

March 2023



Harbingers of spring



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S 50p
Hordley

Per issue

THE CHURCH'S SEASONAL COLOURS

Prayer and worship engage all our senses, not least in seeing the colours around us. It is no wonder that colour is an integral part of the church's public worship, used to teach, inspire and focus our worship. Different colours are used for different seasons of the liturgical year. The altar frontal, pulpit fall and other fabrics are changed according to the season, and the clergy wear matching coloured vestments as well.

GREEN is the colour for the weeks between the Christmas season and Lent and for the long period after Easter, through the summer and early autumn. These weeks are also known as 'ordinary time'. Often we use *ordinary* to mean commonplace, a—it is an everyday colour. But *ordinary* also has the root meaning of being stirred up. In our worship, the green seasons are for stimulating our spiritual growth, feeding and teaching us day by day to grow strong in the spirit. The colour green evokes growth and life, and is a fitting colour for these seasons.



PURPLE is the colour for Advent and Lent. These are times of preparation before the festivals of Christmas and Easter. Lent is especially a time for serious reflection and for accompanying Jesus in his journey of self realization - beginning with his temptations - and suffering and rejection. Advent is more to do with waiting as we focus on the purposes of God as revealed in the Old Testament. Purple has become associated with penance, humility, self denial and wisdom. It is also associated with royalty - but for the Christian it will always remind us of Jesus being robed in purple and crowned with thorns before his crucifixion.

Editorial

Welcome, dear readers, to the March edition of Church Family News. It does feel that the year is marching ahead - we are now well into Lent, followed close on its heels by Easter; spring is just around the corner, scattering so many signs already of new life and growth.

But as Linda reminds us on pp 5-7, most people have one worry or another which weighs them down, and she rightly reminds us of the catastrophic earthquake, that has brought untold worries on the people of South West Turkey and Northern Syria.

In March we also celebrate two of the patron saints of the British Isles - Dewi Sant and St Patrick, and these are our saints of the month (pp 21 and 22). In their day they brought the message of Christ to the people of Wales and Ireland, and are still enthusiastically remembered.

St Patrick was certainly a poet, among other things, and St Patrick's Breastplate is a beautiful hymn of devotion to and praise of the triune God. Lorna Thomson, writes about her time at St Beuno's in North Wales, where she explored the subject of finding God in writing (pp 14 and 15).

As spring approaches, there is more to do in our churchyards, as Harriet Carty reminds us (pp 11 and 12). She urges us to rake out the thick tussocks of grass, so that the spring flowers will thrive. But I am so glad she also urges us to keep some areas unraked, so that insects that overwinter in last year's stems, stalks and seed heads will have a chance - there are so many hidden communities of insects which are so often forgotten. Alison Primrose writes about the Churchyard Award Scheme (of which she is chair). We have three amazing churchyards in the benefice and I would give them all awards.

Controversy is never far away in the Church of England, and its always been like that. Read about the vote in General Synod to allow the blessing of same sex relationships, and the Bishop of Lichfield's statement (pp 16 and 17). The vote will stir up many different reactions. I have given links to the Church Times report, and also to the recordings of the debate on the Church of England website, for those who are interested to follow this up.

Happy reading!

Roger Paul (Editor)

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL.....	3
RECTOR'S MESSAGE.....	5
HORDLEY NEWS.....	7
FROM THE REGISTERS.....	7
LENT COURSE.....	8
MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICES.....	9
WESTON LULLINGFIELDS NEWS.....	10
CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE.....	11
CHURCHYARDS AWARD SCHEME.....	12
FINDING GOD IN WRITING.....	14
GENERAL SYNOD FEBRUARY 2023.....	16
SERVICES IN MARCH.....	18
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER.....	19
BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY.....	20
SAINTS OF THE MONTH: DEWI SANT AND ST PATRICK.....	21
RING FOR THE KING.....	23
CROSSWORD.....	24
PICTURE PARABLE.....	26
INDEX OF ADVERTISERS.....	33
WHO'S WHO.....	34

SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

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

15th March 2023

to the new email address:

churchfamilynews.bwlh@btinternet.com

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FROM THE RECTOR

Dear All,

So many worries

As I write this letter many across the world are trying to take in the devastation caused by the earthquake that has hit Turkey and Syria, and mourn with them the loss of life. The numbers are colossal and rising daily, the pictures are harrowing, and the hope of finding people alive is fading.

