

THE BEACON

The Parish Magazine of All Saints',
Sedgley, and St. Andrew's, The Straits



50p
April 2016

SERVICES

ALL SAINTS', SEDGLEY

Sunday Services

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Parish Communion (First Sunday: All-Age Worship)

6.30 p.m. Evensong (BCP)

ST. ANDREW'S, THE STRAITS

Sunday Service

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd Sunday: Morning Prayer)

ST. PETER'S, UPPER GORNAL

Sunday Service

10.30 a.m. Parish Communion

Wednesday Service

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the three churches in the Team Ministry meet for a united service at either 9.30 a.m. or 10.30 a.m. depending on the venue.

During the vacancy at All Saints', there will be no mid-week communion services. There are communion services on Wednesdays at St Peter's at 10.00am and at St. Andrew's at 7.00pm. The vestry hour will be held on Sundays in All Saints' at 12.00 noon.

WHO'S WHO

Team Rector	Vacant	
Team Vicar	The Revd. Andy Stand <i>Day Off Monday</i>	01902 883467
Licensed Lay Minister	Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 680727
Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Parish Office	Gail Griffiths <i>For information RE baptisms, weddings, funerals, and hall bookings.</i>	01902 540289
Parish	Rob Lavender	01902 661325
Wardens	Keith Tomlinson	01902 673366
Caretaker	Dave Bell	07933 204132
Server / Verger	Len Millard	01902 676339
Junior Church	Barbara Price	01902 676591
Brownies	Heather Churm	01902 674709
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Men's Society	Roger Berry	01902 881374
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Noah's Ark	Linda Edwards	01902 672556
Parent & Toddler Group		
Rainbows	Liz Naylor	07827 629648
Youth Group	Laura Robinson	01902 678572

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL 2016

5th April 2016	MU Do You Remember When—Mr J Mobberley	2.30pm
12th April 2016	DCC	7.00pm
18th April 2016	Men's Society—Day In The Life Of The Magistrates Court Angela Wakefield	7.30pm
19th April 2016	MU Talk—Val Rushton	7.30pm
24th April	APCM at St Peters	12 noon

CHURCH REGISTERS

CHURCH REGISTERS

All Saints' Baptism	20th March 2016	Jacob Paul Robinson
All Saints Wedding	12th March 2016	Elizabeth Ann Stevens to Lee Steven Gripton
Funeral	11 March 2016	Doreen Aldington
	18th March 2016	John Dudley
	22nd March 2016	Doris Zielonka

THE BEACON

If you are interested in having the magazine delivered to your home on a regular basis please contact Rob Lavender: tel. 01902 661325. *The Beacon* is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5.

Articles for the May magazine need to be sent to
magazineeditor@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by Sunday 17th April and need to be typed in font Times New Roman size 16

PARISH WEBSITE: www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

If I were to ask you a question, without referring to your bible could you tell me how many times Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection? Well it was twelve times, the first time was in the garden to the tomb where Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and the last appearance was at the Accession of our Lord.

Of all the appearance there are two that stick in my mind which perhaps help me when sometimes I am at a low point.

The disciples on their way to Emmaus are thinking about the story they had heard about that Jesus had risen from the dead. Suddenly Jesus joins them on that road but they did not know it was him till they were in the upper room and he was breaking bread with them. Often we do not realise sometimes that Jesus is walking with us every day loving and caring for us.

Almost at the same time Jesus appears in the room where the disciples are gathered, including those who had walked the road to Emmaus. Thomas was absent at this time and would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead; he says " Unless I put my hands into Jesus wounds then I will not believe that Jesus is risen" Jesus then appears again to the apostles and Thomas is with them. Thomas makes that wonderful and remarkable confession "My Lord and My God" Surely we should say this daily because Jesus is our Lord and our God.

The Bible says that Jesus made a number of appearances following His death. The Bible specifically says on that Easter morning Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene the woman who came to the tomb.

These are just a few reflections of the resurrection appearances but it was enough to convince the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead and we as fellow Christians beyond any doubt know that Jesus is alive today.

