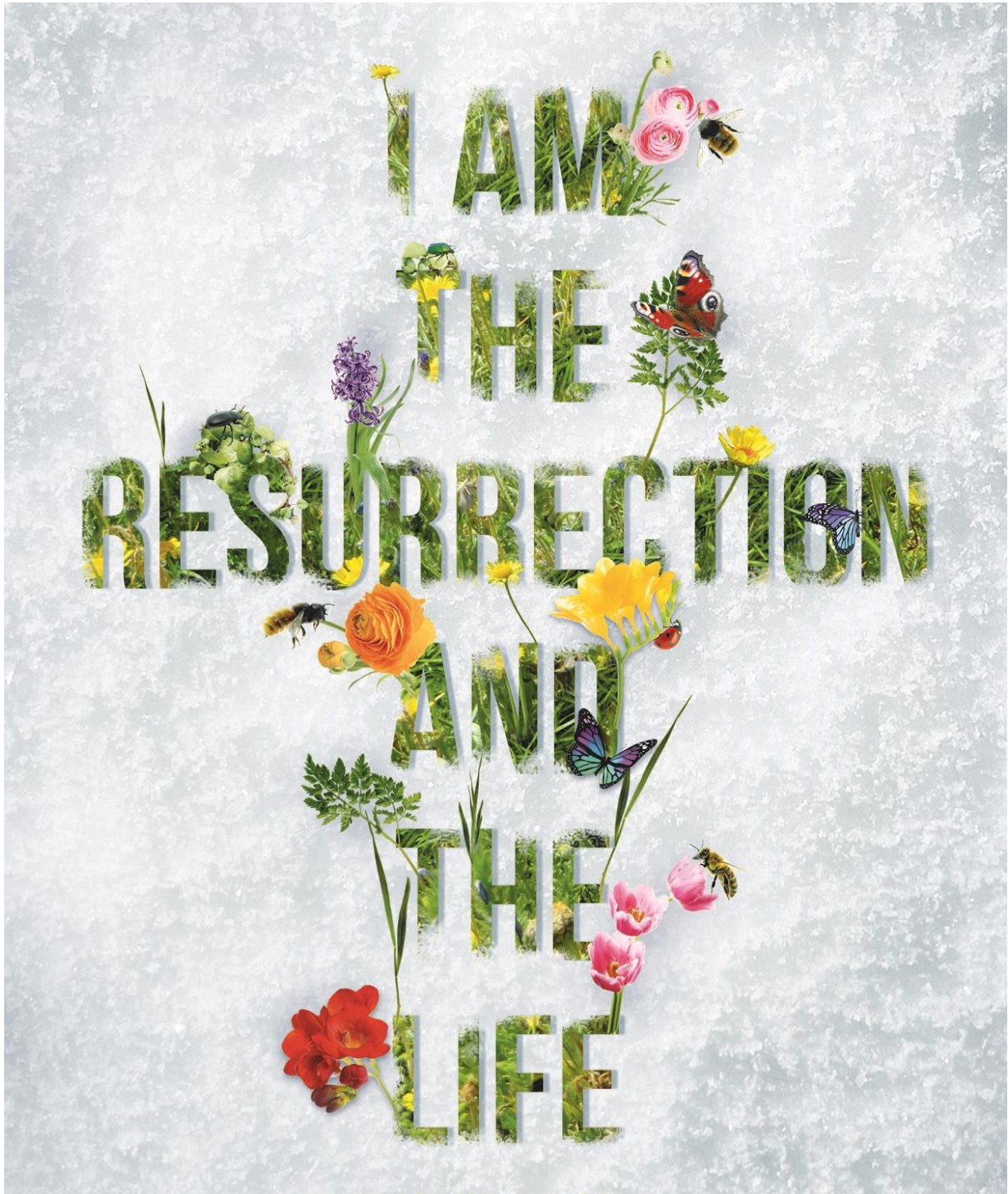


**Bransgore and Mundeford Lane Methodist Churches
Magazine**



April 2019 – Issue No 1

About the Magazine and Notes for Contributors

The Magazine is published monthly and contributions for the Magazine are welcomed from any sources, attributed as necessary. The deadline for copy is by the end of the 12th day of the month preceding publication.

