



Dear Friends

I want to share this poem with you this month which I wrote as a response to the statue of the walking Madonna outside Salisbury Cathedral.



She walks away from the Cathedral, out into the world, head held high. It is a counterpoint to other image of Mary, at the Annunciation and the Cross and these words reflect on that. As Lent continues and is transformed by Holy Week and Easter, I hope these words might encourage us to be outward facing and to share good news.

Walking Madonna (inspired by the statue in Salisbury)

Not kneeling in humble supplication
Before the angel
Bringer of troubling news.
But standing, striding out
Ready to take up the challenge of a new journey

Not kneeling in anguished pain
Before the cross
Holding her son in her arms
But standing, striding out
Ready to take up the challenge of what resurrection might mean.

Not kneeling in frustrated fear
Before her son
Wishing he would be easy
But standing, striding out
Ready to take up the challenge of mothering God.

Priscilla White © 2015

Aspects of life at St Faith and St Laurence

Morning prayer – is normally said Monday to Thursday and Saturday at 8.15 am in the Lady Chapel. We use Common Worship Daily Prayer, all are welcome to come and join in.

Reflections A chance to meet together over a cuppa and reflect on the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday. A group meets on Mondays from 1.45-3pm Venues are listed in the Programme of the month.

Task Groups – The church has a number of task groups enabling areas of church life. These are listed in the magazine with the contact details of the chairs. If you would like to be a part of a groups please contact the relevant chair or Priscilla. All are welcome to join.

Stay and Play meets on Thursday between 9.30 and 11am in the Hall to give a chance for people with young children to meet and the children to play. All are welcome. Cost £1.50 per family.

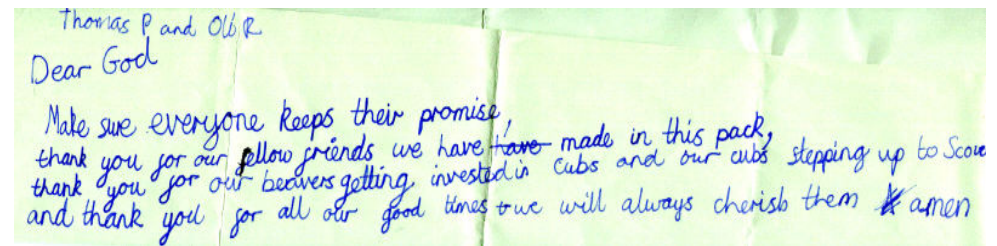
Sunday Club meets on the first and third Sundays of each month except during the holidays. We hold an extra Sunday Club on days when there is a baptism. All are welcome to join in hearing and experiencing a Bible Story and learning together about what it means for our daily lives.

Messy Church takes place on the first Saturday of each month, most months. A chance for children and parents/ carers to have an informal time of worship, and discovering about a Bible story through song, craft, listening, cooking and so much more. Dates are published in advance and all are welcome to come along.

Planned Giving helps people make giving regular. You decide how much you can afford to give. You can join the envelope scheme weekly or monthly or pay by Standing Order or annually by cheque. Income tax payers are asked to Gift Aid their giving, so the Church can reclaim the tax on their donations at no extra cost to the donors. For details, contact Jackie Taylor or Brenda Stott

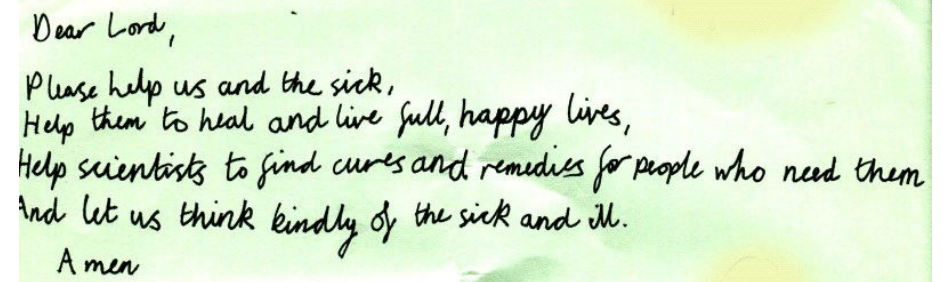
Call in for Coffee time together over a cuppa on a Wednesday morning from 10.30 -12.00. if needed we can arrange for someone to collect you and then take you home. Please ring Pauline Sitford (427 7005). If you are passing, do call in, or bring a friend, all are welcome.

