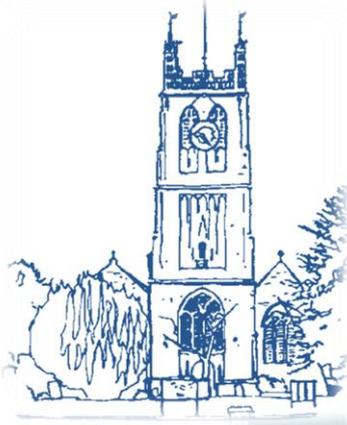
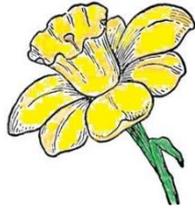


# St. James's, Dursley & St. Mark's, Woodmancote



## The Messenger

**APRIL**

**2021**

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## **RECTOR**

Revd Canon Michael Cozens

**Tel: 546459**

**E-mail: [mgcozens86@btinternet.com](mailto:mgcozens86@btinternet.com)**

**Please note Michael cannot be contacted on Fridays  
this is his day off – please contact Parish Office**

## **ASSOCIATE PRIESTS**

Revd Ian Gardner,

**E-mail: [chestal@hotmail.com](mailto:chestal@hotmail.com)**

**Tel: 546895**

Revd Jane Wood

**E-mail: [revjanewood@yahoo.com](mailto:revjanewood@yahoo.com)**

**Tel: 0798 362 3525**

## **READER**

Mr Tony King,

**E-mail: [tonyking@gmx.co.uk](mailto:tonyking@gmx.co.uk)**

**Tel: 298897**

## **CHURCHWARDENS.**

Mrs Caroline Marrow,

**E-mail: [caroline.vegpatch@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.vegpatch@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 544221**

Mrs Christine Morgan,

**E-mail: [chrismorgan194@btinternet.com](mailto:chrismorgan194@btinternet.com)**

**Tel: 549062**

## **BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR – Clive Orchard**

**The Parish Office is closed at the moment.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A WEEKLY PEW LEAFLET PLEASE CONTACT  
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**E-mail: [ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ewelmeeparishoffice@gmail.com)**

**Tel: 549280**

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC.**

Mr Nigel Davies, M.A., B Mus., F.R.C.O,

**Tel: 01454 416867**

**PCC: VICE CHAIRMAN – Mrs Caroline Marrow**

**Tel: 544221**

## **PCC SECRETARY –**

Mrs Edwina Walton

**E-mail: [edwinawalton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:edwinawalton@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Tel: 890588**

## **PCC TREASURER -**

Dr Sally Pearson

**E-mail: [v6sep@aol.com](mailto:v6sep@aol.com)**

**Tel: 542106**

He is Risen, He is Risen indeed Alleluia



# APRIL

## CONTENTS

Letter from Revd Jane.....	2,3
Electoral Roll Notice.....	3
Services in Holy Week and April and Annual Meetings.....	4,5
Music Notes and Congratulations.....	6,7
Culture and Me .....	8,9
SOS Save Our Soil and message from Jan Vonberg.....	10,11
St Mark's .....	12
Another Chance.....	14
Acrostic for April and Artwork by Valerie Meares.....	16,17
Bells, Prayer Group and thanks from Jacquelin Hill.....	19
Mouse diary .....	20
News from Gloucester Diocese.....	22,23
Poetry Corner .....	29,30
From the Parish Registers, and 100 Club 2021.....	32

### Editors:

**Valerie Meares Tel: 01453 544677**

**Jenni Norris Tel: 01453 543996**

Advertising please contact

**Philip Staddon Tel: 01453 544312**

**e.mail address [judith.staddon@gmail.com](mailto:judith.staddon@gmail.com)**

### **PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**

Valerie Meares Tel: 01453 544677 e.mail: [v.meares@btinternet.com](mailto:v.meares@btinternet.com)  
or Judith Staddon Tel: 01453 544312 e.mail [judith.staddon@gmail.com](mailto:judith.staddon@gmail.com)  
and Jenni Norris e.mail [jenorris@talk21.com](mailto:jenorris@talk21.com)

### **Message from the editors:**

*Any opinions expressed in the magazine are personal views only.*

*Judith Valerie and Jenni*

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2021 ISSUE IS  
SUNDAY 11th APRIL 2021**



Dear Friends

As I write this, we are three weeks away from Easter and are currently in Lockdown. Hopefully, the cases of the virus will be continuing to fall significantly and those receiving their vaccinations continuing to increase - giving us hope for the easing of restrictions, so that we can begin to see our friends and loved ones again. We are all so thankful for the many ways people have made such big changes in the way they live their lives, including the enormous sacrifices made by young and old, to keep each other safe.

Against this backdrop we will again celebrate Easter. But before we can celebrate the joy of the empty tomb we must pass through the cross of Good Friday - and no doubt many of us may have felt that these last few months of Lockdown Number Three have already been something of a cross to bear! But still - without the cross and Good Friday there can be no Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday this year falls on the 1st April and is the Thursday before Easter Day when Christians commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with the disciples. During the meal Jesus took bread and wine and shared them with his disciples, he washed their feet in humility and love as the Servant King and gave a new commandment 'to love one another'. We then move from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane, and into Good Friday, the day Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus, a day of sadness, sorrow, and meditation.

It is really tempting for us to miss out on this journey through Holy Week and the cross to instantly arrive at Easter. But if you want to fully know the joy and hope of Easter Sunday, we would like to invite you to participate in the

events of Holy Week and journey with us through them. We have services throughout Holy Week online and we would be delighted if you can join us.

