

The April Letter

The real message of Easter

‘When you die, that’s it. Nothing. Out like a light.’ That’s what the man in the pub said, and his mates all nodded, though the one whose mother had died the week before wasn’t really quite so certain.

Still, it seemed to make sense. After all, we know what ‘dead’ means: dead leaves, dead batteries, dead fish, dead pets . . . and dead people, to be honest. While we recognise that it’s all too easy to go from alive to dead, we’ve got serious doubts about the possibility of any return journeys.

Which is why Christians have an uphill task at Easter. Jesus was a great man, and people want to remember how He died. Fair enough. But it starts getting complicated when Christians insist that Jesus died but didn’t stay dead - in fact, that He’s alive now. That ‘return journey’ has happened, they say.

That’s the problem about Easter. Christians persisting in what sounds like a ridiculous belief. If they just dropped the resurrection bit, and concentrated on the wonderful teaching of Jesus and His example of generosity, compassion and love then everybody would find Christianity much more believable. Wouldn’t that make sense? And wouldn’t that fill the churches again?

Well it might (or, more likely, it might not). But in any case, the trouble is that it wouldn’t be Christianity at all. The faith of Christians actually depends on the resurrection of Jesus, and always has done, right from the earliest days. After the crucifixion the body of Jesus was taken down from the cross by some of His friends and put in a rock tomb with a heavy stone. But after His death, His followers claimed that they had met Him, seen Him, talked with Him.

So certain was their belief that nothing could make them recant it. Not ridicule, not torture, not even death itself. They couldn’t do it because they were absolutely convinced that it had happened. Plenty of clever and powerful people at the time had a vested interest in proving them wrong. It shouldn’t have been difficult to prove that a dead man had

stayed dead, especially when you have at your disposal the resources of the greatest empire in history. Yet they didn't do it, because it couldn't be done.

Still today millions of people all over the world believe that Jesus did in fact rise from the dead. They include brilliant scientists and philosophers as well as plenty of 'ordinary' men and women of all ages. They believe it because they respect the witness of those first Christians, and because in many cases their own lives have been transformed by a relationship with Jesus - a relationship that wouldn't make sense if He were dead!

Christians don't put their faith in a dead hero from the past, but in Someone who is alive and active in their own lives and in the world. That, in a nutshell, is the real message of Easter.

Happy Easter!

APRIL PARISH DIARY

SUNDAY 2ND FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30 a.m. Said Communion
10.00 a.m. Refreshments in hall
10.30 a.m. All Age Worship

Tuesday 4th 10.45 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House
12 noon Knit and Natter
7.30 p.m. Adult Tap Dancing

Wednesday 5th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
7.30 p.m. Social Committee Meeting in Vestry

Thursday 6th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 9TH PALM SUNDAY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Tuesday 11th 12 noon Knit and Natter
7.00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
7.30 p.m. Adult Tap Dancing

Wednesday 12th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 11.30 a.m. Ing's Way Lunch Day
 Thursday 13th 11.00 a.m. Service of Oils at Bradford Cathedral
 7.00 p.m. Stripping of the Altar, with Communion
 and Vigil
 Friday 14th 10.30 a.m. Youth service
 11.15 a.m. Building the Tomb
 11.30 a.m. Walk of Witness from Ladyhill Park
 2.30 p.m. Proclamation of the Cross

SUNDAY 16TH EASTER DAY

10.00 a.m. Parade and Family Service
 Wednesday 19th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's
 Thursday 20th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 23RD SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
 11.00 a.m. Messy Church
 Tuesday 25th 12 noon Knit and Natter
 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing
 Wednesday 26th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion
 6.15 p.m. Cub Scouts
 Thursday 27th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 6.00 p.m. Beaver Scouts
 7.30 p.m. Scouts

SUNDAY 30TH THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Easter Eggs

Though a great success commercially
 We ask (if controversially)
 Are the lessons of the lectionary
 Really found in such confectionary?

By Nigel Beeton
 © Parish Pump

Holy Week and Easter

There will be a full range of services to mark Holy Week and Easter. Please come to as many as you can - and invite friends and family.

Sunday 9th April - Palm Sunday

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion with procession of Crosses and
Dramatised Gospel reading

Tuesday 11th

7.00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 12th

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

11.30 a.m. Ing's Way Lunch Day

Thursday 13th - Maundy Thursday

11.00 a.m. Service of Oils at Bradford Cathedral

7.00 p.m. Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar and Vigil

Friday 14th - Good Friday

10.30 a.m. Children's service

11.15 a.m. Building the Tomb

11.30 a.m. Walk of Witness from Ladyhill Park to Allerton
Congregational Church for lunch

2.30 p.m. Proclamation of the Cross

Sunday 16th - Easter Day

10.00 a.m. Parade and Family Service.