Please send the copy, as a Word Document, to the editor by e-mail: jandpmorgan@aol.com making it clear in the title block that the item is for the Magazine or by posting to Mudeford Lane Methodist Church. Hard copy will of course require retyping and thus may not make the publication date if submitted too close to the copy deadline date. If you send an attachment, please make sure it contains the title of the article and the author's name.

Please present copy as simply and clearly as possible. Please take care of personal and place names and ensure accents are included correctly. Articles should be normally no longer than 1000 words. If considerably longer articles may have to be serialised. Although articles will be read by the editor before publication, material must be thoroughly checked by the author to avoid subsequent misunderstandings.

Please double-check all foreign and British place-names and personal names for accuracy. Please send any photographs or similar as .jpgs separately, as attached files, with captions and the photographer's name.

All views expressed in the Magazine are those of the author and not necessarily of Bransgore and Mudeford Lane Methodist Churches.

Editorial

Welcome to the April edition of the Bransgore and Mudeford Lane Methodist Churches Magazine. I hope that this is the first of many to come. The success of the project will be dependent on your co-operation in providing articles for publication. My intention is that the magazine will be there to inform readers of what we are intending to do rather than dwell too much on the past. Once you have read this magazine it would be nice if you could pass it on to relatives and friends so that they too will be aware of how much the 2 Churches do for their local communities. Maybe, by widening our circulation in this way we can increase the membership of our Churches to the benefit of all.

With blessings and best wishes to all

John

A Message from our Minister



My dear friends. What a privilege it is for me to be writing to you from this, our first edition of the Bransgore and Mudeford Lane monthly magazine. My hope is that you will find inspiration and encouragement from these pages each month, as well as a little entertainment and challenge.

Spring generally and April this year in particular is when we celebrate New Life, for some; bunnies and eggs and for Christians, the death and resurrection of Jesus. I don't know about you but I think we could all do with some New Life. Whether we are thinking about our political climate (although this moves so quickly who knows where we will be in a days time let alone a month ahead!), New Life in our gardens as things begin to bloom, New Life as an end to pointless violence or New Life in our own lives in terms of purpose, relationships and health. The promise of New Life is contained in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the time of year when we enter into the period of Lent, which can be considered as a journey that we undertake together, a time to deepen our faith and draw closer to one another.

In a recent survey (everyone likes surveys), randomly selected people were asked "if you could ask God one question what would your question be?" the most popular answer by more than twice the next answer was; "what is the purpose of my existence?". A question of "Why" rather than "How" or "When". Probably not a question we would ask each other when out socialising with friends or family but perhaps one we may ask ourselves in quietness and solitude particularly, but not exclusively, when undergoing the trials of loneliness, bereavement, separation or sickness.

As Christians we don't have all of the answers to these mysteries but we know the One who does, there does not need to be the supposition of an "if" in the survey question because the assurance of God's abundant and freely given grace is available for **all** people so that we may live with purpose, in harmony and peace with each other. This is what I think New Life means, a life that is so different to the division, unforgiveness, anger and violence of the world around us.

I encourage you in this season of New Life, of resurrection, to consider your purpose. There is One (Jesus) who died in order that we may live a New Life. Christians are sometimes known by those of other belief systems as "people of the cross", for me is a very good description of who we are and what we believe. We are people of the cross, an empty cross that signifies "He is Risen", but I get ahead of myself -we are still on the journey of Lent, on our way "up to Jerusalem". I pray that you are all blessed in this season of New Life. Your fellow labourer in Christ, Phillip.

Easter Prayer of Thanks

Gracious, loving Father,
Thank you for the wonderful reality of Jesus' resurrection on that first Easter Day.
Thank you that, because Jesus is alive, life has meaning and purpose.
When we don't understand why some things happen, when life is difficult, when we are struggling through pain and loss, help us to know your risen presence and love in our lives.
Help us to choose to trust you.
Help us always to be thankful for your amazing Easter gift of life and hope.
In Jesus name,
Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Mundeford Lane Activities

Weekly Activities

Mums and Toddlers - Wednesday 1:00 to 2:45 pm
Bridgebuilders (Club for 6 to 11 years) – Wednesday 6:00 to 7:15 pm
Prayer Meeting – Thursday 9:30 to 10:30 am
Singing Fellowship – Thursday 2:30 to 3:30 pm

