

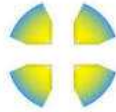
PARISH MAGAZINE

APRIL 2022



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

30p



FORWARDINFAITH

Parish Priest - Father Tony Davies

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Dear friends

Readers of last month's *Parish Journal* will have noted this horror that Russia invaded the sovereign state of Ukraine almost as soon as we went to press. Since then, the eastern and south-eastern edges of the country have come under Russian control, with Mariupol bravely holding out, 90% of the city being flattened as a result. Here and elsewhere, particularly to the north, the Russian advance has been slow, with reports of the Ukrainians in places forcing the Russian tiger back.

How long this can go on for we cannot yet know. While Russian losses are far higher, the Ukrainians have also suffered greatly. Over 2 million Ukrainian civilians have left their country for the safety of neighbouring countries, and many cities are under continuous - and apparently indiscriminate - bombardment. Never did we think we would again see upon European soil scenes reminiscent of the Second World War.

Yet, despite the devastation being visited upon their country by fellow-Slavs, the people of Ukraine are not giving up hope. Yes, there is courageous and effective defending of their country: but there is also a deeper hope at play, that hope brought about and personified by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter.

The Crucifixion put paid to the disciples' expectation that Jesus would bring about the nation's salvation and deliverance. They were dejected and afraid, and hid in case they, too, were found and shared the same fate. But Jesus' Resurrection early in the Sunday morning turned all that completely on its head - Jesus' Crucifixion, which had seemed to spell total disaster, was actually the means whereby God brought about his salvation: and not only for the people of Israel, but for the whole of humanity.

Ukrainians, a devoutly Christian people, know with complete confidence that God can transform any apparent disaster to good; that those who have fallen in war are deeply loved by God

and are safe in his loving arms; that God's good purposes always prosper, despite the obstacles that sinful Man seeks to put in their way.

As our Lenten preparation draws to a close with the high-point of the Triduum, let us take to heart afresh the message of Easter: that Jesus' Resurrection has destroyed sin and death for ever. The darkness of sin no longer oppresses the soul, and the death of our mortal bodies is no longer the end: everlasting life in the eternal glory of heaven awaits the faithful.

As we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, let us rejoice in the Feast of the Resurrection, and live the new life of Easter in our own lives, sharing the sure hope of new life with those around us.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Tony

HOLY WEEK 2022

The Great Season of Lent culminates in Holy Week, the most special week in the year for Christians, which this year falls mid-April. Over the course of this single week, the work of our salvation unfolds as we follow the last week in Jesus' earthly life.

Following two years of disruption, due to Covid, we are expecting that this year we will be able once again to celebrate the important liturgies of this week in all their traditional splendour, with only minor necessary adjustments.

On **Palm Sunday**, members of the congregation will collect a single Palm Crosses on entering the Parish Hall, together with any booklets required. The housebound, who would normally receive Home Communion, will have a blessed Palm Cross delivered to them soon afterwards.

The **Maundy Thursday Liturgy**, which begins the great three-day liturgy of the Triduum, celebrates the Lord giving the Church the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and the giving of the command to serve one another. The Mass will be followed by the Watch Before the Blessed. The Watch will conclude at midnight with Compline: please join us if you can.

St John's Passion Gospel will again be sung on **Good Friday**. The congregation will again be invited to venerate the Cross, but with a bow or genuflection instead of physically kissing the Cross.

The culmination of the week (and the highlight of the year!) is the **Easter Vigil** on Easter Eve. We will again meet outside the porch door as the New Fire is lit and blessed and the Paschal Candle for each church is blessed. Welcomers will help us keep socially-distanced as we enter church, and the congregation will be in their places, with candles lit, before the "Second Station".

We hope all members of both our congregations will come together to celebrate these momentous events in the winning of our salvation, in the sure knowledge that the measures put in place will enable us to do so safely.

Fr Tony

HELPING UKRAINIANS

A very big Thank You to everyone who has contributed so generously with clothing and toiletries for Ukrainians having fled their country to neighbouring States.

It seems that sufficient clothing has now reached countries such as Poland, and clothing is not now being transported there from the UK. However, there is still a need for toiletries. Please keep these coming: they can be brought to church or dropped off at the Vicarage.

Although clothing is not now being taken to Europe, there will still be a need when sizeable numbers of Ukrainian refugees find

their way to the UK. We will be alerted when this is the case, and will then be renewing the appeal for clothing. In the meantime, that you, again, for your continuing generosity.

