

perspectives

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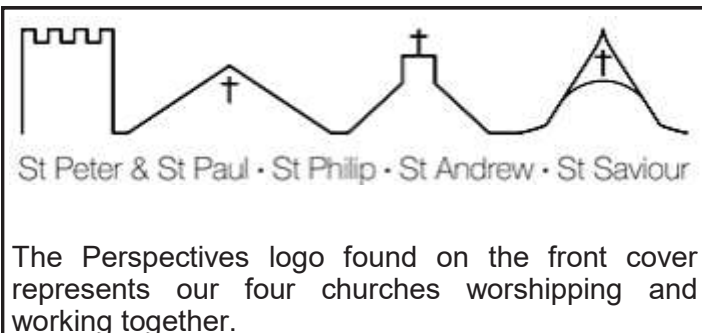
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Dear Friends,

Talking about Easter

Two years ago some national research was done called "Talking Jesus", which asked many people outside the church what they thought of Christians. Rather than a rebuke to hypocrisy, the impressive statistical survey (one that can be trusted) revealed that the watching world saw Christians in the main as caring, kind and non-judgemental.



Of the many results, one other has stayed in my mind: about Easter. Most of the population, it seems, actually know about Easter and in fact are enviably well positioned to know some of its story. But - and it is a very big but - asked about its meaning, the percentage was so low almost to the point of not registering!

I therefore wonder if it would be kind to invite others to explore for themselves what Easter actually means. I wonder too, for those of us well versed in singing "Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son" or "When I survey the wondrous cross" that we should go out of our way a little more to give a "reason for the hope that is within us". Many people, it seems, want to know.

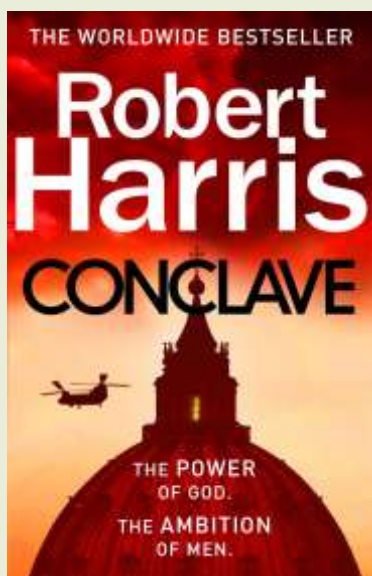
The Easter facts are clear: Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and three days later his body could not be found. The stone over the tomb had been rolled away to reveal he was not there.

May we all prayerfully consider the Bible's conclusion on these facts: that he was crucified for us, that God raised him for us.

Easter facts can give rise to Easter faith. I hope that as you read, reflect, even perhaps pray, that you will find the faith that many have found rises up within you.

With my prayerful good wishes

The Revd Canon Mark Brown
 Vicar and Area Dean of Tonbridge



Conclave Robert Harris

The Pope is dead and 120 Cardinals meet in secret session behind locked doors in the Sistine Chapel to elect a successor. A handful of powerful Cardinals from across the globe vie for the supreme position within the Vatican, each with differing views on the future direction of the Catholic Church...

Robert Harris has woven a fascinating story of fact and fiction that will keep you enthralled. The book has good pace in the storyline with believable characters and details and I suspect that, like me, the intrigue, twist and turns will mean you will be unable to put the book down.

I have deliberately only given you a brief outline of this story so as to not spoil it for you but if you like suspense thrillers then this is the book for you.

Barry Stagg



Alex Rider series Anthony Horowitz

Alex Rider is a series of novels about a 14-15-year-old spy. I love these books because they are an action and adrenaline adventure series. At the start of the first book, *Stormbreaker*, Alex's uncle dies, and he discovers that his uncle's boring sounding job in the bank was really a spy organization called MI6. Alex takes his uncle's place and begins his life taken over by MI6.

I love this series of books because the action-packed adventure makes my heart beat a lot faster. Now I'm on the 5th book called *Scorpia*. My favourite so far is the 1st one because it is the most exciting and because I have watched the film and that was even better.

For those people who like to read books with pictures you could try the Alex Rider graphic novels. These books are aimed at 8-12-year olds according to WHSmith's, but I think that teenagers and adults would also be gripped by them.

So, start pestering your parents to buy it for you when you get it you won't regret it!

Josh Hammill, Age 8

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CLARE BARTON

is a St Peter & St Paul member, known to many as the owner of **THE BAKEHOUSE at 124**

The building is amazing!

My mother, and many others, fondly remember it from when it was Aplins Tea Rooms, where people would sit by the big upstairs windows, watch the world go by and observe who was “stepping out” with whom! Since then it was Copley’s, Savoy Tailors Guild and, finally, Moss Bros. People come in just to see inside such a historic building, which I encourage as I just see myself as a Guardian of a part of Tonbridge’s history. I took a lot of advice from the Conservation Officer when I was converting in order to make the alternations sympathetic to the building and the beams apparently range in age from the 14th to some “youngsters” being 16th century!

What were you hoping to offer when you opened the café & bakery?

To offer to our customers a relaxing “home from home” space where people could come, on their own – which they do – and we also have home workers and groups who use the space. But also customers who just like a bit of space to sit and have a drink, read a book, do their paperwork or just have a bit of time out for themselves. We also host social gatherings and I run bread making classes, children’s groups and pizza evenings.

Is your background in catering?

No, not really. I’ve had a variety of jobs, starting with Laura Ashley when I left school, Garrard the Crown Jewellers, Parfums Christian Dior and finally with a Fund Manager where I was the Corporate Travel Manager.

Do you get a chance to do other things?

