Ten Commandments, the list of rules or instructions for living that God gave to Moses as he was leading the people to freedom. As Sandra and I sat looking at them we were both shocked when we realised how many are no longer followed by society. Is it therefore any wonder that the world is in such a mess? Maybe that's why Jesus gave us a new commandment in John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Loving others isn't actually a new commandment, we find it in Leviticus 19:18 where we have a whole 'guidebook of holy living' for the Hebrews; guidance and laws given to Moses from God. What Jesus does is simplify it. What Jesus was saying was to love others as much as He loved them, and that was revolutionary, for Jesus' love was sacrificial. Jesus' love would bring unbelievers to Him and keep believers strong in a hostile world. Jesus was the living example of God's love for us His children and as such we are called to be living examples of that in the world today. A world that is hostile and very much in need of loving.

It is through the examples of Jesus' love lived out in us that others come to know Jesus for themselves. It is through us that people glimpse how relevant God is, and the difference knowing Him and knowing of His love for us, makes for us and our lives in the world today. When we follow the command to "love one another as Jesus loved us", then we will usually find we are keeping the other commandments as well. The problem is so many people find it hard to love others because of grudges, or the fact that they don't agree with them, or simply because they are different in some way. We are all different and yet all equal and all valued and loved by Jesus and by God.

Jesus didn't agree with all the people, but he gave His life for us all because we are loved unconditionally by Jesus and ultimately by God.

I find the words of the hymn *Stand Up Stand up for Jesus* in our hymnbook particularly powerful. It is the version by Jean Holloway and you can look the words up: it is number 617. It talks about the cross as being an instrument of torture inflicting pain and loss, which it was, but how the cross was overpowered by Jesus Christ.

The hymn continues on embracing many of the Ten Commandments by the way we act in our lives both as individuals and with others, all underpinned by the love Jesus commands us to have for others. The last verse tells us that Christ's love conquered death for ever and lives eternally. That's what Jesus did for us and because of that we are called to do the same. It won't be easy, and we know that, but if Jesus can do it for all of us, then we should try to do the same. There is a saying, 'Love makes the world go round.' It means life becomes better when people treat each other lovingly.

By accepting Jesus Christ loved us and died for us, he rescued us from the sin within each of us and set us free. That is indeed Good News! So let us say, 'Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!'

Linda

#### **FROM THE REGISTERS**

#### FUNERAL

**Gwendoline Margaret Elizabeth JONES** died 20th February aged 97 years. Her funeral was held on 12th March at All Saints' Church, Baschurch.

#### **Annual Church Meetings**

This year's Annual Church Meetings

will all take place together

#### on

#### Tuesday 16th April at 7.30pm

#### in

## Weston Lullingfields Village Hall

Come and find out what the churches have been doing over the last year and what the money you give is spent on. This is your chance to ask questions. Booklets will be available from Easter Day, paper or electronic copies.

All three Parochial Church Councils (PCC) have vacancies: could you fill one of the positions? As a member of the PCC you get to vote on behalf of our congregations on plans for the future. We need to hear the views of the people in the pews.

To be eligible to join the PCC you must already be on the Electoral Roll and have been for 6 months. If you are not currently on the Electoral Roll then please speak to the Rector or the Electoral Roll Officer for each church.

Hordley	Mrs Jan Paul
Weston Lullingfields	Mrs Bina Darling
Baschurch	Mr Peter Naylor

Drinks and Nibbles will be available at the meeting.

## NEWS FROM WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

#### **CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTIES**

Spring is now fully under way – the growing season. We have already seen daffodils, primroses and celandine come into flower. On the trees buds have turned into leaves. The sound of the lawnmower is once again heard in our land.

But other things are growing too – the weeds that peep up through gravel paths, the mosses which flourish between paving slabs, the brambles which stretch over walls and fences. All of these begin to demand our attention.

We are now starting again the churchyard working parties which will continue during spring, summer and into early autumn. They will take place on the morning of the first Friday in each month, from 10.00 to 12.00. We always break at around 11.00 for tea/coffee and biscuits. The pace is easy going, the company convivial and the results satisfying. Before each working party I will give some indication of the sorts of job which need doing so that people can bring along appropriate tools.

If you would like to join us, do let me know. You will be most welcome.

JOHN WEEKS 01939 261293

#### HORDLEY NEWS

Well, we've done it again! Our Hordley Riders, Striders and Drivers collected sufficient sponsorship money to ensure that, for the third year running, we came in the top five in the county. For such a small parish this is remarkable and a huge thank you is deserved by all the participants. We will be presented with another certificate in the service on July 28<sup>th</sup>. You can read more about it in the article on page 9.

