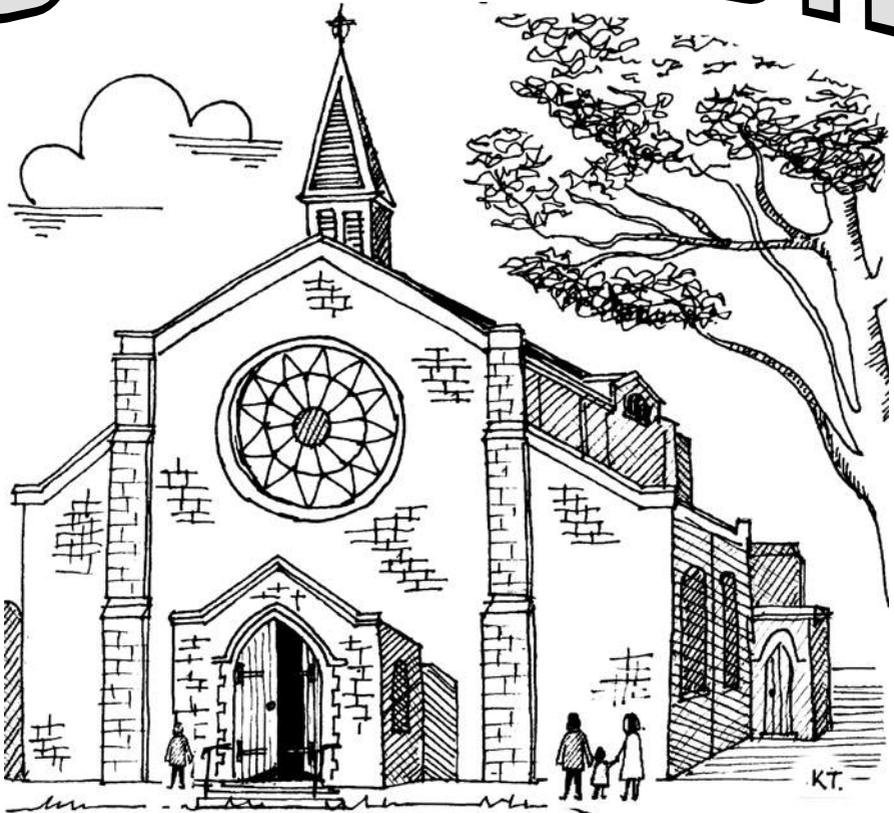


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OUTREACH



EASTER

April
2020



50p

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June 2017

CORONAVIRUS POSITION
A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE VICAR & WARDENS OF
ST FRANCIS & IMMANUEL

I hope that this notice finds you and your family well during this period of unprecedented health crisis.

You will more than likely have seen in the press that places of worship are not to be opened at the present time in the interest of attempting to slow the spread of the virus. This position developed very quickly and has been re-enforced by the Diocese. At this time it reinforces that the church is not a building but the people.

Unfortunately that means that no-one should be entering church during this period and all Church services are suspended. Funerals, at which only immediate relatives would be permitted, would be taken by our Vicar David at the Crematorium chapel and subject to compliance with 'social distancing' protocols. Should any funerals have to take this format we undertake to offer a no cost 'Celebration of Life' in Church once the church building is running as normal.

During this period David, the Wardens and Vision Champions from St Francis and Immanuel have been holding video conferences to look to identify how to both keep in touch with our existing congregation and reach out to those who need our support at this time. These will continue for the duration of the crisis as often as required.

The first action taken was that David is undertaking daily video blogs (vlogs) and publishing them on You Tube. These include Bible readings, prayers and a short address by David, please search for 'Fenny Churches', or 'Vicar David Update' with the date (-/-/-) at the beginning on You Tube. These are also being published on the Feniscowles and Pleasington Facebook page. Please subscribe to the 'Fenny Churches' channel on You Tube and 'like' to boost the channel's search engine strength and spread to others who may be interested.

>>>

David is looking into having a Sunday Service from the Vicarage live streamed for all to join.

It is noted that such delivery systems are neither perfect nor available to all and we should be grateful of your advice of anyone who requires a more personal contact, which would be by telephone unless restrictions are reduced. Please do not hesitate to contact David by phone, text or email during this period (or at any time!).

On a financial note, although there will be some reduction in heating costs, the majority of costs will continue to be incurred and we would therefore request that anyone who currently contributes through the envelope scheme or cash convert to a regular monthly standing order.

Let us all continue to pray for each other during this worrying time and provide both spiritually and practically provide support to the vulnerable in our local communities.

