

Radcliffe Parish Church of St. Mary



Mar-Apr 2019

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Welcome

The months of March and April, herald a number of important dates, in the year's calendar not inclusive to the Christian church. For not only do they include Lent, Easter and Palm Sunday from the church calendar, they also include the spring or vernal equinox and Mothering Sunday.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and a service, which concludes with the congregation receiving the sign of the cross, marked on their foreheads with ashes, followed by a period of abstinence from certain pleasures for forty days. Which most of us start with good intentions but allow to fall by the wayside, usually well within this period. This is not necessarily a lack of faith but more a fallacy of human nature, as habits are hard to lose, once firmly established. Indeed, it is generally recognised that by the end of Lent on the evening of Holy Thursday, no matter how devout you are, your abstinence will have ended some time before.

Does that make you a bad person or a poor Christian, I would say not.

Within Lent we have the spring equinox this year on March 20th, when the hours in the day of darkness and light are equalized. As we can all take a sigh of relief and look forward to longer days and not necessarily straight away, warmer weather. We see the green shoots of new life poking their heads out of the dark sodden earth and trees bursting forth with greenery and if we're lucky the beautiful sight of blossom on the trees. We clear the debris from our flower beds and prepare the soil for the beautiful colours which will transform our gardens in the coming months.

March 31st, is Mothering Sunday, which within the United Kingdom, the church celebrates with a family service at which all can rejoice in their mothers, past and present and reflect on how they have shaped their lives and guided them to be, the people they are today and give thanks to God for them for bringing us into this world.

Palm Sunday is on 14th April, the day that we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, to the acclaim of the populace, who waved and threw palm leaves in his path. A euphoria which was sadly short lived. In the United Kingdom the ministers in our churches, bless palm crosses, which are then distributed to the congregation. They are taken home and adorn our homes as a reminder that Jesus died for us that all our sins would be forgiven.

Easter Sunday this year falls on 21st April, the day that Christians throughout the world celebrate the resurrection of Christ from death upon the cross. The most important day in the church calendar and the catalyst for the faith of 100's of millions of people across our planet. An opportunity for all Christians of which ever branch of Christianity, to examine and reaffirm their faith.

For others it is the opportunity to enjoy receiving and eating Easter eggs, a more modern tradition of Easter.

May we take this opportunity of wishing all mothers in our congregation and parish, a wonderful Mother's Day and a very happy Easter to all our readers.

Vicky and Peter.

BEALEYS FLORIST OF RADCLIFFE



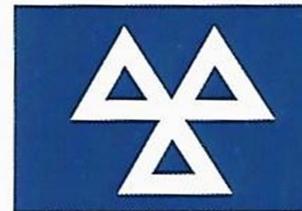
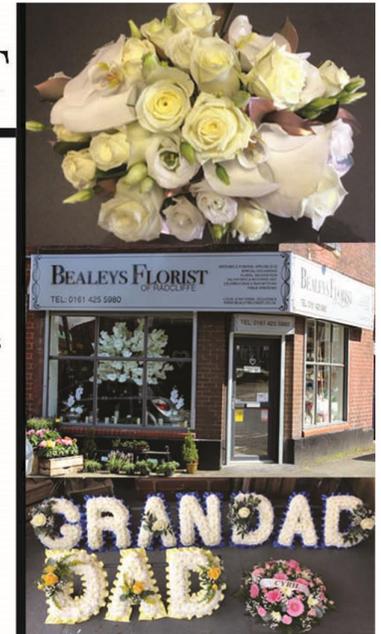
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Family Friendly Service

On the first Sunday of every month, St Mary's holds a Family Communion Service at 10.30am, at which children are encouraged to participate.

On February 3rd, the Service was officiated by Reverend Elaine Larkin, Curate of Christ Church, Ainsworth, who kindly agreed to take the service whilst St Mary's is without a vicar.

At the service, children are encouraged to join in and a number of musical instruments are available for children to play as an accompaniment to the sung hymns. If they do not want to join in, there is a children's area in a corner of the church, where there are children's colouring books and crayons and other books for them to read.

In past years, it was the custom to have church parade services at which the brownies, girl guides, cubs and scouts, walked to church bugles playing and drums beating, before presenting their flags at the altar. Sadly, this tradition is no more as these character-building packs and troops become less numerable.

The Family Friendly Service is open to all. We offer an invitation to all residents of Radcliffe Parish to come along and look forward to giving everyone a very warm welcome.



Kaitlyn Towers proudly carrying the Junior Church Banner



Kaitlyn playing her Xylophone

4th Annual Slipper Sunday Service January 27th

The Reverend Elizabeth Binns, The Radcliffe Team, Team Vicar, instigated Slipper Sunday in 2016.

For the last 3 years we have been wearing our slippers to church around about the last Sunday in January, to remind us that our church is also our home - the home made possible for us by the Father's love. As most Dad's, like putting their slippers on (at least when they get to a certain age). I think that he would approve of our light hearted but sincere recognition, of how we feel about our church family.

Below are some of our congregation in their outrageous slipper footwear, together with those not quite so daring and more conservative offerings.



Radcliffe Parish Church St. Mary & St. Bartholemew

Grey old church with Norman arches
Grey old stone that craftsmen worked
Think back to them when your mind searches
Glad of the task they never shirked

They cared enough to put their effort
Into a task they knew that showed
To Him to whom they gave support
How much to Him of life they owed

We seem to care for all the wrong things
Whilst the real things are put down
We are deaf and when the bell rings
Act stupid, like some poor, dim clown

People gone and people coming
We are the same as went before
Believing, caring, often erring
And sometimes, oftimes not quite sure

There will be a new awakening
For us all to know and share
A light will shine a brand new dawning
To bring us all to learn and care

And then that church will sound with singing
Full of folk glad they are there
And afterward when homeward winging
They will be glad that they're aware

Be sure of one thing and of no other
Be sure and also full of care
Be mindful, careful of your brother
And of God, who put you there

WAG's Noticeboard

WAGs are a group of women who meet once a month either for a social event or some kind of activity to help the community. It is a very relaxed fun group who are always looking for new members, there is no age limit.