The meeting has taken place where the opening of Broome Farm Garden on Sunday  $2^{nd}$  June was discussed. Please remember to save any plants and seedlings that could be offered for sale.

A new church information leaflet is being prepared so that any visitors to the church can read about some of the interesting features to be seen both inside and outside St Mary's.

The winner of the Hordley Lottery in March was **Mrs Meryl Batho with** number 6.

## **BASCHURCH NEWS**

#### ALL SAINTS SPRING CLEAN

A big thank you to all who came to help at the Spring Clean on 9th March. A special thank you to 10 year old Chloe who made a wonderful job of cleaning the choirstalls. It was a great team effort and the Church looks beautiful for Easter.

Thank you again, Pat Davies

#### ALL SAINTS "100 CLUB" WINNERS

Feb 2024	No 39 Richard Hunt	No 135 Steve Hughes
March 2024	No 92 Alison Jones	No 99 Patricia Budgen

ALL SAINTS' PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS			
Event	Dates	Venue	
RBL - Shrewsbury Brass Band and Bashurch Primary school	27th April	All Saints Church	
Open Garden Event	23rd June	All Saints Church	
Church Fete	6th July	Village Green	
Harvest Meal/Evening	28th September	ТВС	
RBL Orthopedic Male Voice Choir and Of One Accord	19th October	All Saints Church	
Quiz night	October TBC	ТВС	
Christmas Social	ТВС	ТВС	
Christmas Tree Festival	3rd & 4th December	All Saints Church	

#### RIDE AND STRIDE RESULTS FROM SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The 2023 Ride and Stride proved to be the best year ever as a fundraiser for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT), with £37,083 received through sponsorship and donations. The previous record was in 2018 when £31,252 was raised.

The organiser, David Hardham, has reported that of 298 Anglican churches in Shropshire, 248 said they would be open and welcoming visitors and 43 never said whether they would be open or closed. He estimates that 85% of churches were open, which is an excellent result. He has certainly worked very hard over the last few years to encourage churches to be open and to have riders, striders, drivers or people using other forms of gaining sponsorship.

The three churches in our benefice played their part, all being open and participating. In Baschurch, £520 was raised. Weston joined in for the first time for many years, raising £453, which earned them a certificate for being one of the five Highest New Entries. For the third year running Hordley was in the Top Five Highest Entries, having raised £1,202, a fairly remarkable result for one of the smallest parishes in the county. Weston has already received a certificate from David Hardham; Hordley will receive theirs on 28<sup>th</sup> July.

Ride and Stride is the major annual event for the SHCT, allowing grants to be provided for maintenance, repair and improvements in Shropshire churches. Baschurch and Hordley have benefitted several times from receiving grants and Weston received a grant in 2023.

Mary Thomson.



## STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

So often diocesan synods are perceived as boring, dry and bureaucratic. This should not be the case! Rather they should exist to serve the mission of the wider Church, to make strategic decisions, and to encourage the growth of mission and ministry in our diocese. So, are you passionate about these things and want to play a more active role in embedding our vision and strategy in the life of all our churches and communities? Then please read on...

#### What is Diocesan Synod?

Diocesan Synod is our primary elected, representative body and brings people together across the Church of England in Staffordshire, north Shropshire and the Black Country. It holds the diocesan vision, drives mission, sets strategy, elects and appoints a range of positions on boards and committees and shapes priorities.

It may respond to questions put to it by the General Synod and is an advisory and deliberative body. It considers the important topics facing our diverse and unique diocese and the wider Church. It is a statutory institution which serves not only our diocese but influences and helps to direct the national church on matters of church, public and government policy. It also includes some mandatory governance items such as approval of the budget and the annual accounts. The membership consists of three houses: the House of Bishops; the House of Clergy; and the House of Laity.

The current three-year term is due to end on 31 July. The next synod members will be elected in the summer of 2024 and serve a term of three years. Meetings are held in March, June and November.

#### The agenda for 2024-2027

Themes for the next three years will include embedding our diocesan vision and strategy, taking forward the Growing Faith initiative in relation to schools and families; a continuing focus on growth in numbers and depth of discipleship, including new Christians, and new worshipping communities; actively engaging with our local com-

munities, determination to continue to focus on safeguarding, diversity, racial justice and the environment.

#### What skills and qualities do representatives need?

• **Vision**: Do you have a vision for a flourishing Church and a passion to work with others to share your Christian faith and deepen the discipleship of those around you?

