

March 2022  
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# SAINTS ALIVE



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of  
Songs 2:12

# ALL SAINTS

The Parish Magazine  
of All Saints' Parish Church,  
Cheadle Hulme

# Our Regular Weekly Services

At the moment these are, until further notice:  
Sunday at 10.00am Parish Communion.  
At 6.30pm Choral Evensong on the 2nd  
Sunday of each month and Said Evensong  
on the 4th Sunday. On Wednesdays the  
church is open for private prayer at 12.00 noon,  
followed by Holy Communion at 12.30pm,  
after which everyone is welcome to stay for a  
chat and to share a bring-your-own-lunch.

Arrangements for baptisms, banns and  
weddings, confession and spiritual counselling  
is by arrangement with the Clergy.

We understand that for many this is still a  
difficult period. If you would like prayers or  
simply a conversation please contact me:

Rev Sarah on 0161 485 3455, or email:

[@allsaintscheadlehulme.org.uk](mailto:@allsaintscheadlehulme.org.uk).

Alternatively, call one of our wonderful

Churchwardens, John Ackerley 0161 486 1419  
and Janet Ashman on 0161 485 7969.



*Saint Joseph with the Infant Jesus  
by Guido Reni, c.1635*

*Joseph's feast day is celebrated on the  
19th March in the Anglican calendar.*

*The challenge, but also the opportunity, is to wait upon God to encounter His hope and  
goodness. Before the Resurrection is the Cross, before the victory there is suffering,  
but love always wins.*

Fred Drummond



## CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

We give thanks for the lives of the following:

Jan 31 John Alfred Harris

Feb 8 Sheila Stone





# VICAR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

We are in the season of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday, where we remember our mortality on this earth. We remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. It's a sobering thought without the news of the horrors humanity is facing in Ukraine. The fighting makes it clear that life is delicate and that we are not immortal. At this time the Archbishops of the Church of England have called on everyone to spend time fasting and praying for peace in our world. The current crisis in Ukraine is the headline news but other places are also at war and in conflict. As we call out in prayer and fasting for peace to reign, we remember that it is from God where the peace comes from. God hears our prayers, whether they are like Shakespeare himself has written them or if we simply cry out 'Lord have mercy.' As we see the pictures, hear the news, it can be difficult to know what to pray, other than, 'bring your peace.' Throughout the season of Lent as we journey towards the cross, where Jesus laid down his life so that we can live, and to his resurrection, we remember that first Jesus walked through the wilderness. The place of temptation, the hard place, the difficult place, we know that as we walk through life in this difficult time, this hard time, Jesus knows how it feels. Jesus who walks with us faithfully, who never leaves us, who surrounds us with his love, in life and in death, is the one we can call on to bring his peace to this broken world. There are no quick solutions, or simply answers to what is happening in the world but we can look to the one who is peace, to bring peace to this earth. During this season of Lent, take a moment each day to pray, 'Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy' in the hope that peace will come. Amen.

*Lord, you are the God who saves me;  
day and night I cry out to you.  
May my prayer come before you;  
turn your ear to my cry.  
Psalm 88:1-2*

God bless,  
Rev Sarah Hancock



**COPY DEADLINE FOR APRIL - MARCH 6TH  
ALL COPY TO THE EDITOR PLEASE**

# The Real Easter Egg celebrates its 12th year with an invitation to ‘Let’s Celebrate’!



For the first time since the pandemic began, churches and communities across the UK will be coming together to celebrate Easter as restrictions are relaxed. So, no wonder that the theme for the Real Easter Egg this year is ‘Let’s Celebrate’!



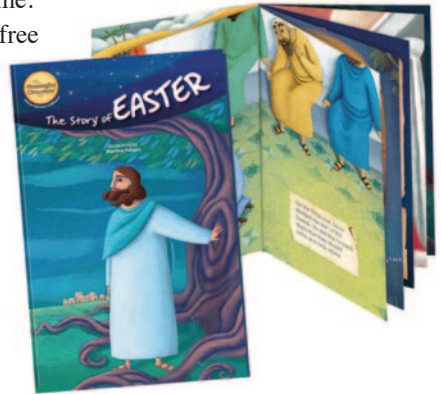
The Real Easter Egg was created in 2010 as a way for churches, groups and individuals to share the Easter story while supporting Fairtrade. 12 years on, it has a network of thousands of churches and supporters.

More than three million people have read the

Easter Stories it produces, and it has raised more than £320,000 for good causes.

This year, you can also reach out to UK families facing hardship by donating to food banks through the Real Easter Egg’s new foodbank scheme.

All Real Easter Eggs are Palm oil free and plastic free and made of Fairtrade chocolate. This means our farmers receive a fair price for their sugar and cocoa and an extra Fairtrade Premium cash payment which they can use to invest in their community, buying everything from schoolbooks to solar panels and providing fresh water supplies. The sugar comes from cooperatives in Paraguay and Belize. Most of the cocoa from cooperatives in the Ivory Coast (Kuapa Kokoo Co-operative Cocoa Farmers and Marketing Union Limited Ghana).



Beans are also sourced from cooperatives in the Dominican Republic, Peru, Panama and Ecuador. The chocolate for the eggs is then blended using a Belgian recipe.

Each egg comes with an Easter story in the box. This year the free Easter story-activity book has had a whole new design. It is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities. Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The book also contains a prize competition worth £200.