Perhaps we should each look to hold a large celebration when the church buildings are able to be reopened.

VICAR'S LETTER. Dear Friends



What a surprise Easter is! Two thousand years or so ago, some people went to a graveyard in Jerusalem. They were going to one of the tombs, just one among countless other similar tombs there: carved out of rock like little caves. According to their culture and tradition, they were going to anoint the body of their friend who had died and had been buried there a couple of days previously. But as they approached the place, they saw that the huge stone that had been put across the mouth of the tomb had been moved, by persons unknown. And, even more surprising, they were met by someone who said this odd thing: "Why are you looking for your friend? He is not here." But he must be here. We saw him laid here with our own eyes two days ago, surely?

And so the most baffling, extraordinary and sensational story of all time began in earnest. As you visit St Francis, your parish church, this Easter time, look at the Easter Garden lovingly created in our Church. Set in that garden will be our version of the tomb in Jerusalem. The empty tomb. A tomb that looks like someone's mouth is open in a great capital O of surprise.

It's often said that the Church is a numinous place, a still centre, like other numinous places, of a busy and hectic world. That can, if you think about it, be one result of a surprise – a realisation that the world is not ordered quite how we thought it was, or even wished it was. Surprises can be good or bad, but when they come they literally stop us in our tracks, bemused or bewildered maybe, but still, as we take in a new and unexpected re-arrangement of the world and our place in it.

I was surprised, to say the least, when, six weeks before we were expecting it to happen, our first child was born, at Epiphany, January 6th, 1999. On January 5th we were preparing a new baby's bedroom, one day later, there she was and my world, my life, has, literally, never been the same since. What I thought of as the centre had changed, and my view of the world with it.

That was a good experience – I will not write here about how other surprises have not been, should we say, as welcome in my life. Everyone has had a bad shock or news, or if not will have, so you will know from your own experience what effect this has – disorientating, debilitating and often depressing in its real sense. But even then a stilling experience, "Stop all the clocks" is how W. H. Auden describes it in his memorable poem, made popular a while ago by the film 'Four Weddings and a Funeral'

But what about the Easter story – it is both happy and sad, full of death, full of life, challenging and yet the ultimate reassurance, of the power and strength of God's love. But above all it is surprising, the Easter story, the arrest, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Christian Church was born out of a surprise and continues, to some surprisingly, to this >>>

very day. It will continue surprising everyone long after you and I have gone.

If, after looking at the tomb, you look at the church itself, you will see the doors of the building are like another mouth open in surprise. Inside, on Easter day, (assuming at the time of writing that we avoid a lock-down because of the Corona virus), however, you will not find it empty. You will find it full of joy and of colour and of hope and of love. That is perhaps the most surprising thing about Easter. From the empty tomb comes a full building. Join us, if you can. You will be pleasantly surprised. Not least because nowadays, we no longer say 'he is not here'. We are able to say with complete confidence:

"He is here; his spirit is with us. Alleluia!"

Your friend and vicar. *David.*

NB. At the time of writing the future planned response to the Corona virus by the government is constantly changing. If anyone reading this thinks that I can help them in any way, spiritual or practical, in how it turns out, (if you are locked down and need something, for example), please do not hesitate to get in touch by phone, mobile or email, my contact details are on the back of the magazine.



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Smiles

Palm waving.

It was Palm Sunday, but five-year-old Jamie stayed at home with mum because of a bad cold. When his father and sisters returned, they were carrying several palm fronds. His sister explained: "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by."

"That's not fair!" Jamie protested. "The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

Higher power.

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

The Lord is my Shepherd.

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd..." He knew that much, but the rest of the Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely: "... and that's all I need to know."

Packet?

A small boy was asking his mother where he came from and when he heard his mother's explanation, he replied: 'Mummy, when God planted the seed in your tummy, was there a photo of me on the packet?'



"The wedding's TODAY?!"

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Wordsearch for APRIL 2020. *Answers on page 22.*

Even as Jesus ate that last Passover meal with His disciples, He warned them He was about to be betrayed. He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them; He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them to drink. The Old Covenant, based on Law, was ticking away its final hours; the New Covenant, based on Christ's body and His blood, was about to be ushered in. Jesus prayed in Gethsemane that this fearful cup might be removed from Him, but even more, that God's will might be done. And it was. From Easter onwards we can only approach God through His Son, Jesus Christ, not on our own merit.