• **Commitment**: Are you ready to seek God's will through prayer and reflection, with a heart for growth, mission and engagement across boundaries?

• **Openness**: Are you open to trying new approaches while learning from others, embracing change and the bigger picture and to sharing inspiring feedback with your deanery, PCC and wider church family?

• **Enthusiasm**: Members of Synod are encouraged to speak and challenge confidently, enabling change whilst leading and encouraging others.

• **Good communication skills**: Do you have a listening ear? Are you receptive and open-minded and have the ability to share your passion?

Do you have — or could you develop — some of these qualities to serve the Diocese of Lichfield? If so, can I encourage everyone reading this who is on the electoral roll of your church, is over 16 years of age and an actual communicant to prayerfully consider whether this is something God is calling you to do?



I would be happy to talk to anyone considering this and answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Julie Jones is the Diocesan Secretary/ Chief Executive Officer for the Diocese of Lichfield and can be contacted at julie.jones@lichfield.anglican.org or on 01543 306291.



#### Wild Daffodils

At this time of year, the yellow trumpets of daffodils brighten up even the dullest spring day. Most of what we see are planted garden varieties, but a real treat is to find wild daffodils (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*).

Once widespread, the wild daffodil is now much rarer, having mysteriously declined during the 19th century. It now has a disjointed distribution – for instance it is found mainly in south Devon, pockets of the Black Mountains in Wales, stretches of the Gloucestershire-Herefordshire border country, the Sussex Weald, Farndale in Yorkshire, and the Lake District. Elsewhere, even in suitable habitat, it only occurs in small patches, many miles apart. For example, in churchyards.

The wild daffodil's status as a popular flower was particularly celebrated in the area around Newent, Dymock and Ledbury on the Gloucestershire-Herefordshire border which acquired the nickname of 'The Golden Triangle.' In the 1930s the Great Western Railway ran 'Daffodil Specials', from London for weekend tourists to walk amongst the 'golden tides' and to buy fresh bunches at



garden gates. Many farmers and orchard-owners used to have them as a cash-crop, harvested on a 'Pick Your Own' basis. At the end of April, the meadows went back to their function of growing hay or fruit.

A 1930's guide to a village in the Golden Triangle wrote: *They are* picked by the local women and children and were sold to an agent, who sends them to South Wales, where they find a ready sale for Mothering Sunday and also for Palm Sunday, for many places the old (Welsh) custom of 'flowering the graves' on that day still persists. The daffodils are also sent to northern industrial towns. Information from Flora Britannica by Richard Mabey

How to spot a wild daffodil - The wild daffodil is smaller than horticultural varieties, with paler petals and a deeper yellow trumpetlike tube. The leaves are grey/green, flattened and around 15mm wide. It is relatively short (30-35cm) and forms clumps which carpet the ground. A top tip is that unless

there are several hundreds of them looking particularly small and washed out, they probably aren't wild!

Please help us to map the churchyards containing wild daffodils by taking a photo on the iNaturalist app and posting it on our Beautiful Burial Grounds project within iNaturalist.

All the best, Harriet

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,

## EARTH DAY - MONDAY 22 APR 2024

This month will be Earth Day. The following is a quotation from the Earth Day website.

"EARTHDAY.ORG is unwavering in our commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. Our theme, **Planet vs Plastics**, calls to advocate for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics, rapidly phase out all single use plastics, urgently push for a strong UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution, and demand an end to fast fashion."

The first Earth Day was on April 22 1970. It mobilized Americans from all walks of life to begin the modern environmental movement.



Since then, Earth Day has evolved into one of the largest civic events on Earth, activating people across 192 countries to safeguard our planet and fight for a brighter future.

But this annual event is much more than a celebration – it's an important day to raise awareness about looking after the environment.

For 2024, participants are encouraged to explore topics related to recycling, reuse, environmental awareness and composting. That's why each year on April 22, more than a billion people celebrate Earth Day to protect the planet from the dangers of pollution and deforestation. By taking part in activities like picking up litter and planting trees, we're making our world a happier, healthier place to live.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will host the 2024 World Environment Day global celebrations on 12 September, with the theme focusing on land restoration, desertification and drought resilience – areas where much work needs to be done.

Many of the charities working in Africa are finding innovative ways to help producers to manage drought, and cultivate crops, share ideas and support their children in education for a better future both for themselves and for their local community.

We benefit from being able to have a lot of our recycling collected on bin days and we can take many other items to be recycled at our local household recycling centre. This is not true in other countries, nor even in other areas of the UK. I am going to make more effort to reduce my footprint through April and beyond, not just on April 22.