On Easter morning we celebrate the victory of God's saving plan for his people, how God's light dispels the darkness and how his love is more powerful than anything in creation. We rejoice in the Good News that Jesus is alive! That from the darkness of fear and hopelessness we are invited into a relationship with Jesus and to receive the new life he offers. That new life which can be seen all around us in the signs of spring in this wonderful part of Gloucestershire in which we live which can contain, just as the tomb could not contain the risen Christ.

We might be unsure what the next few weeks hold, and we are hopeful that we will be able to gather in our churches as Easter people. However, what does remain unchanged is that the message of Easter as one of hope. However isolated or fearful we may feel we can remember that: "Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours, through him who loves us." Desmond Tutu

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!  
With love and prayers.

Revd Jane

### **Electoral Roll**

From 4th April notices will be displayed about revising the Electoral Roll. This is not a full revision but allows us to add names to the roll. We are aware that some people, who are definitely members of our church community, did not go back onto the Roll when the last full revision took place in 2019. If you are not sure whether or not you are on the roll, please do contact Chris Raffle, our Electoral Roll Officer, on either [rafflechristine@gmail.com](mailto:rafflechristine@gmail.com) or 545684.

## Church News from Canon Michael.....



### **Services in Holy Week and April** **Things are beginning to change, slowly!**

#### **Sunday 28th March - Palm Sunday**

Via Zoom 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion

*Palm crosses will have been blessed during the Zoom service on Sunday 21st March and made available for collection from church porches during the week. People are invited to have their palm crosses available for the Zoom service on Palm Sunday*

Via Zoom 6pm Ecumenical Lent Service

#### **Monday 29th March - Monday of Holy Week**

Via Zoom 6pm Evening Prayer

#### **Tuesday 30th March - Tuesday of Holy Week**

Via Zoom 6pm Evening Prayer

#### **Wednesday 31st March - Wednesday of Holy Week**

Via Zoom 6pm Evening Prayer

#### **Thursday 1st April - Maundy Thursday**

Via Zoom 7.30pm A Service for Maundy Thursday

*This service will remind us of Jesus washing his disciple's feet, sharing the Last Supper and then going out to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray*

#### **Friday 2nd April - Good Friday**

Via Zoom 2.00pm Stations of the Cross for Good Friday

*A reflective service, taking us to 3pm, using images from Jesus' journey to the cross, with readings and music*

#### **Saturday 3rd April - Holy Saturday**

Via Zoom 9.00pm Compline

*A short service of Night Prayer*

## **Sunday 4th April - Easter Day**

*We are planning to hold our services in church to celebrate Easter. Pre-booking will be required. Social distancing and other restrictions will still apply. Sadly, it is unlikely that we will be able to have any live singing, but the services at 10am will include music.*

St Mark's 8am Said Holy Communion

St James 10am Holy Communion (with music)  
*This service will be live streamed*

St Giles 10am Holy Communion (with music)

Via Zoom 6pm Choral Evensong for Easter Sunday  
*A Zoom service using recorded Easter music*

## **Sunday 11th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter**

Via Zoom 10am Benefice Holy Communion

*Arrangements for the other Sundays of April will have to be kept under review and will depend on the easing of lockdown restrictions. We might revert to Zoom services.*

## **Sunday 18th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter**

St James 10am Holy Communion *Live streamed*

St Giles 10am Holy Communion

## **Sunday 25th April - 4th Sunday of Easter**

St James 10am Holy Communion *Live streamed*

St Giles 10am Holy Communion

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Annual Meetings**

This year, the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to elect churchwardens will be held on **Sunday 23rd May at 11.30am**. It will be immediately followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at which the 2020 annual accounts will be presented, PCC members will be elected and reports on aspects of church life will be received. We hope to hold these meetings in St James.



## MUSIC NOTES

**April 2021**

Years ago it was the norm that each Sunday the two main television channels (BBC and ITV) would broadcast a church service from around the whole country. It was not a glitzy, hyped-up affair but a genuine service of worship; albeit putting "the best foot forward". How things have changed! We still have a church service on Radio 4 on a Sunday morning, and currently (just for Lent) on BBC 1 half an hour of "Lent Worship" wedged between "The Big Questions" and "Match of the Day", for which I suppose we should be grateful! Then there is the increasingly more unreal "Songs of Praise" where perfectly good, mainstream hymns (when they are actually used) are subjected to a make-over where the arrangers are keen to show how clever they are at disguising the original composer's intention.

So it was with interest and a sense of relief that I read a letter to the *Radio Times* entitled "Make Sundays Special" where the writer asks for a repeat of last year's lock-down series of Sunday services where "it was a joy to hear traditional hymns accompanied by the organ – King of Instruments – along with a sermon, prayers and readings".

With few exceptions, "traditional" hymns were devised to be accompanied by the organ, and not a rag-bag of orchestral instruments, guitars and drum-kit. There is no other single instrument capable of supporting lusty singing as well as the organ with its sustained sonorous tones. The *Radio Times* letter writer received a response saying "You will be pleased to hear that this year the BBC is planning a range of programming and live worship across its platforms to mark Easter and other key religious festivals". Let's hope that we get some "traditional hymns accompanied by the organ". Perhaps the over-active hymn arrangers might take a break.....

This month would have seen the start of the 2021 Coffee Cake and Music organ recital series with Stephen Power, former lay-clerk and organ scholar at Gloucester Cathedral, and now Director of Music at Brecon Cathedral. Stephen is a first-class player and I hope we will be able to hear him in the not too distant future. Hopefully, if normality resumes, we will be able to restart the series later in the year. I gave

the organ a good "work-out" in early March, and it is in remarkably good condition, no doubt thanks to the background heat in St James'. From the Tuner's notebook, I see it hasn't been tuned since November 2019!

