

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

April 2023



THE KING OF LOVE
MY SHEPHERD IS

SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S 50p
Hordley
Per issue

SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Maundy Thursday 6th April

All Saints Baschurch

7.30pm Commemoration of the
Last Supper

Good Friday 7th April

St Mary's Hordley

9.15am A Service at the Cross

Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

11am A Service at the Cross

Baschurch Village Green
(opposite the Spar)

11am Good Friday Witness

All Saints' Baschurch

1pm Stations of the Cross

2pm A Service at the Cross

Easter Sunday 9th April

All Saints Baschurch

6am Dawn Service

8am Holy Communion

11am Easter Communion

St Mary's Hordley

9.15am Easter Communion

Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

9.30am Easter Communion

Central panel of stained glass window
in All Saints Baschurch

Editorial

“April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with the spring rain.”

So wrote T.S. Eliot at the beginning of his poem *The Waste Land*. After a March which saw snow and ice, rain and wind, and finally a slight warming of the soil and air towards the end of the month, April does feel like a time of breeding, stirring and mixing.

The Church’s observance of Holy Week certainly has the effect of mixing up the emotions and of stirring us with the challenges of faith, as the disciples experienced, as they accompanied Jesus as far they could in his journey to the cross.

Then there is our celebration of Easter, so associated with breeding - new life popping up everywhere, germination, birth and blossom - all images of the new life of resurrection.

In this Easter edition, Steve Alston (page 5) likens Good Friday and Easter to the sudden snowfall we had in March, which makes us see things in a different light. On page 8 our diocesan communications officer reflects on the good and bad of social media, and how the Church can lead the way in using it responsibly, in his article about a digital charter for the churches.

Harriet Carty (page 10) reminds us to look out for the house martins, swifts and swallows as they return from their wintering in the South; and the word from Weston Lullingfields (page 12) rejoices in the beauty of witch hazel in its late winter bloom.

Things are stirring also in the life of our local communities - there are many future events coming up, details of which are given in the following pages. One of the biggest events locally and nationally will of course be the King’s Coronation on 6th May. See the details of events on pages 15 and 23. And read the piece on page 22 about the consecration of the chrism oil to be used to anoint the King. The ceremony was noteworthy, not least because it demonstrated the ecumenical warming between the Orthodox churches of the east and the Anglican Church, a warming which is very dear to King Charles III.

May I wish you all, dear readers, a joyful and blessed Easter - and happy reading!

Roger Paul (Editor)

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SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th April 2023

to the new email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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CLERGY LETTER

Snowfall and Easter Day

As I sit here writing the world outside looks totally different to the one I expected to see a week ago. The events of the last two days have changed my routine and that of many other people - I am at home instead of praying in Weston Lullingfields Church, it's a Friday in term time yet the schools are closed and all the signs of spring are covered in blanket of white. A sudden March snow fall has a big impact and I can see children and their parents heading for the local hill with toboggans as the snow keeps falling. It all feels a bit magical and unexpected.

Snow gets several mentions in the bible, the prophet Isaiah made this comment "*Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."* (Isaiah 1.18). God's people had messed up. The land was meant to be a place of goodness, kindness and justice, but people just looked out for themselves and now many individuals were suffering especially the poorest and weakest. God is telling the people that things can be different, that they and the community could be transformed.

However, a scan through the Bible and human history shows that the human race keeps repeating the selfish patterns that cause all the damage. We can't seem to get out of the habit of making bad choices as both individuals and as communities. Most of us know the world is not as it should be. In 24 years of teaching secondary school children, I never had to explain the importance of justice and fairness and that the world needed changing – young people just know it. So, if we can't make the change ourselves then we obviously need help, we need something from outside to suddenly change everything. We need God's help.