Jesus Lives!

Bob

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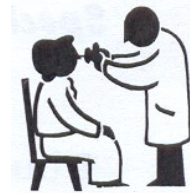
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MOTHERS' UNION

Celebrating 140th anniversary

Archbishop Justin Welby affirmed the work and witness of the Mothers' Union when he led the service of reaffirmation for our World Wide President, Lynne Temby, last month. Speaking on Psalm 6, the Archbishop said, "The Mothers' Union in so many places is an organisation that listens to the voices of the weeping. Whether it's in Burundi, the Congo or South Sudan; whether it's in homes in cities where when the local football team loses there is a 50 percent increase in domestic violence; whether it is in the loneliness of weeping by people who are not suffering physically but are spiritually empty and lost; it is the Mothers' Union that exists in the vision of Mary Sumner to speak of those things that God has provided that bring hope, help and a future. Central to this vision, he said, is an extraordinary movement to support the family. There has never been a time when the family was not a place that needed the light of Christ shining within it to become what God has called it to be. But there is also such a need for global women's groups, and you are among the most embedded, the most effective, the most widespread. There are few that can rival you – if any. Nine-tenths of your work is hidden in the parishes and the dioceses, in the hills and the villages doing the work of bringing hope and strengthening families, of supporting churches, of transforming communities."

Our evening meeting in February was an informal look at people, places and memories that hold a special place in our hearts, through photographs.

In March Revd. Emma Stanford led our afternoon meeting in a meditation on one of the Stations of the Cross. Emma brought a very vibrant painting entitled 'No Words' showing the central wood of the cross with the backs of two people, Jesus and his mother Mary, either side of the cross, leaning into the cross. Their hands touch around the cross but their faces are hidden by the wood. The meditation allowed us to reflect on the emotions they would be feeling and how this would show on their faces.

Our Diocesan President Liz, and her husband, Bob, came to our evening meeting to tell us about their visit to one of our link diocese, West Ankola, in Uganda. Liz was to speak at an open air event at which there were 5000 Mothers' Union members, bishops and clergy. It was amazing to see the members, all in MU dress, singing and dancing and praising God. Many members having travelled to be at the event with their baby under one arm and a sleeping bag under the other. Liz told the members there about the work we do in the Worcester Diocese and ended by getting everyone to turn to the person next to them and pray with them – truly 'United in Prayer'. Members in Uganda are all women and they were surprised to find that we have members who are men, one being Liz's husband Bob. Liz had been told before her visit that she would return a different person. This was certainly true, it had been an unforgettable experience. Would they go again – yes they would.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th April 2.30pm 'Do you remember when..' Mr J.Mobberley
19th April 7.30pm Talk to be announced Val Rushton

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LADIES SOCIETY

Children's Society by Janet Horton

This was a very interesting and enlightening talk, I feel that I now know exactly what the Children's Society does.

It began work in 1881 when members of the Church of England became increasingly concerned about the rising numbers of children begging in the streets. They formed the "Waifs and Strays Society" and tried to find homes in the community for children who had run away from home.

Janet is a Service Manager for the Black Country which covers Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton. She organises "Independent Visitors" these are volunteers who visit children or young people who are in care. They visit the child and take them to things that they like doing such as visits to the zoo or football matches etc. They provide regular support for four to six hours each month to a child that is looked after by the local authority. They listen to the child's needs together and gradually build up a trusting relationship.

As the Children's Society is our chosen charity for this year we had a collection at the end of Janet's talk which was topped up from our funds, which enabled Geraldine to present Janet with a cheque for £200.

Thank you, Janet, for your interesting and most informative talk. It is good to know something about what we are supporting when we are next asked to contribute to the Children's Society.

Our speaker for our April meeting is Patricia Boyd and her subject is "Upstairs and Downstairs" which I'm sure will be as hilarious as usual.
I hope to see you all on 4th April.

