



The Link

- April 2024 -



ST MARY'S ATTLEBOROUGH
& ALL SAINTS' BESTHORPE

70p

Clergy Cogitations

There is a delightful book by Martin Waddell and Barbara Firth entitled *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* Little Bear's problem is that he is scared of the dark. Big Bear provides bigger and bigger lanterns but nothing helps. Little Bear knows that outside the cave there is a lot of darkness, and the lanterns make no difference. Eventually Big Bear takes Little Bear outside to look up to the sky and face his fears. When Little Bear sees the moon and the stars, shining far above, splitting the darkness, he is at last able to fall asleep.

By the time we get to April we will be celebrating the light of the resurrection and our Easter faith. It's natural to be afraid of the dark but how often do we stop to look up in wonder, to see the light around us? I can't remember when we didn't live in 'uncertain times', but this year, as our news is filled with more stories of war, violence and persecution than usual, it feels particularly difficult to step out of the darkness and look for the light.

In the Nicene Creed we say 'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.' In the Gospel accounts of the resurrection there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.'

Like the women we would probably have been left 'trembling and bewildered' by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Each of the Gospel writers tells the story of the resurrection in a distinctive way. None of the Gospels attempts to tell us what happened to Jesus between Good Friday and Easter Day. That remains a mystery. Instead, the Gospel writers show us the effect of the resurrection on those who were there.

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of his presence through the darkest of times.

God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life, at work, in our lives and in the people around us.

Matthew

April 2024

Dates for your diary

Mon 1		Easter Bank Holiday
Thu 4	10am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	11am-12noon	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Fri 5	12.30pm	St Mary's Community Lunch <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Sat 6	10-11.30am	Coffee & Chat with stalls organized by the Mothers' Union for Away From It All <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10-11.30am	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in the Church Hall Link</i>
	10am-1pm	Artisan Craft Market <i>in the churchyard</i>
Sun 7		The Second Sunday of Easter
	8am	Holy Communion (BCP) <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	10am	Parish Eucharist <i>in St Mary's Church and online</i>
	11.30am	Holy Communion <i>in All Saints' Besthorpe</i>
	3pm	Holy Baptism of Freya Ava Pryke <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Prayer <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Mon 8		The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
	5pm	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church & online</i>
Thu 11	9am onwards	Green Sale <i>in the churchyard</i>
	10am	Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	11-12noon	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
	7-9pm	Choir practice <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Sat 13	10-11.30am	Coffee & Chat with stalls organized by Attleborough WI <i>in the Church Hall</i>
	10-11.30am	Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in the Church Hall Link</i>

Sun 14

8am Holy Communion (BCP) *in St Mary's Church*
 10am Parish Eucharist *in St Mary's Church and online*
 3pm Holy Baptism of Noah Christopher Wright
in St Mary's Church
 6.30pm Evening Prayer *in St Mary's Church*

Mon 15

7pm Schools return for summer term
 Attleborough Town Assembly
in the Town Hall

Tue 16

3.30-4.30pm AMP Voices *in the Church Hall*
 7pm Holy Communion *in St Mary's Church*
 7.30pm St Mary's APCM followed by a short PCC
 meeting *in the Church Hall*

Wed 17

7.30pm Summer Fete planning meeting *on zoom*

Thu 18

9.30-11am Drop-in & Play *in the Church Hall*
 10am Holy Communion *in St Mary's Church*
 11-12noon Drop-in & Share Sharing Table
in St Mary's Church

Fri 19

7.30pm Besthorpe APCM *in the Drury Room*
 12.30pm St Mary's Community Lunch
in the Church Hall

Sat 20

7-9pm Choir practice *in the Church Hall*
 10-11.30am Coffee & Chat with stalls for Millie's trip
 to Borneo *in the Church Hall*
 10-11.30am Drop-in & Share Sharing Table
in the Church Hall Link
 7.30pm Organ Recital celebrating International
 Organ Day, given by Robbie Carroll,
 Assistant Organist at Norwich Cathedral
in St Mary's Church

