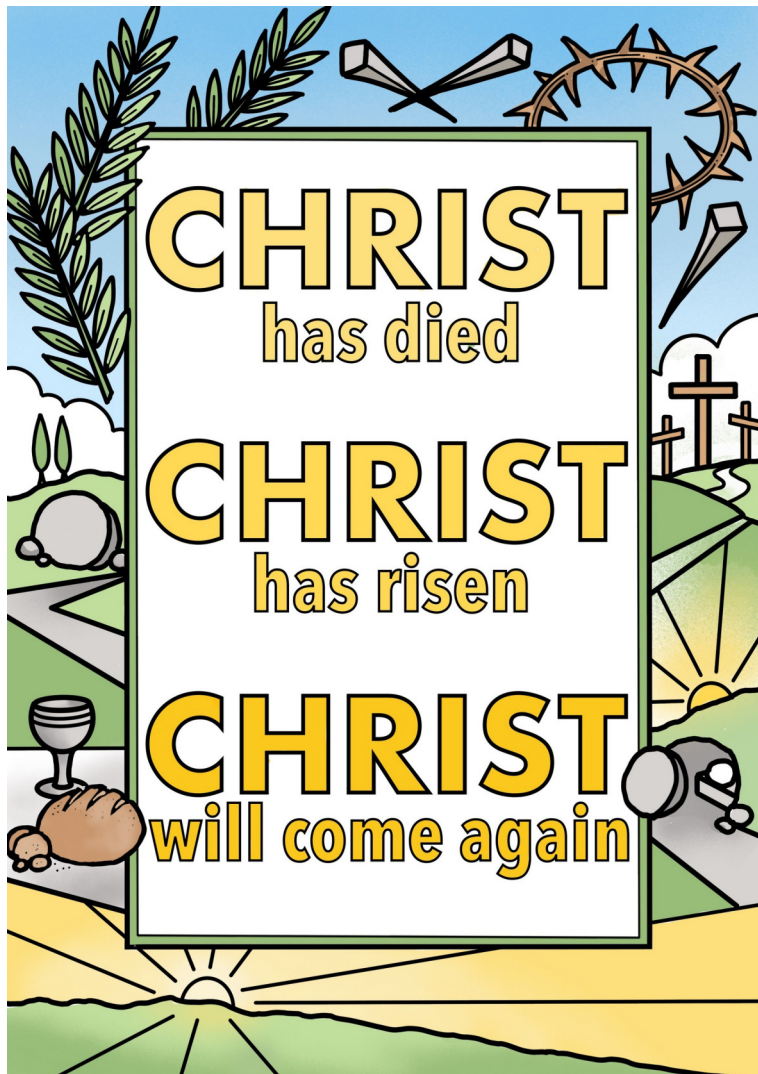
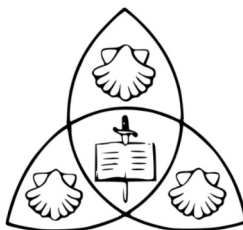


BUSHEY PARISH MAGAZINE



**MARCH
2024**



60 PENCE

God in Music:

'Glorious the song when God's the theme': Hildegard of Bingen

The Rev Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of Christian music.

In this series we have looked at the psalms of the Old Testament and the songs of the New Testament, and now we enter the Middle Ages. But it is the Middle Ages through the eyes of a record producer in the last century.

In 1980 Ted Perry decided to found a new independent record company, Hyperion. If that was not financial risk enough, in the following year Hyperion issued a CD of a composer virtually unknown in the 1980s – Hildegard of Bingen. The risk paid off, and Gothic Voices' recording of the music of this remarkable medieval nun became a best seller. The CD sold in its thousands and received awards from the gramophone industry.

'A feather on the breath of God', the title of the CD, is how Hildegard described herself. 'Listen, there was a king sitting on his throne. Around him stood great and wonderfully beautiful columns ornamented with ivory, bearing the banners of the king with great honour. Then it pleased the king to raise a small feather from the ground and he commanded it to fly. The feather flew, not because of anything in itself, but because the air bore it along. Thus am I a feather on the breath of God.'

Hildegard was born in 1098, the tenth child of noble parents who lived in western Germany. Aged only eight, she was given into the care of Jutta, abbess of a monastery in the Rhineland, near Bingen. There she lived the life of an enclosed nun, her only contact with the world outside via a grille through which food was passed.

