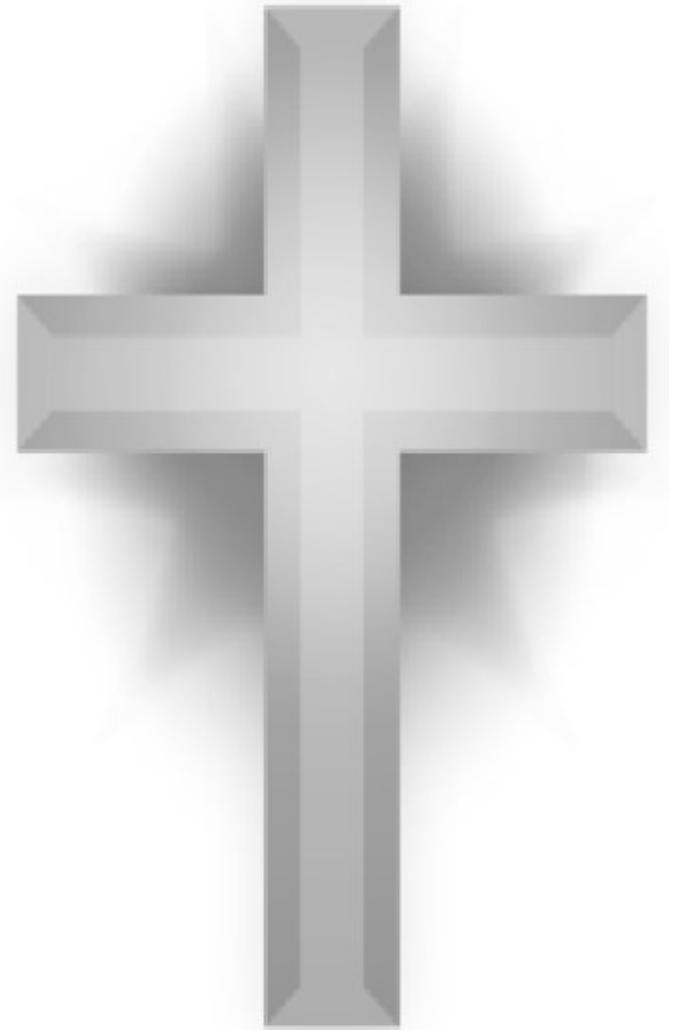
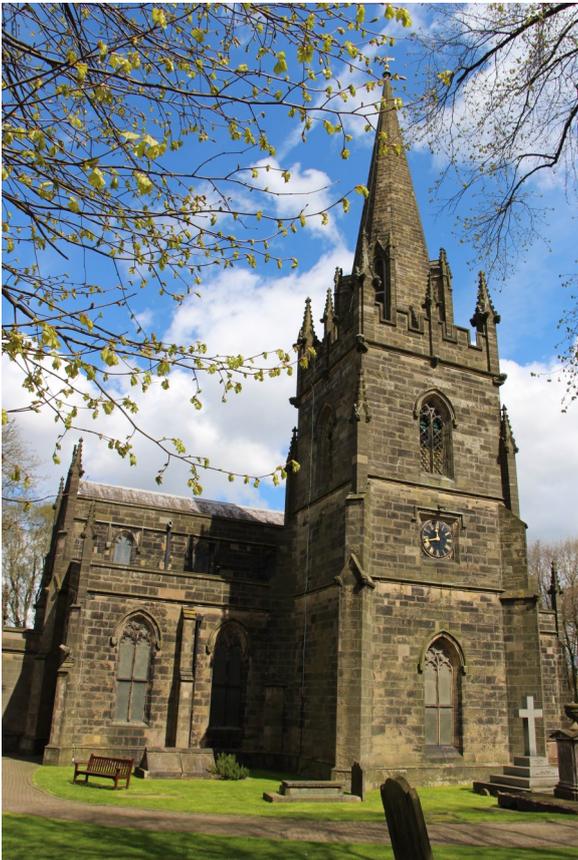


