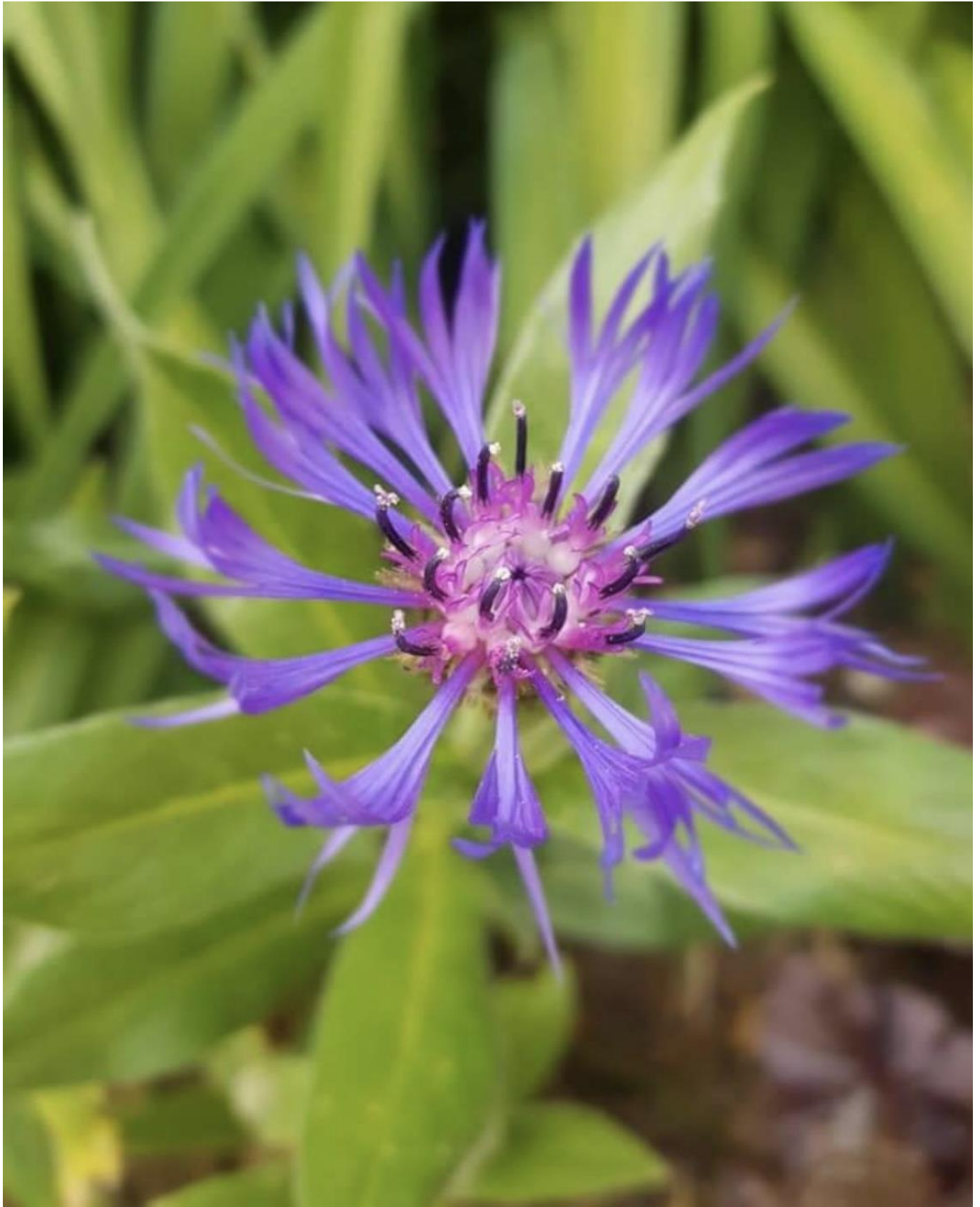




St Mark's Parish Magazine

APRIL 2024





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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from
2 May 2024

All contributions to the editor by
Monday 15 April 2024

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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

Easter is without doubt the most important season in the Church year and Easter Sunday is the most special day of the year. The resurrection of Jesus Christ – the Son of God – changed the world in an unprecedented way. The timing and traditions of Easter are interesting to note.



The timing of Easter is linked to the Passover festival which celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. This feast lasts for 7 days from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April. According to Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727), who used the Hebrew lunar calendar for his research, the resurrection is likely to have occurred on Sunday 5 April 33AD. Modern scholars continue to believe that this date could be accurate. Yet our dates for the celebration of Easter vary according to the moon.

Officially, Easter Day falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox. But the precise calculations are very complicated and involve something called an "ecclesiastical full moon" which is not the same as the moon in the sky! The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and will not happen again until 2285. The latest is 25 April which happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

The name "Easter" comes from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in "Eostur-Monath". Eostre's sacred animal was a hare – hence the link with the Easter bunny! Easter eggs are also a symbol of fertility and rebirth, and can also portray the empty tomb of Jesus. Alternatively, since eggs were historically forbidden in Lent, we can easily see how decorating and eating them became a practical way of celebrating the season – particularly when coated in chocolate!

Whatever the meanings or traditions associated with Easter, the resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. Our greeting of "Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia" is a time-honoured proclamation of this wonderful truth. May the risen Christ lead and guide you as we seek to follow him in our lives.

With every blessing,



Church News

MEET SARAH WALKER – PCC member at St Mark's Church

Sarah Walker is a Reigate mum of two and has been attending St. Mark's Church for 10 years now. She is a member of the PCC and the Deanery Synod.