Sometimes news travels slowly to this part of the world, and I hadn't realised that the Rt Rev'd David Bentley Bishop of Gloucester (1993-2003) had died in March last year. I remember him coming to take a Confirmation service at St James', and after the service, through one of the wardens, he asked to speak to me. He was a very tall man and, especially with his mitre, towered over the confirmation candidates! I felt as though I had been asked to attend the Headmaster's study in his presence, but was relieved to hear him say how much he enjoyed the music and especially the choir's singing, and, as a Bishop, how depressing it was to hear the offerings of many of the churches in the diocese. We had quite a conversation, and I learned that he had come to ordination through the church choir route (as did so many of our clerics in the past) and that music was very important to him. According to the *Church Times* obituary he was a Grade 8 pianist and in retirement was an active member of the Lichfield Choral Society. Yet another example of a love of music being a life-long activity.

*Nigel Davies*

\*\*\*\*\*

**On April 20th 1996 Caroline and Rob were married at St James Church.**



Congratulations to  
Caroline and Rob on your  
Silver Wedding Anniversary.

Pictured here after the  
ceremony.

## **Culture and me**

Canon Michael Cozens has kindly agreed to tell us of some of his thoughts this month.

### **Do you have a favourite author or book?**

I don't have an outstanding one, but I do enjoy for relaxation detective novels. I think I have read all those by PD James. The Shardlake series by C J Sansom is a firm favourite for they are both historical and the detective stories

### **What are you reading at present?**

I am one who likes to have several books on the go. Before Christmas I was reading Hilary Mantel's The Mirror and the Light, which is the third in the Wolf Hall trilogy. I had enjoyed the previous two. Then I was given Tim Peake's autobiography and so I have started to read that. I am also enjoying reading Bishop Rachel's book 'Encounters' which draws on her experience as a speech therapist, and then as a curate and priest.

### **Is there a book which you feel you should have read?**

I feel slightly guilty that I have not read a great deal of Dickens. He is such a great author, but I can't get into his novels.

### **Is there a song or piece of music you turn to, to cheer you up?**

The film score from the Magnificent Seven, mainly by association. It reminds me of a family holiday in Andalucía. We were staying in a remote villa and the only way we could reach the main road was by a rugged and bumpy track. As we drove down, the music we seemed to be always playing was this theme. My daughter will still text me to say it is on the radio.

### **Do you have a favourite piece of music?**

First, William Walton's Crown Imperial. It was the recessional music played our wedding, and still it always makes us stop when we hear it. Second, Allegri's Miserere has the capacity to raise the hairs on the back of my neck.

### **Do you play a musical instrument? If not what you like to have learnt?**

No I don't. I was fascinated by the timpani section at the first orchestral classical concert I went to. At secondary school, I was asked if I wanted to learn an instrument. I chose the timpani, but when I discovered it initially was about tapping a block of wood with a stick, I lost interest. We have a piano in the house, and I have made attempts to learn it, but with no great success.

**What is your favourite film?**

At present, it is Downton Abbey. Having watched the series on TV I looked forward with great anticipation to the big screen version. We watched it at the Wotton Electric Picture House which is a great place. We are lucky to have it so close

**Do you have a favourite play?**

This has to be Les Misérables. We saw it in London, and it is just an amazing experience

**What about a favourite television series?**

I watch TV mainly for relaxation and also to experience transformation. I enjoy watching the Great Pottery Throw-down on a Sunday night. I love to see the potters moulding a beautiful shape from a great lump of clay. Alongside that I would put The Repair Shop, where worn out and damaged articles are returned to their original state to the joy of their owners.

**If there was one painting you could own, what would it be and what is special for you about it?**

I don't think I could own them as they are on a wall, but it would be the Frescoes by Giotto in Assisi. Quite early in our marriage we had a holiday in Italy. We were encouraged to see them by our own priest who had a great knowledge of both St Francis and of art. He was the one who encouraged me to think whether God was calling me to the priesthood.

**Do you have special building which means a lot to you and if so why?**

It would have to be Coventry Cathedral. It was where I was ordained. We went back there a few years ago and were still impressed by it. Of course it is incredible to see the two buildings - the old destroyed cathedral and the 1960's new cathedral - and to think of the story of that period.

**Is there a place (town, village, a county?) where you have felt happiest?**

No doubt about it, it would be North Yorkshire. We have always gone back the Pickering area for half-term holidays. Our daughter and son-in-law now live in York, so there is always a good reason to visit.

**You are having a fantasy dinner party for five – who would you invite?**

My choices are a bit different. Sadly my mother and mother-in-law died before our two children were born. So, I would like to bring them all together. We are so proud of our children and the two mothers were very special people. It would be a very special meal.

## SOS - Save our soil!

Now that Spring is here, many of us will be turning our thoughts to growing things in our gardens, and maybe allotments.

The following is an abridged version of an article by Traidcraft's Robin Roth, in which he discusses organic soil and suggests the small changes we can make, to make a big difference.



We all take soil for granted and we assume it will be there **forever**.

*Robin Roth*

We all take soil for granted and we assume it will be there forever. In fact, some scientists are warning us that soil is being eroded so fast that we may only have between 60 and 100 harvests left before it's gone completely.

Soil begins life as rock, slowly crushed and ground by tectonic and glacial movements until it resembles a fine mineral-rich dust. These minerals incidentally include those chemicals which are absolutely critical for growing food, including potassium, phosphorous and nitrogen. The transformation into soil, however, requires a further development: organic material to bind it together. Millennia of decaying organisms; algae, plants, insects, animals and trees, have been broken down by the innumerable bacteria that feed on and transform carbon-rich plant life into humus. The result is extremely rich, nutrient-dense soil that can support agriculture, but it also forms a surprisingly fragile and thin layer on the earth's surface. Without it we starve.