Fr Tony

GENERAL SYNOD - FEBRUARY 2022

Having learnt from experience, my copy of the London A-Z was already in my hand when I arrived at Euston. It was much easier to find the hotel as it was 12pm and daylight!

Thanks to unexpected roadworks, I got to Church House just in time for the first session, having had no time to have lunch. Temporary Standing Orders were revived to allow a hybrid meeting, the first ever for General Synod, which enabled approximately 50 people to attend via zoom.

In his presidential address, the Archbishop of Canterbury called for us to live in community, to be a Church of abundance and grace, to be kind and forgiving.

Lord Boateng addressed Synod in a challenging and forthright speech about the racial injustice which exists in our country and the Church. He cited the lack of diversity in Synod, particularly amongst the Officers. A report from the Racial Justice Commission followed his speech, which urged us to move forward to action and strategy. A later meeting of the House of Laity was urged to use all our 5 co-options for Global Majority Heritage people. Despite concern being expressed that we would then not be able to call on the expertise from other areas or from minority groupings, such as the disabled and the young, the motion was passed (110/21)

On Wednesday morning, Holy Communion, was followed by a presentation on Safeguarding, explaining how the National Safeguarding Board (NSB) works, how survivors of abuse are

engaged with and how recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) report are to be enacted.

In the afternoon, the Diocese of Durham presented a motion on Challenging Slavery and Human Trafficking. An amendment to the motion encouraged all levels of the Church to raise awareness of modern slavery in the UK and internationally. Training on modern slavery is to be embedded in clergy training and safeguarding training. The amended motion was passed unanimously.

The Diocese of Lichfield tabled a motion on the Persecuted Church in the World. Synod was asked to pray for the persecuted church and to ask dioceses to find ways to sensitively support their link diocese in areas where the church is persecuted.

The Church of England has committed itself to become carbon neutral by 2030, and, in light of this, Synod debated the Faculty Jurisdiction Amendment rules. The replacement of fossil fuel boilers on C of E premises will soon require a full faculty. The installation of broadband equipment has been placed on list B, which means that it can be approved by an archdeacon.

Thursday morning started with Group Work. As I had arrived at the last minute, I headed for a row of empty chairs, only to discover that I had parked myself in the bishops' seats and had to do a short bible study one-to-one with a suffragan bishop!

The Governance Review Group presented a follow-up report on the national governance of the C of E. Concern was expressed that having a Church of England National Services (CENS) board would diminish the voice of General Synod, but we were assured that Synod would be given time to shape the future.

I came away from Synod feeling that I had more of a grasp of things, and that I now better understood the joys of supplementary questions. Points of Order are still a mystery, but maybe all will become clear in July, when we meet in York.

Pam Davies

Holy Week in Tonge Moor

10th - 17th April 2022

Palm Sunday	9.00am	Mass (St Aidan's)
	10.30am	Mass with Palm Procession
	6.30pm	Evensong and Benediction
Holy Monday	6.15pm	Mass with address
Holy Tuesday	6.15pm	Mass with address
	7.00pm	Confessions (Lady Chapel, until 8.00pm)
Holy Wednesday	10.30am	Mass with address (St Aidan's)
	6.15pm	Mass with address
	7.30pm	Joint service for Holy Week (Church @ The Centre)
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper <i>followed by Watch until midnight</i>
Good Friday	10.30am	Good Friday Liturgy
Holy Saturday	8.30pm	Solemn Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter
Easter Sunday	9.00am	Mass (St Aidan's)
	10.30am	Mass
	6.30pm	Solemn Easter Evensong with Benediction

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Our APCM takes place on Sunday 15th May at St Augustine's, following on from the Sunday 10.30am Sung Mass. In preparation for that, our Electoral Roll will be revised between Sunday 10th April (Palm Sunday) and Saturday 30th April. If you are already on the parish's Electoral Roll, please check that your details are still correct on the list displayed; if you are not yet on the Electoral Roll, please take an Application Form and complete it, having carefully considered the qualifying criteria.

Those on the Electoral Roll can stand for election as Churchwardens and to the PCC, and can vote for those who so stand. Forms for this will be displayed from Sunday 1st May.

Please consider prayerfully whether you are being called to serve the church family in any of these elected Offices.