"Being relatively new to Church, I chose St. Mark's because I felt so welcomed by other parents in the congregation. Everyone was so down-to-earth and friendly.

I initially came to church to get my children christened but stayed because I loved how St. Mark's encourages practical help in the community for those needing assistance. Times are hard even in an affluent area like Reigate and I feel that if you are in a lucky position and can donate any time or money it's a good thing to do to give back.



It's easy to get involved in the many events that the Church holds, from Community lunches, helping to donate to the local food bank and serving tea and coffee after a service. Four years ago I was nominated to join the Deanery Synod, the best way of describing this group (of up to four people) is that we are spokespeople for the St. Mark's congregation. Essentially, we act as a litmus test for the Church of England. The C of E needs to gauge the feelings of churchgoers and their opinions on important questions. For example, our feelings on gay marriage in Church or should Vicars be able to conduct a Christian marriage ceremony outside of the Church setting, to name a couple of examples.

In the Deanery Synod meetings, these types of questions are discussed and a vote is cast that is relayed to the General Synod i.e. up the food chain! Age-old rules can be changed and do change with time, meaning that the C of E will reflect today's views and move with the generations. Changing the perception of the Church to the outside world. There are only three meetings a year and they last roughly an hour, so being on the Deanery Synod is not an arduous task and can have a lasting impact. There's still one place available on the Deanery Synod join us?!



ST MARK'S CRAFT GROUP

Our Craft Group meet monthly in each other's homes and new members are most welcome. Contact Cherith Baldry (221955) or Sarah Cousins (789943) for details.

Some members have knitted or crocheted garments, blankets and soft toys for babies and children. At the mid-week Service on 29 February Fr Martin blessed these items, some also made by the Wraymead Knitters.

Our contributions will be packed and posted to The Phoenix Group (who liaise with the Red Cross, UNICEF and Oxfam International) and they will distribute them to wherever there is political unrest, natural disaster or severe weather. Leaving people in desperate need.



From left to right: *Stephanie Lawrence, Jenny Linnell, Sarah Cousins, Patricia Bird, Fr Martin Colton, Dorothy Peijus, Francis Wood and Cherith Baldry.*



SMART

An Interview with the Cherith Baldry

What do you like reading? Perhaps puzzling your way through a contemporary murder mystery series, or stepping back into a legendary historical novel, or losing yourself in an alternative world fantasy adventure.

And when you were young what did you like reading? Perhaps animal stories or extensive series where favourite characters have different adventures in each book, evolving over time, or maybe junior science fiction was more your thing.

In our SMART (St Mark's Afternoon Retirement Team) meeting on Thursday 7 March we were honoured and delighted to invite local author Cherith Baldry for an eagerly anticipated interview and, you've probably guessed it, Cherith has professionally written books across ALL of the above genres.



Cherith is perhaps best known to young readers as co-author of the extensive "Warrior Cats" series, written under the shared pseudonym Erin Hunter. There are 8 series each of 6 books as well as Super Edition novels and other materials. The novels draw you into the adventures and dramas of multiple Clans of feral cats. These books are very popular in the USA, across Europe and beyond, being translated into multiple languages including some in the Far East. Some of the books have appeared in the New York Times Best Seller Lists.

Of course, WE all know Cherith as a valued member of St Mark's and you may sometimes see her at the front of the church assisting as a Server when Martin or Reg officiate at the 10am Sunday service.

During the interview Cherith told us about the different genres of books she has written over the years, which characters she has particularly enjoyed creating, her writing processes, her support activities like tours and engaging with Warrior fans, and to what extent her faith shapes some of her writing.

After the interview the stimulating Q&A session came alive with interesting and considered questions that added genuine depth to the whole event.

On the administrative/technical side we were particularly pleased that the use of microphone and amplification made a big difference to those of us in SMART who are hard of hearing.

Our warm thanks to Cherith for volunteering – it has been a real highlight event in our 2024 SMART calendar.

FYI some of Cherith's books (most available on Amazon) include

- The "Warrior Cats" (extensive series of adventures for younger readers)
- "Exiled from Camelot" (an Arthurian novel)
- "The Reliquary Ring" and "The Roses of Roazon" (two fantasy novels)
- "Dangerous Deceits" and "Brutal Terminations" (murder mysteries with amateur detective Gawaine St Clair)



Bruce Cousins



FLOWERS AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

I wonder how many of you reading this magazine enjoy the beauty of our church as much as I do.

I have loved the peace and light of this building for five decades now and fresh flowers have always played an important part in enhancing this house of God.

I have visited many churches over the years where vases of flowers have looked wilted or worse. We try hard to avoid this at St. Mark's!

I remember the many festivals when a dedicated team of flower arrangers got together to fill the church with magnificent displays of flowers and foliage, thus making such occasions even more special.



These days, the situation at St. Mark's is somewhat different. The number of volunteers is much smaller and the cost of flowers has greatly increased. Recently, therefore, we have considerably reduced the number of floral arrangements and sometimes we use artificial flowers in order to keep costs down.



We have a rota of volunteers, ensuring that there are fresh flowers behind the high altar throughout the year.

Please do consider joining our very small team, so that we can continue to care for and beautify our wonderful church. It is a task suitable for both ladies and gentlemen.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to help with this easy job (vjgingamum@hotmail.com).

Valerie Jones



LENT LUNCH



Two Lent lunches were held this year in support of the Bishop's Lent Call to raise funds for local community projects in Southwark and our Link Dioceses in Zimbabwe and Jerusalem, as well as calling parishes to a time of prayer and contemplation. Liz Woodhouse hosted her lunch on Tuesday 12 March and the other lunch was at St Mark's Hall on Thursday 21 March following the Iona Communion Service.



