

St Andrew's Church Chilton Moor

Parish Magazine March 2025



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**



50p

Vicar's Letter March 2025

Rev John



I was thinking of what to write for this month's letter, and I initially thought about something about Spring, or Lent. And I still want to do that but I think it's also right to talk about the mess the Church of England is in at the moment. As it happens at the time I write this, the past two sermons that I've given have reflected that God sees us. Firstly from the beatitudes.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted....."

Matthew 5v3-4 NRSVUE.

And there it was more of a comfort that when we are the poor, or when we mourn, and later as Jesus goes on to say when we are reviled, persecuted and hated. God sees what is happening to us, that Jesus too knows our pain, because on the cross he felt it, and when we weep God weeps with us, and he sent the church to bring comfort to those in need. The second sermon was based on Noah, and there it was more that God has seen what is happening the wrongs that people are doing to one another, and there he is putting an end to it.

The Church should have started from that point that God has seen the good and the bad and should have been the place which recognised abuse in other places and called it out, who spoke up for the downtrodden, who helped to bring healing to our world. And shamefully we've hidden away, not spoken up for those abused within the Church. One of my favourite things about Spring is that things are getting lighter the evenings and the mornings, the darkness of winter is going. The Church should have been prepared to let light shine, been prepared to face up to the wrongs which have happened and to realise we couldn't and shouldn't have kept things under wraps. This Lent as we prepare for Easter and think about our own wrongdoing the Church nationally needs to reflect too, to look at the place gone wrong. And to repent

Welcome to the March edition of the magazine.

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday this year, and we have a wide range of material to help you make the most of the beginning of this most glorious season.

With warm wishes The Magazine Team

to turn and to put right what has been wrong, to make sure these sorts of things can never happen again. I'm sorry for when the Church of England has failed and I'd ask you to join me in helping to make it a better place.

Rev. John

My Adventurous Life In A Hazy World

By George Hicks

When I was asked to write this piece for the church magazine, my first thought was, “Well, that’s a bit of a challenge, isn’t it?” Given that I’m registered blind and can’t actually see to write or type, it was clear I’d need a bit of help. So, here I am, dictating my thoughts to my very patient wife, who is kindly typing this for me, in fact a few of my daily tasks involve me needing a helping hand from my wife to keep me right.

Having been fully sighted for most of my life, losing my sight in my 60s has taken some adjusting - perhaps I’m still adjusting! I can navigate with a cane, although I don’t always take it, and I’ve decided against a guide dog (for now), knowing it would be a permanent companion. For the time being, I’m managing with the very tiny bit of sight I have in one eye, which, for reference, is a grey haze of blur. On a good day, I can make out some shadows; on other days, not so much.

Daily life comes with its fair share of challenges. Take the everyday things most people do without thinking - making a cup of tea. How much water have I actually put in the kettle? How much am I putting in my cup? Turning the heating up - have I set it to a comfortable temperature or will I soon be sitting in a sauna? Finding the buttons on the microwave, putting toothpaste on a toothbrush (without decorating the bathroom sink), or even just making sure my socks match - these are the little things that now require extra thought. Try doing your daily routine with your eyes closed - you might be surprised how tricky it is!

Then there’s finding a safe place to cross the road. With electric cars and background noise, I sometimes feel like I’m playing a high-stakes game of “guess if it’s safe”. Shopping is another adventure, identifying items by touch isn’t as easy as you think, tins of beans, soup and tomatoes all are pretty similar! And let’s not even talk about the time I struck up a conversation with what turned out to be a mannequin...

Thankfully, technology has helped make some things easier. My mobile phone has voiceover functions, and I rely on Siri and Alexa to help with various tasks at home. Some appliances can even be controlled by voice, which is brilliant - when the technology works, of course! There have been a few moments of me shouting at Alexa in frustration, but overall, it’s a big help although haven’t quite managed how to get Alexa to help me find my tablet if I drop one on the floor and can’t find it!

People often ask how they can help, so here are a few small things that make a big difference:

1. Say Hello - And Say Your Name – A simple “Hi, it’s xxxx” is really helpful. Otherwise, I’m just guessing who you are hoping I recognise your voice.