After 30 years, Hildegard left that cell and was assigned a scribe, who wrote down her visions and meditations in two volumes. She founded two monasteries, wrote books on medicine and natural healing and the first morality play, and composed a great range of songs. She corresponded with the great and the good, and as the 'Sybil of the Rhine,' her advice was sought by popes and emperors, by kings and bishops. A truly creative life of prayer and service until her death in 1179.

The starting point for her own compositions was the plainsong of that time. Modern techniques of singing and performing often make plainsong slow and heavy. The secret to bringing plainchant alive is to sing it with relaxed attention. In many ways that is the secret of the life of prayer: that paradox of resting in the Lord while being alert to the promptings of his spirit. Hildegard realised that secret as she brought to her music, as she did to everything, an intensity of emotion and faith, developing the medieval plainchant into melodies that flowed off the page and soared into the skies.

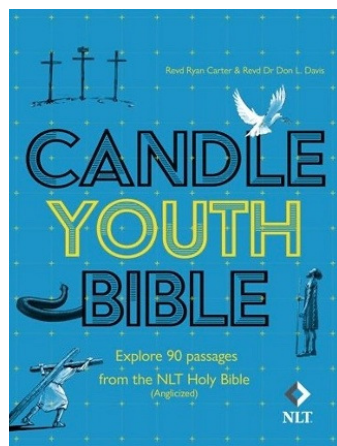
It is all there in the chant ‘O ignis spiritus’ on the CD – an ecstatic song, praising the life of God’s Spirit as breath and spark of flame, as a power within and armour without. As Hildegard contemplates this gift, her music moves and grows, reaching upwards to God’s throne of glory in praise and adoration and outwards to those who listen.



Candle Youth Bible – SPCK, £11.99 **Explore 90 passages from the NLT Holy Bible (Anglicized).**

The Candle Youth Bible provides an ideal introduction to accessing and understanding the entire story of the Bible. When viewed as a whole, the Bible is a wonderful story full of images and drama. 90 key Bible events are featured that show how the Bible's story unfolds and is connected, conveying how the Gospel of Christ and the Kingdom of God binds all of Scripture together.

Each carefully selected story is retold with Bible verses supporting information about the theme, setting, characters, and key plot outlines of each passage.



MINISTRY TEAM

Rector of the Parish of Bushey: Fr David Stevenson
rector@busheyparish.org

Lay Leader of Worship: Christine Cocks LLW@busheyparish.org

CHURCHWARDEN

Salome Jayaratnam
wardens@busheyparish.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Parish Administrator: Jacqueline Birch 020 8421 8192
Church House, High Street, Bushey office@busheyparish.org

Parish Finance Officer: Sinead English 020 8421 8192
Church House, High Street, Bushey finance@busheyparish.org

*The Parish Office on the first floor of St James's Church House is open as follows:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8.30am-2.30pm; Wednesdays, 8.30am- 11.30am.
At other times, telephone calls may be redirected or messages left.*

PCC Secretary: Felicity Cox pcc_secretary@busheyparish.org

Safeguarding Officer: Gay Butler 07799 063404
safeguarding@busheyparish.org

Churchyard Manager: Greg Batts churchyard@busheyparish.org

Parish website: www.busheyparish.org webmaster@busheyparish.org

Parish of Bushey Livestream Facebook page :
<https://www.facebook.com/busheyparishlive>

YouTube channel

Search for "The Parish of Bushey" and subscribe. It's free.

Worship in the Parish of Bushey – March 2024

*All service information here is provisional and subject to change.
For updates, please check the latest pew-sheet, our website or social media.*

Sunday March 3

8am – Said Eucharist, St James’s Church
10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Sunday March 10 – Mothering Sunday

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Sunday March 17

10am – Parish Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Sung Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Wednesday March 20

3:30pm – Messy Church, St Paul’s Church

Sunday March 24 – Palm Sunday

10:30am – Mass and Procession, St James’s Church

For Holy Week Services, please see p33

Sunday March 31 – EASTER DAY

10am – Parish Easter Eucharist, St James’s Church
11:15am – Easter Eucharist, St Paul’s Church

Regular weekday services

Said Eucharist 12:30pm – Wednesdays in St Paul’s Church

Said Eucharist 11am – Thursdays in St James’s Church

Covid-19: Face-coverings need no longer be worn in any of our Parish buildings, though individuals may of course continue to wear them by choice. Please respect the hygiene decisions of others.

10th March – Mothering Sunday & Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigours of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

22nd March – World Water Day

World Water Day became a UN observance day in 1993.

