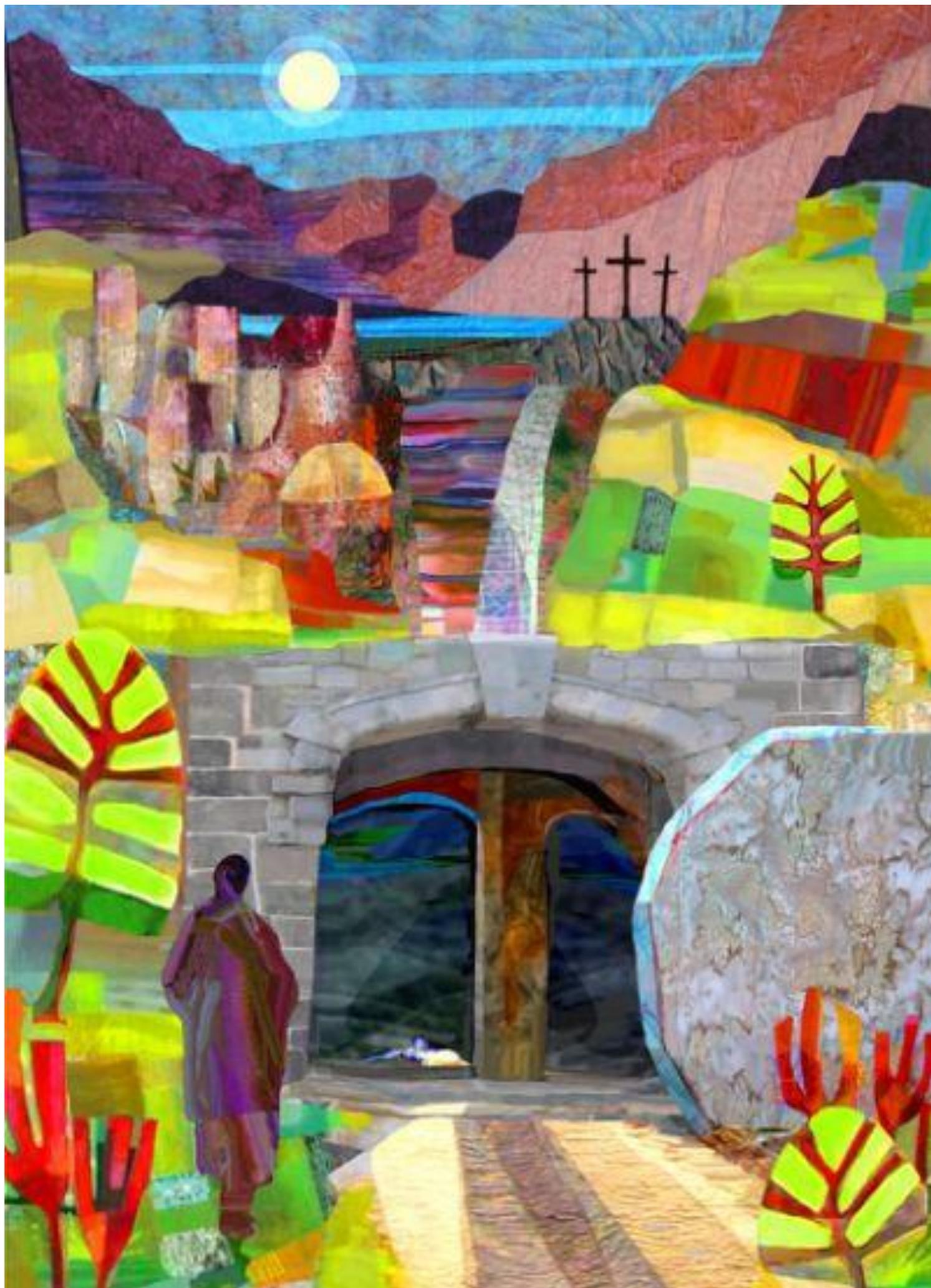


St Peter's Church Magazine ~ April 2021





THANK YOU for your continued financial support for the work and mission of our parish. We are delighted that we will once again be having church services from Palm Sunday.

With so much turmoil over this past year your support has been very important and much appreciated.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF GIVING

Yellow & Brown Numbered Envelopes – envelopes can be posted/delivered to the Parish Office or Vicarage, collected by the Stewardship Team or brought to any of our services.

Parish Giving Scheme – if you would like to join or move to the Parish Giving Scheme as a regular donor, please contact the Stewardship Team. This can now be done online or by telephone.

BACS Transfer – one-off general donations can be made by direct electronic transfer. Please use the following with a meaningful reference -

Account name St Peters PCC Formby - Sort Code 40-52-40 - Account No. 00020671.

Website – one-off general donations can easily be made via the Donate button on the Stewardship tab on the website. For Uganda Project, see button on Uganda tab.

Cheque – cheques should be made to St Peters PCC Formby, adding your name and address on the reverse and be posted to the Parish Office.

Gift Aid – if you are a tax payer St Peter's can claim 25% Gift Aid on your donation. This will happen automatically with the yellow and brown envelopes. If you would like to discuss Gift Aid and/or would like to complete an enduring a Gift Aid form, please contact the Stewardship Team.

If you need further information, please phone or email the Stewardship Team.

Stewardship Team –Mike Fletcher 01704 879755 or Caroline Speakman (Parish Office) or email stewardshipstpeter@gmail.com

St Peter's Parish Office, St Peter's Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH
Tel: 01704 871171 email office@stpetersformby.co.uk



St Peter's Church was originally "The Ancient Chapelry of Formby, St Peter Apostle and Martyr." It dates from the 12th century and was situated very close to the sea. St Peter's was part of the Parish of Walton, which is why the Rector of Walton is still our Patron. This chapel became "ruinous" and a new church, on the present site, was built in 1746 and consecrated on 19th July 1747.

FRONT COVER: On the Third Day He will Rise, Painting by Michael Torevell

EDITORIAL

Hello Everyone,

How wonderful it is to write that services in church are being resumed from Palm Sunday! Their restoration has been a very long time coming but at last we can celebrate a glimpse of normality. There will be a 9am (not 8 am) Holy Communion, Parish Communion at 10.30am and a Zoomed Evensong at 6.30pm. The usual social distancing measures will apply of course.

All the services for Holy Week and Easter are here in the magazine (pages 20-21).

Peter Deyes has decided to stand down from our Editorial Team after many years of organising the advertising, distribution and the editing of final drafts. We are immensely grateful to Peter and will miss his many skills and humour in our meetings. Thank you very much, Peter.

Thank you to all those kind folk who helped organise and distribute the Mothering Sunday flowers. Our tradition of marking the day and sharing the flowers is a lovely, reassuring outreach of our church community to people, especially after a long, long winter.

And thank you all for the great response to the Easter chocolate appeal. We are sure that will 'go down' very well!

Enjoy Easter everyone,

The Editorial Team



Spring at St Peter's: photo by Sonia Greenyer

The magazine is an important means of outreach and keeps everyone informed and in touch with the life of St Peter's Church.

The magazine is free, though it would be appreciated if you would like to give a donation towards production costs.

Donations can be made via the safe QR code link (shown) or by clicking on '**donate here**' on the magazine page of our website - stpetersformby.co.uk/parish-magazines



If you would like a magazine delivered to your home, please contact the Parish Office.