THE BEACON

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS, SEDGLEY
& ST.ANDREW'S THE STRAITS

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

APRIL 2019

WHO's WHO

Team Rector	Revd Guy Hewlett	01902 295164
Team Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 680727
Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth Leader/Children's Advocate	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
PCC Secretary	Chris Williams	01902 672880
Parish Office information baptisms, weddings, funerals and hall bookings.	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Parish Wardens	Keith Tomlinson John Anderson	01902 673366 01902 677666
Treasurer	John Anderson	01902 677666
Caretaker	Pam Pugh	07860 256 535
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 Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	01902 672556
Rainbows	Liz Naylor	07827 629648
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461
Youth Group	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Bell Ringer	Keith Williams	01902 672585
Organist	Martin Platts	07941 173252

St Andrew's Who's Who

Warden	Canon Jan Humphries	
Treasurer	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007
Little Angels baby & toddler group	Canon Jan Humphries	
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108

Parish Prayers at 9.15am - All are Welcome

Tuesdays at St Andrew,

Wednesdays at St Peter and

Thursdays at All Saints.

Funerals in March

1st March - Phyllis Stephens - Gornal Wood

13th March - Brenda De Bont - Gornal Wood

26th March - Mike Edwards - All Saints

27th March - Kenneth Brittle - Gornal Wood

High Days & Holy Days for April

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 2 Hugh of Grenoble – the saint who fought corruption
- 3 Richard of Chichester – wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly
- 5 Vincent Ferrer – preacher with heart for evangelism
- 12 Zeno of Verona – the more things change....
- 13 Carpus, Papyrus and Agathonice – martyrs of the Early Church
- 14 Palm Sunday
- 18 Maundy Thursday
- 21 EASTER – various articles
 - NEW* The 'Other Mary'
- 21 Anselm – the man who proved there is a God
- 23 St George – our patron saint who isn't English
- 23 St George of the Golden Legend
- 23 St George and Hiccup and the dragon
- 25 Mark – disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel
- 27 Tertullian – the fierce firebrand
- 27 Zita – the long-suffering servant girl
- 28 Peter Chanel – missionary and martyr in the South Pacific 1841
- 29 Catherine of Siena – how to survive in a large family

THE BEACON

If you are interested in having the magazine delivered to your home on a regular basis please contact:

Keith Tomlinson : tel. 01902 673366.

The Beacon is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5. A larger typeface version of The Beacon can be provided on request.

Articles for the May magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 19th April

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Please do not send files in pdf format

WEBSITE: www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk

CHURCH OPENING



**Friday mornings from
10.30am to 12.30pm**

The church is open for quiet prayer & coffee and a chat.

VESTRY HOUR

Vestry hour will take place on the first and third Sunday of the month for all enquires on weddings and baptisms from 12 noon to 1pm

What's the point of Easter?

As we celebrate Easter, it raises the question:

What difference can the Resurrection make to my life?

My past is forgiven:

Have you ever been half-way through a project and wanted to start again? In life we all have regrets about things we have done, said or thought. The good news is that Jesus died to forgive these things: *'All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's cross.'* (Colossians 2:14, The Message). The resurrection is the guarantee that we can know Jesus' pardon and forgiveness. Do we need to let go a load of guilt and unforgiveness that we are carrying?

My present is under control:

How often do we say *'My life is out of control.'* We can't control life, but God can! The *'incomparably great power at work for those who believe'* is the same power that raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:20). God promises us the power that we need to face any situation, as we trust Him: *'I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'* (Philippians 4:13).

My future is secure:

Death is the great certainty, *'one out of one dies!'* Yet Jesus overcame death by the resurrection, that we might experience the life of heaven, both now and for eternity. *'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.'* (John 11:25,26). We don't need to fear death; but if we are to really live, we have to be ready to die! How does the resurrection affect our view of death?

