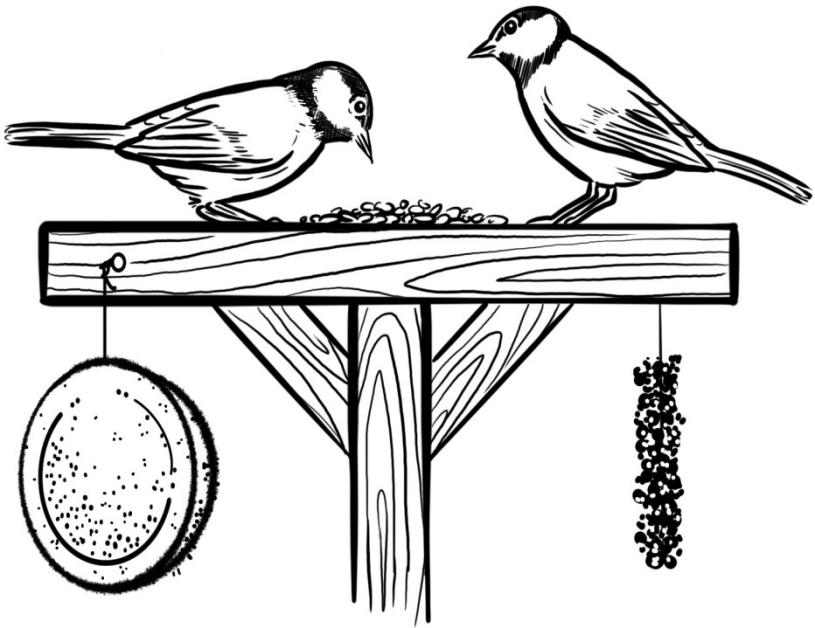


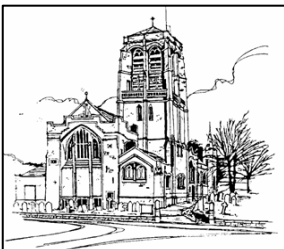
NEW LEAVES

PARISH MAGAZINE

St David's Church Exeter



APRIL 2026



SUGGESTED
VOLUNTARY
CONTRIBUTION

50p

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For services and events at St Michael's and All Angels CD, please see:
www.stmichaelsmountdinham.org.uk



WELCOME

The editorial team invites you to submit appropriate articles that reflect church, parish or community interest.

**Please send contributions as Word documents (if possible in A5 format, maximum 1000 words) to:
newleaves@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk**

All articles will be printed with the author's name.

The views expressed are those of the individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editors or the Church.

We hope you enjoy this month's read.

Although this magazine is free of charge, voluntary contributions would be gratefully received. This can be done via the wall safes found close to the exit of the west and north doors. Alternatively you can give them to a member of the editorial team. Many thanks.

We welcome critical comments on the magazine.

Editorial Team: Sarah, Susan and Alice



Regular Services and Events

Sundays:

9.30 -10.30 am Parish Communion from St David's Church; also streamed on Facebook

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church

Weekdays:

Tuesdays at 9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom

Tuesdays 10.30am – noon Friendship Café at St David's Church

Thursdays at 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church

Thursdays at 7pm Student group

If you don't already receive our regular weekly notice sheet by email and would like to, please contact Rev Mike Clark at notices@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

CLERGY GREETINGS

I once heard a children's song called *Good News*.

The first two lines of the song went like this:

'Good news – Jesus was born. Good news – he died on the cross.'

Not unreasonably, a child objected: 'They sang it wrong! They should have said, "Bad news – he died on the cross".'

It's hard to argue with that.

But this is the paradox at the heart of the Easter story, and of the gospel as a whole.

3rd April is Good Friday. The event remembered on this day is, of course, the death of Jesus Christ, crucified on a Roman cross. For his closest friends, and for many others there that day, this was anything but good news. Their hopes had been shattered.

They had thought that here was a man who was finally going to save his people;

here was a man who had lived out God's love in what he said and did;
here was a man who loved in a way more real, more amazing and more radical than anyone before him;
here was a man they believed was 'God with us'.

And now he was dead.

But on Sunday, something began to change. The one they had seen killed was alive again. At first there was confusion, disbelief, and slow recognition – but gradually they came to see that God had not abandoned them. Somehow, God had been at work even in the worst of events, bringing life out of death.

It took time for them to understand what it all meant. But they began to glimpse that Jesus really was who they had believed him to be, and that God has the power to bring hope even out of the darkest moments.

As the song says:

'Good news – Jesus was born. Good news – he died on the cross.
Good news – he rose again!'

May we know something of that transforming love of God in our own lives- especially in the moments that do not feel like good news.

Every blessing

Mike



READERS AND LEADERS IN PRAYER: APRIL 2026

Sunday 5 April: Easter Sunday

1st reading Acts 10.34-43
Gospel Reading John 20.1-18 or Matthew 28.1-10
Preacher Sarah Cumming
Bible Reader Sue Wilson
Leader in Prayer Jonathan Draper

Sunday 12 April: 2nd Sunday of Easter

1st reading Acts 2.14a, 22-32
Gospel Reading John 20.19-31
Preacher Sarah Cumming (TBC)
Bible Reader Geoff Crockett
Leader in Prayer Carol Burrows

Sunday 19 April: 3rd Sunday of Easter

1st reading Acts 2.14a, 36-41
Gospel Reading Luke 24.13-35
Preacher Mike Clark
Bible Reader Feng Jiang
Leader in Prayer Suki Coe

Sunday 26 April: 4th Sunday of Easter

1st reading Acts 2.42-47
Gospel Reading John 10.1-10
Preacher Moira Astin (Bishop of Crediton)
Bible Reader Charlotte Townsend
Leader in Prayer David James

