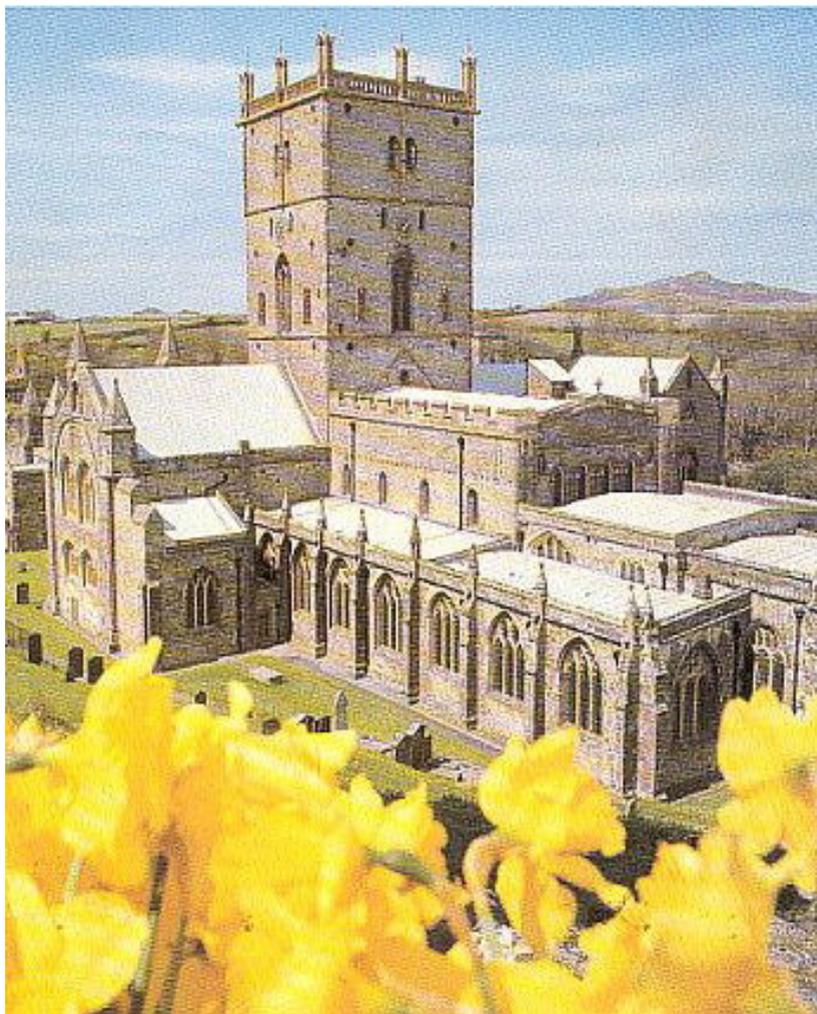


St. Faith and St. Laurence Harborne



St. David's Cathedral



2026



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
BIRMINGHAM

USEFUL NUMBERS (See also back cover)

Priest- in-Charge: REVD. DAVID PARKER **Mobile:** 07532 338961
Email: davidparker124@btinternet.com

PCC Vice-Chair CAROLINE MOSLEY **Email:** caromosley1@gmail.com
Mobile: 07887552123

Task Group Chairs

Church Estate Task Group DAVID ARKELL **429 2772**

Mission: PAULINE SITFORD **Email:** pauline.walkersend@gmail.com **427 7005**

Socials: DAVID GLANVILL **Email:** davidglanvill@yahoo.co.uk **682 8360**

Communications: CAROLINE MOSLEY **Email:** caromosley1@gmail.com
Mobile: 07887552123

Eco Church : CORINNE TREACY–Parish Environment Contact **Mobile:** 07752640151

Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator: SALLY GRIFFITHS **Mobile:** 07940 758396
E-mail: sallyegriff@gmail.com

Vulnerable Adults Contact: Sue Glanvill **Mobile:** 07934 933629
E-mail sue_granvill@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Identity Verifier: CORINNE TREACY **Mobile:** 07752640151

Our Safeguarding policies pack is available in the Hall, in the church and on our website. Safeguarding posters and Promoting a Safer Church with our Parish Policy Statement posters are on display in the Hall and Church together with some leaflets. If you have any concerns about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team or to Revd. David Parker. Concerns may have then to be passed to the Bishop's Safeguarding Adviser in confidence. In an emergency contact police, Social Care Services, or for a child, the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000

ACTIVITIES

Women's Fellowship: HELEN HAYWARD **Mobile:** 07940133941

Stay and Play: Thursdays 9.30am- 11am
HILARY SHAYLOR **454 0451**

Lesson Readers Secretaries:

(10am) BRENDA STOTT **681 9339**

(6.30pm) DIANA LEADBEATER **427 1930**

Planned Giving: CORINNE TREACY (TEMPORARY) **Mobile:** 07752640151

Flower Rota: ANITA TIPPIN **454 7586**

Transport DAVID GLANVILL **Email:** davidglanvill@yahoo.co.uk **682 8360**

Co-ordinator: (Please contact David if you need, or can offer lifts to church)

Uniformed Organisations

Scout Association Ring 0345 300 1818 and ask for 293rd Birmingham Scout Group

GSL Leader: TOM McARDLE

Beavers: Monday, 6pm EMMA CAWSEY

Cub Scouts: Wednesday, 6pm MATT CAWSEY

Scouts: Tuesday, 7.15pm Leader: KEVIN PAYNE

Guides: Wednesday, 7.30pm Guider: AMANDA JONES **01384 636928**

Brownies: Wednesday, 6pm-7.30pm Brown Owl: JANET JONES **429 8167**

Rainbow Unit: Wednesday, 4.45pm-5.45pm Leader: JANET JONES **429 8167**

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Aspects of life at St Faith and St Laurence

Morning Prayer – is normally said Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 8.30 am in the Lady Chapel. We use Common Worship Daily Prayer, all are welcome to come and join in.

Task Groups – The church has a number of task groups enabling areas of church life. These are listed on the inside cover of the magazine with the contact details of the chairs. If you would like to be a part of a groups please contact the relevant chair. All are welcome to join.

Stay and Play meets on Thursday between 9.30 and 11am in the Hall to give a chance for people with young children to meet and the children to play. All are welcome. Cost £2 per family.

Planned Giving In order to continue, the church relies on the financial support of the congregation and parishioners. It costs over £1500 per week to operate. We encourage people to give regularly through some form of Planned Giving, and to Gift Aid their giving if they pay income tax, so the parish can reclaim tax on the donations at no extra cost to the donor. Each person must decide how much they can afford to give.