Sun 21**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

8am Holy Communion (BCP) *in St Mary's Church*
 10am All Age Parish Eucharist *in St Mary's Church*
and online
 11.30am Holy Communion *in All Saints' Besthorpe*
 6.30pm Evening Prayer *in St Mary's Church*

Tue 23	3.30-4.30pm 5pm	Saint George AMP Voices <i>in the Church Hall</i> Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church & online</i>
Wed 24	7.30pm	Deanery Synod meeting with Diocesan Secretary Tim Sweeting and the Generous Giving Team <i>in St Mary's Church, Bridgham</i>
Thu 25	9.30-11am 10am 11-12noon	Saint Mark Drop-in & Play <i>in the Church Hall</i> Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i> Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in St Mary's Church</i>
Fri 26	1.30pm 7-9pm	Magazine collation <i>in the Upper Room</i> Choir practice <i>in the Church Hall</i>
Sat 27	10-11.30am 10-11.30am	Coffee & Chat with stalls for Life Long Learning <i>in the Church Hall</i> Drop-in & Share Sharing Table <i>in the Church Hall Link</i>
Sun 28	8am 10am 6.30pm	The Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Communion <i>in St Mary's Church</i> Parish Eucharist <i>in St Mary's Church and online</i> Choral Evensong <i>in St Mary's Church and online</i>
Tue 30	3.30-4.30pm	AMP Voices <i>in the Church Hall</i>

*Morning Prayer is said daily Monday to Saturday at 9am on Zoom
Evening Prayer is said daily Monday to Saturday at 5pm on Zoom*

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

The St Mary's APCM will be held on Tuesday 16 April at 7.30pm, preceded by a Holy Communion Service at 7pm and the All Saints' Besthorpe APCM will be held in the Drury Room at 7.30pm on Thursday 18 April at 7.30pm. The purpose of these meetings is to elect members to the PCC, review finances and the workings of the parish over the previous calendar year. Please come along and have your say!

March Mothers' Union Meeting



The meeting on Friday 8 March began with a short act of worship. Apologies for absence had been received and members were reminded of upcoming events – Members' Day at St. Luke's, Coffee Morning at High Oak and the MU Tombola on April 6.

Mary then introduced Sue Lynch, our visiting speaker. Sue had come to talk to us about Labrador and the two years she had spent there as part of The International Grenfell Mission.

Sue had originally intended to go to Barbados as part of VSO, but lack of available spaces resulted in the decision to go, instead, to Labrador. We learnt that Sir Richard Grenfell was an English doctor who had set up hospitals, nursing stations and boarding schools along the coast of Labrador at the beginning of the 20th century. Previously, The Hudson's Bay Trading Company had established two main trading posts – one at Rigolet and another at North West River. In 1915, Doctor Harry L. Paddon from London, attracted by the work of Grenfell, established a cottage hospital at North West River. Over the years, this hospital grew to become one of the main centres for health care for the Labrador coast, along with a new boarding school. It was to this thriving community just over 50 years ago that Sue was sent as a Hospital Housekeeper.

The Canadian Government at the time had begun to expose the Indigenous peoples to more 'modern' ways of life. This brought challenges to the Innu and maritime Archaic people, some of which were resolved by visits to the hospital at North West River. Patients were brought by small plane – fitted with floats in the summer and skis in the winter. The Government had put the Indigenous peoples into houses which lacked sanitation and the peoples had no understanding of how to maintain these, so education at the boarding school was provided to supply the necessary skills. The traditional way of life was still followed, regardless of initiatives introduced by the Government. Children would be missing from school whenever the whole family went hunting, trapping and fishing.

Babies born in the hospital were often named after the staff and names from the Christian Bible were very popular – especially Mary and Joseph. The different Christian Churches in the settlement all worked together.