Our next events:-

March 9th – ‘Twist & Shout’ at the Albert Halls Bolton
April 5th – Meal (venue to be confirmed)

GARDENING TIP



March

Feed and prune roses, prune early-flowering clematis once their flowers have finished and summer-flowering ones before they start into active growth

April

Plant summer-flowering bulbs such as lilies, gladioli and ranunculi into beds, borders and containers

The Wondrous Steam Age

When I was just a little boy,
The sight of them brought me so much joy.
The sound of a whistle, still quite distant,
quickenèd my heart beat in an instant.
Standing alone, in anticipation,
Of the wonderful feeling, of adulation
As over the top, of a distant brew
A magnificent beast came into view.
Red Indians, called them the Iron Horse,
As they hurtled towards them, with unstoppable force.
To me, it was just a memorable sight,
As it emerged out of a tunnel, into the light.
Thundering towards me, with all of its might,
As I jumped up and down and whooped with delight.
And now all these years later, because of a few.
Dedicated men and boys, whose enthusiasm grew
Who gave up their time, to bring back to new
The hundreds of engines we're now able to view
All over Britain, it's now all the rage
For thousands to enjoy the wondrous steam age.

Peter Gorman, Summer 2016.

The Isle of Mannanan

Part Two

During the English success at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346, King David II of Scotland, Robert Bruce's last male heir was captured and held for ransom. Scotland however, was unable to raise one of the ransom instalments, on which King David made a secret agreement with King Edward III, to transfer the Scottish kingdom to an English prince.

There then followed a period of confusion, when Mann sometimes came under English rule and sometimes Scottish. In 1392, the island was sold to Sir William le Scrope. In 1399, Le Scrope allied himself with Richard II against Henry Bolinbroke. On Bolinbroke, forcing Richard II to abdicate the English throne, he ascended the throne as Henry IV, and had Le Scrope beheaded. Having taken de facto possession of the Isle of Mann, Henry granted it to Henry Percy, 1st Earl of Northumberland. However, in 1405 Henry IV, made a lifetime grant to Sir John Stanley with the patronage of bishopric. In 1406, the grant was extended on a feudatory basis to the English Crown to Sir John's heirs, the feudal fee being the service of homage and two falcons being sent to all future kings on their coronations.

With the succession of the Stanley's to the Manx throne there then followed two and a half centuries of peace on the island. The island's new rulers rarely visited its shores, choosing to place the island under governors. Of the thirteen members of the family who ruled Mann, the second Sir John Stanley (1414-1432), James, the 7th Earl (1627-1651) and the 10th Earl of the same name (1702-1736) had the most influence. The first curbed the power of the spiritual barons, introduced trial by jury, which superseded trial by battle and ordered the laws to be written. The second known as the Great Stanley, and his wife, Charlotte, are probably the most striking figures in Manx history.

In 1643, Charles I, ordered James Stanley, the 7th Earl of Derby, to go to Mann, where the people no doubt influenced by events on the mainland, were threatening rebellion. Stanley's arrival with English soldiers soon put a stop to all thoughts of this. By his affable nature he won over the people, bringing in Englishmen to teach various handicrafts, helped the farmers improve the breed of Manx horses and limited the power of the church to exact payments. However, the Manx people lost a lot of their liberty under his rule, they were heavily taxed, had to accept English troops quartered in their homes and were forced to accept leases for three lifetimes instead of straw tenancies, which they regarded as hereditary.

Six months after the execution of Charles I in 1649, Stanley received a summons to surrender the Isle of Mann to the Roundhead government, but he declined.

In 1651, he went to England with some of his troops including 300 Manxmen to join the forces of King Charles II. After Charles was defeated at the Battle of Worcester, Stanley was captured, imprisoned at Chester Castle, tried by court-martial and executed at Bolton. Soon after Stanley's death, Manx Militia under the command of William Christian rose up against the Countess of Derby, capturing all the forts of the island with the exception of Rushen and Peel. They were then joined by a parliamentary force under Colonel Duckenfield, to whom after a brief resistance the Countess surrendered.

Oliver Cromwell appointed Thomas Fairfax, Lord of Mann and the Isles in September 1651, after which island remained in the same relationship with England as before.

On the restoration of Charles II to the English throne, the Stanley governance of the Isle of Mann was restored. One of the first acts of the new Lord of the Mann and the Isles, Charles Stanley, 8th Earl of Derby, was to try William Christian; he was found guilty and executed. Most of those implicated in the rebellion of 1651 were exempted from prosecution by a general amnesty, with the remaining 3 pardoned by Charles II. The judges responsible for sentencing William Christian to death being punished.

Charles Stanley then went on to dispute the permanency of the tenants' holdings, a process which led to almost open rebellion against his authority. This led to the neglect of agriculture and the people devoting themselves to the fisheries and the smuggling of contraband.

This in itself proved to be a two-pronged sword. On the one hand it proved to be the start of a thriving fishing industry for the island but the other brought the islanders into conflict with interests of the imperial revenue and the customs and excise officers.

PG.

To be continued .

The Old Cross

(a tribute to Dr Joseph Holts magic elixir)

Great foaming pints of foaming bitter
Quench the thirst but cause a litter
People summoned by the drink
Some to talk and some to think

The Old Cross has its share of drinkers
It also has its share of thinkers
And later, when they've had their fill
The landlord stays to count the till

So think! Did you enjoy it there?
Or merely go to stand and stare?
The morning will recount its tale
Will you feel well or suffer from the ale

The pub is there for you to make a choice
The beer is good and ordered by the loudest voice
The beer is among the best I've bought
For in many a pub I've looked and sought



Parish Register

November & December

Holy Baptism

April 7th 6 Amelia Jean Harper

Wedding

n/a

Internment of Ashes

April 6th - Jim & Betty Bradshaw



What's Happening.....