These natural organic processes go back many millions of years, and we have managed to deplete this extraordinary, slowly accumulated inheritance in a matter of decades. Our problem now is that we cannot "grow" soil quickly. There are no factories that produce soil and once it is gone, it is gone. And soil does, literally, disappear. Heavy rainfall that cannot be absorbed by the earth, wind erosion and land slips can all cause soil to be washed, blown or carried away, ultimately to the sea.

After years of poor management, de-forestation and over-exploitation, many farmers are now farming on dead or depleted soil. The only way to grow anything in this kind of soil is to spray it with the necessary nutrients; especially Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorous. Each harvest requires a little bit more fertiliser to achieve the same results.

The further application of pesticides, (chemical compounds designed to exterminate organic lifeforms,) naturally affects the bacteria in the soil. It kills it.

So how does organic farming improve soil health?

Firstly, organic farming requires significant and abundant composting. Composting feeds the soil by adding back nutrients that have been lost in plant growth.

Secondly, organic farming promotes multi-cropping. This means that more than one crop is grown on any patch of land since different plants provide different nutrients when they are composted back down.

Thirdly, organic farming requires tree cover, ideally up to a third of the total land being farmed. Trees are the best guarantor that soil is not washed away by rain, and that water is retained in the soil for growing plants. Add to this the fact that forests actually create soil (yes, all those leaves turn into soil) and you begin to see that trees are not just carbon collectors, but also soil growers. Trees remain the great providers and the unsung heroes of and for our eco-systems.

Stripped fields and mighty combine harvesters ploughing up, spraying over and cutting down some genetically modified crop, is not sustainable farming – this is extractive destruction. Compare that with a small holding working according to organic principles, nurturing its soil and providing natural, sustainable produce as a consequence.

At Traidcraft, we have been supporting small farmer co-operatives for over 40 years. We invest in the people who invest in the land that feeds us. Of course, it's more expensive, but we see it as being part of the solution to our climate crisis. You can do your bit by buying local organic food wherever possible, or fair trade, organic food from abroad. And you can go out and buy a composting bin today...

**Jan Vonberg adds:** if you are, or would like to be, involved in maintaining the churchyard at St James, and want to join a group to discuss how to manage it sustainably for the benefit of wildlife and human visitors, please email me ([janmcurt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janmcurt@yahoo.co.uk)) or ring me (01453 519506). We would really welcome your input.

# St Mark's News



Dear Friends

As I write this, e mails are coming through from Canon Michael about the Easter Day services which will be back in church - just for the day, so quick out with the dusters and polish and the long-handled cobweb brush (sorry spiders), and dust off the flowers! If you want to come to St Mark's you have to set the alarm early as we are set to go at 8.00am with a said eucharist. Oh and don't forget to book your seat.

As I write I am also having palpitations that there is not enough material to fill these pages. So I must ask in a few favours.

Well now look forward to light evenings and summer and lounging in my new summerhouse (see picture). It is all finished and the groundworks done, including installing a new handrail and some stepping stones after I managed to fall down (actually uphill) twice!! Luckily there was no damage to the grass. The other thing to look forward to is welcoming people into the garden again.

Phew! - It's now Friday Morning and I have now got enough material and my thanks go to Jennifer, and to Valerie Meares for helping me out.

**So Valerie and I make an urgent plea.** Please if you have any interesting pictures or articles to share with us we would be most grateful and it would help prevent the palpitations!

This afternoon I get my second jab, so phew again!

Wishing you all a Happy Easter

Best wishes

Judith

Belated birthday wishes to Nancy Walker whose birthday was on March 18th.



**A prayer from** © *Woman Alive*

Lord of heaven earth,  
by your death and resurrection  
you offer us eternal life,  
a new beginning, a way forward.

Help us put aside  
all that would hinder our growth in you.  
You grant us your spirit to comfort and empower  
us.

May we rise above  
the fears and frustrations that bind us.  
You give us hope, a purpose and true peace.

May we share these gifts with those around us.  
You call us daughter beloved and precious.

Help us to value  
each other and all those in your  
family.

Lord of our lives, hear our prayer.

Amen.



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## **ANOTHER CHANCE.....Jennifer Kendrick**

Twenty-six years ago I was diagnosed with advanced cancer. It was a shock as I tried to explain to the Doctor that I did not feel ill, had no visible lumps or bumps and, much more important, I had no time to be off sick! It could not be happening!

True I was very weary due to a heavy workload and attempts to get out of debt and back on my feet following a devastating divorce eight years previously, leaving me still with much to do and no time to be idle in bed! I won my case and continued, albeit briefly, to work seven days a week, convinced I was absolutely infallible and definitely indispensable! How arrogant was that! It could have ended in disaster, but one day on a return visit to the GP, he peered at me over the top of his pince-nez glasses, gently but firmly stating that he considered me to be most unwise! That's all he said and I knew I had to give in, allowing myself just time to find a guardian for my precious cat before being admitted to the QEH in Birmingham for a major rebuild! After surgery, I lay helplessly attached to all manner of mechanical devices, feeling trapped and confused amidst the mayhem. Then through the noise came that still small voice of the Lord: « You could have died. Now LIVE. »

Recovery was slow, long and frustrating but never without hope. For many months I was totally dependent on others, as I had no mental or physical energy while chemotherapy drained my meagre reserves. Very gradually the fog began to clear and I started to see my surroundings in much greater detail. Everything so beautiful, everyone so supportive in helping me find my feet and my life began again!