Sue told us about her different experiences. Snow was on the ground from November through to May, and this dry cold required her to dress in a specific way. There was a Parka made of Grenfell cloth, a duffle coat, deer skin boots for when it was dry and seal skin boots for when it was wet. Snowshoes enabled her to walk on top of very deep snow. Some people used dog sleds for transport but the English staff at the school and hospital preferred the skidoos (snow mobiles) although unlike the dogs, these could break down. She went ice-fishing which she admitted was more difficult than it looked! She took trips up the coast and stayed in huts in order to explore this wild terrain. It was very marshy and very woody. The people grew vegetables and kept chickens. It was a diet rich in fish and meat. The one thing Sue missed was fresh milk, which was not available.

Sue admitted that if she were to go back, this land – of which she speaks with great affection - would have changed greatly. She remembers a cable car that took people across the river – this snake-like twisting length of water, along with the lakes, vital to the people who lived there. The original way to cross the river would have been by boat. Nowadays a bridge spans the river, making it easier for people to visit and for communication to be more effective. North West River has become something of a tourist attraction.

Mary thanked Sue for a most interesting talk, one from which we had all learnt new things about this part of our world.

Linda Trounce

With the Easter season in mind...

God fits our souls here to possess a glorious body after; and He will fit the body for a glorious soul. – *R Sibbes*

Man's way leads to a hopeless end – God's way leads to an endless hope. – *Anon*

Jesus can be contacted 24 hours a day: just go on-line via your knee-mail.
– *Anon*

Pippa Greenfinger's Gardening Tips



Hopefully April will be a warm, kind month and we can plant seed potatoes, in the ground or in potato sacks. I have read that a good way to be economical when earthing up the new shoots is to mix soil with fresh grass clippings. I'm going to try this with my sack grown tubers. Be ready to cover them if frost is forecast with old newspaper or fleece.

This is also a good time to plant peas, broad beans, carrots, most brassicas, lettuce and herbs. As you can see it's a busy time in the garden, or if you are fortunate enough to have one, in the greenhouse. I'm trying, a new to me, pea this year called 'Telephone'. It is a tall pea which can be grown in a pot with canes for it to climb up. The packet says it can be 2 metres high and has exceptionally good peas. I'll let you know!

Clumps of marigolds planted among your vegetables will attract beneficial insects to pollinate the flowers. If you are prone to slug damage, try cutting an old potato in half and hollowing it out to lay beside new sowings to trap slugs. Also, the old trick of a slug pub, a beaker of diluted beer to attract them to a 'happy' end!

Cover places where you are going to plant marrows, courgettes, pumpkins or outdoor tomatoes with black plastic sheeting to warm the soil, an old compost sack will do.

House plants benefit from a top dressing or re-potting and a feed as they go into active growth again.

Remember the birds and keep their water topped up as it will evaporate quickly in the sunshine. If you see returning House Martins or Swifts, enjoy to the full their activities. Happy gardening.

Pippa Greenfinger

St Mary's Summer Artisan Markets

This month sees our first Artisan market of the season. Come and indulge in some retail therapy and enjoy the beautiful Church and its surroundings on Saturday 6 April 2024 from 10am until 1pm. There will be a large selection of stalls selling homemade produce, gifts and treats as well as refreshments served in the Church Hall between 10am-11.30am.

Don't forget that the Artisan markets are taking place on the 1st Saturday of each month over the summer months. Please see all the dates below.

Saturday 6th April 2024

Saturday 4th May 2024

Saturday 1st June 2024

Saturday 6th July 2024 (in combination with the annual Summer Fete)

Saturday 3rd August 2024

Saturday 7th Sept 2024

On the 1st June the market will be run in conjunction with the AMP flower festival and valuation day.

There is still time to book a stall at any of these events, so if you are a craft maker, food/drink producer or small business and would like the opportunity to showcase your homemade produce, gifts and treats, then we are looking for a diverse range of stalls each month. If you, or you know of anyone that makes, brews, bakes or crafts products, we would love to invite you to have a pitch. Please visit the church website

<https://www.attleboroughchurch.org.uk/> "what's on" section for booking forms or contact the Parish Office for more details.

Thank you.