Dates for your diary

March

1st 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd
12pm Team intercessions at St TJø

2nd 9.30pm Morning Prayers at St TJø

3rd Sunday next before Lent
10.30am Family Friendly Sunday Eucharist
St. Maryø followed by coffee

5th 7.30pm Healing service at St TJø

6th **Ash Wednesday**
10am Holy Communion with Imposition
of Ashes at St Maryø
7.30pm Holy Communion with
Imposition of Ashes at St Maryø

8th 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd
12pm Team intercessions at St TJø
7pm Stations of the Cross

9th 9.30pm Morning Prayers at St TJø
followed by coffee morning
11am-1pm Saturday café at St Maryø

10th First Sunday of Lent
9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Maryø

13th 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St TJø
followed by lunch

15th 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd
12pm Team intercessions at St TJø
7pm Stations of the Cross

16th 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJø
followed by coffee morning

17th Second Sunday of Lent
9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Maryø

20th 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St Maryø

22nd 7pm Stations of the Cross

24th 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Maryø

27th 10am Wednesday Communion at St TJø

29th 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd
12pm Team intercessions at St TJø
7pm Stations of the Cross

30th 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJø
followed by coffee morning

31st **Mothering Sunday**
9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Maryø
3pm Food & Friendship at St Philips

April

2nd 7.30pm Healing service at St TJø

3rd 10am Wednesday Eucharist at St Maryø

5th 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd
12pm Team intercessions at St TJø
followed by lunch
7pm Stations of the Cross

6th 9.30am Morning Prayers at St Maryø

7th 10.30am Family Friendly Sunday Eucharist

10th 10am Wednesday Communion at St TJø

12th 10am Bible Study Group at 146 Bury Rd
12pm Team intercessions at St TJø
followed by lunch

13th 9.30am Morning Prayers at St TJø
followed by coffee morning
11am-1pm Saturday café at St Maryø

14th **Palm Sunday**
11am Joint Service at St TJø

15th 10am Holy Communion St Maryø

16th 10am Holy Communion St TJø

17th 10am Holy Communion St Maryø
7pm Seder Meal

18th **Maundy Thursday**
Prayers and stripping of Alter St Maryø
8pm-midnight Holy Communion & Vigil

19th **Good Friday**
10am Good Friday Voices at St Philips
11am Stations of the Cross at St Maryø
3pm Solemn Liturgy at St TJø

20th 8pm Tenebrae at St TJø

21st 8pm Service of the Light at St Maryø

21st **Easter Sunday**
9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Maryø

22nd 10am Holy Communion St TJø
10am Holy Communion St Maryø

23rd St George's Day

24th 10am Holy Communion St TJø

25th 7pm Holy Communion St Maryø

26th 10am Holy Communion St TJø

27th 9.30am Holy Communion at St TJø

28th 9.30am Sunday Eucharist at St Maryø
3pm St George's Day Parade at St TJø
3pm Food & Friendship at St Philips

30th 7.30pm Healing service at St TJø



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Derek Holt
cherished memories, Pauline



In memory of Nora Gee
mother of Barbara Greaves

Anyone interested in a floral arrangement to be displayed in church in celebration of a special event or in memory of a loved one should contact either Barbara (0161 723 3546) or Pat (07876 702 305) to arrange for payment and the preferred colour scheme, prior to their chosen dates. Every endeavour will be made to meet your requests. The current cost to use this service is £25, this payment is used to purchase the flowers used in the displays.



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THE BOOTE'S ON HOLIDAY

Saturday 29th September, up early for the taxi to Bury, then our feeder coach down to stop 24 at Folkestone, to catch our tour coach to Austria. A short drive to Dover for our ferry to Calais, then on to Brussels for our overnight stay at the Van de Valk Hotel, next to Brussels airport.

Day 2

Left our hotel early at 7am, for a short drive in Belgium, before crossing into Holland, close to Maastricht, then through Germany before entering Austria and onto our hotel for the week named Gasthof Ascherwirt in the village of Brandenburg, 1100 feet up in the Austrian Tyrol .

Day 3

First morning in Austria, we awoke to pouring rain for our first trip to Innsbruck, situated 1,500 feet in the Austrian Tyrol, on the banks of the river Inn, which starts in Switzerland 8,901 ft. up and ends up in Germany's biggest lake. We had a short tour with a local guide, before discovering the rest of the area on the local sightseeing bus. We learned that some years ago, it was the favourite haunt for the German hierarchy who collected property in the area during World War 2. Even with the fine rain on and off throughout our visit it could not hide the magnificent buildings and the scenery overlooking the whole area.



Day 4

Off to the Kimmll falls today, weather a bit drier today but still plenty of mist over the mountains of the Tyrol. With their impressive falls of 380 metres over 5 levels, the Kimmll waterfalls are the largest in Europe and 5th largest in the world. It starts high in the Austrian Alps at 4,500ft between Salzburg and the Tyrol. It flows down to the Danube which finishes in the Black Sea. It is a most impressive sight in beautiful surroundings whatever time of year you are able to see them.

We moved on and spent the afternoon in Kitzbuhel which is 1,965 metres above sea level, with a normal population of just 8,500. But because it is in easy reach of the most popular ski runs in the Tyrol, the population expands in the popular ski season.

The town's shops in the main are mostly expensive catering for the many affluent customers who descend on the town in the popular ski resort. However many of the shops and houses in the town are painted in many varied pastel colours, mainly with painting on the walls which are most impressive.

Day 5

We are on the way to Salzburg today, built on the banks of the river Salzur home to 150,000 people, and well known for birthplace of Mozart, also known as the fortress on the hill, but Salzburg's roots lie in one of the oldest mines in the world, the salts extracted gave the city and Provence its name.