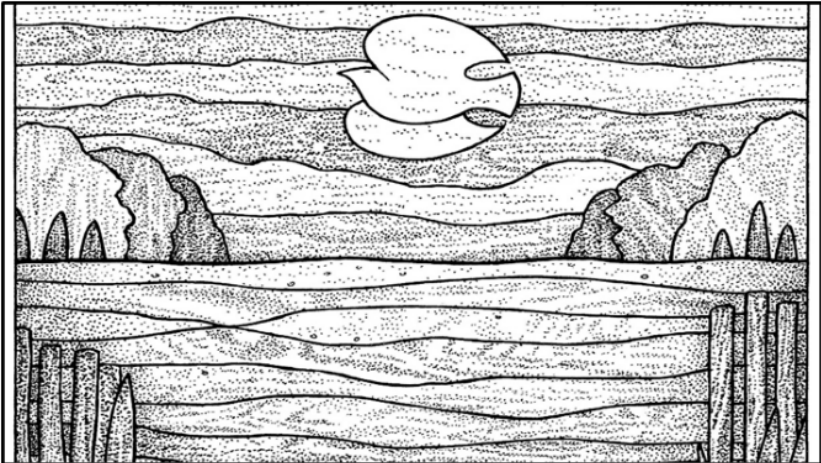
Sunday 3 May: 5th Sunday of Easter

1st reading Acts 7.55-60
Gospel Reading John 14.1-14
Preacher Suki Coe
Bible Reader Susan Mitchell
Leader in Prayer Howard Friend

ST DAVID'S PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER

April

- 5th Easter Sunday: Joy as we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ
- 12th Local cafés and coffee shops and pubs; all who work in hospitality in the parish
- 19th The PCC, our parish officers and administrator
- 26th The Listeners (Samaritans training initiative for Exeter Prison inmates)



PASTORAL REORGANISATION

We are now in the final stages of the reorganisation of the parish and the creation of a new parish of St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham.

At this point we are required to give legal formal notice of the plans and put them on display and publish them in different formats. This notice is posted in church and is on our website and Facebook page.

This is the formal notice:

“A Notice giving the objects of proposed pastoral reorganisation affecting this parish has been displayed near the main door and on the Church of England website. The Notice includes the last date by which representations regarding the proposed reorganisation may be made to the Church Commissioners.”

This date to respond by is 13th April.

St David's PCC has unanimously approved the plan, the details of which are in the pink labelled folder on the round table in church if you wish to view a hard copy. They are also available on the St David's Church website. We have written to the Church Commissioners to advise them that the plans are supported by the PCC and that we look forward to the flourishing of St David's and the parish of St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham under the new arrangements. The plan details that there will be two separate parishes, each with their own governance structure, and the patrons for both parishes will remain Exeter Cathedral. If there are no objections to the plan it will come into effect after the closing date.

Maggie Draper
March 2026

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

First presidential address

Dame Sarah Mullally, February 2026 General Synod

I stand here among you by no means for the first time, but for the first time as the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a humbling privilege to be called to serve in this role. It brings with it huge weight of responsibility, at a time when people love to remind me that the church faces significant challenges.

But when the wind and the waves are rocking the boat, I am reminded that what I need to do is to focus on Christ, who calms the waters and stills the wind. With your help and with God's grace, I pray that I am able to approach this ministry with calm, consistency and compassion – as we seek to be what the Church has for so long been: a stable presence in an unstable world.

Do, please, continue to pray for me in the months and years to come, as I will always pray for you. I do not carry my new responsibilities alone. We serve God's church together, lay and ordained; uniquely reflecting God's image into one another, and remembering His prayer that we should be one in our love for God and of one another.

At my Confirmation of Election, I was deeply moved to be asked, during the Charge which was given to me, to 'help the Church love itself more ... believing that its best days are still to come'. And I do believe that this is true. Through every challenge, our hope in Christ remains - and our confidence in the Gospel, as good news for our nation and for God's world, is not shaken.

I see God's Kingdom, the pearl of great price, revealed in countless places across the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. The Church of England is a Christian presence in every community. In parishes and chaplaincies across the country, day in and day out, faithful clergy and congregations worship God and love their neighbours. With every Eucharist that is offered, with every prayer said; with every child helped to flourish in our schools; with every family cared for in times of celebration and of sorrow; with every

night shelter and food bank; with each worship service, youth group and community lunch; with every effort to work for justice, dignity and fairness in our nation and our world – with all of this and so much more, we live out our calling to share the love of God with those around us.

And across the global Anglican Communion, in its profound diversity, we see Anglicans offering that same hope to a world around them: working for peace in places of war, caring for the sick and lifting up new generations of young people, and speaking of the hope that we find in Jesus Christ.

Because with Christ, the Church is there in all those places and with all those people, and the Kingdom is made known. I rejoice in every example I see of this – the pearl of great price - glimpsed in faithful, local, sensitive, intelligent ministry which embodies and speaks of the Kingdom.

So, what sort of Archbishop do I feel called to be? As I said when I accepted the nomination, as I respond to the Call of Christ in this new ministry, I remain rooted in my first calling: to follow Christ, to know Him – and to make Him known in the world. My Christian vocation first led me to become a nurse – then later a priest, then a bishop, and now an archbishop. The theme that has run through of all of these chapters of my life has been washing feet, and in serving and caring for others.

And so, I believe that I have been called to love and serve the Diocese of Canterbury, the Church of England, and the Anglican Communion, not through developing new programmes and initiatives, but by being a shepherd, who works collaboratively and in partnership, enabling others to flourish.

And I will work with you, Synod, with my fellow bishops, and with our national church bodies, striving to ensure that the Kingdom is being nurtured everywhere - in parishes, chaplaincies, cathedrals and schools, in the smallest and most fragile communities, as well as the larger and more confident expressions of church, wherever disciples seek to be salt and light.

The role of the Archbishop of Canterbury is a complex and challenging one. But at its heart is something profound and simple. Along with my fellow bishops, I am called to share the hope that we have found in Jesus Christ – and what that means for us all as individuals, and as a society. I pray that the thread running through my time as Archbishop will be that of nurturing confidence and hope, rooted not in institutions, but in God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With our confidence in God, we can believe that indeed, the best is yet to come for the church that we love and nurture, and therefore for the world that the church is called to serve.

As Archbishop of Canterbury, I commit myself to nurturing, supporting and praying for all our parishes, chaplaincies, cathedrals and schools, where quiet faithfulness is coupled with a readiness to respond to every opportunity, however small, to embody the hope of the Gospel at the heart of a community; where people, together, become places where the Kingdom happens.

