

St Andrew's Church

Chilton Moor

THE JOY OF EASTER

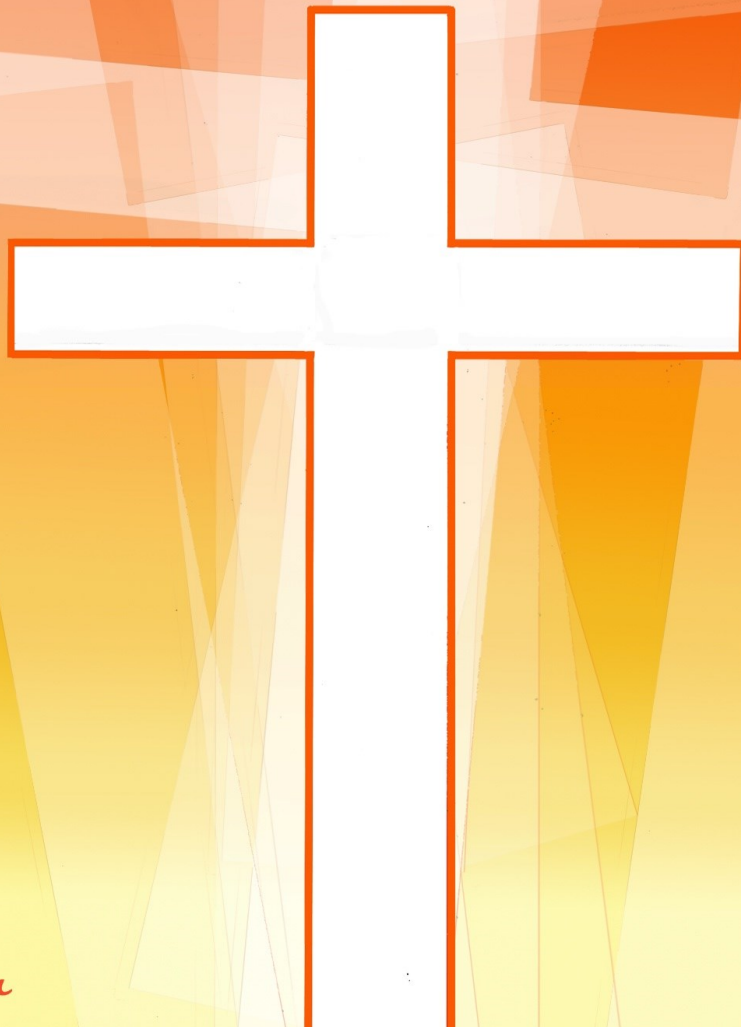


Parish Magazine April 2025

You are more than welcome
to join us at our Easter Services

50p

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with
boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim
your risen life and fill us
with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father



Paul Judson

Vicar's Letter March 2025

Rev Christine



Dear Sisters and Brothers
Here we are in Spring, continuing our journey through Lent but fast approaching the roller coaster of Holy Week which brings us to the triumph and joy of Easter.

Spring is a time of new life, renewal and hope, but we can all be forgiven for looking around our world and feeling a sense of despondency and/or despair. There seems to be so much bad news; war, unrest, challenging political landscapes, climate change, crime.....I'm afraid the list could go on and on. We could all be forgiven for avoiding the news especially if we have our own personal troubles to worry about.

Psalm 121 – I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip, he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you, the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.

I find this Psalm very comforting on a personal level and will turn to it when I am finding life a bit tough, but I also think that it speaks to us of a God who never takes his eyes off what is going on. He watches over everything and everyone and surrounds people and their situations with love and compassion.

The Easter issue is one of our two top issues of the year, and there's a lot to fit into it.

So we have a wide range of material for you, above all on the meaning of Easter, and the events of Holy Week leading up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday morning.

With all good wishes from The Parish Magazine Team

This does not mean that bad things never happen or that God only protects those who turn to him, but he is right there in the mix in the dark and desperate places of our lives and those of the world. The Psalm reassures us of this as does the life



and death of Jesus Christ. God came down and lived among us. He experienced the joy and pain of being human and ultimately suffered for us on the cross.