The recommended method of planned giving is by direct debit through the Parish Giving Scheme as this reduces bureaucracy and improves our cash flow but still leave the giver in control of their contributions. Some people prefer to pay by Standing Order or using weekly or monthly envelopes. Details of all these methods are available from Loleta Atkinson or Corinne Treacy.

Choir and Music Our church has an excellent musical tradition. Mark Lawrence, is our Director of Music. Please speak to Mark if you would like to support the music in any way, particularly if you are able and interested to sing with others whilst we find new ways to keep our tradition going.

Home Communion There are several people who are unable to get to church, either permanently or temporarily, and to whom David or Sally take communion in their homes. If you would like to receive communion at home, or know someone who might, please speak to David or Sally.

'easyfundraising'

Next time you shop online, think of St Faith and St Laurence and raise free donations with 3,000+ retailers:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfaithandstlaurence>

Women's Fellowship meets on the first Tuesdays of the month from March to December. Meetings are held in the Committee Room at 2pm. We have talks on a variety of subjects.

Prayer Ministry Team

Prayer ministry is offered during the 10am Communion on the 1st Sunday of each month. People can receive prayer for themselves or for any situation that is important to them. It takes place in the Lady Chapel during the distribution of communion.

Foodbank

We collect food for the Quinton Foodbank. There is a box in church and food can be placed there at any time. The list of things that are needed is in church and in the hall. Food is distributed from St Boniface Church on Wednesdays. Vouchers are required to receive food.



Call in for Coffee time together over a cuppa on a Wednesday morning from 10.30 -12.00. if needed we can arrange for someone to collect you and then take you home. If you are passing, do call in, or bring a friend, all are welcome.





I enjoy watching sport whereas my wife takes no interest in any team games. I imagine that some of you will have been watching the Winter Olympics, while they probably left others cold(!). I wonder whether it makes a difference to our interest that most of us have never had the opportunity to try out any of these sports.

Personally, I have been fascinated by the Curling. There's something a bit surreal about the contrast between the measured slide of the heavy stone and the frantic activity of the sweepers. It is clearly a very skilful sport involving a lot of careful tactics which aren't immediately obvious to me. As stones are repeatedly placed and then removed, I struggle to predict how the end will work itself out, and even the experts are sometimes caught out.

I think that's a bit like the way God works, patiently, in his own time, laying foundations, creating opportunities for the future, perhaps adjusting his plans when we mess them up, and sometimes bringing off a sudden surprise.

Elsewhere in this magazine I have written about the plan for me to be succeeded by a permanent (half-time) Vicar. I suspect that it will take some time for this to happen, and that I shall be with you for a while yet. Coming here and being appointed as Priest-in-Charge were not things I had ever expected; indeed the very fact of my ordination continues to astonish me.

I have enormously enjoyed my time in this parish, during which I have seen various projects come to fruition and sensed a growing spirit of confidence and optimism. Your generosity has been shown not just in the way we raised the money for the gutters repairs but also in the funds found so quickly for Malawi and other urgent appeals.

When I do finally leave, I shall do so confident in God's faithful provision for you all. I have benefited from seeds sown earlier by others, and I hope I may have contributed a few seeds of my own which will mature in God's time.

But I also expect that God has further surprises in store, both for me and for the parish.

PCC REPORT

At the PCC meeting on 13th January we were joined by the Archdeacon of Birmingham, who explained aspects of the plan for appointing a new Vicar – this was to be kept confidential until the Deanery Synod meeting on 12th February, and is set out elsewhere in this Magazine.

The PCC went on to discuss the implications of the problems with the church heating, which had developed a fault in late November. Shortly afterwards an engineer from the burner manufacturer had attended twice but had declared the burner beyond economical repair, although it would run for short periods. The PCC had agreed to order a new burner, and the order was placed on 15th December, with a delivery estimate of 6-8 working weeks. Meanwhile a standalone propane heater had been purchased and every effort would be made to get as much heat into the church.

Including installation, the total cost of the new burner is £6k. This can be funded thanks to the generous legacy of £10k from Priscilla White, which is also being used to fund new chairs for the Hall and Committee Room. The Committee Room chairs were bought in January and have proved popular. Purchase of new chairs for the Hall has been deferred for a few months until the finances have recovered from the extra costs incurred during the heating crisis.

The new burner was installed on 18th February and is working well.

THE A.P.C.M. IS FOLLOWING THE 10AM SERVICE ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26th

REPORT OF THE CHURCH ESTATE TASK GROUP



The recent inclement weather has proved to be challenging to our building and its surroundings. A leak from the Committee Room roof has been rectified and the trees on the eastern border of the front lawn have been reduced as they became unstable and dangerous.

The church heating has been a major concern for some time, but the new burner for the boiler was fitted on Ash Wednesday. This means that the church can now open each day as before.

David Arkell (Chair)

Your Next Vicar

In 2022, after Canon Priscilla White retired as Vicar, the parish was assessed as justifying the appointment of a half-time vicar. I was asked to help the parish temporarily, and in March 2023 I was licensed as Interim Priest-in-Charge for a period of 3 years.

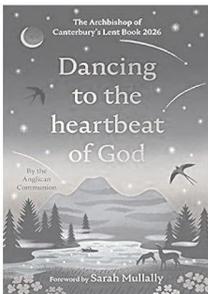
During the Deanery Synod Meeting on 12th February, the Area Dean, Revd Mike Sermon, announced that he will be retiring in May. The Archdeacon of Birmingham then announced that in future the post of Area Dean of Warley and Edgbaston will be a half-time appointment and the holder will also be Vicar of St Faith and St Laurence (half-time).

I consider this an excellent solution for the parish. Some of the other Area Deans already hold similar joint appointments. Recruitment of the new Area Dean/Vicar will take place in the summer, and the parish will be fully involved in the selection process. The intention is that the new Vicar will live in the Vicarage on Balden Road.

Meanwhile the Archdeacon has agreed that I can continue as Priest-in-Charge until the new appointment is well advanced, so hopefully there will be only a minimal gap between my term and that of the new Vicar.