Monthly Activities

Messy Church – usually the 1st Saturday
in the Month at 4:00pm
Coffee Morning – the 3rd Saturday
Usually at 10:00am

Sunday Services are held at 10:30 am

Preachers for April

7 Apr – Mrs Diana Middleditch
14 Apr – Rev Phil Dixon (Holy Communion)
18 Apr – Maundy Thursday - 2:30 Rev Phil Dixon (Holy Communion)
19 Apr – “Good Friday” - Rev Phil Dixon
21 Apr – Resurrection Day - Mr Rob White
28 Apr – Miss Liz Ward

www.mundefordlanemethodist.org.uk

MUDEFORD LANE SINGING FELLOWSHIP

This is led by Bob Pownall and meets each Thursday afternoon for an hour between 2.30 and 3.30pm. After Easter this changes to an evening meeting from 7.30 to 8.30pm. It is not a choir so we welcome any person who would like to join us to sing hymns, exchange good news, and read and pray. Each week one of our number lead and choose hymns according to a theme agreed at the beginning of the term. We meet in school term times, so we have a long break in the summer and shorter breaks at Easter and Christmas.

This term we have been following a theme entitled "Jesus' Way ". On April 18th at 2:30pm we shall be part of the Maundy Thursday Service led by Phillip. Other church members will be invited to this service, which will include Holy Communion.

After the Easter Church Services we take a break and meet again on Thursday 9th May at the later time of 7.30 pm. All are welcome to join us and we do really mean that," Everyone is welcome ", Being able to sing in tune, is an optional extra. If you would like to speak to one of the group of singers before you come, then speak to: Rosemary, Mary, Elaine, Muriel, Janet, Julia, Tom or Bob.

MUDEFORD LANE YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Bridgebuilders -- Youth Group

Mundeford Lane has been running a children/youth group for ages 6-11 years and for over 10 years. Children need to have fun and friendship and this is provided this through games, songs, drama, Bible stories and tuck. In good weather the group can play games on the grass area next to the church. We plan to develop the older group into Junior leaders. The group meets term time from 6.00 to 7.15 pm on Wednesdays and the older group stays until 8 pm. A charge of £1 per child is made. We also hold events to involve the parents in the activity of the club, such as attending a local pantomime, Skittles Evenings and in the future we hope to have Kayaking sessions at the Hengistbury Head Outdoor Centre.

Mums and Toddlers

We hold a Mums and Toddlers gathering every Wednesday afternoon in term time from 1pm to 2.45 pm. We have an excellent selection of toys for babies and toddlers. In good weather there is a large grass area for the toddlers to play. The toddlers have a tuck time at about 1.45 pm and sit together around the tables and enjoy cake or biscuit and some fruit, together with a drink, while the mums enjoy tea or coffee and biscuits. It is a good time for the toddlers to socialize with their peers and for mums to chat and relax. At 2.30 pm we have singing and action songs which all enjoy as well. We often have dads, granddads and grandmas joining too. Why not come along and see! We only charge £1 per family.

Messy Church

We usually hold Messy Church on the 1st Saturday of the Month. In March we looked at the story of Gideon. Among the crafts which we made were torches and trumpets which Gideon used to surprise and scare the enemy and which God led Gideon and his small army to win victory over their enemies, the Midianites. We followed the craft session with dancing music and reflective music in the worship time. We concluded with a hot meal.

Our next Messy Church gathering will be on 6th April when we will have an Easter theme. We welcome and invite all children and their families to join us; grandparents, aunts and uncles are also very welcome.

If you would like more information please contact Howard and Sheila - 07780 817423

Bransgore Activities

Weekly Activities

Drop-In Prayer Time – Tuesdays 8am to 10am

Brownies – Tuesdays 6pm to 7:30pm

Fellowship – Wednesdays 2:45pm to 4pm on alternate weeks

Kiddiwinks – Wednesdays 10am to 12 mid-day

Monthly Activities

Coffee Mornings – 1st Saturday of the month at 10 am

Messy Church – usually 3rd Saturday of the month

(please see advertised dates and times each month)

Sunday Services are held at 10:30 am

Preachers for April are:

7 Apr – Miss Liz Ward

14 Apr – Mr Eric Brown

19 Apr – Good Friday at 9:30 am - Rev Phil Dixon

21 Apr – Resurrection Day - Rev Phil Dixon (Holy Communion)

28 Apr – Mr Clifford Upex

www.bransgoremethodist.org.uk

Join us this Easter

Easter services at your local
Methodist Church



The **Methodist** Church 

www.methodist.org.uk Facebook | Twitter | YouTube | Instagram | Flickr

Maundy Thursday: Mundeford Lane 2:30 pm; Highcliffe 7:00 pm

Good Friday: Bransgore 9:30 am; Mundeford Lane 10:30am

Resurrection Sunday: Bransgore 10:30am; Mundeford Lane 10:30 am

EASTER: the most joyful season of the year

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

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

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of the Jewish Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are 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. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943.