Easter Day is a bit like that sudden March snow fall. It meant that for those first century followers of Jesus everything looked different. They had trusted Jesus and loved all his teaching about God's love and justice, but then it ended with apparent disaster as he died on a

cross. The negative pattern had repeated again – the world was not as it should be. Then on Easter Day suddenly Jesus was alive again – he had reversed death – hope was suddenly reborn. Nothing would ever look the same to those men and women. In fact they are described as turning *'the world upside down'* (Acts 17.6) as they shared the message of Jesus' resurrection. Even atheist historian Yuval Noah Harari describes the spread and eventual domination of Christianity through the Roman Empire as *'...one of history's strangest twists...'*, it just doesn't make sense that a tiny *'Jewish sect'* should transform the world with this story of the resurrected Jesus. (Y. N. Harari, *Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind* p. 243)

Snow eventually melts, but Jesus' resurrection can never be undone and it means humanity can truly be changed as we allow his power to work in us. The resurrection is still having an impact on millions of people 2000 years later, including academic historians like Prof Craig Keener and Prof Tom Wright. Perhaps you are thinking *'resurrection from the dead, it can't be true'*, but if it is it certainly changes everything and maybe western materialistic assumptions about the world are wrong. Prof. Keener, when commenting on the historical evidence and his experience of the resurrected Jesus, said this, *"When I was an atheist, had this evidence been presented to me, I certainly would have had to grapple seriously with the figure of Jesus in the Gospels and his demands on me. Instead, the Lord converted me from atheism by a direct and utterly unmerited encounter with his Spirit in the Gospel."*

Perhaps we are stuck in repeating patterns and can't imagine things ever being different. Perhaps we feel little hope for humanity's future. Well, if Easter means anything it means that things can be different and that there is a power found in Jesus to bring real change. Jesus's words *'I am the resurrection and the life'* (John 11.25) are not empty but are words of real hope and real transformation.

Rev. Dr. Steve Alston

(Curate – Baschurch, Weston Lullingfields and Hordley)

BENEFICE SOCIAL EVENTS

Friday 31st March - Murder Mystery Evening

7pm All Saints Church Tickets £8

Filled Spuds and Puds Contact: Jan Knight

Thursday 20th April - Choir Concert *with Of One Accord*

7.30pm All Saints Church Tickets £10

Contact: Fenella Davies

Saturday 6th May - Coronation Celebration *with a Live Band*

7.00pm Weston Village hall £12

Sunday 7th May - Coronation Cream Tea 2 – 4pm All Saints Church

Scones Jam and Cream - Free Entry - Contact: Theresa

Saturday 8th July - Fete Various Activities *on Village Green*

Free Entry - Contact: Martyn and Mary

During the Summer Holidays Family Treasure Hunt

around Baschurch and surrounding area - Contact: Peter

October - Benefice Harvest Meal at Weston Village Hall

Contact: Dawn Lake

October - Quiz Night at Baschurch Village Hall

Contact: Andy

Saturday 9th December Christmas Social

7.00pm The Paddocks, Old Woods - Contact: Martyn and Dawn Lake

FROM THE DIOCESE

SAY WHAT? - THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIGITAL CHARTER



Simon Jones is Lichfield Diocese's Creative Media Producer, with duties managing our website, social media and video production.

One of the blessings of the Covid pandemic was that it inspired or forced a lot of people, churches, employers and others to take our online potential more seriously. Zoom and Teams software was rolled out to us staff in Lichfield Diocese in a matter of days at the start of the first lockdown, and we've appreciated the flexibility it offers as well as some of the downsides. Many

churches too found new ways to keep in touch, whether with services streamed on YouTube or more interactively via WhatsApp groups, Facebook pages, Twitter, Instagram and the rest. Most will have seen occasions where harmony vanishes and tempers flare as the feeling of anonymity leads to the irrepressible urge to win an argument and put the internet right. We might even have added fuel to the fire. Or we might have taken umbrage, blocking the rogue or even taking ourselves offline.

Humans have been ever thus. We see it this month as we read the Gospel records of Good Friday. Luke writes that "The people stood watching... the rulers sneered... the soldiers mocked... the criminal hurled insults" (Luke chapter 23). Pilate was perhaps the shrewdest of the characters – as a Roman governor tired of the squabbling between the Jewish leaders and upstart preacher from Galilee, he had a sign nailed above one of the crucified, saying 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews'. There's a good chance he believed it to be true; but having the sign added was perhaps also designed to troll the Jewish leaders after reluctantly giving them what they wanted to keep the peace. The predictable flame-war followed. An academic might describe this as post-modern irony; a teenager would add an eye-roll.

There was some ambiguity in it, and people would talk. The priests tried to 'correct' the Roman governor. There's no affirmation in the Gospels that any of those people would join Jesus in heaven. Just the second criminal crucified next to Jesus, who spoke plainly, admitted his own failings, expressing himself truthfully and kindly.

