



Ryburn
BENEFICE

Connected

Spring

The Churches of:
St Luke's Norland
St Peter's Sowerby
St Mary's
Cottonstones



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of
Songs 2:12

Church Contacts

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Verger	Contact Jim Skelsey		
Organist	Bill Ellis		

St Mary's Community Centre

Bookings	Jim Skelsey	01422822936	skelseyfamily@aol.com
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St Luke's, Norland

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St Peter's Community Centre, Sowerby HX6 1HB

Bookings	Ken Cuttle	01422 836487	kencuttle@aol.com
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Normal Sunday Worship times:

10am St Peter's Sowerby

11.30am 1st Sunday of the month, St Mary's Cottonstones

3,30pm St Luke's, Norland.

Social Events:

Hub Café St Luke's, Norland 10am-3pm Wednesdays

Lunch Club, St Luke's, Norland 12 noon, 1st Tuesday in the month

Don't forget to look us up on the web &
Facebook

www.ryburnbenefice.org



SaintPeter's Church Sowerby

Vicar: Revd Jeanette Roberts tel 01422 646 37112

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Editor's note

For 2022, we are trialling a seasonal version of Connected:

Spring – March to May; Summer – June to August; Autumn – September to November; Winter – December to February.

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Dates to note from the Churches Spring calendar:

Sowerby Parish AGM on Sunday, 24th April, ;2022 in St. Peter's Church at 11.00 a.m.

St. Peter's Community Centre AGM on Thursday, 28th April, 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the centre. All welcome.

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: *'when you fast.'* (Matthew 6:17).

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

- the act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life.
- it shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender *'my idols'* to Him.
- it encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: *'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.'* (Matthew 5:6).

Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, eg: joining a study group, *'random acts of kindness'*, giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

"Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done."
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

Canon Paul Hardington

The Ven John Barton considers how to make the most of Lent.

Look at you

Lent encourages us to examine how we're getting on. It's especially useful for people who have been practising Christians for some time. We're used to saying prayers, going to church and trying to express our faith in action, but the routine may have become a bit jaded. We would like to beef it up, but the very busyness of living gets in the way.

Self-examination doesn't demand grovelling or self-abasement or flagellation. It means going into the open space of the wilderness with Jesus and trying to imagine what He was facing, as He prepared Himself "in the power of the Spirit" to embark on His life's work.

What might His temptations mean for us here and now? They offered Him short cuts. Turning stones into bread could solve the world's poverty gap in a stroke. It would relieve us of our responsibility to combine generosity with ingenuity and put right the world's grotesque inequalities. Jesus responded to that temptation by quoting scripture, "Human beings cannot live on bread alone". It speaks volumes for the 21st Century.

Then Jesus was tempted to do a deal with the devil, on the pretext that collaboration would deliver results. "God alone is due our homage", was His rebuff, quoting scripture again. Since everyone worships something or someone, it would be a valuable exercise to consider carefully what or who takes pride of place in our schedule. It's a tough one. What do we love most, and do we need to adjust our priorities?

Magic was the next option. Jump off the temple roof and you'll be OK. Jesus dismissed this offer with the words, "Don't put God to the test". While that stunt wouldn't appeal to many Christians, there's a breed of phoney preachers today who promise financial success and perfect health to their followers.

Others reduce the Gospel to the single word, 'love', as though acquiring a sunny disposition could solve humanity's problems. The definition of love in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, suggests something quite different. That Chapter could provide the whole agenda for Lent and beyond.

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Dem Bones, dem bones

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the Wishbones – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the Jawbones – who spend their time talking about the problem.

There are the Knucklebones – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the Backbones who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

Which type are you?



Hello God ...

SPRING

An acrostic poem

(Taking each letter of the title word to start the next line of the verse)

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,
Petals of every colour and hue,
Rain and sun caressing the earth
Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view
Now is the time of new beginnings
Giving us pleasure all season through.



Selah

All this beauty God bestows
Upon the earth for us to share
So let us treasure such delights
And tread this world with love and care.

By Megan Carter



Nigel Beeton writes: "People are saying things like 'we've lost two years', but I don't agree. It's been a very bad time, and for those who've lost loved ones, a nightmare. But for those of us who have come through, we've had a glimpse of what generations before have come through. And, as the seasons turn, perhaps now at last we can look forward to warmth and summer again?"

The Vernal Equinox

In the season of the Spring
The day is equal to the night;
Summer's song we soon shall sing!
Evenings filled with summer light!