We support **Recycling**. We have boxes at the back of the church where you can leave batteries and printer ink cartridges to be recycled. We have a special collection on the first Sunday of every month when we collect ALUMINIUM cans and foil which can be sold and the money raised is donated to our Mission Partners in Chile (through USPG) We also have envelopes for recycling mobile phones again supporting USPG. Pauline Sitford (427 7005).



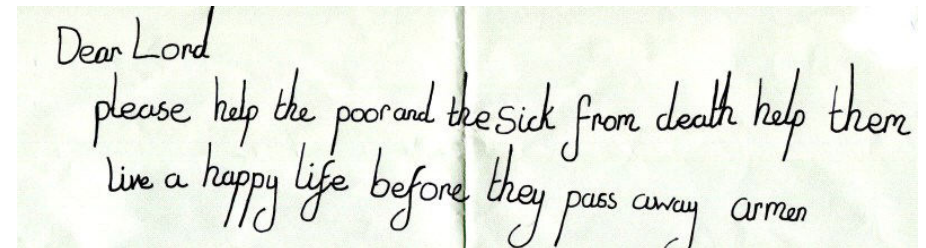
Thomas P and Ol R
Dear God
Make sure everyone keeps their promise,
thank you for our fellow friends we have ~~made~~ made in this pack,
thank you for our beavers getting invested in cubs and our cubs stepping up to Score
and thank you for all our good times we will always cherish them Amen

Thomas P and friend



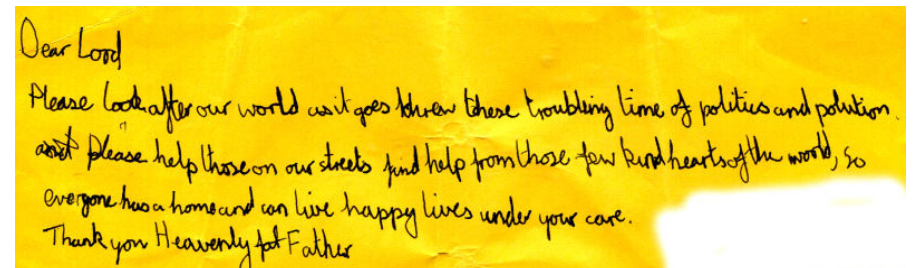
Dear Lord,
Please help us and the sick,
Help them to heal and live full, happy lives,
Help scientists to find cures and remedies for people who need them
and let us think kindly of the sick and ill.
Amen

Toby Painter



Dear Lord
please help the poor and the sick from death help them
live a happy life before they pass away Amen

Oliver



Dear Lord
Please look after our world as it goes through these troubling time of politics and pollution.
and please help those on our streets find help from those few kind hearts of the world, so
everyone has a home and can live happy lives under your care.
Thank you Heavenly Father

Thomas Brookes

CUB PRAYERS

These are some of the prayers members of our Cub Pack composed for the Morning Praise and Parade Service on March 12th.

1 Dear God
Help the world be a amazing place
make everyone equal
Please keep peace in the world
and make sure everyone works together and never gives up
amen.

2 Dear God,
Please help our church, Saint Faith and Saint Lawrence
Please ^{help} our children and adults, to be better people
If you do that, then we will do our duties well
We shall respect and let others go before ourselves.

Josh Robinson

Dear Lord,
Please look down over our church, St Faith and St Lawrence,
and please look down over the adults and children that enter
this church.

Edardo Middleton

Home Communion We have a team of lay people trained and able to bring Home Communion usually on a monthly basis. This is for those who are unable to come to church long term. If the situation is more temporary for example after an operation you can also receive communion, usually from Priscilla. In either case please contact Priscilla.

Traidcraft

Traidcraft sells a range of fairly traded food, cards, clothes and accessories. We use Traidcraft tea and coffee and everything we buy helps fight poverty and supports our church. You can order seasonal gifts through the church at Christmas time when catalogues will be available. Any questions, please ask Ruth Jeavons or Bronwen Jones.