Anita Weeks



Baschurch, Bomere Heath and District Branch (1924 – 2024) The Royal British Legion invite you to join us for our celebration

# **Centenary Concert**







## SHREWSBURY BRASS BAND BASCHURCH CE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHOIR

## Saturday 27 April 2024 at 7pm All Saints' Church, Baschurch

Tickets are £10 adult; £5 under 16. Refreshments included. Raffle on the night. Tickets either on the door or available in advance from:

> Baschurch CE Primary School Office RBL: Jerry Revans 01939 260835 Church: Martyn Lake 01939 290777

## **BOOK REVIEWS**



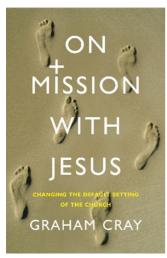
#### A Christening Gift Prayer and Memory Book

#### Various authors, SPCK £8.99

This book could be a good gift for a grandparent, godparent, or family member, to give to a young child.

It is an illustrated gift book to commemorate a young child's christening. It includes a collection of prayers, Bible verses, and pages for recording details, memories, and messages of the special occasion.

Parents can add their own memories, with spaces for photos and special blessings from the guests, as well as recording key milestones in their child's early years.



# On Mission with Jesus - changing the default setting of the church

#### By Graham Cray, Canterbury Press. £18.99

January 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the start of the Fresh Expressions movement, which has since spread internationally and denominationally from its origins in the Church of England. Graham Cray was its first national Leader.

In the last 20 years, countless new forms of church have emerged through Fresh Expres-

sions, the Church Army, New Wine, and various pioneer networks. This book offers a theological understanding of the missional nature of the church, which will inform local practice and assist ministerial and pioneer training.

## WHAT THE ARCHBISHOP HAS SAID

In his Presidential Address at the February sessions of the General Synod, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, spoke of the suffering across the world. Here are some short extracts from his address:

"In September 2023, Antonio Guterres, Secretary General the United Nations declared the world is coming off its hinges. How should we the followers of Jesus Christ respond?

"Church of England Bishops at consecration commit to all sorts of things, some probable, some improbable, but they don't commit to suffer. By contrast, the Chaldean Church *(of north Iraq)* tells its Bishops that they will be the first to suffer...

"In Europe, the Ukrainian Russian war is frozen. And the suffering of the people in Ukraine has increased, not least because it has been replaced as the principal concern by the havoc and horror of the Levant and all that is going on in that area.

"But there is much more. Sudan... Myanmar... northeast India... the South Pacific... the Philippines... Korea... Pakistan... Nigeria... Mozambique ...

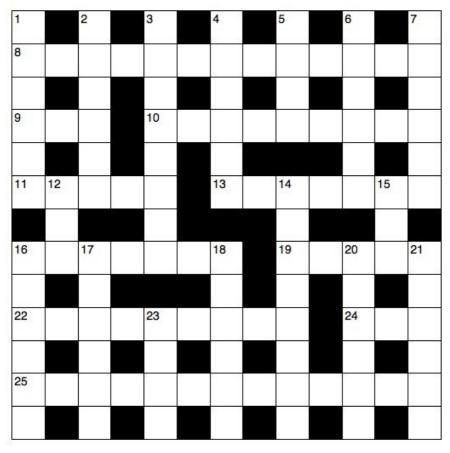
"Pope Francis a few months ago described what is already happening as a third world war. Right or wrong, he is describing a state of global uncertainty and great change.

"Like all such periods, minorities are blamed for uncertainties, conspiracies are assumed where there is uncontrollability and leaders are criticised where the future is hard to see.

"Suffering and enemies are faced best in communities that trust across divides, rather than in self protecting, and reinforcing huddles, because the very act of trusting across the divides builds our resilience and our ability to see the best in others...

"God is our refuge. God is our refuge, not our politics and our organisations. They are realities of any structured life, of any institution, they're not evils, but God is our refuge, they never will be".

#### CROSSWORD





#### 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)

#### Answers on page 20

#### **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES 2024**

#### Sunday 31st March

#### At All Saints Baschurch

6.15am Dawn Service with Holy Communion followed by breakfast
8am BCP Holy Communion
11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

#### At St Mary's Hordley

9.15am CW Holy Communion

#### At Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

9.30am CW Holy Communion

Readings: Acts 10:34-43 & Mark 16:1-8

#### Come and Celebrate with us!

Remember the clocks change! All times are British Summer Time.

