



St Mark's Parish Magazine
April 2022

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Your Views & Contributions

Next issue will be available from Sunday 1 May 2022
All contributions to the editor by Friday 15 April 2022

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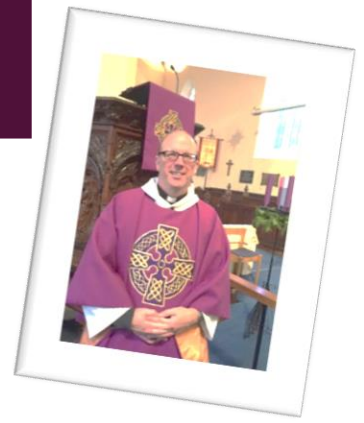
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LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

The days are getting noticeably longer and daylight creeps into the last remnants of sleep earlier each morning. The evenings begin to offer the prospect of enjoying time outdoors. More and more flowers throw out their colourful glory of life and promise. Together they all point to the bright glory of Easter.



Yet as we have moved into Lent, our world seems darker, rather than lighter. As we watch events unfold in Ukraine, we are reminded of the worst that can happen in the world. Invasion, death and destruction inflicted at the whim of one man. Feelings of despair, hopelessness and fear are not surprising for us looking on from afar. It is almost incomprehensible to imagine what it is like for the people of Ukraine.

We look to Easter for hope. For that light that shines in the darkness. And we can find that light. But we shouldn't forget that before Easter Day there was Good Friday. There was the horror and excruciating pain of the cross. The despair of the women as they stood by Jesus, refusing to let him die alone, yet unable to prevent his death, the death of an innocent. Then for the next day Jesus was amongst the dead.

As we look with despair at what is happening in Ukraine, and other places, we know that Jesus is with the dead. But with Jesus' resurrection there is hope for more than eternal life with him. When he appeared to his disciples in the Upper Room, he promised that he would give them his peace.

In his speech to the House of Lords, the Archbishop of York said, "Peace is a choice. It is a decision that we need to make each day about the way we live and about our responsibilities to and with our neighbour, be that in our family, in our local community, or between nations of the world ... Jesus urged his followers to be peacemakers, not simply peace-lovers. This is an important distinction, because it is a call to action."

As we journey to Easter this year, let us heed that call to action. Let us make the conscious decision to be peacemakers, wherever we find ourselves, at home, in the community or anywhere.

With my prayers and blessings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin".

Church Notices

Garden Tidy Day

Please join us on Saturday 9 April from 10.00am so we can get the church gardens looking splendid for Easter. Tea, coffee and cake will be provided.

Even if you can only spare an hour we look forward to seeing you.

Patricia Bird and Elizabeth Davis

Journey into the Wild – A Retreat For Men

11.00am 30 April – 4.00pm 2 May 2022

£295: full board, resources and teaching.



Now in its 9th year, JIW South at Wychcroft, Bletchingly, Surrey is an immersive retreat for men wanting to go deeper into themselves, Life, and their experience of God. <https://wychcroft.org/about/>

Drawing on the inspiration of recent men's movements and more ancient traditions of rites of passage *Journey into the Wild* is a national led retreat with a difference. <https://journeyintothewild.co.uk/>

As well as venturing out into nature to walk, feast, think, mediate, reflect and more, there will be thought-provoking indoor sessions exploring archetypes and rites of passage.

The key facilitators of the gathering will be:

Tony Vino, a comedian and writer for Sorted Men's Magazine and serial podcaster on men's issues.

Ken Packer, an experienced practitioner in personal development, the work of the More to Life Foundation, a Mentor, Facilitator, and an ICF trained coach.

For more information contact Ken Packer on kenpacker.uk@gmail.com or 07961408066

Eventbrite ticket link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journey-into-the-wild-south-mens-retreat-sat-30th-april-mon-2nd-may-2022-tickets-131605450445>

Regular Giving to support the work of St Mark's Introducing the Parish Giving Scheme

Regular donations are so important to our church to enable us to carry out our ministry and to run and maintain our buildings in the knowledge that the funds will be available when required. We currently need around £150,000 per year to support all that we do at St Mark's and are very grateful to all those who currently donate regularly, mainly by standing order. To make regular giving easier at St Mark's we have joined the Parish Giving Scheme (or PGS for short) which is a national scheme supported by the Diocese. This change is wholeheartedly supported by the PCC, and we would like to encourage you to consider joining PGS.

The PGS is a Direct Debit service, which enables you to give on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. We receive 100% of your donation and Gift Aid is automatically claimed for us, which means reduced administration and less work for our Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary (though you do not have to be eligible for Gift Aid yourself to join the scheme). All these benefits free up more resources to go into the mission and ministry of life at St Mark's.

If you would like to know more you can watch [this video](https://www.vimeo.com/264997442) (www.vimeo.com/264997442) to see how PGS works.

If you already donate regularly by standing order we are hoping that you will make the switch and if you are new to regular giving we encourage you to donate via PGS. Please use the following link to join:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/reigate-st-mark-reigate/>

You will be asked to create an account and set up details to make a regular donation. The first donation can be made from 1 April 2022.

If you would prefer to join by telephone or post then please contact me for details. As you reflect on your personal giving to our church, please could you consider giving a monthly gift? This regular form of giving is so helpful for securing the future of ministry at St Mark's. You can alter or suspend your gift to the PGS at any time through the online service or by a phone call. We know that these are difficult times for many, but please give what you feel is appropriate.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do get in touch.