Being a baker is physically very hard work. And as I’m down a baker at the moment I’m doing all of the work myself, which means I get up at 3.45am in the week. However, I love singing and I’m a member of a community choir in Sevenoaks. I also love the cinema but with the hours at the moment falling asleep is making it a rarity! I suppose I’m a practical creative person and do things like flower arranging, interior design and photography.

Have you always had a faith?

Yes. I grew up in Hildenborough, where my parents were active in the church, set a good example of living out your faith and doing things for people. So I too was involved with the church and my faith has certainly sustained me at times.

Your favourite film? It changes all the time, there are poignant films like Schindler’s List that still I talk about but really whatever I’ve just seen becomes the new favourite.

Best meal: You can’t beat Steak and Chips!

Best holiday location? Cornwall always features when holiday planning is discussed!

Your best seller? The Bakehouse White (our croissant) which, like everything else we do, is made from scratch in our bakery and our Salted Caramel Blondie – we get complaints if we run out!



On the 11th of March, people all around the country will celebrate Mothering Sunday. Mothers everywhere will wake up to cards and flowers and presents. Some will be treated to breakfast in bed or afternoon tea, while others will smile at their toddler's sticky kiss, or the phone call from a son who lives a long way away. Some will still follow the Christian tradition of returning to their "Mother Church"- their parish church or the church where they were baptised.

In the parish of St Peter and St Paul's in Tonbridge, our four churches gather on Mothering Sunday morning to worship God and thank him for our mothers and our church.

Mothering Sunday is a time of celebration, thanksgiving and rejoicing, and yet for many of us it evokes memories of absence and loss. The joy is tinged with sadness, or anger, or pain. As someone who struggled with childlessness and

miscarriage for many years before the birth of our son, I know something of the pain of facing Mothering Sunday without a child who calls me 'Mum'.

Four years ago, on the Friday before Mothering Sunday, my younger sister died. Her death left my then 11 and 12 year old nieces without a mother, and my Mum with only one daughter instead of two. It was tempting not to go to church that Sunday and yet I did. And I'm glad I did because I learnt something very valuable about God and His Church.

Anyone who has cared for a young baby will know that you spend a lot of time holding the child in your arms. There are those idyllic moments of

knowing the joy of a sweet smelling, recently fed, contented baby sleeping trustingly in our arms. But there are also those moments of holding a howling, smelly, struggling creature in our tired arms. Psalm 61 in the bible tells us that God has his loving arms around us and that we can take refuge under the shelter of his wings. No matter how we are feeling, God's arms are strong enough and loving enough to carry us. So if you are in pain this Mothering Sunday, tell God about it and allow him to put his loving arms around you.

Sometimes when we are carrying a young baby we need a bit of help. We put our babies in buggies and Moses baskets and baby carriers. When we are struggling to carry our anger and pain and grief, the Church can help. The Church isn't just a building, it's a family of people. People who can help. People who can walk alongside us. People who celebrate with us and mourn with us. People who help to carry us. For more specialist help I would like to recommend these three charities:


Saltwater and Honey at saltwaterandhoney.org,
Making Miracles at makingmiracles.org.uk
Cruse Bereavement Care at www.cruse.org.uk


Whatever Mother Sunday looks like for you, I pray that you too will know God's loving kindness.

Judi Hammill



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**What do we treasure?
What do we give?
Mums and children from round the churches
shared their traditions and plans.**



David: I'll give my Mum a morning hug and then buy her something nice!



We love spending Mothering Sunday together, relaxing at home with a special lunch, a card, flowers, chocolates, and visiting a National Trust house in the afternoon.



I love having
my girls with me
but a card is
great, to know
they thought of
me!



My mum likes a change of scene, and I will take her out to lunch



A family trip to Hastings to blow away the cobwebs!



Arianna van Bodegom: I love making cards and gifts for my Mummy, but the best is the breakfast in bed!



Patricia King: A couple of times my parents and my parents-in-law have been in Tonbridge on Mothering Sunday. We have all gone to the Parish Church together, giving flowers to our respective mothers during the service, followed by lunch at our home and then a walk in the afternoon.



Isaac: I usually make a card for Mothering Sunday.



Gabriella van Bodegom:
I love looking for gifts for Mummy and spoiling her on the day.

I usually spend Mother's Day with my two sons, Jack and Alex. This year we will remember my great-grandma who recently passed away as well as take Nanny out for tea. As a Mother to young children I find it even more important to celebrate the Mothers who came before me, to give thanks for all their hard work and dedication in the past that has shaped us in the present.



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Doing the Camino de Santiago

Last year, Les Naylor of our parish set out his plans for this “pilgrimage”.

Now he reports on the test of endurance.



The Camino de Santiago (known in English as ‘the Way of St James’) is a pilgrimage route leading to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. In the ninth century, a star guided the hermit Pelayo to the tomb of St James the Great, beheaded in 44 A.D. in Jerusalem, but whose body was mysteriously taken by boat to the coast of Galicia in Spain. A chapel was built on the site and called Compostela – the field of stars.

As the map above shows, there are several pilgrim routes to Santiago. I chose to start in Arles, as my daughter and son-in-law, Olwen and Rich, live very near to the route of the Chemin d’Arles, also called the Via Tolosana. When I got to Oloron Sainte Marie, I traversed to Irún on the coast in order to follow the Camino del Norte which follows the north coast of Spain. I chose this route as it is much quieter than the main Camino Frances (green on the map) with about 30-40 pilgrims on this route each day rather than 300-400 pilgrims on the Camino Frances!

I started on 10th April and finished on 10th July 2017. Generally I walked for 6 days and rested on the 7th. This worked well psychologically, physically and practically. I also rested for 4 days in Toulouse with my wife Ceri, and I returned to Tonbridge at the end of May for my mother’s 90th birthday. This also gave me a chance to swap boots, as the first pair had begun to split after 6 weeks.