‘Talking Jesus’ course gives Christians a new voice

“Now I feel confident talking about my walk with Jesus.” That’s the verdict of Paula, a Yorkshire mum who has been on the Talking Jesus course and has been inspired to speak up.

She is not alone. The course is giving ordinary Christians across an extraordinary range of denominations, ethnicities and backgrounds, a new voice to share their faith.

The Talking Jesus course is a six-part video course available on USB or DVD. Paula did the course at St Michael le Belfrey, an Anglican church in York. They ran Talking Jesus for parents from the Mums and Tots group whilst their children were in a crèche.

Paula is one of thousands of Christians enthused by the course to talk about Jesus to friends, family members and work colleagues.

Since the course was launched last year, more than 4,000 copies have been distributed and 18,000 booklets have been sold.

Edinburgh church minister Gordon Kennedy said, ‘The response to the course has been more than I could have hoped for. One man in his 50s, a regular at Sunday church but still young as a believer, spoke of having had three conversations with people he has met while walking his dog.

Another older man spoke of how he has taken the opportunity to speak of his faith and hope in Jesus when asked about his treatment for cancer. All those at the course have spoken of how they are praying for the five names they wrote down on week one, and many have now had opportunities to speak to some of them about Jesus.

HOPE’s executive director Roy Crowne, one of the team who made the course, says, “The course is being used by an amazing number of churches – large and small, black and white, in cities, towns and villages: RCCG, Methodist, Anglican, Baptist and new churches. Gold Hill Baptist Church, King’s Church London, across its three sites, and Catholic churches are using it too.”

Talking Jesus – The Course can be ordered from hopepublishing.org.uk. It includes a DVD or USB with six training videos, plus parable-style films and an accompanying 44-page course booklet. The DVD version costs £19.99; the USB version costs £24.99. Extra copies of the booklet can be bought separately for group members from £1 a copy

MOTHERS' UNION

Revd Guy Hewlett led a meditation at our afternoon meeting in March. This time of quiet reflection was a preparation for our journey through Lent.

It was lovely to welcome Jill Nicholls, who is an LLM at St Mary's, Kingswinford, to our March evening meeting where she shared her journey of faith with us.

Jill was asked to do a flower arrangement at the church's Flower Festival and she chose to depict her life journey. We saw a photograph of her arrangement which consisted of two pedestals of flowers separated by blue material on which was sprinkled sand, large and small pebbles and, placed in the centre, was a tiny child's boot.

Jill told us that she had been born with polio and her parents were told she would never walk and may have to have her leg amputated. With her parents support and her stubborn determination she did walk and despite a difficult time at school, because she was different having to wear a special boot and support, she became a nurse, had a family and undertook her Reader Training and is also part of the hospital chaplaincy team. Throughout her life of ups and downs, tears and joys, Jill's faith shines through.

To share Jill's journey was a privilege and led to a lively and thought provoking discussion. Returning to Jill's flower arrangement – the pebbles represented the many difficulties she had encountered on her life journey and the tiny special boot was the one she wore as a child.

Our Lenten Project this year is to provide items for 'Welcome Packs' for the Women's Refuge. Lists of the items needed are on the Mothers' Union noticeboards at All Saints' and at St Andrew's and on the table at the back of church. There are boxes, in the narthex at All Saints' and at the back of church at St Andrew's, in which to place items during Lent. There will be a Coffee Morning and Collection at All Saints' on Saturday 4th May, when Karen will receive the packs and give us an update on the work at CHADD.

The Mothers' Union Deanery Festival is on Tuesday 14th May, 2.00pm at Church of the Ascension, Wall Heath.

The Mothers' Union outing is to Llangollen on Thursday 5th September.

Anyone wishing to go please contact:

Liz Williams 01902 672880.

Dates

2 nd April	2.30pm	'A Cockney Ding-dong', Janice Hickman
16 th April	7.30pm	Holy Week service in church

(Please check to see at which church in the team)

Liz Williams

Tactful

There was once a minister who was determined that things should be done properly during each service, yet he had a great gift for being gentle and tactful.