Such devastation happens often in the blink of an eye and is in many ways impossible to understand, or at least for those of us born in this country and who cannot remember either of the World Wars. Yet there are many places around our world where such colossal and life changing devastation happens, in some cases not just once but several times over the course of a lifetime. So our Gospel Bible reading for the 2nd Sunday before Lent, Matthew 6:25-34 'Do not worry' is one that I'm sure means different things to different people, depending on context and life experiences.

For the people in Turkey, Syria and the Ukraine, to name just three places, 'Do not worry' seems something that is most likely part of their daily lives at present. But of course in other ways it will be part of people's lives in this country as many worry about their financial situations. They are very different situations, the worries are very different and the help needed is very different. But worry is worry despite the cause and unless we are in such situations then it is very difficult to understand or even contemplate how people are feeling.

Are we the cause of others' worry?

As we begin Lent, a time of contemplation, a time of repenting, of confessing our failings, I'm encouraging us all, myself included to stop, to think, to reflect, to listen to God and to resolve to live a more Christ like life. It's not easy, it's not intended to be and maybe our first step is to reflect and admit our failures to the world in which we live. How we can mistreat the world, our lack of care for creation and the resources we've been gifted. How we can show a lack of compas-

sion and generosity to others less fortunate than ourselves, and then to ask God to help us change by focusing on Jesus and changing our attitudes.

Let's ask ourselves: 'Are we the cause of worry for others?'

A modern day Stations of the Cross

This year in Holy Week we will be displaying a series of pictures from 'Open Doors', the organization that serves those who are persecuted for their faith. It is their modern day equivalent of the Stations of the Cross, the pictures that tell the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. These pictures tell the stories of everyday Christians who face their own difficult, painful journeys as they follow Christ. In these stories and as we look at the faces of those on the pictures, it is hard to imagine how the words 'Do not worry' are heard.

The pictures look at Sorrow; Betrayal; Condemnation; Denial; Trial; Wounds; Journey; Help; Grief; Crucifixion; Forgiveness; Family; Death; Burial.

Following Jesus through his worries

Jesus throughout his ministry and in his hour of need called out to His Father. Jesus began His ministry in the Wilderness, a time when he was alone, when he faced temptations, but even then he turned to His Father for strength to overcome. History shows us that in times of need, of fear, of worry, people turn to God in prayer. Prayer might not make the worries go away, it might not heal the pain and hurt as we would want, it might not replace destroyed buildings, but God hears and does answer and He gives us the strength to face the future.

As you go through this Lent spend the time prayerfully asking Jesus to help you follow him more closely not just in your words but also through your thoughts and actions. Read and listen to God's Word. What is it saying to you? How can you respond?

As you journey to the cross may you find yourself able to lay your

worries at the foot of that cross, leave them there and trust in Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Linda

ST MARY'S HORDLEY

There is little to report from Hordley at this quiet time of the year. We are all glad to see the spring flowers coming up, with snowdrops in the churchyard spreading and looking better than ever. Many people enjoy trips to places such as Chirk Castle and Attingham Park where snowdrops can be seen in great drifts under the trees etc. Daffodils and crocuses will be coming next and aconites in the woods.

For your diaries: a Bring and Share Lunch is planned for Sunday 7th May at 12:30 pm at Sycamore House to celebrate His Majesty's Coronation. Further details in the next issue. It is also hoped that we can share a Harvest Meal with Weston and Baschurch in Weston Village Hall at a date in September yet to be decided.