As a shepherd, I will strive to be calm, consistent and compassionate to all. I commit myself to enabling the Church to be the Church. May we continue to offer ourselves in God's service for God's world: our hope rooted in the Gospel, and our confidence rooted in God, who holds the Church and its future in love.

Please pray for me as I pray for you. Amen.

Parish Pump News
April 2026



‘GET BACK TO WHERE YOU ONCE BELONGED’

Really? Is it a good idea to go back to where you ‘lived the dream’ – and perhaps try to relive it?

Well, that’s exactly what my brother, Andrew, and I did this February. Whilst the rest of you were awash with rain, we were enjoying the sunshine of rural Kenya.

We both started our careers there 50 years ago: he as an agriculturalist with TEAR Fund and me as a volunteer missionary doctor at Kapsowar Hospital. He with the Pokot people and me with the Kalenjin, not that far from each other, on the edge of the Rift Valley, north east of Eldoret.

When I was last there, there was one other British doctor and me, newly hatched with one year’s worth of London medical practice under my belt. Naturally, I thought I knew everything. Well, that didn’t last long. Not many arrow-piercing abdominal injuries in W1 in those days to prepare me for the reality of Bush medicine.

It was an adventure; it was exciting for a young man. Fortunately I was surrounded by experienced nurses who were very understanding – and forgiving of young blood.

I learnt a lot about a vastly different culture. How to respect it and how to work in a team. And I learnt a lot about living by faith.

Edwin was a young nurse, often helping us with translation on our ward rounds. He and I used to go hiking together. When we met again on this trip after 50 years I’m not sure who was the more surprised or pleased!

He had trained as a church pastor but more recently had just finished translating the whole Bible into Kalenjin, a lifetime’s work.

We had such a great time hearing each other's stories. How God had blessed us with children and grandchildren and much else besides.

The welcome I received from the present missionaries was overwhelming. 13 American surgeons and their families. 40 children, all home schooled. I was invited out for just about every meal of my 3 day stay.

Say what you will about Trump's America, Americans abroad are a different breed. The Chief Plastic Surgeon there is also a Hebrew scholar, and had lived in Jerusalem for quite a few years. He led a Bible study on the last chapter of Ecclesiastes. Really interesting on the more appropriate translation of that recurring, enigmatic, phrase, 'Vanity, vanity – all is vanity. (In short, 'Life is but a breath – so make the most of it' – with none of the implied futility of existence that the former translation implies).

The Hospital itself was much changed, as you would expect. It has become a regional surgical training centre, but with very few Kenyans, unfortunately. They prefer to stay in the cities, where private practice is possible and where there are good schools. (It's not so different in the UK).

So – was it a good idea to return? Yes, I think so. Kapsowar gave me the inspiration to work in Tropical Medicine. I met some inspirational folk there back then. Inspirational people work there now. Besides – and this is the overwhelmingly important reason for my return – I met Helen back then, in Nairobi, introduced to me by my brother Andrew. Shortly afterwards she made a surprise visit to see me in Kapsowar, not an easy journey in those days. That's when I knew my attraction to her might possibly be reciprocated!

48 years later – still going strong!

After our individual visits to our respective old haunts this time, Andrew and I flew down to the coast for a week's holiday. Such a good time together. The main thought being how influential that earlier time had

been for our lives, our careers, and how profoundly thankful we both have been for the way God has led us – all the way, all the time.

Howard Friend
March 2026



PRAYERS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

*Lord, You know that we love you.
You work for good with those who love you.
So work with us.
Work in us, and through us,
to show the world that good works,
show the landowner that good works,
show the rich young rulers of our day that good works,
show the managers of the multinationals that good works,
show the politicians that good works,
show the military powers
and show the civil servants that good works.
And convince us that good works,
so that we may continue to do good works
as a response to your love. Amen*

In an earlier edition of *New Leaves* I explained how a Christian Aid Week prayer leaflet introduced me to the Church of Scotland publication, *Prayers for Contemporary Worship*. The annual prayer leaflets drew on many sources. Some of the prayers were written specially for the Week, including the one above which appeared in the leaflet for 1984. (It followed the tradition of a punning slogan for Christian Aid Week: "Good Works". My favourite is still "Help those left behind in the human race"!)

The 1987 leaflet included the following prayer adapted from the work of the Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore:

*Where children walk without fear, heads held high;
Where knowledge for all youth is free;
Where society has not been broken into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Where the words of teachers and politicians spring out from the depths of truth;
Where the tireless striving of social reformers stretches its arms toward perfection;*

*Where the clear stream of creative culture has not lost its way in the
dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the minds of leaders, scientists and writers are led forward into
ever-widening thought and action;
Into that divinely given freedom, Father of all, let our world awake.*

I have been a Christian Aid supporter in various ways all my adult life. I have always been attracted by Christians from different traditions working together - across Britain, and across the World. Christian Aid Week is no longer characterised chiefly by the house-to-house collection which took us out from our buildings and onto our neighbours' doorsteps. But it is still an annual reminder that our churches do more than just appeal for building funds!

I end this piece with a prayer written by Janet Morley, a former Director of Christian Aid. Sadly, it is no less relevant today than it was when written more than 25 years ago.

*O God, compassionate and merciful,
where your children tear each other, you also are torn.
Full of confusion, longing for peace,
we bring you our violent world,
where the poorest pay the cost of powerful hatreds.
In this time of crisis, open our hearts and minds to your will,
and show us how to pray. Amen*

DAVID CANNON

March 2026



*Editors' note: Christian Aid Week is 10th-16th May
2026*

THE PRIMROSE

The primrose is the county flower of Devon, having been voted the flower that reflects the county more than any other. A nod to its early blooming, the name 'primrose' comes from the Medieval Latin *prima rosa* – 'first rose'.

Primroses are among the first flowers to open in spring, even starting as early as December or January in some areas in a mild winter.

Reaching their flowering peak in March and April, they turn shady corners into early nectar stations when few other plants are in bloom, helping bee-flies and overwintered butterflies get going – as well as lifting our own mood through dull, damp days.



Bee-flies are furry pollinators that hover above flowers to feed on nectar, using a long, straight proboscis (tubular mouthpart) to reach into long-tubed blooms like primroses. They look like tiny, fluffy bees, but are actually flies and don't sting.

As well as bee-flies, primroses attract common carder bumblebee queens and hairy-footed flower bees.