Molly Taft



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AROUND THE PARISH - APRIL 2016

Good news. Rob & Jenny Lavender have returned to church and were able to attend the AGM. It was lovely to see them and we hope it is not too long before they are both well again.

Congratulations to Jan and family. It was recently announced that Jan's daughter had given birth to a boy weighing in at 6lbs; at least I think that was the weight. He is to be called Ezra Henry.

Get well wishes to Christine Williams who is very poorly. Also get well wishes to Shirley Breeze and Kerry Watton.

Sad news. The burial of Tina Harper took place at the end of February. She was the Greek Aunt of Pam Hunt. Tina was 93 and until becoming too ill had lived next door to Pam & Stan for many years. Pam told me Tina met her husband George while he was serving in the forces in Egypt. They married there, then came to England. She was always interested in the life of All Saints and regularly bought the church magazine.

The church was almost full to breaking point on Mothering Sunday. The Sunday school children performed a short play where they brought useful, probably household, gifts to the Mums. The lesson was that the gifts should ideally have been something more personal but whatever the gift it's the thought that counts. Well done to all the children. All the ladies in the church received a small bunch of daffodils.

The Women's World Day of Prayer was held in early March and the service was produced by the women of Cuba. It was an excellent choice of hymns and readings. The soup and roll plus tea/coffee were enjoyed by everyone prior to the service. We welcomed Mayor Steve Waltho and Mayoress Jayne who joined us for lunch and stayed for the service. Local MP Ian Austin also joined the service and in total there was 73 of us.

Thank you to everyone who made the day a great success.

Noah's Ark Mums & Toddlers now has an approximately 45 attending each week and soon fills the hall. Linda Watkins who has helped for many years has decided to take a well earned rest.

Congratulations to the Open the Book team for bringing Palm Sunday to life. It was an excellent performance.

Dorothy Inett

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OUR LINK WITH THE PROTESTANT CHURCH OF CENTRAL GERMANY

2016 is the 25th anniversary of the Meission Declaration. on 29th January 1991 this was signed on the altar of West Minster Abbey. The partnership between the Diocese of Worcester and the Protestant Church of Central Germany is an ecumenical link growing out that declaration.

The link began between our diocese and the Province of Saxony. In Germany the churches of Saxony and Thuringa united in 2009 to form the Protestant Church of Central Germany (EKM). In Worcester our "Magdeburg " link (the Cathedral is in Magdeburg) now embraces the whole EKM in Saxony and Thuringia.

Every two years our churches meet in either Germany or for the Three Confessions (or Denominations) Conference. Ten English Anglicans, ten German Protestants and ten Roman Catholics (five German and five English) come together to explore a theme touches on our shared mission in today's European context and in our own countries.

The theme for this year's conference which is meeting between 29th April and 2nd of May in Durbeck Abbey, is pilgrimage. The group travelling from Worcester is being led by Archdeacon Robert Jones. We go both as pilgrims to Germany and as fellow pilgrims on the Journey of life.

Please pray for those travelling and for the journey of our three different denominations on our pilgrimage towards the unity Christ will for his Church

Sam Setchall Communications Officer Diocese of Worcester.

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BISHOP JOHN'S EASTER MESSAGE

I tweet now and then. I find it an interesting discipline to try to say something worthwhile in 140 characters. It is like writing Haiku poetry - though I find tweeting much easier.

A tweet which stuck me forcibly earlier this year was one which asked "what mercy means to man" Pope Francis described it as "God's identity card" I like that. Mercy is central to the understanding of Christian faith.

In his second homily as Pope he said:-

"The message of Jesus is mercy. For me and I say with humility, it is the Lord's strongest message."

I think he's right. The Christian faith, and Easter in particular are as much as anything else, about God's mercy. Easter not as much in the public consciousness as Christmas. That's perhaps because it concerns death rather than the birth of a baby. The latter is more superficially attractive thing on which to focus one's attention. Mercy however, is what we most need. That's why the most ancient Christian prayer is "Kyrie Eleison", which means simply Lord have mercy.