It is impossible to describe all 100 days of the pilgrimage in a short magazine article, so I will try to give a flavour of the walk and things that surrounded it.



In France, there were far fewer pilgrims. Usually there were 6-8 other people doing the route, but on some occasions I only met 2 or 3 other walkers, and on one occasion I was the only pilgrim in the Gîte Pèlerin (pilgrim hostel). On most days, the guardian of the hostel prepared the breakfast of coffee with bread or croissants. I usually tried to get away by 8, as walking in the morning is cooler and you can get some miles under the belt before lunch. In fact, on most days, I completed the stage by 1 or 2 o’ clock in the afternoon. In mid-morning I hoped for a village which was large enough to have a cafe which was open. I usually had a picnic lunch of baguette with cheese or salami and tomatoes, but if the stage could be completed by 1pm, I treated myself to the ‘formule’ (‘menu del dia’ in Spain) which is usually the best value for dining out in France. I often got 3 courses of lovely food with wine for about €12.

The route from Arles across southern France is signposted as the GR653 (Grande Randonnée – or big walk), and goes through Montpellier, Castres, Auch, Toulouse and finishes at Oloron Sainte-Marie, from where pilgrims normally cross into Jaca in Spain, and then turn westwards to join the Camino Frances. In this traverse, I started in the vineyards of Languedoc, crossed the hills and high plateaus of the Haut-Languedoc, descended into Castres, and then had 3 weeks of hills and agricultural countryside, before hitting the foothills of the Pyrenees. They were all wonderfully different and being Spring, full of wild flowers and birdsong, and even a cacophony of frogs in some places!

I skirted the Pyrenees to the North, and during those two weeks I enjoyed the company of Andy Kirkpatrick, and the Chris Avis (from St Stephens). Being a mountain lover, these were two of the best weeks of the trip. We had mixed weather, but beautiful views across the mountains and to the Atlantic. Vultures wheeled overhead, and on a couple of occasions, they took off less than 20 yards in front of us, and we could hear the air whooshing from the downbeat of their enormous wings.

In Spain, the path mainly follows the coast, but there were many diversions inland, some for a few hours, but others for 2 or 3 days. It eventually turns inland in Galicia



at Ribadeo after 600 kilometres. I chose the coastal route because it would be less populated, cooler, by the sea and I do love seafood. It has the disadvantage of being hilly, and a lot of the walk is on hard paths and roads. The coastline is wonderful especially after Santander, where it gets wilder, with small villages, high cliffs and deserted beaches. You cross four regions, País Basque, Cantabria, Asturia and Galicia, each with their own customs and styles of cookery, and two have local languages of Basque and Galician.

In Spain the albergues (pilgrim hostels) are mostly provided by the town, or charities or in a couple of cases by monasteries. There are also private hostels. They provide a bed at €10-15 and a few provide breakfast at another €5. They have showers and facilities to wash clothes. Many now also have Wi-Fi. I usually left early and either found a cafe in the town, or walked to the next place with a cafe. It is amazing how far you can walk on just a glass of water! Cafe y pan tostado o pastales (coffee and toast or cakes) can be purchased in all the bars for breakfast. For lunch, I bought the usual stuff, and also discovered empanadas in Asturia with either a savoury or a sweet filling.

The great thing about doing a Camino is that you get time on your own away from the usual distractions and worries of life. It's like taking time out each morning to pray and study the Word, but on a grand scale of hours, days and weeks of 'time out' to think, pray, sing, appreciate and consider oneself and the world around. There are special times in which for instance you partake in Catholic services, or share your reasons for doing a Camino with the other pilgrims in the monastery, or getting a personal blessing after the service by a priest, and even in one



French church of singing a chorus in English – I'm not joking.

The other lovely aspect of the Camino is the people you meet. They are from various countries and of a range of ages from 7 to over 70. A few examples are a retired train driver from Quebec, a chef from Switzerland, a student from Prague and another from China studying in Belgium. I walked with several Irish people, and one from Dublin, Don, who lives in Madrid and is married to a Spanish doctor, and spoke fluent Spanish with an Irish lilt!

The route is well-signposted in most places, but being a bit of an anorak as far as maps are concerned, I spent hours preparing a single sheet for each day with a map and where

available a profile of the hills and a list of potential stopover places. These proved invaluable, not just in the assurance of being on the right route, but in terms of knowing how far I had walked, and more importantly the distance to the next overnight stop.

The days of walking also allow you to attune to the sights, sounds, and smells of the countryside and the seaside. I started in early Spring and was rewarded with an abundance of gorgeous wild flowers, particularly in the number and variety of orchids. Birdsong was everywhere, and I saw some species which are rare or not resident in Britain, like cranes and turtle doves, black kite and especially the vultures in and near the Pyrennees, e.g. circling over Bilbao.

Overall it was an epic journey, which has left hundreds of memories and scenes which I can picture in these dark days of Winter. I often now wonder how I did manage to cover over 1600 kilometres (over 1000 miles) and to walk for over 80 days in the 3 months. It was one of those things which you have to start, and just chew slowly, appreciating each morsel, before the elephant is eaten. If you think too hard about the whole enormous undertaking, you will never start. I did not experience a specific miracle on reaching Santiago and the tomb of Saint James, but did have a great feeling of joy and satisfaction at having been given the time and the body to be able to complete the walk and to experience so many of His marvellous gifts of people and places.

Les Naylor



Martin Luther (1483-1546)

2018 is the 500th anniversary of the beginnings of the Reformation. Gill Dunn looks at the life and works of Martin Luther, one of its instigators.

Despite humble beginnings, Luther managed to gain a University education. He had planned to study law, but switched to Theology and, at the age of 22, he became an Augustinian Friar. Two years later, he was ordained and, by 1512 he had gained a doctorate, aged 29, and was teaching at the University of Wittenberg, Germany.