Your best chance of spotting them is on warm, sunny March days in open, sunny areas, hedgerow bases and path edges.

So next time you pass a bank of primroses, take a close look and see if you can spot them.

David Curry, former Diocesan Environmental Advisor
March 2026

SUSTAINABLE CHURCH FLOWERS

The General Synod recently backed a Motion from the Diocese of Worcester encouraging churches to explore ways of arranging flowers in both beautiful and environmentally responsible ways.

The Sustainable Church Flowers movement began as a grassroots initiative in a small rural parish, when volunteers started exploring how traditional flower-arranging methods could reflect the Church's commitment to caring for creation. It has since grown into a national and ecumenical network offering practical support to parishes. It encourages churches to consider using seasonal, locally sourced flowers and foliage, and to phase out single-use floral foam - a 1950s-era plastic product which cannot be recycled or composted, sheds micro-particles when handled, and contains the equivalent of up to ten carrier bags' worth of plastic per block. Since 2021, the Royal Horticultural Society has already prohibited floral foam at its shows, including Chelsea.

The motion highlights long-established alternatives such as reusable vessels, twigs, moss, chicken wire, and metal "frogs", which for centuries enabled churches to create arrangements without single-use plastics. It also celebrates the creativity of volunteers and the opportunity to support local growers and community gardens.

The Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick, said: "The Sustainable Church Flowers movement rejoices in flowers and foliage in church....and to rejoice in what's around you. Think simple, natural, beautiful."

The Sustainable Church Flowers provides online resources, tutorials and local ambassadors. More at: <https://suschurchflowers.com>



Adapted from an article in **Parish Pump News**
April 2026

COULD STAINED GLASS HAVE A ROLE IN MODERN-DAY MISSION?

Millions of people visit cathedrals and historic churches in the UK and around the world every year. St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey are among London's most popular tourist attractions.

In many English cities, it's the cathedral that tops the TripAdvisor list for ratings and reviews. Local churches that remain open through the week often find visitors drawn to them – to look around, pray, reflect, or simply pause amid busy lives.

When the Bible Society's Quiet Revival report was published last year, the headlines rightly focussed on the numbers of young people being drawn to church.

But, within the report's pages was another, perhaps surprising, finding. It was that one of the top three places for people with no religion, or non-practising Christians to encounter the Bible was while sightseeing in a cathedral or church.

This underlines the importance of churches making available good, printed material and displays explaining the Christian gospel. But it may also illustrate the importance of a form of Christian communication many modern-day evangelists may have ignored: the enduring appeal of stained glass.

Historian Janet Gough has recently produced *Divine Light*, a survey of some of the best stained glass in England's cathedrals. She explained, "The stained-glass windows of England's cathedrals illuminate interior spaces, communicate religious, historical and political messages, and perhaps offer us a glimpse of heaven."

Earlier examples of stained glass often depicted biblical scenes, illustrating scripture for those unable to read the accounts themselves. In today's society, dominated as it is by the visual image – from Instagram to YouTube, TikTok and Facebook – these colourful windows could help introduce contemporary people to Bible narratives and gospel truths.

There is much biblical truth to be found in stained glass windows for those who look with an inquiring mind. In many cases, some knowledge of scripture may help decipher the stories being told. In others, the viewer is invited to an encounter with the divine: to look in awe and wonder at the artistry, and to feel an emotional – perhaps spiritual – response to what we see.

In our supremely visual age, these works of art – both ancient and modern – can capture the attention and imagination of the millions who are drawn to our cathedrals and historic churches.

Revd Peter Crumpler, Church of England priest in St Albans
Parish Pump, April 2026



Editors' note: we are fortunate to have beautiful stained glass here in St David's, and to have had many informative articles written about it by Jeremy Lawford – see previous issues of New Leaves.

NEW LIFE AT EASTER

Easter is a very special time for most people. For Christians, it's celebrating the Resurrection, and others look forward to summer and of course, chocolate eggs.

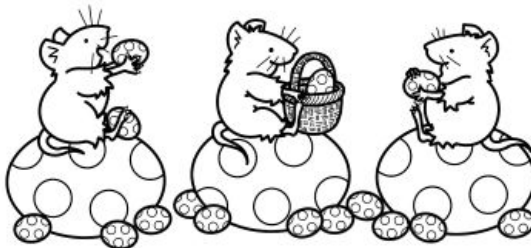
Easter of 1950 was extra special for my family. I was expecting our first child and the first grandchild for my parents. It was due on April 5th, but didn't arrive on time. I tried to hurry things along by going on a fairground ride called "Over the Sticks". It went round and up and down very fast. I also persuaded my brother to let me ride pillion on his motor bike going over as many bumps as possible. No luck.

My brother Peter, who was in the RAF, was due back at camp by Easter Monday. He was anxious to see his first nephew or niece, and nagged me all the weekend. Luckily, I managed to oblige him by giving birth before he had to leave.

Roger is now 75, but has had very few birthdays at Easter time.

Happy Easter to everyone!

Eileen Jarman
March 2026



ST DAVID'S MUSIC GROUP AKA 'THE BAND'



On the 3rd Sunday of the month, at St David's morning service, the choir and organist take a break. Instead, the music is led by our music group – a merry band of musicians which currently includes players on violin, flute, clarinet, guitar and keyboard.

The purpose of the music group is to:

- make heavenly music as part of the morning service
- be inclusive of all who wish to play – whatever their age or standard – supported by experienced players
- offer an optional, occasional opportunity to play solo or duet during communion with/without keyboard accompaniment

In the past, we have had players on recorder, oboe, viola, cello, saxophone, trumpet, bass guitar and harp.

The age range, to date, is 7 – 80+.



We welcome new players.

- University students have joined us for the duration of their course.
- Young children have joined us until they are grown up and leave home.
- Adult 'returners' have dusted off their instruments and rekindled a love of playing.

Come and try a Sunday if you like – play a hymn or two??