How to give to the Bishop's Lent Call

<https://southwark.anglican.org/news-events/events/lent-call/how-to-give/>



MESSY CHURCH

Two Messy Church services were held in March which is usually not the case. The first service was on Sunday 17 March (the 3rd Sunday of the month) and the other on Good Friday. This popular service was enjoyed by both children and adults alike.



CONFIRMATION

We have a Deanery Confirmation Service in June. Classes will be starting soon for both adults and young people (who are already 11 years of age or above) who wish to be confirmed. If you are interested (and for adults there is no upper age limit!), please speak with me as soon as possible so that we can organise Classes. Also, if any children who are already at least 7 years old wish to be Admitted to Holy Communion, to share in receiving the Bread and Wine, please also speak with me as I will be starting Preparation Classes after Easter.

Fr Martin



CROYDON AREA LAY CONFERENCE

Bruce and I went together to the fabulous Croydon Area Lay Conference on Saturday 2 March held at St Bede's School. I was impressed with the excellent administration and organisation and the warm welcoming that went on from both laity and clergy. It was, as always, most encouraging to hear from our valued Bishop Rosemarie. The keynote speaker philosopher, sociologist and theologian Elaine Storkey, was superb, raising so much intelligent thought with integrity, humility and humour! Last and by no means least the workshop leaders were of a very high calibre and most gracious and patient. Discussions were guided for everyone to contribute.

Two topics/workshops were available out of climate justice, contemplation, children in the church, older people, introduction to new worship songs, women and violence, theology of work, the Christian in a world of war and several others. Bruce and I attended two on inclusion, the first aimed specifically at including people of working age and encouraging faith Monday to Saturday in the workplace. There were varied real life examples from a Christian lady taxi driver, a grandmother, plumber, IT business, anaesthetist, and self-employed wedding designer!

The second workshop was on being an inclusive church across the board and it was interesting to understand the breadth of what being inclusive means. It was also very helpful hearing from different churches as to how we all were getting on with this integral challenge of our mission. Having the stalls advertising different social initiatives as well as a bookstall at each break was very helpful with Two Generations and Wychcroft Diocesan Retreat House being two shining lights among the many.

My only regret is if only more people could have been there and that is down to us as laity; to promote and spread the word in our churches of this fantastic opportunity to learn, be refreshed and enjoy at its best, Christian fellowship and nurture across the churches.

Our thanks to ***everyone*** involved in the planning and in helping on the day, including the younger people from South Croydon who provided music for singing. The conference is open to all lay members – that's you and me. We hope many more from St Mark's will join in next time. If you're interested in any aspect of the Croydon Area Lay Conference please chat to us or to Susannah Dyde who was also there.

Sarah & Bruce Cousins



My reflections on the Croydon Area Lay Conference

I echo Sarah Cousins' thoughts on how enjoyable this conference was, and I would like to emphasise her comment that this conference was open to all of us. If we are not clergy we are 'laity', so that means you and me! An added attraction for me was that it was local, in St Bede's School.

Dr Elaine Storkey completely wowed us all in her keynote speech and in the excellent Q and A session. Then I chose two workshops, 'Children Becoming Kingdom's Citizens' and 'What We Sing Matters'.

'Children Becoming Kingdom's Citizens'

CYPM&M stands for 'Children and Young People's Mission and Ministry' in the Southwark diocese. Their 'vision is to see children and young people with hearts on fire for Jesus, growing in faith with the confidence to share it; contributing to the life of the church and its mission, at every level'. They support households, families, churches and schools and offer bespoke training for volunteers in youth and children's work.

I was impressed by what they offer and would encourage anyone interested in children's work, or even how to bring up their own children in the faith, to look up this organisation.

'What We Sing Matters'

This workshop was led by the Worship leader at Emmanuel South Croydon, who brought some of his music group with him. His main point was that songs/hymns should be spiritually deep. They should bring us into a closer relationship with our Lord. He quoted Psalms 96 and 98 'Sing to the Lord a new song'. We should be prepared to learn new songs. New songs are a response to God's revelation.

Susannah Dyde

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals: Lorna Watson, Dr John Shaw, Brian Rowbotham



Annual Giving at St Mark's 28 April 2024 to 31 May 2024

On Sunday 28 April, as we celebrate the Patronal Festival of St Mark, we will be launching our period of Annual giving with donations being welcomed until the end of May. This year we are aiming to raise £20,000 in total including Gift Aid claimed.

Our period of annual giving is an opportunity for our church community to make a one-off donation to the ongoing work of St Mark's and to the running costs of the church buildings. Each year we rely on this additional income to cover expenditure.

In 2023 total income for our church was £217,000 with expenditure of £231,000 including the costs of replacing the pigeon netting in the tower and redecoration of the hall and foyer. Income from planned giving, collections and other donations represented 45% of total income, with rental income 20%, lettings 13%, bank interest and other activities 11%. Annual giving donations made up the final 11% totalling over £22,000.

In 2024 we do not have plans for any significant expenditure but are looking to break even and maintain our reserves despite increases in costs. Expenditure is forecast to be in the region of £226,000. We have seen an increase in hall lettings following the work carried out last year but this won't be enough to cover the additional church running costs.

Please consider making a one-off donation if you feel you are able. If you would prefer to make a regular donation please sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme, details of which can also be found by following our website link below.

If you would like any more information please just ask.

