



Parish News



April 2021

Dear Friends,

As I write, the Banksy painting “Game Changer” has just sold for a record £16.7 million in aid of Southampton Hospitals Charity. It’s a *game changer* in more ways than one, and if you’ve not seen it, it depicts a little boy playing with a doll wearing an NHAS nurse uniform, while superman and spiderman lie discarded in the waste-paper basket. Its sale price at auction was a record for an anonymous artist, and that money, which is in the hands of the Southampton Hospitals Trust, is in itself a *game changer*.

Game changer neatly sums up how many of us feel about this last year. At the Leeds Diocesan Synod, +Nick asked four very good questions relating to what the church can do to help us as a community to recover as best as possible from this last year:

What have we lost that needs to stay lost?

What has been lost that we need to regain?

What have we gained that was OK for this time, but needs to be lost?

What have we gained that we really feel ought to be retained (and built upon)?

I asked Jess this final question and she said the things she wants to keep from this last year are:

Family gym time

Sitting down as a family to watch movies

Ilona and I have been educating our children with Tom Hanks movies recently, and haven’t yet come across a bad one (even though Ben and I aren’t keen on *Sleepless in Seattle*). One of the all-round favourites was *Forrest Gump*, with its great one-liners, like “Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you’re going to get”, which have an almost proverb-like quality, until, when you think about it a bit, a whole array of exceptions flood into mind...like, agreements, contracts and promises, which really can upset us when they are not upheld. Often, we do *need to know what we’re going to get*.

And a faithful, stable and straightforward spirituality is one of the qualities that has intrigued and attracted me towards Benedictine spirituality recently. It’s a tradition that’s heavily influenced Anglican liturgy, and, according to +Rowan, been very influential to our English way of life too.

“The [relatively short] Rule of St Benedict has nonetheless touched countless lives by the mere fact that it has shaped personalities who have,

in turn, shaped their societies... The women and men who followed the Rule played significant roles in culture and politics in the middle ages; but more importantly, the round of daily prayer offered a steady ‘ground bass’ in the background of intellectual and artistic life, transformative agricultural labour, the provision of welfare for the destitute, and a good deal more.”

It’s a tradition which puts prayer and work comfortably alongside each other, encouraging the putting down the tools of work and turning to prayer, and then back again, with unselfconscious ease. A down-to-earth spirituality: little wonder it has proved so popular in Britain, and beyond. It is one of the (sometimes surprising) highlights and remarkable privileges of public ministry to be asked to pray for and invite God into a variety of situations. Just today, I went home from leading prayers with a bunch of Bolton’s church leaders to immediately being asked to pray through the fence for a stranger’s poorly dog! It’s one to add to the list of *things they don’t teach you at Theological College*. Rest assured, that prayer won’t find its way into ‘Prayer Locker’. But this one from St Benedict might:

Gracious and Holy Father, give us the wisdom to discover You, the intelligence to understand You, the diligence to seek after You, the patience to wait for You, eyes to behold You, a heart to meditate upon You, and a life to proclaim You, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

With love and prayers for this Easter.

Ian

2021 anniversary prayer



Gracious God, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the consecration of this church, we give thanks for all who have made it a house of prayer. May we, like St Peter, proclaim with confidence, that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. Bless the on-going work of Bolton Parish Church, as we give thanks for the past, live fully in the present and look with hope to the future. Amen

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES 2021

29th March Monday in Holy Week

7.30 pm Compline – St Philip's

30th March Tuesday in Holy Week

12.15 pm Holy Communion – Bolton Parish Church

7.30 pm Compline – Bolton Parish Church

31st March Wednesday in Holy Week

7.30 pm Compline – St Philip's

1st April Maundy Thursday

12.15 Holy Communion – Bolton Parish Church

7.30 pm Holy Communion and stripping of altar – Bolton Parish Church

7.30 Holy Communion and stripping of altar – St Philip's

2nd April Good Friday

10.00 Streamed service (Churches Together in Bolton Town Centre)
from Bolton Parish Church

2.00 pm Hour at the Cross – Bolton Parish Church

3rd April Easter Eve

8.00 pm Easter Vigil – Bolton Parish Church

4th April Easter Day

8.00 am Holy Communion – Bolton Parish Church

9.15 am Holy Communion – St Philip's

11.00 am Holy Communion – Bolton Parish Church

6.30 pm Evening Prayer – Bolton Parish Church

Parish Church Schools

Canon Slade School, Bradshaw Brow BL2 3BP

Headteacher: Karen Sudworth

Tel: 01204 33343

Bishop Bridgeman Primary School, Rupert Street BL3 6PY

Executive Principal: Canon Jill Pilling

Headteacher: Hafsha Hafeji

Bolton Parish Church Primary School, Chadwick Street BL2 1JN

Headteacher: Angela Worthington

Tel: 01204 333433

Support for others in need

The Covid-19 pandemic has not removed the need for support for others – if anything, it has heightened it. Some things can be recycled to support various charities so please continue to save and bring to church the following items:

- Used postage stamps – Christmas is the best time to collect these.
- Unwanted spectacles.
- Old working mobile phones, tablets and laptops.