This devout, pious man visited Rome for the first time, in 1510, and was appalled by the corruption he found there. He was particularly angry about the selling of 'indulgences', Church documents prepared to be bought by individuals to free themselves from punishment for sins, past or future, or for their loved ones in purgatory. 'Once the coin into the coffer clinks, a soul from purgatory heavenwards springs' (Johann Tetzel, seller of indulgences).

The general public in Medieval Europe had no access to the Bible. All Masses were in Latin, which only the highly educated understood, and they entrusted their salvation to the teachings of the Pope. The Popes of these times were extremely powerful and far from pious!

The fear of hell fire was encouraged, lives were often dangerous and short especially for the poor, so superstition and helplessness made people easy prey for corruption, and provided plenty of money for St Peter's.

Luther studied the scriptures diligently, concluding that Christians are saved by grace, through faith and not through works, and through the word of God, the Bible.' A simple layman armed with the scriptures' was superior to the Pope! (Luther).



On 31st October 1517, he nailed his 95 Theses to the doors of the Church in Wittenberg. His aim was to free the Church he loved from the corruption, and to debate with those in power, but his teachings challenged the institution, and offered a dangerous freedom to laymen.

The recently invented printing press enabled Luther to distribute his writings cheaply and in a language people could read and these spread through Europe and the Protestants grew in number.

In 1521, Luther was summoned to the Assembly at Worms, Germany, to appear before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Luther thought this would be a debate, but it was a trial and he was asked to recant his views. He replied: 'Unless I can be instructed and convinced with evidence from the Holy Scriptures or with open, clear and distinct grounds of reasoning.....then I cannot and will not recant. Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen.'

He was excommunicated and declared a heretic, but allies found him a safe house in Wartburg Castle where he stayed for ten months. By then, this spark of reformation had caught fire throughout Europe. Luther translated the bible into German, and Tyndale, Wycliffe and others also spread the Word. One man seeking truth and prayerfully studying God's word led to a new age. There were problems: suffering, the Peasants' Revolt, bloodshed and martyrs as the power plates moved. Luther made many mistakes. But in 2018, the 500th anniversary, both Catholic and Protestant Churches together gratefully celebrated his reform and emphasis on Faith, Grace and Scripture.

Gill Dunn



Fairtrade Fortnight 2018

Monday 26 February - Sunday 11 March

Do you like chocolate? Chances are that you do! On average, each person in Britain eats approximately 9.5 kg of chocolate per year. Easter chocolate sales make up 10 per cent of Britain's annual spending on chocolate.



Did you know that the most expensive chocolate eggs on sale in 2016 cost £25,000? This trio of extravagant hand sculpted Fabergé-style luxury Belgian chocolate eggs, each weighing about 100kg, were created by Brighton Chocolatiers Choccywoccydodah.

A treat more likely to be seen in the average shopping bag is the most popular chocolate egg currently produced - Cadbury's Creme Egg. The Bourneville factory makes around 500 million of them each year!

With figures like these one would think that chocolate production should be a lucrative business for all involved. Sadly, for the people directly involved in the production of cocoa life is often a struggle. Millions of cocoa farmers have to survive on less than \$2 a day. Many cocoa farming communities lack access to adequate education, healthcare, and clean water and extreme poverty often forces families to send children to work rather than school. Make Chocolate Fair estimates there are at least 2 million children working on cocoa plantations.

Much of the world price of cocoa beans is absorbed by traders, processors and government taxes before farmers receive their cut and in recent years farm costs have continued to rise. Cocoa farmers typically receive only six per cent of the final price of chocolate paid by consumers.

So, what can we do about this? We can make a difference simply by buying an item with the Fairtrade mark. Fairtrade is an independently administered scheme that sets social, economic and environmental standards for both the companies and the farmers. For producers the standards include protection of workers' rights and the environment, for companies they include the payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium.



The Fairtrade Premium is an additional sum of money which goes into a communal fund which the local community can use to improve their conditions. This may mean providing better education or healthcare for their children, improving their business or building vital infrastructure such as roads and bridges for their community. For example, in Ghana, extra income from the Fairtrade Premium has helped build hundreds of water boreholes, two day-care centres, public toilets and a mobile health programme.



Many supermarkets and major retailers now stock a good selection of Fairtrade items, including Easter eggs. It's never been easier to buy a Fairtrade treat and it's not only chocolate that is available. There are now over 4,500 Fairtrade products; not only chocolate, sugar, coffee and tea but cotton, flowers, wine and even gold.

Sources:

www.fairtrade.org.uk

<https://www.cadburyworld.co.uk>

www.eauk.org/culture/statistics/easter-facts-and-statistics.cfm

<https://www.quintessentially.com/insider/choccywoccydoodah-easter-eggs>

Morwenna Fernandez

Let him Easter in us.

One of the most powerful sentences in the whole English language, in my view, is contained in a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, written in memory of five nuns who lost their lives in a ship wreck in 1875.



The whole poem is well worth a read but here is the line with some Easter reflections from me:

“Let him Easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cresseted east”.

The language of the poem is powerful to reflect upon. The poet uses “Easter” not as a title or a noun, but as a verb: “Let him Easter in us.” Easter is not something we observe, it is something that happens to us - or should happen to us! He, namely God, can Easter in us.

The events of Easter, the death and rising of Jesus Christ, Son of God, are not events of history, although that is true and factual. It is an event with a constant everyday power. The location of this everyday happening, this wonderful love from God to us, is our very lives. The poet is all too aware of the human condition of innocent suffering (the death of five nuns) and doubtless his own frailties and fallen state, so he says “Let him”. We need to allow this. We need to be open and give Him permission to do what He wants to do.

Easter happened on Good Friday and then three days later.