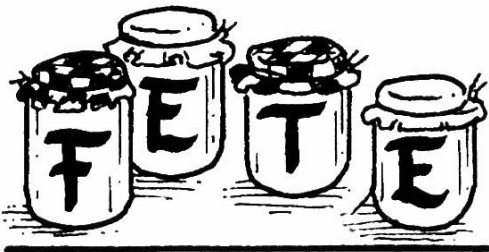
Susan Wilson



St Mary's Annual Summer Fete

6th July 2024 - 10am until 2pm

It's that time of year again when we start to think about our summer fete which this year will be held on Saturday 6th July from 10am until 2pm. We currently have 10 external stallholders who have booked a pitch. We always welcome more, so if you know anyone who would like a pitch to



showcase their homemade produce, gifts and treats please contact the Parish Office.

The entertainments tent will be up again, and we will welcome some talented local organisations and groups to perform.

We will be having our own stalls again this year such as tombolas, garden produce, cakes, fete games, as well as a BBQ and refreshments.

If you are starting to think about what vegetables and flowers to grow in your garden, please could we ask you to think about our plant and garden produce stall. We are looking for a diverse range of plants such as vegetable plants, summer bedding plants, shrubs, perennials and indoor plants all to sell at the fete. If you grow your own vegetables or fruit, please could we ask you to grow a few extra to also sell on our stall.

The preserves stall will be back again, therefore if you are a maker of chutney, jam, marmalade, lemon curd or you keep bees and produce honey, we would be very grateful if you could make a few extra jars for us to sell.

As in previous years we would be delighted to received donations of the following items. These will be accepted into the Parish Office after the 1st June 2024:

Raffle Prizes, Children's Clothes, Toys and Games, Jigsaws, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Bottles, Jewellery and Tombola prizes.

A new stall appearing in 2024 is "goodies in a basket". We are looking for any items that can be displayed in a basket. These could be such things as sweets/chocolate, biscuits, tea, coffee, soft drinks, wine, beer, cleaning materials, pens, pencils, paper or toiletries, etc.

Dates for future fete preparation meetings are Wednesday 20th March, 17th April, 22nd May and 19th June 2024, all by Zoom at 7.30pm. Please put them in your diary and look out for links. We would love to see you there and hear any new ideas you have.

Thank you for your support, helping the fete to be a success.

Susan Wilson

Please support stalls at Coffee & Chat
in aid of
The Children's Society
on Saturday 4 May
from 10-11.30am in the Church Hall

* cakes, tombola, raffle, books, bric-a-brac *

*We would also be grateful if any house boxes
could be returned by that weekend*

Archbishops welcome publication of Future of Church Safeguarding Report

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have welcomed the recent publication of the *Future of Church Safeguarding* report from Professor Alexis Jay, with an outline of next steps for how the Church responds.

Professor Jay, the former Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, agreed in July 2023 to develop proposals around independence in safeguarding in the Church. The work was commissioned following the termination of the contracts of the original Independent Safeguarding Board, ISB.

In a statement the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell said:

“We thank Professor Jay and her team for this fully independent report, and the wisdom, expertise and meticulous proposals contained within it. We recognise her criticism of our safeguarding structures and processes, and we welcome this scrutiny and challenge.

“For the sake of all those who come into contact with the Church, particularly victims and survivors, we welcome the plans that are in place to take forward this work as swiftly as possible to give everyone confidence and trust in our structures and processes.

“Professor Jay rightly acknowledges the excellent work that is done up and down the country by experienced and committed Safeguarding Officers and others, but her challenge to us all is how our safeguarding structures and processes reach that same standard. This is a constructive challenge that we must all take very seriously.

The Church of England’s lead safeguarding bishop, Joanne Grenfell, who is chairing the Response Group for the Wilkinson and Jay reviews said: “The

report from Professor Jay contains important recommendations for the structure of safeguarding in the Church with a clear emphasis on independent scrutiny and the importance of independent professional advice in all our safeguarding work.”

Christian Aid Week 12 – 18 May

Never mind your **Ps and Qs!** Join us for **Qs and Ps** on **Sunday 12th May** for a **quiche and pudding lunch** in aid of **Christian Aid Week!** A selection of delicious quiches, with jacket potatoes, coleslaw and salad accompaniments followed by mouth-watering puddings will be on the menu.