The trees that remind us of Easter

Yew trees are linked with Resurrection, exemplifying on-going Life, which makes them extra special around Easter. They are probably the oldest living organisms in Europe, with one in the churchyard of Fortingall, in Perthshire, thought to be as much as 5,000 years old – which made it already about 3,000 years old on the first Easter!

For centuries, yews have been revered as sacred, and it is easy to see why: yews are dense, dark evergreens, with bright red poisonous berries, and the most amazing power to regenerate. Cut a yew back, and it will regrow. Drop a branch and it can form new roots. Beams made of yew have even been known to sprout again, long after they have been built into houses. Some people believe that yews began as cuttings from the original Tree of Life, some of which were taken to the British Isles in the dawn of the world.

St. Saviour's Magazine

The magazine has been in existence for some 60 years and has witnessed many events, both connected to the church and to the wider community.

When it began, the congregation was meeting in the Mission Chapel in Jesse Street but moves were already afoot for the building of the new church and the move to our present premises. There will have been plenty of tales to tell of the highs and lows of achieving this, but we are grateful for the dedication, commitment and perseverance which meant they finally succeeded.

The magazine has tried to convey a sense of the spirit of St. Saviour's - with a mixture of news, reports on events, notices of what is forthcoming, some general articles on religious and other topics—and humour. For, although it is necessary to be serious at times, laughter is the best vehicle for bringing people together, however diverse they may seem.

There have been moments of great joy - births, marriages, anniversaries, appointments of new vicars, organists etc., and those of great sadness as loved members have died, moved away or had to step down from a role for some reason. We have celebrated the seasons of the church year, marked important events in the national and church calendar, and generally tried to keep people in touch with what is happening.

Over the years many people have been involved in the production of the magazine - in writing articles, planning the format of each issue, assisting with the printing, stapling and bundling up of issues and in delivering the copies to those who would like to read them. We are grateful to all who have helped in any way and especially to those who have shown an interest in our church and received copies.

It is sad to see the end of this little venture, but times change and probably the days of the printed word are declining in favour of electronic formats. It is time to embrace the new and say goodbye to the good old Parish mag.

Hilary Davis

A Tale to Two Diamond Jubilee Bibles.

Ian Mc Alpine.

I expect that many readers have seen and perhaps own copies of the New Testament (New International Version) which were distributed free of charge by the Church of England to commemorate H.M. the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. They contain many photographs of the Queen and her family, together with all sorts of information about her and her deep commitment to the Christian Faith. The Testaments are in standard modern paperback format and are attractively produced, with the Union Flag on the front cover and the title "NEW TESTAMENT - TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE 2012".

However, one day in 2016 I came across a Bible produced to commemorate another, far earlier, Diamond Jubilee - that of Queen Victoria in 1897! In over forty years of rescuing and collecting old Bibles this was the only one I had ever seen which celebrated the Jubilee of 1897. Quite a find! Needless to say, it somehow found its way back to Fairweather Green!

The two Bibles - the 2012 New Testament and the 1897 complete Bible - could hardly have been more different in their appearance. The Victorian text was printed at Cambridge University Press for the British and Foreign Bible Society. As one would expect, it contained the 1611 King James Version of the Bible - practically the only one in print 120 years ago - and was bound in soft black leather, somewhat worn after well over a century. The pages were edged in gilt, something we only rarely see on books today and the front cover was inscribed in gold "IN COMMEMORATION OF SIXTY YEARS' REIGN V.R. 1837 - 1897". The words were surmounted by a royal crown and were above an open copy of the Bible. There were no illustrations or information about Queen Victoria and her family, just the standard text of the Authorised Version of the Bible. By 1897 it was possible to print photographs in books - the technology had been around for a few years and had been used to produce large and attractive commemorative books about the Jubilee which can still be found today. And only five years later in

1902 a Revised Version was printed to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII which contained a black and white photograph of the King with Queen Alexandra. However, the publishers of the 1897 Bible were content to produce something far less interesting and relevant - a worthwhile opportunity wasted. All they did was stamp a decorative gold motif and lettering on the front cover of an ordinary King James Bible.