Coronavirus
Keep your
distance

Please follow the
Government guidelines



*Please note the deadline for the May 2021 edition of the magazine is **Friday 9th April 2021**. Contributions to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk.*

Dear Friends,

St Peter's can't claim to be "Open All Hours" but it's so good to be able to tell you that we will be open for church services from Palm Sunday, 28th March.



Because of the need for social distancing in church we will continue the pattern of the Eucharist at 9.00am and 10.30am. The evening service will stay on Zoom for April at least.

In Holy Week we will have a service and short address in church each evening at 7.30pm. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, it will be Compline, while on Maundy Thursday it will be the Eucharist. On Good Friday there will be An Hour by the Cross from 2.00 – 3.00pm.

The mid-week Wednesday Eucharist at 11.00am will have already resumed by the time you read the April magazine.

It will be great to be back on church for services. As one parishioner put it, she was becoming "church-sick", longing to be able to be part of a physical congregation once again.

There is no need to pre-book any of the services. Just come along and those on duty will guide you to a seat. Please remember face masks, hand sanitiser and your temperature being taken will all still be in place. We look forward to the day these won't be needed and we can lift the ropes from the closed pews but that isn't yet and we will work to keep everyone safe.

At long last, the light of what turned out to be a very long tunnel is beginning to be seen as more than a pinprick of light in the distance, and we fervently hope that all the progress that has been made since vaccinations started will continue.

It's been a trying and testing time for so many, but also it's been a time which brought out the best in so many. Again, we are grateful to the NHS in all its sections and to all in the essential services sector who, at great risk to themselves, kept life going in the best possible way.

During Lent our Monday evening course on Art and Holy Week proved to be very popular as we looked at paintings of Christ's passion by El Greco, Gerritt von Honthorst, Ugolino di Nerio and Tintoretto. At the end of the last session, many shared paintings that were especially meaningful to them, including the painting on the front cover of this month's magazine. We don't need to be experts to enjoy a painting and so often it conveys for us the life of Christ and a sense of God's presence more powerfully than words.

Art will continue to feature at the Zoom service for Palm Sunday evening at 6.30pm when some more paintings of Christ's passion will help us prepare for the events of Holy Week. Join us for this service of reflections, readings and music.

With this month's magazine we are enclosing a palm cross. So even if you cannot be with us in person, we hope you will feel part of the worshipping community of St Peter's as we prepare to walk and watch with Jesus during this solemn week, leading up to the great celebration of Easter.

Details of all our April services are in the centre pages.



I'm always conscious of and grateful to all who keep the life of St Peter's active and vibrant, particularly under the very trying circumstances of last year. I'm especially grateful to the team who delivered Mothering Sunday flowers. In all 230 pots of flowers were distributed on the day! Over 40 Lent bags were also delivered to the families of the Sunday Club and they will also receive an Easter bag. Thank you also to those who deliver our magazine each month and the magazine committee as it has been a really important point of contact. And thank you to those who help with our services each week and make sure they reach your homes. We look forward to worship in a fuller church!

So many have been good neighbours and concerned friends. Let us all continue to support those around us because for many it will take time to feel confident to return to a less restricted life.

The prayer below is from the Diocese of Salisbury and please read the poem on the back page which says it all.

Anne

The Renewing Hope Prayer:

God our Father,
renew our hope.
By the Holy Spirit's power,
strengthen us to pray readily,
serve joyfully
and grow abundantly,
rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bishop Paul's Easter Message

The light that pierces the darkness

There is no doubt, after a year of the Coronavirus, that we have become more closely acquainted with death. Many of us have lost loved ones, and only a very few of us have come through the year without experiencing the loss of someone, perhaps a friend or neighbour or workmate.



As a result we have come to know what most of the generations before us knew all their lives - that the shadow of death is always close at hand, and that the light of faith shines all the more brightly in such a shadowed world. We believe in a living God who knows what it is to die, and so the death that surrounds us does not have the victory.

In the fifteenth chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, St Paul points to the heart of our faith - indeed he literally nails it; it is the death of Jesus on the cross, and what happened thereafter:

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain...

For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

I wish you a blessed Easter, and I pray that the Gospel of the Resurrection may bless and comfort you always, and especially in any darkness that may have touched your own life in this past year. May the risen, living Christ – the light that pierces the darkness – be close to you, always.

+Paul, Bishop of Liverpool.

“Rain Rain go away; Come again another day”

Many of us will know this rhyme from our childhood. We have had a lot of rain over the past months and our Ainsdale woods, dunes and Freshfield pine forest are flooded. As I write this many paths are impassable in places without wearing wellies. I'm sure we are all hoping now for a long dry spell to rectify this!

In Kenya however they are experiencing more extreme weather conditions due to climate change. When the rains come they can be so heavy they lead to flooding which damages crops. Extreme drought follows and the need for water is even more critical both for crops, drinking and the need to wash hands because of the coronavirus.

With a reliable source of water crops can be grown and fresh vegetables can be available which will also keep children healthier helping them to fight the virus. The planting of drought resistant crops and constructing Earth Dams are a lifeline to help villagers cope in this crisis.

Christian Aid is focusing its attention on creating Earth Dams in as many Kenyan villages as possible from money collected during Christian Aid Week 9th - 15th May.

- £20** could buy 4 taps for a water point at a dam where families can collect water.
- £60** could buy 10 bags of cement to help a community build an earth dam.
- £335** could train an earth dam committee to keep a dam in good repair and run it effectively.

Instead of doing a sponsored walk this year, Peter and I have decided to do a sponsored beach clean, to raise funds for this project. We will spend 30 hours during the month of May cleaning the beach of rubbish, mainly plastic, which is adversely affecting our marine life. Hopefully photos and the amount we raise will be in the September magazine. We would be so grateful if you would sponsor us in one of these ways:-

☺ Write A CHEQUE payable to Christian Aid and put it in an envelope. The C A official ones for week May 9th to 15th are in the church porch which allow you to gift aid your money. Send it to us at 27 Stratford Close PR8 2RT or drop it through the Vicarage door in Cricket Path or take it to the Parish Office in Paradise Lane.

☺ OR enclose CASH in a Christian Aid envelope which you can pick up from the church porch and take it to one of the above addresses.

☺ OR donate on the JUST GIVING website by entering www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Carolpaine4christianaid.

If you would like an envelope delivered to you please contact me 01704 809517.

Together we can make a difference.

