

THE

CRAYFISHER

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The magazine for the Parish of Cray Valley

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Front Cover Picture: St Mary's Church by Tony Lathey

PARISH LETTER



With Easter we celebrate once more the central truth that Christians worship a living God. Easter re-affirms Christ's promise, 'to be with us to the end of the age'. His resurrection revealed, from the beginning, how He continues to speak to His followers in their deepest needs, hopes and fears. He spoke to distraught Mary in the garden; the two bewildered followers on the road to Emmaus; the fearful and doubting disciples in the upper room; the downhearted fisherman in the fishing boat returning to the shore. It's sometimes hard to take it in, but we are no less important to God.

In this frenetic age where often communication is more achieved by the 'tap tap' of fingers on screens or keyboards, perhaps we need to take more time to stop, to listen, to reflect and to pray.

My prayer is that we make it more of a priority and try to discern more clearly the voice of the living God in whichever way is best for us. One thing we can be sure of, God does have something to say, 'a word in season' may be a helpful way to put it. May each one of us have ears to hear and hearts to respond. So maybe there is a message in the Sound of Silence about how the Church can support you and those in our communities? Easter and onward blessings to you all.

Jessie

READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL

- Sun 4th EASTER DAY
 Acts 10. 34-43
 GOSPEL: John 20. 1-18
- Sun 11th SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
 Acts 4. 32-35
 GOSPEL: John 20. 19-31
- Sun 18th THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
 Acts 3. 12-19
 GOSPEL: Luke 24. 36b-48
- Sun 25th FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
 Acts 4. 5-12
 GOSPEL: John 10. 11-18

COLLECTS FOR APRIL

- Sun 4th Lord of all life and power; who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity: **Amen**
- Sun 11th Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Sun 18th Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Sun 25th Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

SERVICES DURING APRIL

Sunday Services will be in Church **and** on Zoom for April

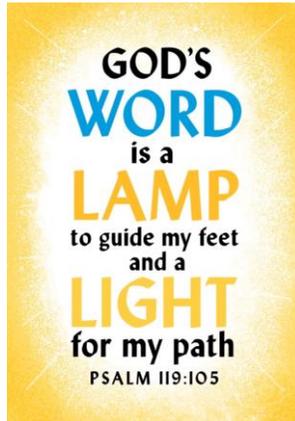
Sunday 4th April St Andrew's at 10am

Sunday 11th April St Mary's at 10am

Sunday 18th April St Andrew's at 10am

Sunday 25th April St Mary's at 10am

THE DEADLINE FOR THE **MAY ISSUE OF
THE CRAYFISHER IS **MONDAY 12 APRIL**. PLEASE HAVE
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN BY THIS DATE – ANYTHING
RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE HELD OVER UNTIL
THE NEXT ISSUE**



Courtesy of Parish Pump.co.uk

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

We cannot meet at Muriel's home, but we are still praying for all in need especially at this time.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

For further details contact Tony Lathey 01689 872742

SOCIAL EVENTS

AT ST ANDREW'S AND ST MARY'S IN 2021

Regretfully, our planned events for 2020 had to be postponed. We are, however, hopeful that we can do some social events in 2021. WATCH THIS SPACE!

LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

I've not done much at all but I'm very comfortable with the lockdown sofa, watching the garden wildlife. I went out to see the badger, he crept silently behind me as I stepped back with my heel on his paw. He shot up the path, under the bushes, over the wall and along the pavement. Two nights later he forgave me and spent time in the garden, standing up and shaking the bird feeder post!

I've been trying to do a puzzle for three months. The sky is wider than the river, the centre bits fit but one side is shorter than the other???

Other people have more luck and patience.

Joyce Ozsvald

After all my sewing projects in the summer of last year, I have now decided it was time to make a quilt for myself, just for a change. I've put together 81 squares for the centre and have also put on the border. Next, I tackle the backing and batting.