To quote Pope Francis again:-

"Humanity is deeply wounded either it does not know how to cure its wounds or it believes that it is not possible to cure them. And it's not just a question of social ills or People wounded by poverty, social exclusion or one of the slaveries of millennium relativism wounds people too. All things seem equal, all things appear the same. Humanity needs mercy and compassion."

Mercy is indeed what we need and mercy is what God offers. My hope and prayer for you and me this Easter is that we shall be able to feel God's mercy embracing us a mercy which is stronger than death. I pray, too, that having felt it, we may be able to share it with others. "Be merciful as the Holy one is merciful." Jesus says at the end of his teaching on loving one's enemies.

If there is to be any hope for this broken world we all need to receive mercy and give it. When we are able to do that it will return to us as a blessing. "Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy" Jesus tells us.

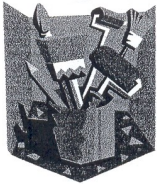
May you be blessed by this mercy this Easter and may you bless others with it.

Bishop John + Lord Bishop of Worcester.

Phil Orton

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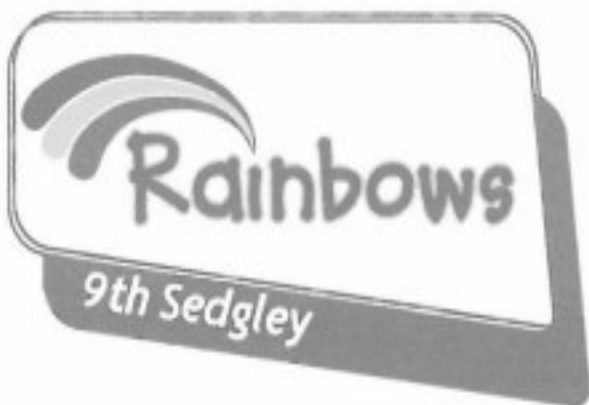
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Pauline Burns on 01902
895002



APPLE CAKE FROM KATHRYN APPERLEY

Ingredients

- * 225g self-raising flour
- * 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- * 115g unsalted butter, diced and chilled, plus extra for greasing
- * 115g light brown sugar
- * 1 large egg, beaten
- * 6-8 tbsp. milk
- * 225g Bramley or Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and diced
- * 100g sultana
- * 2 tbsp. demerara sugar (optional)

Method

1. Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/ gas 4. Grease and line a deep 20cm cake tin with baking parchment.
2. Mix the flour and cinnamon together in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub into the flour using your fingers, until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the light brown sugar. Beat in the egg followed by 6 - 8 tbsp. of milk – you want to achieve a smooth, thick batter.
3. Add the apples and sultanas and mix to combine. Scrape the batter into your prepared tin and gently level out. Sprinkle over the demerara sugar and bake in the oven for 30-40 minutes or until golden and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean.
4. Allow to cool in the tin for 15 minutes and then carefully turn out onto a wire rack to cool further. Best served still warm with a little custard.

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AFTERNOON TEA? ANYONE

Do you take afternoon tea? Ever wondered where it started? The custom seems to date back to the mid-19th century and the seventh Duchess of Bedford, Anna Russell.

The Duchess got hungry at about 4pm each day, and complained that she had "that sinking feeling". As it was still four until dinner at 8 pm, she began to have a sandwich or a small cake with some tea. Her friends thought this was a marvellous idea and spread quickly through upper class circles.

Soon it seems, everyone in England was looking for Afternoon Tea and a great British tradition was born. Though during the last century the sandwiches and cakes gave way to biscuits, but still we reached for the teapot each afternoon.

Not so much any more, it seems in recent years that sales of tea and biscuits are in decline. Nowadays the choice seems to be bottled water, fruits, nuts or even cheese.
Robert Hill

ARE YOU WEARING THE BELL

There was a field in the countryside with two horses in it. From a distance, they looked like any other pair of contented, grazing horses. But local people knew better.

One of the horses was blind. Even so his owner had chosen not to have him put down, but instead to provide him with some help. He attached a small bell to the halter of the other horse. That way the blind horse always knew where his field companion was.