It wants to focus attention on the global water crisis, and raise awareness of the 2.2 billion people still living without access to safe water. It hopes to inspire action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis. This year, World Water Day 2024 will focus on the theme, 'Leveraging Water for Peace'.



Need care but are worried about Covid-19?

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We are taking every step to ensure that we keep our clients, their families and our staff as safe as possible .

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Call us on: 0208 049 4500

www.visiting-angels.co.uk/middlesex
middlesex@visiting-angels.co.uk

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QUALITY AT HOME CARE

Vicar's letter

In the Nicene Creed we say 'We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come'. In the gospel accounts of the resurrection there is a lot of looking and seeing. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went early to the tomb. They saw the stone rolled aside and inside the tomb a young man dressed in white said to them: 'Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here'. (Mark 16: 6).

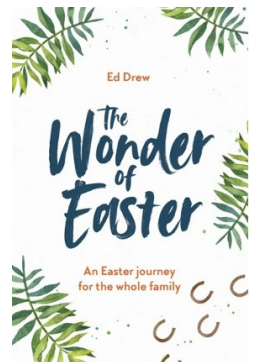
Like the women we would probably have been left 'trembling and bewildered' by what we saw that morning. Had the body been taken? Was the young man an angel or deceiver? Was Jesus raised to life again, or was this an elaborate hoax?

Easter gives us a choice. We can approach life looking for disappointment, fear and despair. Or we look for resurrection and find not just an empty tomb, but encounter the living Christ. He continues to meet us in our daily lives bringing new hope, forgiveness of sin, healing and wholeness and the assurance of his presence through the darkest of times.

God invites us to see our lives differently and look for Christ's resurrection life, at work in our lives and in the people around us.

The Wonder of Easter – an Easter Journey for the Whole Family By Ed Drew, 10Publishing, £5.86

This flexible, easy-to-use Lent devotional will allow the whole family to celebrate the limitless wonder of Easter. It is a discussion-based resource with differentiated questions for 3-4s, 5-7s, over 7s, teens and adults. At just 10 minutes each, these devotions are an achievable joy, not an unrealistic burden.



Belated Confession

When I was a boy about seven years old,
I made a new friend at school,
A mischievous boy called Tony who always
Delighted in playing the fool.

Our mothers met up and got on quite well,
Which was happy for Tony and me,
And Tony's Mum asked us to visit one day
To join them for afternoon tea.

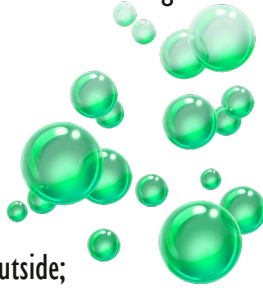
While Tony and I were playing outside;
He said 'With this wire loop I hope
We can blow nice big bubbles,'
so indoors we went,
To the kitchen for water and soap.

We squashed up green soap in the sink
with a spoon
To make a solution for bubbles;
Our Mums laid up tea as they chatted away,
And ironed out the world's many troubles.

Soon sandwiches came and we sat down to eat,
While Tony's Mum poured out the tea;
She suddenly looked at my mother and said:
'This tea tastes very funny to me.'

My Mum said 'It's fine' and we boys agreed,
But we tried not to look at each other;
'No something is wrong; I won't be too long,
I'll make a fresh pot,' said his mother.

As our Mums both thought we were good
little boys,
I was glad that they didn't find out
That we'd pushed a small piece of the
green kitchen soap
Right into the kettle's long spout!



Then soon after that Tony's family moved,
And we never saw them again;
So what we had done in a mad fit of fun,
I never had cause to explain.

When several years later I owned up to Mum
She said 'What a mischievous prank;
And if you've felt guilty as time has gone by
You've only yourself to thank.
Then smiling she said 'But I have to agree,
Looking back, it seems very amusing to me'!

Roger Prangnell

[The above describes a true event]



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Time for the Great Daffodil Appeal

The month of March brings us the Great Daffodil Appeal. This annual campaign is a fundraising initiative by the Marie Curie charity, which provides care and support to people living with terminal illnesses and their families.

The Great Daffodil Appeal says: “Right now one in four people don't get the care they need at the end of life. With your support, we can help bring end of life care and support to everyone who needs it, in their homes and in our hospices.”