I have to apologize to Kathryn Lee for saying that she had won the Lottery in January with number 18, when I should have said it was Catherine Faulkner. The mistake arose because my computer had not received the 2023 list of participants when it should have done. In February the winner was Christabel Edwards with number 56.

Mary Thomson

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals:

7th February 2023 at All Saints' Baschurch
Lilian Thompson aged 93 years

10th February 2023 at St Peter's Myddle
Ian James Morris aged 72 years

2023 Lent Course



Discovering the power of faith in a conflicted world.

We live in a messy world full of division from global conflict down to our own relationships. Difference equips you to **cross divides, navigate disagreement and pursue a just and flourishing world.**

There are 5 sessions:

God's Call; Crossing Divides; Navigating Disagreement; Practising Forgiveness; Risking Hope

In each session we will listen to other's stories and see how the world looks through their eyes. We will encounter others with authenticity and confidence and we will find hope and opportunity in the places where we long to see change.

Each session will include video clips, passages from the Bible and discussion

Course Details

Monday 27th Feb, 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March at 7.30pm on Zoom

Or

Thursday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th March at 2.00pm in

All Saints' Church

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 19th March

9.15am St Mary's Hordley

9.30am Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am All Saints' Baschurch

Come and celebrate with us as we give thanks for
'Mother church'

and

for all who care for and nurture us.



HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

At the beginning of February we received the good news that we had been received a grant of £6000 towards the bill for the electrics repairs. By the time you read this we hope the work will be completely finished and that we will be back in Holy Trinity for our usual services.

The generous grant does not cover the entire cost of electrical work; we are currently £2000 short. There will also be other work needed on the building, including work on the plaster and windows. As with all church buildings the maintenance is paid for through the generosity of people giving, which enables the buildings to remain there for others to enjoy in the future.

Over the year we will be running various events which we hope will be fun and enjoyable but which will also help towards these costs and the general day to day running. If you are in the fortunate position of being able to help and wish to give a donation towards the work donations can be made in the following ways:

By Cheque made payable to : **‘PCC Weston Lullingfields Church’**

Or by Cash placed in an envelope.

Both can be given to either Sarah Richards at Maple Cottage or Anne Roberts at Ash Grove Petton Lane.

If you wish to give by BACS please use the details below.

Account Number: 00571562

Sort Code: 30-97-62

A **‘Giving Button’** is available on the church website www.allsaintsbaschurch.com This is a joint website for all 3 churches, look for the ‘Give’ button and then find the church you want.

In each case please indicate for ‘Building and Fabric Maintenance’. This ensures the money is only used for those purposes unless you have no objection for where it is spent.

Thank you

Anita Weeks



Time for a Spring Cut?

Do you have an area of meadow or long grass within your churchyard and perhaps your garden too? If so, March may be an excellent month to give it a cut and vigorous rake. Wildflowers and fine grasses can become swamped by coarse tougher grass-

es, the bruisers of the meadow world, and a spring cut can make all the difference. Cutting in spring really knocks back these coarser grasses such as Yorkshire Fog and False Oat Grass, giving other meadow grasses and flowers a chance to take up the space and receive life-giving sunlight onto their leaves. The vigorous raking will expose soil and break up mats of dead plant matter, all of which allows seeds to germinate in soil and seedlings to reach the sunshine.

But, I hear you say, what about the invertebrates which need coarse grass tussocks and hollow stems to over-winter? This is where management

planning is so important; can you designate an area of coarse grass, perhaps adjacent to a wall or hedge, where you can leave it uncut for a year or two? In this way you can maintain areas for over-wintering and also manage the wildflower meadow well.



That's all very well but I have spring bulbs. Ahh, in that case you don't want to do a spring cut, but don't leave areas with bulbs uncut for too long. It's a good idea to cut a meadow after 3 or 4 months growth, never more or it starts to get overrun with coarse grasses and other plants such as hogweed. If you can't do a spring cut because of bulbs then plan for one in early summer - early July or even late June. This area can fill with lovely flowers in May

If you have a bit of both then you'll have flowers all spring and summer long, but it can get a little complicated and it may be best to keep things simple! Have a look at our Action Pack sheet A2 Caring for Grassland (<https://tinyurl.com/22af3rpy>) to remind yourself of the timings.