Carol Paine

(St Peters Church C. A. rep)



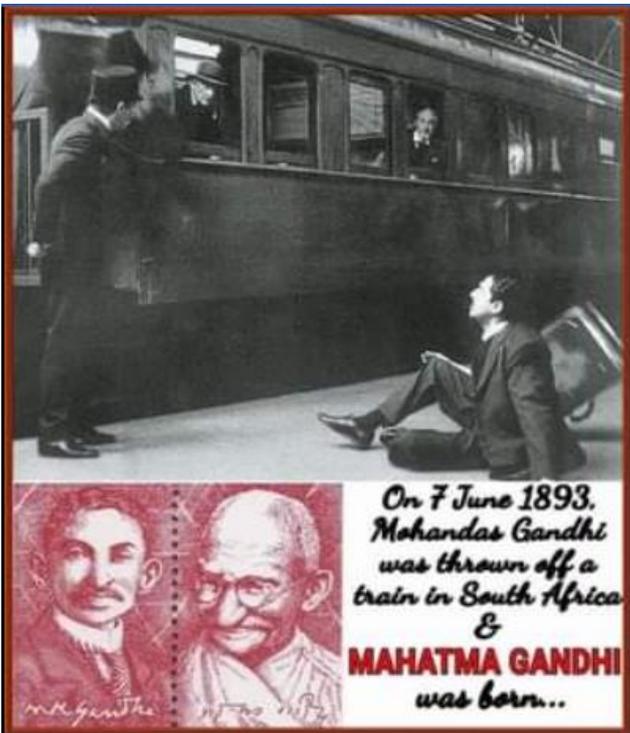
R i g h t s

A short while ago a news item showed a group of young people sitting in protest somewhere in Europe; moving towards them was a squad of police in body armour.



The sequence then showed the police roughly man-handling the protesters. The reporter then said that the police were attacking the demonstrators' rights. In a way this seemed an odd phrase to use as possibly the last thing the young person would think about is 'which of my rights is being abused?' as a loaded stick landed on them.

Yet the police officer in charge would have argued that the protesters had no rights when they were disobeying the country's law and so they had to be moved. A possible answer to this dilemma could be that rights are universal and therefore should be observed by all states.



Another incident occurred in South Africa when Gandhi was thrown off a train which was for whites only. This could be argued as a breach of rights to equality but the law in that country had a legal 'whites only' policy.

The argument that each person has a set of rights has been argued for centuries. It became dominant during the 1700's, notable when the American colonies stated "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal", the founding fathers were justifying their revolt against Britain by claiming their right to create their own government.

In fact the authors were happy to ignore the full nature of the statement as they maintained slavery. It is only now, two hundred years later, they are implementing the need for equality.

A recently published book on rights, written by a Christian, looks in detail at this issue and links the laws of the state with the principle of rights.* Rights, he argues, really mean little unless linked to the power of the state to enforce them, usually through a judicial system. It has to be recognized that a person bullied and treated unequally is very often in need of authority to provide protection. The full and powerful arguments over the need for rights was seen after the end of World War II. The Nazi state, a freely elected government, had provided laws to enslave and slaughter millions.

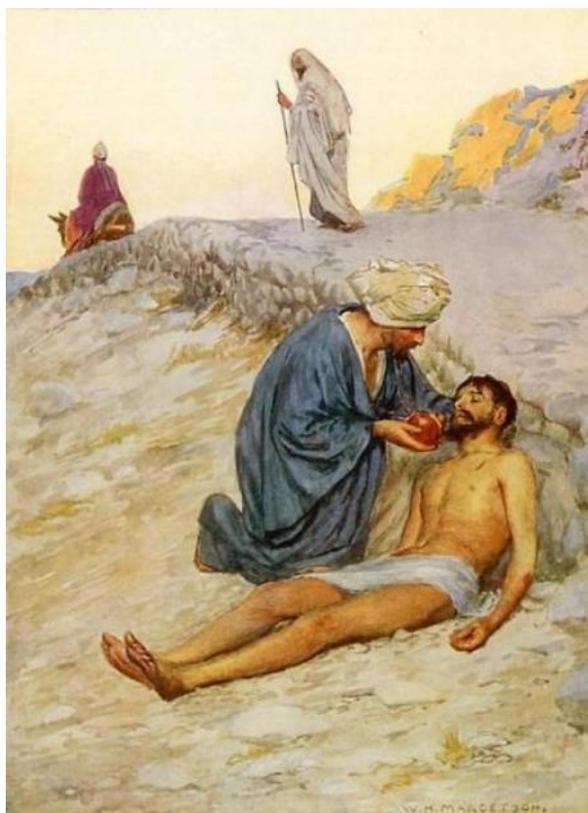
The need to recognize that each individual had rights independent of the state was encapsulated in the UN declaration. But these rights needed to be protected within the laws of a state.

Is there a Christian approach or involvement in rights? Perhaps the first Christian claim to a right was St Paul's demand to be tried as a Roman citizen. Pope John XXII in 1321 reacted to the demand by a monastic order that true Christianity demanded absolute poverty. The pope replied that to have property was a natural right.

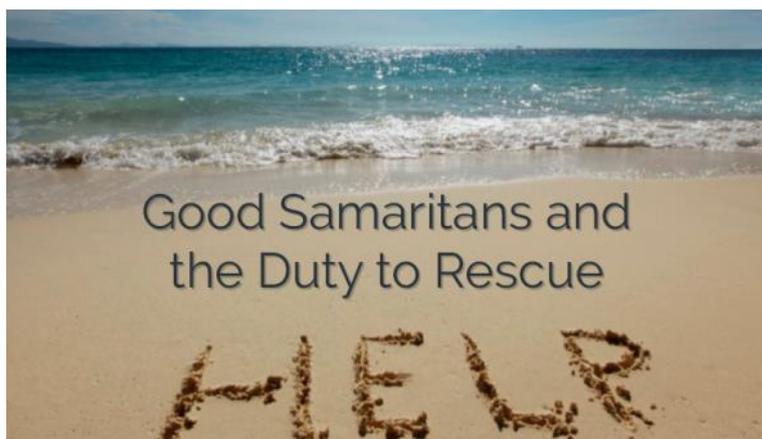
The Church's approach has been to look more to duty and obligation. The new report on housing by the Church of England does not appear to use the right of people to have safe affordable housing but sees it as a duty for the church to ensure it is provided both by themselves and the state.**

Rights are limited by the need for a state to ensure their enforcement, and even when listed, as in the UN declaration of rights, they are encompassed by condition when put into law.

Within his teachings Jesus lays down demands on us. These are exemplified by the parable of the good Samaritan. It is not the rights of the victim which are discussed but the obligations on the passers by and the duty shown by the good Samaritan. The Christian message is in the beatitudes which emphasizes responsibilities. Perhaps the statements - blessed are the merciful and blessed are the peacemakers - provide a good start to values and obligations of the state and individuals.



Rod Jacques



*What's Wrong with Rights
by Nigel Biggar.

** Church report on housing
"Coming Home"

Hi Everyone

The Sunday Club at Home on Zoom is going from strength to strength. The number of families attending is rising week on week and all the children, parents and some grandparents are engaging and joining in with the Singing and Dancing.



We have been watching a variety of videos and the children have been exploring the items in their Lent bags both on and off screen with the help of the “Sunday Club at Home” sheets and of course their parents and carers.

Sunday Club is going far and wide during these difficult times with families from Ainsdale, Birkdale, Kirkby, Liverpool and Surrey. We have had a few visitors during the Zoom in the shape of baby animals, which one of our families is hand rearing. The children have really enjoyed seeing a duckling that had hatched the night before, and a beautiful baby pig. We have also been learning some new Songs and look forward to the end of April when they can be tried out in Church at our first face to face “Haribo Service,” if the roadmap allows us to hold it.

The parents have been very appreciative of the Zoom sessions and the deliveries that we have done at the beginning of Lent. Their comments have been both inspiring and beautiful and the children’s excitement when they log on to Zoom helps us work even harder the next time we meet. We have over 40 families who have been connecting with us. I would say that Family Ministry at St Peter’s is well established.