We can respond by trying to find hope in the everyday and trying to be hope when the opportunity arises. Take time to look out for those glimmers of new life in nature this Spring, make time to reflect and pray for hope in the world and reach out to those around you who need to know about God's love and compassion.

Have a blessed Holy Week and Easter and do join us here at St Andrew's or one of our sister churches as we travel from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with daily services.

Revd Christine



The Real Easter

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:

'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and His resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, *'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection'* (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: *'Oh, you're real, you're real!'* We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

The genius of Madame Tussaud

Some 175 years ago, on 16th April 1850, Madame Marie Tussaud, a French artist known for her wax sculptures, died. She was the founder in 1835 of Madame Tussauds wax museum in London.

Born Anna Maria Grosholtz, she was taught wax modelling in Paris by Philippe Curtius, from whom she inherited two wax museums. Imprisoned as a royalist during the French Revolution, she was given the job of making death masks from heads freshly removed from their bodies by the guillotine.

Her subsequent marriage to François Tussaud was not a success and she moved to England, where she toured for over 30 years with her collection of wax models until she found it a permanent home in Baker Street, London, where it became extremely popular: Charles Dickens described it as “more than an exhibition... an institution”. Her grandson Joseph Randall moved it to its current location on Marylebone Road in 1883.

The extensive exhibition is now operated by Merlin Entertainments and has locations in cities across four continents. The waxwork figures depict prominent people from many fields, including three Popes, Martin Luther King and Billy Graham. But it has not been without controversy: in 2004 a Nativity scene using “celebrities” – including David and Victoria Beckham as Joseph and Mary, Graham Norton as a shepherd and Kylie Minogue as an angel – was roundly criticised by the Roman Catholic Church in particular, and removed after it was damaged in an attack.



Wax figures of gods were used in funeral rites in ancient Egypt; the Greeks and Romans also used them in religious ceremonies, and dolls for children were also made of wax. In the Middle Ages, churches sometimes received votive or thanks offerings of wax figures.

Golden, spiced, and rich with history, hot cross buns are a beloved Easter tradition that dates back centuries. These sweet, yeasted buns, speckled with raisins or currants, are instantly recognisable by the white cross on top—originally a religious symbol marking Good Friday. Some legends claim that Elizabethan bakers were once forbidden from selling them outside of holy days, while others say sailors and travellers carried them for protection. Sharing a hot cross bun with a friend would ensure lasting friendship. Whether enjoyed fresh from the oven with butter or toasted to perfection, their blend of cinnamon, nutmeg, and citrus zest makes them an irresistible springtime treat.



23rd April – St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman.

Some stories say that he was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD – supposedly 23rd April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.



In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybya where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. St George charged forwards and drove his spear into the dragon's gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

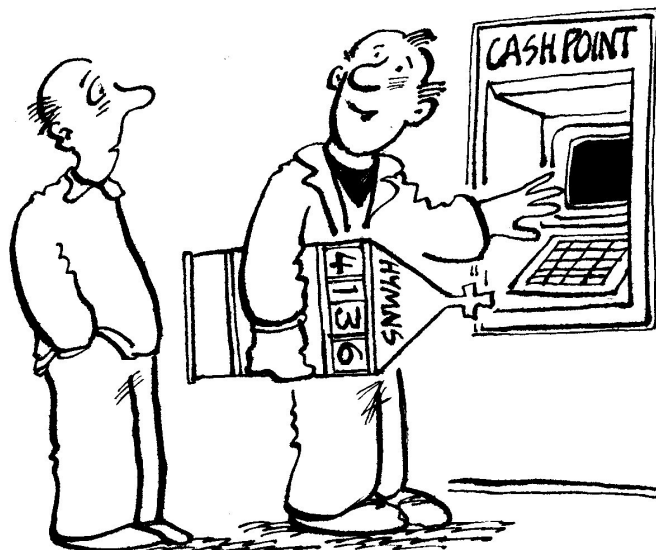
Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So, 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and he is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.