Winter's cares seem long ago
Mornings spiked by bitter frost
But we shall bask in summer glow
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the Spring
And for all the seasons, too,
Of life's rhythms we shall sing
Giving all the praise to You.



By Nigel Beeton

Growing Good for Lent 2022

6 sessions for church groups including reflection, stories, prayer and action.

This Lent we encourage you to reflect on the call to love God and your neighbour. Join us in Growing Good.

Join us for 6 weekly sessions during Lent in St Peter's Centre or St Peter's Church:

Monday's starting 12.30pm (bring your sandwiches for lunch!)

Monday Evenings starting 7pm

“My prayer is that Growing Good will help us become a Church vibrantly fulfilling its mission to form disciples who are called to love their neighbours and seek justice.”

*The Most Revd & Rt Hon Stephen Cottrell,
Archbishop of York*



St Peter's Centre Groups, Workshops & Activities :



Weekly groups at St. Peter's Community Centre (just across the road from church)

St Peter's Community Centre is home to Grassroots Private Day Nursery for the majority of the week. Please visit their website, www.grassrootsdaynursery.com, or phone 01422 836280 for more details.

At other times, the Centre is available for hire for one-off meetings or regular groups.

Term-time Tuesdays 6-8pm

Brownies & Guides

Fun activities for girls aged between 7-14 years old

Wednesday 7.30-8.30pm (from 16 March)

Yoga Classes

Mixed ability suitable for beginners or those already practicing

Friday 9.30-11.30am

Halifax Little Movers

Dance, play and keep fit with your little ones from birth to pre-school

Friday 2.30-3.30pm (from 4 March)

Yoga Classes

Mixed ability suitable for beginners or those already practicing

Sunday 1.30-4pm

Woolly Art Club

Free craft drop-in sessions and pre-booked workshops

1st Saturday of the month 3.00-5.00pm (from 2 April)

Messy Church

Fun Bible based activities, games, make & do, for all the family

4th Saturday of the month 2.00-4.00pm (coming soon)

Sowerby Bricks Lego club

If you would like further information on any of these activities, or to join in these groups, please pop down to the Centre at the start or finish of any session and speak to the relevant group leaders.



SaintPeters Church Sowerby Or visit our website <http://st-peters.ryburnbenefice.org>

Yoga classes

At St Peters Community Centre, Sowerby,
HX6 1HA (opposite the church)



Weekly mixed ability hatha yoga classes starting soon:

Fridays 2.30 – 3.30pm from 4th March

Wednesdays 7.30 – 8.30pm from 16th March

£6.50 per class (your first class is free)

For more information and to book a space:

www.philippasmithyoga.co.uk
philippa@philippasmithyoga.co.uk
07816445812



The 1st Saturday of April

St Peter's Community Centre Sowerby

Saturday 2nd April 2022

3–5pm

Inclusive fun and worship for all people of every generation ... not just for children!

*Come along to spend time together;
get creative, offer worship and share a meal together*

Attack on Ukraine ‘an act of great evil’ - statement from Archbishops

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell have condemned the Russian attack on Ukraine as “an act of great evil”. They are urging Christians to keep praying for Ukraine, for Russia, and for peace.

In a joint statement they said: “The horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil. Placing our trust in Jesus Christ, the author of peace, we pray for an urgent ceasefire and a withdrawal of Russian forces. We call for a public decision to choose the way of peace and an international conference to secure long term agreements for stability and lasting peace.”

How to pray for the war in Ukraine

Editor: The war in Ukraine is moving fast and threatening millions of people’s lives. Many of us feel overwhelmed by the scale and complexity of the threat. Several Christian organisations have posted prayers. Here are some which may help guide your prayers.

Prayer from the Church of England

(<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/praying-peace-world>)

Intercession for Ukraine

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*We pray for the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation,
that they may have discipline and discernment,
courage and compassion.*

*Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.*

*Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for the wounded and the captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know your love and support.*

*Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*Most holy God and Father,
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.*

*Help us, who today remember the cost of war,
to work for a better tomorrow;
and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,
bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;
through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.