As you read this magazine the Children will have received another delivery of ‘Easter in an Egg’ which is a plastic egg with items inside to help them with the stories of Holy Week. There is also a booklet for them to work through and explore “Holy Week.” There may even be a visit from the Easter Bunny as well.

We will also be holding a Sunday Club at Home Zoom on Easter Sunday to celebrate with the families the excitement and Celebrations of Jesus Rising from the Dead.

May I take this opportunity to thank our Leaders Judith and Lisa for their outstanding work during this difficult time and from them and me Happy Easter!!!!

Caroline



These are our new additions to the Zoom family:

a piglet and a duckling introduced to us by Henry and his mum “Cat.”

This was a very exciting session and we look forward to keeping in touch with their progress.



WOW Service Worship on Wednesday is a service designed for pre-school children. The children from Nursery and Reception from Trinity St Peter's join us for this service which is held at 2pm.

Date: Wednesday 28th April in Church

Everyone is very welcome.



Children's Service

Sunday Club by Zoom

Dates: 11th & 18th April



Children's Haribo Service

Sunday 25th April at 12noon in Church



Church Community Request 'All things Easter'



To continue the decorating of church for particular festivals and keep community involvement going, it would be great to ask for **'All things Easter.'** We have no particular theme in mind, but will display anything that comes in!

Decorated crosses, coloured eggs, Easter bonnets, lambs..... whatever, will be gratefully received.

We value any support given.

Many thanks, Fiona

My home number is 01704 643614. Please leave a message on my answering machine. I am happy to collect anything and if precious items are loaned, as has happened recently, please could they be labelled for return.



There is now a labelled box, in the Church Porch, for any Easter Egg donations, to donate to charities.

They are collected daily.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

who has dropped items into the Foodbank boxes in the church porch or sent financial donations.

The Church Porch remains open every day from 10am to 5pm for donations. The boxes are emptied regularly during the day.

*We are in contact with the Foodbank and some of the items that are needed are: **Desserts (not rice pudding), Jam, Hot Chocolate (small jars), Savoury rice, Savoury pasta, Sauces - tomato, brown or mayonnaise, Laundry capsules, (15 tabs approx), Washing up liquid, Toilet Rolls, Male and female deodorant, Male and female razors, Cat food.***



*The Foodbank has plenty of –
Soup, Pasta and Baked Beans.*

It is also possible to make a financial donation directly to the Foodbank by visiting their website.

www.southport.foodbank.org.uk

Many thanks.



Weekly Prayers for our Parish

Each Sunday we pray for the residents who live in our parish and during the year every street is included in our prayer rota.



During April please pray for all who live in –

- 4th April** Mersey Avenue, The Birches, Fisherman's Close, Stanlawe Road
- 11th April** Montagu Road, Golf Road, Timms Lane, Timms Close
- 18th April** Cricket Path, Mayfield Court, Red Barns, Cummins Avenue
- 25th April** Victoria Road, Victoria Way, Shireburn Road, Fairways Court

Bible Readings - April

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a / Philippians 2:5-11 / Mark 11:1-11

Monday

Isaiah 42:1-9 / Hebrews 9:11-15 / John 12:1-11

Tuesday

Isaiah 49:1-7 / 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 / John 12:20-36

Wednesday

Isaiah 50:4-9a / Hebrews 12:1-3 / John 13:21-32

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 / 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 / John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12 / Hebrews 10:16-25 / John 18 & 19

Easter Eve

Job 14:1-14 / 1 Peter 4:1-8 / Matthew 27:57-66

Easter Day

Isaiah 25:6-9 / Acts 10: 34-43 / John 20:1-18

The 2nd Sunday of Easter

Exodus 14:10-31 Acts 4:32-35 / John 20:19-31

The 3rd Sunday of Easter

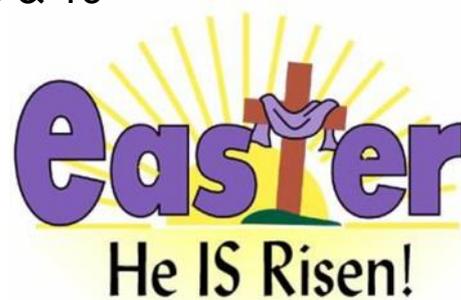
Zephaniah 3:14-20 / Acts 3:12-19 / Luke 24:36b-48

Saint George, Martyr, Patron of England

1 Maccabees 2:59-64 / 2 Timothy 2:3-13 / John 15:18-21

The 4th Sunday of Easter / St Mark The Evangelist

Proverbs 15:28-33 / Acts 15:35-41 / Mark 16: 9-15

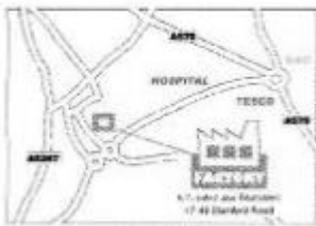


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If you would like some guidance, please feel free to come and have a chat with me, or alternatively please contact me on **07926 587776**

Caroline Speakman **Member of the Society of Willwriters**

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The Biblical Background (2) - The Prophets

In the first article we saw how the narratives of Genesis and the praise-songs of the Psalms emphasise the interdependence of all parts of God's creation, and especially the unique role of humankind in the stewardship of the earth. Following on from the story of Noah, we continue to look at how the biblical theme of creation becomes intertwined with those of environmental disaster and of salvation.

The flood is an example of what might be called a de-creation story: God suspends the harmony of creation as a judgment on a faithless world; there is a correspondence between the moral and the natural, so that disharmony in the former has serious consequences in the latter. This is a theme frequently used by the prophets, and striking examples are found in Isaiah, especially chapter 24, where the earth is laid waste because the people "have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant." Other examples are found in Hosea (4.3) and Zephaniah (1.2-3).

Jeremiah (as one might expect) is especially rich in disasters and de-creation imagery. In chapter 4, for instance, we read: "I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all the towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger." Similar laments are found in chapters 9, 22 (where other nations are the agents of destruction) and 31, but the most explicit statement of the cause of God's anger is in chapter 5, where the prophet tells the people (v 25): "But your wrongdoing has upset nature's order, and your sins have kept you from her kindly gifts." A few verses later we find that the people's wrongdoing is that they refuse to do justice, the claims of the orphan they do not put right nor do they grant justice to the poor (NEB), emphasising the essential nature of justice as part of God's creation, the intended harmony or one-ness of the whole created order.

Thus, in the Old Testament, social injustice is seen as an indirect cause of environmental disaster, whereas today we are more inclined to see things the other way round: the disturbance of nature's order, such as by tsunamis, earthquakes, landslides and the like, leads to displacement and other injustices, often for the poorest of the world's people.



Even so, some of those disasters are themselves caused by human recklessness, so the pattern is: wrongdoing disaster injustice. Probably the most obvious example of this is climate change, to which all of us contribute to some extent, mainly by our over-use of carbon-based energy. But all sorts of lesser "sins" contribute to degradation of the environment and bad consequences for someone, somewhere. We shall look at examples of such issues and our own responsibilities, as individuals and as a church, in a future article.