David Parker

Dancing to the Heartbeat of God

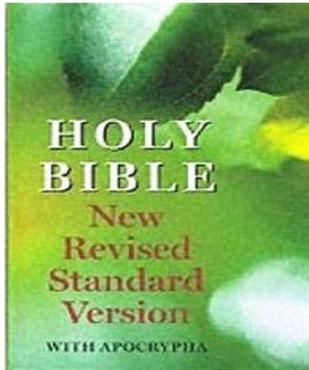


It is a vibrant and inspiring exploration of Christian discipleship in today's world. Bringing together around thirty contributors from across the globe, this rich volume reflects the breadth, diversity, and vitality of the Anglican Communion. With a foreword and after-word by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dame Sarah Mullally, and an introduction by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, it offers a confident and hopeful vision of faith lived out in everyday life.

Through personal stories, testimonies, and reflections, the book explores what it really means to follow Christ faithfully; listening for God's rhythm, responding with courage, and sharing faith with others in authentic and creative ways. Rooted in real experience rather than abstract theory, these voices speak with honesty, energy, and hope.

Written to encourage the Church of England and Anglicans worldwide, The book is an invitation to rediscover the joy, movement, and missional heart of Christian discipleship today.

READINGS FOR MARCH



March 1st Lent 2

10am Holy Communion Genesis 12:1-4a, Romans 4:1-5 and 13-17, John 3:1-17
6.30pm Evensong Numbers 21:4-9, Luke 14:27-33

March 8th Lent 3

8am Holy Communion Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42
10am Service of the Word Readings as at 8am

March 15th Mothering Sunday

10am Holy Communion Exodus 2:1-10, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:33-35
6.30pm Evensong Micah 7, James 5

March 22nd Lent 5

8am Holy Communion Ezekiel 37:1-14, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45
10am Service of the Word Readings to be confirmed
6.30pm Holy Communion Readings as at 8am

March 29th Palm Sunday

8am Holy Communion Isaiah 50:4-9a, Philippians 2:5-11, Matthew 21:1-11
10am Holy Communion Matthew 21:1-11, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Matthew 26:14-27:66
6.30pm Evensong Isaiah 5:1-7, Matthew 21:33-end

COVER STORY

St. David's Cathedral

Most British cathedrals are in the centre of a city or, like those in Durham and Lincoln, stand high above the townscape at their feet. St David's, however snuggles into a valley. The approach from town through the 14th-century Tower Gate is much higher than the cathedral so, rather unexpectedly, your first sight of the dusky pink sandstone building is a bird's-eye view of its roofs.

In the 6th century, St David, Wales' patron saint, founded a monastery and church here, hidden away among dense bushes and trees in a boggy valley by the River Alun. Stories of the monks' ascetic lives of prayer, study and hard labour in the fields attracted pilgrims but their location near the Pembrokeshire coast, on the sea route to Ireland, also attracted the unwanted attention of passing Vikings, raiders and pirates.

The monastery became a renowned religious and intellectual centre, but down the centuries raiders murdered at least two of its bishops and by 1089 St David's shrine had been vandalised and stripped of the precious metals that adorned it.

William the Conqueror came here to pray in 1081, though he may have been more interested in its strategic peninsula position and proximity to Ireland. The Normans saw the Celtic religion as inferior to their own and the Welsh Church as a threat to their controlling rule, therefore in need of reform.

In 1115, King Henry 1 appointed Bernard as the first Norman bishop of St David's. He began building a new cathedral, dedicated in 1131, and shrewdly persuaded the Pope to make St David's a place of pilgrimage: two journeys to St David's were equivalent to one to Rome. That church was rebuilt in the Transitional Norman style in the 1180s and forms the basis of the cathedral today.

The light that floods the 12th-century nave highlights the warm colours of the stone arcade, its alternate round and octagonal piers supporting wide, decoratively carved, Romanesque arches.

The nave's oak ceiling is one of the cathedral's glories. It dates from the early 16th century and is a wonder of exquisite carving, with arches and pendants belying the fact that it is actually flat, suspended from tie beams. Medieval motifs appear in the lace-like detail, along with Renaissance features of dragon-shaped dolphins.

From the back of the nave you can see how the walls lean outwards and the sloping floor means that here you, quite literally, walk up the aisle. The delicately carved stone pulpitum that separates the nave from the quire was the work of Bishop Henry Gower, who made substantial changes to the building and its surroundings during his tenure from 1328 to 1347. His tomb is housed within the screen, alongside a statue of St David dressed as a medieval bishop.

It was Bishop Gower who built the huge Bishop's Palace that broods nearby. Its still impressive ruins, richly embellished with stone carvings and arcaded parapets, speak of the wealth and power of the church in the 14th century.

One of the stalls in the magnificent quire bears the royal coat of arms - uniquely, the reigning British sovereign is a member of the cathedral chapter. The misericords hidden under the 16th-century seats suggest a mischievous streak in their carvers. Among the faces and mythical beasts, one depicts seasick pilgrims in a boat, another a man with backache. Look up: the tower lantern ceiling is beautiful.

Of the chapels beyond the quire, Holy Trinity has fine fan vaulting, an altar pieced together from medieval fragments and in the original pilgrims' recess, a casket many believed held the bones of St David and St Justinian.

In 1536 during the Reformation, the strongly Protestant Bishop William Barker ripped out St David's shrine, stripping it of its jewels and relics. The tomb of Edmund Tudor, King Henry VII's father, was moved here after the dissolution of the monastery at Carmarthen and placed in front of the high altar. A century later, Oliver Cromwell's troops did serious damage to the building, stripping the roofs of lead, wrecking the medieval library, smashing stained-glass windows and tearing up tomb brasses.

Restoration work took place in the 18th century but it was Sir George Gilbert Scott, the prolific English Gothic Revival architect, who made a major contribution to the look and stability of the cathedral towards the end of the 19th century. Further restoration continued on through the 20th century, including the addition of some fine stained glass.

St David's shrine, visited by many thousands of pilgrims until it was destroyed in the Reformation, has been beautifully restored and was rededicated on St David's Day, 1 March, 2012. Painted and gilded icons of St David and fellow saints sit within the shrine's original niches. The oak canopy above it, painted in medieval colours, replicates that of the 13th-century construction.

It breathes history, but St David's Cathedral is very much a 21st-century church. Its choir is unique in the United Kingdom in that the top line of the full choir is sung by girl choristers aged eight to eighteen. It is also the seat of the first woman bishop to be elected by the Church in Wales.

Visitors speak of a palpable sense of serenity and spirituality in this cathedral within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park on the far south-west coast of Wales.

The town St. David's has city status but in reality is hardly bigger than a village. Its narrow streets can get very crowded during summer months and especially during St David's Cathedral Festival, a feast of classical and contemporary music held annually at the end of May.