The results can be experienced by each of us. Christ covers us all with his love, his forgiveness, his reassurance and power. This is something the poet senses we need, to enlighten “the dimness in us.” A very evocative phrase, not presumably referring to our IQ or acts of folly (be it occasional or frequent), but to our lives which all too often are lived without reference to the friendship and lordship of Christ, who made us and loves us. Oh how dim this is! So God Easters in us not just to bring us new life but to realign the very problem that causes our spiritual isolation, our “dimness”.

So Happy Easter - and may we all not just do good things, but allow God to do good in us; to do Easter in us – this is at the heart of it all. That's why it is the most powerful sentence written, it refers to the most powerful Life force of all, the raising from death of Jesus the Son of God to live forever more. This we can experience now, here, and now “Let him Easter in us.”

Revd. Canon Mark Brown

Journey with the Cross

Take up your cross and follow me
Along the road to Calvary

The road is long, the journey slow,
Pain assaults us as we go
Others care not for our pain
Yet on we drag our cross again

We stumble, all our strength is gone
Somehow we find the strength to carry on
Just one kind word, one outstretched hand
Helps us in this foreign land

Now the cross is hammered in
We are crucified with sin
Crushed on every side we cry
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

No distant God who does not care
God walks with us along the road
Shares our journey, bears our load
Jesus meets us at the Cross
Where Victory is forged from loss.

Morwenna Fernandez 2017



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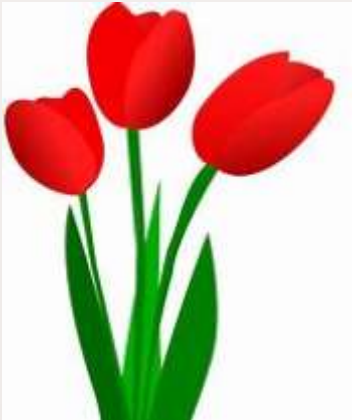
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Spring

>	C	O	M	E	T	O	S	C	H	U	v	R
E	D	U	R	Y	G	N	D	M	B	R	A	
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- TULIPS
- UMBRELLA
- SEEDS
- DAFFODILS
- FLOWERS
- BUDS
- RAIN
- RAINBOW
- SPRING

Find the words in the Word Search, put a cross on each letter of the word you find. Then follow the > and find a message.

Can you fill the criss cross grid with answers to the clues?

If you need help, look in the Bible, in Mark 14, Mark 15, Luke 24, Luke 26, John 12 and John 19.

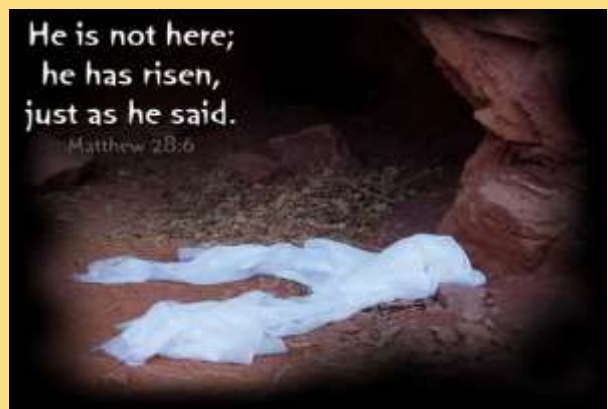
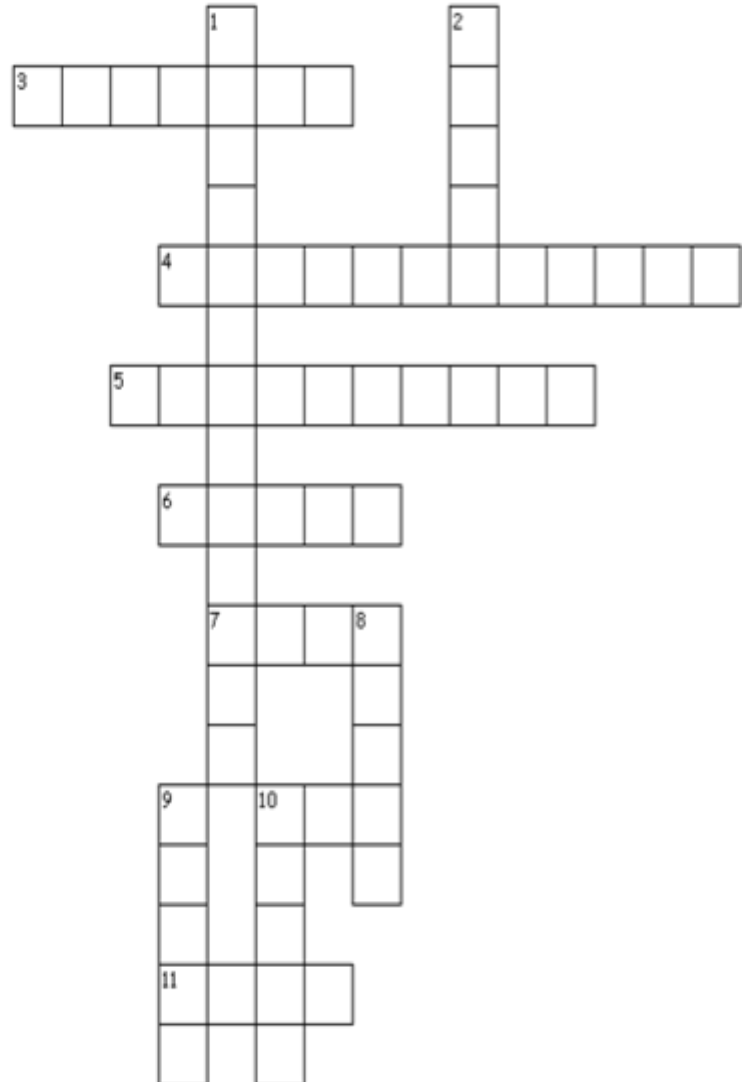


Across

3. Jesus said, "Father _____ them for they don't know what they are doing".
4. What do people eat on Good Friday?
5. What was the name of the garden where Jesus took his disciples while prayed?
6. Which disciple said that he did not know Jesus?
7. What do people eat on Easter Day?
10. How many criminals were crucified with Jesus?
11. Who thought Jesus was the gardener?