Although the 2012 commemorative Bibles were quite cheaply produced they nevertheless have a strong visual appeal and their modern text is far more readable than the King James Version. The Royal Family and society as a whole have changed beyond recognition since Queen Victoria's day and it is pleasing to see that the 2012 Jubilee was celebrated by a Bible so much more relevant to the needs of modern society.

All Age

Worship

Sunday 2nd April

*10.00 a.m. Snacks and
drinks*

10.30 a.m. Short

Service starts

Come and join us; everybody welcome

**First Sunday
of the Month**

Messy Church

Sunday 23rd April

11.00 a.m. in the hall

**Games, Food,
Activities, Songs,
Stories**

**For all the Family
Fourth Sunday
of the Month**

Report from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Following the service on Sunday 19th March, we all gathered in the hall to consider the reports about the work of the church and to elect various officials.

At last year's APCM Kaaren Raistrick came to the end of her 6-year stint as warden, but extended her term of office to be able to oversee the celebrations for our 50th Anniversary in September. This she did with her usual flair and efficiency and we are most grateful to her for that and for her dedication as Warden. She was unable to be with us for the meeting, but sent her thanks for the support she received and for the gift voucher and theatre tokens we gave her as a mark of our appreciation on her "retirement". Grace Studholme stepped into Kaaren's shoes at the beginning of October and we are most grateful to her and to Patrick Preston, who continued with his duties as well as guiding Grace in hers. Both Patrick and Grace were willing to stand again and we were all most grateful to re-appoint them.

Eric Heywood, Joyce Ashton and James Muff came to the end of their 3-year term of office on the PCC. Eric and Joyce were willing to stand

again, but James took the decision to stand down. No one else came forward as a candidate, so those two were re-appointed to join Wendy Heywood, Fiona Graham and Hilary Davis as elected members of PCC.

It was also the year when we elect lay representatives to the Deanery Synod. Ian McAlpine and Jean Bailey had both indicated their willingness to stand again but, sadly, Jean's sudden and serious illness will prevent her from so doing. Ian was duly re-elected and thanks were expressed for their work in the past.

The sidespeople currently performing this important task of welcoming people into our church were all re-appointed with thanks for their diligence in carrying out their duties, and we were delighted to welcome Valerie Priestley as a new recruit.

We then heard reports from all the many and varied groups who use our premises and make sure we're not just here on Sundays! So much excellent work goes on with all sorts of groups in so many areas of life and we are truly grateful for the hard work, dedication and love which the leaders and organisers put into them.

Dorothy then gave her appraisal of the past year and thanked all for their support. Highlights were the 50th Anniversary celebrations, the completion of the work under the HLF grant, the starting of our new rota of services and all the work that has gone on in with the groups. Dorothy is aware that people are working hard to keep the church running—in high-profile roles, behind the scenes and out in the community—but would like more people to consider ways in which they could help. The loss of James as our Treasurer has been a big blow and, even with his continuing help and support, we are struggling to cope with the challenge of managing our finances. We are not alone in this, however, as several churches are having the same problems. Dorothy was thanked for the tremendous amount of work she has done over the year.

So, after 17 years as PCC Secretary, (and several doing many other admin jobs) this was my last APCM and I was presented with cards and flowers which were very much appreciated—as were the kind words and good wishes. *Hilary Davis*

The Other Mary

Canon David Winter, Former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

The Easter story in the Gospels is full of wonderful cameos. Among them, one stands out for me for sheer emotional power and deep insight. It's the story of Mary Magdalene.

Jesus had rescued her from a life of depravity ('seven devils' is the Bible's phrase). For this she repaid Him with the most powerful adoration and love. She stood beside His mother, the 'other' Mary, at the foot of the cross as Jesus was crucified. On Sunday morning she went with other women disciples to the tomb to anoint His body. When they arrived they found the tomb was empty. They were told, by someone they took to be an angel, that Jesus of Nazareth wasn't there because He had 'risen'. The other women left, but a distraught Mary waited outside the tomb, weeping.

A man appeared, whom she took to be the gardener. 'Why are you weeping?' He asked. 'What are you looking for?'

'They have taken away my Lord,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have laid Him'.

The man then spoke one word, which changed her life for ever. 'Mary', He said, using the familiar form of her name. 'Teacher!' she cried, and made to embrace Him.

'Don't touch me,' He said. 'I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go and tell the others'. She did, and became the first person after the resurrection to say, 'I have seen the Lord'. She would see Him again, of course, in the upper room with the other disciples, but then never again on earth, until she saw Him in His ascended glory, not as the carpenter's son but as the Son of God.