In the meantime, let's turn to the good news! The linking of creation with salvation, or redemption, becomes a strong theme in the central section of the prophecy of Isaiah (chapters 40-55). These chapters are addressed to Israel at the time of their exile in Babylon, perhaps the most significant of God's



"punishments" in recorded Jewish history, and they foretell their eventual release from captivity—their salvation. The narrative is underwritten with creation imagery, notably for example in 45.18-22: "For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it—he says, "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is no other." All who raged against him will come to him and be put to shame. But in the Lord all the descendants of Israel will be found righteous and will exult." Even the doom-monger Jeremiah says in chapter 33: In the deserted places will be heard again the sounds of joy and gladness and the voices of those who bring thank-offerings to the house of the Lord, saying "Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures for ever."

Of the Isaiah passage, one writer says "the very use of such imagery implies an existing faith in a God who created and sustains the natural world. Without such a faith, Isaiah's promises of redemption would be incomprehensible." In other words, only a God with the power to create has the power to save.

How will salvation come? In the next article we will move on to the New Testament, the role of Jesus in creation as well as salvation, and the novel thoughts of Bishop James Jones on the subject.

Garth Raybould, Reader at Holy Trinity Church

April Services

The service at 10.30am each Sunday will be live streamed and the link is available on our website. Please note the service on **Zoom** and **LS** indicating live stream. Social distancing, face masks, the use of hand sanitiser and temperatures being checked are still our practice.

Palm Sunday

9am Eucharist

10.30am Eucharist – **L.S.**

12noon Children's Service - **Zoom**

6.30pm Special Palm Sunday Service - **Zoom**



Monday of Holy Week

10.30am to 11.30am - Church is open for private prayer

7.30pm Service Compline in church – **L.S.**

Tuesday of Holy Week

10.30am to 11.30am - Church is open for private prayer

7.30pm Service Compline in church – **L.S.**

Wednesday of Holy Week

11.00am Eucharist

7.30pm Service Compline in church – **L.S.**

Maundy Thursday

10.30am to 11.30am - Church is open for private prayer

7.30pm Eucharist - **L.S.** (no Vigil after the service this year)



Good Friday

2pm Hour By the Cross in church - **L.S.**

Easter Day

9am Eucharist

10.30am Eucharist – **L.S.**

6.30pm Easter Evensong - **Zoom**

Sunday 11th April

9am Eucharist

10.30am Eucharist – **L.S.**

No Evensong

Sunday 18th April

9am Eucharist

10.30am Eucharist – **L.S.**

6.30pm Evensong - **Zoom**

Sunday 25th April

9am Eucharist

10.30am Eucharist – **L.S.**

12noon Children's Haribo Service in Church

6.30pm Evensong - **Zoom**



The Eucharist will be held at 11am every Wednesday

‘And God Saw That It Was Good’

A Hymn of Joy to the Creator

*“Bless the Lord, my soul.
Lord my God, you are very great,
clothed in majesty and splendour,
and enfolded in a robe of light.
You have spread out the heavens like a tent,
and laid the beams of your dwelling on the waters;
you take the clouds for your chariot, riding on the wings of the wind;
you make the winds your messengers,
flames of fire your servants.” (REB)*

How many of us have not imagined a breath-takingly fast chariot ride over the clouds on the wings of the wind? The vintage film *‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang’* might come to mind or *Vol De Nuit* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (also the writer of *Le Petit Prince*) who vividly describes the excitement of solo flying and acrobatics in the sky.

This long paean of praise in 35 verses, which is Psalm 104, follows the sequence of Genesis 1 and is part of a group of about 30 psalms inviting the listener or reader to engage in joyous gratitude to God who fashioned for us an amazing creation, alive with life and colour. Cue David Dimbleby’s outstanding collection of nature films.

After all God made us to praise. C S Lewis pointed out that praise not merely expresses, but completes such delight. *“It is not out of compliment that lovers keep on telling one another how beautiful they are; delight is incomplete till it is expressed”*. How much more enjoyable it is to contemplate with someone else, let us say, the sea, from the coastline at Formby, glittering in the sunlight,

*‘with its vast expanses teeming with countless creatures
creatures both great and small’ (JB)*

In the 1880s the tomb of Akhenaten, his wife Nefertiti and the royal children, was discovered in the ruins of Amarna in Upper Egypt. It had been hewn out of rock. On one wall of the tomb there was a hymn/ poem to the Sun God, Aten. The memory of this pharaoh, Akhenaten, had gradually been erased from Egyptian history because he believed and thus also wished his subjects to believe in this one god alone and they did not.

So what a surprise it was for 19th century archaeologists to find a poem so like psalm 104 that several textual uncertainties in this psalm could now be solved! Obviously some psalms could be yet more ancient even than had previously been thought and had, perhaps, been drawn from a variety of very ancient middle eastern oral traditions.



For me, this makes the poem all the more moving, as I am reminded that the sense of wonder at the creation of our universe by God is the same for all his creatures right across time and culture since He first brought Adam and Eve into being at humanity's birth.

*“From your high halls you water the mountains;
satisfying the earth with the fruit of your works:
for cattle you make the grass grow,
and for people the plants they need,
to bring forth food from the earth,
and wine to cheer people’s hearts
oil to make their faces glow,
food to make them sturdy of heart.” (JB)*

*REB - Revised English Bible
JB - Jerusalem Bible

Jane Pitts

Below are reflections of one parent during lockdown.

HERE WE ARE

The pandemic lockdown has a familiar feeling for my family. Go back to early summer in 2013, and we were in our own intense bubble after we'd adopted two young children, having been rightly advised to leave introductions to friends and family for a good six weeks. It was so we could bond with our two little boys. Photos from the time show blue skies, bright sunshine and two very gaunt parents, earnestly trying to create a relationship from scratch with their sons. We enthusiastically tried to create a playful bond whilst attempting to maintain boundaries for two boys who had experienced yet another major change in their relatively short lives.

We remember it now as being the most intense and exhausting six weeks of our lives, as all our usual support networks kept away. That feeling of being on your own felt unnatural then, and it feels unnatural now. Modern family life isn't built around two adults and two children being endlessly cooped up together 24/7, broadly regurgitating the same conversations over and over again.

So when we went into the real lockdown I vowed I would do some things differently. I promised myself that I would get my feelings down on paper so I'd get some perspective, remember the good moments, and mark how much progress we've made in our lockdown life.

Lockdowns coming and going and tides shifting aren't the firmest of bedrocks for any child. But a lack of consistency is exceptionally difficult for kids who've already witnessed a lot of change in their young lives and who thrive on certainty. The narrative on the first lockdown was easier to explain, with the rituals of Clap for Carers and the discovery of secret BMX tracks in the local woods. It was fresh territory, and the kids initially spoke about an exciting new adventure, largely as a result of their screen time soaring. This time it's so much harder to sell....

Our adopted sons both have additional needs. One is supposed to be at a therapeutic, 38 week a year residential school, whose re-opening has been delayed because they hadn't got the necessary mass-testing kits. He's amazing, super-bright and mostly funny. He had a really tough start to life, and he's still working through the legacy of neglect, trauma and multiple separations. I won't go into the details, because it's his story not mine, but I get deeply frustrated when people say trite, well-intentioned phrases like "all you need is love" and "he won't remember what happened." Those kinds of comments (which I've even heard from professionals) minimise the impact of trauma on the brain's development in those early years. His behaviour at his school has nose-dived as the team's carefully constructed plans have understandably changed at the last minute due to Covid 19. The police have been called out twice because, as a primary-age pupil, he has run off the school site for two hours at a time. He walked for miles and miles in a state of high anxiety and deep, deep anger.