*Because of the continued effects of the pandemic, it is more important than ever that we find ways to share the Easter story in 2022 and support producers. The Real Easter Egg is a proven way to do this. More details at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)*

# John Donne, the metaphysical poet

John Donne (1572 – 1631) was an English poet, scholar, soldier, secretary and finally Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in London. But he is most remembered for his poetry, for he is seen as the greatest of the 17th century 'metaphysical' poets.

Donne was born in 1572 into a Roman Catholic family in London at a time when the Church of England was the dominant faith, and those who remained Catholic were considered second class citizens. Although Donne studied at both Oxford and Cambridge, because of his Catholicism, he was denied a degree. So, in 1592 Donne went to London to study law at the famous Lincoln's Inn.

In 1594 Donne decided to convert to the Church of England, and this opened up a whole new life for him. In 1596 he joined the naval expedition led by the Earl of Essex against Cadiz in Spain. When he returned in 1598, he was appointed private secretary to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Seal. All was going well, but then he fell in love with Egerton's 16-year-old niece, Anne More, and in 1601 he secretly married her. Egerton was furious, and Donne lost his job, and even ended up in prison for a short time. For several years after that Donne worked as a lawyer. Then in 1610 he wrote a book encouraging Roman Catholics to take the Oath of Allegiance to the king. The book caught the eye of James 1, who may have suggested that Donne go into the Church. Certainly, Donne was appointed as a royal chaplain only a few months after his ordination in 1615.

In 1617 Donne's beloved wife, Anne, died. In 1621 he was appointed the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, and proved to be a much loved and inspiring preacher. Throughout his working life, Donne continued to write poetry, though most of it remained unpublished until 1633. It was then mostly forgotten after his death, until early last century. Then, in the 1920s, both Ezra Pound and TS Eliot openly acknowledged their literary debt to him. Donne's place as one of the greatest of the 17th century 'metaphysical' poets is now assured. He wrote both sacred and secular poetry, with his main theme being that of human love and divine love. His feast day is celebrated on 31st March.





# Every church region in the country signs up to become an Eco Diocese



All 42 dioceses in the Church of England have signed up to become an ‘eco diocese’ as part of their commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

The Eco Dioceses scheme, developed by the charity A Rocha UK, sees churches and dioceses awarded bronze, silver, or gold status depending on actions taken to improve their environmental footprint.

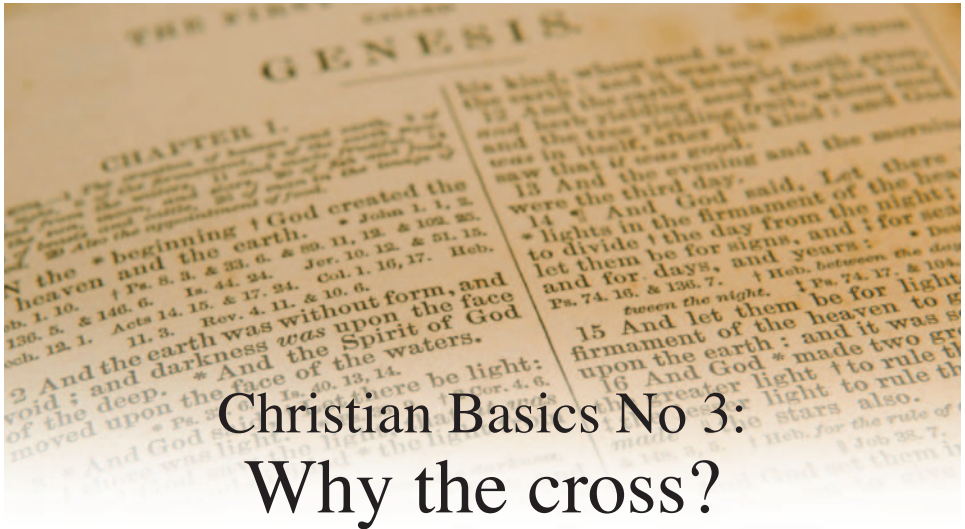
The Church of England is seeking to reach ‘net zero’ carbon by 2030 to meet a target set by General Synod in 2020.

Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich and the lead bishop for the environment, said: “A Rocha UK’s Eco Church and Diocese scheme is a great tool which enables local churches at every level of their climate justice journey to engage with environmental issues. As Christians, we must make real differences to our lives to care for God’s creation and limit the impact of the climate emergency.



“The whole Church is currently looking at our proposed Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and I would encourage everyone to read it and engage with the survey so we can make the journey to net zero carbon together.”





# Christian Basics No 3: Why the cross?

*The cross is a picture of violence, yet the key to peace;  
 a picture of suffering, yet the key to healing;  
 a picture of death, yet the key to life;  
 a picture of utter weakness, yet the key to power;  
 a picture of capital punishment, yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;  
 a picture of vicious hatred, yet the key to love;  
 a picture of supreme shame, yet the Christian's supreme boast.*

The cross really is the key to everything! Although a horrifying instrument of torture and death, it is also a symbol of love and peace. On the cross Jesus died to deal with the problem of our sin and defeat the powers of death and evil. He identified with our sufferings and set us an example of self-sacrificial love.