'easyfundraising'

Next time you shop online, think of St Faith and St Laurence and raise free donations with 3,000+ retailers:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfaithandstlaurence>

Gridiron Club is a friendship group for men and women. It meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday, at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room. There are talks, outings and social events which are open to all.

Women's Fellowship meets on the first Monday of the month from March to December. Meetings are held in the Committee Room 7.30 for 8pm. We have talks on a variety of subjects. See Programme of the Month for details.

Prayer Ministry Team

Prayer ministry is offered during the 10am Communion on Sundays. People can receive prayer for themselves or for any situation that is important to them. It takes place in the Lady Chapel during the distribution of communion.

Service with no name

This takes place on the first Thursday in the month in church at 7.30pm.

Foodbank

We collect food for the Quinton and Oldbury Foodbank. There is a box in church and food can be placed there at any time. The list of things that are needed is in church and in the hall. Food is distributed from St Boniface Church on Wednesdays and Paul and Barney's place on Fridays. Vouchers are required to receive food.

Choir and Music.

Choir Practice takes place weekly, normally on Thursdays 6-7pm. Anyone interested in singing in the choir should contact Simon Palmer, Organist & Choirmaster. (Contact details on page cover) We also like to encourage instrumentalists to perform in church, either in services or in concerts.

APCM

The APCM this year will take place on Tuesday 25th April. There will be elections to Deanery Synod this year as well as to the PCC. It is important to note that Deanery Synod members vote for Diocesan and General Synod members and I believe that it will be the tranche of reps elected this year who will elect our diocesan House of Laity reps for the General Synod for 2020.

This timeline shows by when various things need to be done.

Chair of Task Groups and organisations please note the date for reports to be with Gill so our Annual Report can be compiled.

Timeline for APCM 2017

Approval of Accounts at PCC	14 th March
Notices up re electoral roll revision	25 th March
Boards up for elections	8 th April
Reports to Gill Hubble for Collation of Annual Report	2 nd April
Electoral roll closes	6 th April
Electoral roll displayed in church	8 th April
Official notices for APCM	8 th April
Reports available in church	15 th April
APCM	25 th April

Elections

For the avoidance of doubt currently the PCC looks like this

2014-2017 Geoff Bennett, Natika Hamilton, (Bronwen Jones)

2015-2018 Julia Reid, Ruth Jeavons, **2 vacancies for a one year term**

2016-2019 Gill Hubble, David Arkell, Peter Thomson, (Malcolm Adey)

One vacancy for a two year term as Malcolm now *ex officio*

Deanery Synod Alan Jones, Pauline Sitford, Chris Terry and Vicky Miller.

There will this year be elections for,

4 members of Deanery Synod

4 people to serve on the PCC for a three year term 2017-2020

3 extra people to fill casual vacancies, i.e. vacancies not filled in previous meetings.

Current

We therefore need a total of 11 people!!!!!!

Those standing down are all eligible to stand again

Priscilla, Gita, Vicky and Sally are all *ex officio* on PCC.

Junk Easter

We are hoping to be able to bring the children taking part in Junk Easter to Church for a presentation of all the activity on Wednesday 5th April at 3.45pm It would be good if church members were available to come and watch and see what the children have been doing. We are hoping that the children's parents will also be there and that we will be able to make really good connection with the families in this time leading up to Easter. So do come if you can.

Sides-people needed

Would you like to help people feel welcome and comfortable at our church and assist in the smooth running of services?

Then please consider being a sides-person at the Sunday 10 am or 6.30 pm services.

Duties include:

- Greeting people as they arrive and handing out service sheets, hymn books etc
- Taking the bread and wine to the altar for communion
- Letting people know when to go forward for communion (10am only)
- Reading passages from the Bible (6.30 pm only)
- Collecting hymn books etc at the end of the service.

Induction will be provided and the duty wardens (amongst others) are always on hand to support you. At the 10 am service your commitment would be around two to three shifts every 6 months. For the 6.30 pm service this is currently about one in three services, but the more volunteers, the less frequent the duties.

If you're interested, please speak with our Churchwardens Bronwen or Malcolm.

