

St. Augustine and St. Aidan Tonge Moor and Hall i'th' Wood

PARISH PAPER – APRIL 2021



Spring is here at last. The daffodils are everywhere and soon their golden trumpets will herald the return of life and light and warmth. They have been good companions for us during Lent, reminding us of the inexpressible joy that lies ahead of us, both on Easter Sunday morning and also one day beyond the grave.

My dear friends



The new(ish) Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell is using a series of one-hour webinars to promote his vision for the Church of England. Given the poor showing of the CofE's hierarchy during the first lockdown in particular, this is no bad thing!

But the Church has various moments of renewal from time to time which have given it the metaphorical 'shot in the arm'. Those of particular note would be the growth of Anglo-Catholic social action in the late 1800s and the Anglo-Catholic Congress of the 1920s and 1930s. Archbishop Cottrell is from a catholic background: perhaps this initiative will also be rooted in the Incarnation rather than trendy management-speak.

The first webinar, which aired on the Feast of the Assumption suggests it could. Although I could only watch the first half-hour before officiating at a funeral, his Vision appears to be a reawakening of what the Church should be already doing. And when I say 'Church', I do not mean the hierarchy, but the Body of Christ, the People of God - you and me.

This first webinar explored what it means to be a church that is centred on Jesus Christ and shaped by Jesus Christ - a church that is simpler, humbler, bolder. At a time when the age-profile of the CofE is very top-heavy and predominantly white, how can we become a church which is younger and more diverse?

Having received the gift and grace of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, how can we become a church of missionary disciples: "Go out to the whole and proclaim the Good News" (Our Lord); "using words where necessary (St Francis of Assisi). And after centuries of "leaving it to Father", how can we empower the laity to fulfil their role and exercise their God-given skills and talents in the service of His Church?

One of the diagrams used showed the Archbishop's vision of Christians centred and modelled on Jesus being at the core of a revitalised Church. As Jesus welcomes all people, so children, young people and non-white people would feel actively welcomed; being helped to become missionary disciples we would become bolder and more confident in our faith; and rejoicing in the gifts God has given to others - and seeing and welcoming those gifts being used - would make us humbler. The Archbishop likened this to ripples in a pond: not something that's imposed, but something that happens naturally when we truly model ourselves on Christ.

The recording of the webinar has yet to be released, but I would commend it and the others in the series to you. Early this month we will be celebrating the joy of Easter and the new life promised by the Resurrection. I pray that God would continue to inform the Archbishop's Vision and breathe new life into the Church in this and every other parish, transforming them to His greater glory.

With my prayers and best wishes

Fr Tony

WELL, WHAT A NICE SURPRISE!

It's always nice to receive a cheque in the post, especially so when it is unexpected. That happened recently when the parish received a cheque from "PayPal Giving Fund", a registered charity that helps people support their favourite charities online. In 2019 they raised £25 million to benefit 21,000 UK charities. This is done by enabling people to give through their partner programmes with PayPal, eBay, GoFundMe, Facebook and others. They receive funds donated through these platforms and grant them to charities recommended by our donors.

We're very grateful to those who have nominated the Parish of Tonge Moor as their favoured charity when using PayPal, eBay or other participating platforms, and I encourage all our readers to do likewise. It doesn't cost you a penny more, yet enable the parish to benefit.

Yes, what a very nice surprise it was!

Fr Tony

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.

But Thursday was 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 had 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. in the morning, 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.

Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).

EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus

from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' - a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Easter morning, the 'Other' Mary

As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary - not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person actually to meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' - New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen - and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did - but they wouldn't believe her.

Her words - 'I have seen the Lord' - echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

The following list of witnesses may help you put all those references in order....

Mary Magdalene	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
Other women at the tomb	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travellers on the road	Mark 16:12,13
10 disciples behind closed doors	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
11 disciples WITH Thomas	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
7 disciples while fishing	John 21:1-14
11 disciples on the mountain	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of 500	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother - James	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who saw the Ascension	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly

significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups - when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead - which is exactly what they did preach - would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful - and a challenging - Easter.

23rd April: St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. Some stories say that he was an officer in the Roman army under

Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23rd April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. St George charged forwards and drove his spear into the dragon's gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So, 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and he is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs.

The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

The good news about your forgetfulness

You know the scenario - you go into the lounge, and then wonder what you wanted. Or you need to make a phone call but can't find the phone. You go to the cash point and forget your pin number. Or your car keys are lost in the kitchen, but even when you find them and go shopping, you forget stuff on the list.