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

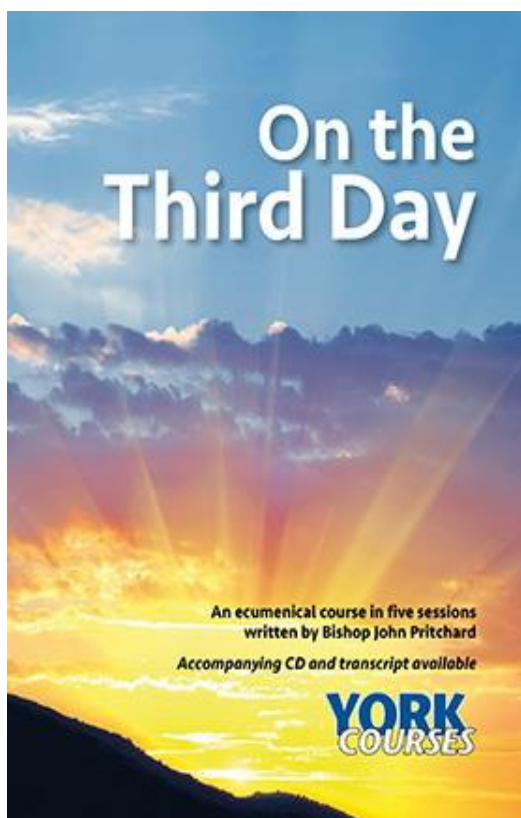
Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

On The Third Day

Rev Phil Dixon and the Ministerial team from Highcliffe Methodist Church are leading “On the Third Day”, which is an ecumenical Lent course in 5 sessions plus a 6th session to show the film Risen

It is not necessary to be able to attend every session and the venues are alternated between Mudeford Lane and Highcliffe Methodist Churches. The course concludes with the film Risen. So even if you haven't attended any of the On the Third Day sessions you are very welcome to watch the inspiring Easter drama of the death and resurrection of Christ through the eyes of a Roman Centurion.

The film is rated 12.



Venues, Dates and Times

Highcliffe 11th March 1pm

Mudeford 18th March 2pm

Highcliffe 25th March 2pm

Mudeford 1st April 2pm

Highcliffe 8th April 1pm (includes lunch)

Highcliffe 15th April 2pm “Risen”

Lent Lunches

The purpose of the Lenten Lunches is to provide opportunities for our worshipping communities in Mudeford, Purewell and Somerford to meet informally and strengthen our Christian ties. Thus members from the 3 participating Churches are encouraged to attend the lunches at the other Churches as well as their own. Each meal will consist of a frugal meal of soup, bread and cheese, followed by tea or coffee. Those attending are invited to donate what they would have normally spent on a midday meal to CAFOD or Christian Aid.

Dates and Venues:

Friday 15th March at St Joseph's Church, Purewell (more than 40 people attended)