The blind horse stayed near to sighted companion and followed the sound of her bell, where ever she went.

Like the owner of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems that leave us feeling helpless. Instead, God watches over us and even brings others into our lives, to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes in life, we are the blind horse, being helped along by someone sent to us from God at other times, with other people, we are the guide horse that others can lean upon, to find their way. As we ask God to send whatever we need as well as the grace and stamina to be the help that others may need. In Galatians Chapter 6 v 2 Paul urges us to "bear one another's burdens"

Robert Hill

JUST THOUGHTS

You may have seen better days, but you also may have seen worse. You may not have everything you want but you have everything you need. You may have woken up with aches and pains, but you woke up. Your life may not be perfect, but you are blessed.

Imagine what seven billion people on earth could accomplish if they all loved and respected each other. Just imagine what a wonderful place this world could be.

Don't you just admire people who choose to keep on smiling.... Even after all the storms of life they have been through.

What you believe and how you feel about a situation largely dictates the result of how things unfold.

Not everyone will understand your journey through life, and that's okay. You're here to live your life and make a difference. Not to make everyone understand you.

There are some people who could hear you speak a thousand words and still not understand you. And there are others who will understand you without you even having to speak a word.

Life is a circle of happiness, sadness, hard times and good times. If you are going through a hard time, know that good times are on the way.

I would rather live my life as if there is a God and die to find out there isn't, than to live my life as if there isn't.... and die to find out there is. Amen.

Many of the things we may desire are usually expensive. But the truth is, the things that really satisfy are totally free --- Love, laughter and good relationships.

Focus if you must on what you would like, but never forget to be grateful for what you already have.

Life is like a camera: You should focus on what's important. Capture the good times. And if things don't work out, just take another shot.

Life's tragedy isoften that we get old too soon..... and wise.... too late.

Before embarking on important undertakings, sit quietly, calm your senses and thoughts and meditate deeply. You will then be guided by the creative power of the Spirit. Afterwards utilise all the necessary material means to achieve your success.

If you have a family that loves you, a few good friends, food on your table and a roof over your head. You are far, far richer than you may think.

Love is not what you say. Love is what you do.

Your words have the power to hurt, to heal, open minds, open hearts and change the world. Never forget the responsibility you have over the words you speak.

Beautiful things will happen in your life when you distance yourself from all the negativity and drama of other people's lives.

Don't give up. Normally it's the last key on the ring which opens the door.

Don't let people pull you into their storm. Pull them into your peace.

A friend is ...Someone who loves you, cares for you, and protects you like family. They know your deepest and hidden secrets, they laugh at your silly jokes and cry with you too.... They respect your feelings and always try to make you happy... They see the hidden sadness and they are always there for you when you are feeling alone.... A true friend is the greatest gem.

Lord. Thou art my best thought by day or by night Waking or sleeping. Thy presence my Light.

Remember happiness doesn't depend on who you are or what you have; it depends solely upon what you think.
Compiled by David Melhuish.