The congregation often read the 23rd Psalm together. One Sunday before they started, he said smilingly: "Oh, may I ask the lady who always arrives at the still waters while the rest of us are in the green pastures, to wait for us this time?"

Easter joy

I remember vividly a simple poster I saw on the notice board of our local Methodist Chapel. It had a silhouette of three crosses on a hill, and underneath the words, 'FOR YOU'. Nothing fancy or clever, but a clear presentation of the Easter message, and it struck me deeply.

At Easter our thoughts are drawn to the death and resurrection of Jesus. These events are central to our faith, but sometimes we can over-complicate their meaning. The heart of it, though, remains very simple: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and on the third day was raised to life (1 Corinthians 15:3).

He died to show his love for you. He gave his life as a demonstration or proof of the love He has for each one of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. He was motivated to lay down His life for us, not out of duty or obligation, but compassionate love. See Romans 5:8

He died to set you free. Sin has entangled every one of us. We are under its power and unable to ourselves to loosen its grip. At the cross Jesus dealt with sin once and for all by dying in our place. Now, when we turn to Him for help, we can be released from the hold it has on us and find complete forgiveness.

He died to bring you home. The Cross makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God. Like the prodigal son we were once far away from God, but now because we have been forgiven, we can return to our true home in God. A welcome awaits us, and a joy-filled reunion is possible.

This Easter, why not think about these two simple words: **FOR YOU**.

Exercise

With summer coming, I had to face the fact that my body was totally out of shape. So I joined a fitness club and signed up for the aerobics class. I got to the club, and there I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my clothes off and my sweats on, the class was over

Have you lost someone you loved?

I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. How the mighty have fallen! 2 Samuel 1:26

A lament is a passionate expression of grief, a heartfelt cry of sadness. Here David, who composed some of the most memorable and uplifting songs of praise, allows himself the opportunity to pour out his heart to God because of his deep sorrow.

Christians are sometimes confused about how to express grief. Some contemporary teaching has emphasized the power of praise, and of praising God in all circumstances, so they feel guilty about the pain inside them and do not know how to release it.

Whilst Paul does say we are not to grieve 'like the rest of mankind' (1 Thessalonians 4:13), he means we should not grieve in the hysterical way that characterizes those who have no hope in God. He does not mean that we should not grieve at all, or that we should suppress our true feelings. That would be cruel, unnatural and unhealthy. Grief is best acknowledged and expressed, and in a way that is consistent with our belief in heaven.

David's own heart feels most keenly the loss of his dearest friend, Jonathan. Those who have known the loss of a 'soul mate' will understand the depth of his feeling and the pain in his heart. His lament enables him to get in touch with his grief, to express it, and so begin the slow process of healing and recovery.

If you are grieving yourself today, be encouraged to pour out your heart to God. You could pray aloud or write your prayer down. You may find a song that helps, or a piece of music. You might talk with a trusted friend. You may just want a good cry. Whatever you do, remember that it's OK to grieve

Ladies Society – Charity of the Year: the Church Hall

Our March meeting focused on the charity of the year. John Anderson agreed to come along to our meeting and explain why the Church Hall needed to have some improvements made to it.

John reminded us that the old church hall was built on what is now the Iceland car park. We all reminisced about those days when trolley buses ran through Sedgley and among the best known shops were Vinrace's and Egginton's.

John explained that in 1946 Reverend Sergeant was considering two proposals namely; repairing Gospel End Church (St Barnabus) or repairing the original Parish Hall. However, by 1952 the hall was causing concern: it had dry rot and using it caused safety concerns. The estimated building cost was £6,000 (£180,000 in today's prices). It opened in 1956, at a total cost £13,000 (including land).