Mel Crighton, PCC Treasurer
Email treasurer@stmarksreigate.co.uk or telephone 01737 241100

Forgiveness

Sadly, there must be many occasions when, by my actions or the words I have spoken, others have been upset and even perhaps driven to hate me. Then there are other occasions when I should have acted differently or acted sooner, but have failed to do so through putting that action off, and possibly not doing or saying it at all. When I sin in any of these ways, I hope the person offended will forgive me. Some might say "I will forget what you have done, but I will never forgive you." Clearly this would not help me at all.

There can be occasions when what I have said or done means that my shame makes me also need to forgive myself, as well as seeking forgiveness of others, and maybe of God.

Sometimes the person I am seeking forgiveness from is no longer available such as when they have since died. However in such cases I can also seek the forgiveness of God, as we do in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

But what about when I am asked to do the forgiving? It isn't easy to forgive others who in some way offend us, and this is particularly acute when the hurt has been done to someone I love, not just to myself.

But forgiveness can give peace of mind to the forgiver as well as to the sinner being forgiven. Indeed, sometimes the one needing forgiveness is not aware of the fact, so does not suffer at all. On the other hand if I can't forgive that person I can remain in a sad and distressed state and possibly in a state of hatred, which would do me no good at all.



Ian Archer

Interactions and Unexpected Consequences

The links between the major crises to the world do not seem to be widely recognised. Each problem tends to be considered separately, partly because change is so quick so that what is written today may be obsolete by the weekend. Only slowly, arising from the war in Ukraine are we understanding what links these world problems together.

Some correspondents trace events back into history, postulating that Putin wants to return Russian influence back to how it was under the Czars. Others see that it might have been different had the West given more help to emerging Russia in the 1990s, instead of leaving that country to the mercies of Western and ex-politburo exploitation. But we are where we are and the important thing is that we learn from past mistakes so as to avoid similar disasters in the future.

One such linkage is the impossibility of separating climate change from world inflation, the wider economy and events such as wars. They are all interconnected but the immediate problem such as the war in Ukraine trumps the even more serious long-term problem of climate change for which action **now** is just as essential. Later may be too late.

When Covid 19 struck in 2019/20 the West was slow to lock down but recognised the likely effects of such action on economies. Furlough and business relief provided social support and tried to ensure the continuation of businesses, but it was also necessary to prevent a downward spiral of reducing incomes and demand which would have caused a deep depression with lasting economic effects. That's one policy which we and other western countries got right.

This relationship between the pandemic and economic activity continued with the caveat that public funding could not continue long term. The prevailing view was that normal working must be reassumed from the earliest moment and this ran the risk of making infection greater than otherwise. Currently living with Covid implies the perpetual circulation of the virus especially amongst school children some of whom have had it several times with consequent illnesses and deaths. And, of course, there is always the possibility of mutations.

Any manager worth his salt understands that when problems strike, they need to see whether the changed circumstances also provide some new opportunity. So, for example, for many decades we have coped with the problem of getting people to where we need them in order to work. Consequently, it is not unusual for commuters to spend eight hours working and three hours, and sometimes much more, travelling to and fro. That really is a waste of resources for employers or workers alike.

Learning to work from home actually helped this problem but instead, as usual, the emphasis has been on getting back to normal (or rather as it was before) and helping those restaurants and pubs founded on commuting, to flourish as they used to. A priority is getting transport back toward covering costs instead of lowering those costs. An alternative policy might have been to review the possibility of more local working and enlightened management structures which would have suited many employees and employers alike with increased efficiency as the reward. It would have reduced the heavy overhead costs from daily travel and had other benefits.

There was a News interlude from Covid with COP 26, during which the understanding of the effects of climate change was widely improved but also with evidence of shortening time scales through increasing release of CO₂ in recent years. Thus far the response has been disappointing to say the least. At first there was the recognition of the need to give priority to the phasing out of the use of coal and that provided a screen of discussion instead of a debate considering similar action for oil and gas. In the event a last-minute intervention by large coal users substituted the "phase down" for "phase out" so that the coal policy became meaningless, much to the distress of Ashok Sharma and others. But COP was over and again nothing of significance achieved, though that would not have been the conclusion of the fossil fuel industry. Substituting hot air for coal, oil and gas does not work for climate change.

As Covid appeared to regress the legacy of the apparently unanticipated rise in demand for fossil fuels, promised a steep rise in inflation threatening economic recovery and stagflation. Stagflation would mean inflation with a reduction of net real incomes which will reduce demand for the less essential goods. Hence stagnation with inflation.

The response was muddled at first centring on providing relief for the poor, a problem made more difficult by recent low wage policies which leave so many workers still qualifying for social security. The rest would have to absorb most of the higher prices. Smoke and mirrors provide that some will get cash and others loans designed to spread the extra cost. Before this was settled, concerns began to focus on the shortage of supply of fossil fuels and the arguments that further wells and mines should be opened, temporarily of course.

In the UK, for example, the general inflation and especially power and food prices will cause a steep rise in the total value of imports. Similarly, inflation abroad is likely to reduce the demand for our more specialised and less essential exports. This, together with the cessation of inward cash flows from Russians and other rich people elsewhere, is likely to bring back trouble with the balance of payments giving rise to pressure on sterling. Similarly elsewhere. These are all classic symptoms of a world economy in trouble.