"I'm really not sure about this trend for clergy dressing down, dear."



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!

10 Easter one-liners (Just for Rev John!)

What do you need if your chocolate eggs mysteriously disappear? *An eggsplanation*

What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? *Hip hop*

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch*

What do you call a bunny with fleas? *Bugs Bunny*

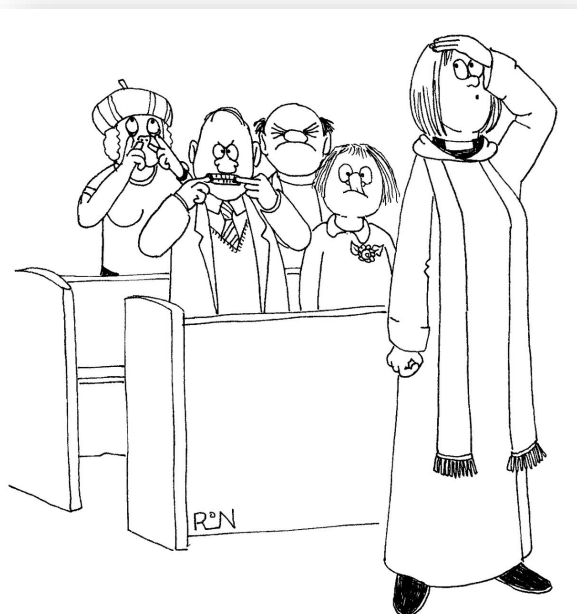
What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards? *A receding hare-line*

How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? *Just look for the gray hares.*

Why do people paint eggs for Easter? *It's easier than trying to wallpaper them!*

What do rabbits say before they eat? "Lettuce pray."

Where does Christmas come before Easter? *The dictionary.*



Mary wished she'd never mentioned
Fresh Expressions of Church

Smiling

From Christine

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner
And someone saw my grin,
When he smiled, I realised
I'd passed it onto him.

I thought about that smile
Then realised its worth
A single smile, just like mine
Could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

"Can You Crack the Code & win an Easter Egg?"

Hidden throughout the magazine are special letters that, when put together, spell out a secret message! Keep an eye out for letters that look a little *different*, maybe they're a unique colour, a slightly different or bolder font, or just feel a little out of place. Find them all, arrange them in order, and reveal the message. Happy hunting!"

Correct answers on the back of a £10 note to Graeme please!

Where did your Easter egg come from?

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia. Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.



This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.



Easter Services

Palm Sunday 13th April

9.15am St Cuthbert's. 9.30am Christ Church

10.30am St Andrew's 11.00am St Mary's

Monday 14th April

Holy Week Eucharist with address 7pm Christ Church Lumley

Tuesday 15th April

Holy Week Eucharist with address 7pm Christ Church Lumley

Wednesday 16th April

10.30am Midweek Eucharist Christ Church.

1.30pm Midweek Eucharist St Andrew's.

Thursday 17th April Maundy Thursday

1:30pm Chilton Moor 7pm Christ Church.

Friday 18th April Good Friday

10am St Mary's. 12 noon St Cuthbert's.

12 noon St Andrew's. 2pm Christ Church

Saturday 19th April

7pm Easter Vigil – Christ Church

Sunday 20th April 2024. Easter Sunday

9.15am St Cuthbert's. 9.30am Christ Church.

10.30am St Andrew's 11am

St Mary's Contemporary Family Service 4pm St. Cuthbert's

Palm Sunday, Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.



As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and they welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in

What is Maundy Thursday?

Jerusalem.



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

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

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

At the Last Supper Jesus shocked His disciples by washing their feet. He did this as an example, to demonstrate to them that they should serve others with humility. Over the centuries, some churches have recreated this act of humility at a special service on Maundy Thursday.



Good Friday, the day the Son of God dies for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.