We continue to collect items of food for the grub tub, supporting the work of Urban Outreach.

Please send copy for the May
issue by 20 April to
sigridjcp@gmail.com

or

admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

As we publish on the last Sunday of the month, the deadline is particularly important.
Material for inclusion may also be left at the back of Church.

From “Dear Friends” last April

This was part of Chris’s message last year, when places of worship were closed to congregations. We are now back (although with restrictions in place), but much of the content below is still relevant, in particular the suggested readings for Holy Week.

Dear Friends

As this magazine is issued, we will soon be starting Holy Week – that week that begins on Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Eve celebrations. Usually at this time, I would be encouraging you to join in as many of our Holy Week and Easter services as you can but this year, as we all know, this will not be possible. *[see page 4 for a list of Holy Week and Easter services in Church this year]*.

But Holy Week and Easter are not cancelled and we can mark the week in other ways and I hope that whatever occupies your time, you will set aside some part of the week to reflect on the final days, then hours of Jesus’s time on earth. How might you do this? One easy way is to take one of the gospels and read a section of the passion narrative each day.

For example:

Monday: Luke 22:1-23

Thursday: Luke 23:1-25

Tuesday: Luke 22:24-53

Friday: Luke 23:26-49

Wednesday: Luke 22:54-end

Saturday: Luke 23:50-56

Each reading will take no more than five minutes. Perhaps you could follow this with five more minutes thinking about what you have read and what it means to you. These ten minutes together constitute less one per cent of the day – surely something we could all easily give to God in Holy Week.

However else you use the time in Holy Week, I encourage you to join with me as I try not to “hit the ground running” but to “hit the ground kneeling”. In this way, I hope that together we find a new and renewed opportunity to glimpse afresh all that Christ has given to us.

Chris

Announcement of the new Area Dean of Bolton

The Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, is delighted to announce the appointment of the Revd Simon Cook as the Area Dean of the new deanery of Bolton. The new deaneries are coming into being from June 2021 as part of the Transforming Manchester Diocese initiative. This significant new role will give a high level of support and leadership to churches, clergy and lay leaders, across the seven new deaneries.

Simon says “Last Sunday’s Old Testament reading begins, ‘When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him...’ I don’t know how old you are feeling after the year we’ve all been through, but like Abram we are at the beginning of a new call and a new moment where God is asking us to step out in faith, weary as we may be, as we come together as the new Deanery of Bolton. I am humbled and excited to be joining you on this journey, having previously served as a curate in Salford and an incumbent and Area Dean in Bury. I am married with two sons, one at university, the other at Canon Slade, and my wife is a deputy headteacher. I am passionate about finding ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ with people of all ages, and I look forward to working with you, learning from you, and growing in faith, hope and love alongside you in the days to come.”

Bishop Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton, adds “I am delighted that Simon is to become the new Area Dean of Bolton and I look forward to working with him and Archdeacon Jean on this venture of faith. Simon comes with a track record of wise and gracious leadership, strategic vision, pastoral care and a love for God, which will be a blessing to Bolton and enable the church to flourish and grow, nurture and serve. Please join us in praying for Simon and our churches and ministries and the communities they serve across the new deanery as we seek God’s blessing on our new mission communities.”

Simon will be welcomed and licensed by the Bishop of Manchester at a service at Manchester Cathedral on Sunday 6th June at 5.30pm.

An Easter message from David Walker, Bishop of Manchester



Last year will remain forever the one when the people of God were locked out of their churches on Easter Day. The UK Government had, three weeks earlier, issued regulations closing all places of worship across England.

The Archbishop of Canterbury famously led an Easter service on line from his kitchen, with kettle and

electrical sockets visible behind him. It was a physical expression of the fact that the focus of our prayers and celebrations had moved into our homes.

This last 12 months has seen a recovery of the home as a centre for worship; a rediscovery that 'church' is not merely a place that we go to, outside of which prayer is somehow unwelcome or unfitting, but a belonging we carry with us, into every aspect of our lives. It has been heart-warming to see the numbers of people taking part in worship from their homes, not only on Sundays but for daily prayer throughout the week. Nor has the return of religion to our homes been confined to the steaming of services; study and fellowship groups have flourished with the demands of travel replaced by the click of a mouse button, or the press of a finger. If, at the end of this pandemic, we have learned that God is as present and as central to our lives in a cluttered kitchen as he is in the most resplendent sanctuary, we will have learned well.

This Easter, most of our buildings are once more open. There are still significant constraints, to keep everyone safe from infection or infecting others, but the growing sense is of things slowly returning to normal. We can celebrate this Easter with added hope – the hope

that, over the coming months, the most onerous of the coronavirus regulations will be lifted and life will recover a degree of normality. We will see much missed family members and friends again. We will begin to be able to travel for fun and leisure, not merely of necessity. Our Alleluias can be heartfelt.