In such circumstances it is critical that more of our necessary expenditure is directed to income generating production in this country such as on wind farms, and not

significantly spent abroad, thereby stimulating income abroad, but not here. The shape and direction of economies worldwide will trend away from the global economy and towards economic nationalism. This will cause international pressures and also particularly pressure on efforts to deal with climate change.

Into this world in some disarray came the appalling, totally inexcusable and horrendous war on Ukraine by Russia. However, as with Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Napoleon and Saddam Hussain it was easier to pronounce Putin "mad" than give close examination to his motives and objectives. Georgia, a free republic from 1990 to 1995 was subsumed under Russia but still has twenty percent of its land under military occupation. The Chechen capital Grozny fell in 2000, but the end of conflict came only by 2017. These republics were similarly brought back into the Russian sphere of influence by warfare but in both cases only slowly and hostilities continued for many years before an unsatisfactory conclusion. Those conquests took place without much reaction from the West. All this accords with the historical policies of the Czars (with Communism it was slightly different with republics created and then subsumed into the United States of Soviet Russia, USSR). This time the victim, Ukraine, is in Europe, and is as large as Poland or Germany and was heavily armed. It must be the case that Putin knew that this was a bigger and more heavily armed nut to crack than his previous conquests. Past performance suggests he will go on.

This intervention along with the countervailing sanctions promises to ratchet up the rate of world inflation even further with uncertain effects on the West. Russia is second in the world as producer of gas and oil and also has large wheat exports. The increased income from these exports enhanced by inflation will pay for Putin's adventure into Ukraine. Responding is difficult for those economies heavily reliant on Russian gas and oil. Only now is it realised that developing a dependency on Russia for gas and oil was unwise.

Whenever war breaks out with a nuclear country, sooner or later the use of nuclear weapons is bound to arise. As Lord Mountbatten famously pronounced any military commander faced with defeat will use any weapon available to him. The assumption seems to be that Russia might first use theatre nuclear weapons designed for "local" military purposes. However, depending on numbers they can still have devastating effects further afield. But the big risk is that they would lead to the deployment of strategic weapons much more serious and capable of taking out large cities and changing the climate for the whole world.

Responsible sources place the risk of nuclear warfare at no higher than 80 to one. For someone on a safe risk event of over 2500 to 1 and who drew the short straw, these are not comforting odds. Apparently relatively benign actions such as the call for the West to enforce a No-Fly Zone can bring about the ratcheting up of warfare into Russian territory to announce WWII and possible nuclear exchanges. How does the nuclear question work?

Well, unfortunately since the Cold War (explain that to the under forties please) and the MAD (mutually assured destruction) days, the risk for nuclear players via "war games" have not only put numbers on the risks, but have developed scenarios whereby the initial use of theatre nuclear weapons, perhaps as a warning, need not necessarily lead to exchanges of the more serious strategic weapons. Such games are known worldwide and unfortunately others can put them into effect. It follows that although there can be recognisable signals between the contestants that does not ensure safety. War is a game of uncertainty where the contestants work hard to deceive the enemy. Putting numbers on the risks does not remove them. Misunderstandings are common. Rules are often broken. The other side rarely behaves as expected. In war the law of unintended consequences comes into its own.

The object of theatre weapons, especially if the other side is getting on top, is to create a military advantage. They destroy the equivalent of small towns rather than whole cities, but remember even the small leakage from Chernobyl was felt in Wales through fallout. The Ukraine would be the first to suffer. Theatre weapons differ and some are delivered by air or cruise missiles so that they are not readily distinguishable from strategic ones. It would be so easy for messages to be misinterpreted. The distinction between theatre and strategic nuclear weapons is blurred.

The atrocities in Ukraine put up a natural demand that Russia should not be allowed to get away with it. The war must continue to a just conclusion and a knock down drag out of Russia achieved, once and for all. In most countries there is a fringe element that is "gung-ho" for strong military reaction. They usually believe, though it is not necessarily the case, that they have superiority in weaponry and in any case they should strike first. It's a basic fallacy of their psychology. Such elements come into their own at times of real threats largely because outcomes are uncertain and apparently the aggressor is "mad," and needs to be punished. In such circumstances we have seen the extreme elements can well sway the more liberal lobby which inevitably is engaged with the much more difficult task of solving the confrontation to an acceptable solution without escalation. To do otherwise is to take unacceptable risks but this is often seen as weakness. Of course, this is where the mantra that Putin is mad comes in forcibly to promote wide support for pre-emptive action and heroically fighting on. But to what end?

Not all wars end up with just conclusions, notwithstanding demands for reparations and the confiscation of economic assets. On many occasions once stalemate is reached or unacceptable military costs are arising either party may sue for peace (as is happening in Ukraine) usually on terms unfavoured by either side but an improvement on the status quo of war. Neither side is happy but at least initially better than continuing the war. That is what we may have to accept in current circumstances. Furthermore, the fruits of imposed solutions often do not flourish under duress. We have witnessed the breakup of the British and Russian empires in our own life time.

The West is seeking to aim for a workable response, mainly through the provision of military weapons and sanctions other than military action which might result in nuclear war. The chances of the latter may be small but the consequences are unthinkable. An engagement with strategic weapons would mean the death of many millions with more to follow through fallout and consequential illnesses. The worst sufferers would be those in Ukraine but many far more distant might well be affected. Lands would be permanently poisoned.