Jesus Law
 Ate Old
 Last New
 Passover Body
 Meal Blood
 Disciples Gethsemane

Warned Cup
 Betrayed Removed
 Bread Will
 Blessed Easter
 Wine Approach
 Thanks God
 Drink Covenant

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The Rev Dr Jo White writes on symbols in our churches.

Reflected Faith: the role of the Sacristan

The traditional marks on an altar are five crosses representing either the five wounds of Christ or perhaps more matter-of-factly, Christ at the centre of what holds up the table – and indeed what holds our lives. Let us consider the work of the person responsible for preparing the altar for worship.

So often when we arrive in church, everything is already set up for the service and by the time we've drunk our coffee afterwards it's all cleared away – as if some altar fairies come in the dark and do it all very quietly. Well, in fact that's exactly what happens! Except that rather than fairies, this is the job of the *Sacristan*.

A busy priest with many churches may conduct several services on a Sunday and so rely on the altar to have been prepared before their arrival. There are set ways of preparing all altars so that, wherever you go to worship, the same things should be found and folded/laid in the same ways.

This allows all who conduct or serve at the altar to engage with the words of the service, rather than get distracted by wondering 'where so and so' is today.

Some churches are more stringent than others in their preciseness, but there is a minimum level of acceptability. Otherwise the priest must spend time before the service checking everything is 'right' – or getting an inconvenient surprise when something is missing!

When the 'moment' comes in the Eucharistic prayer at the words, 'We break this bread', you should be able to hear the sharp 'snap' at the break. Making sure that the wafer is crisp enough is the responsibility of the Sacristan.

The story is told about one church where the wafer tended to go a bit soft – until the Sacristan began putting it on the radiator for a few minutes beforehand, until they were 'dry enough to snap'.

Another solution, would be to use an airtight container...

Note: Lawrence Ashworth has been Sacristan at St Francis for 36 Years.

The Parish Church of St Francis, Feniscliffe

All regular Wednesday and Sunday Services are now suspended due to Covid19 virus containment measures

Notice will be given here when they are to recommence

If you would like to speak to the vicar please do not hesitate to contact him

Revd David Roscoe

01254 201236

07506 552784

d.roscoe@sky.com

Our Vicar David is producing a daily vlog of prayers, readings, talk and music on Utube. You can see these vlogs if you search using the words Fenny Churches.





We spent Winter Camp at Great Tower camp site in the Lake District with our Scouts & Explorers in a lodge. Whilst the weather was cold, we had a fantastic weekend full of activities which included: Tree Climbing, Gauntlet Tomahawk Throwing, Air Rifle Shooting & Pioneering. 23 young people had a great weekend supported by 4 leaders



We look forward to Scouts re-starting in accordance with official advice after the coronavirus has subsided.

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Gen Z. If there was a prize to be given for the number of key people you've influenced before you are 18, Greta Thunberg would probably win. She has had an extraordinary time of it, speaking at major conferences, going to key venues and meeting many important world leaders. Yet she is only 17. She is part of the 'Gen Z' generation.

Who are the 'Gen Z'? First, let's set them in context.

The large numbers of people born after the ending of the Second World War, especially in the UK, were 'baby boomers', which was then shortened to just 'boomer.'

Births in the second half of the 1960s and 1970s were fewer in number; they "stopped the boom" as it were. Then Douglas Coupland published his book *Gen X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture* in 1991 and the phrase instantly stuck: they were "Gen X" (born 1964 to 1982) from then on.

The children of Gen X could naturally be called Gen Y, and they were, at first. But as they were born between 1983 and 2001, the term 'Millennials' was irresistible. Their children are all Gen Z, here taken as 2002 to 2020, that is, they are all 21st century!

They weren't born when 9/11 happened; only a few were born when Concorde was mothballed in 2003 and someone born in 2005 was only 11 when the Brexit Referendum took place!

To put Gen Z into a church context: in 2005 39% of the churches in England had *no-one* attending under the age of 11, and 49% had *no-one* between 11 and 14. So the number of Gen Z children in church is alarmingly few.

9 Defining Characteristics of Generation Z.

Gen Z is financially focused. Gen Z is entrepreneurial.

Gen Z is all about technology. Gen Z enjoys other people.

Gen Z is competitive. Change is welcomed by Gen Z.

Gen Z wants to be heard.

Diversity doesn't even register with Gen Z.

Generation Z can be a lot like their parents.



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Words and Actions

JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS - AND HE OFTEN WENT WALKING WITH THEM.