The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

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

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

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: '*this man has done nothing wrong.*' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, '*remember me when You come into Your kingdom*', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy. In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; '*Today you will be with Me in paradise.*' Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? '*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God*' (1 Peter 3:18).



Easter, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



Lemon juice, anyone?

In the morning, do you drink coffee, tea or freshly squeezed lemon juice mixed with warm water?

Lemon juice has recently become a fashionably healthy lifestyle choice, according to nutritionist and autoimmunity specialist **St V J Hamilton**.

She explains that, as well as being high in Vitamin C, lemon juice helps with hydration and digestion, and can help reduce bloating, constipation and free radicals.

Lemon juice is full of goodies: vitamin C, vitamin B6, folate, magnesium and potassium, and antioxidants and flavonoids. These all help to keep your skin, liver, kidney and heart healthy.



Beetle

The Beetle Drive is on the second Thursday of the month in Churchill Square Community Centre from 2-4pm for an afternoon of fun and games. New members are more than welcome to come along and join in.

Jean Campbell

Mother's Union St Andrew's

We meet at 2pm on the third Thursday of the month. We welcome new members.



A Prayer for Our Community. Loving and gracious God, We thank You for the gift of this community, for every heart, every voice, and every hand. Bless us with kindness, understanding, and unity. Help us to lift one another up, to share freely, and to work together for the good of all. Let peace dwell among us, and may love guide all that we do. Amen.



APCM
27th April
2025

Group Bible Reflection

2nd Tuesday of each month,
6.30pm—7.45pm
with Compline

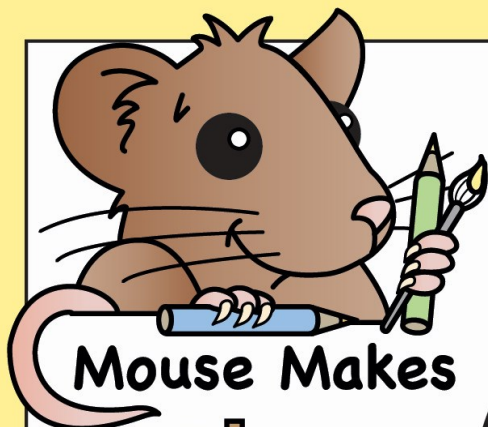


CHURCH
ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF DURHAM

BLESSING OUR
COMMUNITIES
IN JESUS' NAME

A defibrillator has now been installed on the Annexe wall at St. Andrew's. We encourage everyone to familiarise themselves with its location and, if possible, learn how to use it. In an emergency, always call 999 for guidance. Let's work together to keep our community safe!

The Durham Diocese fortnightly information round up will be available on the Church website. Stay updated with the latest news, events, and community updates by visiting regularly.
www.standrews-chiltonmoor.church



Mouse Makes



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and **21:1-14**

R E D E E M E R
E A S T E R P I
S A V I O U R S
U L T I M J A E
R I E D E L I N
R V J E S U S S
E E W B S P E P
C C L O I S S N
T H O S A N N A
I R R O H Y E U
O I D N P P W S
N S G O T E L L
K T A F O A I O
I Y O G J C F R
N U J O Y E E B
G O O D N E W S



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE
GO TELL • EASTER



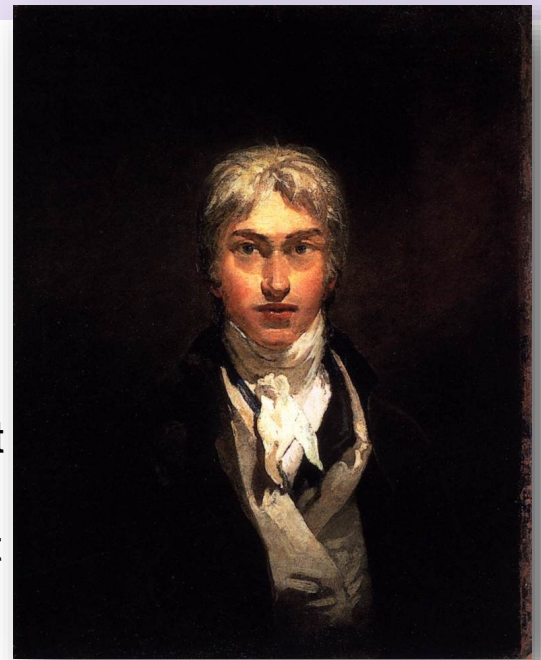
The paintings of JMW Turner

It was 250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775, that ground-breaking British artist J M W Turner was born. The London-born watercolourist and printmaker transformed the established methods of painting, sweeping aside classical preoccupations of form and order.