WoollyArt Club



Sunday Date and Time	Event
20th February Workshop You need to BOOK a PLACE. Craft Drop In Both activities 1:30-4pm.	Drop in craft group as usual so bring along your projects. Also Wet felting workshop - £20 includes tuition, all materials and loan of equipment plus refreshments. You will go home with a completed piece of wet felted work and a set of instructions for future projects. You need to bring an old towel with you please.
27th February Craft Drop In 1:30-4pm Free Textile Demonstration	£3 + donation for refreshments. Free Demonstration how to use Solvi and your sewing machine to create your own fabrics.
6th March	CLOSED as Lindsay and Alicia have unfortunately got previous appointments
13th March Workshop You need to BOOK a PLACE. Craft Drop In Both activities 1:30-4pm.	Craft Drop in as usual and also Introduction to Crochet with Alicia £20. There are six places on this workshop. Equipment and wool will be provided. You will learn basic crochet stitches that are the building blocks for most crochet projects.
20th March Craft Drop In	£3 + donation for refreshments
27th March Craft Drop In 1:30-4pm	£3 + donation for refreshments
3rd April Workshop You need to BOOK a PLACE. Drop In Craft Session as usual. 1:30-4pm for both activities.	Craft Drop In and Felt Flower Posey workshop £20. Includes tuition, all materials and refreshments. There are four places available on this workshop and it will involve the use of hot glue work.
10th April Craft Drop In 1:30-4pm	£3 + donation for refreshments
17th April	CLOSED For EASTER
24th April Craft Drop in 1:30-4pm	£3 + donation for refreshments
1st May Workshop You need to BOOK a PLACE. Starts at 1pm until 4pm. Drop In Craft Session is usual 1:30pm start.	Craft Drop In and Lino Printing workshop £25. Includes tuition, all materials and refreshments. There are five places available on this workshop. You will learn to print using this Lino cutting technique and take home a set of cutting tools and art work.

To Book A Place On A Workshop.

For workshops places are limited so you will need to book. You can do this by:
private messaging Lindsay via Facebook WoollyArt Club page, calling into the Sunday Club, by phoning me on 07713599604, or by emailing gallaherlj@hotmail.co.uk. A £10 non refundable deposit will be needed to book a place and this can be given in cash or by bank transfer. Remaining money owed to be paid in cash on the day. Where a workshop is popular we will try to repeat them as soon as we can. A booking will only be taken if a place is available. No Craft Club entry fee is required if attending a workshop.



St Luke's ...

Jenny is planning to have a stall in the churchyard again instead of a door to door collection in support of Christian Aid:



Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2022



Jessica Mwedzi, is hungry to provide food – and hope – for her family.

Jessica Mwedzi carries maize grain to make porridge to feed her family.



Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives.

Drought starves. It robs women of the power to farm and grow food for their families.

Now, for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

Women and men in Zimbabwe are hungry to provide a more hopeful future. Mums often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have.

One of these mums is Jessica Mwedzi. Drought makes every day a struggle for survival. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.

‘My children crave a good meal, but I can’t provide.’ Jessica says. **‘It pains me to send them to bed hungry.’**

Your gift could help Jessica grow drought-resistant crops. You could help her set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She’ll turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray – stepping out in love for our global neighbours. With you by our side, we won’t stop until everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and hunger.

From envelope collections to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community helping those living in poverty to transform their own lives.

This Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), please:

- **Give** generously to help women grow crops that survive in the drought.
- **Act** and raise your voice for justice. Join our Loss and Damage campaign.
- **Pray** that families will stay strong during tough times of drought.

Together, we can turn hunger into hope. Join us at caweek.org

St Luke's Lunch Club

St Luke' Church
Norland



1st Tuesday of the month
12 noon

Further details:
phone Jenny on
01422 831300

Our Lunch Club is open for anyone who enjoys food, friendship and a good chat. We provide a 2 Course lunch followed by tea or coffee, for only £5.

We look forward to your company ~ do join us if you want to have an enjoyable lunch out and make some new friends.

The Hub Café at St Lukes

The Hub Cafe is open every Wednesday from 10am till 3pm. We serve freshly made sandwiches, hot sausage rolls, homemade caked and tray bakes. Most of the baking is done by our baking volunteers so it changes weekly, and we also have hot and cold drinks. It is all reasonably priced and all profit goes to St Luke's Church. We are run by a group of volunteers and would love to see you at the cafe for a chat and a bite to eat.