Here are some ways to participate:

- **Purchase a Daffodil Pin:** And wear it as a symbol of support.
- **Organise or Attend Fundraising Events:** Many events, such as charity walks, bake sales, and concerts, are organised to raise funds during the appeal.
- **Donate Online:** Visit the Marie Curie website to make a donation online, which goes directly to providing care for those in need.
- **Volunteer Your Time:** to help with various activities during the appeal.
- **Spread Awareness:** Use social media to encourage others to get involved and donate.

The Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal was established to honour the memory of Marie Curie, a pioneering scientist known for her work on radioactivity, as well as her dedication to providing care to those with cancer. The daffodil, a symbol of renewal and hope, was chosen to represent the campaign's message of support and care for individuals with terminal illnesses.



<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil>

24th March – Palm Sunday & Holy Week, an overview

The events of Easter took place over a week, traditionally called Passion Week. It began on Palm Sunday. After all His teaching and healing, Jesus had built a following.

On the Sunday before He was to die, Jesus and His followers arrived at Jerusalem. The city was crowded. Jewish people were arriving to celebrate Passover. This commemorates how they had escaped from slavery in Egypt nearly 1,500 years earlier.

Jesus rode into the city on a young donkey. He was greeted like a conquering hero. Cheering crowds waved palm branches in tribute. He was hailed as the Messiah who had come to re-establish a Jewish kingdom.

The next day they returned to Jerusalem. Jesus went to the temple, the epicentre of the Jewish faith, and confronted money-changers and merchants who were ripping off the people. He overturned their tables and accused them of being thieves. The religious authorities were alarmed and feared how He was stirring up the crowds.

On the Tuesday, they challenged Jesus, questioning His authority. He answered by challenging and condemning their hypocrisy. Later that day Jesus spoke to His disciples about future times. He warned them about fake religious leaders; the coming destruction of Jerusalem; wars, earthquakes and famines; and how His followers would face persecution.

By midweek the Jewish religious leaders and elders were so angry with Jesus that they began plotting to arrest and kill Him. One of Jesus' disciples, Judas, went to the chief priests and agreed to betray Him to them.

Jesus and the 12 disciples gathered on the Thursday evening to celebrate the Passover meal. This is known as the Last Supper. During the evening, Jesus initiated a ritual still marked by Christians – Holy Communion – which commemorates His death. Jesus broke bread and shared it and a cup of wine with His disciples.

Judas then left to meet the other plotters. Jesus continued to teach the others and then went outside into an olive grove to pray. He even prayed for all future believers. He agonised over what was to come but chose the way of obedience. The Bible book, Luke, records Him praying, *'Father if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done'*. Minutes later Judas arrived with soldiers and the chief priests and Jesus was arrested.

28th March – What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

29th March – Good Friday, the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

31st March – EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day 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 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 the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be 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 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th 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.

31st March – Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

The following list of witnesses may help you put all those references in order....

Mary Magdalene	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
Other women at the tomb	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem	Luke 24:34; I Corinthians 15:5
The two travellers on the road	Mark 16:12,13
10 disciples behind closed doors	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
11 disciples WITH Thomas	John 20:26-31; I Corinthians 15:5
7 disciples while fishing	John 21:1-14
11 disciples on the mountain	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of 500	I Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother – James	I Corinthians 15:7
Those who saw the Ascension	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

Quote for Holy Week

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. – *James Francis*



Singing groups for people living with dementia

Herts Musical Memories delivers vibrant music sessions that are both fun and therapeutic for people with memory problems, people living with dementia and their carers.

Herts Musical Memories help connect people to their memories through singing. The sessions are based in music therapy and attending a singing session is a fun and stimulating activity, providing health benefits for both those living with dementia and their carers. Scientific research shows that group singing improves well-being and overall quality of life. With regular attendance it can improve sociability, increase self-confidence and decrease anxiety.

Most importantly laughter is a key ingredient to a Herts Musical Memories Session.

For your free trial session and to find out your nearest group please give us a call or drop us a line.

To book your session or for more information contact us on 020 8950 5757

**Email: admin@hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk
or visit www.hertsmusicalmemories.org.uk**

Flying the Flag



The new flag displayed on the new St James's flagpole is:

The National Flag of England otherwise known as St George's Flag.

The Flag has a white background for purity and Christ's victorious Cross in red which was adopted by St George and the Crusaders.

The new Flag now displays the Diocesan coat of Arms in the top left hand corner which shows the symbol of the St Albans Bishop – a gold diagonal cross on a blue background; and a sword, because St Alban was beheaded.

There is a crown above the cross which is a symbol of God's promise to all who die for Christ.

