



Grasshopper



St. John the Baptist, Hey April 2019
Receiving and Sharing the Love of God Everyday

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you, but for me, it's approaching that phase in lent when it starts to feel endless. When the initial temptation associated with giving things up has generally passed, new disciplines are fairly well established, and we are just toiling on. Waiting for things to 'get interesting'. I want to rush headlong into Holy Week, too easily forgetting how exhilarating and exhausting its highs and lows can be; how much preparation it truly needs. I, like many a disciple before me, grow impatient with waiting. But it is precisely then that the discipline of lent comes into its own. No matter how much we might want it to, God's time will not be rushed. In a perspective which spans all of history, I don't suppose a few weeks seems very long at all.

God isn't in a hurry. Even in the earthly life of Jesus, that brief span of time in which God dwelt with us here on earth, He refused to be hurried. Jesus was calm, measured and intentional. He sleeps through storms, talks through lunch, and is more than a bit late to heal His friend. Much of His ministry seems to happen while he is sat around doing something else: celebrating at a wedding, learning and teaching in the synagogue, casually walking around from place to place, or simply sitting by a well looking for a drink. God takes His time.

In a world which seems so hurried, we do well to ask ourselves: What's the rush? What is it that we are running towards, or perhaps from? What prevents us from getting off the conveyor belt to read, to pray, to spend

time with the people we love, or to simply be in the presence of God who longs to dwell with us? As we journey through these final days and weeks of lent, as we set our eyes firmly on Jerusalem and carefully follow where our saviour has been; may we dare to slow down, to attend to God's time, and to follow in His footsteps. By this may we know the depth of joy in that long-awaited exclamation: Christ is Risen! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Wishing you all a holy and blessed Easter

Sally

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Eddie Baines - Warden

The APCM this year marks the end of six years of Eddie Baines being a warden of this church. Most people who come to our services don't think about what needs to happen behind the scenes to ensure the services run smoothly, particularly in the period of interregnum. We have been lucky to have had Eddie (with the help for the last 3 years of Brian Saxon) to carry out all the necessary jobs. These have included making sure the church and hall are open when required, not just for normal services but also for baptisms, funerals, weddings and hall bookings; the hymn books, service books and pew sheets are ready for the congregation, and all the things necessary for communion are set up, with the altar cloths changed as required.

And then of course there are the other major events – the summer and Christmas fairs, decorating the church at Christmas, and also in 2017 our major celebration of 275 years of this church. Do you know where most of the items for events are stored? They're in the organ loft which is accessed by a ladder at the back of church – and the wardens are the people who have been climbing up to retrieve and then store away these things. Churchwardens are legally responsible for all the property and movable goods belonging to the church and maintenance and repairs (often carried out by Eddie) and for the running of the church with the PCC. The wardens have also kept the church grounds clear of snow, fallen leaves and litter. They have a duty to maintain order and peace in the church and churchyard at all times too with the help of the sidespersons; a warden's responsibilities are many.

We had another major event in 2018 – Experience Christmas. One of the items required for this was a manger for the baby Jesus – which was made by Eddie the day after it was mentioned – a photo of this is on the blog. I remember that at Richard's last Good Friday Churches

Together service in Lees at 12:30pm our cross unfortunately fell and broke – but a new one was made ready for the 2pm service in church by Eddie. Whenever we have been to church to help with something, Eddie has often been there early and already made a start.

So thank you Eddie for going above and beyond, and always with a smile – I know that you have had the help of Brian and lots of other people, including your wife Carol, but a lot has been down to you and we are so grateful for that.

Edna Green



Eddie with his staff of office.

Day by Day Scheme

11th April Jean & Tom Needham's wedding anniversary
12th April Remembering with love Ronnie & Flora Giles
13th April Loving memories of my Darling Barrie
19th April Norma & Bill's Wedding anniversary

The running costs of the church, which include the upkeep of the buildings and grounds, light and heat and costs of the services, amounted to £30,795 in 2018 – just over £84 a day.
Thank you to all those who are supporting the Day by Day Scheme which is used towards these costs.

If you would like to help please speak to a warden or our administrator.