So my prayer for this Easter season is that we do not, in returning to our gathering places, seek to lock God, or the practice of our faith, back out of our homes. Can we continue to join, as lay people and clergy, to pray together daily from the comfort of our living rooms? Can we continue to share and to study from home, the better to deepen our discipleship there? It's a fact of human nature that we tend to remember things better in the place where we first learned them. Can we become a people for whom the Risen Lord Jesus is not someone whose home we visit when regulations permit, but one who abides with us in the places we ourselves live and work? Therein lies the challenge and the promise for Easter 2021.

May God bless you richly this Eastertide.

Easter Day

The Collect

Almighty God, who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death, and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life: We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy special grace preventing us thou dost put into our minds good desires, so by thy continual help we may bring the same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

Flower News

It has been good to go out into the garden and see the plants and bushes coming back to life. After a stormy few days, there have also been plenty of fallen twigs and branches which can be used for display or sprayed gold and added to arrangements.

Pieris and skimmia have also reached their best in time for Easter, and at the time of writing, it is exciting to be planning the flowers for church once again this year.

On Mothering Sunday, daffodils were displayed in vases in the Lady chapel and by the pulpit. Bunches of daffodils were available to take home after the service from a basket near the porch.

With grateful thanks for donations received during March.

Flower team



Angels of Hope

For Christmas 2020, members of Sunday school made angels which helped to decorate church. Each angel represented a prayer to say thank you for a special person who made us smile.

Members of Sunday school and the Flower team then began an angel project from January – March 2021 looking towards Easter with hope. Members of the congregation, families and friends were invited to join them in making angels of hope. The angels would then be part of a wonderful display in church from Easter.

Here we are at the end of March and thank you to everyone who has taken part. The response has been amazing and we now have hundreds of wonderful angels! The first ones will appear in church for Easter Sunday and the main display will be from Sunday 11th April until Pentecost.

If your angel is still at home or not yet completed, it is not too late! Please bring it to join the display in the coming weeks.

A prayer of hope:

Teach us good Lord, to pray in faith,
and to live in hope,
that we may go out into your world,
confident in that same hope,
and filled with the good news of Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory, now and forever, Amen



Organ Concert at Bolton Parish Church

Although we are unable to attend concerts at the moment, here is a chance to watch a superb recital, given on our organ by Jonathan Scott. The concert also includes stunning shots of the inside of Church.

The programme is shown below and the concert can be viewed on the following link: <https://youtu.be/Xc3r326g8jQ>

A few years ago, the Scott Brothers came to Bolton Parish Church and played Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2 by Liszt, arranged by Jonathan for organ and piano. This is still available

(Link: <http://youtu.be/orneY4K9YtQ>)

ONLINE SPRING ORGAN CONCERT

Bolton Parish Church

Jonathan Scott

Saturday 6th March 2021 at 7 p.m. (UK time)

Programme

Praeludium (Holberg Suite Op. 40)
Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) arr. J. Scott

Toccata in D Minor 'Dorian' BWV 538
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Spring (The Four Seasons Op. 8, RV 269)
Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) arr. J. Scott

One Fine Day 'Un bel dì' & The Humming Chorus (Madama Butterfly)
Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924) arr. J. Scott

Finale - Allegro con fuoco
(from Symphony No. 9 in E Minor Op. 95 'From the New World')
Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) arr. J. Scott

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is checked every year before the Annual Church Meeting. This process starts on 28 March and lasts for two weeks. If you are on the roll and your contact details have not changed, there is nothing you need to do at this stage. If you have moved house or changed phone numbers or email addresses since last year, please let the Electoral Roll officer (Evelyn Weston) know.

The Electoral Roll is basically a list of our members. If you would like to join our roll, ask Evelyn for the application form. You have to be 16 or over, baptised and have been a regular worshipper at BPC for at least six months (unless prevented by illness, shielding etc.).

From the archive

Ten years ago: Bishop Bridgeman scoops top national award

Two schools from the North West of England are celebrating their success as National winners of the first ever Church School Awards, sponsored by Emmaus Recruitment.

Our own Bishop Bridgeman Church of England Primary School and St Cuthbert's Catholic Community College for Business and Enterprise in Merseyside have been picked from a pool of 12 regional winners to be honoured for the significant difference they have made to local and global communities. The awards were announced at a gala event at Westminster Cathedral Hall on 24th March.

The Church School Awards celebrate the best examples of local community work and global citizenship in England and Wales. Pupils, staff and parents from the national and regional winners all impressed the judges with their passion for community issues such as the environment, Fairtrade and local fundraising, as well as their active involvement in worldwide initiatives, encouraging respect for different cultures and a sense of justice.

Schools Minister Lord Hill said: –I am delighted to congratulate the regional and national winners of the first ever Church Awards on their superb work. These schools have demonstrated their commitment to respecting and supporting other young people around the world as well as in their own local community.

–Church schools make an important contribution to education in this country – not only in achieving good exam results, but also in nurturing young people to become real ambassadors for the ethos of their schools. It is wonderful to be able to celebrate this and see the links they have established in volunteering in local communities, fundraising for countries hit by disaster and building relationships with pupils around the world.