As Peter writes, 'He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed... Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1 Peter 2:24, 3:18). Jesus died in our place on the cross and took away our guilt, to pay the full penalty for our sin. Access to God's presence is now open to all, symbolised by the Temple curtain being torn in two from top to bottom. The barrier between us and God was torn down in order 'to bring us to God'.

Jesus is the bridge providing access between us and God. 'If Jesus Christ is to be our Saviour then He must be able to place a hand upon a pardoning God and another hand on a penitent sinner and draw them together in an act of reconciliation' (Bishop Handley Moule).

# Observing Lent

This month sees the start of Lent, the 40-day season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught His disciples to fast: ‘when you fast.’ (Matthew 6:17).

The spiritual discipline of fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, refraining from TV, alcohol or social media, and identifying the things that get in the way of our focus on God. What are the benefits of fasting?

The act of giving something up expresses my desire to put God first in my life. It shows me the things that I depend on rather than God, so that I can surrender ‘my idols’ to Him. It encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God. It gives me space to focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom resulting in a more intimate relationship with Christ: ‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.’ (Matthew 5:6). Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness and repentance, and a transformed life along with heart that is more attentive and dependent on God.



Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines, eg: joining a study group, ‘random acts of kindness’, giving more time to prayer and Bible study or solitude, and reading a Lent book. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year! ‘Jesus takes it for granted that His disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian’s life.

Such customs have only one purpose – to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.’ (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

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*Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God.*

M D Babcock

*Christ’s sheep are marked in the ear and the foot; they hear His voice, and they follow Him.*

Anonymous

*The yearning of man’s heart is homesickness for God.*

Anonymous

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# Reflected Faith Series: The Ashing Service

Such a strange name for a church service! Why would anyone be attracted to attend such a thing? This year Ash Wednesday is close to the start of March; on the Second of the month. As the first day of Lent the service is used to physically place a sign of the cross on each person's forehead using ashes made from the previous year's palm crosses.

The use of ashes has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship; the Old Testament referring to sackcloth and ashes over twenty times.

There is clearly a visual link with the blackness of evil and sin but also the 'dirtiness' that spreads everywhere from it. We all know how a small amount of mud on the shoes walked into the house will soon go everywhere and take a much harder and longer clean-up operation than if it was wiped off before entering. In Christian records, ashes are used for penitents by the sixth century, but it is not until the beginning of the 11th century that the faithful took part in a ceremony on the Wednesday before Lent that included the imposition of ashes. Still later this came to be called Ash Wednesday.

Over the centuries the emphasis of meaning for the imposed ashes has changed, from a preparation for baptism, a renewal of baptismal vows, to an understanding of a community's preparation for the event of the Paschal mystery of rebirth at Easter.

It reminds of what is past and what is to come, and it encourages us to think again of how we can change that journey should we wish to do so.

The Imposition of Ashes is a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. It is 'felt' in the heart and soul – as well as on the skin. And can be one of the most profound experiences of humility as we enter together as a Christian community across the globe our journey towards the Cross and the Resurrection. As the priest says the traditional words over you, "Remember that you are but dust, and to dust you will return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. Amen." what will you be focusing upon?



# The story of the yellow ribbons

We are loved with everlasting love! One of the greatest and most comforting doctrines taught in the Bible is the love of God for His people. In the Law and in the Prophets; in the poetical and historical books; in the Gospels and Letters – all agree to tell us what God said to His people through Jeremiah. “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3).



It was that love that moved the Father to send His Son into the world (John 3:16).

Paul writes glowingly of “that great love with which He loved us” (Ephesians 2:4).

John emphasises the same great truth in a magnificent creed of just three words:

‘God is love’ (1 John 4:8). Quite simply there is nothing in all creation more reassuring, more comforting, more encouraging, more uplifting than to know that God loves us.

And we can go further and put it in personal terms as Paul did. ‘He loved me and gave Himself for me’ (Galatians 2:21).

How can we illustrate the illimitable love of God? One such illustration was told by the Rev John Wilbur Chapman of Indiana, an ordained Presbyterian minister who in 1893 went into full-time evangelistic ministry. One evening Chapman was travelling by train in a rural part of Kansas. The other passenger in the carriage was a young man who kept glancing out the window and then covering his face with his hands. Chapman asked if he could help.

The young man confessed that many years before he had run away from home and ‘sown his wild oats.’ He had not written to his parents at all, until a few weeks before, telling them that he would be travelling on this train. At a certain point it passed very close to his home. In the letter he had begged his parents’ forgiveness and asked if they wanted him to come home. If so, they were to tie a yellow ribbon on the old apple tree that grew right beside the railway lines.

“Sir,” he said to Chapman, “the train will soon pass my home but I’m afraid to look.

If there’s a yellow ribbon on the tree, I’ll get off at the next station and go home.

If there’s no ribbon, I’ll just travel on. But I’m too afraid to look out for the tree.”

So Chapman offered to look for him.

“You can open your eyes now,” he said a few minutes later. The returning prodigal looked at Chapman with tears and quivering lips. ‘All is well,’ said the evangelist.

‘There is a yellow ribbon on the apple tree. In fact, there’s far more than one. Every branch is hanging with yellow ribbons, scores and scores of them. Your parents love you that much, they want you to come home.’”

If parents can love their wayward children like that, how much greater is the love of God! Truly, we are loved with everlasting love.