I've long held, tongue-in-cheek, to my belief in Bananarama Theology – sadly, most people reading this will be old enough to remember their hit, 'It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it – that's what gets results'. The Church of England might agree, in other words. In 2019 it launched its Digital Charter and social media guidelines with the hope of tackling offensive behaviour and encouraging a positive atmosphere for online conversations. It asks us to treat online conversations the same way we should face-to-face – with truth, kindness, welcome, as good witnesses, togetherness and alert to safeguarding issues. It's well worth taking a moment to read at www.churchofengland.org/charter before joining your local community, parish and our diocese online.

Simon Jones

From the Registers

Funerals

4th March 2023 - **Callum Powell** aged 24 years
at Emstrey Crematorium and Montgomery Waters Meadow

20th March 2023 - **Glyn Davies** of Eyton Crossing aged 100 years
at Emstrey Crematorium

Burial of Ashes

9th March 2023 - **David Hockenhull**
at Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

'Rest eternal grant unto them, Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace.'



A life in the air

April is a month to marvel at the birds returning to our shores, a true herald of spring. During the month you may witness first Martins, then Swallows and finally Swifts appearing, with the Swifts last to arrive in late April. These Swifts are at the

end of a nonstop journey of over 6,000 miles from Africa; they will have been on the wing since they left the U.K. last August as they eat, drink and sleep on the wing, soaring up to 3km high and reaching speeds of 70mph.

Swifts look rather like swallows and martins but are more closely related to hummingbirds. They feed on insects and spiders, often caught high up in the sky. Spiders are known to 'balloon' to great heights, they spin a few strands of gossamer web which catches the wind and can take them long distances. Spiders have been found 5km up in the sky and in also in mid-ocean!

Swifts pair for life and return to the same nest site year after year. They tend to nest in colonies – within a hole in a cliff, wall or roof. Tall buildings with more than one story, such as churches and towers, make good nesting sites. Under church eaves is a particular favourite. It can be difficult to know exactly where swifts are nesting as the parents tend to eat the droppings of their young and so there is little or no mess beneath a swift nest and the nest itself is completely out of sight. In addition, they don't return to feed their young often, so you will not see swifts repeatedly visiting their nests with food, unlike swallows and martins. Look for swifts nipping into holes or swooping in under the



eaves, particularly in the evening when they do return to their nests.

Sadly this fantastic bird is in trouble – 58% of our swifts vanished between 1996 and 2018 and lack of nesting sites is contributing to their decline. Many established swift colonies are being lost through building demolition, renovation, improvements in energy efficiency and roof repair. It is possible to do all of these important building works without adversely affecting swifts however. Many communities are helping swifts by fitting nest boxes or swift bricks into and onto buildings with good success. Church towers are ideal places for nesting boxes. Place swift boxes snugly behind the tower louvres, cutting a small hole in any bird netting which gives access into the box, but not into the whole tower. Amazingly the swifts don't seem to mind the



bells! Video footage shows birds jump slightly at the first ring and then settle back down.

Please have a look for swifts in late April and if you see them whizzing around the church and churchyard then why not return a few weeks later and see if you can see where they are nesting. Please let us know what you find, email wildlife@cfga.org.uk.

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

ALL SAINTS "100 CLUB" WINNERS

| | |
|------------|---------------------|
| Feb 2023 | No 22 Naomi Davies |
| | No 37 Richard Gough |
| March 2023 | No 59 Sue Skinner |
| | No 75 David Morgan |

HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

WITCH HAZEL (*Hamamelis*)

After a fortnight away it was a delight to walk the lanes in Weston and see how many spring flowers are showing signs of flowering – primrose, violet, celandine and blackthorn blossom, to say nothing of spring garden bulbs.



As you walk past Claypit Hall at this time of year (early March) you can see a shrub in glorious flower by the farm gate – it is a Witch-Hazel. There are three species in North America and one each in China and Japan. It is a popular garden shrub available from garden centres.

Witch-Hazel is a deciduous shrub and can be found in flower in March with bright yellow flowers. The genus name *Hamamelis* means “together with fruit” referring to the fact that the flowers appear at the same time as the maturing fruit from the previous year. Its etymology comes from the Middle English word *wiche* or *wice* meaning pliant or bendable. Although this has no connection with witches, folk etymology has connected the bush with witchcraft because of the use of its twigs for divining rods. Witch hazel may be sold as an ointment to treat skin conditions like acne, psoriasis, eczema or nappy rash.