'What's On' in March 2022

St. Luke's Church Norland



Whether you live in Norland or nearby, or whether you are new to the area or just visiting, we would like to welcome you to our church

Tuesday 1 st March	12.00am	Shrove Tuesday. Lunch club in church.
Wednesday 2 nd March	10.30-3.00pm	Hub Café open at St. Luke's.
Sunday 6 th March	1.30pm	St Luke's PCC meeting in church.
Sunday 6 th March	3.30pm	Holy Communion
Monday 7 th March	12.30pm	Lent groups start. 12.30pm at St Peter's Community centre. 7.00pm in St Luke's
Wednesday 9 th March	10.30am	Hub Café open at St. Luke's.
Sunday 13 th March	3.30pm	Holy Communion
Wednesday 16 th March	10.30am	Hub Café open at St. Luke's.
Sunday 20 th March	3.30pm	Holy Communion
Wednesday 23 rd March	10.30am	Hub Café open at St. Luke's.
Sunday 27 th March	3.30pm	Mothering Sunday Service, with posies
Wednesday 30 th March	10.30am	Hub Café open at St. Luke's.

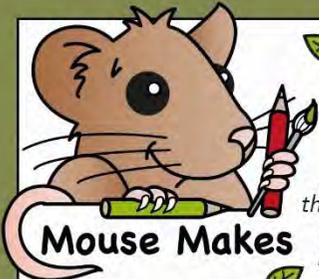
Contacts:

Vicar: Revd. Jeanette Roberts, tel: 01422 646371

Churchwardens: Jennifer Hallos, tel: 01422 832700

and Lynne Wheale, tel: 01422 834993

Organist: John Naylor, tel: 07977 846285



Mouse Makes

GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

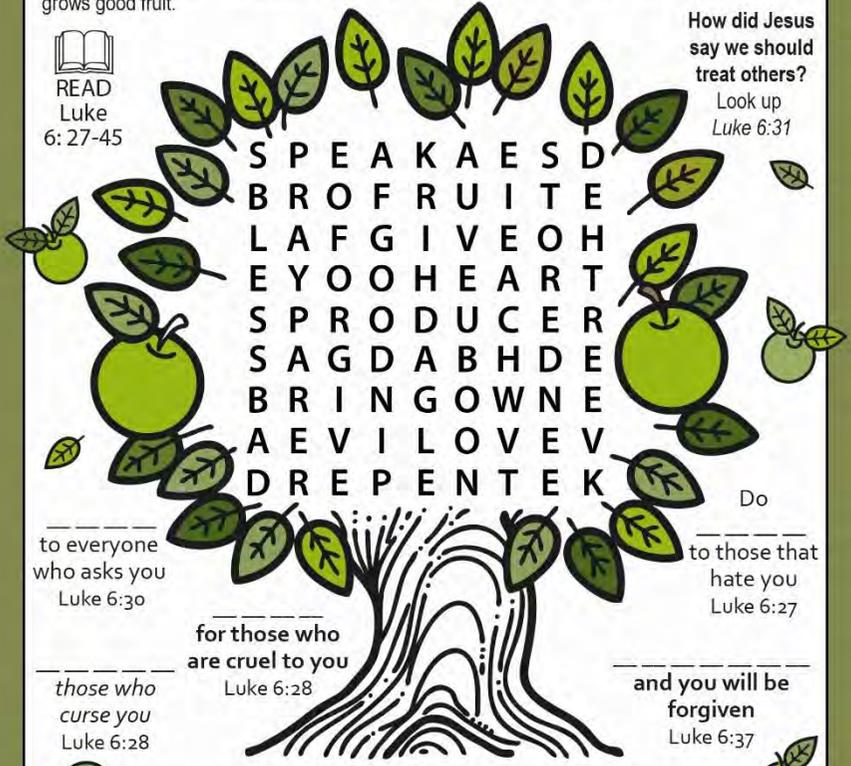
During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus say we should treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31



to everyone who asks you
Luke 6:30

to those that hate you
Luke 6:27

for those who are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

those who curse you
Luke 6:28

and you will be forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

- GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
- PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

The gardener and the Vine

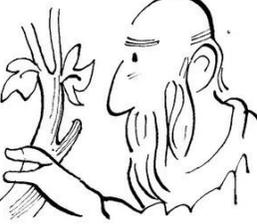


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES

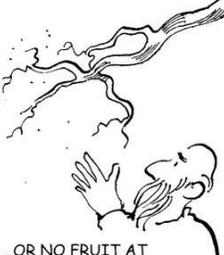


HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

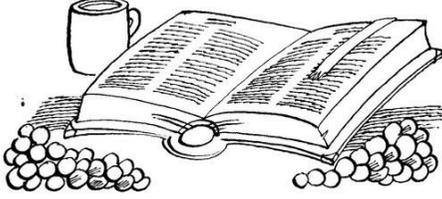


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



...THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

12th April - International Day for Street Children

The International Day for Street Children, first launched on 12th April 2011, is a response to the desperate need of hundreds of millions of children worldwide who are **forced to live or work on the streets**.