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The fortress overlooking the city houses the impressive Spielburg museum, also the unique history which includes the beer story of the 18 breweries in the area, of which only 10 are still trading.

The way up, to the fortress is by a funicular railway, which to say the least was a bit of an experience! However once up to the top the views over the city and the surrounding area were outstanding.

The many steep steps meant that many of the interior rooms housing the old artics acts of the city and other parts of the museum weren't able to be viewed by Ivy with her walking problems.

We opted therefore to view the city and surrounding area by the local tour bus which took us to the many places filmed in the sound of music.

Again another lovely place to visit, but you often feel that you would like a lot more time to see everything.



SALZBURG ALTSTADT MIT FESTUNG



Day 6

Thursday was the day that most of us on the tour were looking forward to, a visit to Berchtesgaden, and later to the eagles nest, situated near to the summit of Kehlstein mountain on which it is situated, but more of that later.

Berchtesgaden was just a small village, but with over 900 years of history, the darkest time in the town's history however wasn't until the mid-1930s and into the 1940s. The constant presence of Hitler and other members meant Obersalzberg dramatically changed the way of life in the romantic Berchesgarden land.

Sitting on the edge of the Bavarian Alps, the small village had been used to catering to the Bavarian Royal family, clerical nobility and industrialists. The atmosphere was ruined by uniformed SS troops and the hoards of people who came to hear Hitler's speeches.

Adolf Hitler first visit to the area was in 1923 where he was most impressed. In later years as his powers increased he decided to settle on the Obersalzberg at the foot of the Kebustein as his private residence. Martin Bormann was put in charge of acquiring all the land and the construction of the site. In 1937 the construction of the road began, a road of 6.5kilometres long, 4 metres wide, 5 tunnels were dug up to an altitude of 1700 metres.

From there a tunnel 3 metres high, 300 metres long goes straight into the mountain to a large hallway to the entrance to a 124 ft. high elevator shaft. The elevator had green leather seats, and brass mirrors on the walls, it leads directly up to what was to be known as The Eagles nest Hitler's own private residence.

All this is still in evidence today; the building now houses a restaurant and impressive views of the surrounding area which are enjoyed by thousands of visitors from around the world, from mid-May to the end of October.

The town of Berchtesgaden today is much changed from the 1930s and 40s, but no its own way is still very impressive and very well worth the visit. Another excellent day and magnificent scenery.

Day 7

Our final day in Austria before heading home. It turned out to be the sunniest and warmest day of the week, bearing in mind it was the beginning of October. It was an optional day of sightseeing but it still proved very popular.

We started by visiting Achensee and cruising the lake where we were treated to coffee and apple strudel.

We cruised the length of the lake taking approx. 1 and a half hrs, taking in the many lovely views in a more leisurely manner. At the end of the cruise we boarded the coach for a drive to our next destination.

Our next stop was in the alpine resort of Mayerhofen where we took our lunch break, another magnificent stop, where we wished we could have spent more time.

Our final stop of the day was to St Johann in Tyrol another beautiful village which would look magnificent when the snows fall later in the year. The places and views on this tour have to be the most spectacular we have visited in all our years of touring.

Day8&9

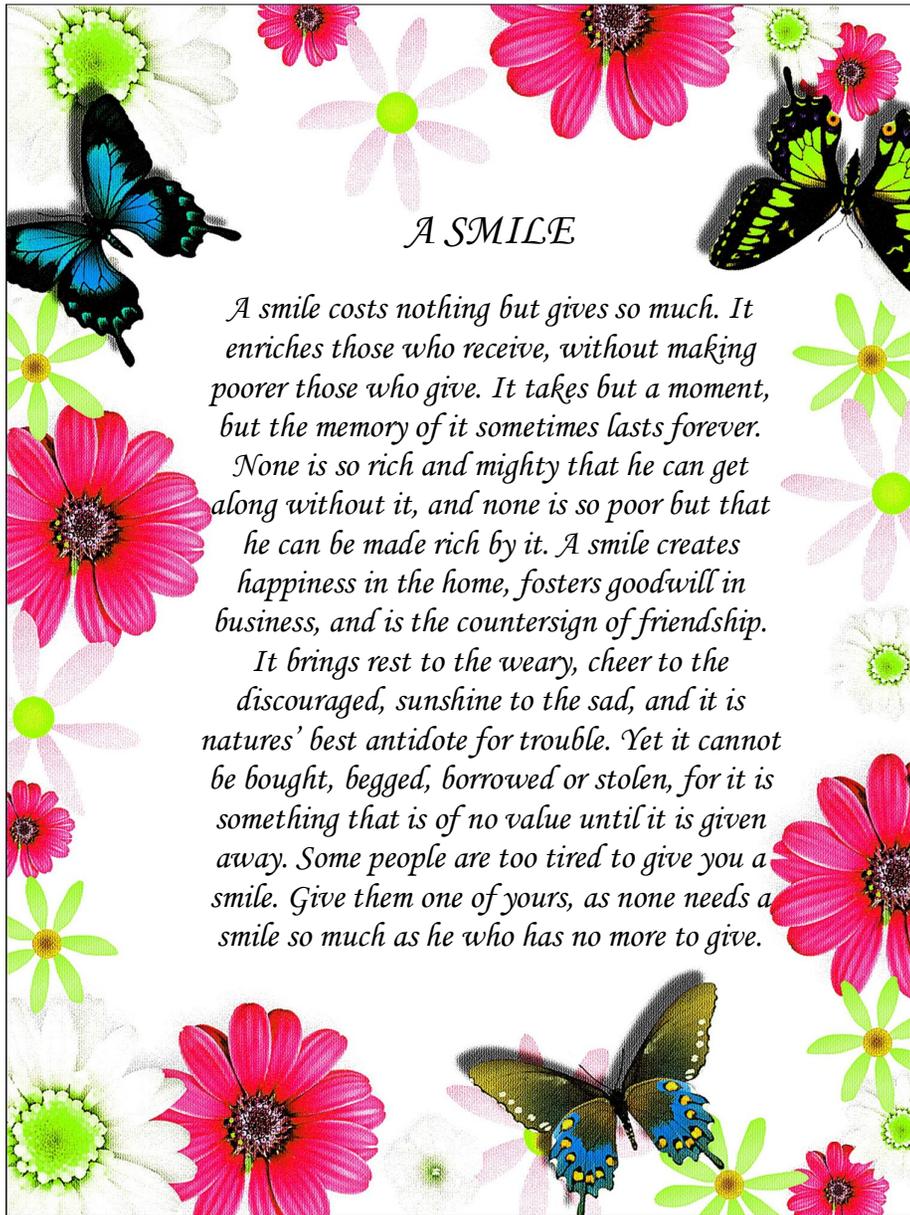
These were just the reverse of the outward journey, but again still plenty to see and admire in the countries we went through. We left with plenty of memories and pictures, of a truly amazing trip, we would recommend to anyone.