Reg Bott

Reg wishes to thank you all so much for your 90th Birthday cards, and for all your get well cards, good wishes and prayers while he was in hospital. He was happy that so many of you remembered him with such affection.

Reg's bed was next to a wall so I was able to "blu tac" his cards so that he could always see them. Now that he is out of hospital it gives him great pleasure to re-read them all, a few at a time.

He lay in bed so long that his legs have become very weak and now he is unable to stand.

Your continued prayers will be much appreciated. I still hope that he will one day be strong enough to enjoy a late birthday party but it isn't possible at the moment.

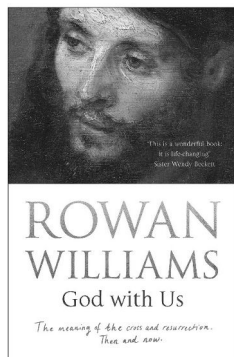
Margaret Whitehouse

COVER STORY

This month's cover is sponsored by Margaret and Bob Mackenzie to celebrate their Diamond Wedding on April 20th.

We send them our best wishes and congratulations.

BOOK OF THE MONTH



GOD WITH US Rowan Williams (SPCK)

God With Us is a clear and concise explanation from Rowan Williams why the cross is our sign and it is a sign of the kind of God we believe in. He also explains why the Resurrection is important to our belief. Throughout the book, he highly effectively uses scripture and excerpts from literature to confirm his message.

St Thomas Aquinas said that 'the Cross prompts us to love, and it is by this that we are forgiven.' *God With Us* clarifies how when the cross is a sign of failure, it is turned into a sign of God's freedom to be God whatever we do. Rowan Williams shows that we learn a lot about the theology of the cross in hymns. As 'My song is love unknown' proceeds, we learn that we really don't know the freedom of love created by the cross.

In *God With Us*, Rowan Williams brilliantly condenses the foundations of theology, making it fresh and compelling.

Quiz Evening in aid of St Mary's Hospice

on Friday 19th May, at St Mary's Parish Hall, Vivien rd, B17 0DN

Doors open at 7pm Quiz starts at 7.30pm

Tickets £6/ person, max 6 people in a team

Price includes Ploughman's supper.

There is a bar, cakes for sale and raffle.

I am helping to organise it along with some friends as part of Harborne Fundraising Group.

You can contact me at church, via email, or Tele: 427 2450

Julia Reid

HOLY WEEK and EASTER at St. Faith and St. Laurence

Sun 9 **PALM SUNDAY** - All services with blessing and distribution of palms

Mon 10 7.30 pm **Night Prayer** - Encounters with Jesus

Tue 11 10.30 am Queen Mother Gardens Service
7.30 pm **Night Prayer** - Encounters with Jesus

Wed 12 10.30 am Call in for Coffee
11.00 am **Holy Communion**
Genesis 8.6-13, 20-end; Mark 8.22-26
7.30 pm **Night Prayer** - Encounters with Jesus

MAUNDY THURSDAY

9.30 am Stay and Play
7.30 pm Communion in the round with hand washing

GOOD FRIDAY

10.30 am CTH worship on Harborne High Street
12.30 pm Good Friday story for children and their families
followed by soup and hot-cross buns in the Hall
2.00 pm The Last Hour at the Cross
7.30 pm Stainer's Crucifixion at St. Peter's Harborne

HOLY SATURDAY

9.30 am Decoration of the church for Easter and Working Party
7.30 pm Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY - ALLELUIA!

8.00 am Holy Communion
Acts 10.34-43; John 20.1-18 (split)
10.00 am Family Communion *Readings as at 8 am*
6.30 pm Evensong Psalm TBA
Song of Solomon 3.2-5; 8.6-7; John 20.11-18

New Director of Mission Learning and Development



We are delighted to announce that Canon Dr Paula Gooder has been appointed as our new Director of Mission Learning and Development. Paula will be known to many of you through her speaking and writing, as well as through her educational work, roles in ministerial formation, and the many resources for discipleship that she has produced. A leading New Testament scholar, she has contributed to contemporary thinking on both missiology and ecclesiology and has held many responsibilities in the national church. She is herself a licensed Reader - rooted in parish ministry. Most recently she has worked for the Bible Society as Theologian in Residence and Head of Bible Engagement.