Friday 5th April at All Saints Church, Mudeford

Friday 12th April at Mudeford Lane Methodist Church

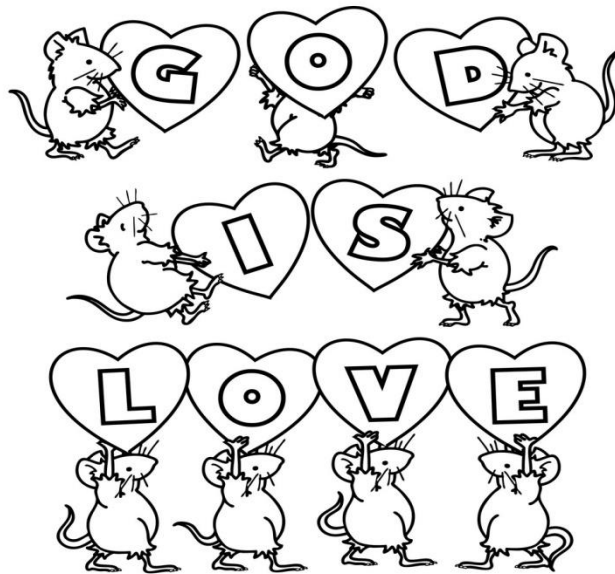
Waiting for your stuff to be delivered

You order some books from an online company. They are a present for your nephew's birthday. They arrive too late and you go to a bookshop and buy the same ones there. While in town you decide to order a new comfy chair to sit and read your parish magazine in. They can deliver it next week and they will let you know when. Nothing is heard and when you email them you are told the driver has been off sick and they can deliver tomorrow. You say that is okay, but they must deliver then or you will cancel as you have to take time off work. They agree. You had ordered a reading lamp to go with it. This too has not been delivered. You find it is in the courier's warehouse because the manufacturer has gone bust.

It is annoying when you are waiting for something to be delivered to your home. Many responsible traders will give you a time slot and then text you or telephone to say they are on the way. To be fair, it is not easy to always deliver what the customer wants, when the customer wants it. What are your legal rights? You can claim a refund for the books. Under the Consumer Contracts Regulations – which apply to items bought online, over the phone or by post, you have got 14 days after you receive a package to notify the seller that you have changed your mind, regardless of whether it is faulty or not. You then have a further 14 days to send back the item. It must be sent back unopened and in its original packaging. This does not apply to the chair because it was ordered in a shop. You can only claim compensation if you have made it a term of the contract for it to be delivered on a specific day. The lamp is yours, but you will probably have to go to the warehouse to collect it. **This is a light-hearted guide to the law, and you should always see advice**

How about colouring these pictures?

Hosanna, Hosanna!



"And so we know the **love** that God has for us, and we trust that **love**.
God is love. Those who live in **love** live in God, and God lives in them."
1 John 4:16

Crossword (answers on the last page)

Across:

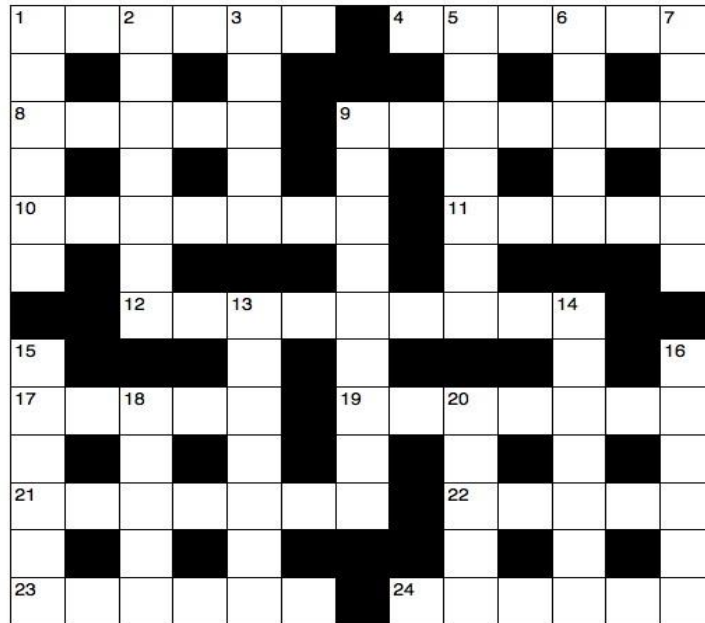
- 1 Protective covering recommended to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:11) (6)
- 4 The number of apostles (Matthew 10:2) (6)
- 8 Tenth-century Bishop of Augsburg for 48 years, who became the first saint to be canonized by a pope (5)
- 9 'Do not — what is evil but what is good' (3 John 11) (7)
- 10 Reading desk in a church (7)
- 11 'He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like — walking around"' (Mark 8:24) (5)
- 12 One of the qualities that Paul exhorted Timothy to pursue (1 Timothy 6:11) (9)
- 17 One of the meaningless pleasures acquired by the Teacher (Ecclesiastes 2:8) (5)
- 19 'Like — babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation' (1 Peter 2:2) (7)
- 21 Jesus said that Moses allowed this only because men's hearts were hard (Matthew 19:8) (7)
- 22 Girl's name (5)
- 23 Most sagacious (Judges 5:29) (6)
- 24 How Stephen, the first Christian martyr, died: after being — (Acts 7:59) (6)