Our 2 drivers Paul and Gemma, were extremely knowledgeable and made the holiday from Calais to Calais over the week, the mileage for the 9 days was 2,947 kilometres



Love

The Boote family xx



A SMILE

A smile costs nothing but gives so much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever.

None is so rich and mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business, and is the countersign of friendship.

It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

The origins of Mother's Day in the United Kingdom

Early Mother's Day celebrations date back to the spring celebrations to honour Rhea, the Mother of the Gods, in ancient Greek civilisation.

Mothering Sunday in the United Kingdom was originally a time when people returned to the church, in which they were baptized or where they attended services when they were children. This meant that families were reunited as adults returned to the towns and villages where they grew up. In time, it became customary for young people who were working as servants in large houses, to be given a holiday on Mothering Sunday. They could use this day to visit their own mother and often took a gift of food or hand-me-down clothing from their employers to her. In turn, this moved towards the modern holiday, on which people still visit and take gifts to their mothers.

Traditionally, people observed a fast during Lent. During the Lent fast, people did not eat from sweet, rich foods or meat. However, the fast was lifted slightly on Mothering Sunday and many people prepared a Simnel cake to eat with their family on this day.

A Simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered with a layer of marzipan and with a layer of marzipan baked into the middle of the cake. Traditionally, Simnel cakes are decorated with 11 or 12 balls of marzipan, representing the 11 disciples and, sometimes, Jesus Christ. One legend says that the cake was named after Lambert Simnel who worked in the kitchens of Henry VII of England sometime around the year 1500.

Many people remember their mothers and mother figures on Mother's Day. Mother figures may include stepmothers, relatives, mothers-in-law, a guardian (e.g. a foster parent), or a family friend. There are many different ways to celebrate Mother's Day. They include:

- Giving cards, flowers, or cakes.
- Family gatherings or visits.
- Family breakfasts, brunches, lunches, and dinners either at home, at a café or at a restaurant.
- Personal phone calls, particularly from children who live away from their mothers and/or mother figures.
- Mother's Day poems and messages.
- Gifts of chocolate, jewellery, accessories, clothing, hobby equipment or tools, handmade items, or gift vouchers.
- A day at the movies with mothers and/or mother figures.

The modern-day origins of Mother's Day can be attributed to two women ó Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis, who were important in establishing the tradition in the United States. Around 1870, Julia Ward Howe called for Mother's Day to be celebrated each year. It continued to be held in Boston for about 10 years under her sponsorship, but died out after that. Other sources say that Juliet Calhoun Blakely initiated Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the late 1800s. Her sons paid tribute to her each year and urged others to honour their mothers.

In 1907, Anna Jarvis held a private Mother's Day celebration in memory of her mother, Ann Jarvis, in Grafton, West Virginia. In 1908, she played a key role in arranging a church service that attracted 407 children and their mothers. A Mother's Day International Association was founded in 1912 to promote the holiday in other countries. Mother's Day has grown increasingly popular since then.

Many people believe that Mother's Day is now largely commercialized, with card companies, flower shops, jewellery stores, gift shops, restaurants, hotels, and department stores advertising promotions and special deals for this event. Anna Jarvis, in her lifetime, unsuccessfully filed a lawsuit to stop the over-commercialization of Mother's Day.



Spring

Winter storms vent their rage,
Against Albion's rugged shores.
Changing elements, pulverise the earth,
In turn, soaking and freezing its hallowed turf.
Dark clouds, turning day to night,
As man turns to artificial light,
to illuminate his way.
March, roars into the year,
Determined to emulate its namesake,
In its ambition,
to drive mankind into submission,
And show nature's omnipotence.

As the days progress,
Storm clouds lesson in intensity,
Their ferocious nature dulled by,
The motion of the earth,
As it approaches, the vernal equinox,
When day and night are equalised,
As light, supersedes darkness,
And the sun's rays herald,
The first shoots of new life,
Spring lifts, the cloak of winter,
And welcomes,
Nature's reawakening.

Birds return to our shores,
Their winter exile over.
Their dawn chorus, awakening us,
With a glorious symphony of sound.
Warming temperatures,
Melting snows and rain.
Bring an increase in food and water,
Providing ample sustenance.
Displaying their colourful plumage,
Males seek a mate.
Females seek out nesting materials,
Heralding, the Spring courting season.

Lambs having found their feet,
Gambol, in lush green fields.
Seeds sown in Autumn,
Germinate, breathing life into,
Ploughed fields.
Trees, shrug off their barren pose,
As new growth, hastens the return,
Of green canopies.
Spring bulbs, push their heads,
Through the thawing earth,
Taking advantage of the longer days,
To produce their colourful displays.