In 1899, Good Friday fell on Boxing Day. Can you explain how that happened? Answer on page 26.

Pippa's Song

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearl'd;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven--
All's right with the world!

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FROM THE ORGAN CONSOLE

It is now just over a year ago that the full choir sang its last service (although we have had several services with some socially distanced singing since then), and I am sure that all the choir members (along with their director!) are looking forward to the time when we can restart choral music – and indeed hymns – at our services again.

Another casualty of the national situation was the series of Tuesday Lunchtime and Saturday Morning concerts, all of which had been booked. The enforced cancellation of the concert season was a terrific loss to our church life. It was also clearly out of the question to book any Spring/Summer concerts for this year. However, emboldened by the improving situation, the clergy, wardens and I have felt able to contemplate putting on a short series of lunchtime concerts during September to make up for the loss of the usual Spring and Summer season; obviously, this is dependent on the national situation remaining stable, or indeed improving, but it looks likely that these will be able to go ahead.

It gives me great pleasure to let you know about the concerts listed below – we have lost so much of the music of the church, and I hope that this will go some small way towards moving back to some sort of “normal”.

MICHAEL PAIN.

TUESDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS 2021

SEPTEMBER 1.15 – 1.50 p.m.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Tues 7 | PAUL GREENHALGH <i>piano</i> |
| Tues 14 | VIVIEN CHASEY <i>violin</i>
with Robin Bowman <i>piano</i>
and Claire Bowman <i>soprano</i> |
| Tues 21 | REBEKHAH OKPOTI <i>organ</i>
(St. Lawrence with St. Paul's, Longridge) |
| Tues 28 | MICHAEL PAIN <i>organ</i>
(Bolton Parish Church) |

Millions join online worship in pandemic year

As churches look ahead to an expected easing of restrictions and more public gatherings, many are assessing how to incorporate the lessons of the last year into their regular patterns of worship and outreach after the pandemic.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: “The last year has been a time of loss, separation and pain for everyone. Not always being able to meet together for prayer and worship has made that even more difficult and I long for the day when we can gather together before God’s face.

“Yet amid all of this, God has been with us and has done something new which we could not have imagined a year ago. We have sung the Lord’s song in a virtual foreign land. As we look and plan ahead, it’s not a question of either online worship or meeting in-person, but of how we will be shaped by the experience and commitments of the last year, to try new things, to value the things we perhaps took for granted before, and to reach out to more people with the invitation to participate in the good news of Jesus Christ.”

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said: “I think there has been a digital coming of age.

“Of course we long to meet in person, but online services can be very beautiful. People of different ages, from different parts of the country or even the world, families sitting together, people watching whilst having a cup of coffee are all coming together to worship online in ways that we just couldn’t have imagined a year ago. Many churches report that they have more people participating in their online services than used to meet in person.”

Support and training

The Diocese of Manchester offers training in social media and digital technologies, and support through its Digital Support Facebook group. See the diocesan Communications and Digital Resources page.

The Church of England also offer training and resources through its Digital Labs (www.churchofengland.org/resources/church-england-digital-labs)

Planned giving

When you come to church, please remember to bring your filled planned giving envelopes. If you would like to make your regular giving by standing order (and thank you so much to those who have recently set up standing orders and those who have been doing it that way for years) the account details you need are:

Parish Church

Account Name: Bolton Parish Church PCC Stewardship.

Sort Code: 16-00-06

Account Number: 11816952

St Philip's

Account Name: St. Philip's Parochial Church Council.

Sort Code: 77-02-04

Account Number: 00017505

Bolton Parish Church Online

Email: admin@boltonparishchurch.co.uk

Website: www.boltonparishchurch.co.uk

Details of services, events, newsletters, magazines, important updates etc.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/boltonparishchurch

Official Church Facebook page, with news, photos, and archive of online services and prayers

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MusicAtBoltonParishChurch

News about music, with photos, details of musical events and videos of choir and organ

Twitter: [@StPeterBolton](https://twitter.com/StPeterBolton)

Instagram: [boltonparishchurchimages](https://www.instagram.com/boltonparishchurchimages)

Photos of Bolton Parish Church

Vicars of Bolton Parish Church

Continuing the series on Vicars of Bolton

Peter Haddon, 1 December 1691-1721

Revd Peter Haddon, M.A., “a worthy, pious, learned man, Vicar of Bolton 29 years, by whose death his friends had a loss, but the world a greater,” was the successor to Revd John Lever.

He was a cousin of Dr. Cartwright, Bishop of Chester, and served him as chaplain. On coming to Bolton, Peter Haddon quickly became a favourite with his congregation and the townspeople. He is said to have had an extremely affable nature, although he was also dignified and an excellent preacher.

Quite soon after his induction, he launched a scheme for setting the Parish Church in order. This was a successful project, resulting in the Church being restored. Between the years 1700 to 1714, work was carried out on the roof, windows, bells, and clock. Work on the interior included railing in the Communion table and panelling the chancel.

He and his wife Elizabeth had three children – two sons (Peter, born 16 May 1696, and John, born 8 April 1698) and a girl (Bretton, born 20 March 1699).

