

*Blessing our community in the name of Jesus
for the transformation of all.*

We are of the community for the good of the community

*As we walk the road this morning, Lord, I thank you for the day.
For my life, my friends, my family.
For the children as they play as we pass the school, and hear the
bell.*

*I thank teachers for their wisdom
For all who care for others on earth, I see the trees, the flowers,
the sky*

*My soul cries out How great Thou art Creator God, My Lord
We pass the village library, thank you for volunteers who give of
their time so freely each day and through the years*

*We pass some people standing in a queue that is never ending
Thank you God for Food Share - Bless the families that are
struggling*

*Each step I take beside you lord I praise you for your goodness
I know you walk beside me but I see you everywhere*

*In the children, in the teachers, in the people standing there
Oh Lord you are my lamp. You turn darkness into light*

You are both with me and within me

You have called me to walk with you along the way of peace

*Help me to enjoy the peace of your presence in tough times and in
good*

You push back darkness with your invincible light

This is how you turn my darkness into light

Pauline Wilcox

Magazine Information

Dear Magazine Subscribers.
Please submit any information,
articles, poems, pictures etc. for:

APRIL MAGAZINE

by

Monday 18th March

*** The magazines will be ready to collect from Sat 30th March ***

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YOUR LAST REMINDER! INFORMATION re PARISH MAGAZINE FOR 2024

If you haven't had the opportunity to pay your subscription yet :
Please note the following points:

Subscriptions of £12 is due for collection, which your distributor will collect in the next few weeks. BUT, as I am sure you all know, paying cash into a bank in Whickham, has become seriously difficult! So the Treasurer would be really grateful if you are able, to pay directly into the PCC Account by Bank transfer:-

Acc.name: St Mary the Virgin.

Sort code: 20-59-61 **Acc. No.** 00782971

Reference: MAG followed by the 1st line of your address.

It is important that MAG is included in the reference so that the subscriptions can readily identified on the bank statements.

If you would prefer to receive an email copy rather than a printed version, please inform annelindsley1@gmail.com. as soon as possible. The subscription cost is the same!

Dear Friends, in Peter's second letter (2 Peter 1:16-end) we are told 'we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ'

With all religions, there can be a tendency to institutionalise and control their particular faith by the authority of their organisation and its members. Of course, this protects conformity and ensures orthodoxy. This of course can be true of Christianity. Yet, what makes Jesus Christ different is that he wasn't, and cannot be, easily contained. He comes to us all. Throughout the centuries he has continued to touch people at the deepest part of their being. People have witnessed and told their stories, sharing them with one another, witnessing to how he had changed their lives, in so many and different ways! For example, Peter points to the words given on the mountain at Jesus' Transfiguration; Peter, James and John heard them as the Father gave witness to his Son. 'This is my Son, he said, the Beloved with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.'

Eye witness accounts are powerful because the people who experience them are totally convinced, they know the truth and have no doubt; and they tell others! Even today, we stand in continuity with scripture and tradition, but that alone is not what makes us witnesses to Jesus. We maybe separated by the distance of time, new thinking, new discoveries and changing cultures and perceptions that challenge not just Christianity but all Faiths. But the one thing that keeps us believing, is that we know Christ still comes to us and shares our lives. Like the early disciples we feel his presence, the wonder of his love, and therefore know through experience the truth that he is alive. Like barristers in legal cases and academics in the pursuit of knowledge, we seek best evidence, first class witnesses, and those with personal experience who can further the enquiry.

What I mean is that though we are not primary witnesses as were Peter, James and John ... we have, nevertheless experienced Jesus in our lives. I believe that most of us have felt God's love in some unique way. We have personal experience that enables us to make sense of what we find in scripture and it is powerfully convincing and sustains us in our Faith. We find then, prophetic testimony of the past, confirmed in our lives as we are moved by personal experience toward certainty.

I do not expect God's people to profess a Christian Faith simply because we are told to, or have seen scripture only as a matter of personal interpretation, but rather that having been grounded in Christ we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, because no true prophecy ever came by human will, but through God himself.


The truth of our witness is made known to us by our experience of God. However small or great, the moment of your experience of God, has made you a true witness able to testify and to share it with others. These things you know are true, but paradoxically cannot be considered fact to the world. But don't hesitate to share the truth of your own story because there is nothing more powerful than the testimony of those who know and experience God in their lives.