# BRF celebrates its first 100 years



The work of BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) recently featured in BBC One's long-running programme Songs of Praise. Presented by Kate Bottley, the programme explored the power of the Bible to transform lives. It included features highlighting BRF's ministries Anna Chaplaincy, Living Faith and MessyChurch, along with interviews with chief executive Richard Fisher, Anna Chaplaincy founder Debbie Thrower and BRF author Amy Boucher Pye.

BRF has its roots in St Matthew's Church in Brixton, south London, where, towards the end of 1921, the vicar, the Revd Leslie Mannering, was talking with a member of the congregation about the spiritual needs of the church. What could be done to help people 'get a move on' spiritually?

In January 1922, the Fellowship of St Matthew was launched, with the aim of encouraging spiritual growth through prayer, Bible reading and communion. Leslie Mannering produced a leaflet of daily Bible readings, reflections and prayers which, as Richard Fisher explains in the programme, "had such a transforming effect on his congregation that before long other churches in the area started asking if they could have copies for their own congregations."

After the programme Richard commented: "We are so delighted with the Songs of Praise programme that featured BRF's centenary. Many people have been in touch following the broadcast and we've been very moved by the messages and encouragements that we've received about BRF's ministry."

In the years following 1922 the BRF work grew into a worldwide ministry. Even today, the encouragement and resourcing of daily Bible reading remains at the heart of BRF's Living Faith ministry, alongside newer initiatives such as Anna Chaplaincy, Messy Church and Parenting for Faith.



# Chaplain for the coastguards

A full-time chaplain has been appointed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for the first time in its 200-year history.

The Revd Tom Ebbens, who will be based in Cornwall, has been appointed to the position after a pilot project. He has previously worked in MCA operations centres and as a coastal officer, and will provide support for front-line staff.

Mr Ebbens, 30, says that he will offer support to colleagues of any faith and none.

“People have fears and concerns, worries and challenges, and sometimes they need someone to walk with them in those dark moments; to listen, share the hurt and support them.”

HM Coastguard director Claire Hughes said it was a “landmark appointment”.

She said: “Tom is going to bring another level of care alongside the welfare-led support systems we already have in place, such as trauma risk management. People know they can talk to him in confidence about their concerns and problems, and that he will provide the support they need.”



## St David's Day

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery! We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps!?) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved. In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.



# Mother's Way

*(Luke 2:19, 51)*

You treasure those things,  
Keep them safe in your heart,  
Where did the years go?

Everything still so fresh...  
The birth, those moments alone,  
Your first looking  
Into each other's love.

And the visitors  
With their wonder and wisdom,  
With their gifts and their gazing,  
Everything still so fresh...

Then the growing years,  
Baby into boy, into man,  
Into joys and sorrows,  
Into life away from your helping,  
Yet you alone hold His history in your  
head.

You treasure those things,  
Keep them safe in your heart,  
Of course you do...

You are his mother.

*Daphne Kitching*



## When the angel told Mary she would give birth to God's Son

*(Annunciation, 25 March)*

Almighty, loving Father,  
Thank you for the month of March, the  
month of Spring, the month when hopes  
are high and new things seem possible,  
when even coming through the pandemic  
seems possible.

This month we remember the day that the  
angel told Mary that she would bear your  
Son – how could that have seemed  
possible to her?

Help us to trust you as she did. Whatever  
we may face, help us to have peace and  
confidence, knowing, as she did, that  
nothing is impossible with you.

In Jesus' name.

Amen. *Daphne Kitching*

# Finding God in Each Moment of the Day

Do you know the popular series of books entitled *Where's Wally?* These books are filled with very detailed cartoon drawings in each of which is hidden Wally. He is dressed in a red and white striped ski cap and glasses and the challenge is to find Wally. You have to search for some time to pick him out of the crowd, but Wally is always there!

In many ways, like finding Wally, we need to develop the skill of identifying God's presence in our daily lives. One approach that can help us to find God throughout the day is to do a daily review of our day with God. It can provide us with a means of seeing where God has been at work during our day. It's an opportunity of remembering how God has been at work and how we have responded to him. As the psalmist says, 'On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night' (Ps 63:6). What does this look like in practice? Here is a step by step guide:

1. Be still for a moment, and quiet your mind.
2. Acknowledge that Jesus is present. Invite him to guide you.
3. Recall the beginning of the day, when you first woke up. Watch that scene, as if on film. What is your reaction to what you see? Talk to God about it.
4. Continue through the film of your day, going from scene to scene. As you reflect on each one, some scenes may fill you with gratitude, others with regret. Speak directly to God about this. You may also want to pray for those you encountered during the day.
5. End your review with a prayer of thanksgiving for God's mercy and love. Ask him to refresh you as you sleep.

As you begin reviewing your day with God regularly, you can expect to see two things beginning to happen: Firstly, you will become more aware of recurring negative patterns in your life, which will challenge these wrong attitudes and habits and increase your desire to grow and change. Secondly, you will become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary moments of your life. And when you start experiencing the reality of God's presence with you every day, it's not ordinary any more!



# Praying with Objects

Have you ever watched young babies contentedly studying their surroundings? Their eyes are attracted by colour, shape and movement. As babies grow into toddlers and young children, this fascination with their environment continues. Look at the way children's eyes light up with excitement as they discover the veins in a fallen leaf, the sparkling trail of a snail across a pavement, or the colours of a piece of silver paper catching the light. All too quickly this fascination fades as the pressures of life and the need to achieve take over.