If you would like to find out more, speak to Robert or Susan at church or email:

instrumentalgroup@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

REGULAR EVENTS

- Martial Arts Medieval sword fighting
Monday 7pm - 9pm
irondoorcollective.co.uk
Contact the group on idxeter@gmail.com
- Friendship café Tuesday 10.30am – 12pm
- Bell Ringing Wednesday 7.30 – 9pm
- Lent Group Thursday 2pm
- Student Group Thursday 7pm, with food!
- Please talk to one of the clergy if
 you would like to know more
- Men's/Women's Saturday 9am (check newsletter for
Breakfasts dates and venues)



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

Including extra services for Easter

Maundy Thursday (2nd April) 7pm	Eucharist with foot washing and watch
Good Friday (3rd April) 2pm	Meditation with hymns
Saturday 4th April 2 – 4pm	Craft activities and Easter Egg Hunt
Monday 11th May 7pm	APCM

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

at St David's unless otherwise indicated

Saturday 11th April 7.30pm

Exeter Bach Choir: Haydn: *The Creation*

<https://exeterbachchoir.co.uk/events/creation-haydn/>





Try it out Tuesday at the Friendship Cafe

- **Try something new!**
- **Build confidence and take some time for yourself**
- **Enjoy a creative activity with a cuppa and a cake**



Scan QR code for
details and to book.

When: First Tuesday of each month, 10:30am-12noon

Where: The Friendship Cafe, St David's Church, Queens Terrace,
Exeter, EX4 4HR





Programme of Talks – April 2026

Exeter Forum's programme of weekly talks for April 2026 is shown below. Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings. The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Descriptions of talks and speakers also appear on the Exeter Forum website www.exeterforum.org, and in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members and to interested visitors. Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk. Late programme changes will be shown on the Exeter Forum website.

Wednesday 1 April 2026	Easter break	No meeting
Wednesday 8 April 2026	Easter break	No meeting
Wednesday 15 April 2026	Professor Martin Sorrell	The Phantom Train Professor Sorrell will describe antifascist Francesco Fausto Nitti's two-month journey on a deportation train from the South West of France to Dachau. Initially planned to last three days this was longest and probably the most eventful of all deportation journeys out of France during the Second World War.

Wednesday 22 April 2026	Lottie Dale	Falling With Style Lottie returns: Her dad was a pilot in WW2 – and she acquired his love of flying. Unable to afford flying lessons she learned how to fall out of perfectly serviceable aircraft. After her first at 31 years old in the next 17 years she completed more than 1200 skydives having been in Air Display Teams, taken part in British Record Jumps and competed at National Level.
Wednesday 29 April 2026	Sally Smith	The Women Who Went Round the World Sally will make a welcome return visit to follow up her talk on magnificent women in the air. This talk will look at the amazing journeys of women who circled the globe, by land, sea and air including the adventures they had and some of the trials they had to overcome. (This talk was postponed from 2025).
Wednesday 6 May 2026	AGM	The Exeter Forum AGM will follow a short 25 minute talk. Subject and speaker to be confirmed.

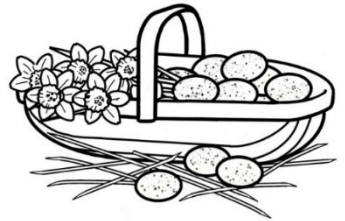


PRAYER AND POETRY CORNER

PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Although this prayer was written for International Women's Day, we think that it is relevant for all people – whatever their gender.

Let us pray for women
All over the world
Let us pray for women
Struggling every day
In crushing heat
And punishing cold
North, South, East and West
Carrying food and water...
Nurturing and cultivating
Conscientious and caring
Let us honour those women
Who knew drudgery and oppression
Branded as goods and chattels...
Awarded little value
Who gave birth to our ancestors
Yours and mine
Women who served as slaves
For over 5,000 years
Let us pray for women
Who have been excluded
From men's clubs
Polling stations
Government chambers
And hospitals...



Universities	Arenas
Places of worship	Pubs
Dining rooms	Schools

The opposite of change
Is stagnation...
Stagnation is spiritual death
But this path to enlightenment
Has illuminated the way for women
and men and children...

Revealing the beauty of potential unleashed
Creative achievement and compassion
So let us rejoice
And offer thanks
For those that embrace
Life, nature and womanhood:
Nurses, doctors, midwives
Poets, writers, artists
Musicians, scientists, teachers,
Lawyers, writers, ecologists
Mothers, and matriarchs
Priests, professors, painters
Pilots, police officers and project managers
Women all
And so...
This day, carried on the tide of change
We celebrate International Women's Day
With heartfelt joy
Together
Let us share a moment of gratitude...
Because the freedom of women is the key
That opens the door to love, hope and peace in our
world



POEM

An old familiar favourite by William Wordsworth which focusses on the healing power of nature, the joy of solitude and the lasting impact of memory. The poem illustrates how a vivid, joyful memory of nature can turn loneliness into a peaceful, spiritual experience.

I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

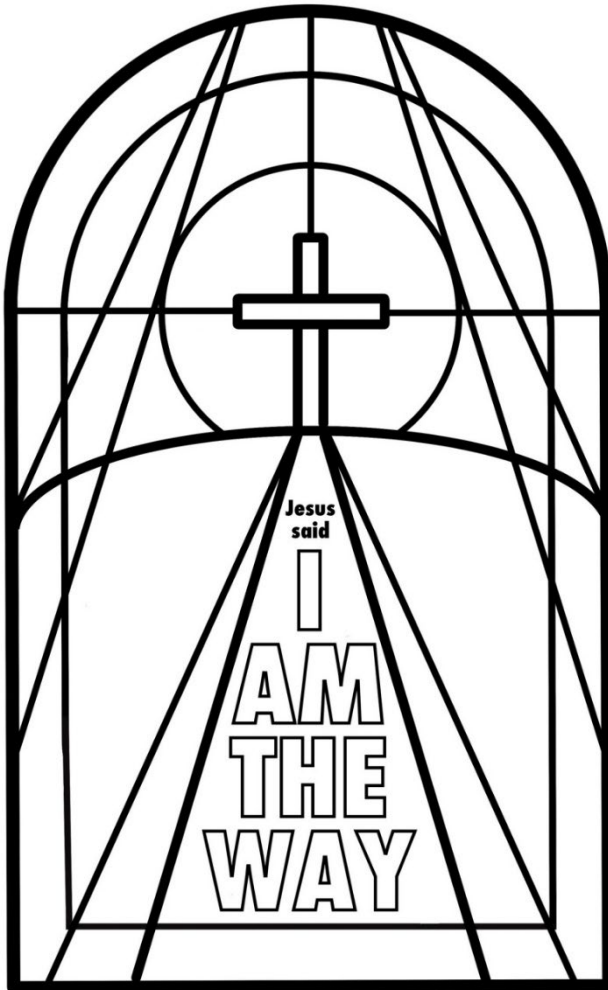
The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