Joseph Mallord William Turner, known in his time as William Turner, was a child prodigy born to a modest lower-middle-class family. He enrolled at the Royal Academy of Arts when he was 14 and exhibited his first work there a year later. He was a controversial figure, prone to depression and eccentric ideas, such as having himself tied to the mast of a ship during a storm so that he could experience what he wanted to paint.

Nevertheless Turner, who never married but had two daughters by the widow Sarah Danby, had many admirers and supporters from the outset. He travelled widely, particularly around Europe in 1802, and worked in the open air on detailed pencil sketches which he then turned into paintings.

One of his supporters was the MP and artist Walter Fawkes of Farnley Hall, near Otley in Yorkshire, and Turner returned to the area frequently to paint. He was also a friend of the Norwich School artist and clergyman Thomas Daniell.



Turner was certainly not a conventional Christian, but he had attended a Methodist Sunday school as a child and had a deep belief in God as Creator, which he reflected in his use of light in landscapes. Many of his paintings had Biblical themes.

Considered one of the most influential artists of all time, Turner is pictured on the £20 banknote, and

this year sees a twelve-month festival of events and exhibitions across the UK to mark the 250 years since his birth.

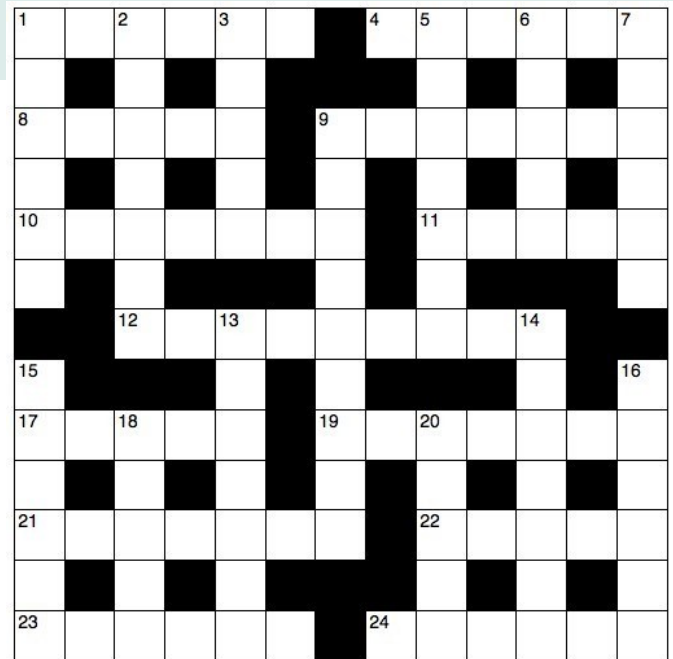
April Crossword

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)



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

Answers on the back page

Living Lord Jesus, We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts.



Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations. Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

By Daphne Kitching

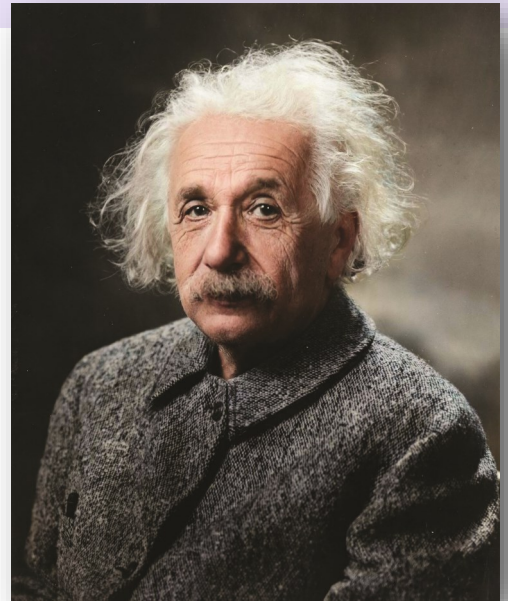
I set out below the income and expenditure of the church during February.