Ever since then, I have made great efforts to balance things sensibly, and listen carefully bearing in mind that when I was 21 I had a riding accident which broke my neck and paralysed me for a while, but didn't presume to slow me down or make allowances! Now in my 80s I take time to make decisions! Sometimes I sit and think. Sometimes I just sit.....

I hope I may be forgiven for only now seeing these experiences as my personal crucifixion, death and resurrection. Each day I thank the Lord for His presence, patience and persistence, ask for His guidance and wonder if I am worthy of His love.

Perhaps He thinks « Could do better » and every day I promise to try harder.

Easter is a good time to take stock, and with the current lockdown situation, we have plenty of opportunities to reflect in silence and prepare for celebrations!

May God bless us all with new sight, concern for others, guidance and discernment in all our endeavours as we are yesterday's children building tomorrow's world.

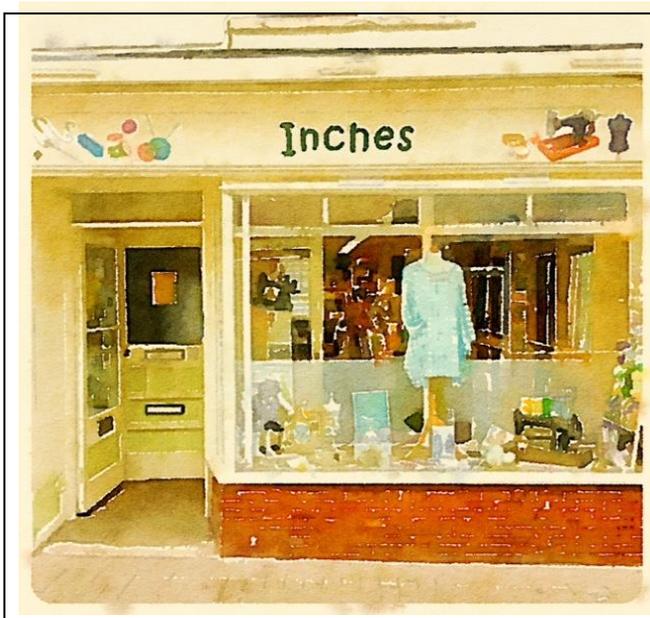
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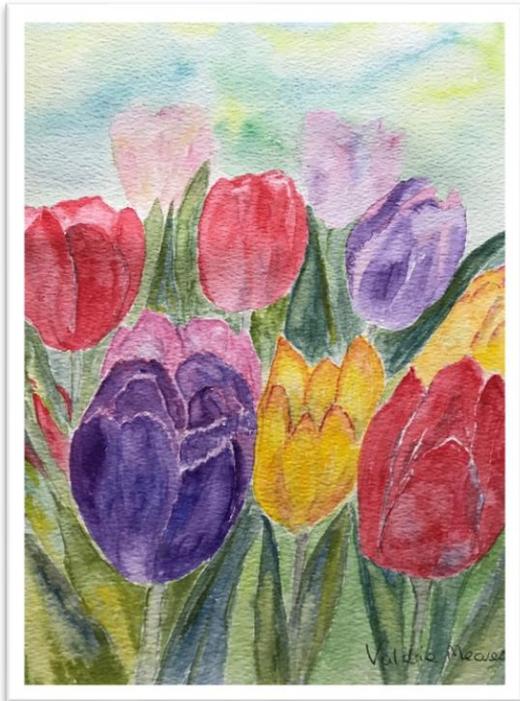
## An acrostic for April



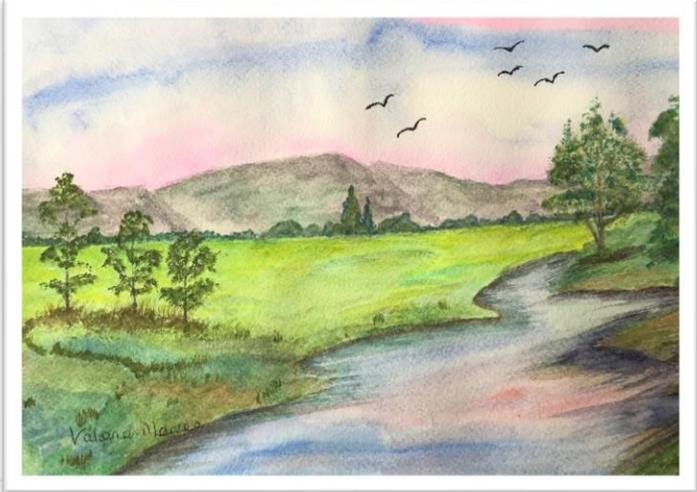
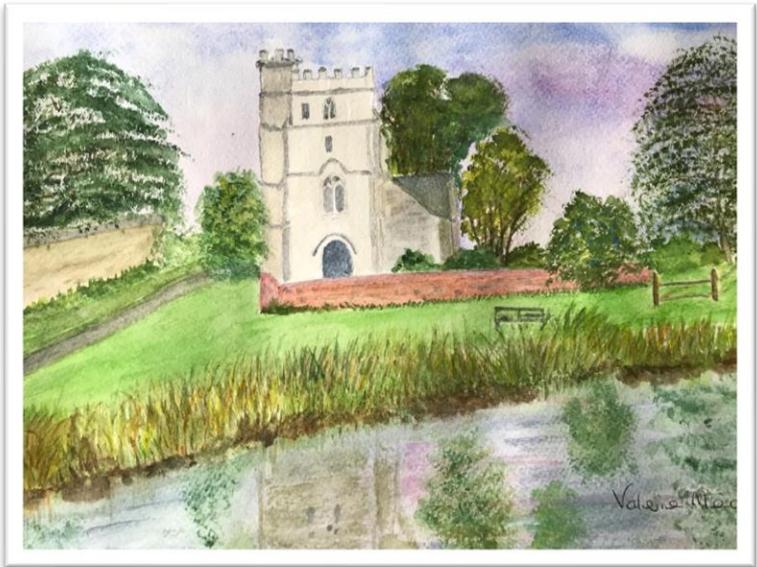
April is named after the Goddess Aphrodite  
Passover of the Jewish Festival  
Resurrection of our Lord  
Important to recall your  
Lent days and enjoy the things you had to give up before

*By Sally Hayward*

Whilst Sally has been working on her poetry Mum has been filling her lockdown time doing some lovely artwork.