The hall was funded by the congregation and local businesses: Mr Vinrace and Mr Egginton were key donors: local donations amounted to £4,000. Land sales raised £6,500, the Diocese donated part of the Vicarage Garden and a loan of £2,000 and £500 from the development fund completed funding.

The hall was built by Tomlinson's and the foundation stone was laid in July 1955 after, according to Mr Vinrace, a "very impressive church service". It was soon recognised as one of the best halls in the Diocese of Lichfield.

The 200 Club was founded to support the maintenance of the hall. John made a plea for anyone who is not a member to join the 200 Club! In 1982 the social club was formed with a social room and bar.

John explained that no major work has been carried out since the hall and the Social Club extension was built. The flat roof over the kitchen needs to be repaired, the windows and kitchen need to be replaced and the catering facilities in the Community Room made more suitable. Last year John made a bid to Asda for £70,000 which included audio visual improvements for the hall. This was rejected but the local store were keen that a smaller bid focusing on the structural fabric of the building should be submitted - to the value of circa £45,000 - which would finance new windows, a new kitchen, lighting and a revamped social area. This will secure the building for some considerable time.

In September 2018 a fund raising initiative was launched. This has raised £10,000 to date with a target of £12,000 from events in 2019. John expressed his gratitude to all who had generously supported the fund raising initiative.

John briefly outlined a four-year cash flow forecast that demonstrates that with maintenance issues resolved the hall can financially contribute to the work of All Saints. The hall is well-utilised but more use needs to be made of the Community Room. John would welcome any ideas from the congregation as to how this could be achieved.

At the end of the meeting a collection was taken and Geraldine was able to donate £300 to the fund from the Ladies Society that was gratefully received. This was a most enjoyable evening and we thank John for the time being devoted to this work.

Next month we meet for a talk by Terry Church called “You couldn’t make it up.” I look forward to seeing you there.

Karen Evans

Higher power?

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

THANK YOU

On behalf of Robin and Deb, John and myself, can I thank everyone who has sent cards, donations and good wishes and offered prayers since our lovely dad passed away?

We would particularly like to thank Guy and Catherine and the many volunteers at All Saints Church who made dad's funeral something of which he would have been rightly proud.

Dad was a man of considerable faith who would have appreciated the kindness shown to him and his family by the community at All Saints during the years since he became ill.

The collection at his funeral raised just over £400 which has been donated to Alzhemier's UK. Our sincere thanks to you all.

Karen Evans

You are what you think about

Negative thoughts can actually harm you, physically. In a recent study by the universities of Exeter and Oxford, it was found that if you listen to that critical inner voice, you will end up with an increased heart rate, consistent with feelings of being under threat and distress.

On the other hand, positive thoughts have the opposite effect. Those in the study who were encouraged to be kind to themselves when things went wrong, reported more self-compassion, connection with others, and had feelings of relaxation and safety.

No wonder that Paul urges us: “Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things... And the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4: 8,9)



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A THANK-YOU TRIBUTE TO OUR BELL-RINGING TEACHERS

Six months ago we started, way back in April time,
To learn to ring the Church Bells- we all thought we'd be fine.

Little did we realise how hard it is to ring
Mastering the technique became the greatest thing.

Learning good control of Bell we all found rather tough
And struggled week by week - sometimes it felt quite rough.

We learned our backstroke first of course and then tied up the ropes
It took some weeks to tie them up and raise our personal hopes.

Both hands we place around the rope- with Right on top each time
That's what we have been taught to do and now can do so fine.

Your left thumb you must use, to hold the rope in check
AND facing you on every stroke- you feel a nervous wreck.

Don't pull too hard and hit the stay- to balance you must go-
But pull right down quite fast or else it will begin to slow

And that is when the bell comes down and messes up your ring
Everything goes pear-shaped if you don't do the right thing.

'Look to, Treble's going and she's gone'.
These words are now familiar, as three, two, one.

Catch the Sally half way down- too high it will not do
And never let your hands slide down or that day you will rue.