This is Britain's smallest city, and one of its holiest places.

Why are daffodils associated with St David's Day? See page 21.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Easter is approaching, and we are now in the reflective season of Lent. For a flower arranger, this means not only the all-important Lent commitments but also the planning of flowers for the church for Easter. With that planning comes our appeal to you all for contributions to the Flower Fund. The congregation of St Faith and St Laurence has traditionally been very generous in supporting us with donations towards the cost of flowers for festivals which we are reliant upon. We are very grateful to you all. Your support over the years has been very much appreciated and we hope that you will support us again for this Easter's flowers. On the tables at the back of the church there will be some small brown envelopes, marked "Flower Fund" for you to put your donation into. Please then place the envelop into the box marked "Flower Fund" which is also on the table at the back of the church. If you wish, you might like to put your name on the envelop so that we can identify who has made the donation, which is always nice to know. Thank you.

May I also take this opportunity to remind you that at any time of the year, if you would like to fund a floral display in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a significant birthday or anniversary etc. we would be happy to do that for you. If you would like to discuss this further, Helen Hayward and myself (Josie Phillips) would be happy to talk this over with you and make the arrangements for you. Also, if at any time of the year you would like to make a donation to the general cost of flowers throughout the year, that would be very gratefully received too. If the Flower Fund box is not available, you can place your donation into a Flower Fund envelop and place the envelop onto the general plate. The counters will make sure your donation is separated from general funds as it will be identified by a Flower Fund envelope. If you wish, you can put your name on the envelop so that we know who has given the donation and supported our work.

Since we put a piece in the church magazine last Summer, the ladies who undertake the floral displays in our beautiful church have worked together to make some significant changes to enhance the way we work, which I would like to share with you.

Firstly, I am delighted to say that following an appeal last Summer for people to join us, our numbers have increased from 7 to 11. We were so pleased with the excellent response, and the result is that we now have 4 additional people which we were happy to welcome on board. They have brought with them much enthusiasm and different skill. They have all been assets to the team, which enabled us to make many improvements. However, this does not close the door; we would be happy to welcome anyone else who may be interested in joining the group. Helen Hayward - 07940133941 or Josie Phillips - 0121 421 2574, would be happy to discuss with you at any time.

We now have around 3 meetings per year to talk together and plan arrangements for Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. After our meetings we also enjoy lunch and a natter together, which is all important. With the help of everyone in the group, we have achieved the completion of some long overdue administrative tasks which were a necessary church requirement and makes us compliant with church policies. We can gratefully put those tasks behind us now enabling us to get on with the enjoyable and all-important matter of floral displays. And, we now have an official name, which we all agreed upon, this is - St. Faith and St. Laurence Church Flower Group, or Church Flower Group for short. In addition, we have our own very special Group Prayer, which David Parker has kindly written for us and with which we begin our meetings.

Josie Phillips

I've added the prayer below:

Almighty God, whose Son rejoiced at the lilies of the field, saying "Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these", be with us as we seek to beautify your house with leaves and flowers to your praise and glory.

Rev. David Parker

The Passion Flower



The Passion Flower is very specially connected with Easter. It came from Peru, and its real name is Granadilla. This flower was used by missionaries to fix the details of the Crucifixion in the minds of simple people. And how well it served the purpose! It is a lovely blue flower, the colour of heaven, and it has five petals and five sepals which represent ten of the disciples. Only ten of the twelve, because we remember to leave out Peter who denied Jesus, and Judas who betrayed him. In the middle of the flower is the Pistil, which is like the column to which Christ was bound when he was scourged, and the long twisting tendrils are like the whips and cords which were used for the scourging. At the end of the Pistil is a three branched Style, which reminds us of the three nails used to nail Christ to the Cross, and the five stamens represent his five wounds. The filaments surround the flower like a crown of thorns, and the fringed corona is like the halo round Christ's head. The seed pod represents the sponge dipped in vinegar, and the leaves, which have five fingers, are like the hands of the soldiers, holding the spear which pierced Christ's side.

The flower usually blooms for just three days, exactly the time between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. No wonder it is called the Passion Flower; it tells the whole story of the crucifixion.

Introducing Dame Sarah Mullally The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury



The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28th January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

1. She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.
2. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London.
3. She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as "an opportunity to reflect the love of God". She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.
4. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.
5. She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.
6. She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St. Saviour's Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as "the biggest decision I have ever made".

7. In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.
8. On 12th May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St. Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.
9. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24th May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."
10. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.
11. As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.
12. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.
13. As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.
14. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.
15. Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.
16. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.
17. Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.
18. She is Chair of Christian Aid.
19. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.
20. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

By tradition, the Archbishop of Canterbury is one of the 26 Church of England bishops who serve in the House of Lords, known as the Lords Spiritual.

Dame Sarah was re-introduced into the House of Lords on February 5th and she will be consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation.



Carbon Fast

for Lent



Climate Stewards



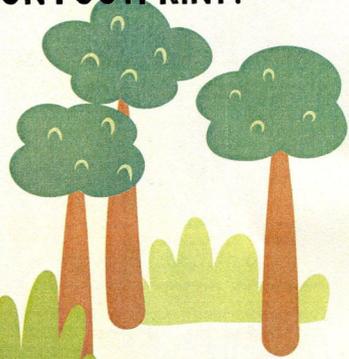
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WHAT IS A CARBON FAST?

GIVING UP UNSUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION PRACTICES TO REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT—AND IN DOING SO, LEARNING TO LIVE LIGHTLY ON GOD’S EARTH.



SCAN QR CODE TO JOIN



WHY DO THIS?

BY STARTING TO REDUCE OUR CONSUMPTION AT LENT, AND CONTINUING WITH THOUGHTFUL LIVING THROUGH THE YEAR, WE ARE CARING FOR CREATION, A RESPONSIBILITY ENTRUSTED TO US BY GOD.

FAST TO HELP PEOPLE AND PLANET TO FLOURISH

WEEKLY THEMES:

- WEEK 1: CREATION CARE
- WEEK 2: CONSUMERISM / SHOPPING
- WEEK 3: MONEY / INVESTMENTS
- WEEK 4: FOOD WASTE / MEAT & DAIRY
- WEEK 5: TRANSPORT / DRIVING
- WEEK 6: ENERGY / ELECTRICITY / GAS
- WEEK 7: SOCIAL MEDIA

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

- 7 TOPICS WITH 3 CHALLENGE LEVELS
- WEEKLY REFLECTION ON CREATION CARE
- SHARE YOUR PROGRESS WITH US - EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

TO JOIN - SIGN UP VIA QR CODE FOR WEEKLY EMAIL AND TIPS!