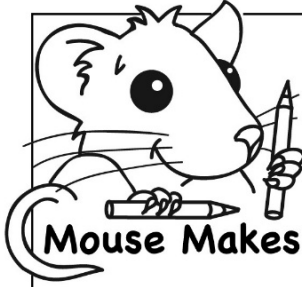
For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

William Wordsworth 1807

CREATIVE & MINDFUL MOMENT

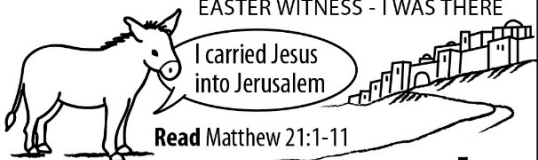
Let your creative juices flow, add colour or pattern
Bring your finished artworks to church
and share them with everyone!





GOOD NEWS
 OHOSANNA
 DEATHQB
 VNCOEUI
 UAHNAARO
 MIREVSU
 ALIVETDR
 RISENEOK
 YOTHORNS
 PALMSQKA
 RPILATEN
 CRUCIFYG
 RHIQUAKE
 OCJESUSL
 STOMBVDY
 SRYEMPTY

JESUS • DONKEY • PALMS
 HOSANNA • PILATE • THORNS
 CRUCIFY • NAIL • CROSS
 QUAKE • DEATH • BURY
 TOMB • STONE • EMPTY
 ANGEL • MARY • HEAVEN
 RISEN • ALIVE • GOD
 GOOD NEWS • CHRIST
 SAVIOUR • EASTER • JOY



EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE

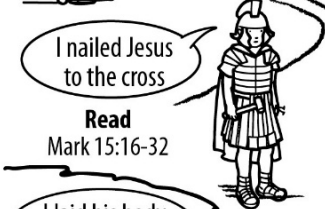
I carried Jesus into Jerusalem

Read Matthew 21:1-11



I handed Jesus over to be crucified

Read Matthew 27:11-26



I nailed Jesus to the cross

Read Mark 15:16-32



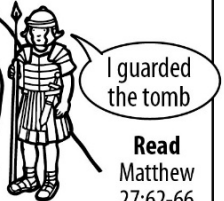
We watched Jesus die

Read Mark 15:33-41



I laid his body in my tomb

Read Mark 15:42-47



I guarded the tomb

Read Matthew 27:62-66



We saw the empty tomb

and spoke to the angel

Read Matthew 28:1-10



Jesus is alive!
He ate a meal with me!

Read Luke 24:13-35

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the Passover with the special meal. The disciples were bickering again.

I'm most important because I've known him the longest

But I'm the oldest!

I've given up the most to follow him!



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.

It was the job of the least important servant to wash everyone's feet...




The disciples didn't have a servant, and none of them wanted to do the feet washing...



Jesus took off his outer robe and tied a towel around his waist.



He filled a large bowl with water and started washing the disciples' feet.



Peter couldn't believe what he was seeing!



Are you really going to wash my feet?

You will understand later why I am doing this.



I can't ever let you serve me like this!

If you don't let me, you will no longer be my disciple



Then wash all of me!

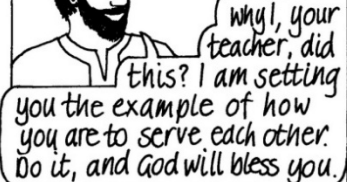
If you've had a bath, then you only need your feet washing!



Once Jesus had washed all their feet, he put his robe back on and sat down.



Do you understand why I, your teacher, did this? I am setting you the example of how you are to serve each other. Do it, and God will bless you.



The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



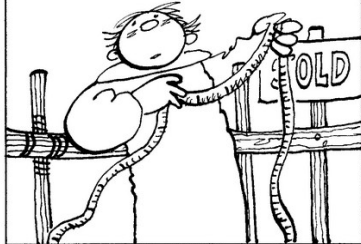
ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS



BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



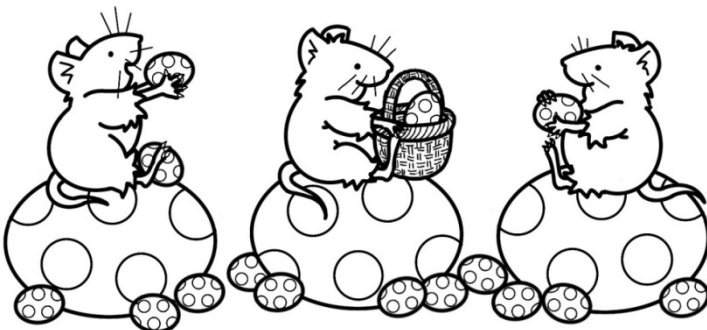
THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

SUDOKU (Medium)