When practising is over, we say 'Look to the fall'
It's time to ring the bells back down- the eight bells one and all.

Then as we leave we change the clock, so it will ring each quarter
And never once forget that chore- we know we never ought to.

Stuart- our Star pupil- was first to get control.
And he moved on in leaps and bounds and soon was on a roll.

He played a Round with Ringers and came on oh so well
He played on Sunday Mornings and took to his new Bell.

Grace found it so scary and although she seemed quite good
She left our little number, when she felt she should.

Jayne also made headway, whilst standing on her box
She moved to Sunday Mornings, this time in boots and socks.

Now that she wears her “Ringing Boots”, she’s able to perform
Without her little standing box so wobbly and forlorn.

Meanwhile, Dave, Jean and Brendan were trying hard to learn
Hoping they’d be good enough their badges soon to earn.

All this time our Teachers, Keith and Mary Z
Were working tirelessly with us, to move us on ahead.

Thank you Mary for your help, your patience and your time
With firm commitment to us – you soon taught us to chime.

Thanks also must go to Keith, for the part that he has played
In keeping up our spirits, with his humour oft’ displayed.

And not forgetting Simon who has most weeks travelled here
To help us Novice Ringers and make us see things clear.

To ALL the other Ringers who have helped us every day
Without your kind encouragement we would have lost our way.

Thank you Ringers one and all, for giving up your time
We hope to make more progress moving on from just a chime.

We know there is so much to learn as we make our Ringing way
And realise now we've made a start, we must practice day by day.

We played a tiny part in Remembrance of the War
And felt so proud we'd done it and look forward to much more.

So a heartfelt Thank-You to Mary, Keith and Simon
and also to ALL the Regular Ringers

From **Dave, Stuart, Jayne, Brendan and Jean.**

Where did the Easter Bunny and Easter eggs come from?

The Easter bunny is a gentle figure of folklore, who seems to have first come from the German Lutherans. They depicted him as a rabbit who brought coloured Easter eggs to children. The idea of an egg-giving hare went over to the US in the 18th century, when Protestant German immigrants in the Pennsylvania Dutch area told their children about the 'Osterhase'. Hase means hare, and according to the legend, only good children found the hare's gifts of coloured eggs, placed in the nests that they had made in their caps and bonnets before Easter.

The Easter bunny became a prominent symbol of Easter. Rabbits, prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of new life. Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

Decorating Easter eggs dates back to at least the 13th century. One possible reason for the custom was that in those days eggs were forbidden during the Lenten season. So people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, and then eat them on Easter as a celebration.

Good

G & S team Logo



Following their successful concerts in 2017 and 2018 the Lichfield-based Choral Group will be singing again this summer at:

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Laura Robinson ALM

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All Saints Church - Sedgley

Paul visits these schools on behalf of All Saints.
If you would like to join me in school and see what happens
in assembly, I would love to hear from you.

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Your prayer support is hugely valuable. Thank you.



Paul works in partnership with:
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How your Traidcraft donations are helping

All Saints Fairtrade donated £150 just before Christmas, and hope to donate some more after Easter.

Our money is helping to fund existing projects with the juice sector in Senegal, and the ‘hidden’ entrepreneurs in Kenya, as well as new work in India and Bangladesh – working in the garments sector to help combat modern slavery.

There is also a new project in Tanzania helping people with disabilities working in the cocoa and coffee supply chains to earn a decent living from their work.

Joséphine from Kenya, who is being helped by Traidcraft Exchange to turn her small farm into a viable business, says:

“To me, success is being able to feed my family and pay my children’s school fees without any problem. I want to help my granddaughter to get a wheelchair and help my community get a borehole for water, so I can plant more crops and expand my farm.”

Please continue to support our efforts in selling Fair Trade products so we can make a difference to others, less fortunate than ourselves.

The Fairtrade Team.

The Bishop’s visit

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese for Easter. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop’s long, flowing robes and carried his crook. “Now,” beamed the bishop, “do you know who I am?”