Revd Haddon died in April 1721 and was buried in the chancel of the Church immediately in front of the Communion table.

In his will, dated 6th March 1720, after bequeathing his soul to God and his body to the grave, he gave John Haddon his son the remainder of his books, plus ten pounds in money. To his daughter Bretton Haddon he gave £100, while the residue went to Elizabeth Haddon his wife. There is no mention of his first-born, Peter, so it is assumed he either died or had become alienated from the family, the former being more likely.

When the old Church was dismantled, the two vaults in front of the Communion table – one of the Rev. Peter Haddon and the other of the Rev. Thomas Morrall (who succeeded him) – were opened. The former was found to be entirely empty, while the latter contained a few small fragments of wood only.

Laughter lines — from Cath Hale

Eating in the 50s

Pasta had not been invented

Curry was a surname

A takeaway was a mathematical problem

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time

All crisps were plain; the choice was whether to put the salt on or not

Rice was a milk pudding, and never part of our dinner

A Big Mac was something we wore when it rained

Brown bread was something only poor people ate

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves

Coffee was Camp and came in a bottle

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh

Only Heinz made beans

Fish didn't have fingers in those days

None of us had ever heard of yogurt

Healthy food consisted of anything edible

Cooking outside was called camping

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy

Seaweed was not a recognised food

Prunes were medicinal

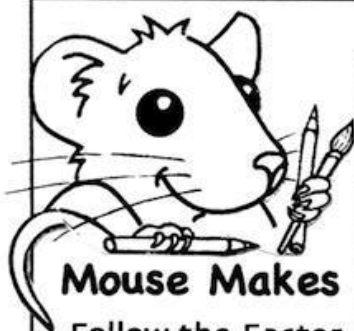
Muesli was readily available – it was called cattle feed

Pineapples were chunks in a tin; we'd only seen a picture of a real one

Water came out of the tap – if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it they would have become a laughing stock

The one thing that we never ever had on our table in the fifties
... was elbows!

For Younger Readers



Mouse Makes

Follow the Easter story using the Bible references, then look for the words in the wordsearch puzzle



Into Jerusalem

read Matthew 21:1-11

DONKEY • ROAD
BRANCHES • PALMS
KING • HOSANNA

Last Supper

read Matthew 26:17-30

PASSOVER • ROOM
BREAD • WINE
BODY • BLOOD
CUP • MEAL

Betrayal and Death

read Matthew 26:36 - 27:56

KISS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • SON
CRUCIFY • JESUS
CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE
NAILS • CROSS
DARKNESS • QUAKE
DEATH • LOTS

Easter Wordsearch

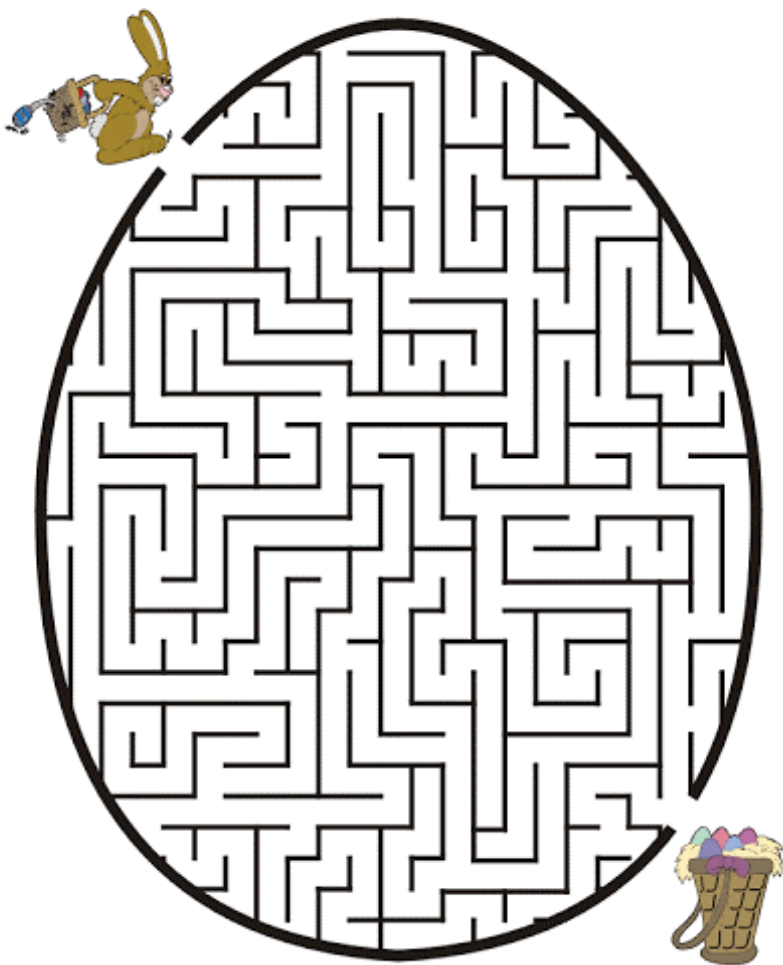


Burial and Resurrection

read Matthew 27:57 - 28:20

TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN
GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT
SAVIOUR • PRAISE

EASTER



Riddle

**Pronounced as one letter, but written with three,
Two letters there are, and two only in me.
I am double, I'm single, I'm brown, blue, and grey,
I'm read from both ends, and the same either way.
What am I?**

Answer on page 29

Musical Quiz

Another musical quiz, devised by the same person who made the one on composers a couple of months ago. We are reliably assured that this one isn't quite as fiendish.