Brenda Smith



We drove back from Brownsea Island after eating homemade bread every day. So, at the beginning of Lockdown Jim started to bake our own bread. Since then, it's a near daily occurrence!! And improved no end, with a nice light brown crusty top! We keep exercising to keep the fat down!!! I don't think we're winning!

Jacky Cook



A THANK YOU

Iwould like to say thank you to everyone who has been praying for my son Kevin. Kevin was very sick in hospital with Covid. He is home now. Kevin's recovery will be slow, but he is making good progress. Thank you for all your support and prayers. *Myra Archer*

EASTER PRAYER

Dear generous, loving Father,

How can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him?

We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth - and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve.

Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah!
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



SPACES AVAILABLE NOW

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FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

Here are reviews of some books you may be interested in.

The Story of Easter

By Alexa Tewkesbury, SPCK, £6.99

Award-winning children's author Alexa Tewkesbury offers a timeless retelling of the Easter story in this delightful picture book for 3–5-year-olds.

Spanning events from Palm Sunday through to the last supper, crucifixion and resurrection, *The Story of Easter* is an excellent way to introduce children to the Bible story that lies at the heart of the Christian faith.

Bright, colourful illustrations from Dani



Padron bring the book to life, and children will love spotting the many different animals that are dotted on every page. The clear, simple text is ideal for young kids just starting to read and for adults to read aloud.

The Easter Story

By Lois Rock and Alex Ayliffe, Lion Children's, £14.99

This BIG book is ideal for shared reading. Derived from the award-winning *My Very First Bible*, this well-known Bible story is presented in simple words and illustrated with child-friendly paper collage illustrations.

Notes are included for parents and teachers, putting the story in context and giving ideas for discussion.

Easter: The Greatest News

By Paul Williams, 10Publishing, £2.99 (discounts for packs)

We don't like to think about death. It's morbid and uncomfortable because if we're honest, deep down, many of us are fearful about what will happen when our time comes.

But what if there was one who could take us through the door marked death with confidence? The story of Easter contains the greatest news – the answer to our biggest problem that will bring peace, assurance and freedom.

Easter means that death can be the doorway to the beginning of the most wonderful experience of our lives.

Relationship Goals Challenge

By Michael Todd, Authentic, £12.99

This book applies biblical wisdom to all the trappings of modern romance. With uncommon transparency, through storytelling, and with consistent scriptural teaching, Michael Todd helps readers maximise their relationships and develop the necessary aim to reach their goals.

Divided into practical, inspiring daily readings, with fresh steps and insights, this book may be a helpful resource for individuals or couples.

Holy Days in April

Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

Maundy Thursday is also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Good Friday, the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9 a.m. and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