Environmental & Sustainability Calendar for your diary March, April and May 2026

March

- * March 3rd – **‘World Wildlife Day’** – A day to celebrate wild animals and plants around the world and recognize the unique roles and contributions of wildlife to people and the planet.
- * March 9th to 15th – **‘The Big Plastic Count’** – Take part in the UK’s biggest plastic investigation!
- * March 13th to 29th – **‘Great British Spring Clean’** – The nation’s biggest mass-action environmental campaign – time to pledge to pick up a bag or more of litter and “Love Where You Live”.
- * March 18th – **‘Global Recycling Day’** – A day to focus on recycling the items you might normally just chuck in the bin.
- * March 28th – **‘Earth Hour’** – An easy way to show your support and care about the planet by switching off your lights and appliances at 8:30pm, for just an hour.

April

- * April 1st – **‘Walk To Work Day’** – A National day to encourage people to be mindful of their health and their carbon footprint by walking to work.
- * April 22nd – **‘Earth Day’** – A day to show support for the environmental protection and show your love for Planet Earth.
- * April 29th – **‘Stop Food Waste Day’** – This day is to draw attention to food waste issues. We can all change our behaviour to reduce food waste in the world.

May

- * May 4th to 10th – **‘Water Saving Week’** – An important annual campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the need to conserve water and use it more efficiently. This year’s theme is ‘Protect Water for Wildlife’.
- * May 15th – **‘Endangered Species Day’** – A global event that involves celebrating, learning about and taking action to protect threatened and endangered species.
- * May 20th – **‘World Bee Day’** – An international day to raise awareness about the vital role that bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy.
- * May 22nd – **‘International Day for Biological Diversity’** – A day to re-examine our relationship with the natural world. This year’s theme is “Harmony with nature and sustainable development”.

Sydney Carter— the man who changed how we sing hymns.

He died in March 2004, wrote songs that cannot be pigeonholed. For a long time they were heard rather than printed, being performed by the folksinger/songwriter in pubs, prisons and, at least once, in the middle of an ice rink during the Edinburgh Festival.

Then one day he was invited into a church, to perform *Lord of the Dance*, his great song of resurrection, although even then, only below ground, down in the crypt. This experience perhaps inspired the line in his satirical song, *The Vicar is a Beatnik*, about a shocked congregation reacting to their trendy vicar: 'We're digging out the crypt to make a discotheque.'

As always with Sydney, the finger points both ways, for another line in the same song goes: 'We love the Church of England - although we never go.'
Sydney Carter's range of styles and songs included *One Last Cigarette* in which the late Sheila Hancock perfected the musical 'smoker's cough', and *Down Below*, a funny if slightly sinister tale of life below the city streets, made popular by Ian Wallace.

Sydney was at his best with Christian songs that demanded an active response, songs like *When I Needed a Neighbour* and *I Come Like a Beggar*. Having served in wartime with the Friends' Ambulance Unit in the Middle East and Greece, Sydney found great spiritual strength in the Quaker movement, although he also always felt the necessity to 'Travel on, travel on'.

Lord of the Dance, perhaps his finest work, is a hymn for all seasons, but is above all as direct and powerful an account of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus as any hymn we sing each Easter.

Many of us were used to hearing it sung rather ponderously, but in the summer of 1976, it was sung on *Songs of Praise* from Blackburn Cathedral where they transformed a huge congregation into a dancing choir. Had he been present, Sydney, one of the great revolutionary songwriters of the twentieth century, would have called a kindly 'bravo' — but perhaps only given it five out of ten. Had he then been invited to take over as soloist, the tempo of the singing would have doubled, the organ been replaced by a kazoo or a small drum, and the words sung in the present tense, which was how he preferred to sing it.

Sydney claimed that you could tell if a hymn was any good if it could survive being sung in a folk club, or in any other unlikely place. 'Scriptures and creeds may come to seem incredible,' he wrote, 'but faith will still go dancing on.'

Lord of the Dance grew out of the author's interest in the Shaker sect of North America, which had its beginning in eighteenth-century Manchester. The Shakers use dance to express their spiritual life, and it is one of their own hymns, 'Simple Gifts', that is the source of the now well-known tune to *Lord of the Dance*.

Andrew Barr

CHURCHWOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship begins their 2026 programme on Tuesday, 3rd March at 2pm in the Committee Room of the Church Hall with a talk by Jennifer Rigby titled "Albert, Worms and George - Don't do that!".

We are a group of ladies who enjoy a good talk, a cup of tea or coffee and a chat and would warmly welcome any lady who would like to join us.

See you there!!

Helen Hayward 07940133941

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle is a mixed Community Group who meets on the 3rd Monday afternoon of the month in the Committee Room of St Faith and St Laurence Church, Harborne for talks, tea/coffee and chat.

We also raise funds for charity and, having raised £2,650 for Birmingham Hospice over the last 2 years, we will be supporting Cerebral Palsy Midlands in 2026.



Our first main event for Cerebral Palsy Midlands will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 28th March 10.30-12noon, in the Hall of St Faith and St Laurence Church. There will be Coffee/Tea and Toasted Teacake for £3.00 and the usual Stalls and Tombola.

In the summer we are planning a Summer Salad and Dessert Afternoon at 4pm with professional singer Maggie O'Hara, to entertain us.

If you are interested and would like to try the monthly meetings, please get in touch. We also look forward to seeing you at one of our special charity events later in the year later in the year.

Helen Hayward 07940133941

Snoring

A vicar consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted. The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?" "Well, it's not just me," confided the vicar. "She is bothering the whole congregation during my sermons".

CHURCH FONTS

Just inside the church doorway, or at the west end of the church will be the font, which can be one of the oldest fixtures of the church. There is a good survival rate for Norman and even a few Saxon fonts that are interesting both in shape and history. These were made deep and broad and much lower than later ones. This was because people actually stood or knelt inside them to be baptised with holy water, and a child would be fully immersed. The familiar simple strong solid details of the Norman style were carved on the outside of these deep broad fonts making them easy to recognise — and they are an exciting find as you can imagine someone kneeling inside being showered with water. Early fonts were usually lined with lead, and there are thirty or so in the country that are made solely of lead and sit on a stone pedestal. All of them had a stopper and plughole that allowed the water to escape.