The answers are the names of operas or operettas. You need to supply the definite article where required.

1. Andalusian coiffeur.
2. Larcenous bird.
3. Lepidopterous female.
4. WCWC
5. Fishy Prince Consort.
6. Divers for oysters.
7. Sly petite fox.
8. Lavatorial hurrah D Debussy's Sea tie up.
9. A defect in expensive stockings.
10. Reddish blood.
11. River treasure.
12. Neither pa
13. Bill, spill the beans.
14. I'd appear at home in Alcoholics Anonymous.
15. What t'actor from Yorkshire hopes his film will win at t'awards ceremony.
16. A pair raced Dorothy.
17. Long fish found treasure - a blue politician.
18. Mr Rolls and Mr Royce.
19. Enchanted Champagne glass.
20. KLM pilot?

Rita Bevis

We were saddened to hear the news of the death of Rita Bevis.

Photos of some of the flowers at her funeral are shown below.



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From the Lectionary: Saint Anselm of Canterbury - 21 April



Anselm is remembered as an Archbishop of Canterbury, but is also known for his *Proslogion* (Discourse on the Existence of God), written in 1077-1078. The discourse was not written to convince non-Christians of the truth of Christianity, but rather from the perspective of a Christian believer seeking a rationale for his faith.

In fact, his original title was *Faith Seeking Understanding*. Nearly ten

centuries later, the work is still studied by theological students as one of the great philosophical ‘proofs’ of God’s existence.

CHAPTER I

(Exhortation of the mind to the contemplation of God) begins:

Up now, slight man! flee, for a little while, your occupations; hide yourself, for a time, from your disturbing thoughts. Cast aside, now, your burdensome cares, and put away your toilsome business. Yield room for some little time to God; and rest for a little time in him. Enter the inner chamber of your mind; shut out all thoughts save that of God, and such as can aid you in seeking him; close your door and seek him. Speak now, my whole heart! speak now to God, saying, I seek your face; your face, Lord, will I seek.

Anselm was born at Aosta in 1033, the son of a Lombard nobleman. In time, he decided to become a Benedictine monk and joined Lanfranc’s famous monastery at Bec (c. 1060). He became prior, then abbot. He was loved by his monks, appreciated for his sensitivity and intuitiveness. He remained friends with Lanfranc, who had gone on to become Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1079, a few months after his consecration as abbot of Bec, he set off for England to look after the abbey lands there. On his way, he stopped to visit Lanfranc at Canterbury. Two reports state that when Anselm was retiring to bed one night he found a gold ring in his

possession. His first thought was that it was some kind of vision sent by the devil to tempt him, but he found that the ring was no illusion. He showed the ring to all the officials of Christ Church, Canterbury, but failed to find the owner and so he sold it, giving the proceeds to the Christ Church monks. Lanfranc, hearing the story, interpreted it as a sign that Anselm would one day succeed him as archbishop, just as Anselm had succeeded him at Bec.

When Lanfranc died in 1089, William II (Rufus) seized the possessions and revenues of the see, and decided against making a new appointment.

In 1092, Anselm crossed to England. He was detained there on business for a couple of months but William then refused to grant him permission to return to Bec. However, the King fell seriously ill the following year, and, believing that his illness had been caused by his behaviour, he allowed the nomination of Anselm to the vacant see on 6 March 1093. After some initial reluctance, Anselm was eventually consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury on 4 December 1093.

The previous king, William the Conqueror, had sought the power to appoint bishops (lay investiture) and to control church revenues, a policy continued by his son William II (William Rufus). Anselm spoke out against this and a long dispute began, during which Anselm was exiled by William in 1097. After the death of William, King Henry I recalled Anselm to England, but Anselm still refused to consecrate bishops appointed by the King. In 1103, he travelled to Rome in an effort to negotiate a compromise between King and Pope. It was a lengthy and delicate process but by 1107, the dispute was settled. The final two years of Anselm's life were spent in the duties of his archbishopric. As archbishop, Anselm maintained his monastic ideals, which included stewardship, prudence, and instruction to his flock, as well as prayer and contemplation. Anselm died on Holy Wednesday, 21 April 1109.

Anselm's canonisation was requested by Thomas Becket in 1163. It is possible that Anselm was formally canonised at some point before Becket's death in 1170, although no explicit record has survived. Some scholars contend that the year of Anselm's canonisation was 1494 (by Pope Alexander VI Borgia).