This fascination with our world is a gift from God. It is always there for us to take hold of again, if we can only pause amongst the hustle and bustle of our busy lives. When was the last time you looked with wonder, either at a natural object, such as a seashell or a tree, or a manufactured object such as a book or a pen. We take so much for granted, but looking with wonder and gratitude can help to bring calm and a sense of inner peace into the busyness of our world.

The next time you watch a DVD or listen to a CD, take a few moments to look at the disc. Look at the colours reflecting off the surface. Look in wonder as you ask yourself where this glorious rainbow of colours comes from. Think about other times and places where you have seen these rainbow colours. Spend a few moments thanking God for the beauty of the rainbow and feel God's calming presence.

When you pick up a pen, why not spend a few moments thinking about the people who designed the pen, the people who were involved in making it. As you hold the pen allow yourself to marvel at the number of people involved. Thank God for the way in which people work together to help others.

Pausing with an object and allowing your thoughts to turn to God in gratitude can bring a moment of calm and prayerfulness in an otherwise busy day.

## Some Miscellaneous observations

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

Don't be afraid to touch bottom. It's solid.

Don't judge a book by its movie.

God must work in you before God can work on you.

The way some people love to find fault, you'd think there was a reward.

The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not cover you.



# Tree planted at Lambeth Palace as part of The Queen's Green Canopy

The Archbishop of Canterbury planted a fig tree in the garden at Lambeth Palace on the 21st February as part of The Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Archbishop Justin Welby was joined by the Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, who is the lead bishop for the Church of England on environmental issues, and by Colonel Dan Rex, the CEO of The Queen's Green



Canopy. The Archbishop has previously joined other faith leaders in a special video message to urge communities to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" in honour of Her Majesty's service to the nation, as part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "The beauty of trees reminds us of our responsibility to care for God's creation, for each other and for generations to come. It's a fitting tribute to Her Majesty The Queen's seven decades of service, and the trees we plant this year will be a sign of our gratitude and celebration of this remarkable occasion for many decades to come. I encourage everyone to get involved in the Queen's Green Canopy, and plant a tree to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee."



The Bishop of Norwich, Graham Usher, said: "Planting a tree is always about expressing hope in the future and is a gift to the rest of creation, as well as future generations. Over seven decades, Her Majesty The Queen has planted more than 1,500 trees and it is fitting that Her Majesty has chosen to mark her Platinum Jubilee by encouraging us to join up this tree canopy. These trees

will remind us of the gift Her Majesty is to this nation and the Commonwealth, as well as the hope-filled future we look to for the whole of creation."

CEO of The Queen's Green Canopy, Dan Rex, said: "The Church of England was a very early supporter of The Queen's Green Canopy and I am delighted and grateful to participate in this special planting at Lambeth Palace with Archbishop Justin and Bishop Graham.

It has been wonderful to witness communities coming together to plant trees in parishes across the nation and children from the Church of England primary schools participating in the Jubilee Young Forester's Award, seeding hope and knowledge for the future".



# Remembering Mothers



The honouring of mothers goes back to Roman times. Each Spring, a pagan festival honoured Cybele, supreme Goddess of Fertility and Mother of all the Gods. Other celebrations paid tribute to Mother Earth. From the Middle Ages, in England, it became traditional for outdoor labourers and craftsmen to have a day off in Lent. Later, domestic servants were also given short leave to visit their mother and family. These brief holidays became opportunities to go to church. This might have been their home church or their nearest cathedral. The Services at the ‘mother’ church symbolised the coming together of families. The term ‘Mothering Sunday’ dates from

the 16th century. This year it falls on the 27th March.

‘Mother’s Day’ is a secular festival. It originated in 1908 after a woman called Anna Jarvis held a church memorial service for her mother in West Virginia, USA. She was a peace activist and a nurse. She founded Mother’s Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna wanted people to honour the mother of the family, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. Before she died Anna regretted the commercialism that followed and expressed that this was never her intention.

Many mothers are mentioned in the Bible along with interesting stories about them. These include Eve, Hagar, Leah, Ruth and Bathsheba, to mention only a few. A few times God enabled childless women to have a baby: Rachel, Rebekah, Manoah’s wife (unnamed) and Hannah who eventually gave birth to

Joseph, Jacob, Samson and Samuel respectively. There was also Sarah, wife of Abraham, who aged 90 became the mother of Isaac. It is possible that these miraculous births were remembered by the Virgin Mary. She was certainly aware that her elderly relative was pregnant. These events foreshadowed angel Gabriel’s announcement that Mary was going to have a baby. Then added “For nothing is impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37) On our Mothering Sunday, what else can we remember about mothers and give thanks to God for them?








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# UK Minority Ethnic clergy to take part in House of Bishops

Plans to elect clergy of UK Minority Ethnic or Global Majority Heritage backgrounds to serve in the House of Bishops have been agreed in what is hoped will be a “catalyst for change” towards making the leadership of the Church of England more representative. Under the scheme, there will be at least 10 UKME/GMH people taking part in meetings of the House, either as existing members or new ‘participant observers’, later in the Spring.



The House of Bishops is made up of the most senior bishops in the Church, including all of the diocesan bishops and some elected suffragans. At present there are just four UKME/GMH bishops in the House, out of 53 places. Under the plans, the House will ensure that at least 10 can be present, either as members as of right; as suffragan bishops appointed as participant observers, or as priests elected as participant observers.