St James the Least of All

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

On the best way to run a church council meeting

The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

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

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

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



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

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

Your loving uncle,

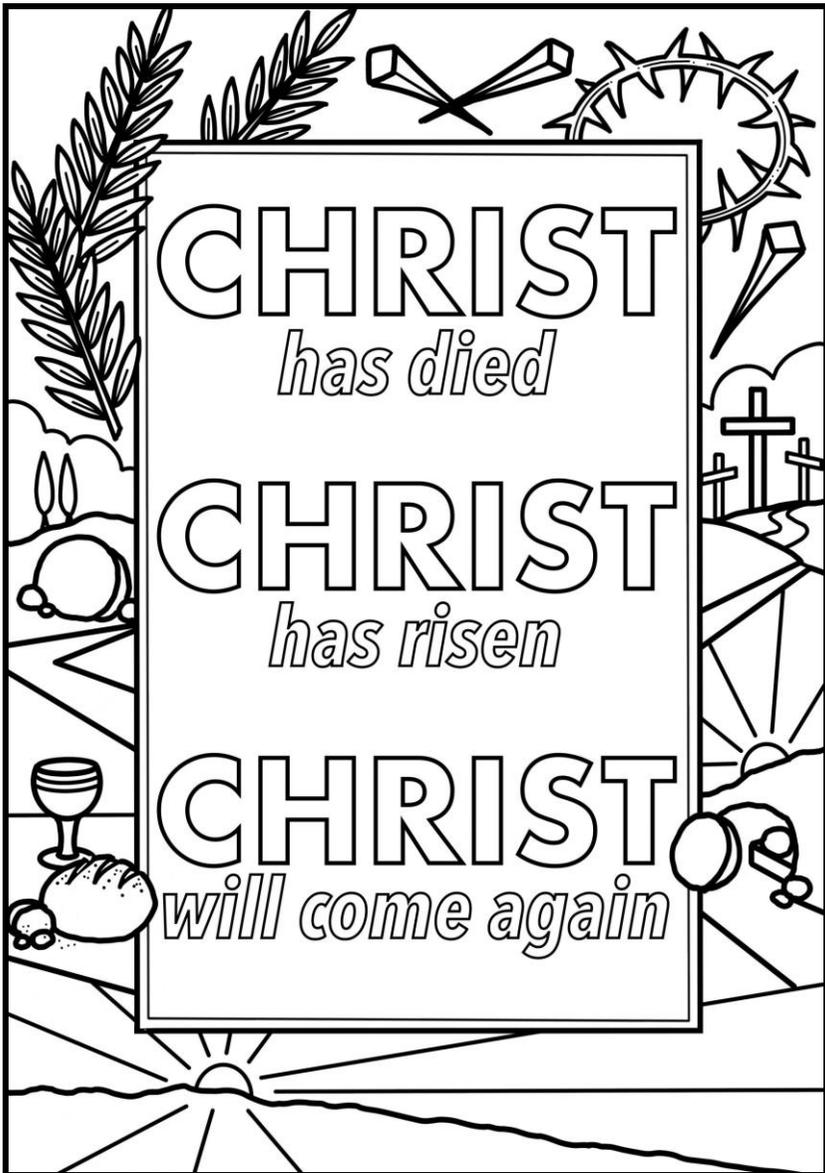
Eustace



The need for a loo became more pressing

A PICTURE FOR YOU TO COLOUR

How about cutting it out once coloured and putting it in a front window
for Easter week 4-11 April



COME, RISEN LORD, AND DEIGN TO BE OUR GUEST

I like the story of the vestry noticeboard of a church in Hampshire: after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion', the choirmaster wrote: "The Crucifixion" – well done, everyone! Later that day, someone had added, 'The Resurrection – well done, God!'

For the two disciples treading the road to Emmaus, there was no such sense of victory and celebration. Their minds and hearts were numb with the sense of loss and failure. They had seen their Lord tried and crucified. As Luke recounts that walk in his Gospel, he shows how it began with absence and loss, but journeyed to presence. It was a road that took the disciples from blindness and despair to sight and insight. They talked over past events with the stranger who joined them, and Luke uses ten different Greek words to describe that conversation – all stages in their understanding. And when they share a meal with the stranger, who becomes the host, taking the bread and giving thanks, then the understanding becomes vision and insight.

That meal is the theme of Caravaggio's painting of 1601, 'The Supper at Emmaus.' Caravaggio had a reputation for being a violent, irrational artist, given to bouts of anger and forced to spend part of his life in exile in Naples and Sicily. His paintings as well as his lifestyle shocked and provoked comment. This portrayal of Jesus with a plump, youthful face and his depiction of the apostles as ordinary labourers upset the church authorities. But by giving Jesus a beardless face, Caravaggio was trying to show Him in the new likeness of Resurrection – an Easter image of our Lord. The light from that Easter Jesus fills the scene as the two disciples look on, astonished and finally understanding.

When we read the Gospel, we are drawn into the scene. For Caravaggio, the movement is the other way: the scene reaches out to us from the canvas. Look at the outstretched hand of Jesus, the elbow of one disciple and the left hand of the other: they are being projected into our world. And that basket of fruit, full of apples and figs and grapes, symbols of the fall and the eucharist: it is about to topple off the table and into our laps. It is an Easter encounter two thousand years ago, reaching out to us through light and shade and the skill of the artist.