Answers to last month's Quiz

Opportunity for half a century (7) **Chancel** (*chance + L for 50*)

Is Georgia the origin? (4) **Font** (*Georgia is the name of a font and 'font' can be origin, source, spring etc*)

Dan muddled in rod (8) **Ordinand** (*anagram of Dan in rod*)

It's a gladness by arrangement (7,5) **Stained glass** (*anagram of It's a gladness*)

Internal parts of the body are subject of a lawsuit (5,4) **Organ case** (*I apologise—should have been 'internal part of the body'*)

Cried, lost tail and sent back (3) **Pew** (*wept; remove its tail "t", turn it round = pew*)

Aaron - Lent indices all over the place (11,5) **Residential Canon** (*anagram of Aaron Lent indices*)

Finding it in the middle of something dreaded (7) **Liturgy** (*lurgy—insert "it" into lurgy*)

Give Conservative (9) **Offertory** (*offer + tory*)

A ne'er-do-well, I hear! (4) **Nave** (*I hear = 'sounds like' knave*)

Yes! – I need to leave middle of programme (7) **Minster** (*programme Yes, Minister. "I" needs to leave. After its removal, we have 'minster'*)

Without any – going south (5) **Nones** (*none + S for south*)

i.e. ride up in tatters (4-5) **Prie-dieu** (*anagram of i.e. ride up*)

What the knave did (5) **Stole** (*reference to the Knave of Hearts, who stole some tarts*)

Gather (7) **Collect** (*synonym of gather*)

Unstable or percent (9) **Precentor** (*anagram of 'or percent'*)

More than enough, so to speak (8) **Surplice** (*so to speak = 'sounds like' surplus*)

Group of singers comes to an abrupt halt (5,6) **Choir stalls** (*choir is the group of singers; stalls is 'comes to an abrupt halt'*)

Strive headlessly (5) **Spire** (*aspire is strive. Remove its head (a) and the result is spire*)

Period of conflict joins haven (6) **Warden** (*war + den*)

The Church of England is supporting the 'VaccinAid' campaign which aims to help fund the biggest vaccination drive in history.

Led by UNICEF UK, with the online fundraising platform Crowdfunder, the campaign offers people a practical way to give thanks for their Covid-19



vaccination, by making a voluntary donation to help pay for jabs for others around the world.

VaccinAid aims to help fund almost two billion Covid-19 vaccines for health workers and the most high-risk and vulnerable people on our planet. The money raised will also help UNICEF provide tests and treatments to people in 190 countries around the world through the global COVAX initiative.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, encouraged people and congregations to donate and to spread the word in the community, as a practical demonstration of Jesus's command to love our neighbour.

Local churches are being encouraged to join the campaign, with resources available to download on the [AChurchNearYou.com](https://www.achurchnearyou.com) Resource Hub to share on social media, newsletters or notice boards. Using the Crowdfunder platform, individual donations can be given, or communities – including parishes – can sign up to fundraise together.

More details at [VaccinAid.Org](https://www.vaccinaid.org)

Century for Joy

Joy Ryner celebrates her 100th birthday on 20 April.

More next month – including photos.

Anyone wanting to send Joy a card should use the following address:

Joy Ryner,

Old Vicarage,

Ivy Bank Road,

Bolton

BL1 7EQ



Logic Puzzle

With the current focus on maintaining an active brain, the following puzzle is a good way of engaging the grey matter and should keep readers occupied until the next magazine comes out. It is often called Einstein's Puzzle as it is said to have been invented by Albert Einstein as a boy; it is sometimes claimed that only 2% of the population can solve it. There are several versions of this puzzle. The version below is quoted from the first known publication in Life International magazine on 17 December 1962.

1. **There are five houses.**
2. **The Englishman lives in the red house.**
3. **The Spaniard owns the dog.**
4. **Coffee is drunk in the green house.**
5. **The Ukrainian drinks tea.**
6. **The green house is immediately to the right of the ivory house.**
7. **The Old Gold smoker owns snails.**
8. **Kools are smoked in the yellow house.**
9. **Milk is drunk in the middle house.**
10. **The Norwegian lives in the first house.**
11. **The man who smokes Chesterfields lives in the house next to the man with the fox.**
12. **Kools are smoked in the house next to the house where the horse is kept.**
13. **The Lucky Strike smoker drinks orange juice.**
14. **The Japanese smokes Parliaments.**
15. **The Norwegian lives next to the blue house.**

Now, who drinks water? Who owns the zebra? In the interest of clarity, it must be added that each of the five houses is painted a different colour, and their inhabitants are of different national extractions, own different pets, drink different beverages and smoke different brands of American cigarets [sic]. One other thing: in statement 6, "right" means *your* right. – **Life International, December 17, 1962**

It should be added that the houses are in a row. Rule 12 leads to a contradiction, and should strictly have been written as "Kools are smoked in *a* house next to the house where the horse is kept", as opposed to *the* house, as *the* implies that there is only one house next to the house with the horse, meaning that it is either the leftmost or the rightmost house.