ONCE, ON A JOURNEY, JESUS CALLED AT THE HOME OF MARTHA AND MARY



MARTHA WAS VERY PLEASED TO MEET WITH JESUS, AND SHE MADE HIM WELCOME



MARY WAS VERY EXCITED TOO AND WANTED TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING JESUS HAD TO SAY



BUT MARTHA, WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSED WITH MARY! SHE THOUGHT HER SISTER SHOULD BE HARD AT WORK, NOT SITTING AROUND - JUST LISTENING



LORD, DON'T YOU CARE THAT MARY HAS LEFT ME TO DO ALL THE WORK BY MYSELF?!



MARTHA, YOU ARE WORRIED AND TROUBLED OVER SO MANY THINGS



JESUS TOLD MARTHA THAT THERE ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST FUSSING OVER A CLEAN HOUSE!



PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE CAN LEARN, LIKE MARTHA, IS TO MAKE TIME TO LISTEN TO JESUS.



See Luke 10.38-42



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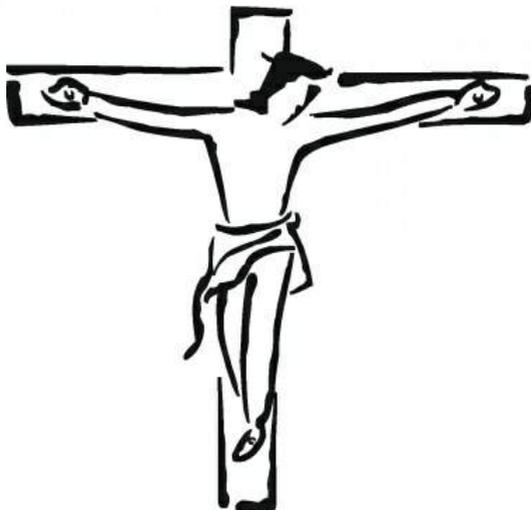
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Poems



Easter Story

The thud of nails on open palms,
'Father forgive' was all He said,
'Finished' was His final cry,
As death approached God bowed His head.

Born of a woman He entered our world,
Fully man yet fully divine,
Such is the mystery beyond comprehension
That One such as this should step into time.

He came to die and rise again
The firstfruits of the Father's love,
That man should follow in His train
On wings of light to realms above.

By Megan Carter

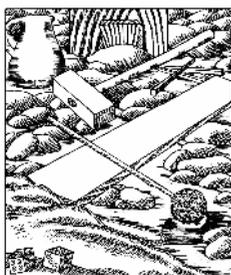
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2	9	4	5	1	6	3	8	7



Solution
to
Wordsearch

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At the foot of
the cross

The spread of Coronavirus.

Thorough and frequent hand washing with soap and water is recommended by the World Health Organisation as the first step to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

I don't know who first said, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness", but you won't find that phrase in the Bible. Ritual washings are practised by many religions, but they usually signify spiritual cleansing, not physical sanitisation. Piety isn't a substitute for hygiene, nor vice versa.

The Coronavirus, now called Covid-19, has been a daily news item for months, with the result that fear is spreading more rapidly than the disease itself. Stock markets throughout the world have plummeted; sales of disinfectant have soared. Sports fixtures have been cancelled, whole towns have been quarantined and worldwide trade is threatened.

Statistics change hourly, so anything quoted here will be out of date by the time you read it, but we need to put this plague (if that is what it is) into perspective. Do you remember the Ebola epidemic which swept through regions of Africa from 2014 onwards? More than one in three sufferers died from that virus, but there's now a vaccine which can be used when Ebola threatens. Past influenza pandemics have been nowhere near as severe. 'Asian Flu' in 1957, led to 3,550 deaths in England and Wales, or something like 2.4% of actual cases. In 2009, the fatality figure for the swine flu epidemic was about 0.026%. The figures for today's Covid-14 virus suggest that around 80% of cases are mild, 14% develop severe symptoms, 4% become critically ill and the death rate is 2%.

This virus was first publicised by Doctor Li Wenliang, who was detained and censured by the Chinese police for "spreading false rumours". Although he himself subsequently died of the disease, there can be no doubt that his courage saved many lives. There are echoes here of words from St John's Gospel: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." As for the people of China where the virus originated, the Bishop of Newcastle, Christine Hardman, tweeted a Sri Lankan poster, which shows the right Christian attitude. It says, "HATE THE VIRUS, NOT THE CHINESE. Let's pray for them instead". Amen. And do wash your hands.