Fr Tony

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr Tony will be available in the Lady Chapel to hear confessions prior to Easter on Saturday 9th April (6-7pm) and on Tuesday 12th April (7-8pm). This sacrament of healing is one that should be more widely used within the Church of England, particularly among Christians who love the sacraments. If you would like to know more about it, please see Fr Tony.



**Did you hear that scientists have
successfully grown human vocal chords in a
petri dish?
The results speak for themselves!**

100 CLUB NEWS

The twelfth monthly draw was in the Parish Hall on Sunday 6th March 2022.

First Prize Number 36 – Kim Pennington - wins £25

Second Prize Number 55 – Ruth Taylor - wins £15

Third Prize Number 92 – Jenny Hunt - wins £10

The first draw for this new term will be on Sunday 3rd April 2022, in the Parish Hall

**It is now time to renew your number/s.
It is just £12 per number (£1 per month).**

If you are not a member and would like to join or want to take an extra number, please see David or Ruth Taylor.

CHURCH CLEANING

There is a small group of parishioners who give up a morning each month. Apart from the cleaning they have tea/coffee, biscuits and social chat as well,



The next date for cleaning is

11th April 2022.

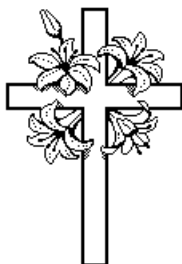
Meeting at 10.00am.

Many hands make light work!

The date/time could be subject to change, but usually decided by the Sunday, the day before, and is coordinated by Lilian Schofield 01204 303137. Check with the church's Facebook group.

Grand Easter Draw

Thank you to those who have already pledged or given prizes for the 2022 Grand Easter Draw, to be drawn after the 10.30 Mass on Easter Day 17th April.



The 1st prize will be £100 Cash,
2nd Prize Bottle of Whisky and
3rd Prize Large Easter Egg

We would be happy to have contributions towards the cash prize and also any other pledges/donations of prizes.

Tickets are just 50p each (£2.50 for a book)

Please let David or Ruth Taylor know how you can contribute towards the Draw

*Congratulations and all our Best Wishes to
Howard Anderson who celebrates his 80th
Birthday on 2nd April 2022*



Also to



*James Brooks who
celebrates his 40th Birthday
on 14th April 2022*



Thank you to Fr. Tony for our MU Mass and Lenten Devotion last month.

We had hoped to discuss how we could transform our branch and how we will move forward, but with only 3 people, sadly this was not possible. Let me know how you think we can transform and move forward.

We did discuss resuming our annual outing in August this year.

This month we meet for Mass in The Lady Chapel at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20th April.

We have now received the invitation for our members to attend Bolton Deanery 'Getting to Know You' & 'Afternoon Tea' on Saturday 21st May here in St. Augustine's Parish Hall. I need to let Pauline know how many of our members will be attending.

There will be only 1 craft afternoon this month on Monday 11th April starting at 1.30pm

Elsie

Bible study group

Fortnightly Bible study meetings will be held in the Parish Hall, beginning on Monday, 21 March, at 1.30 pm. The meetings will alternate between afternoon and evening meetings to enable

those who cannot attend in the afternoon to do so in the evening. The meetings will last for approximately one hour. So far, the following dates and topics have been identified -

Day/dates	Start times	Topics
Monday, 21 March	1.30 pm	My favourite hymn and what it means to me
Monday, 4 April	7.0 pm	
Monday, 18 April - No meeting: Easter Monday		
Monday, 25 April	1.30 pm	The Letter from James and its relevance today
Monday, 9 May	7.0 pm	
Monday, 23 May	1.30 pm	
Monday, 6 June	7.0 pm	
Monday, 20 June	1.30 pm	My favourite psalm and what it says to me
Monday, 4 July	7.0 pm	

Each meeting will begin and end with a prayer and those who feel able to contribute will always be encouraged to do so.

It is believed that this study group will fulfil a greatly expressed need for regular meetings to explore God’s word and its meaning in the 21st century.

Please join us. You will be most welcome.

Walsingham News



It was good to enjoy some social time together after the 7.30pm Mass on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and learn something of the news and plans from the Shrine which Elsie and Linda heard at last month’s Partnership Weekend.