Bishop Anne said of the appointment: "We interviewed a range of strong candidates for this post, and I am thrilled that we have been able to appoint Paula. She will bring to the role a broad strategic perspective and a rich variety of experience. She is passionate about the effective mission of the church and especially the role of lay leaders within this."

Paula said: "I am delighted and honoured to have been given the opportunity to serve the Diocese of Birmingham in this way and am hugely looking forward to all that lies ahead!"

The main task of the Director will be to oversee the introduction of new streams of learning and development focused on supporting our Transforming Church vision and helping to equip both lay and ordained to meet the challenges of 21st century mission in imaginative ways. The team that she will build around her will specifically include those able to support and resource pioneer ministry, intercultural mission, church planting, fresh expressions, leadership development and mentoring.

She will be working closely with the Revd Canon Dr Mark Pryce to integrate both existing and new learning streams, as well as collaborating with other colleagues involved in vocations, lay education and mission.

More about the new developments is currently being shared on the Clergy Update and Conversation Days, as well as the conference on 25th March: Transforming Church – Shaping the Future.

'Clean up our cash' Can you help? I hope so.

The poor are getting poorer because the climate is changing.

'Clean up our cash' is Christian Aid's latest, year-long campaign to hold some of our biggest banks to account on getting their practices in line with the Paris Agreement of 2015. The aim is to get the banks to commit to decreasing their investments in fossil fuels while at the same time increasing their financing of renewables.

This isn't some big abstract idea which is really only the concern of the rich. As the campaign makes clear, 'they are the high street banks and pension fund managers that rely on our custom to make profits. They are managing our financial transactions, our savings and our pensions. To meet our responsibility to the planet and its people, we need to ensure that they use our money in a way that helps create a sustainable low-carbon economy as soon as possible.'

From the beginning of May the banks will be holding their AGMs. So by April 30th we want to collect as many signatures as possible in churches and bible study groups, at coffee mornings and playgroups to send a clear message that Christians all over the country are demanding action. Tell the banks now that we, their customers, want to see their plans for carbon reduction in terms of how they operate, where they invest and to whom they loan.

The petition is framed as a letter to the CEO's of Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds and RBS banks. You can if you wish, write personally or along with others sign and deliver a petition form to your local bank.

Please do support and encourage others to support this very important initiative.

You can download the petition from the website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/the-big-shift>

More information for how to get involved locally from BACA – Birmingham Anglican Climate Action. Contact beryl.moppett@virginmedia.com

Working Party



Alongside those who will be doing the flowers on the morning of Holy Saturday (15th April) we invite as many as possible to come along to a Working Party at 9.30 am. The tasks for this will be identified at the Walkabout on 2nd April and the more the merrier to get them done, coffee and fellowship provided. This will enable us to have the church ready and wonderful for Easter Day.

GRIDIRON CLUB 49th AGM *Swan-Song or Last Fling*

At the AGM on 22nd February it was decided to close the group : a sad but realistic decision following a lengthy consultation procedure involving all members.

Formed 50 years ago as a "20+" group the membership, now elderly, has been falling and it was no longer possible to form a committee with the energy to carry it forward. Better, it was thought, not to let it simply fade away but to wind it up "on a high" with bright memories of a lively, happy club which has remained active to the last.

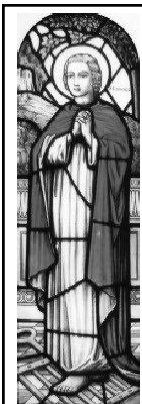
There have been high days and holidays. We remember the "Turkey and Tinsel" breaks in the Isle of Wight; the holidays in Scotland; the weekends away in Durham and Kent with visits respectively to Beamish and Leeds Castle; the many coach trips - to Buckingham Palace, Liverpool Docks, the National Arboretum, Bantock House and Harvington Hall, to name but a few. These and our St George's Day Dinners, Skittles evenings, "Trinkets and Pretty Things" stalls and our numerous visiting speakers will stay in our memories for ever.

Typically, our final AGM ended with a Buffet, sharing food and friendship. Now, at 70+, we are still around and will continue to volunteer our help, to socialise and to worship together here at St Faith and St Laurence Church where it all began.