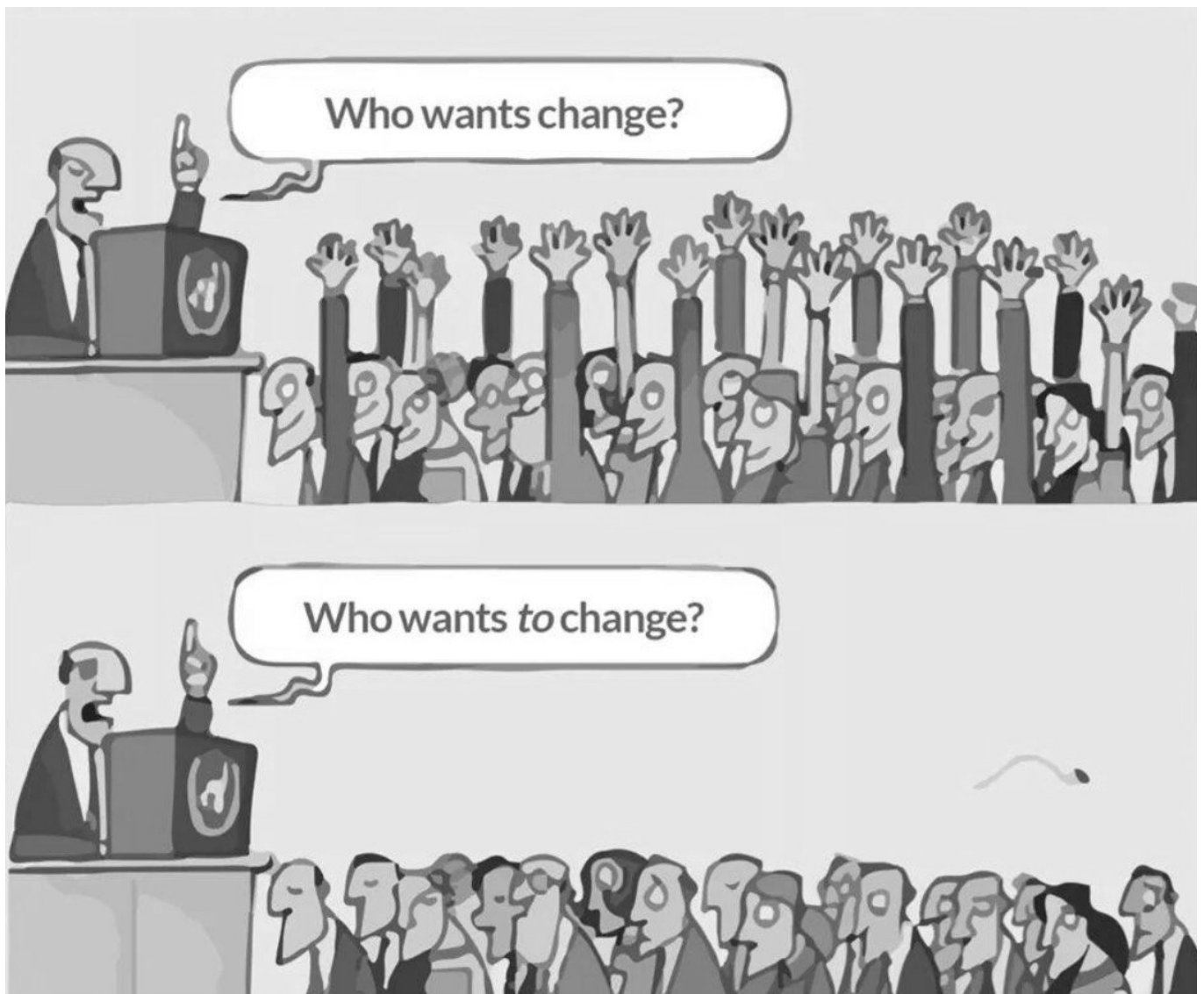
NOAH'S ARK NEWS

On 22nd March Noah's Ark had their annual Easter Bonnet Parade and after careful consideration by the judges the following children were adjudged to have been the most successful.

1st Thomas Pearson-Wildsmith
2nd Scarlett Rusell

3rd Scarlett Sunderland
4th Isabelle Ward

Noah's Ark is now closed for the Easter break and will re-open on Tuesday 12th April.



WW1 TIMELINE - EVENTS OF 1916

April

1st (Approx. date) End of period of German mastery in the air on the Western front.

Third attempt to relieve Kut begins.

5th Action of Falahiya (Mesopotamia) begins.

6th Russian attack on Trebizand begins.

First attack on Sanna-i-Yat (Mesopotamia).

9th Second attack on Sanna-i-Yat (Mesopotamia).

14th Constantinople & Adrianople attacked by aeroplanes of the Royal Naval Air Service from Mudros.

17th British attack on Kondoa Irangi (German East Africa) begins: taken on 19th.

18th Action of Bait Aissa (Mesopotamia).