St James's Church Tower Appeal

In many ways it does not seem a year since we set up the St James's Church Tower appeal fund. Since starting with a quiz and curry night at St Paul's, we have included a variety of different events. These included a coronation lunch to celebrate the crowning of King Charles III, a Bridge afternoon tea, participation in the Bushey festival, having a stall in the park and at Reveley Lodge. In addition, we have held three quiz evenings at the Blue Check which have proved very popular and well supported - the latest one last week raised over £800 - thanks to the many regular supporters.

February Blue Check Quizzing





All the events and kind donations have allowed us to raise in excess of £11,000 towards the cost of restoring the tower roof and the interior, but of course we have a long way to go yet. The fundraising has been aided by the support the committee has received from a variety of people; producing posters, managing a website to promote our events and excellent support at the events, whether preparing food or organising the day or just being there. A big thanks go to all these people, without whom we would not have achieved the success we have during the last year.

Not least the committee would like to acknowledge the wonderful support from within and beyond the community, especially local businesses for donation of raffle prizes, in making these events successful and so helping to restore a much loved centuries' old icon of Bushey. Whilst the committee is making room for a new team to run the appeal, we will continue to support in any way we can as we know the community will as well. We thank you for your support during the last 12 months and look forward to it continuing as we move on into 2024.

Sincere thanks from the committee

Red Trust Bushey – Update

We have a new Foodbank Manager called Christina Hayes, or as she is known, Krissy. Her photo is in the February issue of Bushey News if you have a copy, and has taken over from Mia, who left Red Trust Bushey last year.

Krissy is now running the 2 Red Trust Bushey Foodbanks. One is the Family Foodbank on a Tuesday evening 5pm – 6:30pm and the other on Friday morning, 10am to 12noon. Both are open to anyone in the area who needs some help and support. They offer tea and coffee and a safe space to have a chat and something to eat. We have moved them both to The Phoenix Community Centre, 4 Farrington Avenue, Bushey and have our small store area there too so can take donations there as well. However, at the moment we cannot take anymore tinned tomatoes, pulses or baked beans as we do not have the storage space for them. An updated list of things we need for the foodbank can be found on our social media page or by contacting Krissy directly.

If you, or someone you know, would like to volunteer or be more involved in the foodbank then please do contact Krissy directly on the foodbank phone number which is: 07483 260440 or via our email info@redtrustbushey.org

Miriam McCulloch
Fundraising & Communications Manager
Red Trust Bushey

Phone number: 07485 717257
Website: www.redtrustbushey.org



1st March – St David’s Day, time for daffodils

1st March is St David’s Day, and it’s time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom ‘an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request’ - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever ‘requested’ that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It’s a mystery!

We do know that David – or Dafydd – of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps!?) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.



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Mike Young – My Journey into Faith

Infancy

My parents met as members of the Albion Street Methodist Church and I was baptised there. As a small child, I was occasionally taken to Albion Street for social events, but I never remember my parents going to any form of worship. This could be because, as soon as they married, they became tenants of Hull Corporation in the then new North Hull Estate, first in Langtoft Grove (where I was born) and then on Greenwood Avenue, in each case out in the suburbs some three miles from Albion Street. I would guess that any places of worship would only get built in these new areas much later, when there was sufficient demand for them arose from the adherents of the various denominations.

On at least one occasion, when we were visiting the Perry family in central Hull, I was sent along with my elder cousins to Sunday School, where we drew pictures and sang. My mother often recalled that after one such event I announced that I now had two imaginary (and benign) friends, Eeyou and Bappy – Jesus and the Baptist, no doubt.

Of course, my parents must have explained who, what and where God was, and when, as a seven-year-old, I sought an explanation as where my baby brother had come from, I was left with an image of the doctor driving his car up a long ramp to collect Peter from heaven.

St Albans, Hall Road, Hull

In 1937, when I started school, we moved to our own house in Hall Road. This was near the school and also a short walk from St Albans C.of E. church. What had become the Church Hall was built, I think, around 1930 and by the outbreak of war the much larger brick-built church was in an advanced state of construction. They hastily put a timber and black felt wall on the front of the nave and promised to erect the planned front tower after the hostilities.

In September 1941 it was announced that St Albans would re-start its Scout group, which had commenced in 1931 but suspended when war broke out. I was nine and was duly enrolled as a wolf cub. As was customary in those days, it was expected that we attend the Sunday School on Sunday

afternoons and as we got older, the church services on Sunday mornings as well. St Albans was “High Church”, i.e. bells and smells and elaborate vestments, with lots of kneeling, bowing and genuflecting. As I knew nothing else, I accepted it all and in due course was confirmed by the Bishop of Hull and became an altar boy – but only on a Monday morning at 7.30, when there was usually just the priest and myself. I would be home (just across the road) in time for breakfast – one was not expected to eat before a communion service- and off to school.