He is Risen! Happy Easter! Fr Barry

CALENDAR OF SERVICES AND EVENTS IN MARCH 2024		
Sunday 3rd March 2024 3 rd Sunday of Lent	8am Holy Communion 10am Sung Eucharist 3pm Gibside Choral Evensong	Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25 John 2.13-22
Monday 4th March 2024	1.30pm Group 67	St Mary's Centre
Wednesday 6th March 2024	10am Holy Communion	
Saturday 9th March 2024	11am Baptisms	
Sunday 10th March 2024 Mothering Sunday	10.00am Sung Eucharist	TBC
Monday 11th March 2024	1.30pm Mothers' Union	IN THE CENTRE
Wednesday 13th March 2024	10am Holy Communion	
Sunday 17th March 2024 5 th Sunday of Lent	8am Holy Communion 10am Sung Eucharist	Jeremiah 31.31-34 Hebrews 5.5-10 John 12.20-33
Wednesday 20th March 2024	10am Holy Communion	
Saturday 23rd March 2024	11am Baptisms	
Sunday 24th March 2024 Palm Sunday	10am Sung Eucharist 3pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 50.4-9a Philippians 2.5-11 Mark 14.1-15 or Mark 15.1-39 Isaiah 5.1-7 Mark 12.1-12
Wednesday 27th March 2024	10am Holy Communion	
Thursday 28th March 2024 Maundy Thursday	7pm Eucharist of the Lord's Supper	
Friday 29th March 2024 Good Friday	12-2pm Music for Reflection 2pm Good Friday Liturgy	
Saturday 30th March 2024 Holy Saturday	No Services	
Sunday 31st March 2024 Easter Day	<u>10 30am</u> Sung Eucharist	Acts 10.34-43 1 Corinthians 15.1-11 John 20.1-18 or Mark 16.1-8

Meetings

March 4th Group 67 at 1 30pm in St Marys Centre , when a town guide will be talking about famous women of Newcastle. As both April 1st and May 6th are Bank Holidays, March 4th will be the last meeting until June so please make every effort to attend. We would love to see any new people who can make it. Just turn up at St Marys Centre – a warm welcome awaits you. Further details from 0191 4881613

March 11th  Mothers Union will meet at 1 30pm **in the Centre**, for the service, then a meeting , followed by a talk about FACT – Fighting all Cancers Together.

MOTHERING SUNDAY March 10th

Thanking two kinds of Mother

Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the day for honouring our Mother Church, and has been celebrated since the Middle Ages.

Mother's Day is an annual day to honour our mothers, and it began in America in May 1907.

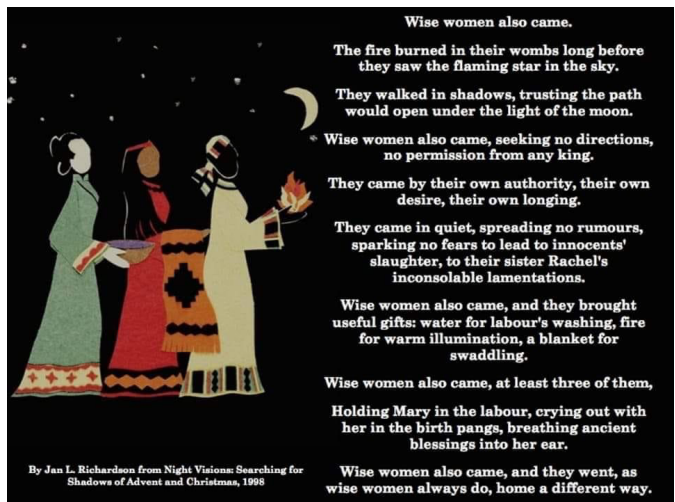
In the US, Canada, Australia and Mexico, Mother's Day is still held in May. In Britain, Mothers' Day is held on Mothering Sunday, so the two days are often merged in people's minds.

If you ask Google for ideas of how to be nice to your church on that day, you won't find much. But if you want to

be kind to your mother that day, you will be spoilt for choice. High on all the lists are suggestions for taking her to lunch, giving flowers, a card, or paying for her to have a day

doing something she loves.

Whatever you choose to do, probably the best thing to give your mother must surely be yourself: some time and some love. Remind her of the funny and touching stories of your childhood and thank her for all the things that she did for you. Give her some good company and show her some



gratitude. Let her know that you love her and appreciate her.

Remember that the Commandment 'Honour thy father and mother' was the first commandment that came with a promise of blessing on you, if you obey.

This Mothering Sunday, could you give the Gift of Dignity?

The Mothers' Union has launched '**Make A Mother's Day**', its annual Mothering Sunday fundraising campaign. It hopes to raise funds to support the MU's global community projects, which "transform lives every day."