GRIDIRON CLOSURE

It is with regret, that with no one willing or unable to take on as Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer it has been decided to close the gridiron and the final account has been completed. It was approved unanimously that any money remaining would be donated for the **Church Hall Roof Fund**. I have now sent a cheque for £489.61 and cash for £34.84 clearing the account by a total of **£524.55**.

Len Myers (Treasurer)



As you may know, the Gridiron Club was named after what was according to tradition, how one of our patron saints, Laurence died. He is often represented holding a gridiron to memorialize this grisly manner of martyrdom. Although he was most certainly beheaded and not roasted, the traditions of his being cooked are somewhat stronger than actual fact. As a result, St Lawrence is also considered a patron saint for cooks. There is also the popular story that he was so willing to embrace Christ in heaven, that he did not mind the pain from the fire of his martyrdom, and indeed, he found the strength to tell his executioners "Turn me over. I am done on this side."

Prayer of the month

Easter is relatively late this year, on 16th April so for half of April we will be in Lent and for half of it in the Easter Season. In the light of this a prayer/ meditation from the Iona community which offer some insight on waiting and acting.

God help us (a meditation)

There is a time for asking questions
but there is also a day of decision.

There is a time to discuss who Jesus is,
but there is also a time to take up your cross and follow him.

There is a time to weigh the issues carefully,
but there are issues which will not wait until tomorrow.

If we wait until we understand everything
we will wait forever

If we do not follow the light which we do see,
we will receive no more light.

If we, today, miss this opportunity
then God help us.

Ian Cowie © Iona Community, Glasgow Scotland taken from Egg and Ashes

In our journeys of faith there can be crucial moment when we have to take action. If during this latter part of Lent and beginning of Easter you find yourself with one of those then hold onto it and trust God to help you to act.

Priscilla

Baptism and Confirmation

The Cluster Confirmation service takes place on Sunday July 25th at 6.30pm at Edgbaston Old Church. As is usual preparation will take place across the cluster and dates and times of sessions are still to be fixed.

I would love to hear from anyone who feels that confirmation may be the right next step for them or those who are adults and not yet baptised who might be interested. If you are unsure please have a chat with me anyway and we can look together at what might be right for you. Any young people in year 6 or above are also welcome to explore confirmation.

Priscilla

The Resurrection - It's all about Mary

Even if the resurrection story is familiar to you, I wonder if you've noticed, who features most often in it, who is the character at the centre of the events. I wonder if you noticed, as I did when I read it again, that Jesus himself, the defeated one now risen from the dead, only features in a brief cameo, albeit a very important one. But the person who the gospel writers place at the heart of these extraordinary, world-changing events, is Mary Magdalene. The resurrection - it's all about Mary.

This is notable because placing Mary Magdalene at the centre of events makes her the chief witness to the resurrection. Which is not what you'd expect. We can assume that God could have chosen anyone at all to witness to Jesus Christ rising from the dead. A reliable witness at least. Mary, of all people: she seemed the unlikeliest witness of all.

For one thing, Mary was a woman, and in that society women were thought of as unreliable witnesses - they couldn't testify in a court of law. For another thing, Mary was a woman with a history of mental illness, some would call her a madwoman, known for her odd behaviour, for shouting strange, provocative messages sometimes bordering on the rude or obscene.

All her life people had treated Mary like dirt, avoided her, laughed at her. All her life people in authority had written her off; told her she was no use, a menace to society. Care in the Community. Down there with the druggies and the Big Issue sellers. 'Crazy Mary', they might have called her.

We may know people like that ourselves, people who everyone else condemns or avoids. We perhaps feel like that ourselves at times. When people avoid or mistreat or sideline or condemn us. Often Christians feel like that, misunderstood, misrepresented, our motives mistaken in today's polarised society, as do our Muslim brothers and sisters and other people of faith.