If at times you find yourself living in an annoying brain-fog, the good news is that it is not because you are ill or getting old. To varying extents, everyone does it.

A recent study at the University of Edinburgh has found that forgetfulness is as common in people in their 20s as it is in people in their 50s. Although some of the people in the study were worried about getting dementia, a neuropsychiatrist at the university reassured them: "People think that if you are starting to forget things - something like misplacing your keys - that is something to worry about. But it is normal."

Good reasons for forgetting things range from the fact that too much was happening in your life at the time, you were stressed about

something, not paying attention to what you were doing, or just too busy thinking about something else entirely.

In praise of the afternoon nap

A short nap in the afternoon improves your memory and keeps your brain more agile.

People who nap tend to speak more fluently, have greater mental agility, and remember things better than those who do not break up their day with sleep.

Even a five-minute nap can offer your brain a chance to down-time and replenish itself, so that it is 'good to go' again.

If you want longer than five minutes, try to stop at 40 minutes, before you enter the deepest stage of sleep. If you do carry on, sleep for two hours, which is a full sleep-cycle. The study was published in the British Medical Journal.



Walsingham News

The collective payment for our membership of the Society of Our Lady of Walsingham has now been sent to the Shrine but it's not too late for the very few members who haven't renewed - just contact Elsie.

The annual payment for the candle which burns for our parish in the Holy House has also been made, thanks to the generosity of those who have supported the sale of cards during the year.



We are looking at resuming our regular Cell meetings from the summer, so if there is something you would particularly like to do then please let us know. Of course it is impossible to predict whether or not our Parish Pilgrimage will go ahead at the very end of August as it is still 5 months away. As things are, at the time of writing this, looking ahead 5 weeks is like gazing into a crystal ball! The Government 'roadmap' for lifting Covid restrictions indicates that indoor hospitality won't open before 17th May. The Shrine intends to open for resident pilgrims three weeks after that on 7th June. Initially that will be for up to 60, increasing that number as circumstances allow. As soon as we have any information be assured it will be passed on.

The Shrine has had some very generous donations towards the cost of new live-streaming and camera equipment, which was installed at the end of March. Through the use of this technology, the @Home Children's Pilgrimage and the @Home Lenten Retreat have been widely followed in recent weeks as well as the continuing streaming of daily Shrine Prayers at 6pm and Sunday Mass at 9am. Mass on St Patrick's Day was live-streamed from the stunning recently restored chapel of S. Patrick & S Hugh and also from the Altar of the Annunciation on 25th March.

We have put the date for our own Walsingham Festival in the parish diary for Saturday 2nd October and the planned Festival at Durham Cathedral on Sat 23rd October is, not unexpectedly, hopeful but to be confirmed nearer the autumn.



Here are a couple of spring-time photographs of the garden in past years.



Linda Parkington

100 CLUB NEWS

The twelfth monthly draw was via a Zoom meeting at 12.00pm on Sunday 14th March 2021.

Pam and Fr Tony were in charge of the drum containing the numbers at the vicarage.

Ruth Taylor had list of numbers and names.

First Prize Number 40 – Jean Turner - wins £25

Second Prize Number 104 – Debbie Jackson - wins £15

Third Prize Number 53 – Brian Pye - wins £10

The first draw for the new term will hopefully be on Sunday 4th April 2021 (Easter Sunday), again via Zoom, Join the Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82349787107?pwd=S1B2Q1BzTGxHQWdXckkv eXdIS1lzZz09>

Meeting ID: 823 4978 7107

Passcode: 158738

If you are not a member contact David or Ruth Taylor to be allocated a number just £12 a year. Also to renew and/or take on a new number

Churches Together in Tonge Moor

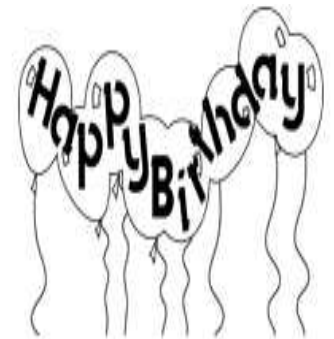
The last meeting was Tuesday 9th March and we agreed a Social Media Policy, now posted on Facebook, also in attendance was the Facilitator of the GMCT (Greater Manchester Churches Together) Graham Baker and we discussed the Holy Week service on 29th March.