The MU says: "We know how important mothers, caregivers and grandmothers are, and how much they do to help their children, families and communities thrive, often unnoticed and without thanks."

And so, for Mothering Sunday (10th March) the MU is asking people to buy a 'Gift of Dignity', to help empower women in developing countries to transform their lives, and to reach their full potential. "When buying these life-changing gifts, you will receive a card that explains your gift along with a Mothering Sunday greetings card, which you can give to a loved one. You are also able to give a gift in memory of someone special.

If you would like to support this excellent campaign, as do all the members of St Mary's MU – please get in touch with:

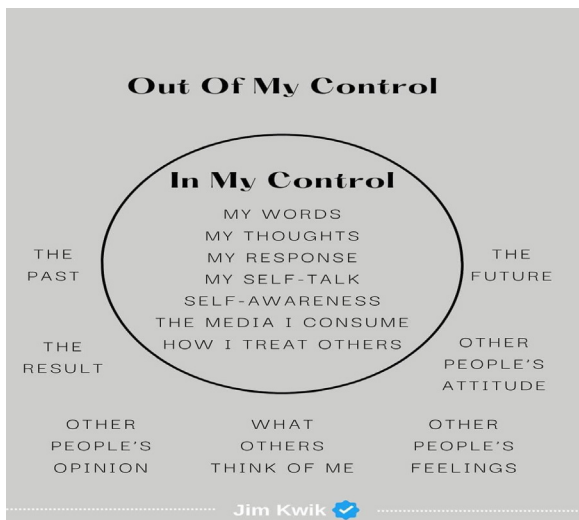
Jacqui Hewison 07837259039 aghewison@hotmail.com

PALM SUNDAY, Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Congratulations to Vera and Alec Boyd who celebrated their 65th Wedding anniversary on February 9th. Many many *congratulations* from us all.



Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet. Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time.

Before He ate the meal Jesus shocked His disciples by washing their feet. He did this as an example to them that they should serve others with humility.

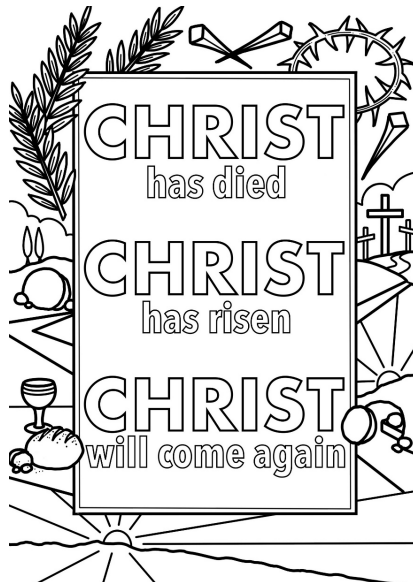
And then Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

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 9 a.m. 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 3 pm 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.

EASTER SUNDAY



SMILE LINES



Palm Sunday visit It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.

Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

Violets? When my husband was six years old, he thought the creed included the line: "He suffered under a bunch of violets." It took him years before he realised that he should have been saying: "under Pontius Pilate."

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Destination? Lenora, 95-years-old and in excellent health, confided that she was terribly worried: "Every one of my friends has already died and gone on to heaven. I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went!"

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Mother's reward A man was decorating his new den and decided it was a good place to display all the awards he and his two sons had won at various athletic competitions. When he had filled two whole

walls, he remarked to his wife that it was a shame she had no awards to contribute.

The following day, she produced, neatly framed, the birth certificates of their two sons, and added them to the display.

Mothers and teenagers A woman was confiding in her neighbour just how hard it was for her to get her teenagers out of bed in the morning. The neighbour replied that she never had any trouble at all with her son. "I just open the door and throw the cat on the bed," she explained. The woman was puzzled, and asked how that might help. "Easy. My son sleeps with the dog."

Flight time A couple going on holiday for Easter were amazed when the airplane pilot came on and advised the passengers that he had lost his way. He explained that the radar was not working, the radio beam could not be picked up, and the compass had broken. "But," he added soothingly, "you will be glad to know that we are making very good time."

Noah had problems, too When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you.
For 40 days he drove the Ark
before he found a place to park.

Hard to find Curate's wife: I'd like to open a joint account.
Bank staff: With your husband?
Curate's wife: Heavens, no. With someone who has some money!

St Patrick's Day groaners

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun? Because they're always a little short.

How can you tell if an Irishman is having a good time? He's Dublin over with laughter!

"I married an Irishman on St Patrick's Day." "Oh, really?" "No, O'Reilly!"