Early Puritan settlers in New England learned about Witch-Hazel from Native Americans, who used boiled witch-hazel stems to make a piqued which they applied to sore muscles, cuts, insect bites and other inflammations.

Anita Weeks

EVENTS/SERVICES COMING UP

Friday 5th May

7.30pm A Vigil Service ahead of the Coronation of King Charles III – All Saints' Baschurch

Sunday 7th May

Services as usual in Weston Lullingfields and Baschurch but they will reflect and commemorate the Coronation

Thursday 18th May - Ascension Day

A joint service of Holy Communion will be held in the evening in the Benefice of Churches around the Cliffe – (Ruyton XI Towns, Great Ness, Little Ness)

Sunday 28th May - Pentecost

Further details will be available next month and will be on Posters around the villages, the website and Facebook pages.

HORDLEY NEWS

Mr and Mrs Edward Jones have kindly offered to host a "Bring and Share" lunch to celebrate the King's Coronation. This will be on Sunday 7th May at 12.30 pm at Sycamore House in Hordley. For further details please contact them on 01939 270243. This will be a social get-together rather than a fund raiser, although any donations to St Mary's will be welcome.

The annual church meeting, the APCM, will take place at the service on 14th May. This is an opportunity to hear the various reports concerning the running of your church.

The winner of the Hordley Lottery in March was Jack O'Hea with number 7.

Mary Thompson

Ready, Steady Stick!

back for the first time since the pandemic.

Wednesday 5th April

2-4pm

at All Saints' Baschurch

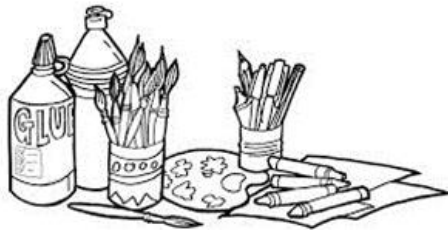
An afternoon of fun for children of Primary
School age

Crafts, Story, Songs Games
and Refreshments

Theme: Easter

£1.00 per child

Contact forms will be required and can be sent via email or collect from The Rectory prior to the day. Forms will be available on the day and require a parent's signature.



Further information from Rev Linda 01939 260305 or linda@allsaintsbaschurch.com

Of One Accord Choir

Spring Concert

Thursday 20th April 7.30pm

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
BASCHURCH**

£10 to include light refreshments
Tickets on the door

All proceeds to Broadshire Domestic Abuse Service
All Saints' Church



In Aid of Holy Trinity Church Weston Lullingfields



*All are Welcome at the
Coronation Celebration!*

Back by popular demand

THE LOCALS

Live music from the '50's to the present day!

on **Saturday 6th May 2023**
At
Weston Lullingfields Village Hall from 7pm

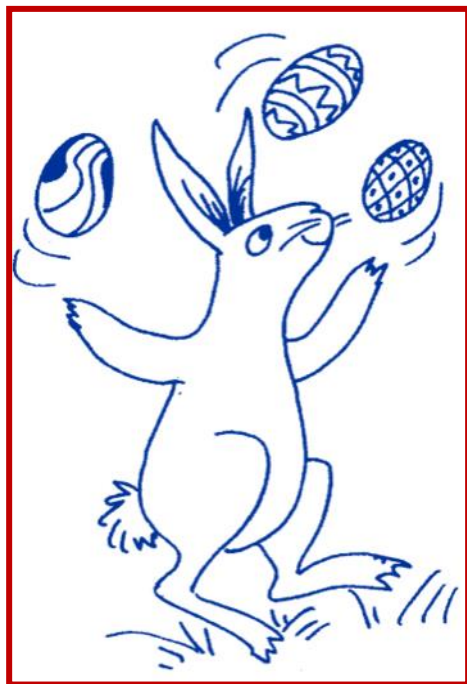
Tickets £12
Includes entry to
the prize draw

Food and Bar
Last orders at 10.30pm



Please contact Nicky Hey on 07443 939 451
with enquiries/to purchase tickets

Last date to buy tickets is 1st May
Limited numbers so **Book Now!**



JOIN US FOR CREAM TEA!

TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION!

Sunday 7th May

All Saints' Churchyard
2-4pm
FREE!