There has been an approximate decline in annual pilgrim numbers in recent years of about 1%, which equates to 10% over 10 years. Put in these terms, we can see why there have had to be changes and some painful and difficult decisions needed to be made. In some ways there have been ten years' worth of development in two years yet other plans have been delayed by the Pandemic. As the Shrine moves forward, the technology for live-streaming allows world-wide access and there is a 'virtual' community of very significant numbers. The role of Pilgrim Engagement Officer has a huge range of opportunities and funding for the appointment of a Schools' Officer to work with Caroline Ward, the Director of Education, is a real plus. Over 100 attended last month's Children's Weekend with the theme of 'Closer to God', and as we well know from our own Messy Church sessions (which are only 2 hours) events like these don't just happen!

Really exciting and hot-off-the-press news is the delayed but now reasonably imminent refurbishment of Stella Maris which will have a new roof, enhanced meeting space and about 26 new en-suite rooms. I quote from Keith Tuck, 'Imagine, there'll be no more noisy plumbing, unlevel floors and low ceilings to contend with.' A long over-due development indeed. Some of us may have fond memories of having rooms in there but they do fall somewhat short of the expectation of the 21st Century pilgrim!

The National Pilgrimage is on Monday 2nd May and the Festival in Blackburn Cathedral is on Saturday 18th June. Plans for transport are in hand so speak to Fr Tony, Elsie or Linda and watch out for sign-up lists at the back of church. Admission to the Blackburn Festival is by ticket only so please don't leave it until the last minute if you want to go. Full details are included elsewhere in the magazine. Please note that pilgrims for our 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage in August need to pay their 2nd deposit of £50 by Easter Day (17th April).

Gloria Metcalfe from the parish of Holcombe with Hawkshaw has been a regular pilgrim (and wonderful contributor to the entertainment evenings) with us for over 20 years. We sent our love and congratulations to her on her 90th birthday on 16th March.

Payment for the candle which burns for this parish in the Holy House is due next month. Any contributions towards the cost will be gratefully received! Some members of our Cell felt able to respond to the Youth Pilgrimage Godparent Scheme, for which there was an insert in the Candlemass edition of the *Walsingham Review*. Just a nudge if you thought about it when it arrived!

Candles for Ukraine have been burning in both the Holy House and the Priory Chapel.



Linda Parkington



FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

**BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL
SAT 18TH JUNE 2022**

12 noon: Sung Mass

Celebrant: The Rt. Revd. Philip North
(Bishop of Burnley & Master of the Guardians)
Preacher: The Revd. Carl Schaefer
(Vicar of Goldthorpe with Hickleton)

1.00pm: Lecture by The Revd. Dr Tom Woolford
(Vicar of All Saints, New Longton, Preston)

2.30pm: Sprinkling & Ministries of Healing

4.00pm: Evensong with Cathedral Choir

ADMISSION IS BY TICKET ONLY (NO COST)

The parish has tickets so please speak to
Fr Tony, Elsie or Linda
Look out for the list at the back of church

If enough people are interested we will have a coach

St George's Day Social



Saturday 23rd April 2022 at 1.00pm

St Augustine's Parish Hall



Sing-a-long



A fun afternoon to celebrate our Patron Saint

Quiz ?



Tickets £2.50 including Afternoon Tea
(do feel free to bring your own drink)

Buy a ticket from Ruth or Elsie at Church

PALM SUNDAY



The last Messy Church had us finding out about the Transfiguration of Jesus.

The next session sees Jesus and his entry into Jerusalem, riding a donkey.



Find out more

Saturday 9th April 2022 |
11am-1pm
St Augustine's Parish Hall

- Whatever your age – come and enjoy being creative!
- Join us for arts, crafts, and a short period of worship then a simple meal.
- There will be no charge although donations towards the costs are welcome!
- Children will need to be accompanied by an adult at all times.

St Augustine's Tonge Moor

Souper Soup Sunday

In aid of Fountain of Peace



Join us for a heart-warming bowl of soup for just £1.00 per person with all proceeds going towards funding charity work for the fountain of peace children's foundation.

(Bring your own Tupperware tub to take some home too)



Sunday 3rd April 2022

Following 10:30 Mass



I don't know about you, but right now, I find my thoughts often drift to the people in Ukraine. As I watch the horrific scenes unfold on the television screen, it can seem a world away from the comfort of my surroundings. I struggle to fathom the level of fear Ukrainians feel with their country under attack.

I don't think I'm alone in experiencing these feelings. I feel helpless, unable to directly help people suffering from the atrocities of war. Women, children and the elderly wait to hear if their sons, husbands and brothers return from fighting. These scenes of families waiting for news are replicated across the border into Russia.