2. Give Clear Directions – Instead of pointing and saying, “It’s over there,” try “a few steps to your left” or “it’s the second shelf down.”
3. Help Me Find a Safe Crossing – If you see me waiting, it’s okay to ask if I need help. Just let me know who you are first!
4. Obstacles – Things left on the pavement, like bins, bikes, or bags, can be tricky to avoid.
5. Guide Dogs Are Working – If I ever do get one, I’ll be the first to tell you there’s a new addition to our congregation but when their harness is on, they’re on duty, so no distractions!

A few extra daily challenge thrown in the mix living with blindness.... So, if you see me around, stop and say hello (just make sure you say your name... and that you’re not a mannequin!).

George



A Lent Reflection

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, *‘At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!’* Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let’s use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.



At Jesus’ baptism, God’s voice says, *‘You are My Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.’* (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan’s temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: His divine sonship, political power and Messianic role (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus was looking into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He should be.

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, *‘who am I?’* It’s a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we’ve done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves? Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

Easter Services



Time flies and given the winds last week so was the trampoline in our garden. The days are already starting to get a little lighter. We're preparing to celebrate East and soon we'll have Ash Wednesday marking the formal start to lent our time of reflection ahead of Easter, do join us through lent and also at our Easter services, to remember both the sorrow and the joy, the darkness and the light.

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

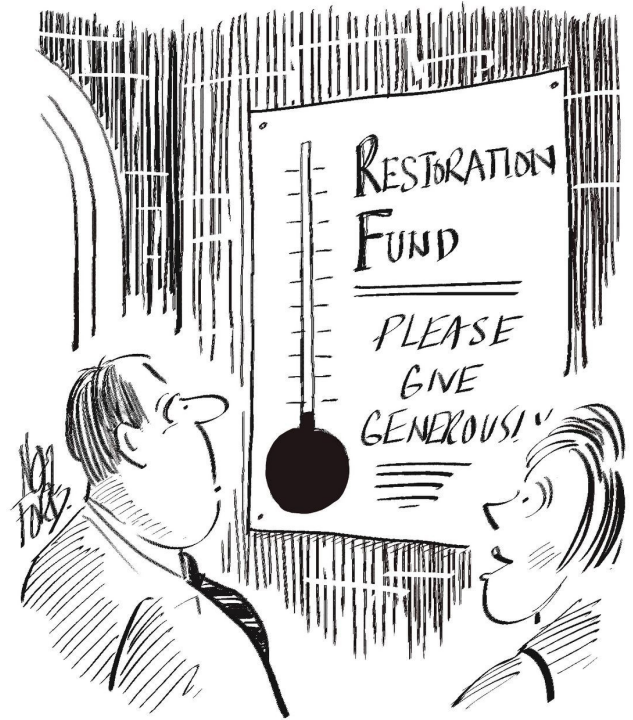
Sunday 20th April 2024. Easter Sunday

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





George saw his whole Parish
as a Mission Field



"No, not the steeple, the roof or the organ – it's for the vicar's post-Christmas-pre-Easter recuperation holiday-break."

Parent's Dictionary

Bottle feeding: An opportunity for Dad to also get up at 2 a.m.

Defense: What you'd better have around de garden if you're going to let de children play outside.

Family planning: The art of spacing your children the proper distance apart to keep you just on the edge of financial disaster.

Feedback: The inevitable result when the baby doesn't appreciate the strained carrots.

Grandparents: The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Independent: How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Show off: A child who is more talented than yours.

Temper tantrums: What you should keep to a minimum so as to not upset the children.

New meanings

Dogma – a puppy's mother

Polygon – a lost parrot

Snoring

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. "It has to STOP," he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: "Does it really bother you that much?"

"Well, it's not just me," confided the minister. "She is bothering the whole congregation."

Reflecting Faith: The Meaning of Baptism

One of the clearest visual symbols inside a church building relates to where the font, used for baptism, is placed.

We often think of Baptism as being uniquely Christian, but this is not the case. Most established religions have some form of rite to welcome a new person – regardless of their age – into their fellowship.

If you think of Jesus being baptised in the river Jordan by John, it is clear that this was something within the Jewish practice happening before ‘Christianity’ came into being.

When Paul writes to the Corinthians in his first letter, he compares the Christian rite with baptism ‘into Moses in the sea’. This comes from him being a Hillelite rabbi who argued that as ‘the Jews passed from slavery in Egypt through the Red Sea into Canaan, so the Gentile passed from heathenism through baptism into the “promised land” ‘.