The UN admits that although there are millions of such children, official figures are virtually non-existent. Tragically, these children are virtually invisible, living without rights and protection on some of the most dangerous streets in the world.

Record levels of inequality, violence, migration, war and natural disasters have caused the problem. The children run away to escape abusive, dysfunctional homes and end up on the streets after being displaced or trafficked.

Toybox is a Christian charity which has worked with street children, first in Latin America and now in Asia and Africa, for more than 25 years. **“We want to help children marginalised and abused by those who should be protecting them,” the charity says.**

Toybox began out of one Christian couple’s compassion for the children they saw suffering on the streets of Latin America. **“Today, we continue to act, motivated by that same Christian faith, to see a world in which no child is forced to live or work on the streets.”**

If you would like to support Toybox, please go to:

<https://toybox.org.uk/support>

St Mary's Cottonstones ...



St Mary's Church Cottonstones



Join us for our regular Sunday Worship service

on the 1st Sunday of the month

At 11 am

All Welcome



Ryburn
BENEFICE

Vicar ; Revd Jeanette Roberts

Contact details : tel 01422 646 37112 jeanette.roberts@leeds.anglican.org

Local Community Events ...

Sunday 20th March

9am-2pm



£10 per car
£20 per van

*Sowerby St
Peter's
Cricket Club
car boot sale.*

Hot food and
drinks available

Public parking available outside the ground

To book please email
hannah_gaukroger@hotmail.com or text
07837525716

Every church region in the country signs up to become an Eco Diocese

All 42 dioceses in the Church of England have signed up to become an 'eco diocese' as part of their commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

The Eco Dioceses scheme, developed by the charity A Rocha UK, sees churches and dioceses awarded bronze, silver, or gold status depending on actions taken to improve their environmental footprint.

The Church of England is seeking to reach 'net zero' carbon by 2030 to meet a target set by General Synod in 2020.

Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich and lead bishop for the environment, said:

"A Rocha UK's Eco Church and Diocese scheme is a great tool which enables local churches at every level of their climate justice journey to engage with environmental issues. As Christians, we must make real differences to our lives to care for God's creation and limit the impact of the climate emergency.

"The whole Church is currently looking at our proposed Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and I would encourage everyone to read it and engage with the survey so we can make the journey to net zero carbon together."



God in the Arts ...

The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series on God in the Arts with a look at 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, which hangs in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Enter my rest

At this time of the year, we are planning our gardens for the Spring and Summer ahead. The book of Genesis opens with a glorious account of



God's work of creation, and it also tells us that God rested on the seventh day.

We all need to find that balance of work and rest, of activity and slowing down in our lives. And we are not always good at that because our world seems to be in the fast lane. We rush everywhere, we rush out of habit, and we rush because everyone around us is rushing.

This month's painting, 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, a 19th century French artist, portrays two peasants at work. They don't seem to be rushing, but Millet has certainly portrayed the hard toil of their work, digging in the earth from sunrise to sunset to eke out a living. Millet was the son of a farm labourer and many of his paintings convey the severe realism of peasant

life. We can sympathise with the couple working on the land, and our eyes focus on them as they dominate the canvas.

But in the corner under the shade of a tree there is a donkey and a sleeping child. The donkey knows only too well the reality of toil and work, but here he is resting, enjoying the peace and the shade. Andy Merrifield, an American philosopher, has just published an account of his travels with a donkey, Gribouille. As they journey together, the donkey teaches him the value of patience, the importance of going slowly through the world, and the preciousness of tender friendship between humans and animals. They are all caught up in the little donkey in this painting.

The man and woman in the foreground may reflect our own lives with the duties, the expectations and the demands called of us at work. Take time to focus on the donkey, enjoying his rest. Take time this Spring and Summer to find relaxation and recreation. The world may carry on spinning around us, but we can stand apart, and enter into the rest that God enjoyed after His work of creation.



Nigel Beeton writes: *“One thing that never seems to improve as we get older is the deepening mystery of the power that computers have over us, and the utter confusion that results when they do something that we don’t expect!”*

The Computer Swallowed Grandad!

The computer swallowed Grandad!
Yes! Honestly! It’s true!
He pressed Control and Enter –
And disappeared from view!