This is from a photograph of St Cyr's Church Stonehouse.



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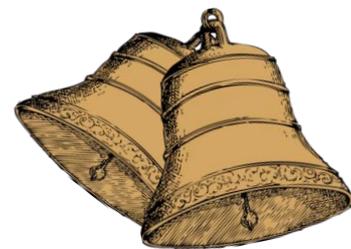
*“Moving home need not  
be a stressful experience!  
A good estate agent should  
help smooth the process”*

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# Bellringing

A significant birthday took place in February of one of our ringing friends. Unable to meet and celebrate in the traditional fashion, another ringing friend suggested we use our usual Thursday evening Zoom meeting on his birthday to wish him well and sing the traditional song. In addition, she made him a special birthday cake and proposed that we decorate our homes with balloons and dress up in a suitable manner to make the event even more special. One attendee took this request the extra mile and attended in his birthday suite (or as far as we could tell).



In keeping with hundreds of other churches throughout the country, we rang 100 tolls on a single bell in celebration of the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore on Saturday 27 February 2021, the day of his funeral.

*Frank Byrne*



## **Prayer Group...**

Jacquelin Hill says that if anyone would like to join in, especially during Lent and lockdown days, you can join on the phone  
Tel No: 03330110616 and Access code 9086615  
at 2.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month.  
The next one will be 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## **A message of thanks from Jacquelin Hill.....**

'I am overwhelmed and very grateful for all the cards, prayers and offers of help I have received.

The results of my MRI scans are compatible with age and show no bad news.

I am recovering steadily and am grateful to you all and The Almighty.'

*Jaquelin Hill*

## Mouse Diary....



Ring, Ring, RING....Silence. No-one seems to be here at all said MBFTLP (on Zoom). All I can see is your bookcase with a couple of jars of Marmite at one end and an Easter egg at the other. Also there's a big hole in the back. Have you gone North because the Easter Bunny wrote to say he was coming and bringing all his friends and relations as well? I thought I had

better report back on proceedings. It's quite nice up here. Weather's good. Nice and sunny with a golden glow over the horizon. Broadwell mouse is still going Uhhmm though. But there's an older chap with a long beard on another cloud too. Well we can't do much about that in lockdown, said MBFTLP. No one is allowed to get a hair cut until later in the year. Do you think you could come back down here to carry on saving the planet? Being a global brand ambassador? Also there's not been a squeak out of Aimiee for ages. Her battery needs plugging in. And you haven't done a weather forecast for ages down here have you? I relented in the end and manoeuvred myself carefully back through the hole in the ether. It had to be tail first though. MBFTLP was impressed. Not many people have managed that feat she said. And now you are here how about a weather forecast for us normal mortals down here? I shall try I said. As follows: it's going to be mainly murky with a deepening depression descending over the depths of Dursley by the end of the week and then we shall definitely be down in the dumps. Goodness me, I wish I hadn't asked, said MBFTLP. I think you were having a better time up there after all. Changing the subject though, where did you get that Easter egg? Was it sent by Great Aunt Mildred Mouse from Darkest Peru? No, I said, thoughtfully. It was from the Post Office across the road. With that, I skipped off to find Aimiee's plug so that she could carry on looking up things on Google for me for next month.

Mouse was helped in the writing by Elizabeth Oakley



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## **The Diocesan Messenger, April 2021**

### **Happy Easter**

With the promise of warmer weather in the air and the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions, this Easter feels like it is heralding in dramatic change.

Stories of how Christian generosity and initiative is making a difference in the world are everywhere. Over 1,200 Easter meals were sponsored and delivered to people across the Diocese through our Comfort and Joy Easter project. Delicious shepherd's pies or gardener's pies cooked by The Long Table, with a freshly baked hot cross bun were delivered to doorsteps across the area, as a way of showing our neighbours that they are cared for and loved.

Huge amounts of money are being donated to Christian Aid in thankfulness for vaccinations—at the time of writing, in early March, over £7,000 had been given in this Diocese, in collaboration with the local Methodist Circuit. This money will be used to support those for whom Covid restrictions have had other significant impacts.

In this month's edition we're including an extract from a special edition of Growing Together which you can share with your worshipping community. To download the full edition and lots more family friendly resources to share locally, please visit [www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/children-youth-and-families/growing-together](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/children-youth-and-families/growing-together)

### **Events and training**

**Churches across the Diocese of Gloucester will be worshipping together for Easter, whether online or in person. If you want to find out the latest information from your local church, visit [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)**

## **Maundy Thursday Eucharist (Live stream only from Gloucester Cathedral)**

**Thursday 1 April, 11am**

Open to all. This service will see members of the clergy from across the Diocese of Gloucester renew their ordination vows. The oils for use in services will also be blessed for the coming year. Go to [gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/services-live-stream/](http://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/worship/services/services-live-stream/) to join.