Baptism was intended as a symbolic action of outward cleansing, meaning change, from not being part of the ‘group’ to being welcomed into it. It was accepted that the person’s inside did not change! There was and still remains nothing magical about that (unfortunately).



In the Book of Acts there is an instance where one person chose to follow Christ, and the whole family was baptised.

The Early Church took baptism very seriously, and new believers had to spend a good length of time preparing for it. As the years passed, the babies of Christian believers came to be baptised shortly after birth.

A prayer for Lent

We beseech you, O Lord, that as our bodies grow weaker for lack of food during the season of fasting, so our souls may grow stronger. May we learn to fight more valiantly against evil, and to strive more earnestly for righteousness. Thus, through abstaining from the fruits of the earth, may we bear more abundantly the fruits of Your spirit.
Amen

Open The Book celebrates 25 years of Bible storytelling

Do you remember hearing your first Bible story? Most of us would have been children at the time.

If you had the privilege of hearing them often, those stories would now be a part of you, giving you hope in dark times, and a way to understand the world around you, and a sure sense that the God of the Bible exists. All in all, Bible stories are important to know.

This year Bible Society's Open the Book turns 25. It has seen remarkable progress in getting Bible stories 'out there', to young children right across the world. Open the Book brings the Bible to life through its creative and interactive storytelling approach.

From England to Kyrgyzstan, storytelling teams visit schools and present a ten to fifteen-minute scripted Bible story, designed to be interactive.

Over many years, hundreds of volunteers and creative storytelling teams have shared the ageless stories in thousands of primary schools. They have created lasting memories, sparked the imagination, given hope, taught important lessons, connected generations and touched the hearts of countless young people and their teachers.

Fiona, a member of the Open the Book staff team at Bible Society, says "With 95 per cent of children no longer in church, who else will tell them these powerful, life changing stories and take the word into our neighbourhoods?"

Would you like to share Bible stories with primary school children? Why not become a storyteller and get a team started from your church?



Find out more at:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/>

Our Open the Book Team went in to East Rainton Primary school to share the story of Jacob's ladder with the pupils and staff. As usual we had some excellent help from willing volunteers to tell this story of how Jacob was tricked by his uncle.

4th March – Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs:

"And every man and maide doe take their turne,
And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients can be used to highlight four significant things about time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.



Church Magazine

Another year is starting for our church magazine and I wish to say a big thank you to all our friends who once again decided to keep taking the magazine for another year at the very modest cost of £5. Sadly, we have lost a few of our dear friends during the last year and they will be greatly missed. It always amazed me that, although people may be housebound, it was always a delight when delivering their magazines to see such happy smiling faces. May they all rest in peace.

CB

5th March – Ash Wednesday, mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and it stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us. The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly, the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.





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

Heavenly Father, We come before You with grateful hearts, lifting up our community into Your loving hands. Thank You for the neighbours, families, and friends who make this place a home. Bless us with unity, kindness, and a spirit of compassion, that we may care for one another as You care for us.

Lord, strengthen those who are struggling—whether in body, mind, or spirit. Bring healing to the sick, comfort to the grieving, and hope to those who feel lost. May we be instruments of Your peace, offering love and support to all who need it.

Guide our leaders with wisdom and integrity, that they may make decisions for the good of all. Help us to be a community that stands for justice, mercy, and truth.

Fill our hearts with generosity, that we may serve one another selflessly. Teach us to see Your presence in every person we meet, and to treat each other with kindness and respect.

Lord, let Your light shine in our streets, our schools, our workplaces, and our homes. May our community be a reflection of Your love, a place where all are welcome and all can thrive. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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.

Group Bible Reflection

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



Bearing fruit takes time

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.



Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary.

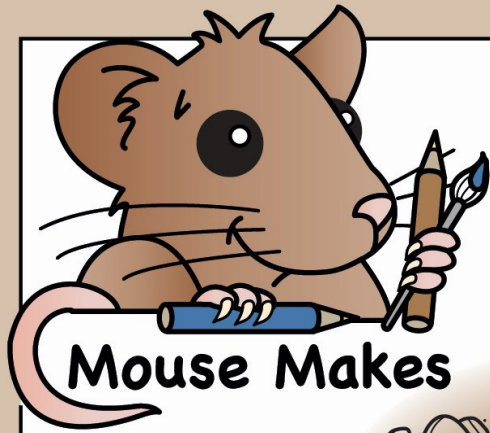
Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.