In 1236 Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury decreed that all fonts should be covered or locked and the key held by the parish priest. Before this time, there were no covers and it was said that holy water was being stolen by witches who used it in their pagan rituals.

Later Gothic fonts are taller and shallower with fine intricate carving on the outside. The covers also became very tall and highly decorated and are made mainly of wood.

Thomas Maude

Our own church font is made from Derbyshire stone, and next to it is the Baptism Register, which lists baptisms since 1988. The font is rarely used these days, as a portable font placed in the chancel allows the congregation to view baptisms more easily.



SPRING FAYRE

I do hope some of you will be able to come to our Spring Fayre and help to raise money for Birmingham Hospice. Each year, Birmingham Hospice needs to raise £7.2 million after NHS funding.

Over the two sites , Selly Park (previously St Mary's Hospice) and Erdington (previously John Taylor Hospice), they care for on average 670 patients each day. Supporting people in their own homes or at the hospice sites.

They have just launched a new 24/7 Specialist Palliative Urgent Response Service (SPUR) to provide out of hours support and care to terminally ill people, their families and carers. This is just one of the many things they do to support those living with a terminal diagnosis.

Many thanks for your support, **Julia Reid.**

St Faith and St Laurence Church Hall
(Opposite the Court Oak Pub)



Saturday, March 21st
10.30am-12.30pm
£3 entry (includes drink and Cake)
(Children free!)
Homemade Cake Sale-Refreshments
ADOPT A BEAR
Spring Bulbs
Tombola and Raffle
Handmade Crafts/ Gifts/Cards
Children's Activities
All funds raised support
Birmingham Hospice



WOMEN PRIESTS



It is 32 years since the ordination of women. It was 32 years ago this month, on 12th March 1994, that the first 32 women were ordained as priests in the Church of England. The service was officiated by Bishop Barry Rogerson at Bristol Cathedral. Bishop Rogerson ordained the women in alphabetical order, so Angela Berners-Wilson was the very first woman to be ordained. She was a university chaplain. The youngest woman to be ordained that day was aged 30. The oldest was 69. By 2004, ten years on, one of the women priests had died, and 14 had retired. Bishop Rogerson reckoned it would take 10 years before the first woman would be ordained as a bishop. In the end, it took 21 years. Then Libby Lane was ordained the first female bishop in the Church of England. She became Bishop of Stockport, a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Chester. The first woman to be ordained a diocesan bishop was the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, appointed on 26 March 2015.

In our own diocese, Anne Hollinghurst, became Bishop of Aston on 29th Sept 2015 and became Principal of The Queen's Foundation on April 10th 2024. She was succeeded by The Rt Revd Esther Prior on 27 February 2025 .

Our Archdeacon, Jenny Tomlinson (since May 2019) was one of the first women to be ordained priest.

Lost in Translation

Are you travelling this Spring? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

Swedish furrier: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin.

Mothering Sunday is on March 15th

Mothers of the Famous

Columbus' Mother: "I don't care what you've discovered, Chris. You still could have written."

Michelangelo's Mother: "Mike, can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?"

Batman's Mother: "It's a nice car, Bruce, but do you realize how much the insurance is going to be?"

Goldilocks Mother: "I've got a bill here for a broken chair from the Bear family. Do you know anything about this, Goldie?"

Albert Einstein's Mother: "But, Albert, it's your school photo. Can't you do something about your hair? Styling gel, mousse, something...?"

Superman's Mother: "Clark, your father and I have discussed it, and we've decided you can have your own telephone line. Now will you stop spending so much time in all those phone boxes?"

Thomas Edison's Mother: "Of course I'm proud that you invented the electric light bulb, Thomas. Now turn off that light and get to bed."

World's best mum

The ewe dubbed "Britain's loneliest sheep" has given birth for the first time. Fiona became famous in 2023 when she was rescued from the foot of a cliff at the Cromarty Firth in the Scottish Highlands. She had been stranded for more than two years. Once free she was taken to Dalscone Farm in Dumfries. Now a mother to two lambs, one female and one male, the farm has given her a new title: "world's best mum"

Spring Magazine Socials Task Group Report

We started the year with a Burns Night Supper on Saturday 24th December. This was well received with everyone enjoying the traditional Scottish food, the Address to the Haggis, and the traditional tot to toast the said "creature".

We have a varied programme of events planned for the rest of this coming year which are outlined below,:

April 25th evening .Skittles with Fish and Chips Supper

July 11th. Family Fun Day with Messy Club including BBQ and Bouncy Castle

October 17th. evening. Harvest Supper

November 6th. Autumn Fayre with Messy Club

We are also planning a coach trip to a place of interest during the spring, details of which will be published shortly.

We hope that you will find something to enjoy with us during the rest of the year and look forward to welcoming you . **David Glanvill, Socials Task Group Chair**

The Resurrection

I was the one who waited in the garden
Doubting the morning and the early light.
I watched the mist lift off its own soft burden,
Permitting not believing my own sight.
If there were sudden noises I dismissed
Them as a trick of sound, a sleight of hand.
Not by a natural joy could I be blessed
Or trust a thing I could not understand.
Maybe I was a shadow thrown by one
Who, weeping, came to lift away the stone.
Or was I but the path on which the sun,
Too heavy for itself, was loosed and thrown?
I heard the voices and the recognition
And love like kisses heard behind thin walls.
Were they my tears which fell, a real contrition?
Or simply April with its waterfalls?
It was by negatives I learned my place.
The garden went on growing and I sensed
A sudden breeze that blew across my face.
Despair returned, but now it danced, it danced.



Elizabeth Jennings

Why are daffodils associated with St David's Day?



Not being Welsh I had no idea until I looked it up. According to the Visit Wales website page on National Symbols of Wales, the daffodil began to be associated with Wales as recently as the 19th century thanks to the British Prime Minister Lloyd George. It is an optimistic symbol for Wales, rather more attractive to wear on St David's Day than the leek. The custom of wearing leeks in the hat is said

to have come from the time of a battle between the Welsh and the Saxons when St. David wanted the Welsh to wear leeks so they could recognize other Welsh.

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus! Happy St David's Day! Nancy Wallace

Musical Reminiscences

It was a combination of Mark Lawrence's final organ voluntary at Evensong and a conversation afterwards that reminded me of how much music had been a major feature in my life. In fact the organ music at St Faith and St Laurence was one of the reasons for the decision to join the congregation from St John's Harborne some 15 or more years ago.