Winter clothes return to wardrobes,
As man revels in the opportunity,
Of leaving the comfort of home,
To embrace, nature's rebirth.
Finding relaxation,
Walking through fields of Bluebells,
Daffodils dancing in the breeze.
Smiling at the antics of kits,
As they leave their burrows,
To investigate, their new world.
The emergence of spring,
Joins man and nature, in harmony.

©Peter Gorman February 2019.



Radcliffe Team Ministry Parish Church of St. Mary, Radcliffe

Parochial Church Council Minutes (abridged) 22nd January 2019, 7.30pm

PCC Secretary: A letter of resignation was received from Joyce, who was taking over as PCC Secretary. The PCC agreed that Christine continues as Secretary until the APCM in March.

Christine agreed to do this.

Correspondence: A letter was received regarding the broken grate cover. It was agreed that as per advice from the Diocese, to go for option 2, to cast a new pattern matching the existing one and make a new grate cover costing £1730. The possibilities of obtaining a grant will be looked into.

Financial: Jean gave handouts of the magazine accounts and a discussion was held regarding the number of Crux magazine to take on a monthly basis. Peter will arrange to change numbers to meet current demand. The possibility of using compatible ink cartridges for the church printer was discussed, this would mean considerable savings. It was proposed and seconded to do this.

Handouts were given out for the pantomime accounts, all costs were covered, thanks to the Saturday Café fund raising effort. Peter will approach Tesco to see if we can be one of the charitable causes in the place a token scheme, to raise funding for this year's pantomime of Cinderella in December.

Also discussed was better advertising and ticket allocation.

Jean gave a brief overview of the current financial status PCC, Gas, Electric, Building Fund and Restricted / Designated funds/ fundraising accounts, Parish share. Jean believes we will manage through 2019. The Parish share is in the third year of negotiation. We are not in a position to pay an increase.

Wardens Report:(all costs are excluding VAT)

Kirsten is no longer warden but she has still been doing some work in the background and supporting Deborah. Deborah asked that the PCC send our thanks to Kirsten for us at St Mary's and wish her well for the future. (She has recently had an operation and is slowly recovering). Christine will write to her.

Painting: Still awaiting a quote from Bagnells regarding painting of ceiling. Lloyd and Smith have now submitted a quote. JABA has given his recommendation to use Lloyd and Smith for the work at £8640 exclusive of Vat, (costs are being covered by insurance). A faculty will have to be submitted.

Gardening: It was decided that the gardener should over 2 days in March at a cost of £400, cut the grass and put weed killer down. This will stop the growth, it will look brown and dead but will then come back to being green towards autumn, when it will stop growing again.

Panto: this was a success last year although not as many people attended as expected. The Panto Cinderella has been provisionally been booked for 2nd December. This needs to be considered and confirmed, when we hear from them.

Mayoral joint concert - 16th March 2019 ó The Mayor's organising committee have now cancelled this concert. The Affetside Choir, which has chosen St Mary's Church as its charity this year, will now perform a concert on Saturday October 12th in the church. All proceeds go to St Mary's.

Collection Box - the Standing Committee has not met since the November PCC meeting. So, no decision has yet been reached. Ongoing.

At the Panto, left over Christmas presents from Santa's Grotto were sold, proceeds from this were sent to the Children's Society. Deborah suggested that if we have Santa again this year, we do the same again, keeping the proceeds separate from refreshments etc.

The cover for Family Friendly Service for March, April and May is as follows.

03/03/2019 His Reverence David Bailey, Bishop of Manchester.

07/04/2019 His Reverence Mark Ashcroft, Bishop of Bolton.

05/05/2019 Reverend Joanne McKee, Vicar of St Andrews, Radcliffe.

Palm Sunday: Elizabeth suggested a joint service at St Thomas and St John, with a bring and share lunch.

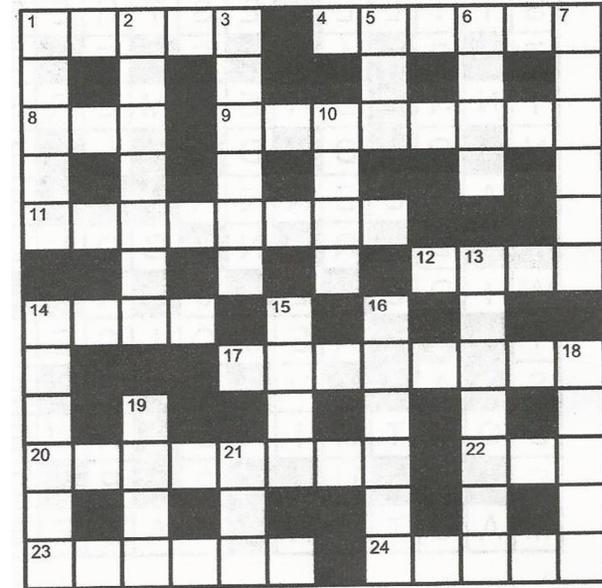
We received one applicant for the vacancy for a vicar at St Mary's. The interview was held on February 14th. If the applicant is unsuccessful or cannot be in place for June, she will send out more requests for cover.

With the assistance of Deborah's son Matthew, the hymns in the library have been copied to a memory stick as backup. The USB ports in the church laptop are no longer working. Mark has offered his old laptop as a replacement. All agreed to accept his kind offer and the hymns will be downloaded as a backup. Thank you, Matthew.

Sound System: The CD eject button is not working, but CDs can be ejected using the remote control. Jean is going to arrange to have it looked at.

After being PCC Secretary for the last 10 years, Christine Clegg wishes to step down from the role. Are you or is someone you know able to take on the writing of the minutes of our PCC meetings and give up some of their time every two months to take them and prepare a report to send out to PCC members afterwards. If you are willing to take on this important task, can you please speak to Deborah.