## **Easter Day Eucharist (Live stream from Gloucester Cathedral)**

**Sunday 4 April, 10.15am**

This is a traditional Easter morning service with Bishop Rachel, the Bishop of Gloucester. All are welcome via Zoom.

## **EcoChurch Zoom Seminars – The Next Steps**

**Thursday 22 April, 11am to 12:30pm and again at 7pm to 8pm**

If you're working on your EcoChurch award, either Bronze or Silver and are not quite sure how to progress things, this seminar will be helpful to you. Visit [shorturl.at/bxK39](http://shorturl.at/bxK39) to book.

## **The Language of Spirituality**

**Saturday 15 May, 10am to 12 noon**

The disciples understood there was something in Jesus' relationship with God that they couldn't grasp. They needed a new language, a new approach and so they asked Jesus how to pray. Debbie Helme and Jo Wetherall have developed a language of Spirituality to help describe our understanding of who God is and how that effects our everyday lives – to people who don't have an experience of faith. Book at [gloucester.anglican.org/event/the-language-of-spirituality](http://gloucester.anglican.org/event/the-language-of-spirituality)

## **Have your say**

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**From Canon Richard Morfgan.....**The empty tomb of Jesus is sometimes thought unimportant. But it is at least a sign that the resurrection of Christ is not just about a spiritual bit of human life. The resurrection is a remaking of our whole lives, and of the whole creation, as Paul declares in Romans 8.11 and 18-24. So here is a hymn to sing or pray this.

1. God raised our Lord Christ Jesus up,  
Eternal focus of our hope,  
Its source, its pattern and its base,  
For all, in every time and place.
2. In Christ life triumphs over death,  
Despair is crushed by love and faith,  
And in our risen Lord we find  
The future of all humankind.
3. His flesh arisen from the grave  
Tells us that God will surely save  
With all our whole humanity  
Creation in entirety.
4. All creatures God has formed on earth  
Shall rise transformed and, in new birth  
United with the risen Christ,  
Reflect God's glory and God's life.
5. So let us share the love of Christ,  
Thus waging here love's peaceful strife  
To form God's co-humanity,  
God's will of love through history.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JOY.**

Joy is a kind word that costs nothing, suddenly and unexpectedly appearing like bulbs in springtime, or lurks contentedly in the memory of unconditional love, home cooking, cuddles, timely advice and beams from photographic reminders!

# Extend for You

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Movement to Music for the over 55's and those younger in some cases, aims to improve strength, mobility, co-ordination and balance to continue an active lifestyle.

Watch out for classes starting again



Extend

classes are normally held at St. James Parish Centre Dursley

TUESDAY at 2.00pm

You can be seated or standing

Covid 19 virus has restricted class numbers allowed.



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## HOW IT ALL BEGAN.

*Jennifer Kendrick.*



Jennifer, brother Brian and beloved Father. 1943.

Many moons ago, when we could gather together, on a Thursday morning at St. James the Great for Communion Service, a reflection by Rev. Ian Gardner set me thinking! A simple rhetorical question about how we first came to faith!

In 1943 I was six years old and one of a number of children of similar age, living in neighbouring houses on a quiet street in Weston-super-mare. I felt sorry for the others whose fathers were always about and seemed weighed down and woe begone as they left their homes at exactly the same time every day to catch the bus which took them to the station for the train to take them to work to do the same tedious job they had done for the last however many years! At exactly the same time at the end of every weekday they returned home, looking exhausted and solemn where their tea would be on the table ready to be eaten without, It seems, much pleasure!

My Daddy, on the other hand was permanently absent, and in my mind winning the war, single handedly saving us all from bad things! My handsome hero, out of sight but never out of mind was in the RAF, responding to the threat that Hitler posed to our small world. I knew little of what went on outside the confines of my immediate family and friends, but enough to know I was much loved and should do my best to do my duty, whatever it cost!

One of our neighbours was a single lady absolutely devoted to her role as a school ma'am as well as caring for her aged mother and a disabled friend who lived with them! There was no welfare state or NHS to relieve the stress of trying to make ends meet and times were tough!

Every Sunday immediately after lunch, Miss Shute (I always thought her name was Shoot!!) gathered us together and we would catch the bus

into town to the Wadham Street Baptist Church an amazing building of awe and majesty, so exciting and welcoming to a gang of excited small girls used only to austerity and bland surroundings! It occurs to me that boys missed out and I felt sorry for them, although they no doubt chose not to come!