My personal involvement with music began with being taught the ukelele by my father. I progressed to a guitar and have been playing various types of guitars and guitar music for the last 65 years. First at school in various bands and groups (early rock'n'roll / pop) later, folk/blues and solo work which continued through university, hospital shows, parties and gatherings.

During the conversation I was reminded of a notable occasion when I took Lesley before we were married down to London to see to see the first showing of the film of Bob Dylan's 1965 UK Tour at the Arts Lab. In the packed small room, full of smoke, Les noticed a peculiar smell. I drove rapidly back late at night, fuelled almost certainly by breathing in marijuana fumes for at least 3 hours!

Despite this and other rather odd dates, we have remained together ever since. Although I have followed and seen many of the great performers and bands over the years, Les has widened my taste with visits to the opera, ballet and CBSO concerts. However, I still look back with nostalgia and affection to many memorable gigs and shows all brought back to life by Mark's final organ voluntary.

Many thanks!! **David Arkell**



WORKING PARTY 11th April 10am - 12pm

There is a planned working party to prepare the church and grounds for the arrival of Spring. If you are able to spare a couple of hours to help with this necessary work please sign the sheet which will be displayed in the narthex from 1st March. Refreshments will be available during the morning.

We look forward to seeing you if you are able to help with this important work.

David and Caroline , Church Wardens

What do you do with your palm cross ?

The palm crosses are taken home. Then what do we do with them? Some use them as bookmarks. Some place them with others of previous years behind a cross or religious image. Today, at our Palm Sunday service, we were encouraged to think carefully about what we do with our blessed crosses and it was suggested that we could place them, in Holy Week, in a place where they could be seen in the home, or indeed in a house window for others to see too. In this way the crosses become a blessing to the home, and also to those who pause and look.

In churches where I have ministered, people frequently asked if they could take a palm cross for a friend. Of course they can. What a kind thing to do. Similarly many churches offer palm crosses in schools, care homes or hospitals. We share the blessing, and in this way draw others into our Christian community.

A Facebook post of a friend reminded me how, six years ago, we were doing things differently in the Covid lockdowns. At the church where my friend was vicar, blessed palm crosses in lockdown were placed on railings outside with an attached card, and passers by were invited to take one. A comforting generous action. It was a creative way of showing we still travel together through Holy Week, though apart. A simple but significant action and one, indeed, which could also be done any year, not only in lockdown days.

(Ian Gomersall, a retired Anglican priest living in the North East of England.)

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 crosses. 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!"



Famous last words

"Step back a bit, I can't get you in the picture." "Don't worry, it's not used any more." "I thought it tasted rather strange." "You have driven this before, haven't you?" "And that one over there, the red flashing one, what does that mean?" "It's okay, I saw them do it on TV."

Christian Life

Life is too short for us to do everything we want to do; but it is long enough for us to do everything God wants us to do.

At our Annual Church Meeting on April 26th, we elect our Church Wardens.

This advert appeared in St. James the Least Parish Magazine
Situations Vacant - Church Warden

Do you have a unlimited amount of spare time and no desire to spend it in the garden, on the beach, or doing up the house?

Have you an unfulfilled desire to walk in front of the vicar while carrying a large stick you are not allowed to use as a weapon?

Do you have no talents in stone masonry, boiler maintenance, Kung Fu, or bell lubrication - but a strange urge to "give it a go"?

Do you have a good head for heights and an interest in bending lead into interesting shapes?

Do you get sufficiently lonely that the alarm company phoning you up every night will cheer you up?

Then why not be a Church Warden? Wages are zero, so you might think you're better off being a bell ringer. But let's face it - who fixed the bells last time one fell off? That's right. Be a Church Warden and the bells will probably fall on somebody else.

Guilty Verdict

A woman was found guilty in a traffic court, and when asked for her occupation she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' He then smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write "I will not cross a red light" one hundred times.'

So you think English is easy?

Read on:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 4) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 5) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 6) A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 7) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 8) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 9) After going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer.

Helen Setchell

Helen Setchell already contributes wonderfully to our ministry through her work with children. Since she retired from teaching in September she has been prayerfully exploring whether God might be calling her to other types of ministry within the church. I am delighted that she has now decided to offer herself for selection as a candidate for Reader ministry. If her application is approved she will start training later this year. Reproduced below is the reflection (based on 1 Samuel 3) that Helen offered on a recent Wednesday morning. **David**

Reflection about God's Calling from Helen Setchell

Samuel's first prayer 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening' feels significant to me as within some recent Bible Study called 'The Way of Discipleship' I have been exploring how and when we may hear God's voice and more importantly, how and when we may hear God's calling.

I am reminded that prayer and reading the bible are key components of being with God. It is suggested that 'When we pray, we talk to God: when we read, God talks to us.' I have time now to think that all spiritual growth comes from reading and reflection and am being challenged by the words of Jesus 'Do you have eyes to see and ears to hear?' Can I (we) be like Samuel and have the capacity to hear God's word, listen, change and develop?

At the heart of discipleship is paying attention to God. In a specific way we are to be watching, listening, learning because as a previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams commented 'The Master is going to Speak'. As Christians, apprentices of Christ, we are those who hear his words and put them into practice day by day.

This feels overwhelming to say the least. I wonder how Samuel felt when God spoke to him and he simply said, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'. God's love invites me (us) to hear and listen as my (our) relationship with God is personal. He calls us to 'be with him' and he has communicated and does communicate with us in 2 very specific ways. Firstly, it is through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that we are able to see and understand God's purposes. And secondly it is through the gift of the Bible that we are able to both keep God before our minds and hear what he says to us personally.

As I am beginning this new exploration of what God has planned for me within our Parish of St Faith and St Laurence, I question myself. Can I hear God's voice? Can I pay attention and listen with my heart and soul with a view to obeying? With your help I hope that I too can say 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'.

I will end with a thought from Pope Francis. In 2020 he preached 'To follow Jesus, mere good works are not enough; we have to listen daily to his call. He, who alone knows us and who loves us fully, leads us to push out into the depths of life. That is why we need His word: So that we can hear, amid the thousands of other words in our daily lives, that one word that speaks to us not about things, but about life'. Amen

Asparagus: Love it or hate it?



Traditionally, the British asparagus season runs from St George's Day on 23 April to the Summer Solstice on 21 June. It is one of the earliest of ancient, annual vegetables and is like Marmite – you either love it or you hate it.