Down:

- 1 A Jew whom Paul met in Corinth, whose wife was Priscilla (Acts 18:2) (6)
- 2 Eg, turning water into wine, feeding the five thousand, walking on water (John 7:21) (7)
- 3 Abram's relationship to Lot (Genesis 14:12) (5)
- 5 'Jesus answered, "It is —: 'Man does not live by bread alone.'" (Matthew 4:4) (7)
- 6 'Peace I — with you; my peace I give you' (John 14:27) (5)
- 7 'May the Lord deal with me, be it — — severely, if anything but death separates you and me' (Ruth 1:17) (4,2)
- 9 Lack of knowledge (Acts 17:30) (9)
- 13 This woman 'followed Paul and believed' after his words to the Areopagus in Athens (Acts 17:34) (7)
- 14 Or noise (anag.) (7)
- 15 'Even though I walk through the valley of the — of death, I will fear no evil' (Psalm 23:4) (6)

Note from Phil:

If you get stuck, consulting your Bible is most certainly allowed, but peeking to the back page isn't.



St George, Patron Saint of England

On 23rd April we celebrate St George's Day, this article about St George describes some facts that you may not have known about him.

St George: our patron saint who isn't English

It's perhaps typical of us English that we 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.

St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

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

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

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

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

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

1 April - Fooling Around by Canon David Winter

I was about six when I began to enjoy April Fool's Day. My older brother was very clever at appropriate hoaxes, not only deceiving me but also mum and dad. On the whole my childish efforts were encouraged. The day was full of laughs, even at school, where the teachers would try to trick us and all day long no one quite believed anything they were told. So it went on, year after year, though I think it all seems as a bit unsophisticated for the modern generation.

You couldn't say that, though, about probably the most famous April Fool's effort of all time. In the 1960's BBC TV broadcast a feature on the spaghetti farms of Italy. Even those of us who bought our spaghetti in the supermarket from the pasta shelves began to wonder if we'd been wrong. Italian farmers explained their work and the progress of the spaghetti plants was carefully filmed, from planting to reaping. And all in the BBC's most serious documentary manner. It took a while to appreciate that this was Aunty playing games. Whatever next!

The odd thing is that no one is quite sure of the origin of this very British tradition. Most attribute it to changes in Britain's calendar in the 1700s, when New Year's Day moved from March 25th to January 1st. Not surprisingly, the change caused a lot of confusion and mistakes around the start of April. Others look further back, to the ancient Roman feast of Hilaria, when the goddess Cybele was celebrated with pranks and jokes around the spring equinox, March 25th. Either way a touch of hilarity at the end of Lent does not seem amiss. Go to Greece, where the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated with fireworks and parties to see how it might work.

More dates for your Diary

Sunday 23rd June – Farewell Service for Gwyneth at Wimborne at 6pm after tea from 4pm

Friday 30th August – Welcome Service for Rev Pauline Crispin at Wimborne at 7pm

More details of these events will be published when known.

Answers to the Crossword

ACROSS: 1, Armour. 4, Twelve. 8, Ulric. 9, Imitate. 10, Lectern. 11, Trees. 12, Endurance. 17, Harem. 19, Newborn. 21, Divorce. 22, Erica. 23, Wisest. 24, Stoned.

DOWN: 1, Aquila. 2, Miracle. 3, Uncle. 5, Written. 6, Leave. 7, Ever so. 9, Ignorance. 13, Damaris. 14, Erosion. 15, Shadow. 16, Onward. 18, Raves. 20, Wheat.

Useful Numbers and Contacts

Minister – Rev Phil Dixon – 01425 673350

Mudford Lane Church Office – 01202 480797 (ansaphone)

Samaritans - 08457 90 90 90 (free)

Childline – 0800 1111

Christchurch Citizens Advice Bureau - 03442451291

Christchurch Age Concern – 01202 488311

Christchurch Food Bank – 07587 371088

NHS 111 Service for urgent medical issues - 111

Police Non-Emergency - 101

Christchurch Hospital – 01202 486361

Royal Bournemouth Hospital – 01202 303626

Poole Hospital – 01202 665511