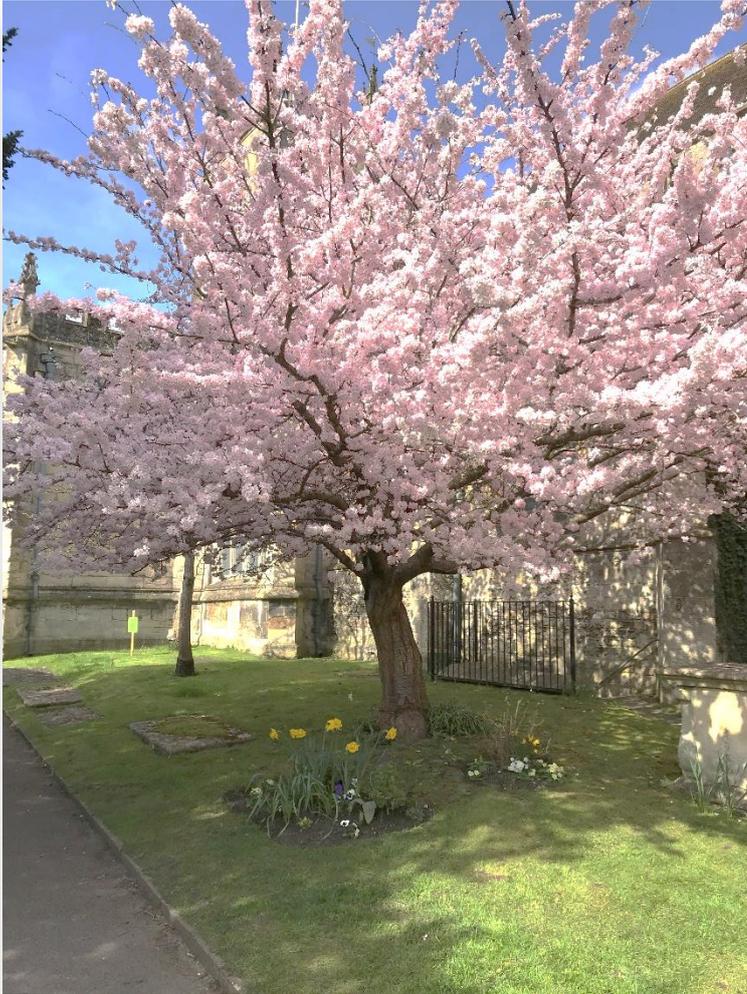
We were Miss Shute's "little lambs" and happily responded to her quiet voice, confident in her gentle but firm herding skills, knowing we were safe and would never be lost! The minister, appropriately called Mr. Blunt, was a mountain of a man, wearing floaty black clothes with his double chin resting comfortably on a crisp white necktie below a big square mouth and bulbous nose which supported enormous black framed spectacles shielding wide, popping eyes! His vast frame seemed to fill the building as his voice echoed from the marble pillars and bounced off the balcony with minimal effort on his part and had the greatest effect on his small crowd of eager listeners. It was SUNDAY SCHOOL and we were there to learn from the one available book which was enormous, boasted beautiful paintings by Margaret Tarrant, illustrating great stories gathered together in what we discovered was The Bible! The Old Testament tales of derring-do, goodies v baddies and satisfactory outcomes from un promising scenarios were riveting, but, at least for me, the New Testament is where it all came together. JOY meant Jesus first, other's next and then yourself which made perfect sense when our daily lives were constantly disrupted by wailing sirens warning us of impending air raids, quickly followed by scuttling for shelter, hearing bombs drop and waiting for the all clear! I was never afraid as the seeds of Jesus's love for me had already taken root in my fertile mind! He was my Heavenly Father and permanent friend who comfortably joined my absent earthly father in giving me faith that whatever we face, all would be well! Together we had a focus.

Over the almost 80 years that have elapsed I have never lost that first rapturous feeling of peace, planted by those who were there at the beginning, a great appreciation of those I have met along the way and countless others who have shared the journey, and are no longer part of it in body but in soul! I have no regrets (they are needless anchors that stop you reaching new shores!) except that I am sad I never owned a longed-for life-sized rocking horse, pie-bald with saddle and shiny brown leather harness and a main of proper hair like Rapunzel!

I am constantly reassured that through all the changing scenes of life my simple faith endures and frees me from crippling doubt about any future existence. That does not mean I am complacent or that anxiety about daily living does not recur. Thankfully, I know where I am going, just not when, so every day is the Lord's Day. The war may have been over for a long time, but the battles go on. There is still much for us to do.

# In St James Churchyard during Lent

The Tree of Hope, Twig Crosses and Stone Cairn watched over by the beautiful Flowering Cherry



## POETRY CORNER.

### Birds

I heard them calling.  
Sounds so very strange  
Here out of their element.  
Here in a landlocked town  
Where time is on hold?



Circling and calling  
To the sound of the sea.  
A rambling coastline  
Washed into the mind's eye:  
Breaking waves..  
Splashed-up rocks..  
Little pools of life  
With mysterious bodies  
Swimming delicately.  
And something else  
Old and dark and  
Fossilised at the back.

But was not here.  
Here with cars parked up  
In rows.  
Here with suburban ceremonies  
Disposed of.  
Here with things going around  
Like garden whirligigs  
With nothing pinned on.  
And the future a question of  
Unknown myths  
Blowing in the wind.

The calls belonged to  
Another time as  
They circled disturbingly  
And eventually flew on  
Away from here.

*Elizabeth Oakley*  
*A Dursley Poet*

**LOVELIEST OF TREES**

*A.E.Housman 1859-1936.*

Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my three score years and ten,  
Twenty will not come again,  
And take from seventh springs a score  
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom  
Fifty springs are little room,  
About the woodlands I will go  
To see the cherry hung with snow.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The Beauties of a Cottage Garden.**

A garden is a grand teacher:  
It teaches patience and careful watchfulness.  
It teaches industry and thrift,  
Above all it teaches entire trust.

*Gertrude Jekyll.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT.**

Adam and Eve owned the first computer:  
It was an Apple with a small memory.  
One byte and the there was a crash.

*Anon.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MY EPITAPH.**

Let it be said by anyone who treads this way  
That those she met, travelling day to day,  
Only remember over many years,  
Lots of fun, just occasionally dotted by tears!

*Jennifer Kendrick.*

\*\*\*\*\*

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## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS



### FUNERALS:

**We share our thoughts and prayers with the families of those who mourn the loss of those they love. We remember those who have died:**

**From the registers**

### Burial of ashes

25th February

Keith Preater at St Mark's

## 100 CLUB

The 100 club draw for March is as follows:-

1st - 220 - Richard Morgan

2nd - 213 - Margaret Owen

3rd - 176 - Heather Arnold

Sarah

### Spring Flowers.....



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**BELLRINGERS**

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**100 CLUB**

Sarah Hodge        Tel: 545155

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

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