Although there is evidence of it being grown in the ancient world since Biblical times, it is never mentioned by name in the Bible and theologians seem to be divided as to whether it is classed as a good or a forbidden food. There have been times when the first crops of asparagus have been blessed in church, although some bishops have declared it sinful to do so. In the UK there are some local events such as the British Asparagus Festival on 23 April in Evesham and the Asparagus Harvest Festival on 27 May in Deeside that celebrate asparagus.

There are many different varieties, but four general types: green, white, purple, and wild. Within these four types there are many varieties with various colours, tastes, textures, and hardness. Some varieties of asparagus plants can live up to 30 years. There are some that are also grown for aesthetics and should not be consumed because they are toxic. To say the least, asparagus is controversial and if you look online you will find lots of different views on the mythical legends that have probably evolved from growers trying to sell their crops.

The blessing of asparagus at Worcester Cathedral on St. George's Day each year, is a unique and festive event but sparks mixed reactions. While some view it as a sign of God's provision, others say that it undermines the seriousness of worship.

The service has been defended by the cathedral, saying that offering the first fruits of the harvest is deeply embedded in both biblical and English tradition.



A modern Easter hymn

We shall go out with hope of resurrection

We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly.

Tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
We'll dream our dream: of hurts that can be healed.

We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken.
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed.

We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
Vibrating love alive in every heart.

We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,

We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
Including all within the circles of our love.

©1993 Stainer & Bell Ltd

This is a relatively modern hymn and may not be known by many of you. I first sang it, along with over 2000 others, at the inauguration service of John Sentamu as the Archbishop of York in York Minster on St. Andrews Day 2005. At the ceremony with African singing and dancing and contemporary music, John Sentamu himself played African drums during the service. We have sung this hymn at several of our Easter Vigil services over recent years.

It was written by June Boyce-Tillman in 1993. June has a particular interest in Music and Theology including Religious Education and regularly writes and takes workshops linking these areas together. She has done pioneering work in Interfaith dialogue, writing articles and speaking on interfaith and intercultural links in Britain and abroad.

She has written and spoken on women's role in church music and music in general, encouraging the promotion of music by women and holding workshops for women on composing. She is now Professor of Applied Music at The University of Winchester and ordained in the Anglican Church. She has written a great deal on music and peace making particularly in the area of interfaith dialogue.

The hymn is sung to the tune *Londonderry Air* which we also sing to the hymn *I cannot tell why He whom angels worship*. (Common Praise 54)

Peter Stokes

Many a true word.....

On how to edit a church magazine

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

So, your vicar has appointed you to be the magazine editor; I wonder what you have done to offend him. I appointed our magazine editor 20 years ago, after her dog dug up my rose bed. Sadly, she seems unaware that I gave it to her as a penance and has been happily carrying on ever since. She has even developed a nasty persistence when it comes to chasing me for a vicar's letter every month. Becoming editor has brought out the tyrant in her.

I applaud your hope that your magazine will be a great force for good in the community, but I fear you may be disappointed. You will hardly believe this, but many readers of our magazine seem to ignore my pastoral letter altogether, and instead scan the adverts for plumbers and undertakers – and even for both - if there has been a major burst in their pipes.

In any case, here are some editorial tips to bear in mind: if you want to keep any piece of church information confidential, then publish it in your magazine. On the other hand, if you accidentally transpose the names of the ladies responsible for the altar pedestal and lectern on the flower rota, it will be spotted within seconds of publication. And you will not be easily forgiven.

Staffing rotas can be helpful, so that people know who to blame when anything goes wrong. Reports of meetings of monthly groups are also welcome, because not everyone who goes to these meetings can stay awake the whole time, and thus a report informs them about the bits they slept through.

Always include a list of contact details for all the church officers, but don't worry if you mix up their various phone numbers. In fact, it can help get people talking to each other, because in order to reach the PCC Secretary, they will have had to phone most of the other PCC members first.

My final piece of advice is to omit any deadline for submission for the following month. A deadline is like a red rag to a bull, and simply incites people to break it. Whereas if you have them a bit worried that they may be left out, they will get you the copy in good time. I wish you many happy hours reading badly written copy, fending off fearful poems, and stalking your own vicar, in vain hopes of getting his clergy letter.

Your loving uncle, Eustace.

May God give us the courage to speak when you need to, the strength to refrain when it's appropriate, and the tact and wisdom to know the difference.

It's seems that some people don't need to pray 'Lead me not into temptation', because they can quite easily find the way there themselves.

The Royal British



Legion



Oldbury Branch

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Awarded to

MR V FISHER

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In aid of the Royal British Legion

2025 Poppy Appeal

Ian & Karen Price

Oldbury RBL Poppy Appeal Organisers

Easter poem

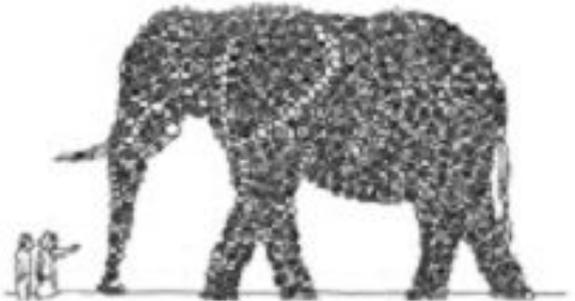
Tell me:
What came first
Easter or the egg?
Crucifixion or daffodils?
Three days in a tomb
or four days in Paris?
(returning Bank Holiday Monday).

When is a door
not a door?
When it is rolled away.
When is a body
not a body?
When it is risen.

WHAT THE FLOWER LADIES DO IN LENT



RELAX



UNDERTAKE PRIVATE COMMISSIONS



**MAKE PLANS FOR
CHRISTMAS**



**JET BACK FOR
MOTHERING SUNDAY**



PARTY

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT FAITH AND SAINT LAURENCE
HARBORNE B17 8RD**

At the junction of Balden and Croftdown Road

Registered Charity Number 1134152

SERVICES

SUNDAY 8am HOLY COMMUNION 2nd, 4th and 5th SUNDAYS

10am FAMILY COMMUNION 1st, 3rd and 5th SUNDAYS

SERVICE OF THE WORD 2nd and 4th SUNDAYS

6.30pm EVENSONG and SERMON

1st, 3rd and 5th SUNDAYS

6.30pm HOLY COMMUNION 4th SUNDAY

MORNING PRAYER: MONDAYS, TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS-IN LADY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAYS:11am HOLY COMMUNION-IN LADY CHAPEL

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