United States send note to German Government on submarine policy and the "Sussex" case (British sub. torpedoed on 24th March in the English Channel).

19th Field Marshall von der Goltz assassinated by Albanian Officer.

20th Russian troops from the far East arrive at Marseilles.

Disguised German transport "Aud" sinks herself after capture while trying to land arms on the Irish coast.

Roger Casement lands in Ireland from German submarine.(see notes)

22nd Third attack on Sanna-i-Yat repulsed.

24th Outbreak of Rebellion in Ireland, (collapses on 1st March).

Final attempt to succour Kut: loss of HMS "Julnar".

Laying of Belgium coast barrage commenced by British Navy.

26th Lowestoft (Suffolk) and Yarmouth (Norfolk) raided by German battle cruiser squadron.

26th Agreement signed at Berlin for transfer of British & German wounded and sick prisoners of war to Switzerland.

27th Martial law proclaimed in Dublin and the county.

Laying of Belgium coast barrage commenced by British Navy.

26th Lowestoft (Suffolk) and Yarmouth (Norfolk) raided by German battle cruiser squadron.

26th Agreement signed at Berlin for transfer of British & German wounded and sick prisoners of war to Switzerland. 27th Martial law proclaimed in Dublin and the county.

HMS "Russell" sunk by mine in the Mediterranean.

29th Capitulation of Kut.

'Havre Declaration' signed by France, Gt. Britain, Italy, Japan and Russia guaranteeing integrity of Belgian Congo.

The Battle of Verdun was continuing: ended 20th December, 1916

Roger Casement.

A British Diplomat of Irish extraction, a humanitarian activist, Irish nationalist, and poet. Born September 1st, 1864, Sandycove, Republic of Ireland; died August 3rd, 1916 at HM Prison, Pentonville, London.

He made efforts during WW1 to gain German military aid for the 1916 Easter Rising which sought to gain Irish Independence. He was arrested, convicted by a British court, and executed.

The Easter Rising.

This was put down by the British Army; artillery badly damaged much of Dublin's city centre. Over 400 from both sides were killed, including 15 leaders of the rising who were executed. They secured German support, but 20,000 rifles sent were lost - the British navy intercepted the vessel carrying the guns.

Kut.

The British had begun their offensive in Mesopotamia (now mostly Iraq) to protect oil supplies but widened the objectives to include an assault on Baghdad. General Townsend had taken his British and Indian troops north up the Tigris until defeated by a Turkish force at Cresiphon. They retreated to Kut-al-Amara, were besieged, and five months later he humiliatingly surrendered because relief forces could not get through and his men were starving. His troops were treated appallingly with almost half dying in captivity. Baghdad was eventually taken by the British in 1917.

23,000 - casualties amongst those British Army troops attempting to relieve the men at Kut!

Rosemary Moss



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INTERCESSIONS FOR APRIL

- 1st United Nations
- 2nd Work with young people
- 3rd Bishop John & Bishop Graham
- 4th Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 5th Our Churchwardens
- 6th World Peace
- 7th The Anglican Community Worldwide
- 8th Schools within our parish
- 9th Dietrich Bonhoeffer martyr
- 10th Archdeacon Nikki
- 11th George Selwyn bishop
- 12th Schools returning after Easter holidays
- 13th Mary Stevens Hospice
- 14th Those who need our prayers
- 15th Mothers Union Worldwide
- 16th Noah's Ark & Little Angels
- 17th Colin Jones Area Dean
- 18th Guild of the Servers of the Sanctuary
- 19th Alphege archbishop & martyr
- 20th Royal School of Church Music
- 21st Anslem archbishop & teacher
- 22nd Open the Book team
- 23rd George martyr patron of England
- 24th Gornal & Sedgley Team
- 25th Mark the Evangelist
- 26th The Homless
- 27th Christina Rossetti poet
- 28th Peter Chanel missionary & martyr
- 29th Catherine of Siena teacher of the faith
- 30th Refugees

Compiled by Robert Hill

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