After a moment’s silence, one child ventured “Little Bo Peep?”

Charles Wesley's great hymn for Easter: Christ the Lord is risen today!

Jesus's death on the cross, and His resurrection on Easter morning are both part of the redemption story. Paul links them in this way: 'He was delivered for our offences [the Cross] and raised again [the Resurrection] for our justification' (Romans 4:25). Charles Wesley does likewise in his glorious Easter anthem.

Christ the Lord is risen today!
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your songs and triumph high
Sing, ye heavens, thou earth reply.

Charles wrote the hymn in 1739, a year after his Pentecost Sunday evangelical conversion, and the year in which he began his open-air preaching. Like all his hymns that followed in the next four decades, this hymn is full of New Testament references and allusions. A great stone was rolled into the opening of the grave where Jesus was laid, and as Matthew records, the Jewish authorities 'made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting a guard' (27:66). But all to no purpose! Christ, the Lord of Life, could not be imprisoned by death!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.
Death in vain forbids Him rise
Christ hath opened Paradise!

The NT teaches that Christ's resurrection was the Father's seal of approval on His obedient life and atoning death. His resurrection was the proof that He was indeed Jesus Christ the Lord, as Paul argues in Romans 1:4. 'Declared to be the Son of God ...by the resurrection from the dead.' Charles Wesley works these great salvation truths into his verses. 'Love's redeeming work is done.' 'Once He died our souls to save.' 'Lives again our glorious King.' 'Where, O death, is now thy sting?' 'Second life we all receive.' 'In our Heavenly Adam live.' As our Lord promised His disciples long ago – and still promises us; 'Because I live, you will also live' (John 14:19).

The Resurrection of Christ, viewed as a historical fact, is only part of the NT teaching. His conquest of death He now shares with all His people. Christians are the people of the Resurrection! We are now 'made alive with Christ;' 'raised up with Him,' and already seated 'in heavenly places' (Ephesians 1:4-6). And Charles Wesley takes up this great theme of how believers share in their Lord's resurrection power.

Risen with Him we upward move
Still we seek the things above ...

Soar we now where Christ hath led
Following our exalted Head.
Made like Him, like Him we rise
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Christ has conquered hell! Death has lost its sting! The grave is spoiled! What a Saviour! What a gospel! What a glorious hope!

Why we are turning to soap bars

It's official: we are buying more soap bars these days. And that is a good thing.

It is all a part of the major consumer backlash against unnecessary plastic waste. More and more of us want eco-friendly versions of our everyday needs. Thus, we have 'bags for life', loose fruit and veg, and now – bars of soap.

Liquid soaps took off in the 1990s and was marketed as more hygienic than barred soap. But since then, numerous scientific studies have found this to be myth. And in the meantime, hundreds of millions of plastic bottles full of soap have been used once – and thrown into the environment. Whereas with a bar of soap, once it is gone, it is really gone.

The data on soap sales was researched by Kantar Worldpanel.

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Miscellaneous musings on life:

Why is yawning contagious?

You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the wind-shield that read: 'Parking Fine'. That was so nice.

You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive. You never learn to pray until your kids learn to drive

Moses and the Red Sea

Nine-year-old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. 'Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. "When he got to the Red Sea, Moses had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed HQ for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, startled.

"Well, no," her son admitted. "But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

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Application for grants are invited from individuals or organisations resident in the area of benefit. Application forms are available from the incumbent of any of the parishes mentioned above, or alternatively from:

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My dear Nephew Darren



My generous offer to take last week's marriage service for you in your church, so that you could attend your weekend plumbing course, proved most unwise. You may now be qualified to unblock church hall kitchen sinks, but I will not be taking another marriage ceremony for you again, no matter how much you have set your heart on that electrician's course next year, so that you can re-wire the vestry.