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# ALL SAINTS CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 2.30pm in the Church Meeting Room. We learn new skills and practise old ones. Tea/coffee, biscuits and good company are always on offer. **Please join us when meetings begin again.**

All are welcome. For further details please contact Frances Pickett on 0161 439 8890.



## All Saints' Website and Facebook



Keep up to date with news and events on the All Saints' website. Find out about our charity work, community groups and listen to recent sermons.



Please contact Sarah Ball on: [comms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintsheadleholme.org.uk) with any stories and updates.

Find All Saints' on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsCH/> and "Like" us to get notifications about our news and events.



## Church Open

**Saturday Coffee Mornings have been postponed  
for the immediate future.**



## MEN'S SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on the first Thursday, September to May, at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room (unless otherwise stated). After the talk there is a short question and answer session followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

**Due to the implementation of measures to combat the Coronavirus pandemic all meetings have been cancelled. Further details will be posted when available.**

Although this group is attended by men, if you are interested in hearing any of the speakers you will be most welcome to come along.

Chairman: Bradley Torbitt (0161 486 9387)

Secretary: Mike Parry (0161 485 7886)

# When the angel came to Mary



*‘And behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a son and call his name JESUS.’ (Luke 1:31)*

On 25th March Christians around the world will celebrate the Annunciation, when the angel came to Mary to tell her that she would bear a child. At this time of year, I often find myself wondering how I would react if the angel of the Lord came to me with such amazing news. There are important lessons to be learned from Mary’s ready

response. Here are the seven lessons I learn from Mary, based on Luke’s Gospel.

**Trust:** I am struck by how much Mary trusted God, in my experience, a woman’s trust is built up only through intimate relationships and strong and open communication over a long period of time. Mary therefore had an intimate relationship with God which must have been built up over the years prior to the visitation by the angel Gabriel. She will have known the Jewish scriptures and prophecies of the coming Messiah, which enabled her to recognise God’s will and plan in the voice of the angel. (Luke 1:26-38)

**Willingness:** She was willing to surrender her life to God’s will, she never asked why, she only asked how; the ‘how’ question itself shows a willingness to obey. “How will this be”, Mary said, “since I am a virgin.” (Luke 1:34)

**Obedience:** She was obedient “I am the Lord’s servant” she said. (Luke 1:38)

**Surrender:** Surrender goes a step further than obedience when she said, “let it be to me according to your Word.” She shows a complete yielding and openness to God. (Luke 1:34)

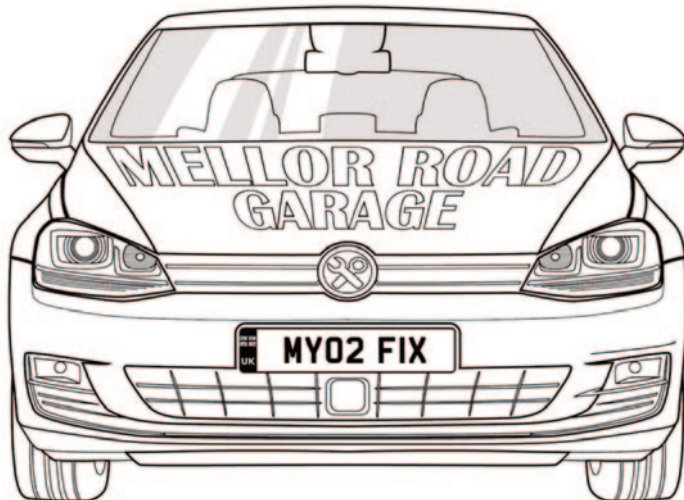
**Faith:** Mary’s faith was built on trust; her unwavering belief was evident to her cousin Elizabeth who when she saw Mary exclaimed: “Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.” (Luke 1:45)

**Action and Testimony:** It’s one thing to say we believe or even to say yes to God but it’s a whole different ball game to get up, get ready and go and tell somebody about His love. Mary did just that; “At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.” (Luke 1:39-40)

**Worship:** Finally, Mary worshiped, her poetic song of love shows her genuine love and reverence for God: (Luke 1:46)

So, I ask myself this question, what has God conceived in me lately?

*May our prayer be to ask Him to fill us afresh, to breathe life into the dreams and visions He have given us, and grant us to conceive of His will in our lives. May His plans and purpose grow in our hearts, and may we be ready to ‘push forward’ and birth those plans at the right time to the glory of name and for the building of His kingdom. Amen.*