Valentines Coffee Morning

On behalf of St Andrew's Church I would like to say a big thank you to all who helped in whatever way. It was a very pleasant morning and although not a lot of people were able to attend we had a very enjoyable time and raised £122 for much needed church funds.

CB



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

 Luke 4:1



For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

 Luke 4:2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

 Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
 see Luke 4:14-15

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

 Luke 4:8



READ
 the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

 Luke 4:12



JESUS • LED
 WILDERNESS
 DESERT
 TEMPTATIONS
 DAYS • DEVIL
 HUNGRY • SON
 STONE • ROCK
 KINGDOMS
 WORLD • GLORY
 WRITTEN
 SCRIPTURE
 WORSHIP • ONLY
 SERVE • LORD
 JERUSALEM
 HIGH • TEMPLE
 THROW • DOWN
 JUMP • ANGELS
 HANDS • HOLD
 LIFT • FOOT

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L	I	F	T	W	P	A	H	D	J	U	M	P	A
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Find the words from the questions too!

Mothering Sunday & Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

Motherhood is something special



Here is just a tiny selection of what people have said about it.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. – Genesis 3:20

God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers. – *Jewish Proverb*

As we know, our own mother bore us only into pain and dying. But our true mother, Jesus, who is all love, bears us into joy and endless living. Blessed may He be. – *Julian of Norwich*

Every mother is a working mother. – *Anon*

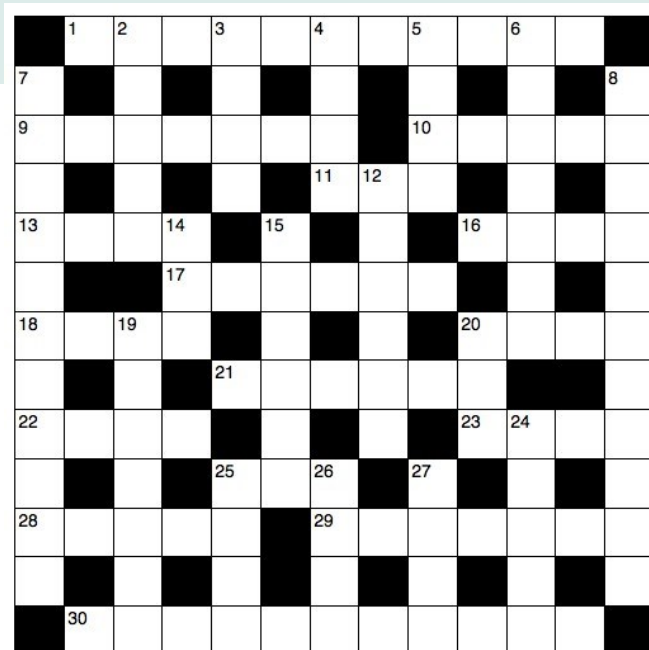
This is the promise: that if you honour your father and mother, yours will be a long life, full of blessing. – *Ephesians 6:2 (Living Bible)*

No man is poor who has had a godly mother. – *Abraham Lincoln*

Even He that died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought – the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight for heaven. – *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Her children rise up and call her blessed. – *Proverbs 31:28*

March Crossword



Across

1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)

9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)

10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)

11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)

13 Mede (anag.) (4)

16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)

17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)

18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)

20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)

21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)

22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)

23 Edit (anag.) (4)

25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)

28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)

29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)

30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)

3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4

4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)

5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)

6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not

at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)

7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)

8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)

12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)

14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)

15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)

19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)

20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)

24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)

25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)

26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)

27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

Middle Rainton the Beginning and End, 1822 to 1964

By John Harvey

The village itself is tied to the local mines; these mines were originally leased by the Dean and Chapter of Durham for 21 year periods. In 1667 John Duck, (a Durham Alderman) took out the Rainton lease, hence on old maps the pits are called Rainton Old Ducks. In 1688 Wharton took over the lease,, It was later passed on to John Tempest in 1710, And in 1794 it was leased to Sir Henry Vane (Vane Tempest) and later on was passed to Lord Londonderry.