On a Sunday St Albans started at 10.00 am with Matins, including a sermon, merging into a Eucharist service at 11.00. Children could assemble behind the scenes and just join in the latter, although, of course, they did not go up to the altar rail until, as teenagers, they were confirmed. What with fasting beforehand and the basic wartime rations, it was not surprising that quite often there would be a crash as someone fainted!

From the age of 12 or so, I was quite often at weekend camp at the Melton campsite, where there was always a Scouts Own service on the Sunday morning, conducted by the Camp Warden. I would get home and rush off to the 6.30 Evensong. As teenagers we were habitually welcomed to the Vicar’s front parlour, which became very crowded and chummy. Hence Evensong was for young would-be lovers.

Looking back, I probably visualised God as another part of life’s disciplinary regime, just like the police, magistrates, headmasters and parents. Any relationship was transactional, rather than personal. The Ten Commandments set the tone – we recited them every week in church, of course.

Spencer Percival Memorial Church, Ealing

When I was 27, I got a job in London and lived at Ealing. The church was built as a memorial by the sister of the only prime minister ever to be assassinated in the House of Commons. The little church on the edge of Ealing Common did not see me very often but the Church Hall did in winter because I belonged to the group of (relatively) young people who played tennis together in Summer and table tennis in Winter. From the beginning of 1960, I spent all Sunday rambling, so there was not much worship.

St Johns Killingworth, Northumberland

Sheena and I married in 1963 in the Presbyterian church in her home town in Northumberland and our first home was on the north-eastern edge of Newcastle, was about half a mile from the one-time pit village of Killingworth, up the hill. Sheena had found a Presbyterian Church and I attended St Johns. Almost immediately, I became a member of the Parochial Church Council, the younger members of which would invariably head to the pub after PCC meetings, mostly to grumble at the lack of progress. It was a good way of improving my ear for the Geordie accent. After a few months, the long-standing Parish Treasurer, a bank manager, announced his retirement to live at the coast, so there was a vacancy. The Vicar, Jeremy Sansom, asked me to see him and, of course, offered me the job. I had noticed that the PCC was long on talking and bickering and short on action, so I laid down conditions. I suggested that the PCC form itself into three sub-committees, namely, Finance, Fabric and Social, each of which should bring forward proposals for action. I reasoned that such initiatives would be likely to be accepted in full PCC, for fear that there would be tit for tat criticism of members' "own" proposals. So it proved, with enthusiastic sub-committee Chairs leading action on all fronts and everyone very positive.

I must have attended treasurers' gatherings at Diocesan level, because I remember being asked to suggest a new formula for calculating the Parish Share, i.e, the amount levied on each parish to pay for central diocesan costs. One of the problems was the large number of parishes with a tiny number of inhabitants and, of course, the converse. My formula included the third root of the number of inhabitants, thus reducing the disparity between large and small, so rendering that factor less dominant in the formula.

An experience that influenced me greatly was taking part in a week-end retreat for our parish, led by a Franciscan monk from Alnmouth Friary. His *joie de vivre*, clearly founded on a one-to-one relationship with the Deity, greatly impressed me and made me question my previous formulaic approach to my faith. I realised that it is pointless for us mortals to strive to be "deserving", we can only accept that we are loved – for all our faults. I remember glancing out of my bedroom window very early in the morning and noticing Father Donald pacing around the rose garden busy with his devotions. On the Sunday evening I brought him home for tea before he went to St Johns where he preached at the evening service.

(To be continued)

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What's the Big Idea? –

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Leviticus & Numbers

These books are concerned with Israel's wandering in the desert, on their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan.

Leviticus focuses on the regulations about worship, ceremonial cleanness, moral laws and holy days. The key theme is that of *holiness*, as every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of a holy God. The aim of the sacrifices, feast and Sabbaths was to enable the people to enter God's presence. We should see the instructions and practices in Leviticus as pointing to Jesus. He totally fulfilled the law through the sacrifice of His life, as Easter reminds us. He demonstrated the love and holiness of God, so that we can share His life: 'Be holy, because I am holy' (1 Peter 1:16, cf Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7).