But the good news is this. God, through the gospel writers, put 'Crazy Mary' at the heart of the resurrection story, made her the chief witness to the events of that morning, when Jesus put death to bed by rising again. It's good news because it's one more indication, should you need it, that the story must be true. Any gospel writer wanting to establish beyond all doubt that the story was true, that Jesus was risen, would surely not have placed the most unreliable witness at the heart of the story. They would have had a lawyer, Pilate, or the chief priest, meeting the risen Jesus. It's good news that God made Mary the chief witness to the resurrection because Mary is someone we can relate to. We like her, the imperfect one. I would suggest that we are like her, in our imperfections. But how did Mary know it was Jesus, talking to her there in the garden? What made her realise that it was her Lord, alive and in front of her?

FOOD BANK NEWS

Please help. We need more food!

At Christmas, our shelves were full thanks to many generous donations, but now we are desperately short of some basic foodstuffs because the Foodbank at St Boniface Church has been very busy. The shortages are specific, so we are appealing for the following items only:

Tinned tomatoes Tinned fruit Instant mashed potato Dried pasta
Tea Biscuits Cartons of fruit juice

Thank you. **Brenda Stott and Hilary Shaylor**



Christian Aid Week Collection (14-20th May)

Once again we will have a house to house collection during Christian Aid Week which raises much needed money for the work of Christian Aid in Great Britain and throughout the world.

It is assumed that all who helped last year will continue to do so. If anyone is unable to continue please let us know. If, however, anyone would like to join us and help this year please make contact.

Email: juditheileen.bennett@sky.com or 0121 427 8154

Timetable for Collection:

7 th May	Material for collectors available in church.
14 th May	Christian Aid Week begins.
28 th May	All collection rounds to be returned by this date.
30 th May	Tuesday. Counting of Collection and Banking.

Judith and Geoff Bennett

Christian Aid Week has been described as Europe's greatest act of Christian witness by 300,000 volunteers who undertake this particular mission on behalf of their local churches. At present it is probably the only time as a church we knock on doors in our parish (and beyond), bear witness to our faith and extend a message of friendship to those who otherwise would never meet us.



FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral at the Crematorium
 March 13th Ann Hall

Holy Baptism
 February 26th Aurora Patrick

FACTS AND FIGURES

Week Beginning	Communicants	Loose Plate £	Planned Giving £	Gift Aid £
Feb 19	77	37.91	200.55	32.50
Feb 26	83	70.97	311.07	6.00
March 5	95	37.37	659.63	16.00
March 12	39	87.20	361.29	22.00
Standing Orders			1363.00	21.42

Hall roof update

It is proving disappointingly difficult to attract funding for the roof so the PCC has decided

- a) to continue to seek funding and to appeal locally for funds. To this end we will have a fundraising thermometer by the church to show the progress.
- b) to go ahead with a much cheaper patch repair to tide us over until sufficient funds can be raised for the proper job. The proper job will still need to be done and will improve the insulation and be much better in the long run, but to prevent extra damage now we have no option other than to take this route.

To this end we will be very grateful for donations marked for the roof appeal and gift aided where appropriate.

She hadn't realised at first. It was when he did something specific that she knew. It was when he spoke her name. "Mary". Her heart missed a beat, because that was the voice of someone who was close to her. That was the voice of someone who loved her. The voice of someone who knew her name. "Mary".

So here's the good news - God chooses the unlikeliest people to share his good news with. His good news is the unlikeliest sort of news we'll ever hear.

We hear a lot these days about 'fake news', but the 'real news' is that God loves us. Jesus saves us. His coming-back from death means an end to death for those who believe; and an abundance of life instead. Just as Jesus knew Mary by name, Jesus knows us by name too. His voice is the voice of someone who is close to us. His is the voice of someone who loves us. His is the voice of someone who knows our name. And will call us by our name as he did Mary, if we go looking for him.

If we go searching for Jesus as Mary did, we will find him. Even if at first, compromised by the lies the world tells us about the absence of God, we suspect that we're going to find a dead body: like she did, if we are searching from our heart then we will find him. Even if we're saddened because however hard we look we can't see anyone there for a while: like she did, if we are searching from our heart then we will find him.

If we want to find Jesus, if we want him in our life, then he will come to us. He might come to us when we are least expecting it, or when we are most hoping for it, and however it happens - in a time of prayer, in a church service or on a country walk, through an unusual encounter or in conversation with someone we know very well, on a journey or in a familiar place - just as he did to Mary, Jesus will call us by our name.