Russia provides over 40% of World oil and is the second world provider, so it has a considerable effect on the world market. Were its oil and gas excluded from world markets then the price of these commodities would further escalate upwards sharply. In the event Russian oil will probably still find its way into world markets, replacing that redirected to the West, so Putin's war finance may still flow in. Can that be prevented?

However, the call is already being heard for the drilling of new oil wells and gas. The effect on Climate Change is understood but this is presented as a necessary short term essential. Yet it is decisions on climate **now** which will determine what happens in 2030 and 2050. Increased release of CO₂ **now** stays in the atmosphere for very many years. So where is Climate Change policies in all this? They were only mildly warm before.

The oil lobby is well on its feet and has had an adverse influence on Climate Change from the beginning. Even fracking is again popular. We can be reasonably sure that China and India will continue to use coal and Australia and others only too pleased to supply it. Similarly, with oil and gas. Can you imagine the Saudi's stopping oil production? Of course, there would be nothing short term about any of this. It takes about five years to get new oil wells and gas facilities into production and no way would investment take place unless there were a repayment profit necessarily spread over a long-term period. We would still almost certainly pay the world price. The taps will not easily be turned off. Similarly with gas and fracking. If the nations were to take this course that would seem to be the death knoll of the world as we know it.

However, Climate Change and fossil fuel shortages with spiralling cost is a classic situation for aware governments to see the positive opportunities. We need to remind ourselves that the long-term policy has to be to eradicate fossil fuels no later than 2050 (shortening!). **Decisions and action have to be taken now if targets are to be met otherwise the consequences are just as horrendous as using nuclear weapons.** If the change to clean power has to be made why not speed up the changeover now?

It takes about five years to bring an oil well on stream. However, a wind farm can be up and running within two to three years. Flexibility lies with wind. Far better to invest in a long-term solution which will provide power more quickly than to go for oil and gas. It would certainly help economically if all the parts were produced in this country. At the same time heavier investment into research such as the lowering of

the cost of hydrogen should be made **now. If air travel is to continue this is an essential step and a chance for Britain to lead.** That certainly paints a far better long-term picture on fighting climate change and current inflation rates than at present. It does, however, require decisive initiatives by governments with the imagination to think outside of the box and not dominated by the idea of getting back to where we were before. That was NOT a rosy picture. At present the signs are that the well-established vested interests of oil, gas and fracking are entrenched with governments which have got used to supporting such interests. All that needs to change.

The above scenario is scarcely encouraging. We know from the past how difficult it is for all governments to cope with the many facets of complex economic circumstances. They are in a place where it is not easy to take the long view. Yet that is really our only real option at this point. With an undoubted need for firm action, governments need to resist short termism and take the opportunity which currently presents itself to stand above the chaos and insert change which will benefit humanity in the long term.

Oh, by the way, I did write to our MP.

Harry Ingram



Official Provider

EAST SURREY ADVANCED MOTORISTS

will be running their popular Better Driving theory course in Nutfield Memorial Hall, RH1 4HF at 8pm on Thursdays 12th, 19th and 26th May and 2nd June 2022, completely free of charge. Our vastly and variously experienced group of highly trained and voluntary Observers will host four different informal illustrated talks and discussions. There will be an opportunity for a demonstration/assessment drive with our Nationally qualified Observers. Although based on training for the skilled advanced driving test, this course is designed to benefit all road users and everybody is welcome. Book with Janne 01737 821331 or info@eastsurreyam.org.uk

News from the Church of England

Parishes prepare for mass 'citizen science' biodiversity events after huge success of last year's Churches Count on Nature

Churches and cathedrals across the country are preparing for the annual Churches Count on Nature event.

The 'citizen science' event – set to run between 4-12 June – will welcome people to churchyards and encourage them to record what animals and plants they see. That data will then be collated on the biological records hub, the National Biodiversity Network.

Last year more than 540 activities and events were organised by churches across the country. People submitted 17,232 recorded pieces of data on wildlife they saw, with more than 1,500 species recorded.

This year's event will take place during the same week as Love Your Burial Ground Week (4-12 June).

Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich and lead Church of England bishop for the environment, encouraged churches to start preparing. He said: "I'm encouraging every parish to get involved with this year's Churches Count on Nature.

"Churchyards and gardens are an incredible home of biodiversity, making up thousands of acres of green oases in every community of the country. Last year, hundreds of parishes got their local community searching for insects and plants in their open spaces.



"Here at Bishop's House Garden in Norwich we've partnered with Norfolk Wildlife Trust to carry out an audit of the wildlife currently present, to improve habitats and increase our biodiversity.

"We had a 'bioblitz' day with loads of enthusiastic children noticing and wondering about the different species of plants and creatures. Jesus noticed nature and so must we. The Gospels are full of stories of the growth of seeds, the choking of thistles, the beauty

of lilies and the fruitfulness of trees. We have the privilege and responsibility to care for the earth and to tread gently on it.”

“The Churches Count on Nature is a great opportunity to help people understand their local environment and that biodiversity is essential for the processes that support all life on earth, including humans.”

Last year, many parishes used Churches Count on Nature as an opportunity to reach out to its local community. St Laurence’s Stretton, for example, encouraged both usual congregants and passers-by to “brush up their plant ID skills.”