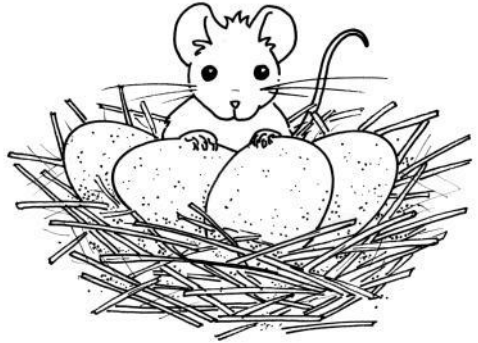
Answers next month.

Answer to Riddle on page 21

I am an eye

Answer to Good Friday question on page 14

A horse named Good Friday fell in in the
Thornycroft Chase at Wolverhampton
on 26 December 1899.



The Last Word

*A new monthly feature where we get to know each other a little better through a series of questions . This month: **Lesley Easterman***

Do you come from Bolton?

I was brought up outside Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, and was sent to a C of E girl's boarding school in Oxford. We worshipped at All Saints, Highfield -Matins every Sunday and then also 'Early' (8 am Communion) after Confirmation. Then in the sixth form, we could go in twos to Evensong in the colleges – obviously the attraction of this was not necessarily the worship!

Thereafter I spent three years in London as a student in the mid-sixties.

What brought you to Bolton?

In the 1970s, the Friday edition of the Today programme on Radio 4 was broadcast from Manchester (with Brian Redhead), and my husband's job as producer on the programme necessitated living close to Manchester – for very early starts!

What first brought you to Bolton Parish Church?

At our house-warming party, one of the guests was an Advisor in the Education Department, so I talked to him about which primary school Simon should go to (there were three in the immediate area). So when

the appropriate moment came for going to church, it seemed a good idea to try the one linked to the school.

Once our children were of a suitable age, they were welcomed into the Sunday school, and Mrs Mitchell co-opted me onto the coffee rota! Around this time parent governors were required for the first time, and I became a school governor at Bolton Parish School, and remained so until well after both children had moved on from there.

What book have you just finished reading?

Ages ago, a friend told me that I must read ‘The Gift of Rain’ by Tan Twan Eng, but she warned me that it was a sad story. So I put it on my Kindle and the months went by and I kept rejecting it, thinking I wasn’t ready to wallow in sadness! However recently I gave in and started reading it. It is set in Penang before and during the Japanese occupation of Malaya in WWII, and I found it totally engrossing, fascinating and uplifting, despite the inevitable tragedies of that time. It was long-listed for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 2007.

Who have been the key people in your past who have encouraged your journey of faith?

I became a part of the World Community for Christian Meditation when, some years ago, Sheila Wrigley ran an introductory course to Christian Meditation. This was well attended, and since then, an afternoon and an evening group have been meeting weekly in Bolton. Our lives are increasingly busy and noisy, so silence and contemplative prayer was for me an extremely significant discovery. Through WCCM I have met and listened to many interesting and inspirational speakers.

What is your favourite hymn?

I have two favourite hymns, ‘Hills of the North Rejoice’, and ‘Brightest and Best are the Sons of the Morning’. Unfortunately, as one is usually sung in Advent and the other at Epiphany, it is quite possible to miss them for a year or two. Both hymns summon up vivid pictures of the natural world, and in addition ‘Hills of the North’ reminds us of all our fellow Christians around the world.

What’s your favourite piece of music?

I am very drawn to English music of the earlier part of the 20th century, and a short piece that I never tire of hearing is Gerald Finzi’s ‘Eclogue’. It is very tranquil. It starts simply, with a solo

piano motif which is then joined by the strings and the texture of the sound widens out, becoming very rich. As it draws to a close, the opening theme returns, and as it finishes I always am left wanting to listen to the piece over again.

What do you like to watch on TV?

I enjoy nothing better than a good drama serial, which I can ‘binge watch’ over several evenings once I have recorded it all. I do also record many educative and worthy programmes, some of which I have to admit get deleted without having been watched!

How do you find retirement?

I was lucky to have several interests, and in retirement more time to spend on them.

I have been a birdwatcher for a long time, and that leads to visiting varied places both at home and abroad. It is a great privilege to spend time in nature and to be fascinated and amazed by it. In Britain alone, there are 574 bird species, each different enough to identify.

Having been invited to a taster evening of circle dancing some years ago, I have danced regularly since the following week. It is fantastic to have music, movement and community with others all in one go! The music is wonderfully varied – from Bob Marley’s ‘Let’s get together and feel alright’ via traditional music from all over the world, with much from Eastern Europe, to Albinoni’s Adagio in G Minor, which Michael Pain played in church only a few weeks ago. Since I have been teaching dances in each of the groups where I dance regularly, it has meant that I can introduce dances I particularly like and others don’t teach! (I have step notes and recorded music for nearly 300 dances).

I have recently started to research the possibility of circle dancing being enjoyed in predynastic Egypt – around 3500 BCE.

If you could visit any place in the world, where would that be? And why?

For some years I have wanted to revisit both Nepal and Orkney. However, at present, I should be very happy to find myself on Vancouver Island with my son and his wife, having missed my visit there last year.

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