40 tickets @ £12, which includes a complimentary glass of wine or soft drink, with further drinks to purchase, will be available in advance from Sunday 14th April.

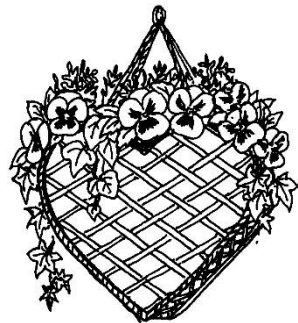


We shall also be holding our annual Christian Aid Week **coffee morning** on Saturday **18th May** with cakes and savouries on sale, and a raffle.

Help to change lives!

St. Mary's Flower Festival 1st – 2nd June

Save the date!





Messiah – Discipleship – Kingdom of God

You are invited to our Bible Study Group beginning on

Monday 13th May 2024

7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

The Upper Room

St Mary's Church Hall

Attleborough

For six weeks, we shall be exploring the Gospel of Saint Mark to learn more about Jesus, how he fulfilled Old Testament hopes and promises, how he calls us to follow him and how we can help to bring in the kingdom of God.

For further information telephone Jane Minchin on 07359 203127 or email janelminchin@gmail.com

Chocolate and Orange Mousse

An easy to make post-Easter chocolate treat:

4 eggs
200 gr caster sugar
250 gr plain dessert chocolate
65 ml orange juice

Melt the chocolate in the orange juice
Add the egg yolks, sugar and grated rind of an orange
Whip the egg whites and fold into the chocolate mixture

Pour into individual dishes and place in the fridge overnight

Serve with (e.g.) almond thins.

(Translated from a French recipe) *Bon appétit !*

Our God

Our God is able – (Daniel 3:17)

– able to save (Hebrews 7:25)

– able to help (Hebrews 2:18)

– able to provide (2 Corinthians 9:8)

– able to do far more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20)





The Sheringham Shanty Men

All Saints' Church Besthorpe
Saturday 4th May 2024
7.30pm
Tickets £10
including refreshments

from Rita Billingham
01953 452780

or the Church Office
01953 454977
attlebroughchurch@btinternet.com

Navigation: Bunwell Road, Besthorpe, NR17 2LJ
[///breakaway.disbanded.lots](http://breakaway.disbanded.lots)

 **ALL SAINTS'**
BESTHORPE

From the Registers

Baptisms

3 March	Elissa Opal Goulding	Aged 9½ months
	Ivy Bella Thornber	Aged 7½ months
	Amy Louise Hillier	Adult
10 March	Amber Mae Banham	Aged 6 months

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

25 February	Francis Michael Tyrrell	Aged 7 months
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Admission to Communion

10 March	Elizabeth Alexandra Macfarlane Payne	Aged 7 years
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Funerals

1 March	Brian Edward Self	Aged 86 years
6 March	Shirley Ann Fairweather	Aged 78 years
15 March	Edgar Alan (Eddie) Thompson	Aged 85 years
20 March	Linda Butcher	Aged 73 years

Material for the May Link

Please email material for the *May Link* magazine to attleboroughchurch@btinternet.com by **Sunday 14 April at the latest**, thank you.

Stalls at Coffee & Chat on 2 March

Thank you to all who supported the stalls at Coffee and Chat for the Norfolk Zipper Club, which raised the amazing amount of £451.85!

Doug & Rosie Mellor

**CHRISTIAN AID
COFFEE MORNING
SAT 18th MAY**

10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.

IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL

TEA/COFFEE & CAKES

RAFFLE

BRING & BUY CAKE STALL

*Please come along!
Make us some cakes if you can!*

*Christian Aid Week begins on
Sunday 12th May*

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Activities for Children at St Mary's

Sunday Club meets alternate Sundays during term time at the 10am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's. See the diary page to find out which dates.

Messy Church meets roughly every two months on a Saturday morning. We always have coffee and pastries, biscuits and squash. We do a choice of crafts, junk models and colouring. We conclude the session with songs and a Bible Story.