Isabel Carter, of the parish, explained: “A week later there was a Messy Church Outdoors session after school. We had over 20 children and adults using an ID sheet produced by Churches Count on Nature. The youngsters were very enthusiastic in seeking and identifying flowers.”

Churches Count on Nature is jointly run by the conservation charities A Rocha UK, Caring for God’s Acre together with the Church of England and the Church in Wales.

Andy Lester, from A Rocha UK, said “Churches Count on Nature is a unique opportunity for those who love their churchyards and church spaces to take part in the largest ever nature count. With nature still in decline nationwide this count will provide valuable data on what is happening to wildlife. In turn that will help us to collectively work to take targeted action for nature’s recovery.”

Harriet Carty, Director of Caring for God’s Acre, said: “We are excited to be part of organising Churches Count on Nature again.”

“Through initiatives such as this we are gaining more insight into the importance of churchyards and other burial grounds as refuges for nature. With over 20,000 across England and Wales these special places have never been such crucial havens for wildlife.”

The Bishop of St Davids, Joanna Penberthy, said: “It’s a chance to learn about and appreciate the precious world literally on our doorstep and realise our responsibility to nurture and protect it.”

“I hope all our churches with burial grounds will register and take part this year and record what treasures of the natural world they observe.

“Spot the amazing, discover the rare and enjoy recording all the plants and animals that you find.”

The full story is available here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/press-releases/parishes-prepare-mass-citizen-science-biodiversity-events-after-huge>

Why do you like the music that you do? It may depend on your personality traits.

A recent study has found that agreeable people tend to favour mellow music such as reggae, while neurotic people, struggling with suppressed anger and frustration, will tend to prefer intense styles such as grunge and metal.

The study spanned 50 countries, and despite differences in culture and language, the researchers still found clear correlations between personality traits and musical styles. Thus, people who are 'open' and 'sophisticated' will like jazz supremoes such as Miles Davis, while more extroverted types will tend towards singers such as Ed Sheeran.



Dr David Greenberg, the University of Cambridge researcher who led the study, says: "We were surprised at just how much these patterns between music and personality replicated across the globe." There was a clear pattern of personality traits being matched to particular musical genres.

Thus, the trait of agreeableness, characterised by sympathy and co-operation, leads such people towards mellow music sung by artistes such as Bob Marley, Marvin Gaye and Norah Jones. People who display the traits of 'extroversion' prefer the excitement of contemporary music styles such as electro, rap, and pop, sung by artists like Beyoncé and Justin Bieber. Then there are the 'conscientious' music lovers, with personality traits such as obedience and a preference for order, who lean towards music defined as 'unpretentious,' which includes religious music and country styles.

People with 'open' personalities defined by their imagination and creativity, prefer compositionally complex styles termed 'sophisticated,' which includes jazz. Finally, neurotic people tend to enjoy intense styles such as punk rock and the grunge of Nirvana, which perhaps 'reflects their inner angst and frustration.'

The study was published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2022

Now that more services are taking place again in Church, this is our plan for April and May 2022 – subject to change at short notice so please check the details on our website or with the Parish Office.

Sunday 3rd April

5th Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

4.00pm Family Service in the Hall

Thursday 7th April

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 10th April

Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Monday 11th April

Monday of Holy Week

8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline

Tuesday 12th April

Tuesday of Holy Week

8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline

Wednesday 13th April

Wednesday of Holy Week

8.00pm Stations of the Cross and Compline

Thursday 14th April

Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Communion and Watch in Church

Friday 15th April

Good Friday

10.00am Messy Church for Good Friday

1.30pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 16th April

Holy Saturday

8.00pm Easter Vigil and First Communion of Easter

Sunday 17th April

Easter Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Thursday 21st April

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 24th April

St Mark the Evangelist – Patronal Festival

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church

10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Monday 25th April

St George's Day

Thursday 28th April

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2022

Sunday 1st May

3rd Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online
4.00pm Family Service – in Church

Monday 2nd May

Wednesday 4th May

Thursday 5th May

St Philip and James

3.25pm T-Time Tales

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 8th May

4th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Wednesday 11th May

Thursday 12th May

3.25pm T-Time Tales

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Saturday 14th May

Sunday 15th May

St Matthias

5th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion and APCM –
in Church and Online
4.00pm Messy Church

Wednesday 18th May

Thursday 19th May

3.25pm T-Time Tales

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 22nd May

6th Sunday of Easter – Rogation Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Wednesday 25th May

Thursday 26th May

3.25pm T-Time Tales

Ascension Day

12.45pm Holy Communion (Iona) in Church

Sunday 29th May

7th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) – in Church
10.00am Holy Communion – in Church and Online

Tuesday 31st May

The Visit of Mary to Elizabeth

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.

Two different approaches to a similar problem

After five years of training and district experience, he had been promoted and judged suitable for district charge. This was his first district and he now realised that he still had much to learn.

His district complement was forty staff including five inspectors, one to manage the office daily under his control and the others to examine accounts and conduct the smaller investigations. He was expected to take no more than 20% of his time to manage the office and investigation sections. The remaining 80% was for his own case work including his own investigations. The snag was that he was twenty-five percent short of staff and had only two inspectors instead of four. He had to reach down and everyone had to do that much more, if they could, just to get by.

This morning he had an investigation interview and, rather weakly perhaps, he had also agreed to see a director who had asked to see him that afternoon. It was a very unusual event for someone to ask to see him. It was usually he who invited them in.