In many ways the Gospel story in Luke is of an ordinary encounter between travellers and a stranger. But it is made extraordinary by the transforming power of the risen Lord, talking with the disciples in the open air and then going inside for a meal. However, the doors are not shut to us. For Caravaggio shows how that special moment of encounter for the two disciples can reach out to enter our world. And he shows the hand of the risen Lord beckoning us to step into that Easter world of sacrament and new life.

<https://scotland.op.org/caravaggios-supper-at-emmaus-i/>

For the Young and Young at Heart is courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

THE LAND MINE THAT FELL ON ST. MARY CRAY **IN APRIL 1941**

During the night of 16th/17th April 1941 the Bromley area experienced its worst raid of the war. During this raid nearly 50 heavy bombs and mines fell in the Orpington area. The most serious of these was a land* mine which exploded at 9.55pm. at the commencement of the raid in the High Street of St. Mary Cray. The mine exploded opposite St. Joseph's Catholic Church, wrecking the church, school and house. The mine also destroyed six shops, damaged a village hall, a library and other premises and set vehicles ablaze. (At that time St. Joseph's Catholic church was situated between Blacksmiths Lane and the Temple Church). The blast resulted in eleven deaths and more than forty injuries. Most casualties were at numbers 127, 162, 168, 172 and 176 High St. Miraculously, Reverends Fahey and Breslin and Miss 'Babs' Flannery survived the raid. A number of locals including one of the Snelling sisters were lucky to escape serious injury.



(* NB. The London Borough of Bromley 'Bromley At War' Commemoration Magazine refers to the 'mine' as a parachute mine).

The mine also caused structural damage to the Temple church. The damage was serious enough to necessitate its demolition and rebuild in 1950. The new church was opened in 1955.

The St. Mary Cray land mine was one incident out of 13 to hit the Bromley area that night (i.e. the area that currently forms the London Borough of Bromley). It was one of the worst incidents of the night but not *the* worst. This unfortunate record belongs to Plaistow where, in two separate incidents 33 people lost their lives.

St. Mary Cray itself suffered another serious incident in October 1943 when bombers dropped 20 high explosive bombs in the Orpington area, one or more of which landed in St. Mary Cray. Thirty homes in Anglesea Road were either destroyed or seriously damaged and 7 people killed and 16 injured. Later in the war 3 V2s fell on St. Mary Cray in March 1945, the last of these on the 27th killed Ivy Millichamp at 88 Kynaston Road. She was the last civilian to be killed by enemy action in mainland Britain and is buried in All Saints churchyard.

In the 80 years since the parachute mine, the area local to the explosion has been totally redeveloped being given over to housing in the form of multi-storey flats e.g., Forgefield Court or relatively small-scale housing units, e.g. Cherry Orchard Close.

Jim Cook.

The plate was commissioned by St. Mary Cray Action Group. Photo by Jackie Cook

GARDENING TIPS

If you have Moneymaker tomato seeds get them planted now and placed in a cloche as they need 65/70°F (18/21°C) to germinate. Press them into a seed tray to make contact with the soil and cover with vermiculite to add drainage. Spray with rainwater and they should be ready in about 14 days to put into 3” pots.

Rita McKay



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Past dissolves before our eyes
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And arduous journey – to find out if bliss
is the hallmark of the present moment

Geraldine Ann Ford
February 2000

PANDEMIC POETRY AND PRAYER

I've lived in cities all my life: I'm used to the noise and throng;
The grit, the street song: a place where we all belong.
But now my city is quiet and eerie: my neighbours are hidden and
weary.
How long this will last, no one knows. At present, anything goes.

Baking.

Sighing.

Painting.

Sighing.

Crafting.

Sighing.

Assuring family I'm fine.

Lying.

These two poems were heard on Woman's Hour on BBC Radio Four on 7th January 2021. Listeners had been asked to describe their feelings after the government had announced the third period of national lockdown. Carol Ann Duffy the former poet laureate spoke on the programme. She said: 'At its best, poetry uses language in the way that prayer does. It compresses so much into a little space. It makes us slow down and ponder the words because they have been so carefully chosen.'