#### **CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

**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.

#### The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

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## **SERVICES IN APRIL 2024**

#### Sunday 7th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter

8am BCP Prayer Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
9.30am Easter Songs of Praise – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields
11am Common Worship Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch Readings: Acts 4:32-35 and John 20:19-end

#### Sunday 14th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter

9.15am Easter Songs of Praise – St Mary's Hordley
11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
6.30pm Contemporary Service – All Saints' Baschurch
Readings: Acts 3:12-19 and Luke 24:36b-48

#### Sunday 21st April - 4th Sunday of Easter

8am BCP Holy Communion - All Saints' Baschurch
9.30am CW Holy Communion - Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields
11am Easter Songs of Praise – All Saints' Baschurch
Readings: Acts 4:5-12 and John 10:11-18

#### Sunday 28th April – 5th Sunday of Easter

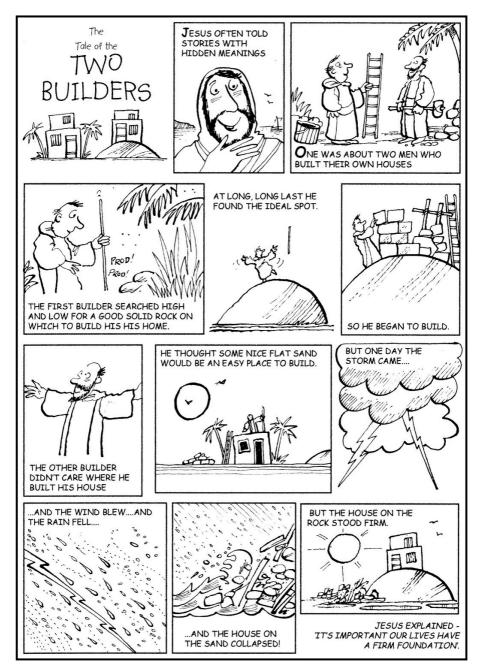
9.15am CW Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley
11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch
Readings: Acts 8:26-end and John 15:1-8

The Thursday morning service of Holy Communion on 25<sup>th</sup> April will be Morning Worship and <u>not</u> Holy Communion.

## NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS FOR MORNING PRAYER IN APRIL

DATE	READING	DAT E	READING
1	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	16	Luke 1:26-38
2	1 Corinthians 15:12-19	17	Luke 1:39-56
3	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	18	Luke 1:57-end
4	1 Corinthians 15:29-34	19	Luke 2:1-20
5	1 Corinthians 15:35-50	20	Luke 2:21-40
6	1 Corinthians 15:51-end	21	Luke 24:25-32
7	Romans 4:13-25	22	Luke 2:41-end
8	Romans 5:12-end	23	Ephesians 6:10-20
9	Colossians 1:15-end	24	Luke 3:15-22
10	Colossians 2:1-15	25	Acts 12:25-13:13
11	Colossians 2:16-3:11	26	Luke 4:14-30
12	Colossians 3:12-4:1	27	Luke 4:31-37
13	Colossians 4:2-end	28	Hebrews 11:32-12:2
14	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	29	Luke 4:38-end
15	Luke 1:1-25	30	Luke 5:1-11

## **PICTURE PARABLE**



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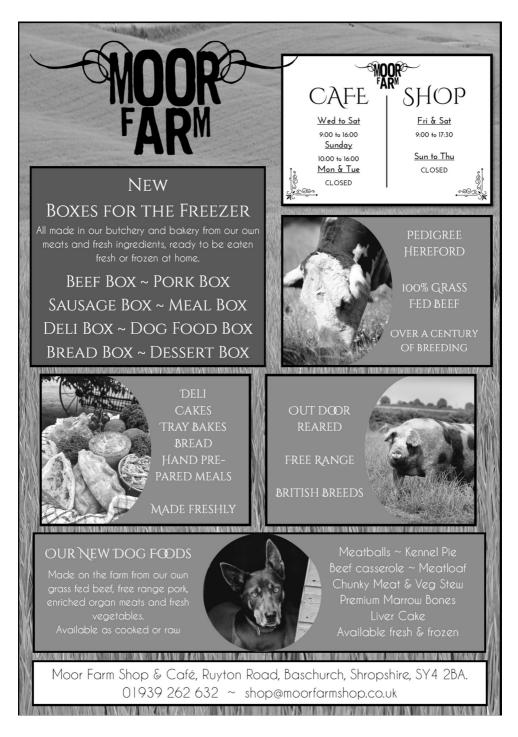
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## WHO'S WHO

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