CROSSWORD



by *Philologus*

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Across

- 1 Calm (5)
- 4 Purim heroine (6)
- 8 Where there was no room (3)
- 9 Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar for example (8)
- 11 Mistaken identity of Jesus after resurrection (8)
- 12 Material used to make Solomon's cups (4)
- 14 Not narrow (4)
- 17 Jubilated (8)
- 20 Teaching (8)
- 22 Reverence (3)
- 23 Rabbi (6)
- 24 Place of the dead (5)

Down

- 1 Scorpion attack (5)
- 2 Didn't heed (7)
- 3 Object of Jacob's dream (6)
- 5 Red, for example (3)
- 6 To be bruised by the serpent (4)
- 7 Observed the Sabbath (6)
- 10 Where Adam spared a rib? (4)
- 13 Fruit farm (7)
- 14 Solomon's strength (6)
- 15 Son of Leah (4)
- 16 Brother of 15 down (6)
- 18 Works (5)
- 19 Follower of the Gospels (4)
- 21 Repent (3)

For crossword solution see page 35

CLASSICAL TIMES



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How does God help us

Some thoughts for Lent by the Reverend L.B.Ashby

Most people, I imagine, if they were asked, "How does God help us?" would consider that the simplest answer to this question was: through our prayers. If then, we pray earnestly to God, will He indeed help us; and if so, how and to what extent?

Many people will tell you that their experience of prayer has been a disappointing one: that they have prayed earnestly for God's help and it has not been forthcoming.

But one cannot help wondering what sort of conception of God was in their minds when they prayed to Him, and what their expectations were.

Most people probably have a general and often merely inherited belief in God as an almighty Potentate of unlimited power and resources. But that is not how Our Lord has taught us to think of Him as "Our Father". We come before him as children seeking the sympathetic advice, guidance and help of someone who is our Father.

Every proper and right-minded father takes the very deepest interest in the lives of his children and likes them to come to him for advice and help in every matter. He is always ready to provide for all their real needs and help them in any difficulty or problem which they bring to him. If he is a wise father, there will be one rule which he will always observe: and that is never to do for them anything which they can perfectly well do for themselves: never to save them trouble because if he does this, he will simply ruin their characters. A spoilt child is one which has everything done for it by its parents and has only to ask in order to receive. There is no greater disservice which a parent can do his children than to spoil them. For a spoilt child means a child with a spoilt character. What a wise and good parent will do is to help them to help themselves.

Is it not a fact that a great many of our prayers are nothing less than substitutes for effort and thought on our part?

For instance, if we are in some difficulty or trouble, we pray to God for it to be removed, to have our circumstances altered by a wave of God's hand. God apparently does nothing! Why? Because what we really should be asking him, is to give us the courage and will power and resolution to sort things out for ourselves.

A prayer such as this might receive an answer but not one which we ask for something to be done for us, without out trying to resolve it ourselves.

Do we not more often than not, pray to God for the wrong kind of help? We ask him to do things for us, not with us. If we asked him more to help us to help ourselves, we would never doubt that our prayers are being answered.

Extract Taken from Parish of St Mary church magazine, February 1956 edition

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Just for Fun

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Johnny stayed home from church with a sitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up."



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Events

March 25th	7.30pm	Lady Day Service at Christ Church, Ainsworth.
27th	7.30pm	Meeting at Parish Church of St Mary.
April 24th	7.30pm	St Mary's Catholic Ladies Social Night, at St Mary's Social Club. Tickets £5 or pay at door.

Radcliffe Hall & St. Mary's Ladies Group

Upcoming events

Date	Event
13 th March	Stockport Air Raid Tunnels (To be confirmed)
10 th April	Talk by Veronica & Gordon Walker, members of Dickens Fellowship

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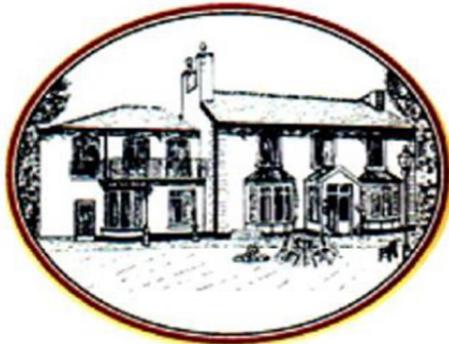


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Crossword solution

Across

- 1 Still
- 4 Esther
- 8 Inn
- 9 Dreamers
- 11 Gardener
- 12 Gold
- 14 Wide
- 17 Rejoiced
- 20 Doctrine
- 22 Awe
- 23 Master
- 24 Hades

Down

- 1 Sting
- 2 Ignored
- 3 Ladder
- 5 Sea
- 6 Heel
- 7 Rested
- 10 Eden
- 13 Orchard
- 14 Wisdom
- 15 Levi
- 16 Joseph
- 18 Deeds
- 19 Acts
- 21 Rue

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Ingredients

1 pack of smoked mackerel
1 tub of crème fraîche
2 dessert spoons of horseradish cream
Lemon juice
Nutmeg
Tabasco sauce
Sherry
6-8 small spring onions

Method:

Skim and fillet the mackerel, chop the spring onions into very small pieces. Mix together adding the crème fraîche and horseradish cream. Add a squeeze of lemon juice, sprinkling of nutmeg, dash of tabasco and a splash of sherry. Once mixed together put it into a dish and press down, Place it into the fridge until set.

Barbara Greaves



9 things you probably didn't know about St George

1. St George wasn't English...

St George might be hailed as a national hero, but he was actually born more than 2,000 miles away. He is thought to have been born in Cappadocia (modern day Turkey) and to have died in Lydda (modern day Israel) in the Roman province of Palestine in AD 303. It is believed that his tomb was in Lod and was a centre of Christian pilgrimage.