Drop-in & Play in the Church Hall on Thursday mornings during school term time from 9.15am to 11.00am. There are toys and crafts for pre-school children, coffee and cake in a sociable atmosphere, and a welcome for everyone of any age. You can stay for the whole morning or just drop-in for a little bit. There is no charge to come in or for the refreshments.





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Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk 2023

A sincere thank you to all who participated in the Norfolk Churches Trust Sponsored Bike Ride and Walk on behalf of St Mary's, on Saturday 9 September. Also, to those who sponsored them.

£523.39 was raised for St Mary's from this event (half of the sponsor money, with the other half going to the Norfolk Churches Trust). 2.5% has been deducted from the St Mary's total to cover increasing administration costs.

Thank you all once again.

Crossword answers:

D		T		C		P		E		E		I				
E	A	T	C	A	T	N	U	M	O	M	C	X	E			
R		R		T		D		O		E		L				
T	N	A		S	S	E	L	D	L	I	L	H	C			
A		R		A		I				P		U				
H	A	T	E	A	N		T	S	T	E	R	A	E	N		
	P			O						L			O			
N	A	N	A	D	A	N	A	M	A	R		B	R	O	H	T
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S	N	A	N	S	I	A	S	E	H	P	E		T		U	O
A		H		I		C		S		S		S				M
S	R	S	O	R	S	S	E	R	E	G	S	N	A	N	T	R
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The Easter Glow

For three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – He was gone.

Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The ‘scattering’ process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ’s arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: “It is written ‘I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered’” (Matthew 26:31).

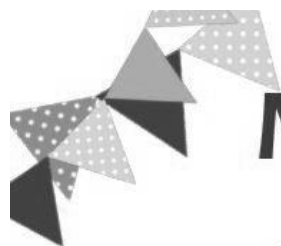
The dream was over. “Let’s go home – back to Emmaus.” *Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview. As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!*

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, “Let me fill in those bits for you.” Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – *Why.... it’s Jesus.*

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can’t keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean – would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!

Editor: In the aftermath of Easter, we consider the road to Emmaus. Adapted from the LICC website.



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Saturday 1st June 2024

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**ST MARY'S
ATTLEBOROUGH**



All in the month of April

It was:

300 years ago, on 7th April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

200 years ago, on 19th April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

100 years ago, on 17th April 1924 that Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios (MGM) was founded when Metro Pictures, Goldwyn Pictures and Louis B Mayer Pictures merged.

90 years ago, on 3rd April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.

75 years ago, on 4th April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

60 years ago, on 15th April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

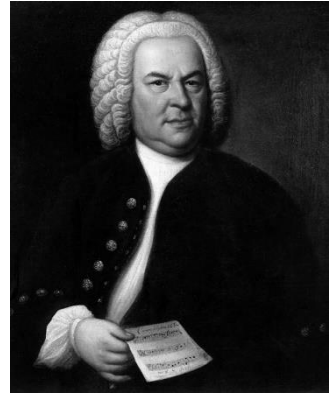
30 years ago, on 26th April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10th May.

20 years ago, on 1st April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.

Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

Three hundred years ago, on 7th April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's *St John Passion* was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.



Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the *Brandenburg Concertos* and his *Mass in B Minor* – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.

The *St John Passion*, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the *St John Passion* is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.



Saint of the month

9th April: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor and martyr

Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.



Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tübingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenberg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "This is the end - for me, the beginning of life."

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his *Letters and Papers from Prison*, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering. His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

Photo credit: By AldrianMimi - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=136107660>

Prayer for April 2024

based on John 20: 19-end

Almighty Father,
in these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.
Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection
peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.
Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.
We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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Empty your lofts and cupboards for a Grand Valuation Day on **Saturday June 1st** from 10am until 3pm at St Mary's.

£3 per item to be valued. Refreshments available in the Church Hall.
Valuations by Keys Auctioneers, Aylsham. All Proceeds to AMP (Attleborough Music Project).

Bring all your bits and pieces - you may be pleasantly surprised!