Everyday people like you and I get caught up in God's crazy vision. We love the story of 'Crazy Mary', Mary crazy with God's good news. Mary who recognised Jesus when he called her by her name. We understand that because he chose her, it means he chooses us too. He chooses us to tell others that he is risen and alive today.

We might feel like unreliable witnesses to his wonderful love at times. But he chooses to share it with us anyway. He speaks our name in the garden of our hearts. When the joy hits us - the joy of realising that because Jesus has come back from the dead, life need no longer be deadly to us - then we find the impetus to dance and sing the good news at those around us, like Mary did.

The resurrection - it's all about Mary. It's all about you and me. And that's why at Easter we can't help saying, Alleluia!

Peter Stokes

PROGRAMME FOR APRIL

Sat	1	10.30 am	Messy Church	Hall
SUN 2 LENT 5				
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Ezekiel 37.1-14; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45</i>	
		10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
		11.15 am (approx)	Finance and General Purposes Walkabout	
		6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Psalm 30</i> <i>Lamentations 3.19-33; Matthew 20.17-34</i>	
Mon	3	1.45 pm	Reflections	143, Balden Road
		7.45 pm	Women's Fellowship	Committee Room
Tue	4	7.30 pm	Messy Church planning meeting	25 Rodman Close
Wed	5	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Daniel 3.14-20, 24-25, 28; John 8.31-42</i>	Lady Chapel
		3.45 pm	Junk Easter presentation	Church
Thu	6	9.30 am	Stay and Play	Hall
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
		7.30 pm	Service with no name	Church
SUN 9 PALM SUNDAY				
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Matthew 21.1-11 at beginning</i> <i>Philippians 2.5-11; Matthew 26.14-27 end</i>	
		10.00 am	Morning Praise	
		6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
Mon	10	7.30 pm	Night Prayer - <i>Encounters with Jesus</i>	Lady Chapel
Tue	11	10.30 am	Queen Mother Gardens Service	
		7.30 pm	Night Prayer - <i>Encounters with Jesus</i>	Lady Chapel
Wed	12	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Genesis 8.6-13, 20-end; Mark 8.22-26</i>	
		7.30 pm	Night Prayer - <i>Encounters with Jesus</i>	Lady Chapel
Thu	13	MAUNDY THURSDAY		
		9.30 am	Stay and Play	Hall
		7.30 pm	Communion in the round with hand washing	Church

Fri	14	GOOD FRIDAY		
		10.30 am	Churches Together Open Air Service	Harborne High St
		12.30 pm	Good Friday Story-Service for Families	Church
		1.00 pm	Soup and Hot Cross Buns	Hall
		2.00 pm	Last Hour at the Cross	Church
		7.30 pm	Stainer's Crucifixion	St Peter's Harborne
Sat	15	9.30 am	Working Party	
		7.30 pm	Easter Vigil	Church
SUN 16 EASTER DAY				
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Acts 10.34-43; John 20.1-18 (split)</i>	
		10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
		6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Psalm TBA</i> <i>Song of Solomon 3.2-5; 8.6-7; John 20.11-18</i>	
Wed	19	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Acts 3.1-10; Luke 24.13-35</i>	Lady Chapel
		5.30 pm	Rehearsal for Celebration of Marriage Service	
Thu	20	9.30 am	Stay and Play	Hall
		7.30 pm	CYP Task Group Meeting	25 Rodman Close
Sat	22	1.00 pm	Celebration of 10 years of Marriage	
SUN 23 EASTER 2				
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Acts 2.14a, 22-32</i> <i>1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-end</i>	
		10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
		6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Psalm 30.1-5 Daniel 6.6-23; Mark 15.46-16.8</i>	
Tue	25	2.00 pm	William Lench Court Service	
		7.30 pm	APCM	
Wed	26	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	Committee Room
		11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Acts 5.17-26; John 3.16-21</i>	Lady Chapel
		7.30 pm	3 D Course	Committee Room
Thu	27	9.30 am	Stay and Play	Hall
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice	Church
SUN 30 EASTER 3				
		8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Acts 2.14a, 36-41</i> <i>1 Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35</i>	
		10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
		6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Psalm 48 Haggai.1.3-2.9; 1 Corinthians 3.10-17</i>	