By 1815 the Rainton Mines were becoming unproductive. So John Buddle Lord Londonderry's mining agent decided to close them all down, He then started removing the support columns of coal, allowing the mines to collapse behind, and working back towards the shafts. Leaving as little coal as possible. By 1820 this work was still in progress, BUT, in 1822 The Hetton Mining Company proved the feasibility of deep mining coal. Buddle then had a change of plan...

John Buddle then, on behalf of Lord Londonderry, decided to concentrate on three deep shaft mines called The Rainton Group. The Adventure already sunk in 1817 The Alexandrina and Meadows both sunk in 1824. The Meadows was to form the centre of this group. In order to provide accommodation for these miners and their families, Buddle bought a triangular freehold plot of land from Mr. Heaviside, just to the east of Benridge Bank following the main road towards East Rainton,,and had Middle Rainton built on this site in 1822.

Middle Rainton had several rows of houses. Front Street on the main road had 28 houses, then Lewis St, (Known as Back Row), with about 34 houses, West Row, with 10, houses Cross Street, 3 houses, Slate Row with about 20 houses , and Chapel Row with over 10. In all, and another few houses in small groups dotted around the village. A total of approximately 150 houses with a population of 600 plus inhabitants (from census).

There were four pubs. The Fox & Hounds, Rose & Crown both on Lewis St. And The Foresters Arms on Front St. and The Hope and Anchor at the bottom north west corner The Fox and Hounds being by far the largest had a very large function room upstairs... The Foresters Arms a coach stop with large brick built stables that had four stall, a feed store and four tack rooms in a brick built gated courtyard.

A large grocers shop at the top of West Street run by the Gaunt family, On Front St there was a general builder called Bailes, two small shops run by The Coulson family who also ran the fish and chip shop, and a wet fish merchant. My family the Wilsons also ran a wet fish business, first from Cross House on Cross St, and later from the old Fox and Hound pub. At the bottom of Lewis St lived the Stevenson's the coal merchants, Yeoman's at Grange Farm and of course the local Meadows pit that still provided employment for most of the village men. There was a fair sized school house built for 80 plus pupils on the west side of the village across the A 690 and the large rectory for St Mary's church rector. Just behind Slate Row was a large



Salvation Army Hall. Surrounding the village on all sides were rows of allotments the field going down Meadows lane was all allotments, there were enough for every house in the village.

In the mid 1930's Durham Council issued a "D" notice on 95 houses in the village, this meant these dwellings were unfit for habitation and had to be demolished. East Rainton council estate was built and nearly all the families were re- housed there, although a few went to West Rainton and others to Hetton. In 1938/9, over two thirds of the houses were demolished, and left as piles of unsightly rubble until 1960. This left Front St intact, the top of West Row, and sections of Lewis and Cross St. and the farm hind's cottage. Both the Fox and Hounds and The Rose and Crown were closed as pubs and used as private houses. The small school was also closed and demolished this left the Foresters Arms as the only pub in the village.

It stayed very much like this through the 40's and 50's until about 1960 when the new A690 Road was being built. This would run right through the village so it had to go. People were re- housed slowly starting at the west end of Front St and ending up at No28 at the east end. The last house inhabited, as late as 1963, was the old Fox and Hounds where I lived with the Wilsons. We were there until demolition in 1964 and then lived in a caravan over the road from the house.

The final tragedy came as if by destiny, as the last houses were being demolished, The Rainton Meadows pit, the very pit for which the village was originally built was closed forever, as if in sympathy. Now both pit and village are fading memories to the people who once lived there.

John Harvey



Warts n' arl

By John Harvey

We just had to include another article from tales from the Parish with John, our now resident historian.

When I was about say 11yrs 1951, the back of my hands were covered in unsightly warts, they had

been there for some years and were increasing. Ralph my uncle was taking the horse to be shod at the blacksmith he knew in Lumley; this was down Fenton Well Lane (gannin down to the river) to a place he knew well (Ralph used to live-in a house at the top of this lane) I went along for the ride.

When we got there the smith got on with shoeing the horse, first remove the old shoe, cut the hoof to shape, heat the shoe and trial fit, heat again and place on the hoof (loads of foul smelling smoke). Then nail the new shoe on file off the hoof, and on to the next leg. While doing this he saw my warts, asked about them and had a



good look at them. He then told me to stick both hands in the forge water trough, where the hot iron was cooled, (This water was far from clean). Then to thoroughly rub the water in, leave to dry, and don't wash for 24 hours.