The Holy week service, with the Stations of the Cross theme, was recorded on Zoom on Monday 29th March at 7.30pm and has now been uploaded to YouTube.

The next meeting will be on 13th April 2021, at 7.30pm. Do let us know if you want us to send you the link for this.

Ruth Taylor

*Congratulations and all our Best Wishes
to Vera Cryer who celebrates her
80th Birthday on 18th April 2021*



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

PARISH DATES

Thur	1st	MANUNDY THURSDAY: 7.30pm: Maundy Thursday Liturgy
Fri	2nd	GOOD FRIDAY: 10.30am: Good Friday Liturgy 3.00pm: Stations of the Cross
Sat	3rd	10.00am: Sacrament of Confession (Lady Chapel) 8.30pm: SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL
SUN	4th	9.00am: Mass of Easter Morning (St Aidan's) 10.30am: Mass of Easter Morning 6.30pm: Evening Prayer and Benediction
SUN	11th	6.30pm: Evening Prayer and Benediction
Tue	13th	12.30pm: Funeral of Hilda Heath RIP (St Augustine's) 7.30pm: Churches Together in Tonge Moor
SUN	25th	12.15pm: Holy Baptism

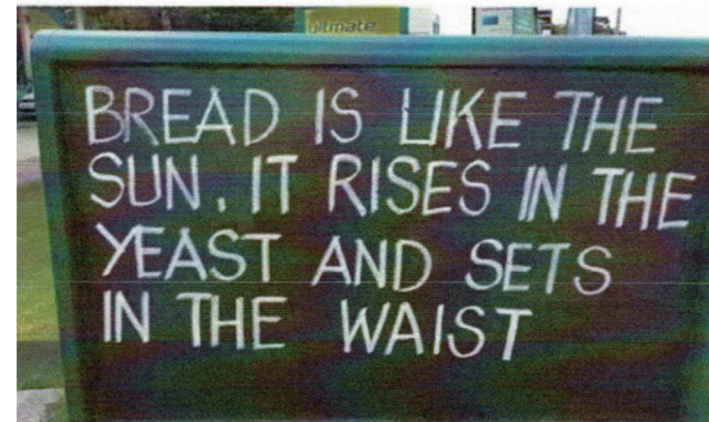
EASTER BISCUITS

Ingredients

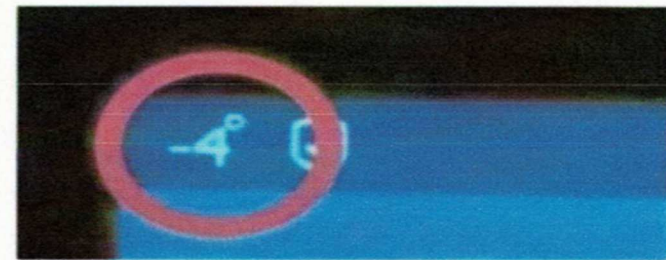
- 75g (3oz) butter
- 75g (3oz) golden caster sugar
- 1 egg (separated)
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- 50g (2oz) currants
- 15g (½oz) mixed peel
- 175g (6oz) plain flour (all purpose)
- 3 tsp milk
- Golden granulated sugar to sprinkle

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan)/350°F/gas mark 4.
2. Beat 75g (3oz) softened butter with 75g (3oz) caster sugar together until light and fluffy, then beat in 1 egg yolk.
3. Add a pinch of mixed spice, 50g (2oz) currants and 15g (½ oz) mixed peel and mix to combine, then beat in 3 tbsp milk.
4. Add 175g (6oz) plain flour and mix to a stiff dough. Roll out the dough to 6mm (¼in) thick, then use a 7cm (3in) round cookie cutter to cut out the biscuits and transfer to a baking sheet. Gather up the trimmings, roll and repeat.
5. Lightly beat the egg white and brush the surface of the biscuits with the egg white, then sprinkle with a little granulated sugar.
6. Bake for 15-18 minutes until pale golden.



Wife: "The car is not starting. Dashboard shows the sign of a person sitting on toilet."
Husband: "What...??
Send me a picture."



Lot's wife

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.'

His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

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Notices found in church newsletters - that didn't quite come out right!