All the best, Harriet Carty

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

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

PRIZED NATURE - THE CHURCHYARD AWARD SCHEME



Churchyards are very important places for those whose loved ones are buried there, but a survey of visitors to some churchyards in Sussex found that they are often visited by people who value their peace and beauty.

The Churchyard Award Scheme has been running for over 30 years. It's run by vol-

unteers to celebrate the work of volunteers in maintaining and developing churchyards and church gardens across the diocese of Lichfield. The Award Scheme was originally conceived as a way to encourage care, in the sense of 'grounds maintenance' and that is still an objective. But as we have become more aware of ecological issues, the scheme has devoted more attention to the role of churchyards as precious habitats, and as a diocese we have been blessed to receive lots of support and advice from 'Caring for God's

Acre' (www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk), a conservation charity focussed on burial grounds, that habitat found in every community.



During the months of May, June, July and August a team of volunteer 'judges' visit the churchyards and gardens and make notes on a wide range of aspects and features. In September the judges meet and prepare certificates for each entrant and draw together some feedback for each individual churchyard or garden. There is then an awards ceremony, usually in October, when achievements are publicly celebrated and ideas are shared. In addition to these elements of the scheme we hold a garden tea party to which all volunteers are warmly invited as a way to express thanks to all who work hard and give time and loving care to maintaining these special places.

When steps are taken to make churchyards more 'nature friendly' this is not always consistent with perfect tidiness, but it demonstrates that the church is actively seeking to address concerns over loss of natural habitats and biodiversity. For these interventions to be appreciated information needs to be provided to explain the presence and purpose of the nature friendly elements.



Whether large or small, rural or urban, a churchyard or garden, all are invited to participate. Entry is free – full details of how to enter can be found on the diocesan website under 'Find advice' and then 'Environment' tabs, or just follow this link:

www.lichfield.anglican.org/churchyard-award-scheme-2023.php.

The closing date for applications this year is 10 April 2023.

Alison Primrose

Dr Alison Primrose has led the Churchyard Awards team for the last five years and can be contacted on 07794 515142

FINDING GOD IN WRITING

In early February I went on a weekend retreat to St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in the Vale of Clwyd, near St Asaph. It is set in beautiful countryside with lovely grounds and views, and is a wonderfully hospitable and welcoming place.

The theme of the weekend was "Finding God in Writing". There were 15 of us, from a variety of backgrounds and denominations. We had structured sessions, and plenty of time for our own reflection and rest, or a walk along the many footpaths. There was no talking at mealtimes, as there were other people staying who were on silent retreats. Nice not to have to think of small talk sometimes!



The view from St Beuno's. I stayed in the white cottage in the picture, with 3 other retreatants.

Sessions covered topics including reflective journaling and psalm writing. In journaling we learnt about and practiced looking back at the events of the day with gratitude, noting anything that particularly stirred or moved us, and asking God what he might be saying to us through our experiences. It can help to avoid what T S Eliot described, "We had the experience, but missed the meaning." Over time we can see patterns emerging, helping us to discover our true value, and where God might be leading us.

The session on psalm writing was particularly special, and a lovely group activity. We sat round in a circle, wrote a

line, and then passed the paper on to the next person to write the second line, and so on. Each psalm was a collaboration between people who had only met the day before, but when we read some of them out at the end they seemed remarkably coherent, as though there was just one author. Here is the one that I started:

I know that God is here.

I am listening Lord; I want to hear you.

Please help me in this darkness.

The darkness will turn to light.

When I feel love, I feel God's light in me, like a beacon, offering hope and security.

Courage, confidence, and direction,

These are his gifts to me.