Down.

1. What was written above Jesus on the cross?
2. Which disciple betrayed Jesus?
8. Who carried the cross for Jesus?
9. What branches did the people wave when Jesus entered Jerusalem?
10. On which morning did Jesus rise from the dead?



LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP INTERNATIONAL

After a lengthy worldwide ministry as a writer, lecturer and preacher John Stott, former Rector of All Souls' Langham Place for 25 years, was inspired to found this mission in 1969. Langham is now one of our whole-



parish Mission Partners. Three integrated ministries of Literature, Preaching and Scholars work to encourage a new generation of Bible teachers in every continent. Rather than putting resources into 'on the ground' infrastructure, they invest in leaders and resources for those leaders. This is the Langham strategy: to equip the church for mission through the ministry of scholars and pastors who believe, teach and live by the Word of God.



The impact made is very considerable. Across the world there are now Langham-related ministries in over 70 countries, including many indigenous preaching movements and literature projects, resource provision for churches and seminaries, and over 350 Langham scholars. Much literature has been provided in many languages, including Slavic, Latin American, South Asian and Arab Bible Commentaries. Seminars continue to be held monthly in countries

worldwide. Many of the scholars Langham has sponsored are now lecturers and Principals of Bible Colleges, and even Bishops, in their own countries. For example, the Ugandan Christian University now has 11,000 students in a range of disciplines, but even lawyers and IT specialists are also trained in Christian world-view, Old and New Testament studies and Christian ethics.

But the needs are still huge: for example, the church in Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing churches in Africa. The evangelical population approaches 20 million, almost 20% of the population. And yet 93% of the pastors in Ethiopia have had no formal training. Here and elsewhere, both the need and the hunger for training in the word of God are immense.

Revd Dr Chris Wright was firstly curate at the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul here in Tonbridge, then later Principle of All Nations' Bible College, before joining Langham. He has been for several years Langham International Director, but still finds time to come back to Tonbridge: he visited us again on 21st January 2018.

To find out more about Langham, just visit our Parish church website at tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk to find a link there. Also, you can click on the Langham Partnership Facebook page and 'like' it, and get a regular update, story, or thought for the day.

Robin Dunn



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Views from the Potting Shed

It's at this time of year when spring arrives that I feel our gardens are a bit like Sleeping Beauty. They lie virtually dormant during winter, biding their time until, as if receiving a kiss from Prince Charming, they spring back to life. The days are now getting longer (clocks go forward on 25th March) and the sun is beginning to warm things up - our plants are responding wonderfully. Spring flowers are bobbing gaily in the breeze, buds are bursting forth with various shades of green leaves, blossom is blooming, birds are singing and bees are buzzing all giving gardeners no excuse for staying indoors. I rearranged my main border in the autumn (having planted it some 7 or 8 years ago) and it never seemed right, growing into a tangled mess, so I lifted the majority of plants divided them and replanted hopefully into better positions. If you still have plants to move or divide, I would recommend you get on with it during March and April and remember to keep them watered over the spring and summer as they settle in. Spring is seed



sowing time for both flowers and vegetables, with Half Hardy Annuals (HHA) being sown under cover in greenhouses, cold frames or even on the windowsill, whilst Hardy Annuals (HA) can be sown direct into their growing positions. Remember that little and often is the best mantra when sowing seeds, as it staggers the flowering and harvest periods. Remember to check your seed packets to ensure whether they are HHA or HA. Summer bedding plants are likely to be vying for your attention but delay buying until late May to avoid frosts, unless you have a suitable greenhouse or cold frame.



For me, and probably most gardeners, one of the most neglected plants in our gardens is lawn grass. It usually sits there in the middle of the garden, taking all sorts of punishment - not just from the elements but from us, as we go back and forth to the shed or washing line, or the children playing all manner of games. In the autumn edition of Perspectives (back copies can be viewed on the parish website) I gave details of how to care for your lawn and that

advice still holds true, except that you now need to feed the lawn with a specially prepared spring feed, some of which also have weed and moss killer added.



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I have in the past gone on about making compost and leaf mould and in autumn I decided to break down my compost heaps and open the black sacks I had been storing my leaves in. The results were amazing, with the compost having broken down into a dark brown course mix and the leaf mould into a very rich black loam. Both were spread around the garden as mulch and visually have certainly improved the look of the soil and are gradually being incorporated into the soil structure by the actions of birds, insects and rain. If you haven't considered a compost heap or saving falling leaves, I would recommend you do it this year. Whatever you do this spring, enjoy your gardening.

Arthur Mow

Tonbridge Canoe Club

Tonbridge Canoe Club has its home in the centre of Tonbridge, just at the entrance to the Park at the end of New Wharf Road (behind Wetherspoon's).



The club has been running since 1977 and has its main club session on Saturday mornings between 10 and 12. We paddle year-round and as well as Saturday mornings members can be seen on the river most days and during the winter evenings are responsible for the dancing red lights sometimes seen between the town and the flood barrier, training in the dark.

Members range from 12 to 80+ years old with some younger ones who are the children of members, many of whom have been on the river in boats since before they could walk. Members paddle a wide variety of boats, both Canadian style and kayaks, from very wide and stable to extremely pointy and decidedly unstable. The club caters for all sorts of folk, from those who just want to enjoy floating gently around on the river to marathon racing with members competing in races around the country, including the annual 125 mile race from Devizes to Westminster Bridge, and touring on various rivers including the Wye or on the sea.