The morning interview did not go well. He had information that the company had missed out income from its sales and the MD had probably left off income and benefits-in-kind from his Return. However, unique in his short experience, the director had immediately gone on the attack accusing him of falsely raising issues and not disclosing his own sources of information. Finally, the man had asserted that he knew the Chief Inspector personally through travelling on the train with him and he would certainly complain about the treatment he had received.

The inspector addressed the accountant. "It seems your client is dissatisfied before we have even begun. He has chosen to complain before I have even outlined why I need to investigate his affairs. This suggests to me that he wants to conduct his case in front of the General Commissioners either by himself or through an appointed solicitor. I am reluctant to follow that course. It will give me a lot of work and the GCs are unlikely to be pleased either with me or, when they understand the exact position, your client either. They are quite prepared to settle dissent and make decisions once the facts have been ascertained, but they don't like having to spend their time by cross examination to establish the basic facts themselves. That could take several days also with adjournments for further information. I am sure you understand that."

The client exploded. "You are ignoring me and what I have said!" he cried. "Not so," said the inspector. I have listened carefully and certainly not ignored what you have said. But I have chosen to address your representative because I know he will understand and in due course will put it to you when you are in a better state of mind to listen. I appreciate and sympathise that you are used to having your own way and it will be difficult to understand that in this situation, that is not possible. I shall conduct the investigation on my terms, not yours. Briefly, my intention is to ascertain the full facts, determine the tax lost and assess what is the appropriate penalty.

Perhaps I should add that the maximum penalty is 100% of the tax lost but depending on the seriousness of the omissions, how far you disclose them and co-operate in the investigation, these can be reduced. At present, I may say, the penalty stands at 100%.

"I think you should talk to your accountant and any other professional you know and once you understand come and see me again, say next Tuesday at say 10.0am. I shall reserve the day because it looks as though it may take some time. If you get as far as instructing your accountant to write a report of full disclosure of the omissions, I can give him more time.

"Oh, by the way, trying to put me under duress with your accusations and some contact with the Chief Inspector means I shall need to be careful about compromises. I shall need to take care that the enquiry is conducted in the most proper manner. Your present complaint is unlikely to interest the Chief Inspector." He offered his hand and reached for his Dictaphone to make notes.

When they were gone he saw time was passing, so once again he would need to eat his sandwiches at his desk so he could read the next file before the interview at 2.00pm. But his mind kept slipping back to the morning interview. He had been taken aback. He had understood he had to get the investigation on a proper footing otherwise it would drag on. Argument would only play into the MD's hands, but he had responded intuitively. Was he right?

The MD and accountant repaired to a nearby restaurant for lunch. At first conversation was muted. Then the MD burst out, "But he's only a civil servant. He doesn't understand business and the pressures we are under. How could he speak to me like that?"

The accountant put down his knife and fork. "Yes, we have a culture of underestimating our public servants. I am afraid you played right into his hands. You can't threaten these boys. If you get on the wrong side they will simply roll over you like a little steam roller. Make no mistake about it the enquiry will not end till he has turned your finances inside out. And when you appointed me last month why did you not tell me what you had done? You can hardly expect me to represent you when I am in the dark. Your best chance now is to tell me what you know, give me the books from which your last accountant prepared the accounts, disclose to me all your bank accounts wherever they may be, and appoint me to do my own investigation." He had noticed the client flinch when he said, "wherever they may be." "Oh, and it will cost you. It will take a lot of my time and I shall charge my fees on that basis."

In the afternoon, to the surprise of the young inspector, the director arrived unrepresented. He was thin, perhaps in his fifties and not at all well. His face was drawn and sallow and his hair prematurely grey. Perhaps he was even under fifty. Nevertheless, the caller raised a smile and announced that his circumstances were somewhat unusual. This is a summary of what he said.

His family had left Austria in 1938 when it was clear the Nazis were in power and were persecuting the Jews. His father, as a chemist had, just before the war, set up a chemical producing factory nearby in the UK which had prospered during the war and

was now very successful. His father was somewhat Victorian and had decided his son would be a chemist. He had graduated from Oxford with a first-class degree in chemistry and later achieved his PhD. His siblings were three girls, now married, whom his father spoilt. Each year after the war his father would uncharacteristically take a fortnight's holiday twice a year and disappear, they knew not where. From university the son had been taken into the firm but confined to the research lab. His father had kept the reigns of the business close in his own hands. About a year ago the father had died unexpectedly.

At that point the son had taken over and discovered a strange situation. They were not holidays his father had taken each year but trips to Vienna. It transpired that after they had fled Austria the managers of the big chemical firm there had, throughout the war, continued production and developed the business his father had left behind. When the war ended they had handed the business back to his father. Like the father, the son felt a big responsibility to those loyal employees back in Austria.

Now his father was dead, his sisters wanted the English business sold so they could get the money and live it up. So, to satisfy all concerned the director had passed his shares in the English company, which had come from the father to him, to his sisters. In return, they had given him their interests in the Austrian company. He had set up a trust to oversee the Austrian firm and another for his own wife and two sons. His ambition was that the sons would follow him to Oxford. He said they were bright enough.

To the inspector, used by now to unlikely stories, something did not add up. "And why the Trusts?" was his question. The director smiled and from his brief case offered a newspaper cutting. This announced a new potential treatment for cancer from research taking place using chemicals in a new process of chemotherapy. There was a photo of the director, the first guinea pig to volunteer.