If I could sum it up in a (simplistic) sentence, I'd say he has a hard wired, fatalistic view that everything in the world will go bad, and that adults will let him down.

Sadly they have on far too many occasions. He hates feeling a lack of control and when he feels like that, he freaks out. A big part of our job is to make sure we bring as much certainty into his world as possible, so he feels more secure. Coronavirus has pushed him back to old patterns of behaviour, when he just wanted to have some care free times with his mates. But here's the bit where I clock the progress and write it down to show how far we've come.

At home during the first lockdowns, he has come into his own and shown a new found ability to reflect. He has allowed himself to show emotions, and has started to express empathy. He even shed some tears during the sad scene of a film – trust me, this is monumental progress. To say we're proud of our son during lockdown is an understatement. These are massive milestones for a boy who had erected huge defences for fear of being let down by adults, and of being hurt again. Our son has concluded that Coronavirus sucks but has also summarised that we've not left him – we're still here for him and that is progress.

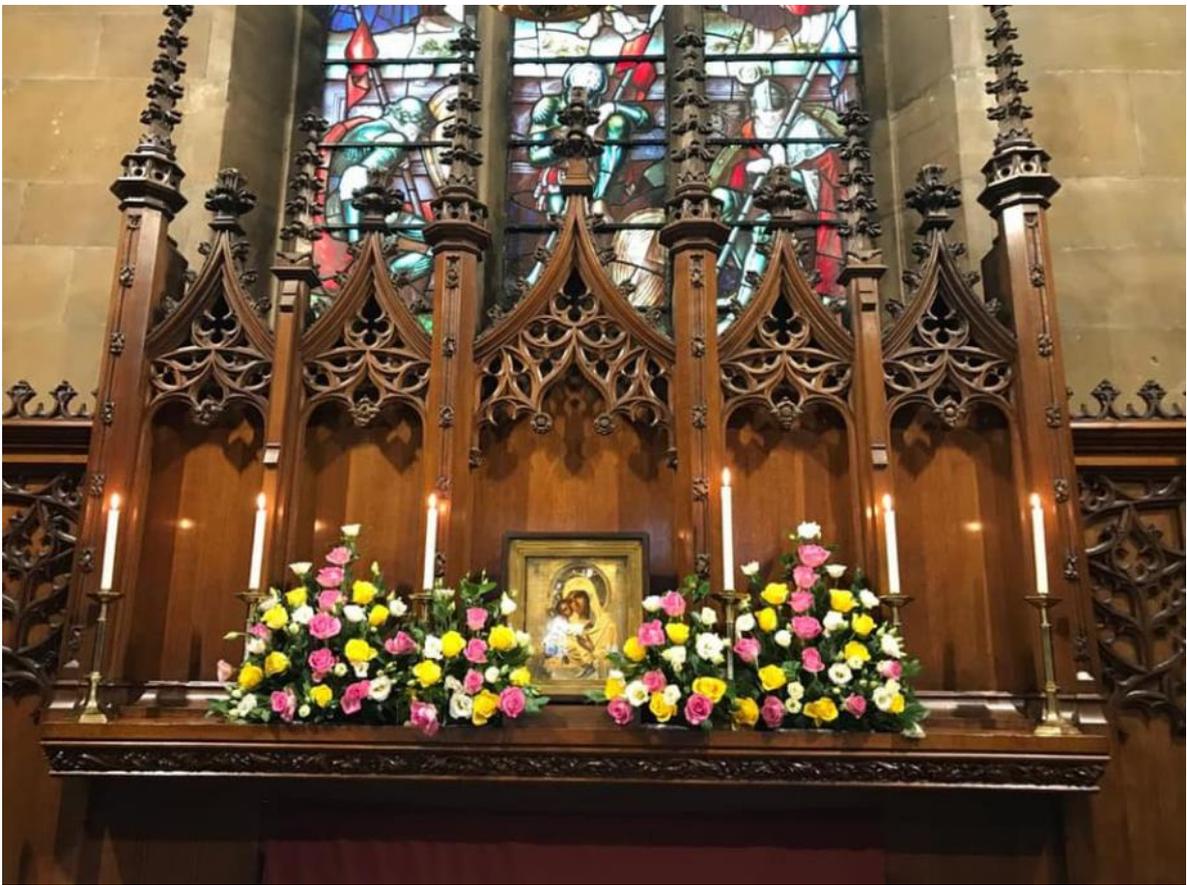
My other son's teacher has Covid, and his teaching assistant has been self isolating, so he has been off for the last few days. He has an Education Health Care Plan because of his additional needs, so under the guidelines he has a place at school. Who has and hasn't got a place is the subject of much discussion in parent WhatsApp groups across the country. In my neighbourhood there's apparent outrage that one medical front line worker hasn't got a place for her child, whilst an assertive, highly articulate parent has.

The reality is that we're not privy to what is going on in people's lives. Those who are sending their kids to school feel almost guilty for accepting the offer. A friend texts me, agonising over whether she has done the right thing sending her child into school (their daughter is classified as vulnerable). I tell her I have no guilt, but I'm not being honest with myself and feel apologetic for being too perky in the playground when dropping my son off. My own guilt somewhat eases when I clock my son's anxiety levels. They're best demonstrated during his 'going to bed' routine. If we're near him as he drifts off to sleep then he'll go out like a light. Sometimes one of us will work in the next room, making a bit of noise, so that he can hear our presence. Sometimes we'll lie next to him, where he'll rest his hand on our backs to check we're there, as he drifts off to sleep. If we go downstairs, then we can hear the pitter patter of little feet and a 'secret' attempt to establish our exact location in the house.

It's such a cliché, but we're just getting through this day by day. Taking comfort that so many people are counting down the weeks till Spring when we get outside more, when hopefully lockdown will be relaxed a little, when the vaccines start to change things. Maybe these lockdowns have brought us closer together. Maybe a simpler life, featuring more family time, will have driven home the message that we're not going anywhere, that we're here for the long haul.

Maybe this lockdown will be a blessing after all.

-o-o-0-o-o-



*Beautiful altar flowers on Mothering Sunday.
We gave thanks for mothers and those who have supported and
cared for us in this past year.*



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Mothers' UNION

It is with great sadness that we recently heard of the death of one of our longest serving M U members and as a tribute to her I would like all members to read a letter from Liz and Ken Ward, which indicates just how much Myra loved and served St Peter's over many years.

The letter is shown in full on our website www.stpetersformby.co.uk

Trusting you all keep safe during this difficult and trying time which hopefully will be over in the not too distant future.

Jean and Herbert



Mothers' Union Prayer

Personal Daily Prayer of Mary Sumner

All this day, O Lord, let me touch
as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by
thy spirit quicken, whether through
the word I speak, the prayer I
breathe, or the life I live. *Amen*

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely
given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union
as we seek to share your love through
the encouragement, strengthening and
support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be
united in prayer and worship, and in
love and service reach out as your hands
across the world.