Thank you, **Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer** treasurer@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Donations can be made in a number of ways

By **bank transfer** to the following HSBC account

Name of Account - SAINT MARK, REIGATE (please select 'paying a business')
Sort Code 40 18 22 Account Number 72393263 (With 'Annual Giving' as the reference)

Via our **website** <https://www.stmarksreigate.co.uk/donate/> Using 'Give A Little'

By **cheque** made payable to 'Saint Mark Reigate' in an envelope addressed to the treasurer and either brought to a Sunday service, handed in to the church office or posted to
Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer, St Mark's Church, 8 Alma Road, Reigate, RH2 0DA

If you are able to Gift Aid your donation the church will receive an additional 25%.
If we do not already have a gift aid declaration from you [please complete this form](#).



News from the Church of England

Response to Future of Church Safeguarding Report

Bishop Christopher has welcomed the publication of the nationally-focussed *Future of Church Safeguarding Report* by Professor Alexis Jay. Professor Jay, the former Chair of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, IICSA, agreed in July to develop proposals around independence in safeguarding in the Church. The work was commissioned following the termination of the contracts of the original Independent Safeguarding Board, ISB.

Speaking on the day of the report's publication (21 February 2024), Bishop Christopher said:

"I welcome the report produced by Professor Alexis Jay, who has approached her task both with rigour and without undue delay. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who have shared information with Professor Jay and her team. The report makes for sobering reading and clearly states the challenges that have faced Church safeguarding over many years and with which we still grapple today. I look forward to addressing it in greater detail at the forthcoming session of General Synod and I hope that we will heed Professor Jay's recommendations.

"In reading the report, we have noted that data from the Diocese of Southwark is not present in *Annex E: Diocesan Safeguarding Resources*. It is unclear to us why this information was not included in the report, since it is publicly available on our website – but we are also very happy to share it now. In the Diocese of Southwark we currently have 5.8 FTE staff working specifically in the area of Safeguarding:

- Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
- Deputy Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
- 2 x Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
- Safeguarding Administrator
- Safeguarding Training Administrator

"We are also in the process of recruiting for an Information Manager (to fill a vacant role) and another Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (an additional post), which will take the team up to 7.8 FTE staff. Of course, this team is also supported in their work by colleagues from the wider diocesan and Bishop's Leadership Teams. Safeguarding is at the heart of our work in Southwark Diocese and we continue to strive to improve all our work in this area."

The report will be discussed at the upcoming session of the Church of England's General Synod and a response from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York can be found in the link below.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/publication-jay-review>



Love, Joy, Peace and Hope

I often end a letter with those words.

As we know love helps the world go round. As the old film I have just seen proclaims "Love is a very Splendid thing". The greatest tragedy in the world is to never have received love. Unless one receives love in one form or another, how difficult it is to love someone else. Jesus' commandment was to love one another. Not just the person we have fallen in love with, but our neighbours wherever they are or have come from and even our enemies. That last one is difficult but if we can in some way pray for an enemy that might help in the end.

Joy is something more real than plain happiness. It is deeper and long lasting and rather than a quick fix it is something one can enjoy through the years. Jesus said those listening "may have pain now but he would see them again and their hearts will rejoice and no one will take that joy from them". These words of his will apply to us, too.

We all want peace in the home, the workplace., the Church and the world. As Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." St Paul said in writing to the Philippians that "the peace of God, which passes all understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." He went on to say "whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is pure, whatever is just, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything is worthy of praise, think about these things and the God of peace will be with you."

What about hope?

In so many wedding services we have the reading which ends with the plea for faith, hope and love, the greatest being love. However, if anyone is at a low ebb it is wonderful if one can bring to them a sense of hope. Indeed, I suppose a pessimist can become an optimist if they can see hope in any situation. In some situations, it is difficult to see hope but to merely be alongside someone might bring some love, joy, peace and even hope to them in any distress that they may have.

Ian Archer

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2024

Thursday 4 th April	11.00am Lent Course in Church 12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 7th April	2nd Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Family Service – in the Hall
Thursday 11 th April	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 14th April	3rd Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online with Junior Church 1.00pm Community Lunch
Wednesday 17 th April	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 18 th April	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 21st April	4th Sunday of Easter 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online 4.00pm Messy Church
Tuesday 23rd April	St George, Patron of England
Wednesday 24 th April	3.25pm T-Time Tales
Thursday 25 th April	12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church
Sunday 28th April	St Mark, Patronal Festival 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church 10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online with Junior Church 6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2024

Wednesday 1st May

St Philip and St James

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 2nd May

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 5th May

6th Sunday of Easter (Rogation Sunday)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

2.00pm 'Beating the Bounds' Walk

4.00pm Family Service

Wednesday 8th May

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 9th May

Ascension Day

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 12th May

7th Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension)

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online
with APCM

1.00pm Community Lunch

Wednesday 15th May

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 16th May

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 18th May

8.00pm Social Ballroom and Latin Dance

Sunday 19th May

Day of Pentecost

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 22nd May

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Thursday 23rd May

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 26th May

Trinity Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Sung Eucharist – in Church and Online

6.00pm Taizé Prayer

Thursday 30th May

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Please remember that planned services are subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.



DEMOCRACY *(part 2 of 2)*

Populists, almost by definition, arise from the identification of issues which concern populations and apparently are receiving insufficient attention from centralist governments which are failing to satisfy or maybe have lost connection with their electorate. Some of the reasons for the growth of popularism are to be found in the current conditions referred to above, accentuated no doubt by the Covid pandemic.