"It won't work for me, but it may help others in the future. The money in the family trust is for my family and holds my life savings from my salary. The Austrian trust is to hold the ownership of the Austrian company and ensure the directors benefit. I have come in to see you because since the UK gave my family shelter when they were most in need of it, the least I can do is to make sure they finally pay the relevant taxes due.

The inspector sat back to think. There might well be tax on the foreign income with complex double tax relief and the determination of the profits could be quite tricky. The Austrian accounts for several back years would have to be translated. But, given what he had heard, it was clear that the director wanted to settle his affairs and provide for wife and sons before he died. He explained what was required and warned that he would have to raise assessments to protect the Revenue position.

For his part the director further explained that because of the need for trusts and since he was unwell, he had felt it necessary to appoint one of the best, if not the best, solicitors in the City, to act for him. They shook hands and the inspector,

sympathetic to this honourable man, felt it was not the kind of situation he had joined up for. That afternoon he wrote to the solicitors.

Time passed and he kept thinking of the man, but there was no response from the solicitors. He needed to see the director and arranged in the circumstances to visit him at what turned out to be his modest flat.

The wife was a very pleasant woman with a ready smile, but she couldn't hide her deep concern. She brought them coffee. Not for the first time the inspector thought how strange it was that sometimes you knew immediately that someone was straight forward and honest and other times that they were misleading and sly.

The director sat in a deep chair in a darkened room. He was now very thin, clearly weak and had no hair. His head looked like a skull. Behind him on the wall was a very dark painting. It showed a line of bent, burdened men, women and children toiling up a steep slope to the top where a factory towered into the sky with a huge chimney from which both flame and smoke was pouring. He did not need to be told what it represented.

The director was apologetic when he heard that the solicitors had not replied. He gave some further information on his own affairs. The inspector left with a heavy heart. He phoned the solicitors and was granted an interview at their offices. For this he put on his best suit but was well overshadowed by the smart dress of the well-off, middle-aged solicitor, replete in a restful office decorated with antique furniture and the timeless ticking of an antique long clock. The inspector explained the whole situation and that the director was anxious to reach a settlement before he died, so that his affairs were all settled and his family secure. The director's limited ambition now was for his two sons to go to Oxford.

The solicitor smiled but said little except to remark that his father had been a Principal Inspector of Taxes in charge of a City Office. This seemed irrelevant to the Inspector. He got few answers to his questions but he got the clear message that nothing would be done quickly. He felt frustrated and quite aggressive about it, but there was nothing he could do. No doubt the solicitor was hoping that death would discount the chances of a long back dated enquiry. In that he was wrong since the protective assessments were made and appealed, but in these circumstances, there was still nothing he could do to hurry things on.

Shortly after, the Inspector was transferred to a Head Office post. He never understood why, in the circumstances, the solicitor could not have shown more humanity for his client. He often wondered how the case had ended, whether the man was at peace when he died, what happened to the kindly wife and would those two boys go to Oxford.

Harry Ingram

True or False

Time and again in life I have to decide if what I have been told is true or false. I am retired and during these worrying times I look at frequent news reels hoping a later one will have better news. But it rarely does. I so often assume the BBC will give an unbiased view of each situation but so often it is unable or unwilling to do so. Everything reported depends on who is telling the story and truth is often hidden by omitting important facts. Omitting certain truths can be as damaging as telling lies. Because of that in Court we have to swear to tell "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

When I worked for the Church Commissioners, I had one supreme boss who wanted extremely thorough information about any topic he was to talk on before he spoke up. That annoyed us as we had to find the information for him. However, it was worse with one of his successors who did not care as he thought he knew everything but didn't, so his pronouncements which sounded good, were often false. We know of some good leaders but so many in power seem to think they not only know it all, but so often seem to think that rules that apply to the rest of us do not apply to them.

I have always wanted to see the best in everyone and if they are seen to be at fault in certain ways I try at least to applaud the right actions they have taken. No one is perfect, and each of us, no doubt, wants to be remembered for our good actions and words, not our bad ones.

When I was young I think we always trusted and looked up to those in authority, whether it was a teacher, a policeman, a vicar or a doctor. Now we are not so sure who we can trust in the same way? We are at risk from fraudulent people posing as those acting in a charitable way but actually attempting to obtain money by fraudulent means.

What does our faith tell us? As Susannah said in a recent sermon, we don't need to puzzle over when and how the world was created but who did it and why? It is as logical to believe that it was God's work as to believe it just came by chance and we believe he made it for the good of all in the planet.

Ultimately as Christians we believe it is true, not false, that Christ came into the world as a baby, was crucified and rose from the dead and will welcome us and our loved ones into his Kingdom. Why do we believe this is true and not false?

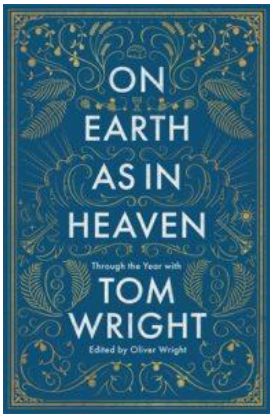
Practically we know he was crucified and died and there was no body in the tomb on the third day. We read that he met disciples after that and were these events untrue we and so many others could not for so many years have believed it. So many

wonderful people have died in declaring this faith and we still have the help of his Holy Spirit to guide each of us day by day. So many, including me, realise the help the Holy Spirit has been in our lives, often not appreciating it until after the event. So we thank God for his blessings to us throughout our lives and his wonders that we see day by day.