Many of the countries have experienced similar situations. The people of Myanmar, Mozambique and Ethiopia have all been through times of conflict and some are still on a knife-edge between unrest and peace. These times of unrest often rumble on for many years. However, they disappear from our lives as the media picks up on other news happening around the world.

People living on the margins of society suffer the most. Without the money to afford passage to safety, they are often left to fend for themselves. People affected by leprosy all too often fall into these groups of people.

During one of our daily devotions this week, a colleague prayed about his lack of understanding of how God can let war happen. He spoke about the Creation when God looked at everything He'd created and said, "It is good".

I'm certain God is not looking down at the moment with those same feelings. It is hard to understand how war, famines and pandemics feature in God's plan for us. But this is where faith takes over. As Christians, we trust God will protect us, that He will send His army of angels to fight for us. His love will never fail us.

Please join us in praying for everyone affected by conflict around the world. We ask God to protect the innocent civilians fleeing for their lives. We pray the Holy Spirit will be with those fighting for their country. And we pray our Heavenly Father will pour love and peace to those instigating these atrocities.

God's love **will** conquer all. Now, more than ever, all our brothers and sisters in Christ need our prayers.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayers,

Yours in Christ,

Sarah

P.S. Prayer is such an essential part of daily life at The Leprosy Mission. Each morning we stop and spend time in conversation with Our Heavenly Father. We also bring specific prayer requests to Him from our supporters. If you'd like us to pray for anything in particular for you, please do get in touch. You can contact our friendly Supporter Relations team on 01733 370505. Or, if you prefer, you can email prayer@TLMEW.org.uk.

P.P.S. If you haven't already done so, why not sign up for our Urgent Prayer WhatsApp group? The new WhatsApp messaging group is a way for us to let you know of urgent prayer requests. This prayer messaging service allows us to notify you of prayer requests quickly and easily. To opt in to receive these prayer request messages, please send a WhatsApp message, with your name, to 01733 370505

Palm Sunday & Holy Week

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Holy Week.

It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving from to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 year earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted the money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians - Holy Communion - which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, *'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'*. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

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.

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.

23rd April: St George, our Patron Saint who isn't English

The English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider

military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause.

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

On how maintaining the churchyard can lead to turf wars

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small, paved area, and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish.

By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way - as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew Gardens to the Amazon Rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to

manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk, in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all around the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to stupefy them when she smokes her briar pipe.

The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

The Pianist

Like the blackbird, over the misty greenness
Surveys his landscape of the waking world,
So she sits, with poised hands and head
Over her black and white kingdom.
Hear this morning melody in the clear
Washed air of dawn - this early oblation
Before the noise of day.
Listen now to the pebble round sound
Of water, limpid, liquid, flowing free.
Be aware of lark's ecstatic soaring song
Deep chords of pasture in the heat of day
And cuckoo calls in haze of summer noon,
Passion slow beating louder than
Soul sings in unison.
Dear Heaven - how can this sound hold all
But yet it does, for in this stream of notes
This sea - this ocean roar - is swift
Encounter with the isles of God.
Still evening comes with bell tones
Sweet agony of harmony - these nightingale notes
That touch the intangible.
Dusk deepens, darkness falls and then above
Staccato brilliance of the evening stars
Dazzle the spirit into joyous song.
Sound then silence - the last note dies away
These hands that recreate your world are stilled
Wood dove sleeps - and the flow tide of peace
Washes over the shore.

Jocelyn Darbyshire



Quotes for April

Looking forward through Lent to Palm Sunday and Easter ...

Good Friday, in a way...is not Good Friday at all. It is Black Friday - a very Black Friday. It is Good Friday only in the sense that we know Easter will follow. - *J E Lantz*

He has outsoared the shadow of our night; envy and calumny and hate and pain,
And that unrest which men miscall delight, can touch Him not nor torture Him again.