Becoming Dementia Friendly Church 2022-3

'Head to Heart'

A resource for families living through dementia

Sarah Thorpe is the Diocese of Lichfield's Dementia-Friendly Churches Enabler. Her commitment to this work has deep roots in her own family experience, which she has drawn upon to develop a new video resource, for use by churches, community groups, families and individuals.

This resource is born of personal experience – one family's lived experience of dementia. Sarah's father died in 2018 and he was diagnosed with dementia ten years earlier. He'd been a solicitor in Birmingham and spent his working life making incisive, head-level connections. The journey of the last decade of his life was a journey from head to heart. The video shares and reflects on her family's experiences and the things that helped them, including members of the family and friends and the expanding team of carers, as her father's dementia advanced. It's called '**Head to Heart: Shared family reflections on living through dementia**'.

Sarah writes: **Across our dementia-friendly churches network, we're keen to share the lived experience of dementia, so I'm glad to share this new video within our network and beyond. It's part of our commitment to stay in step with, support and learn both from people with a diagnosis of dementia and also from 'carer' partners and families and friends, as patterns change through advancing dementia.**

One of the first churches to show the video, was St Mary's Ellesmere, in our deanery. Jeremy Stretton, St Mary's Ellesmere link person for the dementia friendly churches network, reports as follows:

On Saturday 25th February 2023 around thirty of us shared an enlightening 30-minute moving film at St Mary's Church Ellesmere produced by a Shropshire family on how together they all managed the 'journey through dementia'. Our audience was from across a range of the local community. The focus of the film is to try and help us recognise the different ways that we can learn to understand and support those living with dementia and their 'carers', a term that can sometimes be misunderstood especially when the family is the main supporter.

After the film our audience shared some personal views and anecdotes of their own experiences of dementia. The feedback was very positive from the film, many saying that it had broadened their understanding and that they would be better able to help engage with people either living with dementia or those supporting them.

The video, which lasts about half an hour, may be watched online from the Diocese of Lichfield website, at <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/head-to-heart-resource-for-families-living-through-dementia.php>.

Editor

The Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

On 3rd April the church commemorates St Richard, Bishop of Chichester in the 13th Century. He is particularly remembered as the author of this familiar prayer:

**“Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ
for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults
which thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly
and follow thee more nearly,
day by day.”**

SERVICES IN APRIL 2023

Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
9.15am Palm Sunday Praise – St Mary's Hordley
9.30am Palm Sunday Praise - Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields
11am Holy Communion with Baptism - All Saints' Baschurch
6.30pm Contemporary Palm Sunday Praise - All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

Psalm 118:19-24 & Matthew 21:1-11

Holy Week

Monday 3rd April

7pm Half-hour reflective service at All Saints' Baschurch

Tuesday 4th April

7pm Half-hour reflective service at St Mary's Hordley

Wednesday 5th April

7pm Half-hour reflective service at Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

(These 3 services Mon – Wed will be reflective services around a Lenten Hymn or song)

Maundy Thursday 6th April

No midweek service at 11.30am

7.30pm Holy Communion with Foot Washing
followed by a Watch until 10pm (*optional*)

Readings: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 & John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday 7th April

9.15am A Service at the Cross – St Mary's Hordley

11am A Service at the Cross - Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

11am Good Friday Witness on the Village Green
(Baschurch - opposite the Spar)

1pm Stations of the Cross - All Saints' Baschurch

2pm A Service at the Cross - All Saints' Baschurch

Easter Day Sunday 9th April

6am Dawn Service with Easter Fire & Holy Communion,
followed by breakfast - All Saints' Baschurch

8am Book of Common Prayer Communion -
All Saints' Baschurch

9.15am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion –
St Mary's Hordley

9.30am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion -
Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

11am Easter Celebration with Holy Communion -
All Saints' Baschurch

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

Sunday 16th April (2nd Sunday of Easter)

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Easter Songs of Praise and Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

11am Worship for All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 22-32 & John 20:19-end

Sunday 23rd April (3rd Sunday of Easter)

9.15am Easter Songs of Praise – St Mary's Hordley (No Communion)

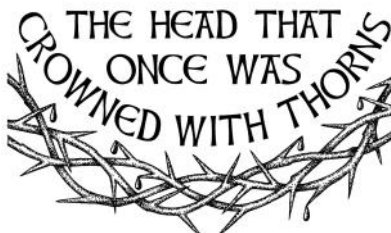
11am CW Holy Communion with Baptism – All Saints' Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 & Luke 24:13-35