In Jesus' name. Amen

CLOTHING FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

We will take to Liverpool whatever clothing has been collected in the Parish Hall store soon after the 5th April. If anyone has good quality adult clothing for men or women and would like to donate it please either take it to the Parish Office at the Parish Hall on Paradise Lane or if you'd like it collected please contact Peter on 01704 809517 or peterspaine@gmail.com by April 4th (Easter Day).

We would be most grateful for any contributions.

Thank you, Peter Paine.

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Bible Jokes

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark? Because Noah was standing on the deck.
 What time of day was Adam created? A little before Eve.
 What kind of car did the disciples drive? A Honda - it says there were all in one accord.
 How does Paul make his coffee? Hebrews it.
 Who was the shortest man in the Bible? Nehemiah (knee-high-miah).

The Easter of the Bible

The true meaning of Easter is all about celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his death on the cross, providing salvation to any who will trust in Him. Read the whole story in chapters 19 and 20 of the Gospel of John.

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 M O S N R O H T F O N W O R C
 L N N P D Z J C B R M R K L W
 J M T D Y M I R A C L E C T M
 R K V J J B K K Z B R D R P H
 E S T T Z B C B P T D E Y Z N
 T L N L H K K F W C N M F O T
 A F C A X K B Z N W V P I B H
 L Q H T M S W E J N N T C C I
 I K O L R O J K O K A I U H E
 P M P R T E R I H R D O R U V
 S G E N S C T G B F B N C R E
 U S O U O A H E N R P C T C S
 I E S O V I L R I I R Z Q H Q
 T L L L D E X S I O K V Y B B
 N T A V C F E I S S G O D N M
 O S L S D N R S F R T V T R A
 P O W W A L Q I P I L I N B L
 C P M M K V H Q D R C K A V R
 M A R R K T I L N A A U R N X
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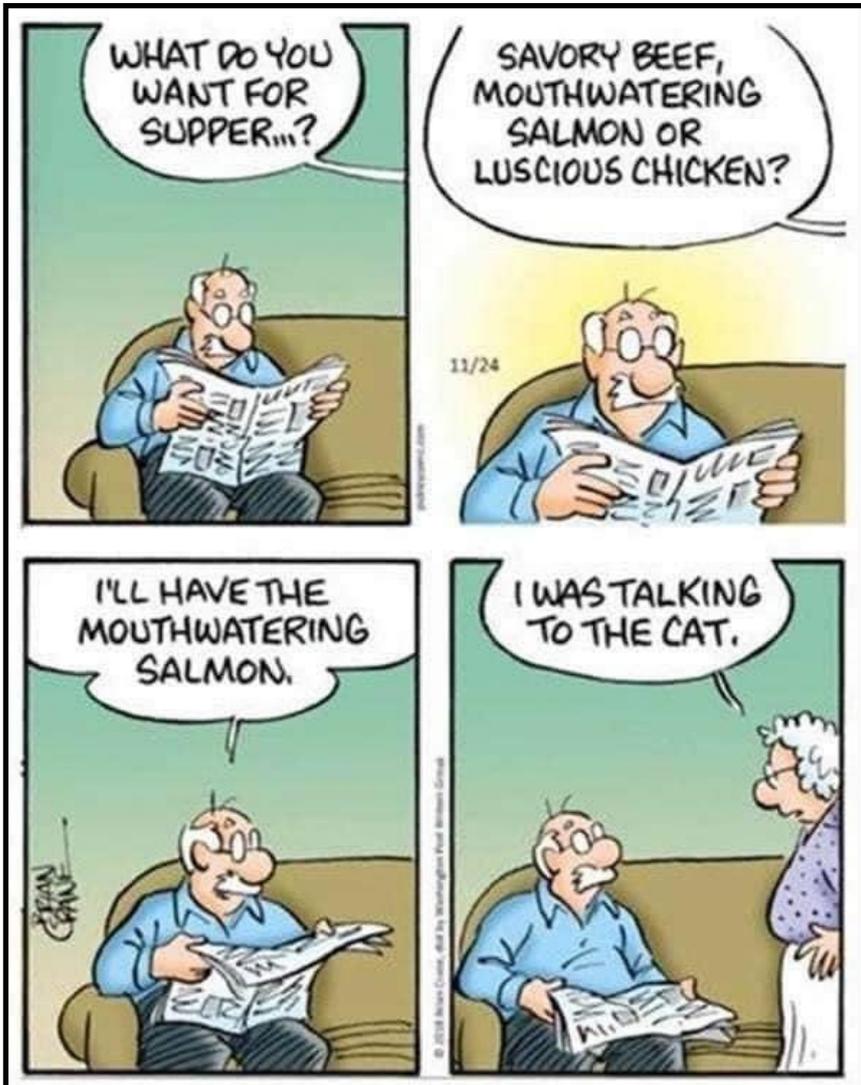
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 GOD
 GOOD FRIDAY
 HOPE
 JESUS
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 PONTIUS PILATE
 PRAYER
 REDEMPTION
 RESURRECTION
 RISEN
 ROMANS
 SACRIFICE
 SALVATION
 SAVIOR
 THIEVES



The word queue is ironic. It's just a 'q' with a bunch of silent letters, waiting in a line.

"Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow Internet to see who they really are."

I relabeled all of the jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet....but the thyme is cumin.



REDUCE – REUSE - RECYCLE

It may be worth spending a little time thinking about handwash, shower gel, floor cleaner, laundry liquid, fabric softener, oven cleaner and other cleaning materials that come in handy ready-to-use containers that you throw away when they are empty. Internet shopping allows us to buy and have delivered just about anything including bulk quantities and dispensers for the aforementioned liquids. You can save money and put much less plastic into the environment. Let me give you an example on handwash.

Handwash has replaced soap in most households, it is so convenient, with a wide choice and you don't get of that slimy soap residue in the soap dish. But most soap is still packaged in cardboard so perhaps back to the future is the way. If you can't see your way clear back to soap, then how about buying handwash in 5 litre containers online? You may not be able to get your exact brand or fragrance, but I am sure you can get close. We use Carex which is readily available online, cheaper in bulk. You can refill the dispensers in your bathroom about 20 times from the plastic 5L container which weighs 150g empty. The little dispensers weigh 50g empty, so for each 5L container you throw away 850g less ($50 \times 20 - 150$) plastic. That is a reduction of 85%. You can get pumps very cheaply for the 5L containers that will fill your small dispensers without mess. We have our 5L containers in the utility room but they could go in a cupboard or garage. If the small dispensers fail, you can get replacement pumps or buy ceramic dispensers to compliment your décor. We have been doing this for over 3 years now.

You might argue that small dispensers say they are recyclable, but recycling uses a lot of energy and does not always happen as we all know only too well. Much better to stop generating the plastic packaging in the first place. One 150g 5L container has no metal in it and only two types of plastic (lid and body which can be easily separated), whereas the small dispensers have at least 3 types of plastic and metal spring which all have to be separated.

We have done the same thing with laundry detergent by getting 25L at half the supermarket price online (Ok, so no brand name) in a container weighing 1,000g. This replaces 2,200g ($\sim 13 \times 166$ g) of plastic from the supermarket containers, a reduction of 55%. We just refill the normal 1.9L container and use as normal.

Reductions can be made in so many areas without sacrificing convenience and it all adds up. Of course, it is a bit more effort but surely it is worth it? But that is a decision we must all make about almost everything we do if we are to make a difference.