Lorna Thomson

Psalm 139.1- 2, 6-11

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
Where can I go then from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me,
your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me
and the light around me turn to night,'
Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.

GENERAL SYNOD FEBRUARY 2023

As reported in last month's Church Family News, the General Synod of the Church of England met in London from 6th to 9th February. The main item on the agenda was consideration of proposals arising out of the Living in Love and Faith process, in which dioceses have been considering the Church of England's pastoral care of LGBT+ communities.

The main proposal would allow the House of Bishops to issue prayers which would enable same-sex couples to come to church after a civil marriage or civil partnership to give thanks, dedicate their relationship to God and receive God's blessing. The motion supporting this proposal was passed by the General Synod, with simple majorities in each of the houses (Laity, Clergy and Bishops).

Following the vote on 9th February the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, released the following statement:



"I welcome the decision made by General Synod today which followed hours of discussion and debate this week and several years of the Living in Love and Faith process.

"At the same time, I recognise that this will be a sad and painful decision for many. They are in my prayers and I assure them that I and my brother and sister bishops stand ready to hear their concerns.

"Synod's decision will mean in due course that ministers can pray with and bless LGBT+ people in permanent, faithful and loving relationships in Church of England churches. There will be no re-

quirement on ministers to do this and we are committed to respecting our ministers' consciences and finding the best ways to support them in their ministry.

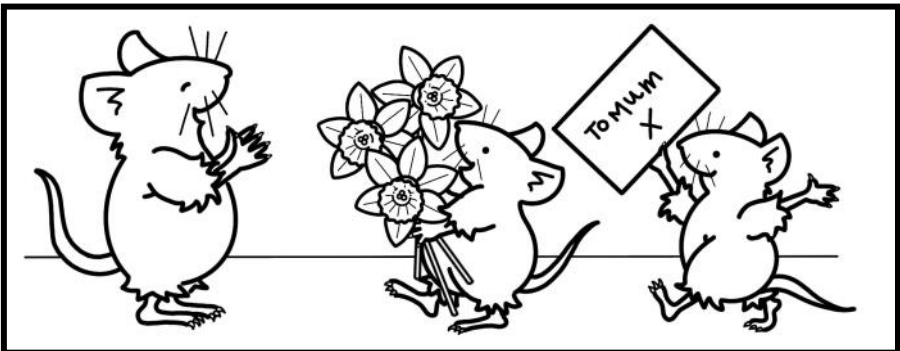
"The proposals make no change to the Church of England's doctrine of Holy Matrimony. I recognise that this does not go far enough for many in the LGBT+ community and beyond, and that for others it goes too far.

"I pray for patience and unity as the proposed Prayers of Love and Faith are refined and the new Pastoral Guidance is drawn up, and as we embark on this new journey together."

As Bishop Michael suggests, there will be a variety of reactions to this decision. For a balanced account of the debate, the Church Times carries a readable report at: <https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2023/10-february/news/uk/bishops-proposals-to-bless-same-sex-couples-carried-by-synod-despite-sustained-opposition>

For those who would like to listen to the debate itself, you can find it on the Church of England website at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/general-synod/watch-general-synod-live> and follow the link to play the morning session on Thursday 9th February.

Editor



SERVICES IN MARCH 2023

Sunday 5th March (2nd Sunday of Lent)

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

6.30pm Contemporary Worship – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 & John 3:1-17

Sunday 12th March (3rd Sunday of Lent)

9.15am Worship For All – St Mary' Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Romans 5:1-11 & John 4:5-42

Sunday 19th March (Mothering Sunday)

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

9.15am Mothering Sunday Service with Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley

9.30am Mothering Sunday Service – Holy Trinity, Weston Lullingfields

11am Mothering Sunday Service – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: 1 Samuel 1:20-end & John 19:25b-27 (Readings in church may be different)

Sunday 26th March (5th Sunday of Lent – Passiontide begins)

No service at St Mary's Hordley

11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings: Romans 8:6-11 & John 11:1-45

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

There will be services in all three churches

on

Palm Sunday (2nd April)

Good Friday (7th April)

Easter Sunday (9th April)

There will be a short reflective service for Holy Week on

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th April

and on

Maundy Thursday 6th April

Commemoration of the Last Supper will be at 7.30pm at

All Saints Baschurch

(no 11.30am midweek service)

Full details will be published in next month's Church Family News, on the church website and on Easter Cards which will be distributed around the parishes.