But I think the major influence, or opportunity if you wish, is racism and immigration. A review of the US, European countries and places such as Australia provides ample proof for this. A more detailed examination of other countries such as India and China would disclose the same underlying causes there too.

There is also another view here. That is, that the weakness of democracy is due to the reluctance of electorates to face up to significant problems which may in the short term seem unpalatable. I think we are seeing this played out in the field of climate change as well as immigration.

Populists identify such issues and make promises that significant numbers of voters are concerned about. This is accentuated by systems or government selection where the custom has arisen of providing attractive symbols and slogans instead of setting out the full extent of problems, their future consequences and the practical solutions.

For example, the problem of immigration is focussing on illegal entry, but this may be small compared with the numbers arriving on visas to serve the need for labour in both economies and social services. Solving the first alone will not prevent the level of immigration nor growth of population based on immigrants, but seeming to address the problem is enough for those who have the concerns.

What is the detailed methodology of populists?

One philosopher describes the ruling opportunities as a circle, with Dictatorship at the North Pole position and Chaos at the South Pole. In between lie the various alternative methods of rule including democracies. She goes on to describe how would-be dictators in a situation of prevailing discontent can manipulate voters by undermining democratic institutions towards a position where first chaos rules, and then the only apparent remedy seems to be the promises of populists or would-be dictators offering decisive action.

The methodology of populists may be intuitive or planned, but the first steps have to be the removal of those pillars on which democracy is based. A first target in such change is the media, so as to control public thought. Another early one is the judiciary,

especially if it has a tradition of impartiality. That is anathema to populists. Freedoms also must first be exploited, and then discarded once power has been achieved. This represents the move towards chaos, with the only apparently effective alternative of dictatorship. In retrospect, Hitler was very effective in his preparations. Not only did he advance the basis for his party and directly challenge democratic institutions but he recruited at source, as it were, his Hitler Youth movement and his Brown Shirts, a simple uniform for imposing his will on disturbances. He identified the Jews as a target to display his determination and engender fear. Yes, today's populists have much to learn from Mien Kampf.

Of course, the populists, when they attain power, are unlikely to solve the problems on which their election was based, in a civilised way. Their answers, such as they are, inevitably are partisan and often draconian, which are unlikely to lead to general accord. Perhaps they will come and go with democracy re-emerging, but rebuilding the basis for democracy is not easy.

To some of us in the UK it seems incredible that someone with a record of dubiety, inconsistency and extremism, and also accused of insurrection, could possibly win an election. One commentator finds the answer in those parts of the US which feel threatened by the drift of history. She describes them in terms of white supremacy, underpinned by an extreme religious background which favours the strength from an outspoken father figure and which eschews modern values preferring the comfort of didactic leadership so extreme as to overlook the implications even of court procedures.

Once one sees such possibilities, it is no distance to see the motivations in countries which feel they have been exploited by the West, or those with totalitarian governments. Easier far for them to adopt nationalistic policies and devise programmes for progress which the West, with its liberal and less regulated economies, rely on market values to point the way forward. That system seems short term and unable or unwilling to comprehend new conditions such as Climate Change.

Perhaps we should remind ourselves that although dictators may continue with popular policies, this is to maintain popularity. The basic motivation of dictators is the pursuit of personal, nationalistic or sectional policies, not the interests of the majority of people.

The big question for 2024 is whether the world can both retain the benefits of democracy whilst identifying common interests. Instead of retreating further into the self-interest of nationalism, nations need to come together to solve those mutual, critical problems which beset the world at large.

No consideration of the merits or otherwise of democracy, populism or dictatorship could be complete without a consideration of both the interplay of democracy with the economic world and the respective concepts of the long and short terms. But that must wait for another time.

Yes, this is an election year where posterity may say "It all began..." But strictly, it all began in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries with the rise of power to the people and the question now is where will it end?

Harry Ingram



Fiordland National Park

While Greg and others were walking the Hollyford Track Shayne and I first lodged in Arrowtown, a lakeside town, with blossoming trees and camelias, all so very beautiful. Our accommodation had a staircase connecting our rooms there so we could be in touch with each other if necessary. We had supper in an attractive pub in which we had to place our last orders by 7pm as it was Labour Day.

The next day, Tuesday, we had hoped to arrange a flight over the mountains, but this was not possible as the winds were too high in that area. We had a windy walk by the lake and then Shayne drove me to Cromwell to see Susie and Peter Thompson, old friends of theirs. These kind people gave us a lovely lunch.

The extraordinary thing is that Susie's father lived in Wargrave -on-Thames, where I grew up after the War, and I understand Susie was born in School Lane, Wargrave. She was able to lend me "The Second Book of Wargrave" edited by Peter Delaney and published by Wargrave Local History Society. Part of it was written by Jack Wyatt whom I had known and mentioned how important to the village was Clifford Maidment whom I knew.

Susie and Peter's house was by a lake created when a dam had to be made across the valley and the lake was a beautiful turquoise colour. We were taken to see Zoe, Susie's daughter whose sister, Hannah we had met in England. As we drove back to Arrowtown we could see below the Shotover River where I had had a ride in a jet boat in 1996.

Wednesday, we woke to hear there would be flights over the mountains just somewhat reduced because of high winds over Milford Sound. So, we quickly packed up and Shayne drove me to join a Milford Airways flight over Queenstown, glaciers and mountains including Mount Aspiring. We were briefed in a hanger and shown a large-scale map of the area we would be covering. The flight lasted about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour.