Getting started is easy, as the club runs beginner training courses every year between April and September, when the water is a little warmer! The only requirements are the ability to swim 50 meters in lightweight clothes, a sense of humour and being prepared to get wet. Even the most experienced paddlers occasional take a dip! The club has boats of all designs that members can use so no need to buy

one to start out. Coaching is done by qualified club members.

As a countryside activity what could be a better way to escape modern life for a while, travelling through our lovely countryside by river spotting heron and kingfishers and just being part of the scenery. As a fitness activity, it's a low impact whole body workout that can take you to your heart rate limit, or to the limit of your endurance!

The club can be contacted via the website www.tonbridgecanoeclub.org and click on the membership tab or find us on any Saturday morning around 10 at the club.

Rob Passmore



Left: capsize training for beginners



Right: preparing racing canoes

One of the club's more unusual activities is to help with the swan round-up at Abbotsbury on the Fleet lagoon, Dorset. Every other year, the 500-600 swans are given a health check by vets and the Swannery staff, and the canoe club herd the swans onto the land. "It's a great weekend", says Rob, "with the chance to meet the swans close up!"

Why we need to reduce waste for a sustainable world

The old saying "waste not, want not" is very pertinent today, as we become more mindful of the cost of food in our household economy, and the environmental and humanitarian consequences of waste.

The Guardian reported that in 2015 UK households binned £13 billion worth of food (the average household wasting £470 worth of food), generating 19 million tonnes of greenhouse gases.



We might consider those whom this waste might have fed. Bisto's 'No Empty Chairs' has done just that, tackling food waste and loneliness at Christmas by matching a host with a spare chair at the dining table with somebody who could otherwise be alone. Their "Together project" takes this further by aiming to bring people together every Sunday, citing that "40% of people over 70 find meals on their own so lonely they decide to skip them". Sharing meals with others is one way to tackle waste as well as loneliness.

Another way we can reduce waste is to buy less, by keeping a record of what we have in our cupboards and fridges so we don't over-buy. Recent technological advancements have seen tech giants produce fridges that can keep track of the food they store, and can even suggest recipes.

Planning and preparation (batch cooking or freezing leftovers for another meal) are key to reducing waste. An alternative to using brown bananas in banana bread (see the delicious recipe below) is to peel and freeze them in their prime and use them in smoothies or as a dairy-free ice cream alternative. We can also bulk up dishes with leftover veg on pasta sauces, and fruit can be made into compote, juice or jam. Even peelings can be used in a soup stock or composted.

A more extreme movement, 'Freegans', lives primarily off nature, and food that supermarkets have thrown away. However, some supermarkets and restaurants douse their bins in chemicals to render the food inedible.

In contrast other supermarkets such as the Co-op have started selling out of date food for 10p, which challenges popular beliefs that all food must be eaten by a particular date. The sustainability charity 'Wrap' recommends that the best practice to reduce food waste is to remove 'Display until' dates where they are being used alongside a 'best before' or 'use by' date so that only one date is visible, as many consumers are put off eating food that is perfectly safe to eat.

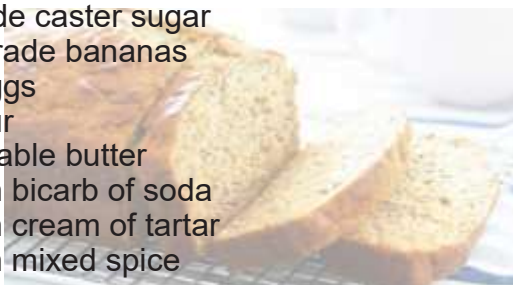


In conclusion, there are steps we can take to change our mindset through planning, preparation and being mindful of our shopping. We can donate surplus to food banks or give portions of food to others. We can also ask what our supermarkets are doing to cut down waste.

Charli Stockdale

Banana Loaf

150g Fairtrade caster sugar
2 small Fairtrade bananas
2 medium eggs
200g SR flour
100g spreadable butter
1/4 teaspoon bicarb of soda
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 teaspoon mixed spice



Set oven to gas 4/180C/fan 160C; grease and line a loaf tin. Cream sugar and butter.

Peel and break up the bananas and mix bananas, eggs, flour and other dry ingredients with sugar and butter. Beat well; pour into loaf tin and smooth top. Bake 1 hour, or until risen and golden, and a skewer comes out clean. Allow to cool a few minutes before turning out onto wire rack.

What's On? And From the Parish Registers

March

Sun 11	Mothering Sunday services at normal service times (see times on p 22)
Sat 17	Tonbridge Music Club classical guitars; workshop 2.30pm and concert 7.30pm at St Peter & St Paul. Concert £20. See www.tmc.org.uk for workshop details.
Sat 17— Sat 24	Oast Theatre: Love Song by Abi Morgan. Nightly 8pm except Sunday at 3pm.. www.oasttheatre.com 01732 363849
Sat 24	Tonbridge Philharmonic choral & orchestral concert , 7.30pm Tonbridge School chapel. boxoffice@tonphil.org.uk 01732 304241
Sun 25	3:15 Club: Games, quiz, short worship, tea. For all ages. 3.15—4.30pm St Andrew's church
Thurs 29	Maundy Thursday supper with informal Holy Communion 8pm St Philips—book by 20/3 at St Philips 01732 352416
Fri 30	See back page for Easter service details.