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

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	John 5:30-end	17	John 8:48-end
2	John 6:1-15	18	John 9:1-17
3	John 6:16-27	19	Ephesians 2:8-14
4	John 6:27-40	20	Matthew 13:54-end
5	Matthew 8:1-13	21	John 10:1-10
6	John 6:41-51	22	John 10:11-21
7	John 6:52-59	23	John 10:22-end
8	John 6:60-end	24	John 11:1-16
9	John 7:1-13	25	Romans 5:12-end
10	John 7:14-24	26	Matthew 20:17-end
11	John 7:25-36	27	John 11:28-44
12	2 Corinthians 1:1-11	28	John 11:45-end
13	John 7:37-52	29	John 12:1-11
14	John 7:53-8:11	30	John 12:12-19
15	John 8:12-30	31	John 12:20-36a
16	John 8:31-47		

SAINTS OF THE MONTH

St David – *Dewi Sant* (1st March) Patron Saint of Wales

On 1st March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David - or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. He lived in the sixth century, and although reliable details about his life are scarce, there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.



David was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary.

St Patrick (17th March) Patron Saint of Ireland

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. Of this time, he wrote in his memoir, *The Confession*:

"The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was rosed, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped back

to Britain and was reunited with his family. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming he met the chieftain of one of the druid tribes, who tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people - eventually thousands - and he began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461. St Patrick left a number of writings, the most well of which is the hymn/prayer St Patrick's Breastplate.

St Patrick's Breastplate

Christ be with me, Christ within me
Christ behind me, Christ before me
Christ beside me, Christ to win me
Christ to comfort me and restore me.



Christ beneath me, Christ above me
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me
Christ in mouth of friend or stranger.



LEARN TO BELL-RING FOR KING'S CORONATION!

The Coronation of the King and the Queen Consort will be held in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May. It will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A Palace statement has said that it will “reflect the monarch’s role today and look towards the future while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry.”

Meanwhile, in preparation for the Coronation, a national call has been made to recruit thousands of new bell ringers to ring in the new King in May.

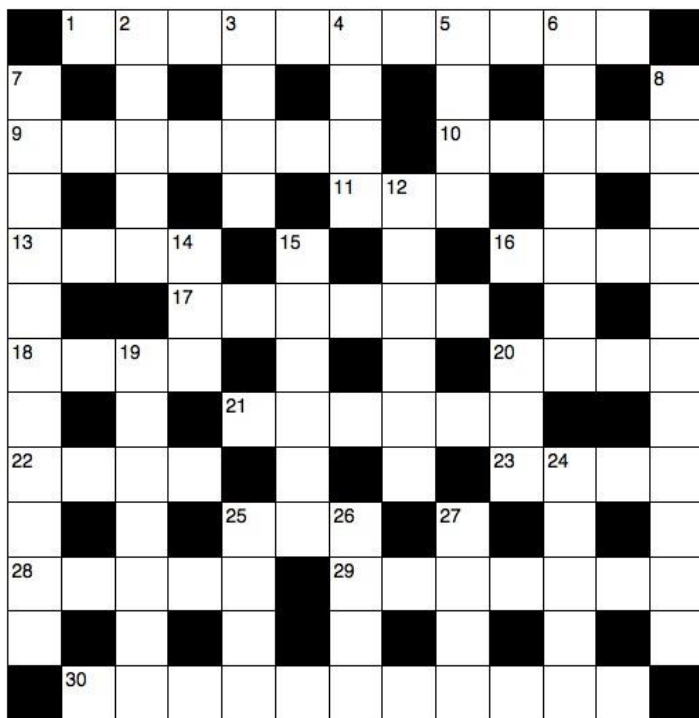
A new website, Ring for the King, (ringforthe king.org) has been set up for this purpose by The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, especially hoping to encourage young people to try their hand.