Solution on Solutions Page

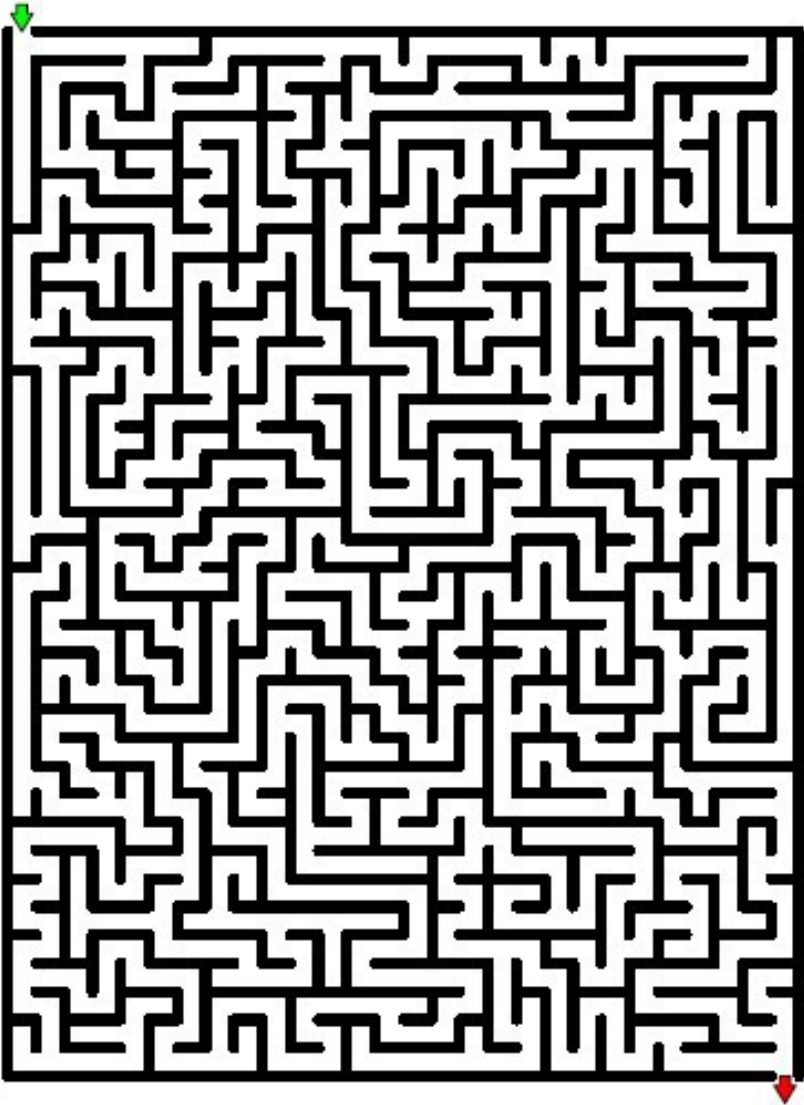
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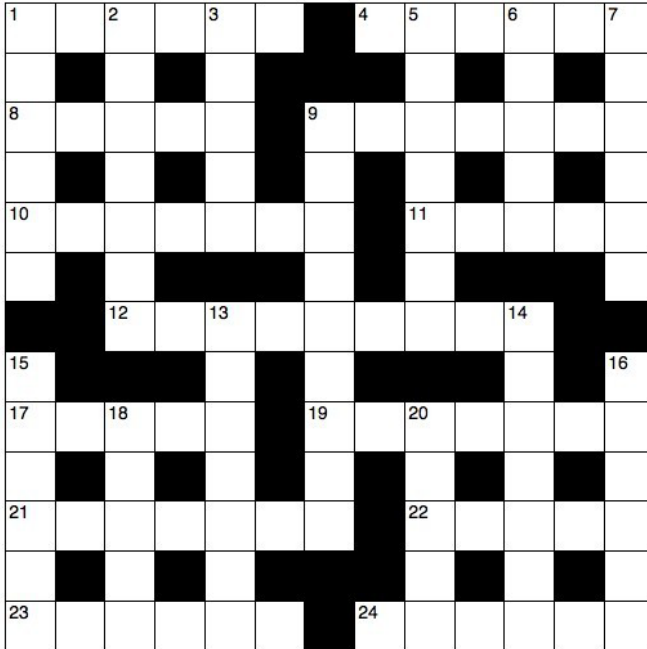
AMAZING MAZE

Start top left and exit bottom right



CROSSWORD

Solution on Solutions Page



Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is —. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)

- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles'
 (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to
 visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
 5 For example, the Crusades (4, 3)
 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all
 her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much
 wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
 15 The human mind or soul (6)
 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase;
 their bread is —' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not —'
 (Matthew 11:17) (5)
 20 Bared (anag.) (5)



WORD SEARCH

As Jesus ate the 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.



Jesus	Cup	Disciples	Wine
Ate	Removed	Warned	Drink
Last	Will	Betrayed	Covenant
Passover	Easter	Bread	Law
Meal	Approach	Blessed	Blood
Old	God	New	Body
	Gethsemane		Thanks

DOES YOUR PARTNER...

OR A FAMILY MEMBER LIVING WITH YOU...

...cut you off from family & friends?

...make you feel ugly, undesirable or useless?

...threaten you to get their own way?

...blame you for their behaviour?

...never admit that they are wrong?

...force you to do things you aren't comfortable with?

...misuse the Bible to excuse their behaviour towards you?

1 in 4 people experience domestic abuse - do not suffer in silence

If you believe you or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm, dial **999**

If you are concerned about someone you know, but unsure what to do, contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 01392 345909/ 345910/ 294969

If you believe you are experiencing domestic abuse and want to talk to someone, call the National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 or contact the Devon Domestic Abuse Support Service: 0345 155 1074



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EARTH DAY



Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG (formerly **Earth Day** Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. Ref: [Wikipedia](#)

2026

- **Date: April 22**
- Frequency: Annual
- Significance: Support for environmental protection

- **Some ways to celebrate Earth Day:**
- Biking or walking – instead of driving
- Planting trees, and recycling.



SOLUTIONS PAGE



C	O	S	M	I	C		T	H	O	M	A	S
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1	7	8	3	4	9	5	6	2
2	9	4	5	1	6	3	8	7

GOD IN THE SCIENCES

Dr Ruth Bancewicz, based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive links between Science & Christian faith.

The Beauty of Good Friday

Some of the most beautiful things in the world have an ugly side. What about the emperor penguin chick, nestling in a feathery pouch above its parent's feet? There's a lovely moment when mum and dad greet each other over the gaping beak of their fuzz-ball offspring. Heads bent together, making a heart shape in the air; we can't help seeing a reflection of our own ideals of love in the pair.

But the reality of what those birds are going through is even more gruelling than human parenthood. Father penguin has spent all winter sheltering the egg from freezing hurricane-force winds, while mother penguin was feeding at sea. When the chick hatched its parents started an exhausting game of tag, taking it in turns to walk across the ice and risk being eaten by leopard seals or killer whales, in order to catch fish for their new offspring.