Deaths

06-Sept-17	David Christopher Laborde Marwood
09-Oct-17	Joan Mason Barker
11-Oct-17	Edward Nichols
12-Oct-17	Stephen Rodney Smith
26-Oct-17	Una Smith
30-Oct-17	Dennis William Fleet
01-Nov-17	Evelyn May Dabbs
05-Nov-17	Michael Stephen Harvey
06-Nov-17	Carol Merry
11-Nov-17	John Charles Atherall
14-Nov-17	Trevor Clive Smith
14-Nov-17	Evelyn Tippet
17-Nov-17	Archibald Brown
28-Nov 17	Sylvia Bloxham
03-Dec-17	Alison Deanne Mitchell
03-Dec-17	Peter Miller
08-Dec-17	Irene Boyden
17-Dec-17	Mollie Woodrow
21-Dec-17	Marjorie Jeanne Barron
21-Dec-17	Harold Avery Wright
06-Jan-18	John Edward Charles Fowler
17-Jan-18	Guenther Erich Zehler
20-Jan-18	Jean Mary Gibson
29-Jan-18	Daphne Joan Rich
31-Jan-18	Doris Lilian Percy

April

Sun 1	Easter Day—see back page for details
	TMBC run country park events for families throughout the year. See www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/leisure-and-culture/arts-and-entertainment/events for Haysden events and others.
Sat 21— Sat 28	Oast Theatre: Nell Gwynn, by Jessica Swale. Nightly 8pm except Sunday at 3pm.. www.oasttheatre.com 01732 363849

May

Sat 5	Tonbridge Music Club: Ben Johnson, tenor & Roger Vignoles, piano. 7.30pm Tonbridge School. www.tmc.org.uk 01732 838698
Sat 19—Sat 26	Oast Theatre: Dial M for Murder, Alfred Hitchcock via Frederick Knott. Nightly 8pm except Sunday at 3pm.. www.oasttheatre.com 01732 363849
Sat 19	Tonbridge Philharmonic orchestral concert 7.30pm Tonbridge School chapel. boxoffice@tonphil.org.uk 01732 304241

Baptisms

19-Nov-17	Katy Louise Dance
19-Nov-17	Lucy Elizabeth Dance
10-Dec-17	Frederick Harry Betts
17-Dec-17	Lola Elizabeth Lynn Micaleff
04-Feb-18	Charles Jacob Calderhead



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Monday	Merry Makers: needlecraft and quiet time 10am, Upper Lounge Prayer for young people 9.30am main church Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Seniors	Men’s Forum 8pm fortnightly. For more info contact Ray Tanner on 01732 351422	Coffee Break 10.30 - 11.30am Keep Fit 5.30pm
Tuesday	Teddies For pre-school children and their carers, 9.30am, Upper Lounge (term time) Beavers at Ridgeway	Stretch, Tone & Relax Class 1pm Grapevine Drink, chat and activities. 2.15pm to 4.15pm Brownies	
Wednesday	Holy Communion 10am Tiny Acorns under-1s 10.30am -12pm, Upper Lounge Cubs at Ridgeway	Tots and Co. For toddlers and their carers, 1.15pm - 2.45pm (term time) Open Prayer 8 - 9pm First Wednesday of month	
Thursday	Stepping Stones (term time) Bible Study, crèche available 10am Knitting & Natter, 2nd Thursday monthly, 10am - 12pm. Afternoon Workshop (crafts) 1.30pm Upper Lounge 1st Tonbridge Guides		
Friday	Rummikub Players 10.00am -12.30pm, Upper Lounge. Bell Ringers at Parish Church 7.45pm Scouts at Ridgeway	Women’s Fellowship 7.30pm - 9.30pm, 2nd and 4th Friday of the month	
Saturday	Parish Prayer, 9am Lower Lounge Coffee Lounge 10am - 12pm Open Church 10am - 4pm		Connect (Age 10 - 13) Refresh (14 - 18) from 5.30pm fortnightly

For more details, please contact the Church Office 01732 770962.
 Some groups do not meet during school holidays. Check our website tonbridgeparishchurch.org.uk



St Peter & St Paul Church Lane, TN9 1HD

Sundays:
8am Holy Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays of month)
10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 4th Sundays) and Sunday Club for ages 4-11 each week in term time
6.30pm Evening Service
Wednesdays:
10am Holy Communion

St Philip' Salisbury Road, TN10 4PA

Sundays:
9am Holy Communion (1st Sunday of month)
10.30am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 3rd Sundays) and Sunday Club each week in term time

St Andrew Hadlow Road, TN10 4LS

Sundays:
10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 2nd Sunday of month)

St Saviour' Dry Hill Park Crescent, TN10 3BJ

Sundays:
8am Holy Communion (2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays of month)
10am Morning Service (with Holy Communion on 1st Sunday and informal service on 3rd Sunday)

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Curate The Rev'd Wendy Carr	355200
Churchwardens Mike Seaman Sara Thomson	07793 369735 01732 356430
Vicar's PA Yolanda Roberts	770962 X25
Parish Administrator Jane Higgs	770962 X24
St Philip's Administrator Jane Mata	352416
Youth and Children's Minister Andy Page	770962 X22
Parish Treasurer Ray Tanner	770962
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CELEBRATE EASTER WITH US!

Maundy Thursday (29th March)	8pm	Informal Holy Communion with supper. <i>Please book by 20th March 01732 352416</i>	St Philip
Good Friday (30th March)	10am	Families, Food & Fun for Good Friday	St Saviour
Good Friday	12:00 - 3pm	Three Hours at the Cross: join us at any point for as long as you like, for prayer, readings, music and reflection.	St Peter & St Paul

*God gave us
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*by raising Jesus
from death
1Peter 1 v 7*

Easter Day (1st April)	5.45am	Easter Sunrise Service	St Peter & St Paul
	8am	Easter Day Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul
	10am	All-age Easter Service Morning Service Family Holy Communion	St Peter & St Paul St Andrew St Saviour
	10.30am	Family Holy Communion	St Philip
	6.30pm	Evening Service	St Peter & St Paul