The website says that bellringing is “an activity like no other – a unique mix of physical exercise with mental agility that is a deep part of our history but still practised and evolving today.” It suggests that after ten to 15 hours of one-to-one tuition, a beginner can learn to handle a bell, use a bell rope, and begin to ring with others.

There are about 38,000 church bells, but only 30,000 ringers in the UK. The Central Council has said that while a swell of new recruits in time for the Coronation would be ‘fantastic’, “we hope that people find this new hobby, skill and social activity something they would want to continue with beyond 6th May.”

All Saints Baschurch has six bells which are rung regularly for services and other occasions. Listen out for them before the 11am service on Sundays and on practice night, Thursdays at 7.45pm.

CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has

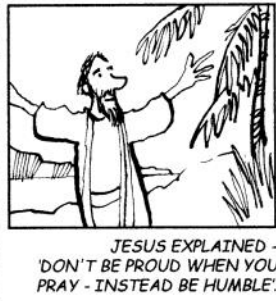
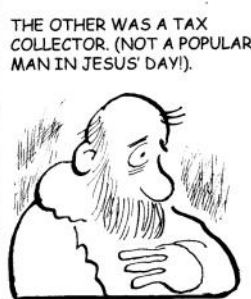
- poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

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P.W. Churms Opticians, 28

Ray Pencavel Chiroprapist, 31

Shiatsu Therapist, 31

HOTELS

Hordley Hall B&B, 26

PAINTING & DECORATING

Ian Williams, 30

PETS

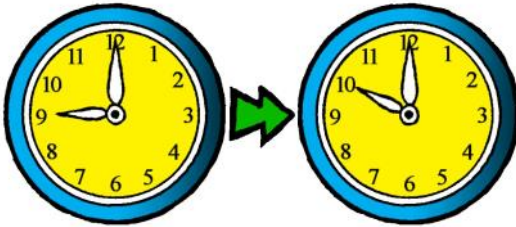
Green Hollow Surgery, 31

PLUMBERS

DSD Heating & Plumbing, 29

SPORT & RECREATION

Shrewsbury Golf Range, 33



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on Sunday 26th March**



CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Egton. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