2. ... and he wasn't a knight either

He may have worn some sort of shining armour but George was probably a soldier, not a knight as we think of him in popular culture today. From the 11th century St George was depicted in sculpture as a knight or a warrior on horseback, but the truth is less fanciful. It is more likely that he was an officer in the Roman army

3. St George was a martyr

Like many saints, St George was described as a martyr after he died for his Christian faith. It is believed that during the persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian, St George was executed for refusing to make a sacrifice in honour of the pagan gods.

4. He never visited England

While it's highly unlikely that St George came to England, his reputation for virtue and holiness spread across Europe from about the 7th century. During the Third Crusade in the 12th century, Richard I placed himself and his army under the protection of St George. He also adopted the emblem of St George, a red cross on a white background, which was worn as a uniform and later used on the English flag.

5. The dragon was added later

The famous tale of George and the dragon was popularised in the late 13th century in Jacobus de Voragine's The Golden Legend, which was a compilation about the lives of saints. The story goes that St George rode into Silene (modern day Libya) to free the city from a dragon who had a taste for humans. The Golden Legend was translated and published in English in the late 15th century



6. St George was a saint for 1000 years before the 'holiday'

St George was canonised in AD 494 by Pope Gelasius who claimed he was one of those 'whose names are justly revered among men but whose acts are known only to God'. A feast day of St George has been celebrated in England for hundreds of years on 23 April, which was possibly the date of his martyrdom. Following the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, St George's Day became one of the most important feast days in the English calendar.

7. England isn't the only country to celebrate St George

St George is a truly an international saint and England is not the only region to claim him as its patron. England shares St George with Venice, Genoa, Portugal and Catalonia among others as their patron saint and many of these places have their own celebrations and ceremonies in his honour

8. He's a patron of many things

It's not just cities and countries that have St George as their patron either. During the Middle Ages, St George was regarded as one of the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers' - a group of saints people turned to for assistance during times of need. St George is also the patron of other things including soldiers, armourers, farmers and even sufferers of the plague and syphilis.

9. St George continues to be linked to one of England's top honours

Edward III is said to have founded the Order of the Garter on the site of Eltham Palace in 1348. To this day his cross still appears on the Garter badge and his image is the pendant of the Garter chain. The Order of the Garter is the highest order of chivalry in the country and Queen Elizabeth II is at the helm as Sovereign of the Garter.



Taken from www.english-heritage.org.uk

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prayer

It can be a struggle sometimes to think about who or what you can pray about. Below is a suggested list for the month. It includes those from our Book of Remembrance & the Saints for the month.

Book of Remembrance

March

5th Joan Hardacre
21st Ian Berry

April

9th Mattie Morris
12th Trevor Dodson
19th John Bolton
22nd Christine Carew

Saints Days

March

1st David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron Saint of Wales
2nd Chad, Bishop of Lincoln, Missionary 672 AD
8th Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln
19th Joseph of Nazareth
20th Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687 AD
21st Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556
25th The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin

April

10th William Law, Priest, spiritual writer, 1761
23rd George, Martyr, Patron Saint of England
25th Mark the Evangelist

A Prayer for St Georges Day

Heavenly Father, give us the bravery of St George to stand up for what we believe. Give us the strength to overcome the dragons in our lives and in the world. And where we see people in distress, give us the compassion to help them. Amen



March Readings

3rd March

Sunday Next before Lent

1st Reading: Exodus 34: 29-end

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 3: 12-42

Gospel: Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43a)

10th March

First Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

2nd Reading: Romans 10: 8b-13

Gospel: Luke 1: 1-13

17th March

Second Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

2nd Reading: Phil 3: 17-41

Gospel: Luke 13: 31-end

24th March

Third Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-9

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

31st March

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

1st Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 16-end

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-end

April Readings

7th April
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Isaiah 43: 16-21
2nd Reading: Phil 3: 4b-14
Gospel: John 12: 1-8

14th April
Palm Sunday

1st Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9a
2nd Reading: Phil 2: 5-11
Gospel: Luke 22: 14-23.end or Luke 23: 1-49

21st April
Easter Sunday

1st Reading: Isaiah 65: 17-end
2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34-43
Gospel: John 20: 1-18 or Luke 24: 1-12

28th April
The Second Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 5: 27-32
2nd Reading: Revelations 1: 4-8
Gospel: John 20: 19-end

The Parish Directory

Who's who at the Parish Church of St Mary, Radcliffe.

Team Rector	Vacant	
Team Vicar	Rev Elizabeth Binns MBE	
Verger	Mrs V Beal	0161 766 9504
Organist/Pianist	Mr P Brown	
Church Wardens	Mrs D Tokaryk	0161 724 4116
Lay Assistants	Mrs V Beal, Mr W Boote, Mrs J Howard, Mrs D Tokaryk, Mewish Nasir, Jean Robinson	
Intercessors	Miss J Boote, Mrs V Ormrod, Mewish Nasir	
Electoral Role Secretary	Miss J Boote	
Child Protection Officer	Mrs D Tokaryk	
Flower Arrangers	Mrs B Greaves, Mrs P Rigby	
Baptism Visitors	Mrs B Greaves, Mrs P Rigby, Mrs D Tokaryk	
Junior Church Leader	Vacant	
Magazine Committee	Mrs V Ormrod, Mr P Gorman	
Weekly Newsheet Editor	Mr P Gorman	0161 723 4965
Magazine Editors	Mr P Gorman	Mrs V Ormrod
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Parochial Church Council Members	Mrs L Higham, Mrs P Rigby, Mrs M Mort, Mrs P Holt, Mrs V Ormrod, Mrs B Greaves, Mrs E Embrey, Mrs P O'Dwyer, Mrs J Robinson, Mr P Gorman	
Vice Chair	Mrs J Robinson	
Secretary	Mrs C Clegg	
Treasurer	Mrs J Robinson	
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs V Ormrod	
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Mrs J Robinson, Mrs V Beal	