Michael Baxter. Treasurer

Remembering Albert Einstein

Seventy years ago this month, on 18th April 1955, Albert Einstein, the German-born theoretical physicist, died. Considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century, he is known especially for developing the special and general theories of relativity.

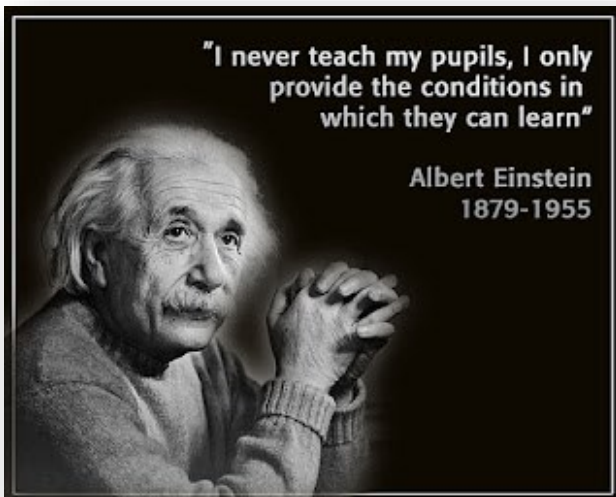
He formulated possibly the best-known theory in the world – the special theory of relativity (including the iconic equation $E = mc^2$) – in 1905 while working as a technical expert, third class, at the Swiss Patent Office in Bern. He went on to become widely known and admired as a physicist of genius. He died in his local hospital in New Jersey of a haemorrhage, having become an American citizen. He was also a Swiss citizen.



Einstein's family were secular Ashkenazi Jews. He was never convinced that God intervened on a personal level, regarding such an idea as naïve. But he had a firm belief in God as creator and sustainer of the universe.

He had an ongoing and never settled debate with Niels Bohr, the Danish theoretical physicist, about the way the universe was described by quantum mechanics, holding that chance could not be behind it because “God does not play dice”.

Einstein was clear that he was not an atheist – more a “religious nonbeliever”. He was disappointed in the end by his failure to prove non-randomness and to come up with



a unified field theory by including electromagnetism in his geometric theory of gravitation. He did receive the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics for his theory of the photoelectric effect.

Not long before he died, he wrote in a letter to physicist David Bohm: “If God created the world, His primary concern was certainly not to make its understanding easy for us.”

Albert Einstein was married twice and had three children by his first wife, Mileva Marić. He also played violin – hence the subtle reference to him “playing electric violin” in Bob Dylan's *Desolation Row*.

The Alexandrina. Known locally as “The Letch”

By John Harvey

The Alexandrina. Known locally as “The Letch” Sunk 1823, closed 1896. Letch being an old Anglo Saxon word for a small stream or boggy ground. As in “Sedge Letch”. The pit was situated over the Robney Road, from West Rainton to Hetton. You turned towards Moorsley, from the old “the Robin Inn”, pub, down a lane that had once been The Robney Flat on the Rainton and Seaham Railway line then on past The Houghton and Hetton Fever Hospital and on to the pit itself.

The pit was just after the hospital before the old LNER railway line, looking towards High Moorsley, about half a mile to the north and the small stream, from where the Letch pit got its name.