The book of Numbers tells the story of Israel's journey through the wilderness. The people were coming to terms with their *identity* as God's people and the *call* to serve Him. They didn't always respond with faith, gratitude and obedience, but with unbelief, ingratitude and rebellion. As a result of their refusal to enter Canaan (ch 14), they were condemned to spend the rest of their lives in the desert. However, God in His grace allowed their children to enter the Promised Land. The book reminds us that the Church is called to be a community that honours God, learns how to deal with sin in ourselves and others, and lives out love and justice in daily life.

'The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26).

Quiz:

What are the above verses, from Numbers 6, called?

The Shema; The Mezzuzah; The Aaronic Blessing

What tribe was given the responsibility of doing the work of the tabernacle?

Asher; Judah; Levi

Answers on page 32

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On the moors near to where I used to live in West Yorkshire, there were a couple of large stones with crosses marked on them. Many people thought that they were boundary or marker stones, and in so far as they marked the way towards the oldest church in that area they were. To be more exact, they were on the route towards the oldest churchyard. In ages past bodies were carried by hand, sometimes over long distances, and there were restrictions placed on where they could be laid to allow the bearers to rest. These two stones were 'resting' stones.

When a body arrived at the church for burial, it would again be put down while the administrative formalities were carried out, and again the bearers could rest. So, a resting stone was placed at the edge or start of the consecrated land around the church. The priest conducting the funeral would meet the cortege here, not originally out of respect, but rather to receive the required legal certificate for burial before he allowed them to enter the church grounds.

Because of typical English weather - rain and wind - it was usually sheltered, and benches were built for the bearers. There would also be a cross within the construction to signify the start of holy land. This is what today we call the 'lych-gate'; lych coming from the anglo-saxon word *lich* or *lic*, related to the modern German word *leiche*, all meaning corpse.

Few old lychgates remain today, as many were destroyed or damaged after the Reformation, and most of those that survived were constructed of timber and have since decayed. In the eighteenth century, when the use for the resting stones and thus lychgates declined, many were removed and replaced with gates, often retaining the shelter as it continues to be a meeting place for the priest to receive funeral parties.

This month

Try to visit a lychgate and actually spend a few moments under its shelter. Have a think about what burdens you want to lay down. What do you need to be sheltered from?

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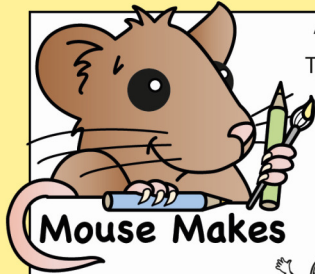
St James's Church House Hall, Rectory Lane WD23 1BD is a comfortable and well-appointed space ideal for parties and other social occasions. It is regularly booked for birthday and anniversary parties as well as baptism and funeral receptions. It is possible to cater comfortably for 70 people (sitting down) or for up to 100 for a party where people mingle. The hall has

disabled access and toilet facilities. To hire the hall please email churchhouse@busheyparish.org

St Paul's, John Stobbart Hall Bushey Hall Road WD23 2EQ has an enclosed garden, so is particularly suitable for children's parties and family celebrations - up to 80 people. It also has a small car park.

St Paul's Church is available to hire as a venue for conferences, quiet days, meetings, and similar purposes. Please contact [Jill Macey: 07736 680501](mailto:jillmacey48@gmail.com) or jillmacey48@gmail.com about hiring the St Paul venues.

The Children's Page



"I am the **resurrection** and the life.
The one who believes in me will live
even though they die."

John 1:25



READ the Bible
passages to find
the answers to the
crossword clues

Matthew 21:1-11

- Which city did Jesus ride into?
- What did he ride on?
- What did the crowd shout?
- What did clothes did they put down?
- What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

- What feast did Jesus celebrate?
- Who did he celebrate it with?
- What did Jesus break to eat?



Matthew 26:36-75

- What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
- Who denied Jesus?



Matthew 26:14-16

- Who betrayed Jesus?
- How many silver pieces was he paid?



Matthew 28:1-10

- Who descended from heaven?
- What had happened to Jesus?
- Mary was full of fear and ...?