Sunday 30th April (4th Sunday of Easter)

10.30am United Benefice Service of Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields

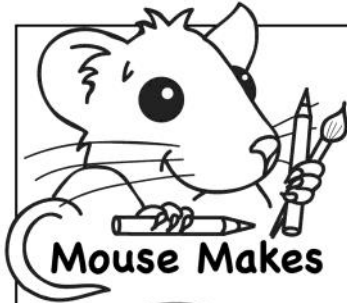


THOMAS KELLY

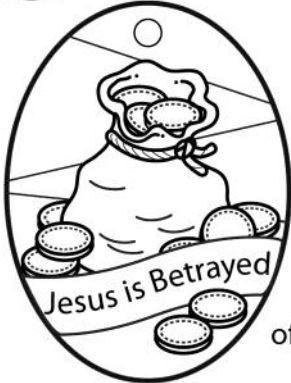
**NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS FOR
MORNING PRAYER IN APRIL**

| DATE | READING | DATE | READING |
|-------------|---|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | John 12:36 <i>b</i> -end | 16 | 1 Corinthians 5:6 <i>b</i> -8 |
| 2 | Luke 16:19-end | 17 | John 20:1-10 |
| 3 | Luke 22:1-23 | 18 | John 20:11-18 |
| 4 | Luke 22:39-53 | 19 | John 20:19-end |
| 5 | Luke 22:54-end | 20 | John 21:1-14 |
| 6 | Luke 23:1-25 | 21 | John 21:15-19 |
| 7 | John 18:1-end of 19 or Hebrews 10:1-10 | 22 | John 21:20-end |
| 8 | John 2:18-22 | 23 | 1 Peter 5:1-11 |
| 9 | Revelation 15:2-4 | 24 | Ephesians 6:10-20 |
| 10 | Mark 16:1-8 | 25 | Acts 12:25-13:13 |
| 11 | Luke 24:1-12 | 26 | Ephesians 2:1-10 |
| 12 | Matthew 28:16-end | 27 | Ephesians 2:11-end |
| 13 | Luke 7:11-17 | 28 | Ephesians 3:1-13 |
| 14 | Luke 8:41-end | 29 | Ephesians 3:14-end |
| 15 | John 11:17-44 | 30 | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 |

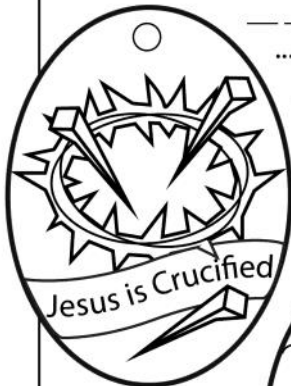
THE EASTER STORY AS TOLD BY MICE



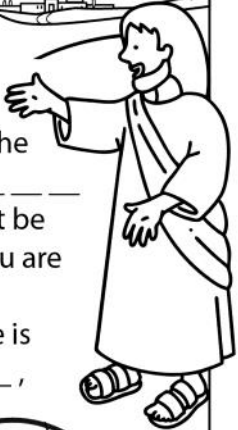
HE IS RISEN!
Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



How many other
words can you
make from
RESURRECTION



An _____
of the Lord came down from
_____ and going to the
_____ rolled back the _____
... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said."



Glue this page onto
card. Cut out the
ovals then colour in.
Punch a hole at the
top and hang up
for Easter

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

The Chrism Oil which will be used to anoint The King on 6th May 2023 was consecrated in Jerusalem on 3rd March.

The idea of creating a new oil for the Coronation was initiated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, partly to honour the King's personal connections with Jerusalem and partly to highlight the links between the Coronation, the Bible and the Holy Land.

The ceremony took place in The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The oil was consecrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum.

It has been created using olives harvested from two groves on the Mount of Olives, at the Monastery of Mary Magdalene and the Monastery of the Ascension. The Monastery of Mary Magdalene is the burial place of His Majesty's grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece. The olives were pressed just outside Bethlehem.



The oil has been perfumed with essential oils - sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin and amber - as well as orange blossom.

The Coronation Oil is based on the oil used at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the formula of which has been used for hundreds of years.