DOWN: 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

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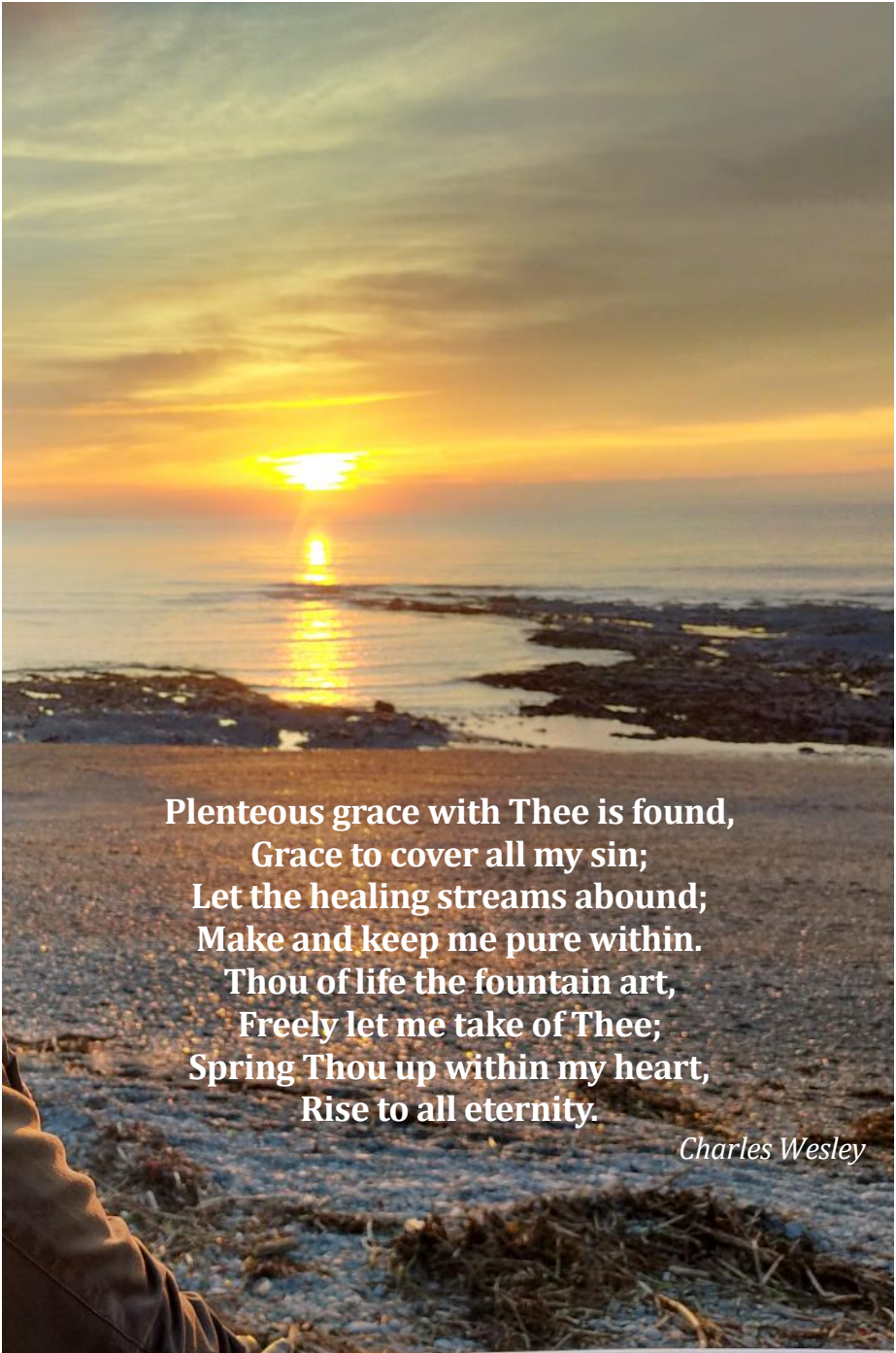
THE CHURCH'S SEASONAL COLOURS

Continuing our reflections on the use of colour in worship through the year, we are in that part of the year when the colours we use are changed fairly frequently –that period between Christmas and Easter and ending with Pentecost.

RED is the colour that is used most sparingly, and perhaps because of this, is the most striking. It is interesting that practically all human languages (including the many lost languages of indigenous, first nation, peoples) have a word for red, but not necessarily for other colours. It seems it is universally recognized as representing the colour of blood and of fire, and so is connected with some of the most basic instincts of human life. For the Christian, red draws us to the passion and death of Jesus and to the blood of the martyrs who follow in his steps of self offering. So in our worship, red is brought out for Palm Sunday and Holy Week and for commemorating the martyrs on saints days through the year. Red is also the colour for Pentecost –symbolizing the inner warmth and comfort (meaning strength) of the Holy Spirit, which came upon the early church in tongues 'as of fire'.



WHITE (or Gold) is the colour for the great festivals of Christmas and Easter. It represents the brightness of light, glory and purity - the purity of the Christ child at Christmas, the light of the Risen Christ at Easter, the glory that shines through both as God's love is revealed to us. Insofar as the Christian becomes Christ like through following the pattern of his life, white is also used at baptisms and weddings, and in the celebration of All Saints.

A photograph of a sunset over a rocky coastline. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The foreground is a pebbly beach with some driftwood. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.**

Charles Wesley