Pew sheet notice that went wrong.... This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Moses and climate change When Moses went up the mountain one day to meet with God, the Lord said he had both good news and bad news for him. Moses asked, "What's the good news?"

God replies, "Moses, I shall visit plagues upon the Egyptians. I shall cause their rivers to run red with blood. I shall cause frogs to infest their houses, and lice to infest their bodies. I shall cause flies to swarm upon them. Their cattle shall die; boils will infect both man and beast. I shall cause hail to destroy their crops; and locusts shall devour anything green that is left in their land. Darkness will cover their land for three days and nights. I shall then lead you through the wilderness as a pillar of cloud by day, and pillar of fire by night. I shall split the waters of the sea. I shall feed you with Manna that forms upon the ground until the children of Israel reach the Land flowing with milk and honey."

Moses replied, "That's GREAT, Lord! What could possibly be the bad news?"

"You, Moses, shall write the Environmental Impact Statement.

Expensive boat A vicar was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when he found it would cost him £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. He protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. "That might be true," replied the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked."

"Well, at £50 an hour for a boat, I am not surprised!"

CHOIR PRACTICE 10 COMMANDMENTS

1. THOU SHALT HONOR THE WEEKLY PRACTICE TIME.
2. THOU SHALT BRING THY MUSIC AND THY WATER.
3. REMEMBER THE VOCAL WARM-UP, TO KEEP THY VOICE.
4. THOU SHALT LOOK UP SOMETIMES FROM THE MUSIC.



5. THOU SHALT AT LEAST GLANCE AT THE DIRECTOR.
6. THOU SHALT NOT AUDIBLY CURSE THE ANTHEM CHOICE.
7. THOU SHALT NOT CHAT WHILE THE BASSES REHEARSE.
8. THOU SHALT KEEP TRACK OF THE CURRENT PAGE NUMBER
9. THOU SHALT NOT BLAME THE ALTOS
10. THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S PENCIL

**Please will you save your used postage stamps
for Anne Lindsley. Either through her letterbox
or in the box on the table at the back of church.**

Many thanks.



AND GOD CREATED MOTHERS

When the good Lord was creating mothers he was into his 6th day of overtime when an angel appeared and said " You are doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And the lord said, "Have you read the specifications on this order? She has to be completely washable but not plastic....have 180 movable parts, all replaceable... run on black coffee and left overs...have a lap that disappears when she stands up...a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair and six pair of hands".

The angel shook her head slowly and said, " six pair of hands? No way".

"It's not the hands that are causing me problem" said the Lord. "It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have".

"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.

The Lord nodded, One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, "what are the children in there?" when she already knows.

Another in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know. And, of course, the one in front that can look at a child when he gets himself into trouble and say "I understand and love you" without so much as uttering a word.

"Lord", said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "go to bed, tomorrow is another...."

"I can't" said the lord, "I'm so close now. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of 6 on 1lb of mince and can get a 9 year old to have a bath".

The angel circled the model of the mother very slowly. "It's too soft" she sighed.

"But tough" said the LORD EXCITEDLY. "You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure".

"Can it think?"

"Not only think, but it can reason and compromise " said the Lord.

Finally the angel bent over and ran a finger across the cheek.

"There's a leak" said the angel.

"It's a tear".

"What's it for?"

It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride".

"You are a genius" said the angel.

The Lord looked sombre. "I didn't put it there"

Holy Week and Easter 2024

St Mary's Parish Church Whickham

Palm Sunday 24 March

10am Parish Communion & Blessing of the Palms

3pm Tenebrae

Tenebrae has deep spiritual and biblical meaning. The candles and darkness urge believers to meditate on Christ's sacrificial death. The service invites us to reflect on Christ and what he did for all on Good Friday.

10am Wednesday

27 March Holy Eucharist

7pm Maundy Thursday

28 March Holy Eucharist

and Washing of Feet.

A vigil continues until 9pm

Good Friday 29 March

12noon music for reflection (organ)

1pm The Cross of Christ (organ & choir)

2-3pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day 31 March

10.30am Sung Eucharist....'He is Risen!'

Holy Baptisms

February 21st
24th

Joseph Alistair Carr
Neve Sophia Kirton

Stannington
Whickham

"May he grow in the faith into which they have been baptised and come to confirmation"

Funerals

January	4 th	Peter Jeffrey Lane	76	Whickham
	10 th	Marjorie Smith	93	Whickham
	20 th	Jean Seager	85	Whickham
	25 th	Bill Brown	88	Whickham
	30 th	Mary Laidlaw	96	Swalwell
	31 st	Dick Lindsley	93	Whickham