- * This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- * Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
- * For those who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche in the crypt.
- * Bring & share church supper: Prayer and medication will follow.
- * Don't let worry kill you. Let the Church help!
- * The organist invites anyone who enjoys sinning to volunteer for the choir.
- * At the church meeting last week the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.
- * Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.
- * Smile at someone who you find hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't much care about you

Saying good-bye

An inexperienced curate was sent to do a graveside burial for a homeless man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

When the curate looked into the open grave and even found the vault lid was already in place, he felt very guilty. The homeless man deserved something, even though it was late. And so, the curate delivered an impassioned burial service, sending the deceased into the great beyond in some style. The workmen looked on in silence, but as the curate returned to his car, he overheard one of the workmen remark: 'I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years and I ain't never seen anything like that!'

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Expensive boat

A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when she found it would cost her £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. She protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. 'That might be true,' replied the travel agent, 'but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked.'

'Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,' she replied, 'I am not surprised!'

True story

My curate friend had to preach his first-ever Easter sermon, and was very nervous about it. However, he prepared hard, and when Easter day came, he strode into the pulpit and thundered through his sermon, only to crash at the closing line. He pounded the pulpit and shouted: "Yes...it is all true! Jesus rose...and then He died again! Hallelujah!"

This is YOUR magazine!

We work hard each month to prepare a magazine which we hope you find informative, interesting and amusing. It is also an opportunity for you to contribute to the edition by providing anything you may find of interest (articles or photographs).

We have absolutely no idea how many of you read each edition or indeed whether you like it or not! Do you think the content is fine or would you like something different?

We would very much appreciate your comments and/or contributions, which you can submit by email: magazine@staugustinestm.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

March 23rd	Roy Harwarden (80)
25th	Minnie Briscoe (90)

Calendar and Intentions for April 2021

Thu	1	MAUNDY THURSDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Fri	2	GOOD FRIDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Sat	3	HOLY SATURDAY: The departed
SUN	4	EASTER DAY: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	5	EASTER MONDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Tue	6	EASTER TUESDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Wed	7	EASTER WEDNESDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Thu	8	EASTER THURSDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Fri	9	EASTER FRIDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Sat	10	EASTER SATURDAY: The Parish and the People of God
SUN	11	2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	12	feria: The implementation of the Government's roadmap
Tue	13	feria: The Churches Together in Tonge Moor
Wed	14	feria: Our local Councillors and Borough officials
Thu	15	feria: Walmsley Deanery, its churches and congregations
Fri	16	feria: The work of ACS and Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood
Sat	17	feria: Confessors and their penitents
SUN	18	3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	19	feria: The Bishop of Manchester and his staff
Tue	20	feria: The fire, police and ambulance services
Wed	21	S Anselm: Right relations between Church and State
Thu	22	feria: The work and mission of the Mother's Union
Fri	23	S GEORGE, PRINCIPAL PATRON OF ENGLAND: Our Nation
Sat	24	feria: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and its Priests Associate
SUN	25	4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	26	feria: Our Sunday School and the Schools in the Parish
Tue	27	feria: Our local tradespeople
Wed	28	feria: The Bishop of Beverley, and all bishops of The Society
Thu	29	S CATHERINE OF SIENA: Religious communities and vocations to the religious life
Fri	30	feria: The homeless, the unemployed and the lonely

CHURCH WARDENS

David & Ruth Taylor: 31 Wisbeck Road. Tel: 01204 396409

OFFICERS AND ORGANISERS

email addresses can be completed by adding "stauginestm.org.uk"

PCC Secretary: Katherine Taylor Tel. 01204 531053 - email: pccsec@

Treasurer: Sue Loftus Tel 01204 302051 - email: treasurer@

Walsingham Cell: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Church Flowers: *please contact the wardens for the time being*

Child Protection: Margaret Mullen Tel: 01204 695964 - email: safeguarding@

Brownies: Nichola Smith Tel: 07748 188215 - email: brownies@

Sunday School: Ruth Taylor Tel: 01204 396409

Mothers' Union: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586 - email: mu@

Organist: (St Augustine's) Mike Cheetham Tel: 01204 391963

Organist: (St. Aidan's) Peter Pemrick Tel: 01204 527699

Parish Hall Bookings: Sandra Anderson Tel: 01204 383158 - email: hallbookings@

Wednesday Morning Coffee Shop: John Harrison Tel: 01204 792691

Caretaker - St Aidan's Hall: Andrew Settle Tel: 01204 450321

Parish Paper: Mike Cheetham - email: magazine@