Shayne and I were 2 of some 12 passengers and I had a lovely seat next to a window. The pilot gave us a commentary during the flight. As our plane flew over the mountains, we didn't seem to have much room between us and the jagged peaks below!

Shayne took me into a small cinema to see a film called ATAWHENUA, or Shadowland of that area. I bought a DVD of it so I could see it again and the operator/technician for the film was Peter Thompson, my host of yesterday. We then drove on past Queenstown to our furthest point south at Te Anou for a stay there of 2 days. We two were booked there into a hotel for 2 nights the second of which being joined by Greg and others who had been on their walk. In the evening we dined in a good restaurant where I had fish chowder and then a sticky toffee pudding.

Thursday, we did some shopping and Shayne was contacted by phone to contribute to a radio discussion. We met up with Greg, his sister and others who had taken part in the walk and we were with them for the "wash up". Two friends of Shayne and Greg, Cate Tither and Sally Harper as well as his sister, Leeanne, who had all been on the walk, joined us for a happy supper in the restaurant we had been to the day before.

Friday, all 5 of us had one night at Lake Tekapo on the way home. While there I went with Greg to some hot springs. The sun was shining and there were 3 pools we sampled in our bathing trunks, each of the pools being of different temperatures which I think were 36, 38 and 39 degrees. To lounge in such waters was delicious.

The next morning, we were driven nearly to the top of Mount John where in the sun we could see in every direction ranges of mountains clad in snow without any mist or cloud to disturb our view. Then we set off for our return to Christchurch and Greg insisted on taking me on a more beautiful route while the others went by motorway.

This was Harvey's 2nd birthday in which he had been given a trampoline that he was climbing in and out of as well as jumping on it. A guest at Jeff and Anna's house had with her another 2-year-old and she was teaching him Maori so that he could be bi-lingual as he grew up. We had a lovely evening with the birthday family.

I had given Harvey a book I had wrapped up. He opened this parcel and was told by Anna to open the other parcel for his 3-month-old sister, Madeleine. This was a small fluffy penguin that made a noise when pushed in the tummy, and he gave it to her as he was told. Not only that, but I was told that the next morning he found the penguin again and took it to her in her cot.

Ian has kindly shared his experience of his trip to New Zealand in six parts. Next month, we can read about his adventures Homeward Bound.

Ian Archer



A Lasting Gift for St Mark's Church

Leaving a legacy

Legacy gifts can make a huge difference to churches. Each year, gifts in wills, ranging from £100s to £100,000s are received. Faithful witnesses leaving generous legacies have enabled churches to invest in their buildings, pioneer new ministries, and sustain a welcoming presence in their communities.

Why should you write a will?

Writing a will means you choose:

- How you would like to share your property and possessions;
- Who you would like to look after any children under the age of 18;
- How to support any charities or churches that are important to you.

Without a will, these decisions will be made according to pre-ordained rules, and by the courts, which may be different from your wishes. Leaving a will gives you peace of mind and lifts a burden from loved ones after you are gone.

To make it easier the Church of England has partnered with Farewill, the UK's favourite will-writer, so anyone can write a simple will online for free, in as little as 30 minutes. You can find out more by visiting <https://farewill.com/southwarkdiocese> .

We strongly advise seeing a solicitor for more complicated wills, or for people wishing to review their existing will or add a codicil.

A gift for future generations

After you have made provision for your family and friends, we hope you'll also consider leaving a gift in your will to St Mark's. A legacy is a valuable expression of how meaningful a church has been during your time there. It's a way to give thanks - a lasting testimony to the faithfulness, goodness and generosity of God.

The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund additional mission or development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. Circumstances change over the years, so church members are encouraged to leave legacies for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss the most appropriate use of the legacy in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (for example, children and youth, music, buildings).

You may also receive tax benefits for including a gift to St Mark's in your will. A gift in your will to a charity is free of inheritance tax and may also reduce the amount of tax payable on the rest of your will. <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>

Please consider leaving a legacy to St Mark's.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer



The Three Holy Oils

Thanks to the liturgical renewal of the late twentieth century, Anglicans have revived ancient and medieval liturgical practices which had lapsed, for the most part, in the centuries after the Reformation. One is the use of blessed oils for sacramental purposes.

Every Maundy Thursday, the Bishop blesses three different holy oils in Southwark Cathedral for use in parishes throughout the year. One is the Oil of the Sick, which is simple olive oil blessed for anointing for the purpose of healing. We find the biblical foundation of this practice in the Letter of James 5.14-15, where the early Church leader writes: "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." Most famously, this is used near the time of death, in what are known as "last rites," with the view that death, and the life that follows, constitute the ultimate healing. However, anointing with this oil for healing (usually on the forehead with the sign of the cross) also occurs at times of serious illness when there is hope of recovery, and even at regular healing services, with the idea that we continually need healing of body, mind, and spirit.

The second type of holy oil is called the "Oil of Catechumens," or "Oil of Baptism." This too is simple olive oil which, when blessed, is used for pre-baptismal anointings. Sometimes this occurs when older children or adults preparing for baptism ("catechumens") enter the required period of study and prayer. It is also used for anointing with the sign of the cross immediately before baptism, with candidates of any age. In both cases, it provides a sort of exorcism, in which evil will be warded off as the one anointed turns toward Christ. The Christian life will be a struggle, the liturgy emphasises, against "sin, the world and the devil," and this anointing is a sign of God's help in that struggle.