It really is some story!

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What can I eat for Easter?

Can't eat beef.....mad cow.

Can't eat chicken..... bird flu.

Can't eat eggs..... Salmonella.

Can't eat pork.....fears that bird flu will infect piggies. Also trichinosis.

Can't eat fish..... heavy metals in the waters.

Can't eat fruits and veggies..... insecticides and herbicides.

Can't eat potatoes, pasta, bread, rice.....nasty carbs .

Hmmmmmmmm! I believe that leaves.....chocolate.

Twitter

A man walked into a church and approached the minister. "I need help. I think I'm addicted to Twitter." The minister looked at him and said gently, "I'm so sorry, I don't follow you."

First things first

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson on the Atonement. 'So, can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?'

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy put up his hand. 'Sin?' he said.

Butterfly or bunny biscuits

These are pretty biscuits for Easter. You will need:

Biscuit: 120g butter; 60g caster sugar; 180g plain flour; a little lemon zest

Icing: a few drops of vanilla essence, icing sugar, lemon juice, few drops of food colouring

Cutters or paper templates in the shape of a butterfly or bunny

Method: Mix together the biscuit ingredients, add water to bind them.

Knead the dough, wrap it in cling-film and chill for two hours. Then roll out to a thickness of 8mm and cut out the shapes using a butterfly cutter or a paper template. Bake in preheated oven at 180 degrees C (gas mark 4) for 20 minutes. To make the icing, mix the icing sugar with lemon juice and food colouring. Pipe or spread the icing and leave it to set.

23rd April: St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St. George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St. George slew the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St. George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion.

Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in a daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

- Where there's smoke, there's dinner.
- Which came first, the chicken or the various things that taste like chicken?
- At the rate things are changing, anyone nostalgic for the “good old days” is yearning for last week.

Notes from the PCC

It was time again, at the March PCC meeting, to look at the church's finances by examining the annual accounts which will be presented to the APCM. As we have been using new software funded by the Diocese to record our incomings and outgoings, comparison with previous years has been difficult. The Accounts were fully examined by the Diocese's Finance Officer and were passed as complete and correct, so we are confident all is in order. It will take a little while for our inexperienced team to fully understand them, though!

As we are struggling to find replacements for the treasurer, PCC Secretary, administrator and, following Jean Bailey's sad and sudden serious illness, leaders for our new services, we are to hold an extraordinary meeting at the end of March to look at how we can fill these roles.

As mentioned, the number of elected members we are allowed on the PCC has now been reduced from 9 to 6 as the number on the Electoral Roll fell to 50 at the recent revision. This has mostly been taken care of by natural wastage as Keith West and Margaret Holdsworth, who had to stand down because of ill health at last year's APCM, were not replaced, and Kaaren Raistrick has since resigned. We are sad, too, that James Muff has also decided to call it a day, so there will be at least one extra person needed to keep up our numbers.

Plans for the projected extra work in church went before the Diocesan Advisory Committee on 21st March, so we very much hope we will soon be able to make a start on installing the projector and screen, new heater in church, replacement heaters in the vestries and chapel, extra electrical sockets and replacement lighting tubes. Eventually, we hope to have the building up to scratch.

We are beginning to plan social activities for the year, so please look out for details of these as they emerge. As this is the last edition of the magazine, information in future can be found on the weekly notice sheets in church and on the website www.stsavioursfwg.org.uk Do please keep in touch through these and support the events as best you can. *Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary*

April Roll of Remembrance

1st	Alfred Lunnon	(1966)
8th	Kenneth Blackburn	(1958)
11th	Maurice Howard	(1975)
	Jean Collins	(2001)
	Reginald Sollis	(2003)
12th	Percy Wigglesworth	(1975)
14th	Frank Size	(1962)
18th	Annie Ingham	(1986)
20th	Ernest Holroyd	(1984)
21st	Elizabeth Chater	(1966)
	Bertha Hayhurst	(1994)
22nd	Clifford Thorpe	(1980)
	James Hester	(1984)
23rd	Kathleen Walker	(1983)
	Evelyn Chater	(1983)
24th	Richard Woodyet	(1984)
	Val Ward	(2016)
26th	William Albert Went	(1956)
28th	Sophia Kay	(1980)
	Edith Heatherington	(1983)
29th	David Spence	(1996)
30th	William Perkins	(1958)

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