Don't be afraid of clouds

Have you ever sat and watched the clouds drift by? Some of them are vast, towering up and up into the sky.

There can be clouds of discouragement and suffering in our lives as well, circumstances that temporarily blot out the sunlight of God's love for us. You may have such a cloud hanging over your life right now. You may be in a hospital bed, or suffering discouragement, fear, despair or bereavement.

Have you ever noticed that sometimes, when you board a plane, the sky is like a thick grey ceiling? It looks impenetrable. But the plane does not hesitate - it climbs steadily onward and upward straight into the cloud. And what happens? Nothing! The cloud cannot block your progress, it must give way before you.

The simple truth is, you may not be able to see through clouds, but you *can go through them*. The plane uses navigational aids for guidance, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us through the darkest times. And finally, we emerge through the cloudbank, and there before us is a sun-drenched sky of blue and golden glory, far above the dismal and disappointing things far below.

Whatever cloud is hanging over you at present, whether suffering, discouragement, fear, there IS something you can do about it NOW. Pray – pour out your heart to the Lord about it. He has promised that His grace will be sufficient for anything that we encounter in this life.

And – look up. Look towards heaven, *think beyond* those clouds, and remember His promise that the sufferings we may be undergoing *here* are nothing compared to the glory that God has prepared for us *there*.

The Bible assures us: 'The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you.' Psalm 84: 11-12



Science and Society: How Can We Approach New Ethical Issues?

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we ought to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the ‘yuk!’ or ‘wow!’ These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The **consequentialist** approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the Ten Commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks ‘What can I get away with?’ Also, what happens when rules collide? For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit. There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are ‘made in the image of God’ which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances.

So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? **The five Cs** bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

Clarify the facts and key questions.

Consider our choices: what could we achieve?

Constraints: External - what must we do? ; Internal - how should we behave?

Compare the pros and cons of each approach.

Choose what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His Word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes - so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

*By Dr Ruth M Bancewicz,
Church Engagement Director
at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge*

Cathedral attendance has continued its post-pandemic bounce back

Attendance at Church of England cathedrals has continued to bounce back following the pandemic, according to the latest statistics.

Figures show that adult usual Sunday attendance rose 60% between 2021 and 2022 for the 42 Church of England mainland Cathedrals to 12,300 adults. A total of 28,200 people including children attended services every week, according to Cathedral Statistics 2022.

Over the year there were 584,000 attendances at specially arranged services – not included in average weekly attendance - such as school services. The number of special services stood at 2,100. The total reported attendance at Christmas services stood at 104,000.

50 years of ABBA!



Fifty years ago, on 6th April 1974, the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song *Waterloo*. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

The victory, in Brighton, was just the first step on the road to conquering the world, as far as pop music was concerned. The songs, written mainly by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, were matched by the passion, exuberance and good looks of singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid 'Frida' Lyngstad, who later married them – and even later, divorced them.

The name of the group came from the initials of the four Christian names. Some have suggested a link to the biblical Abba and looked for Jewish themes in their songs, but this is wishful thinking. While Anni-Frid (who was born Norwegian) may be Christian, Björn is definitely an outspoken atheist. In fact, ABBA is the name of a Swedish canned fish company that had to give permission for the singers to use it – a decision they are unlikely to have regretted.

Both *Waterloo* and ABBA achieved worldwide superstar status quickly – no small feat for a group performing in a language that is not their own. The film *ABBA – the Movie* and the musical *Mamma Mia* and its sequel, featuring their compelling songs, were huge successes. It is estimated that the musical has been seen by more than 60 million people worldwide.

ABBA hit the jackpot again when their revolutionary new project, *ABBA Voyage*, launched in 2022. In it, Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid perform their love-songs digitally with a live 10-piece band, in a purpose-built ABBA arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Not bad for four divorcees in their 70s.