Getting married at St John the Baptist this year

Sat 6 Apr	Jason Atkinson & Katie Bigland
Sat 27	Greenhaugh & Mellor
Sat 18 May	Shaun Slater & Alison Gaynon
Sat 27Jul	Nicole Clark & Philip Morgan

Street Prayers

<i>Week</i>	<i>Street</i>
01-Apr	The Rise
08-Apr	Ivy Green Drive
15-Apr	Pineway
22-Apr	Peels Avenue & Lathom Hall Avenue
29-Apr	Greaves Street, John Knott Street, Silverdale
06-May	Heywood Avenue

Prayers for these streets will be offered in Church on the Sundays shown

Any requests for specific prayers
please ring the parish office 626 3630

Let us witness to the presence of the church to all in Hey Parish

Flowers

In Loving Memory of Bill on Sunday 25th February

Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate towards these in memory of a loved one please see details on the pew sheet. A list of those who have given will be in the next newsletter and on the pew sheet for Easter week.

Bible Readings

7 Apr The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

John 12:1-8

14Apr Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40

Luke 23:1-49

21 Apr Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18

28 Apr The Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32 or

Exodus 14:10-31

John 20:19-31

5 May The Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 or

Zephaniah 3:14-20

John 21:1-19

Diary Dates

April

Wed 3	10am	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat
	11am	Holy Communion Oakdene
Thu 4	7pm	Come & Praise!
Sat 6		Wedding of John Atkinson & Katie Bigland

Sun 7

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8am	Holy Communion – Book of Common Prayer
9.30am	Parish Communion
11.00am	APCM

Wed 10	10am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat
Thur 11	7pm	Come & Praise!

Sun 14

Palm Sunday

8am	Holy Communion	
9.30am	Parish Communion with procession of Palms	
Mon 15	7.30pm	Holy Communion with reflection
Tue 16	7.30pm	Holy Communion with reflection
Wed 17	10am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat
	11am	Holy Communion Millfield
	7.30pm	Holy Communion with reflection

Thu 18

Maundy Thursday

8-10pm	Holy Communion with Feet Washing and Vigil
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Fri 19

Good Friday

9.30am	Come to the Cross, Hot cross buns
	The Three Hours
12noon	Walk of Witness & Churches Together in Lees
1pm	Hours mediation at church
2pm	Liturgy of Good Friday

Sat 20

Easter Eve

7.30pm	Vigil
8.45pm	Eucharist as it grows dark

Sun 21

Easter Day

8am	Holy Communion	
9.30am	Parish Communion	
Wed 22	10am	Holy Communion
	10.45am	Coffee & Chat

Thur 23 7pm Come & Praise!
Sat 27 Wedding Greenhaugh & Mellor

Sun 28 Second Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion

May

Wed 1 10am Holy Communion BCP
10.45am Coffee & Chat
11am Holy Communion Oakdene
7.30pm PCC
Thur 2 7pm Come & Praise!

Sun 5 Third Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion – BCP
9.30am Parish Communion
11.15am Baptism Mercer-Barlow



23rd April St George

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ. The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers – 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the

battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' – one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty – they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.



“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?”

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16

It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem..

The Chief Priests were plotting



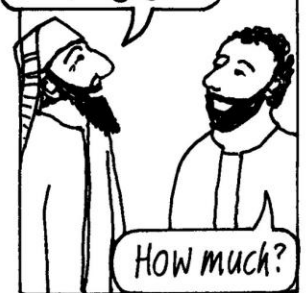
How can we get rid of Jesus?
He always has crowds around him.

Jesus' disciple Judas
came to them...



I could help you.

We'd be happy
to pay you

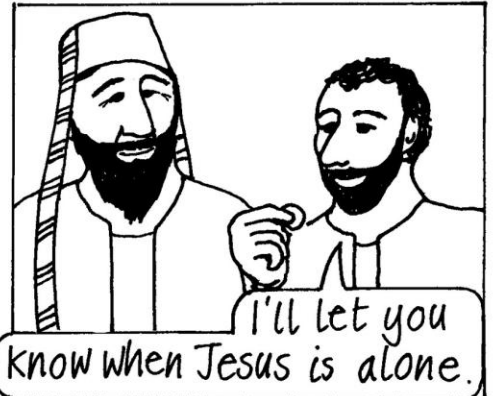



How much?



30 silver coins

30 silver coins happened
to be the same amount
that had to be paid
as compensation to
the owner if a
slave was
killed
Ex.31:32



I'll let you
know when Jesus is alone.