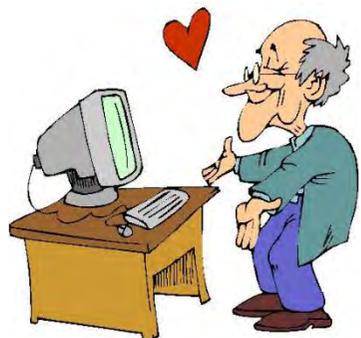
It devoured him completely
The thought just makes me squirm!
He must have caught a virus
Or been swallowed by a worm!

I’ve searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I’ve even searched the internet
But nothing did I find.

I went to Mr Google
My searches to refine
His reply was in the negative,
‘Nothing found’ was Google’s line.

So, if inside your inbox
My Grandad you should see –
Please copy, scan, and paste him
And send him back to me!

By Nigel Beeton



Saints you may not have heard about ...

27th March: Rupert the salty

Rupert is the saint for you if you like The Sound of Music – or salt with your food!

Rupert (d c 710) was bishop of Worms and Salzburg, and it was he who founded the great monastery of St Peter in Salzburg in the eighth century, thus firmly establishing Christianity in that city. True, it would be another 11 centuries before a certain young wanna-be-nun wandered about singing of her 'Favourite Things' and 'Something Good', but you have to start somewhere.

In the meantime, Rupert also helped the people of Salzburg by developing the salt-mines nearby. This was 'something good' as well, because it brought in an income. Though if salt became a too 'favourite thing', it would also have raised the locals' blood pressure.

Rupert's iconographical emblem is a barrel of salt, which makes sense, but is not as romantic as raindrops on roses, or whiskers on kittens.



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With AGMs at church in mind...

A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing, but together can decide that nothing can be done.

Crossword

Across

1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)

4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)

8 ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)

9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)

10 Jewish (7)

11 Dirge (anag.) (5)

12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)

17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)

19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)

21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)

22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)

23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)

24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

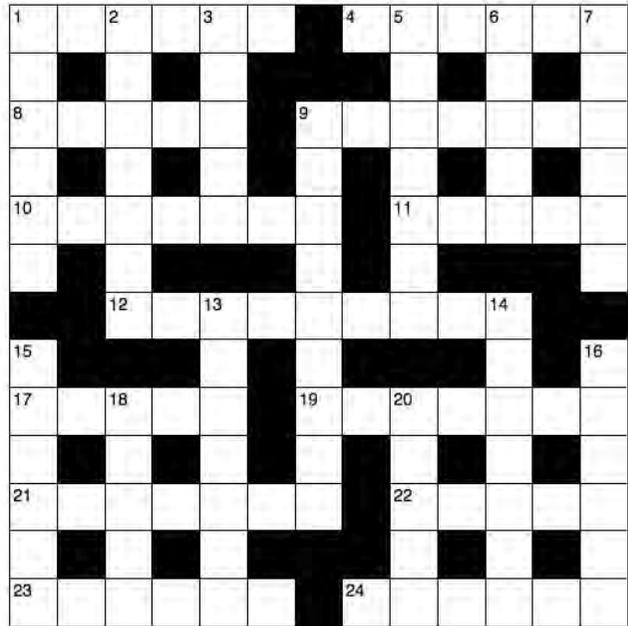
1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)

2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)

3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)

5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)

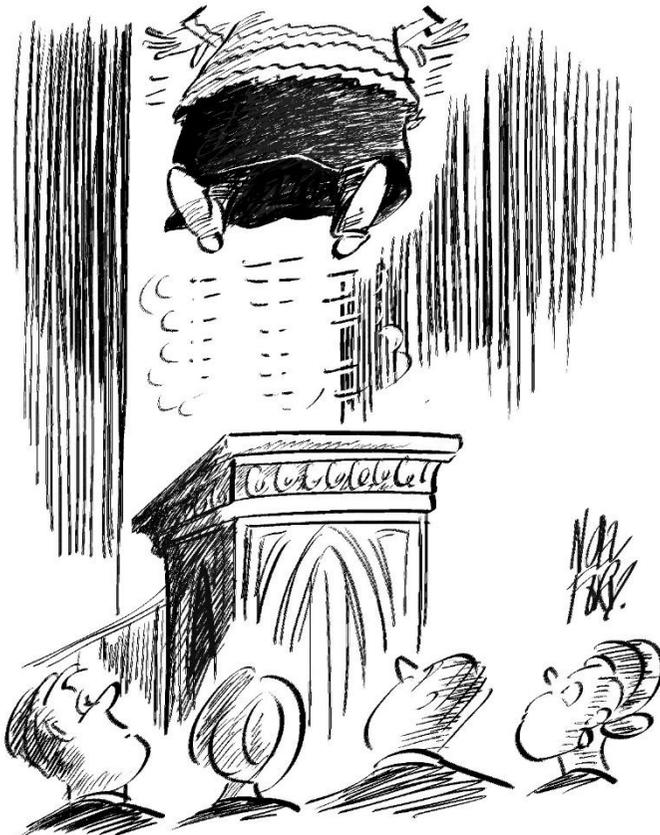
6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)



- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

Solution on P. 36

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The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one

God in the Sciences ...