It will also be used for the anointing of Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said:

“Since beginning the planning for the Coronation, my desire has been for a new Coronation Oil to be produced using olive oil from the Mount of Olives. This demonstrates the deep historic link between the Coronation, the Bible and the Holy Land. From ancient kings through to the present day, monarchs have been anointed with oil from this sacred place.

As we prepare to anoint The King and The Queen Consort, I pray that they would be guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.”

From the Archbishop of Canterbury’s press office.

**SERVICES FOR
THE CORONATION WEEKEND
IN OUR BENEFICE**

Friday 5th May

7.30pm A Vigil Service

on the eve of the Coronation of King Charles III – All
Saints’ Baschurch

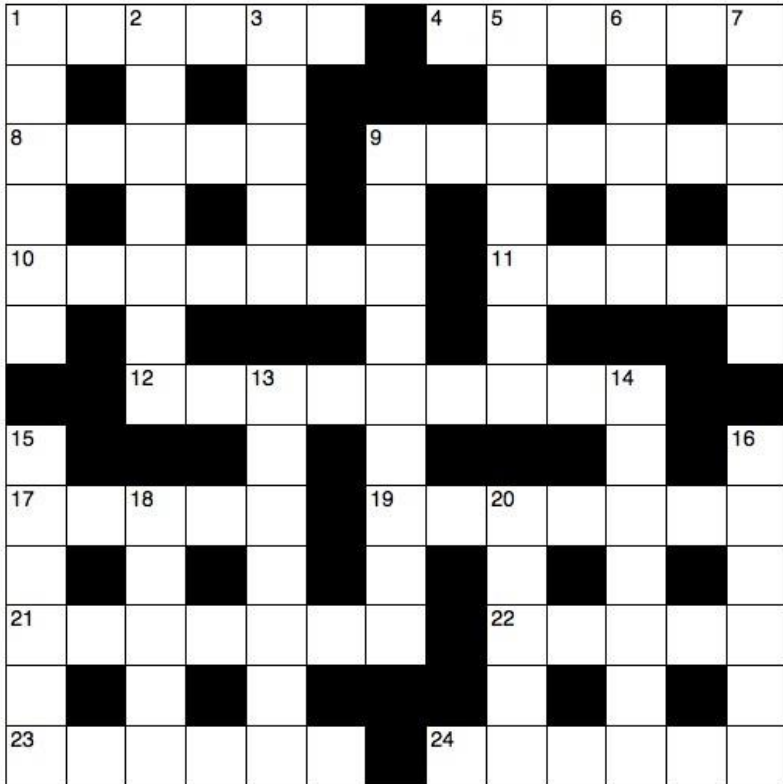
Sunday 7th May

Services as usual in

Weston Lullingfields at 9.30am
and Baschurch at 11am

which will reflect and celebrate the Coronation

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)

- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3 –4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

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

SAINT OF THE MONTH - ST GEORGE

England has a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. St George is truly an international saint and England is not the only country or region to claim him as its patron. England shares St George with **Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia, Catalonia, Aragon, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Greece, Moscow** and **Istanbul** as their patron saint and many of these places have their own celebrations and ceremonies in his honour.

Here are a few facts about him—as far as we know

- Born in Cappadocia, an area which is now in Turkey
- Lived in 3rd century AD
- His parents were Christian
- Later lived in Palestine
- Became a Roman soldier
- Protested against Rome's persecution of Christians
- Imprisoned and tortured, but stayed true to his faith
- Beheaded at Lydda in Palestine
- 23rd April was named as Saint George's day in 1222

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century.

At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no



An Ethiopian Orthodox image of St George

one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ. The international appeal of St George helps us to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting.. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our admiration.

Edited from Parish Pump

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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

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

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TREES IN OUR CHURCHYARDS:

Silver birch (*Betula pendula*) in Weston Lullingfields

There are some magnificent trees in the churchyards of our benefice, and over the next few months I shall be featuring some of them as they change through the seasons. This beautiful **silver birch tree** is one of a pair in **Weston Lullingfields**. At this time of year the grace-

ful architecture of the slender branches and twigs bearing young catkins and leaf buds is very clear (see detail below). The bark is deeply fissured at the bottom of the trunk - the oldest growth (see detail below), but as we look further up the tree the characteristic smooth silvery white of the younger bark takes over, as shown in the photograph on the back cover.

Editor





Silver Birch Tree in Weston Lullingfields Churchyard