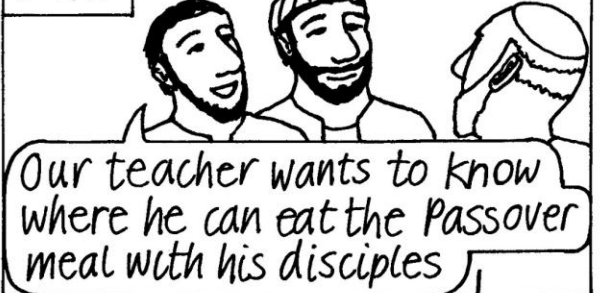
Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



Where
do you
want us to prepare
the Passover meal?

Go into
the city
and follow
the man carrying a
water jar to his home

They did, and asked the house
owner



Our teacher wants to know
where he can eat the Passover
meal with his disciples

The room is upstairs
on the roof, ready
to use



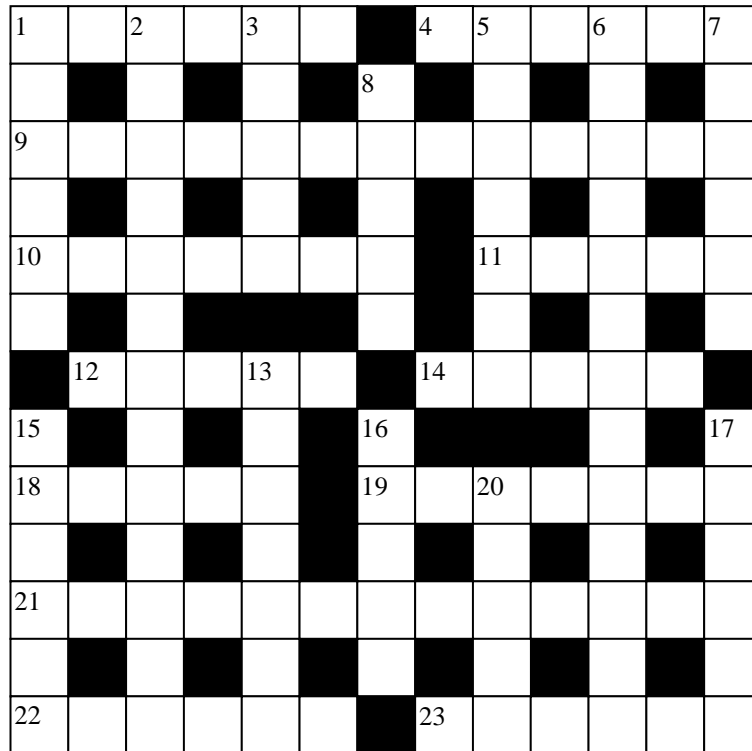
Peter and John got
the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his
12 disciples went to the room
to eat the Passover meal.



APRIL CROSSWORD



CLUES

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Hiker (6)	1. Speak in vague manner (6)
4. Holidaymaker in tent (6)	2. Regiment of foot (5,8)
9. Winter sport (6,7)	3. Mistake (5)
10. From the side (7)	5. Gathered (7)
11. Large number of fish swimming together (5)	6. Show a calm attitude to disappointments (12)
12. Cutting instrument (5)	7. Entertain with talk (7)
14. Form if expression (5)	8. Sacred song (5)
18. Once more (5)	13. Money management (7)
19. Material made from skin (7)	15. Jolly Jack Tar (6)
21. Person from Caribbean perhaps (5,8)	16. Clasp (5)
22. Words that sounded the same at the end (6)	17. Semi-conscious state (6)
23. Dozen (6)	20. Feathered missile (5)

Solution to March crossword. Across: 1. Commit, 4. Strong, 7. Conserve, 8. Sack, 9. Live, 11. Alto, 12. Restful, 13. Set, 15. Bed, 17. Biassed, 19. Spur, 20. Room, 21. Aria, 22. Garrison, 24. Crisis, 25. Basics. Down: 1. Cockles, 2. Master, 3. Tar, 4. Steadfast, 5. Rascal, 6. Necktie, 10. Asparagus, 14. Emperor, 16. Demands, 17. Breaks, 18. Drains, 23. Rub.

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