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Science and a sense of the Transcendent

What is the difference between a cathedral and a physics lab? Are they not both saying: 'Hello'? - Annie Dillard



Scientists often speak of a reality beyond the objects they are studying, and for some this is encountered in powerful – if rare – episodes of wonder and awe. The Christian writer J.W. Sire quotes this line from Annie Dillard in his book *Echoes of a Voice*, which explores spiritual or ‘transcendent’ experiences.

In his analysis of these experiences Sire describes moments that are “emotional, intellectual, highly charged, usually sudden, unannounced, often odd, some weird, others glorious”, and places them on three different levels:

A material object that points beyond the material reality. For example, someone might develop a sense of what is good and evil, based on the actions of others.

Experience of “something personal...just behind the surface of what we are directly experiencing, often something with which one feels at peace or even at one, or, perhaps, as dangerous or threatening.”

A felt presence that has a specific character or presence, e.g., holiness, or inspiring humility, fearful awe or wonder.

According to Sire, level 1-2 experiences are fairly common but level 3 is rare. He gives a wide range of examples, including scientists. Some of these people are religious or interested in spirituality, others are atheists. Some of their moments of transcendence carried a particular meaning, others simply sparked curiosity. The famous geneticist Francis Collins described several significant moments when he was young: “being transported by the experience of looking through a telescope”, or “a Christmas Eve where the descant on a particularly beautiful Christmas carol...left me with a sense of unexpected awe and a longing for something I could not name”.

These experiences meant that when Collins was faced with the question of belief in God, “all [his] arguments seemed very thin”. Now, as a fully-fledged scientist and a believer in God, he is able to say that “for a scientist who occasionally is given the remarkable privilege of discovering something not previously known by man, there is a special kind of joy associated with such flashes of insight.”

Most of us are not scientists, but we may well have had experiences like this in different contexts. How can we, in our engagement with scientifically minded individuals, make connections through our shared experience of the transcendent? Can we listen as well as explain, finding some common points of connection?

Looking ahead towards Easter and beyond ...

Lord Jesus,
you came as
a humble servant
but were proclaimed
as King.

Even so, willingly you
became broken for us
and, through your death
and resurrection,
Love became
triumphant!

CELEBRATE EASTER

MESSY CHURCH SATURDAY 2 APRIL

3.00-5.00pm St Peter's Community Centre



PALM SUNDAY 10 APRIL

9.45am On the green opposite St Peter's Church Sowerby

3.15pm Norland WMC & St Luke's Church, Norland

Processing into church after blessing the palm crosses

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 18-20 April

7.30pm Said Eucharist at St Peter's Church Sowerby

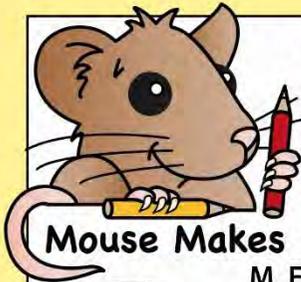


EASTER SUNDAY 17 APRIL

Celebration Easter Eucharist service

10.00am St Peter's Church, Sowerby

3.30pm St Luke's Church, Norland



Mouse Makes



Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?
Read Matthew 26:17-75



What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?
What time did Jesus die?
Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?



Read Matthew 27



HAPPY EASTER!

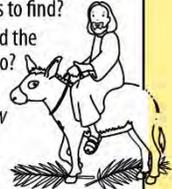
Jesus has risen!
Jesus is with us!
Jesus will come again!



What did Jesus send the disciples to find?

What did the crowd do?

Read Matthew 21:1-11



What did Jesus do at Passover?



Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?
What had happened to Jesus?

Read Matthew 28

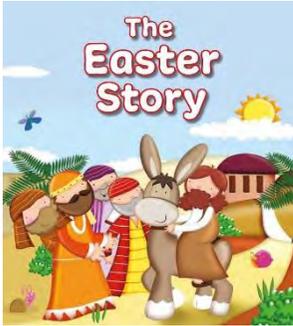


M E S S I A H W I N E
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L R G O D H A O S H A
R O B E A E N V T R S
A O O B R A N C H E S
N M J O K V A P O E O
G O O D N E W S R D V
E R Y Y E N V A N A E
L N J E S U S V S Y R
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D A E B R E A D S M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

Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER

Books for our times ...