I still think about this old pit, we played there often as young boys, The pit was gone, there was a sort of brick domed arch that had gone into the shaft itself, but this had been closed off with brickwork., This was ideal to shelter from the rain, and to light a sort of campfire in. The actual shaft was still there as a sort of stone tower, about 15Ft tall, capped with concrete on top and easily accessible to us .On the top was a trapdoor about 2ft square, that had its cover broken off. We would hoy stones down the shaft; hear them bounce off the side’s then splash into the water at the bottom. Then we decided to play “Dare” jump over the opening, one at a time,(what a great idea), Well I slipped, fell across the hole, body on the other side, legs down the shaft, my mates grabbed me and pulled me to safety, we were all very shocked, and I was told to say nowt about this at home.

The Alexandrina was part of the Londonderry group of mines that the family had owned for many years, known as “Old Ducks” from a previous owner, and then became The Rainton Group when Londonderry took over the franchise. By 1815 the Rainton Mines (not stated which) were becoming unproductive. So John Buddle, Londonderry’s Agent, decided to close them down, he then started removing the support columns of coal, and allowing the mines to collapse behind, working back towards the shafts. And leaving as little coal as possible.

By 1820 this was still in progress .But then in 1822 The Hetton Mining Company proved the feasibility of deep mining coal. Buddle then had a change of plan. He (John Buddle) then on the behalf of Lord Londonderry decided to concentrate on three new deep shaft mines. The Adventure already sunk in 1817, The Alexandrina sunk in 1824 and The Meadows sunk in 1822, the last to form the centre of the new group. This



work was overseen by John Buddles Londonderry's agent and John Robson who was in charge of the sinking of all the new collieries. The two new pits were to be opened during the period of Robson's Memorandum Book.

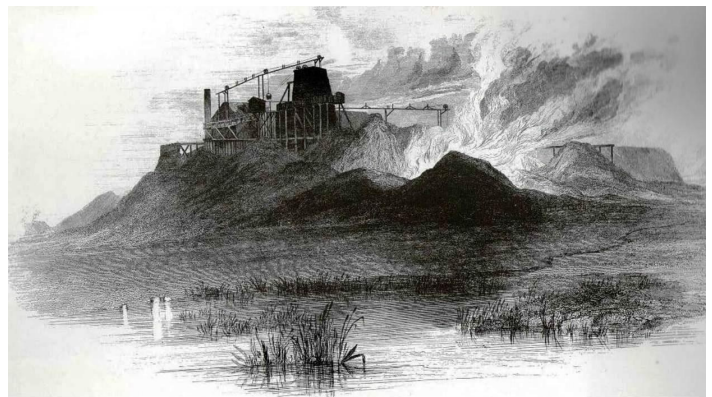
These were:-

Alexandrina, Or Letch Pit 1st Oct. 1823 Aug. 1824 and Rainton Meadows 9th June 1821 June 1824

Ground was broken for the new colliery near, Moorsley Letch, to be called later the Alexandrina. The first sods were cut by Mr John Legg, possibly of the firm of Lewis P. Legge & Co., brewers, maltsters and corn millers at Rainton Brewery, and by John Robson junior.

At the Alexandrina Pit, the Hutton seam was between 50 and 56 inches thick. At Hunter's House Pit the Five Quarter seam was abandoned in mid 1819, owing to the High cost of working the poor quality coal, and by January 1823 it seems likely that only the Hutton seam, with a little from the Low Main, were being worked.

The Letch was part of the Rainton Group of Mines but quite close to Moor sley, in the boundary of Hetton-Le-Hole (Between Durham and Sunderland) but situated to the west toward the Pittington group of Mines and close (North Hetton Group), but still part of The Rainton Group. This Mine was quite short lived and closed around the, same time as the Pittington Mines. Opened 1824, closed 1896. The Mine is heavily surrounded by woodland but due to its isolated location, it has an abundance of half demolished buildings, including a disused Shaft.



The Alexandrina Pit was owned by Lord Londonderry, Coal from the Alexandrina Colliery and the other Rainton pits was originally transported by waggon way to the Londonderry Staiths at Fatfield but on the opening of the Rainton and Seaham Railway in 1831, coal was then transported by rail to Seaham Harbour.