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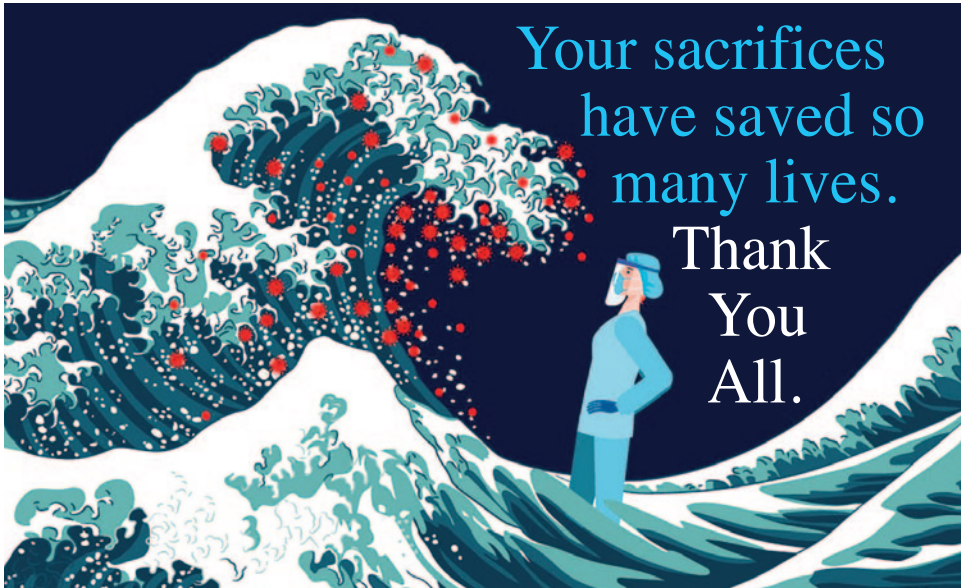
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Contact: Michelle Statham, Parish Rooms Supervisor

**Telephone: 07871 435747**



The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has thanked front line workers, parishes, and all who have made sacrifices to help protect one another from Covid-19, as England recently began to move away from 'plan B' restrictions.

Bishop Sarah, who chairs the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group, said: "When the first measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 were introduced in March 2020, few would have imagined that we would still be making adaptations to the way we live our lives – including our worship – two years on. It has been a very challenging time.

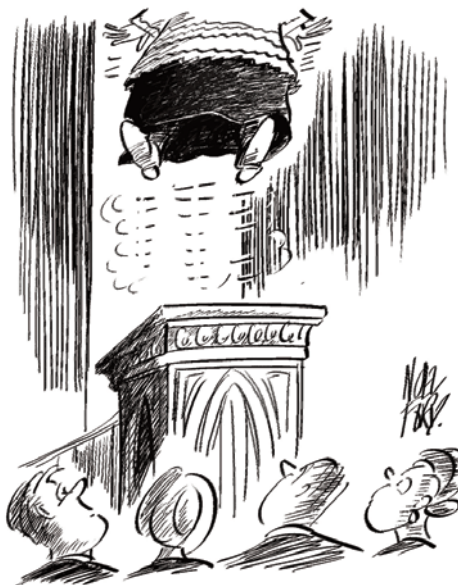
"People have made huge sacrifices to protect one another – not only those they know and love but strangers they might never meet. We've learnt again as society something of what it means to love our neighbour, as Jesus taught."

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## New 'cathedral' of digital worshippers emerges from online broadcasts

Members of a new 'cathedral' of online worshippers, formed since the first lockdown, have played a key role in the Church of England's recent 100th national online service. The first national online service was broadcast from the crypt chapel at Lambeth Palace on Mothering Sunday 2020 as the nation went into lockdown. Since then, a service has been broadcast every Sunday – with additional services broadcast over Easter, Advent and Christmas. The success of the online broadcasts has been described as "bit like an online cathedral – we have a solid core of worshippers and lots of visitors who stream a service occasionally."





The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one



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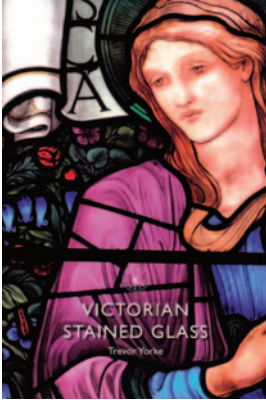
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# Good Reads



## **Victorian Stained Glass**

*by Trevor Yorke, Shire Publications, £8.99*

This beautifully illustrated guide will introduce you to the world of Victorian stained glass.

Victorian stained glass is often magnificent, and can still be found in countless British churches, municipal buildings and homes. It is often glowing with colour, with designs that are influenced by the Gothic Revival, the Arts and Crafts Movement, and even the Art Nouveau, as a new century dawned. Its famous designers include A.W.N. Pugin, and Pre-Raphaelites William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones.

Trevor Yorke, a historian, tells how Victorian craftsmen re-learned the lost medieval art of colouring, painting, and assembling stained glass windows. But also, as this was an age of industry of how windows became templated, and mass produced.

## **The Bible: a story that makes sense of life**

*By Andrew Ollerton, Bible Society, £11.99*

For people of all ages, stories are captivating. Stories resonate deeply with us and help us empathise with different people.

The Bible has been called the greatest story ever told.

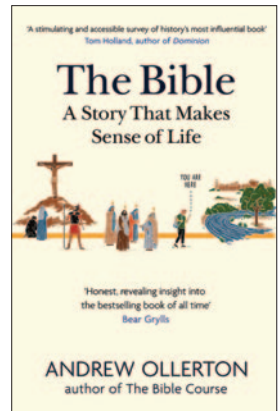
This book explores how the story of the Bible not only helps us understand our own lives, but also gives us a framework for making sense of life in general. We can see how the Bible's narratives mirror the narrative arcs we go through.