FROM THE FAMILY



We welcome into the family of the Church;
15th March **Kayden-James Roy Watson**



WEDDINGS: we wish every happiness to:

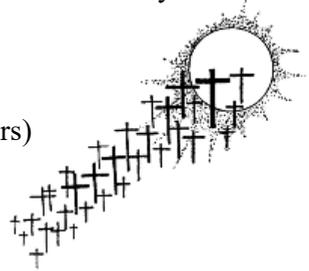
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|----|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 3 | Harry Bassett 1996 | 16 | Matthew Wallis Charnley |
| | Olive Cottam 2007 | 17 | Harold Wiggans 1975 |
| | Irene McDonald 2007 | | James Glover |
| 4 | Ada McCumskay | | Ethel Robinson |
| 5 | Susan B. Catlow--Bowling | 18 | Nellie Durham |
| 6 | Edwin John Jones | | Florence Parkinson |
| | Laura Mashiter 2000 | | Ethel Ormerod |
| 7 | Francis Cosgrove | | Barbara Sondra Lawley 2008 |
| | Harry Ingham 1990 | 19 | Steve Robinson 1968 |
| | Elizabeth Aspinall 2005 | 20 | Alfred Bramley |
| 8 | Derek Martindale 1996 | | Joan Rogerson 2019 |
| 11 | Joan Wilson | 25 | John Hindle |
| 12 | Elizabeth Alice Barry 1992 | 26 | Arthur Eva |
| | Susan Ann Evans 2014 | | Jack King 2004 |
| 14 | Vincent Pinder Banks 1980 | 28 | Daisy Charnley |
| | John Thomas Thompson 1970 | | Kenneth Dobson 1999 |

How well do you get on with your neighbours?

If you tend to be quiet and courteous, rather than actually friendly with the people living near you, you are not alone – it is a growing trend.

A recent study by the Co-op and Neighbourhood Watch has found that there is a shift away from neighbours becoming friends. In fact, it seems that only one in five of us who are homeowners/renters say that we would even *want* to be friendlier with our neighbours.

These days, the best way to be a good neighbour seems to be keeping an eye on the house during holidays, not being nosy, and taking parcels around. The worst include being noisy, having dogs that bark all the time, and leaving their poo on the pavement.

Are only children more selfish?

Are only children more narcissistic, with feelings of self-admiration and being more prone to rivalry (both of which are signs of being self-centred)?

According to recent research by psychologists at Winchester University, the answer is no. A study into the personality differences between only children and those with siblings found that the sole difference in only children is their higher motivation to achieve, and their greater ability to adapt to new conditions, compared with people with siblings.

It was also found that there is no difference in the mental health of people with or without siblings, with both groups having the same levels of anxiety, self-esteem and behavioural problems.

As one psychologist put it, “Only children seem to be doing absolutely fine, if not better, than those of us who have siblings.”



1 April - Fooling Around

by Canon David Winter



I was about six when I began to enjoy April Fool's Day. My older brother was very clever at appropriate hoaxes, not only deceiving me but also mum and dad. On the whole my childish efforts were encouraged.

The day was full of laughs, even at school, where the teachers would try to trick us and all day long no one quite believed anything they were told. So it went on, year after year, though I think it all seems as a bit unsophisticated for the modern generation.

You couldn't say that, though, about probably the most famous April Fool's effort of all time. In the 1960's BBC TV broadcast a feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. Even those of us who bought our spaghetti in the supermarket from the pasta shelves began to wonder if we'd been wrong. Italian farmers explained their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants was carefully filmed, from planting to reaping. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Aunty playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from March 25th to January 1st. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the spring equinox, March 25th. Either way a touch of hilarity at the end of Lent does not seem amiss. Go to Greece, where the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated with fireworks and parties to see how it might work.

WHO'S WHO

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ST. FRANCIS

The Parish Church Fenisccliffe. Consecrated 1893

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SUNDAY SERVICE

8.30am Holy Communion
10.00am PARISH EUCHARIST
Second Sunday - Church Parade

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9.50am IN THE CHURCH HALL
CRECHE FOR MOTHERS AND
BABIES EVERY SUNDAY

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

10.00am HOLY COMMUNION
5.45pm FAMILY PRAISE

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*Please contact the Vicar regarding arrangements for
Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.*

CHURCH HALL TEMPORARILY CLOSED
DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Articles for Outreach. The deadline for articles and information for Outreach is the **second Sunday of the month.** Your contribution will be welcome, either hand written or preferably by email: to: roy_a_parker@hotmail.com
Thank you. **Hilda Parker, Editor.**