At first, I was delighted when the bride's mother called, inviting me to the reception. I assumed that somewhere called Charnley Hall would be a most fitting location, full of oak floors and waiters bearing sherry to guests. I did not realise until too late that it is only the rather dubious pub next door to your church.

At least I had been placed with the happy couple and both sets of parents. Then it slowly dawned on me: I was there to stop the bride's mother from attacking her newly-acquired son-in-law. My presence may have kept an uneasy peace at our table, but it had no such effect on some of the others.

Well before the speeches, bride's and groom's supporters were exchanging snide remarks and bitter looks. Then all hell broke loose: a bridesmaid slapped an usher and burst into tears.

That was the starting signal for the liveliest wedding reception I have ever attended: chairs were knocked about, plates broken, wedding cake thrown, flowers snapped in two, and memorable insults exchanged. Of course, I could cope with all that, but then someone snatched the bottle of champagne that had been placed in front of *me*. They were going to waste it by breaking it on someone's head. I knew then that things had gone far enough.

It took but an instant for me to leap to my feet, lean over the table, and grab my bottle back. Unfortunately, that was when the police arrived. Were our churchwarden, Lord Jelleby to have been on the bench that day, matters could have been settled quite amicably. It was not to be: you may enthusiastically pass the peace in your church; I am now bound over to keep it.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Get moving

It is April – time to get the family outside and enjoy more exercise! One in three children are doing less than 30 minutes exercise a day, according to a recent Sport England report.

That means that 2.3million kids nationwide do less than half the Chief Medical Officer’s recommended level of daily activity of at least an hour. As one expert said: “This is a big wake up call. Parents need to get active alongside their children so that exercise feels like a normal thing to do.”

Waste not, want not

Root-to-flower eating is the latest craze in many British restaurants, as more and more waste-conscious chefs aim to use the whole plant instead of throwing away the leaves.

So now you can enjoy carrot tops, beetroot stems, cauliflower leaves and cucumber flowers. As one chef says: “Most plants are all edible. But what we usually do is take the middle of it and waste the rest.”

However, before you eat any new part of a familiar plant, MAKE SURE IT IS NOT TOXIC. For example, the wrong parts of apple, almond, asparagus, elderberry, plum, potato and rhubarb can land you in hospital. So: if in doubt, throw it out



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Lent, Holy Week and Easter Services

Date	Time	Day	Church	Service
31/3/19	09:30	Sun	St Andrews	Mothering Sunday
“	10:30	Sun	St Peters	Mothering Sunday
”	10:30	Sun	All Saints	Mothering Sunday
7/4/19	10:30	Sun	St Peters	Joint Service (followed by APCM)
14/4/19	09:30	Sun	St Andrews	Palm Sunday - Communion
“	10:30	Sun	St Peters	Palm Sunday - Communion
“	10:30	Sun	All Saints	Palm Sunday - Communion
15/4/19	19:30	Mon	St Andrews	Communion
16/4/19	19:30	Tues	St Peters	Communion
17/4/19	10:00	Wed	St Peters	Communion
“	19:30	Wed	All Saints	Communion
18/4/19	19:30	Thur	St Peters	Maundy Thurs - Communion
“	19:30	Thur	All Saints	Maundy Thurs - Communion
19/4/19	10:00	Fri	The Red Lion	Good Friday - Ecumenical Service
“	10:00	Fri	All Saints Hall	Good Friday Workshop (children)
“	14:30	Fri	St Andrews	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross
“	14:30	Fri	St Peters	Good Friday - Stations of the Cross
“	19:30	Fri	All Saints	Good Friday - Meditation
20/4/19	21:00	Sat	All Saints	Pascal candles lit
21/4/19	08:00	Sun	All Saints	Easter day Communion
“	09:30	Sun	St Andrews	Easter Day Communion
“	10:30	Sun	St Peters	Easter Day Communion
“	10:30	Sun	All Saints	Easter Day Communion
“	18:30	Sun	All Saints	Easter Day Evensong