The Easter Story

By Karen Williamson, illustrated by Marie Allen, Candle Books, £6.99

Here is a book for sharing with your toddlers and young children, perfect for bedtimes leading up to Easter.

It is written as a continuous journey, from 'A noisy entry' where Jesus is walking to

Jerusalem, 'A meal to remember' where Jesus ate with twelve special friends, through to Jesus appearing to His special friends and His ascension. The story is expanded to give a little more detail and to enable it to be read as a continuous story over a number of days, leading up to Easter.

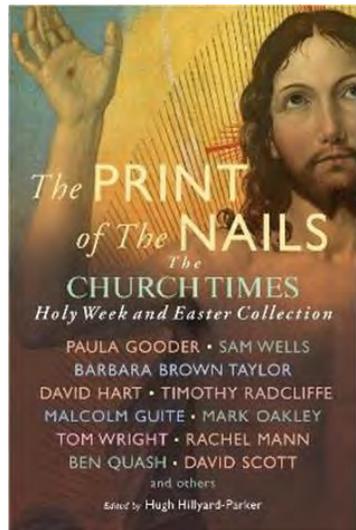
The Print of the Nails – the Church Times Holy Week and Easter Collection

By Hugh Hillyard-Parker, Paula Gooder, and Samuel Wells, Canterbury Press, £16.99

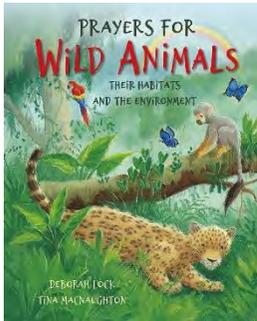
Here is a wealth of seasonal reading and resources for worship during the build-up to Easter.

It includes: meditations on the Stations of the Cross; a short story set in Gethsemane; a look at Pilate; the art of Good Friday; a look at Judas; an argument for starting Easter celebrations in the dark; the carols of Easter; the poetry of the cross; and on why the Resurrection is central to faith.

In life, Jesus had 'nowhere to lay His head' and in death He was laid in a borrowed tomb. Mindful of this, all royalties from this book will go to the Church Homeless Trust.



Prayers for Wild Animals – their Habitats and the Environment



By Deborah Lock, illustrated by Tina Macnaughton, Lion Candle Books, £7.99

This is a prayer book of blessings to help children celebrate the lives of wild animals and God's love for them. The often-heart-warming prayers help express the joy children find in animals. From butterflies to bears, Africa to Australia and forests to oceans, the collection includes prayers for the conservation of the animals' habitats and

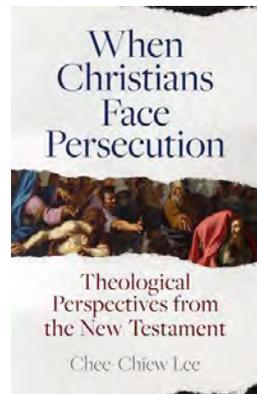
the care and protection for the environment.

When Christians Face Persecution – theological perspectives from the New Testament

By Chee-Chiew Lee, IVP, £16.99

What does the Bible say about persecution of Christians?

The New Testament is filled with a range of experiences of Christian persecution. Lee shows how the understanding of early Christian writers can be applied to the persecution of Christians today.



Looking Shame in the Eye – a path to understanding, grace and freedom



By Simon Cozens, IVP, £9.99

What is shame and where does it come from? How can we break free from it, and help others also suffering?

Online shaming reminds us of the power of shame, the crisis of self-worth, the weight of judgement and the need for freedom. This book helps you to understand 'shame thinking', and helps you to discover how God's freedom can release those

suffering from the debilitating grip of shame.

And Finally....

Grandparents

/ Grandmothers are mums with lots of frosting. – Anon

/ Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother. The next you are all-wise and prehistoric. – Pam Brown

/ Grandchildren don't stay young forever, which is good because grandfathers have only so many horsy rides in them. – Gene Perret

/ You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother. – Proverb

Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

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All articles are accepted subject to Sowerby PCC editorial policy.

Cutoff date for items for the next issue is 15th of June. Anything submitted later will be held for the next magazine.

Grateful acknowledgement is given to all our magazine contributors, and also to the contributors of the website Parishpump.co.uk, for kindly allowing us to use some of their material.