A crossword puzzle grid with the following clues and illustrations:

- 1** (Down): "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die." (John 1:25)
- 2** (Across): [Empty]
- 3** (Down): [Empty]
- 4** (Across): [Empty] K [Empty]
- 5** (Across): [Empty]
- 6** (Down): [Empty]
- 7** (Across): [Empty]
- 8d** (Down): [Empty]
- 9** (Across): [Empty]
- 11** (Across): [Empty]
- 12** (Across): [Empty]
- 13** (Across): [Empty]
- 14** (Down): [Empty]
- 15** (Across): A [Empty]
- 16** (Across): [Empty]
- 17** (Across): [Empty]
- 18** (Across): [Empty]
- 19** (Across): [Empty]

Illustrations include: a mouse, Jesus with arms raised, an open book, a woman with a palm branch, a dog, a man with a palm branch, Jesus holding a chalice and bread, a crown of thorns, a cross, and a tomb.

St Paul's Church, WD23 2EQ

Organist	Martyn Lambert	01923 903365
Stewardship Officer	Mrs Marion Golding	07787 538232
Hall Bookings	Jill Macey	07736 680501

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsBushey/>

Messy Church

Contact: Mrs Jane Groushko, 07974 771342

Parish Magazine Editorial Team

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Bushey Parish Magazine is published monthly, in hard copy (price 60p) and free online at www.busheyparish.org under "News".



100 Club winners in February

Congratulations to our 100 Club winners for February
Annie White (£60); Joan Roft (£40); Greg Batts (£20).

*For more information about the 100 Club,
contact Clare Humphreys on 020 8950 6352 or see
www.busheyparish.org/parish-100-club*

Answers to Numbers quiz: The Aaronic Blessing
Levi

St James's Church, WD23 IBD

Bell Ringers	Mr Stuart Brant	01923 330999
Finance & Stewardship Group	Taiye Sanwo (Hon Treasurer) Christine Cocks (CMF Officer)	
Organist & Choir	Director of Music	Vacant
Church House hall bookings	churchhouse@busheyparish.org	
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From the Registers

BAPTISM

"We welcome you to the Lord's Family"

January 28. 2024

Maisie Leggatt

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

24 th March	Palm Sunday	HOLY WEEK BEGINS Mass & Procession (SJ - Joint)	10:30am
25 th March	Monday in Holy Week	Confession Mass with Lent Reflection (SJ)	<i>Appointment</i> 7:30pm
26 th March	Tuesday in Holy Week	Confession Mass with Lent Reflection (SJ)	<i>Appointment</i> 7:30pm
27 th March	Wednesday in Holy Week	Confession Mass with Lent Reflection (SJ)	<i>Appointment</i> 7:30pm
28 th March	Maundy Thursday	Mass with Washing of Feet with Watch until Midnight (SJ)	8:00pm
29 th March	Good Friday	Family Stations of the Cross (SP) Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday (SJ)	11:00am 1:30pm
30 th March	Holy Saturday	Easter Vigil (SJ) <i>Easter Celebration Drinks</i>	7:30pm <i>After Mass</i>
31 st March	Easter Day	Parish Easter Eucharist (SJ) Easter Eucharist (SP)	10:00am 11:15am

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - March 2024

Friday March 1

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

Sacred Heart Church, London Road, WD23 1BA at 2pm

See back cover for more details



Saturday March 2

SATURDAY RECITAL

St James's Church, 12.00 noon

See opposite page for full details.

Tuesday March 5 and Tuesdays in Lent

LENT COURSE - PRAYING for OTHER PEOPLE

St Paul's Church, 11am - Noon



Wednesday March 6 and Wednesdays throughout March

COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT + BARGAIN TABLE-SALE

St Paul's Church, 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Followed by Said Eucharist (12.30pm)

Thursday March 7, 14, 21

LENT COURSE - DISCUSSION of PREVIOUS SUNDAY'S SERMON

St James's Church, following 11am Eucharist



Wednesday March 20

MESSY CHURCH

St Paul's Church, 3.30pm

Saturday March 30

GRAVE CLEANING

St James's Churchyard 10am



ST JAMES'S CHURCH BUSHEY
WD23 1BD



SATURDAY RECITALS 2024

12 noon	2nd March	Dominika Mak	Piano
12 noon	20th April	Eugenia Russell	Organ

Please join us at St James's Church for Recitals.
Coffee will be served from 10.30am and Light Lunches from 12.30pm.
Recitals last for about 45 minutes. Free entry, donations welcome.
Everyone is welcome to attend.



MESSY CHURCH @ St Paul's

Wednesday at 3:30pm

March 20th
April 17th

St Paul's Church
Bushey Hall Road
WD23 2EQ



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

FRIDAY 1 MARCH

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one another in love

*Sacred Heart Church
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Friday 1st March 2.00pm

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