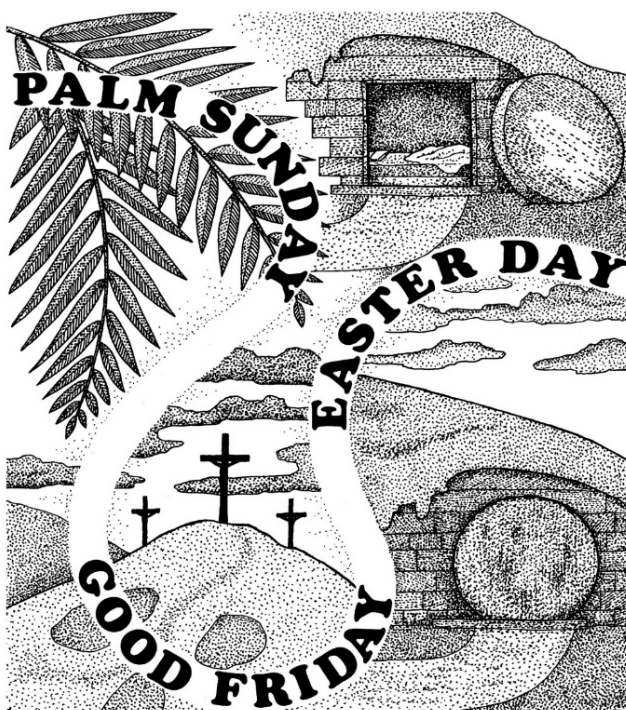
The living world is truly wonderful in so many ways, but the darker side of the picture is never far away. Creation is groaning (Romans 8:22), and just waiting to be rescued. Enter Jesus, through whom all of Creation was made. The king of the universe came to live with us, bringing His great love and wisdom to the human population of first-century Israel. The Creator was relating to His creation in a very personal way, and this could have been a totally beautiful picture.

But there is a horrifically ugly side of Jesus' story that threatens to obscure the beauty of what He did on Good Friday. It was a brutal and terrifying day when the Son of God was executed by His enemies, but thankfully there was much more to it than that. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ set off a seismic wave of spiritual events whose effects are still rippling out across the world.

So that ugly day over 2,000 years ago is called 'good' because of what it achieved. Those who follow Jesus find their lives are changed for the better, even if their day-to-day existence may still be incredibly tough.

When people come to understand what Creation is for and who it belongs to, they can begin to serve and preserve the earth as they should. These things are only whispers of what is to come, but they give me hope for the future redemption of all Creation. I can choose to dwell on the beauty of Jesus' death because it was not the end of the story – the future beckons.

This article is extracted (with permission) from [New Life: Reflections for Lent](#), edited by Amy Robinson and Wendy H Jones (£7.99).



QUOTES

Some miscellaneous observations on our Christian walk...

The trouble is, we won't let God help us. - *George MacDonald*

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position. - *Anon*

Exercise daily - walk with the Lord. - *Anon*

Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point. - *Anon*

Some observations on life...

At my age I ...get my daily paper, look at the obituaries page and if I'm not there, I carry on as usual. - *Patrick Moore*

Why do people who know the least, know it the loudest? - *Anon*

The heart has its reasons, which reason knows not, as we feel in a thousand instances. - *Blaise Pascal*



SMILE LINES

From a church notice-sheet

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Forgetfulness

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.

Economic definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

Don't delay

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today, because by that time there will be a tax on it.

Family pride

"Yes," boasted the woman to the visiting American priest, "my family can trace its ancestry back to William the Conqueror."

"I suppose," said the American, "You'll be telling me next that your ancestors were in the Ark with Noah."

"Certainly not. My people had a bigger boat of their own."

Miscellaneous observations

My mouth doesn't seem to have a backspace key.

Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law.

It's nice to see people with plenty of get-up-and-go, especially if some of them are visiting you.

DAYS OF NOTE IN APRIL

2nd April – Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, *mandare*. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should, "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

3rd April – Good Friday, Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, '*If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself*' (35, 37, 39). In their view a Messiah did not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: '*Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.*' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. Challenging the other man, he spoke of the injustice of the crucifixion: '*This man has done nothing wrong.*' He saw that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, confessed his guilt and in a wonderful expression of grace, said, '*remember me when You come into Your kingdom*'. In return, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death: '*Today you will be with Me in paradise.*'

5th April - Easter morning, the 'Other' Mary

As we hear traditional Easter story again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person to meet the risen Christ.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman', who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus. There is no evidence to prove she was 'fallen' but the contrast is clear between Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity, and Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. The two Marys, perhaps representing extremes, stood together at the cross.

The second great moment for Mary Magdalene was both unexpected and momentous. She went with other women to the tomb of Jesus but found it empty. Told by an angelic figure that Jesus was not there, He had risen, the others drifted off, but Mary stayed. Her subsequent encounter with Jesus, whom she took at first to be the gardener, but whom she instantly recognised when he said her name, led her to utter words that have echoed down the centuries: 'I have seen the Lord'. She is at the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

21st April - Anselm, the man who proved there is a God

Anselm's *Proslogion*, written 1077-8, sets out the 'ontological' proof for God's existence. Nearly ten centuries later, it is still studied by theological students as one of the great philosophical 'proofs' of God's existence.

Anselm was born at Aosta, Italy, in 1033. In time he decided to become a Benedictine monk, and joined Lanfranc's famous monastery at Bec (c. 1060). He became prior, then abbot. He was loved by his monks, appreciated for his sensitivity and intuitiveness. He remained friends also with Lanfranc, who had gone on to be Archbishop of Canterbury, and after Lanfranc's death, reluctantly agreed to take on the job himself.

Anselm was committed to what he saw as the cause of God and the Church, and had no time for temporal politics. This did not please the kings of his time: he was exiled both by William Rufus in 1097 and King Henry I in 1103. Peace between archbishop and monarch was not achieved until 1106.

25th April - Mark, disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and the 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, Bishop of Hierapolis in modern-day Turkey, said in 130 that Mark became Peter's interpreter in later years. If this is so, the close friendship between the two would explain how Mark gained access to so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive in Rome, Mark was with him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died around 74 CE.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion, and is much in evidence in Venice.



**The deadline for inclusion of
articles for the next issue of
New Leaves (May) is:
Sunday 19th April 2026**

Please send any information, articles or images you'd like to submit for inclusion in future issues to the editorial team at:

newleaves@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk

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Thank you to Graham Lerwill for organising the printing of this magazine – we very much appreciate his hard work.