A few weeks later all the warts had gone, my hands clear of them. 40 years later my wife had the same problem. Lots of warts on the back of her hands, countless trips to the doctor to have them frozen off, with no results at all. I had told her many times about mine. We were on holiday in Weardale, and on a visit to Killhope lead mine, found the old blacksmiths

workshop open to the public. I told her go in and to get her hands in the trough, she laughed, load of rubbish she said. Nowt to lose I replied, well she did, not to keen on not washing for a day but still. And it worked, a few weeks later all gone.

What can I say, myth or not, it worked for both of us.

John



Don't make your children finish their food

If you do, you could make them obese.

So says a recent poll for the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF). It found that half of parents force their children to eat everything on their plate at least some, if not most, of the time.

But it was found that often, these parents pile an enormous portion of food on the plate and then get angry when their children don't want it all.

Instead, the BNF advises that parents should start by putting a small amount of food on their children's plates, and then allow them to have seconds, if they are still hungry.

Bridget Benelam, nutrition communications manager for the BNF, points out: "Research has shown that large portions of food encourage both adults and children to eat more, so getting portion sizes right is an important element of having a balanced diet that supports a healthy body weight."



The King and Queen will be attending the Royal Maundy Service at Durham Cathedral on Thursday 17 April 2025.

Durham Cathedral is delighted to announce that it will be hosting the Royal Maundy Service, this coming year.

Royal Maundy takes place each year on the Thursday before Easter Day and is a special service in which the King expresses his gratitude for those who serve and volunteer in their communities. The service is rooted in the tradition of Jesus washing his disciples' feet in the Upper Room the night before his death and goes back to medieval times.

During the service His Majesty will present 152 recipients, 76 men and 76 women (signifying the age of the Monarch), with specially-minted Maundy money to thank them for their outstanding Christian service and for making a difference to the lives of people in their local communities. These recipients have been selected from the Diocese of Durham and other dioceses across the Province of York and from Wales and Scotland. The Very Revd Dr Philip Plyming, Dean of Durham says,

"We are both honoured and delighted that The King and Queen are coming to Durham for this year's Royal Maundy Service. All of us at Durham Cathedral look forward to welcoming them and being part of this special celebration of volunteering in the local community. Maundy Thursday is about remembering the service and sacrifice of Jesus and it will be so special to celebrate in such a memorable way those who live out the example of Jesus today."

The King's first Maundy Service as Monarch took place in 2023 in York Minster, however the tradition of hosting the service outside of London, came from the late Queen Elizabeth II. Early in her reign, Queen Elizabeth II decided Maundy money should not just be distributed to the people of London, and so she began travelling to various cathedrals or abbeys to give gifts to local people. She visited every cathedral in the country over the course of her reign, a tradition which has been continued in the current King's reign. The last Royal Maundy Service to take place at Durham Cathedral was in 1967.

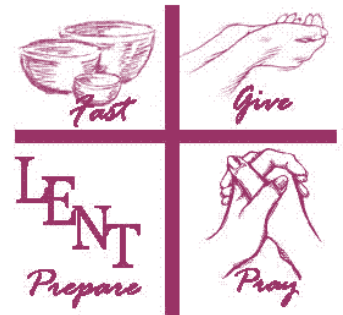
Each recipient of Maundy money is given two small leather purses by The King, one red and one white. The first contains a small amount of ordinary coinage which symbolises the Sovereign's gift for food and clothing. The second purse contains Maundy coins up to the value of the Sovereign's age (which this year is 76p). The coins are legal tender but recipients normally prefer to retain them as a keepsake.

The 152 recipients have recently been notified and plans are already underway to ensure a successful Royal Visit to Durham this April.

Christ Church Lumley

Lent 2025

This year Ash Wednesday falls on the 5th March.
We will be having our usual 10.30am service
which will include the Imposition of Ashes.



CHRIST CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 8th March
10.00am - 11.30am

Refreshments & Home Baked Cakes, Scones etc.
Please come along and support your Parish Church
We look forward to seeing you



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
1.30pm to 3.30pm at Christ Church
The dates for March are the 5th & 19th

Everyone is welcome





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