World Autism Acceptance Week

2nd – 8th April 2024

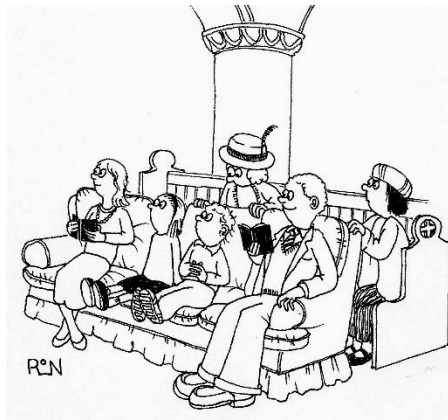
Autism is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree. And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this 'acceptance week', by going to the National Autistic Society's website, <https://www.autism.org.uk> and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

Crossword Clues for April 2024

ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

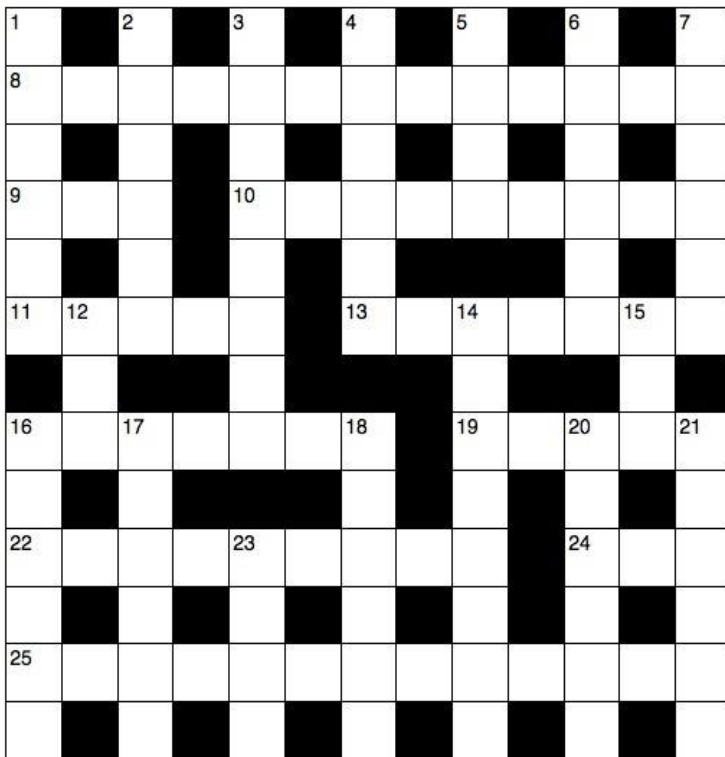
DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)

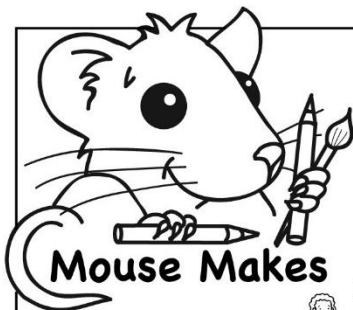
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?'
 (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.

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Answers on page 19



Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered. He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



READ



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read

John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch?

Read John 21: 11

the story in **John 21**



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

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Join us for Worship

Services at **St Mary's Attleborough** every Sunday at 8am, 10am and 6.30pm

Services at **All Saints' Besthorpe** on 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 11.30am

Midweek Communion on Thursdays at 10am at St Mary's

Monday to Saturday online - 9am Morning Prayer, 5pm Evening Prayer



Contact us

The Parish Office Open Monday to Friday 10am-12 noon

Pat Buttolph - Administrator

01953 454977

St Mary's Church Office, Church Street, Attleborough, NR17 2AH

- attleboroughchurch@btinternet.com

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07480 063759

The Rectory, 4 The Southacre, Attleborough, NR17 2QB

- therectory@me.com

Revd Andrew Slater - Assistant Priest

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Revd Richard Washington - Curate

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Sunday in detail:

St Mary's

8am and 10am -

Holy Communion

6.30pm - Evening Prayer

Choral Evensong on the last Sunday of the month.

All Saints'

1st and 3rd Sundays -

Holy Communion

5th Sunday -

Informal Service