Bill Gates has recently said that COVID is simple to overcome compared with climate change, but what does he know?

Mark Andrews



Church Flowers

Many people have special days in the year which they commemorate and flowers on the altar of St Peter's Church can fittingly mark the special event.

We invite you to remember your family and friends with a donation towards our Church flowers. Suggested donation is £20. The occasion would also be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Please first contact the Parish Office on 871171 for more details and to reserve your date.

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EMAIL DIRECTORY We have a parish email directory which is used once or twice a month to send out dates for the month and also when a special event is coming up. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send an email to ***office@stpetersformby.co.uk***.

This is a way to help us keep in touch.

Email addresses will be used only by St Peter's.



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

TAXING MATTERS AT EASTER

When I was a curate I had a boss, who as well as being a really good vicar, was also a very practical person. Maybe the two go together!

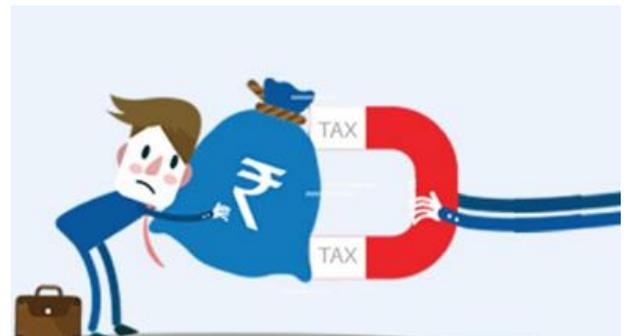
I remember him telling me, when I had some impractical flight of fancy about what we should be doing, “Just remember, Christianity is an incarnational faith.” He kept me grounded and rooted in reality and reminded me that religion has as much to do with the ‘here and now’ as with the ‘then and there’.

I thought of this recently when my desk calendar informed me that the first British tax based solely on earnings was introduced in 1799. The rate then was two shillings in the pound – 10% - and it was levied so that the country could mount a military campaign against Napoleon. It was rescinded in 1815 when Napoleon lost the battle of Waterloo, and income tax was not reimposed until late in the 19th century.

There were taxes before then, e.g., the “hearth tax” from 1662 to 1689, also known as chimney money, by which householders were assessed for tax on how many fireplaces they had in their homes. A few years later, in 1685, the first of several window taxes was introduced, which led to owners bricking up windows to reduce the amount they had to pay in tax.

There were also attempts to tax people on timepieces and wigs, but these proved unpopular and were-short lived.

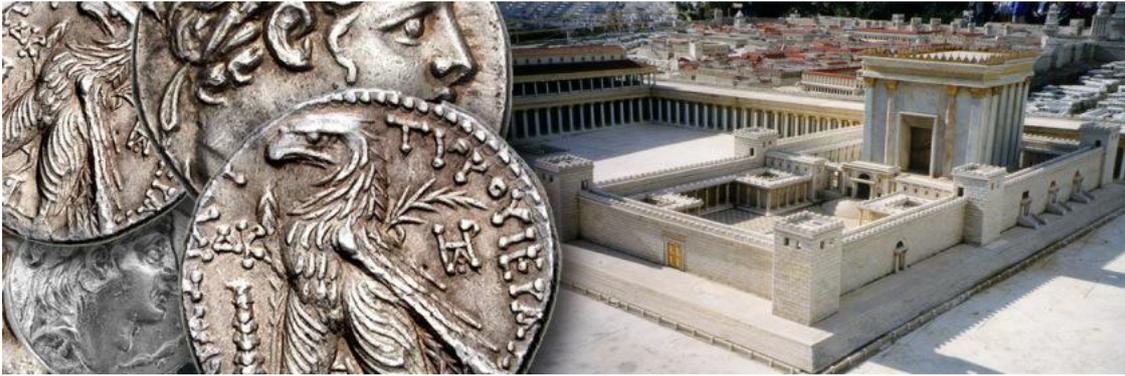
As the tax year ends on 5th April, which happens to be Easter Monday this year, perhaps the subject of tax is not inappropriate for this month’s magazine.



That’s not a very religious thing to be writing about, you might think! But actually, it is, if we take seriously what both Jesus and St Paul have said.

Both took an incarnational approach to Christianity. Not only did Jesus represent God in human form (the Incarnation), he also declared “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21). St Paul, in his letter to the Romans, tells his readers that it is part of their Christian duty to pay their taxes to the authorities. (Romans 13: 1- 7)

It doesn't make for very comfortable reading, it has to be admitted. No one likes paying tax. But Christianity isn't just about 'pie in the sky when you die,' it's about the practical and even taxing matters of daily living.



The late Rabbi Lionel Blue said that in some synagogues he visited, booklets were provided in pews for worshippers to browse before the service started. Here's what he saw in one of these booklets, "If you think about your business while at service, will you think about God while at your business?!"

At Easter, we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus which assures us that death is not the end, but that life continues on in the nearer presence of God. But the Easter season, falling this year at the end of the tax year, reminds us that life also continues on in the 'here and now.' Christians have a dual citizenship – of heaven and of earth – and both have their responsibilities.

A former Dean of Liverpool, Edward Patey, wrote, "Political responsibility should be part of every Christian lifestyle." And that, painfully, includes paying our taxes.

I say "painfully" because for the last three years I have been trying to sort out where I should be paying income tax. Do I pay it in the Republic of Ireland from where my pension comes, or in the UK where I now live? The clergy tax man told me three years ago I should have been paying tax here since coming to live here! With his help and that of my daughter-in-law who is an accountant and deals with tax, I have finally become a tax resident in the UK! The refunds of Irish tax for the past six years have been paid, without interest, and the UK tax liabilities for the past six years have been paid, with interest!

And if that isn't a test of faith, I don't know what is!

From the Church Registers

Funerals

16th March Valerie Seddon

29th March Jean Scott

30th March Jean Douce

Interment of Ashes

25th March Joyce Furnivall



The funeral service sheets can be viewed on the parish website in the section marked Funeral Services.

Our services remain open during the UK Coronavirus lockdown. You are not alone.

We know if you're scared of your partner, contacting us may be harder than normal. If safer, we can call you back on a trusted friend or family member's number at a specific time and use a code word.



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Contacts at St Peter's

(01704)

Vicar	Revd Anne Taylor, St Peter's Vicarage	872824
Curate	Revd Simon Macaulay	
Wardens	Paul McHenry Sarah Gorman	
Parish Office	St Peter's Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH (opposite Trinity St Peter's School) Open Monday to Friday 10am to 12noon Sonia Greenyer Caroline Speakman	871171
Stewardship	Mike Fletcher	
Director of Music	David Holroyd	
Treasurer	Irvine Rawcliffe	
PCC Sec.	Anne Cotsworth	
Trinity St Peter's School	Headteacher - Debbie Pringle www.trinitystpeters.org	
Magazine Team		
Editors	Rod and Sue Jacques David Manning-Fox Alison Whiffing	
	Distribution and Advertising Vacant	

**For further details please refer to our website:
www.stpetersformby.co.uk**

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with the stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbours
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hope to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

| - Laura Kelly Fanucci |

See centre pages for details of Services in April

St Peter's Church
Green Lane
Formby
L37 7DL