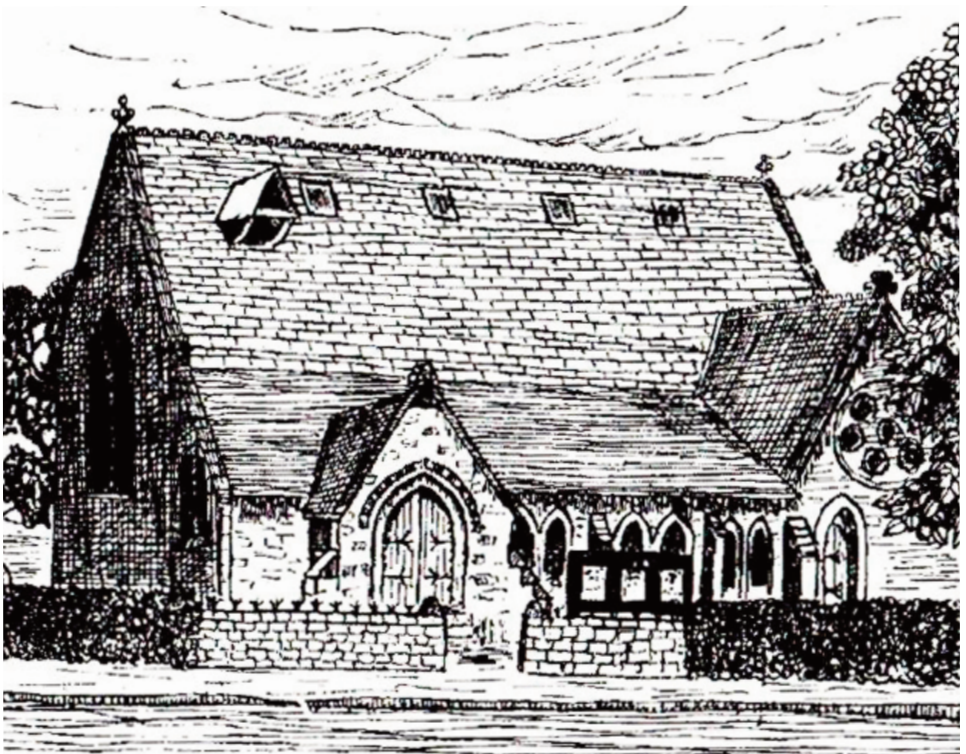
Wherever you stand with the Bible, whether you are seeking to find out its meaning for your own life or just want to know more about its stories, this book is a fantastic starting point.

Each chapter is broken into seven sections with accompanying

Bible reading references, making it easy to read as a daily study over six weeks alongside which, helpful diagrams and maps are integrated throughout. The book will also provide an invaluable model for Bible communicators and church leaders wishing to engage more deeply with the relevance of the Bible in our ever-changing culture.

Wherever you stand with the Bible, whether you are seeking to find out its meaning for your own life or just want to know more about its stories, this book is a fantastic starting point. "An honest, revealing insight into the bestselling book of all time," according to Bear Grylls, adventurer and Chief Scout





## **Christian Stewardship**

The Parish practises the principles of Christian Stewardship in its giving for the work of God. If you are interested to learn more about it please contact the Recorder, Kate Hughes (485 1010), the Vicar or the Churchwardens. The giving of time and talents is encouraged, If you wish to help in some capacity in the Church services or organisations, in improving or maintaining the Church fabric or grounds, or in visiting and helping the sick or housebound, please speak to the Clergy or the Churchwardens.



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# All Saints Cheadle Hulme

# PARISH DIRECTORY

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**Clergy:** \*The Rev'd Sarah Hancock, All Saints Vicarage, 27 Church Road SK8 7JL (485 3455)  
The Rev'd Janet Owens (Retired) (312 4683)

**Readers:** Mrs Pat Yates (485 4546)  
Mr Michael Aiers (439 7692)

**Church Wardens:** \*Mrs Janet Ashman (485 7969)  
\*Mr John Ackerley (486 1419)

**Deputy Wardens:** \*Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)  
\*Ms Sarah Ball (07966 146746)

**Organist:** Miss Trevlyn Thomas (485 8026)

**Sacristan:** \*Mrs Janet Valentine (439 8203)

**P.C.C. Vice Chairman and Treasurer:** \*Mr Jeremy Valentine (439 8203)

**P.C.C. Secretary:** \*Mrs Linda Ackerley (486 1419)

**Planned Giving and Gift Aid Secretary:** \*Mrs Kate Hughes (485 1010)

**Mainly Music Co-ordinator and Child Protection Officer:** \*Mrs Clare Russell (486 9304)

**Church Room Bookings:** Mr Neville Ashman (485 7969)

**Parish Rooms Bookings:** Michelle Statham, Parish Rooms Supervisor (07871 435747)

Email: [parishrooms@allsaintsheadlehulme.org.uk](mailto:parishrooms@allsaintsheadlehulme.org.uk)

**Electoral Roll Officer:** Dr David Jones (01625 850997)

**Parish Magazine Editor:** Mr Rhys Davenport (485 6772) Email: [seed.design@mail.com](mailto:seed.design@mail.com)

**Website and Social Media:** \*Ms Sarah Ball Email: [comms@allsaintsheadlehulme.org.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintsheadlehulme.org.uk)

**Parish Magazine Secretary and Treasurer:**

Mrs Chris Spencer (485 8282)

**Deanery Synod Representatives:** \*Mrs Julia Ball (440 8647)

\*Miss Irene Walton (439 6096)

**P.C.C. Members are marked\* Other members**

Mesdames: L. Bacon, M. Epps, C. Jones, L. Karuku, F. Pickett, S. Stone