The third and, in a sense, most sacred of holy oils is "Oil of Chrism." Unlike the other oils, this olive oil is perfumed with balsam. Its use is a "sign of incorporation into the prophetic, priestly, and royal life of Jesus Christ." [From Common Worship's Times and Seasons volume.] Hence it is sometimes used at Baptism (after the baptism with water), at Confirmation, at ordinations, and at coronations. Its use is a sign of sealing with the gift of the Holy Spirit. This oil may only be blessed by a bishop which goes back to the early Church, when bishops presided at virtually all baptisms (mostly of adults). The baptism with water would immediately be followed with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil of chrism, which constituted what we call Confirmation. Later, however, when the number of baptisms increased and included many children, the bishop had to delegate authority to priests to baptise, with confirmation by the bishop becoming a separate rite at a later time, often when a person baptised as an infant was of age to reaffirm the vows made in his or her name. Even now, however,

when oil of chrim is used after baptism with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the new Christian's connection with the universal Church, as represented by the Bishop, is symbolised by the use of chrim which the bishop has consecrated.

The first two oils, we might say, are for healing and protection, whereas the oil of chrim is a sign of triumph, of the indelible connection between the believer and Christ, from whom the victory comes. It is a sign that the one anointed, most notably at Baptism and Confirmation, is worthy, through grace, to share with Christ in his eternal priesthood. Incalculable good can follow from that, which we do well to contemplate and give thanks for in this Easter season.



The Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem with the oil of chrim for the coronation of King Charles



It was:

300 years ago, on 22 April 1724 that Immanuel Kant, the German philosopher was born. One of the leading philosophers during the Age of Enlightenment.

200 years ago, on 19 April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

90 years ago, on 3 April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.

75 years ago, on 4 April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

60 years ago, on 15 April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6 April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

40 years ago, on 17 April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London. This led to an 11-day siege by the police.

30 years ago, on 26 April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa, with 18 million blacks eligible to vote for the first time. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10th May.

25 years ago, on 5 April 1999 that Libya handed over to the United Nations two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. They were taken to the Netherlands to face trial. One was found guilty, and sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be released in 2009 because he was dying of cancer. The other suspect was acquitted.

20 years ago, on 1 April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.



Making a Difference to local families in need

The UK is facing its biggest cost of living crisis in decades, the news is full of war, natural disaster, and climate change, and it can all feel very overwhelming. How can I possibly help? Where to start?

There is something you *can* do on a very local level, to help people in Surrey who are really struggling. People who are working hard, maybe juggling multiple jobs, but who still have to choose between eating themselves or feeding their children, or between heating and food. The Community Foundation for Surrey can **double your donation** at the moment thanks to Surrey County Council who have pledged to match donations – so every £5 becomes £10. We are raising as much money as we can to support local Surrey organisations helping local people who are living in poverty.

Just under 1 in 10 Surrey children aged 15 and under are in absolute low-income households – this means their families do not have the minimum amount of income needed to meet their basic living requirements. The vast majority of these children have parents in work – but their wages have not kept pace with rising costs. In Surrey this poverty exists in pockets – across the street from others living in very comfortable circumstances. This means it can become invisible to us.

Through the Tackling Poverty Campaign, CFSurrey channels donations into grants that directly impact individuals and families across the county, ensuring they have access to the resources they need to stay warm, fed, clean and in suitable accommodation.

These grants support a range of essential services, including fuel poverty assistance, provision of warm clothing and blankets, community meal programs, and emergency financial aid for struggling households. Every pound donated goes towards making a

tangible difference in the lives of our neighbours, helping to alleviate the immediate hardships they face.

Examples of funding we have already been able to provide include:

Step by Step

- Funding to support an organisation providing support to young homeless people.

St Marks Church, Tattenham Corner

- Funding to provide users of a Food club with electric blankets and microwave-heated warm pads to keep them warm over winter.

The Tackling Poverty Campaign cannot succeed without the generosity of our community. Your contribution, no matter how small, can make a world of difference to those in need. Together, we can ensure that no one in Surrey is left behind. Join us in spreading warmth, compassion, and hope throughout our community.

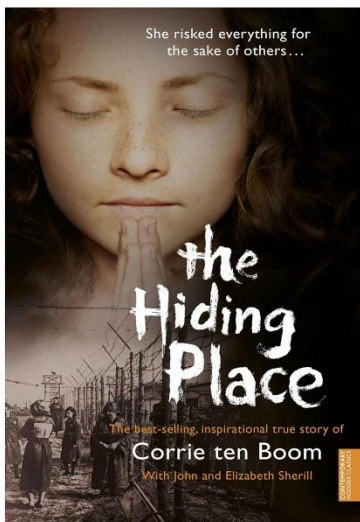
To donate and make a difference, visit our website: www.cfsurrey.org.uk

Thank you for your support.



Book Review

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom



I have just read a very inspiring autobiography by this Dutch heroine of the 2nd World War who with her family of Christian watchmakers saved nearly 800 lives, many of whom were Jews.

This has been said to be one of the greatest Christian testimonies of our time. They were prompted by the love of Jesus to risk everything for the love of Jesus. As her actions took her to Ravensbrook Concentration Camp this is not comfortable reading but is beautifully told. Some of her sayings were:

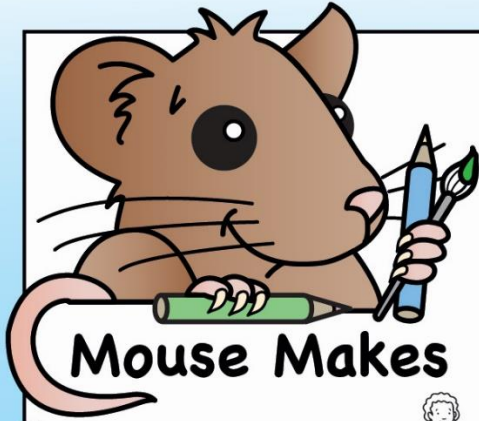
“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength.”