Jerry Dowlen

MY LOCKDOWN DOORMAT

The status of my front door mat,
in this pandemic has risen.
It's mostly there for wiping feet,
but now it's on a mission.

While I am shielded from friends,
family and postman Pat,
and the friendly delivery man,
everything's placed on my mat.

It all began on Mother's Day,
cards, balloons, flowers were left,
on my mat, to its surprise,
my family were bereft.

Cuddles and kisses for grandkids,
on Mother's Day were banned,
talking through bedroom windows,
blowing kisses, waving hands.

My medication and shopping,
are all placed on my mat.
Delivery men leave parcels,
sometimes stopping for a chat.

When Jo next door cooks a roast,
and leaves *that* on my mat,
she rings my bell then legs it,
back to the door of her flat.

Was going to buy a new doormat,
Before this pandemic began,
But, as it has been shielding me,
I'm now its greatest fan.

Geraldine Ann Ford
8th May 2020



Funshine Club

**Cray Valley Parish
Toddler Group**

Every Wednesday during term
time

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park

£1.00 per adult, Children free

(Includes craft activity,
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Enquiries to Sarah Rideout
0794 1020724

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latest updates. Please also
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other activities and catch-
up details uploaded
regularly. Looking forward
to seeing everyone when
we are able.**

HALL FOR HIRE

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WILLIAM BUTTERFIELD – ARCHITECT (1814 - 1900)

Sir John Betjeman used the intriguing word ‘polychromatic’ to describe the exterior of ‘the great red church’ St Saviour’s in Highbury. The word means many-coloured, but in the context of 19th-century church architecture there is more to it than that. The lack of churches in the expanding suburbs became a matter of public concern throughout the country after the end of the Napoleonic wars. It took the 1818 Church Building Act to accelerate the hitherto long and complicated process of establishing a new parish church. The emphasis was on economy: many of the new-builds were box-shaped with galleried interiors to seat the maximum number of people. Some had pared-down Gothic detail and a slim tower but otherwise they were simple and austere.



By the 1840s and 1850s more adventurous styles were creeping in: stone instead of brickwork; stained glass; more emphatic towers and spires. Gothic buildings of ragstone made a steady impact on London’s skyline. It started the heyday of the London architect William Butterfield (1814 - 1900). Between 1856 and

1862 he designed and built St Aubyn Brook Street in Holborn using a ‘forceful polychromatic brick decoration’.

Let me commend to you Keble College at Oxford University. Amongst the largely classical and medieval college buildings it stands a solid red-brick shrine to the Victorian era. Professor Crook of London University hails it thus: ‘An architectural phenomenon. Butterfield ranks as one of the great originals in English architectural history. His genius was for colour, for abstract geometrical pattern, for endless invention in the polychromatic form.’ However, Butterfield’s creation at Keble in 1870 wasn’t welcome at the time. It raised a storm of adverse comment. A more recent critic has called it ‘A dinosaur wearing a Fair Isle sweater.’

Jerry Dowlen

SHOWING GRATITUDE FOR COVID VACCINES.

Eastertide is a time of resurrection celebrating Jesus' new life, here is one way of sharing that new life to others.

The Covid Vaccine is literally a life saver and those who receive the jabs are very grateful. Some people have wanted to show gratitude for their injections, gratitude for the free provision we have, gratitude for the scientists who worked tirelessly to develop the drug and gratitude for the health professionals who have delivered the vaccine. We have so much to be thankful for.

We know that for Covid to be controlled the vaccine has to be delivered globally. Some people have chosen to donate to UNICEF in order to raise money for the drug to be distributed to the poorest and most remote areas of the world. £45 could buy 1593 doses of the vaccine, safely transported to the people who need it.

For more information go the UNICEF website using the link below

https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/coronavirus/?gclid=EAJalQobChMI8azg_cu17wIVFevtCh2fBgKhEAAAYASAAEgJLGvD_BwE

Rev Jane