Ian Archer

Book Review

This month we review: On Earth as in Heaven



Christians of all traditions have long regarded the writings of Tom Wright as a rich source of guidance for living faithfully in today's world. His bestselling books, including *Simply Christian*, *Simply Jesus*, and *Surprised by Hope*, have encouraged millions worldwide.

Now, whether you are new to Wright's books or already a fan, you can enjoy their wisdom each day with this thoughtful selection of 365 daily meditations that feature short passages from his classic works.

The devotions begin on Easter Day, the first day of new creation, and then follow the seasons of the Christian year to end with a second Easter and the invitation to begin again.

Reflecting on the biblical themes of beauty, power, spirituality, justice, truth, freedom and love, these daily meditations will invigorate and sustain you as you cultivate a Christ-like life 'on earth as in heaven'.

This review was taken from the Parish Pump. We'd much prefer to hear your reviews and recommendations. Please send them into magazine@stmarksreigate.co.uk

Reader recipes

If you are looking for something a little different this Easter. We have a delicious, impressive looking dish for you.

Roast Vegetable Tian

Ingredients:-

- 1 400g can chickpeas, drained, 50ml of liquid reserved
- 1 ¼ tea spoons of rock salt
- 2 small sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced into thin rounds
- 3 medium-size red beets, peeled and sliced into thin rounds
- 3 parsnips, peeled and sliced diagonally into thin slices
- 2 small red onions, sliced crosswise into thin rounds
- 50g Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, grated
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed



Method:-

1. Preheat oven to 190°C. Combine chickpeas, reserved chickpea liquid, and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a food processor; process until mixture is mostly smooth, about 30 seconds. Spread puree evenly on bottom of a 9-inch round baking dish. Starting at outer edge of dish, arrange groupings of 2 or 3 slices of each vegetable, layering and overlapping slightly, in 2 concentric circles, using chickpea puree to steady slices. Tuck remaining vegetable slices in centre to fill up dish.
2. Stir together cheese and thyme in a small bowl. Brush top of vegetables with oil; sprinkle with pepper and remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Scatter cheese mixture and garlic over tian.
3. Cover tightly with tin foil, place on a baking sheet, and roast in preheated oven 35 minutes. Uncover and roast until top is lightly browned and vegetables are tender when pierced with the tip of a knife, 25 to 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Recipe taken from: <https://www.foodandwine.com/holidays-events/easter/vegetarian-easter-recipes>

Puzzles

April Sudoku Puzzle

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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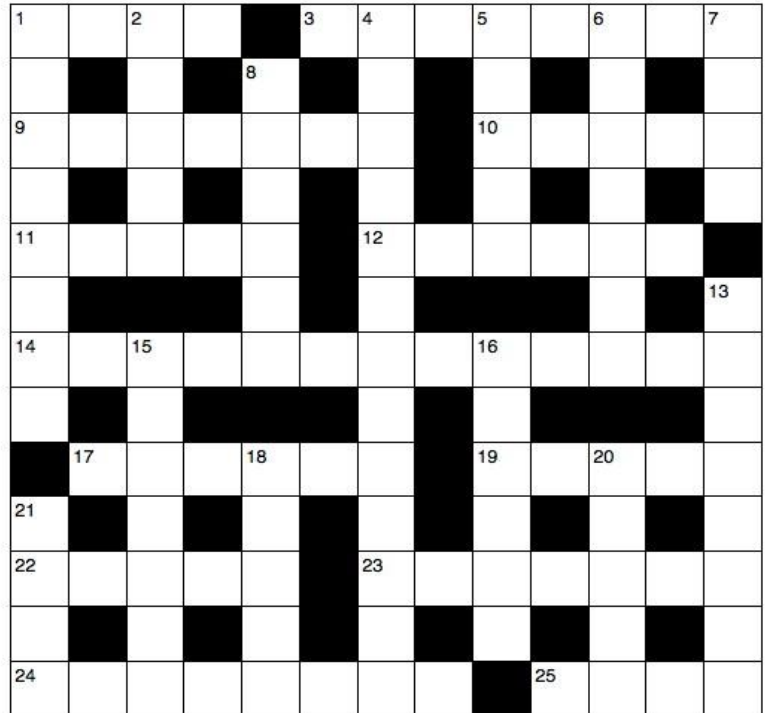
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April Crossword

Biblical references are from the New International Version

Across

- 1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4) 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
 9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
 10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)
 11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
 12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
 14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)
 17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)
 19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)
 22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)
 23 For nine (anag.) (7)
 24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)
 25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)
- 1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)
 2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)
 4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)
 5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)
 6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)
 7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)
 8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)
 13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)
 15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)
 16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)
 18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)
 20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)
 21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)



March Solution

ACROSS: 1 Awaken 4 Quench 8 Hit me 9 Sadness 10 Semitic 11 Ridge 12 Testimony 17 Psalm 19 Indulge 21 Deserve 22 Ariel 23 Rose as 24 Beggar

DOWN: 1 Aghast 2 Attempt 3 Eject 5 Undergo 6 No end 7 Hasten 9 Sacrifice 13 Samaria 14 Yelling

15 Spider 16 Dealer 18 Asses 20 Drake



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