“The measure of a life after all, is not its duration but its donation.” “Happiness is not something that depends on all our surroundings. It is something we make inside ourselves.” “Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the heart.”

“Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a centre of fear.”

Ian Archer

Have you recently read a good book? Tell us about it.
Email office@stmarksreigate.co.uk with your book review.



Mouse Makes

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing.

They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked;

"Have you caught anything?"

"Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them *"Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some."*

So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, *"It is the Lord!"*



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch?
Read John 21: 11



READ
the story in **John 21**



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET
RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Colour in all the fish

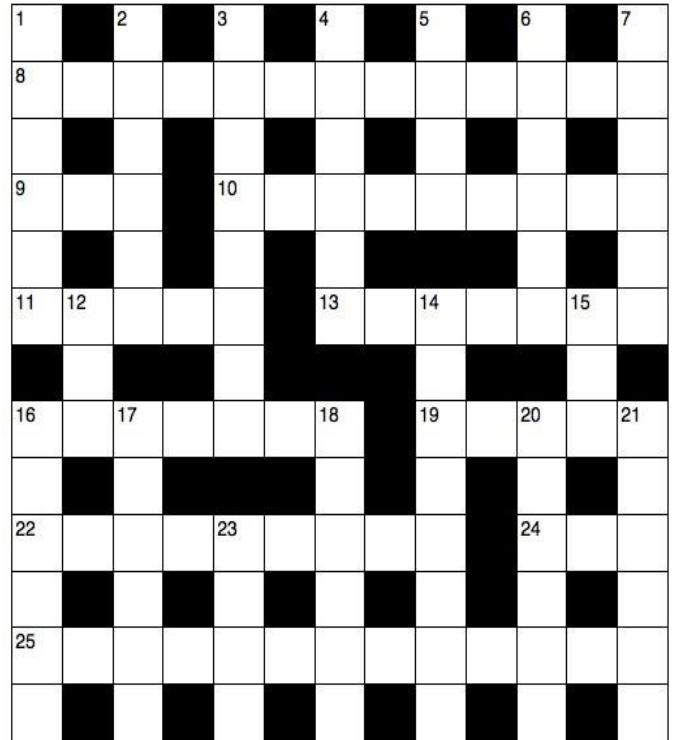
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April Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
 13 Muslim holy month (7)
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)



DOWN

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

March Answers

ACROSS: 1 Wine 3 The alert 8 Ooze 9 Passover 11 Garden Tomb 14 Cannot 15 Elisha
 17 Gethsemane 20 Own house 21 Lisa 22 Flogging 23 Sty

DOWN: 1 Wrong act 2 Nazarene 4 Health 5 Assemblies 6 Envy 7 Turn 10 Before long
 12 Iscariot 13 Take care 16 The Son 18 Loaf 19 Unto

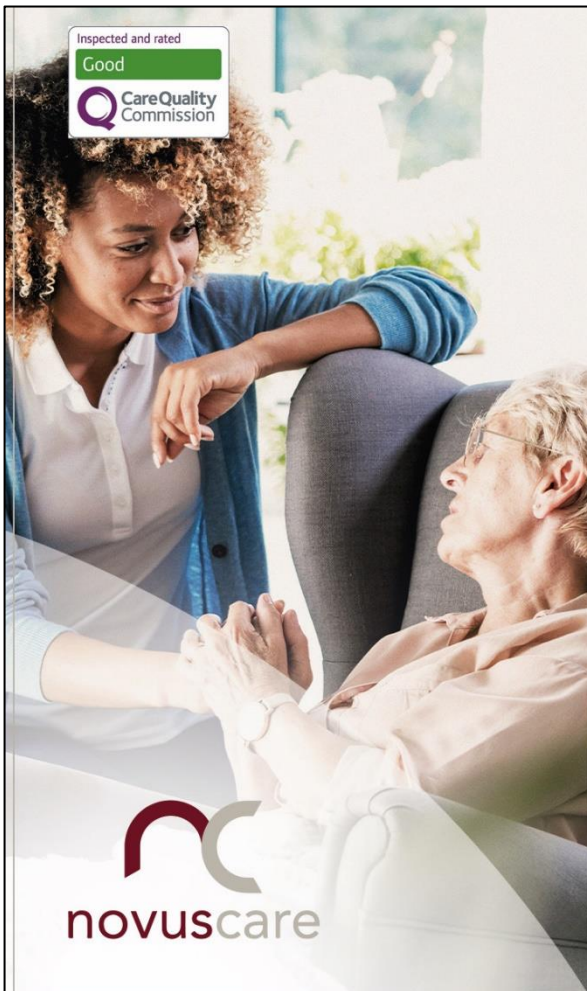
Puzzles

April Sudoku

2			6				3	
		1			2	5	4	7
	4			5				
4	9			8	3		5	
			2	1	4			
	2		5	6			7	8
				7			9	
9	1	4	8			7		
	7				6			4

March solution

3	8	2	5	6	7	1	9	4
5	4	6	8	9	1	2	3	7
1	9	7	4	2	3	5	8	6
2	3	8	1	5	6	4	7	9
4	5	9	3	7	2	8	6	1
6	7	1	9	4	8	3	5	2
8	2	3	7	1	9	6	4	5
7	1	4	6	3	5	9	2	8
9	6	5	2	8	4	7	1	3



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