Part of Rainton Colliery Group consisting of The Alexandrina, 1823 -1896 The Adventure, 1817 – 1978 and The Meadows, 1822 -1960. Nearby, Rainton Collieries included Nicholson's Pit, North Pit, Plain Pit, and Resolution Pit. In 1790 a boring had been put down in South Pit in East Rainton by a Mr Rawlings, to a depth of 10 fathoms. Whelan reported that in 1894 Rainton Colliery had 31 stationary engines, 38 boilers, 1185 workers and 835 workmen's houses.

To be continued next month



With Holy Week in mind...

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. –

James A Francis

He suffered not as God, but He who suffered was God. *John Owen*

The death of Christ was the most dreadful blow ever given to the empire of darkness.

– *William Plumer*

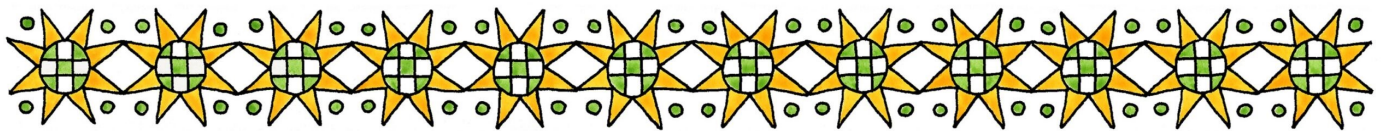
The world cannot bury Christ. The earth is not deep enough for His tomb, the clouds are not wide enough for His winding-sheet. – *E Thomson*

The empty tomb of Christ has been the cradle of the church. – *WR Nicoll*

The Christian Church has the resurrection written all over it. – *E G Robinson*

Christianity is the revelation of God, not the research of man. – *JA Stewart*

Our friends bring us to the grave and leave us there, but God will not. – *Anon*



Sharing the Easter story – with the help of an egg

There are 80 million Easter eggs being sold in the UK this year, but The Real Easter Egg is unique. It is the *only one* which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

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The Real Easter Egg is made by The Meaningful Chocolate Company which was 'crowd founded' in 2010 by thousands of churches and church schools which pre-paid for the manufacture of The Real Easter Egg. Since then more than two million eggs have been sold, and £420,000 raised for charitable causes.

Christ Church Lumley

Please note that the April Coffee Morning is being brought forward to the **5th April**. This is due to Safeguarding training that members of the Parochial Church Council have to attend on the 12th April. We will be back to our usual second Saturday of the month in May.



Christ Church Knit & Natter Craft Group

Come and join

our Knit & Natter Craft Group.

**Bring your knitting, crochet or sewing,
or come and learn to knit or how to do
English Paper Piece Quilting.**

We meet fortnightly from

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The dates for April are the 2nd, 16th & 30th

Everyone is welcome





CHRIST CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday 5th April
10.00am - 11.30am**

Refreshments & Home Baked Cakes, Scones etc.

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**We look forward
to seeing you**





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Treasurer Michael Baxter
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Group Bible 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6.30pm—7.45pm
with Compile

For information concerning Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms,
please contact Reverend John

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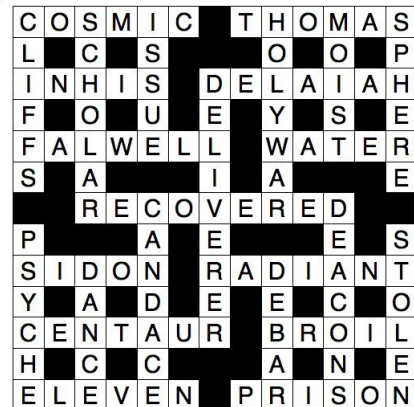
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Items for submission can be left at St Andrew or
E: info@standrews-chiltonmoor.church





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We hope that this system will help to meet our visit requests and visiting in general. If you would like a visit or know anyone who would like one, please fill in the slip opposite.

Cut out the slip and hand it into Church or, if you are unable to get to Church give it to someone to bring for you.

Visit Request

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