- *Percy Bysshe Shelley*

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption... It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. - *1 Corinthians 15:42-4*

If we would live aright, it must be by the contemplation of Christ's death. - *C H Spurgeon*

He Himself was forsaken that none of His children might ever need to utter His cry of loneliness. - *J H Vincent*

Easter is when everybody dresses up for Jesus' big coming out party. - *Anon*

This precious Lamb of God gave up His precious fleece for us. - *Christopher Nesse*

The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. - *Edward Thomson*

The Lord who vacated His tomb has not vacated His throne. - *G R Beasley-Murray*

All history is incomprehensible without Christ. - *Ernest Renan*

The cross of Jesus Christ is a two-way street; we have been brought to God and God has been brought to us. - *Donald Grey Barnhouse*

Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas, for money; not Pilate, for fear; not the Jews, for envy; but the Father, for love! - *Octavious Winslow*

Carry the cross patiently, and with perfect submission; and in the end it shall carry you. - *Thomas a Kempis*

The doctrine of the death of Christ is the substance of the gospel. - *Stephen Charnock*

That Day

That day was a day like never before
As the Saviour died and the darkness grew,
Earth shuddered and rocks were split apart
As the veil of the temple was torn in two.

The centurion who witnessed all these things
The earthquake, the One who was nailed to the wood,
Seeing Him die could only say,
'Surely this man was the Son of God'.

He rose as conqueror of the grave,
Death was defeated, the stone rolled away -
And man was released from all his bonds,
Christ rose as victor that glorious day.

The Light had pushed the darkness back,
He now stands resplendent for all to see,
Forgiveness, redemption all wrought on the cross,
The eternal fruits of Calvary.

By Megan Carter

PARISH DATES

Fri	1st	7.30pm: Stations of the Cross
SUN	3rd	12.00pm Souper Soup Lunch after mass 6.30pm: Evensong & Benediction
Wed	6th	7.30pm: Lent Group (St Matthew's, Little Leer)
Fri	8th	7.30pm: Stations of the Cross
Sat	9th	5.30pm: Confessions (Lady Chapel)
SUN	10th	PALM SUNDAY, and Revision of Electoral Roll begins 6.30pm: Evensong & Benediction
Mon	11th	6.15pm: Mass and Address
Tue	12th	11.30am: Chrism Mass with +Philip (Manchester Cathedral) 6.15pm: Mass and Address 7.00pm: Confessions (Lady Chapel)
Wed	13th	10.30am: Mass and Address (St Aidan's) 6.15pm: Mass and Address 7.30pm: Joint Holy Week Service (Church @ The Centre)
Thur	14th	7.30pm: Maundy Thursday Liturgy (The Triduum begins)
Fri	15th	10.30am: Good Friday Liturgy
Sat	16th	8.30pm: Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter (Easter begins)
SUN	17th	EASTER DAY 6.30pm: Solemn Easter Evensong, with Procession & Benediction
Sat	23rd	1.00pm: St George's Day Social
SUN	24th	12.15pm: Holy Baptism

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

March 13th	Geoff Sharples (Ashes interred)
18th	Ella Hampson (99)

Calendar and Intentions for April 2022

Fri	1	feria: The Unity of Christ's church
Sat	2	feria: The work and mission of Fountains of Peace
SUN	3	5TH SUNDAY OF LENT: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	4	feria: The Churches Together in Tonge Moor
Tue	5	feria: Those receiving the Blessed Sacrament in their homes this month
Wed	6	feria: Continuing faithfulness in our Lenten Devotions
Thu	7	S John Baptist de la Salle:
Fri	8	feria: The Bishop of Burnley, and all Bishops of The Society
Sat	9	feria: Confessors and their penitents
SUN	10	PALM SUNDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	11	HOLY MONDAY: Those suffering from Covid-19 and Long Covid
Tue	12	HOLY TUESDAY: The homeless, the unemployed and the lonely
Wed	13	HOLY WEDNESDAY: The mentally ill and those who care for them
Thu	14	MAUNDY THURSDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Fri	15	GOOD FRIDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Sat	16	HOLY SATURDAY: The faithful departed
SUN	17	EASTER DAY: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	18	EASTER MONDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Tue	19	EASTER TUESDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Wed	20	EASTER WEDNESDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Thu	21	EASTER THURSDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Fri	22	EASTER FRIDAY: The Parish and the People of God
Sat	23	EASTER SATURDAY: The Parish and the People of God
SUN	24	2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER: The Parish and the People of God
Mon	25	S MARK: All who preach and teach the Gospel
Tue	26	feria: The work of ACS and Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood
Wed	27	feria: Bolton Deanery, its churches and congregations
Thu	28	feria: The work of Social Services
Fri	29	S CATHERINE OF SIENA: Religious communities and vocations to the religious life
Sat	30	feria: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and its Priests Associate

CHURCH WARDENS

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

OFFICERS AND ORGANISERS

email addresses can be completed by adding “staugustinestm.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@

