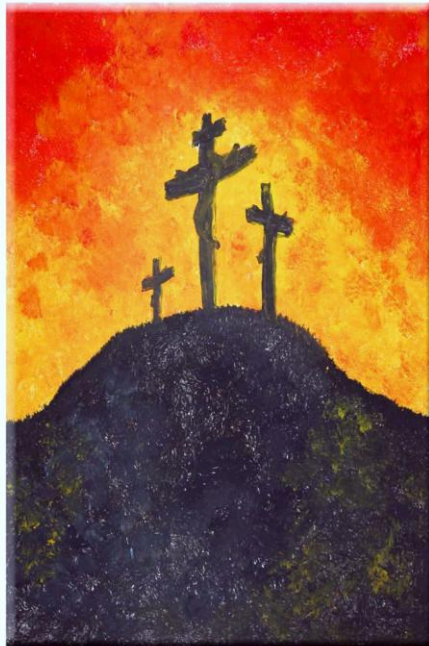
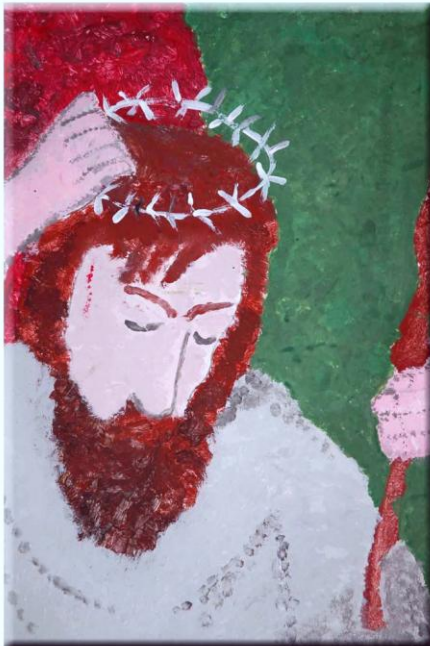
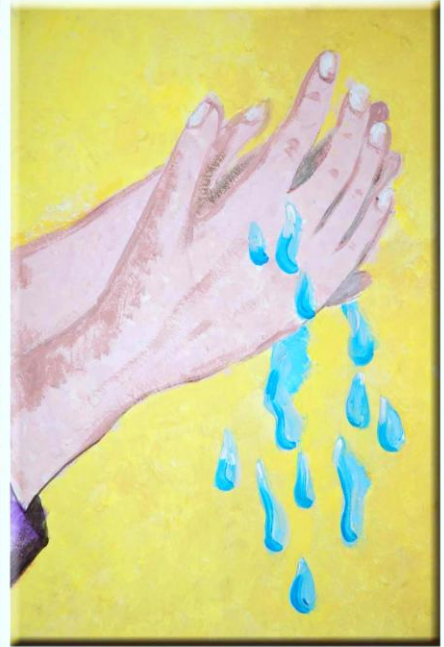
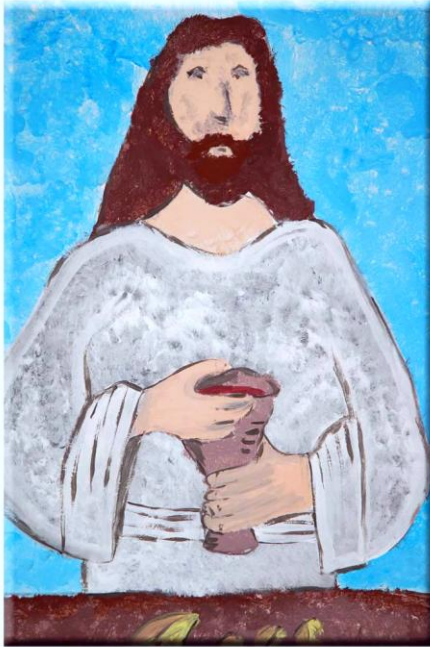


# *News & Views From St Mary's Church Ecclesfield*



*Church Magazine for March 2013*

*Price 60p*

*[www.stmarysecclesfield.com](http://www.stmarysecclesfield.com)*

## First Words...

- **Holy Week And Easter** – Please join us as we mark this important time in the Church's year. Details of the Services can be found on the calendar
- **Mothering Sunday** – Our Mothering Sunday celebration takes place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10 o'clock. All our welcome to this special service.
- **Prayer & Praise** – On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month our Evening Service (6.30 p.m.) is now a service that is led, in part, by the Music Group. It gives us a chance to worship in an informal way and acts as the perfect complement to our 10 o'clock parish Communion Service. Please come along and join with us. However...
- **Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March** – The evening Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of March will be led by the Choir as they sing *Olivet to Calvary*. This will take place at the normal time of 6.30 pm.

*Daniel Hartley*



## Collect for Easter Day

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.

**Amen**

Front Cover – Images of The Easter Story Painted By Local School Children 2010

Back Cover – Leo's Poem

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# The Vicar's Letter

## Easter Hope

There are many words that come to mind when thinking of Easter, but perhaps chief amongst these is hope. The resurrection of Jesus Christ brings life where there was only death, a life that we are invited to share in. As death gives way to life, so we are filled with hope. This hope is rooted in what God has done for us in sending his Son into the world. God has looked upon the world and seen, at the very least, the potential of humanity. He has set us free from the yoke of sin and given us the hope of righteousness.

This hope is not the sort of hope that we have of winning the lottery. Instead it is a hope that transforms our whole approach to life. The lottery presents a speculative hope, but the cross and resurrection of Jesus presents an existential hope. Our whole being is caught up in this hope and our way of life is changed by it.

The hope we have at Easter is a liberating hope, a hope that sets us free. It is a hope that releases our potential, a potential that has been subdued by sin. This hope does not provide a set of easy answers, a ready-made solution to all of our problems or the problems of the world. What it does provide is a perspective and strength to face these problems. Through the death and resurrection of Christ we know that nothing can separate us from God's love. St Paul writes about this in his Letter to the Romans

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Knowing that God is always there, always with us, enables us to dig deeply into our potential. It enables us to search for solutions to our problems. God provides his guiding presence as we grow into a relationship with him. He provides the words of scripture and the teachings of the Church to deepen this relationship. Yet the answers to the problems that life throws up cannot be found simply through the distillation of scripture or Church teaching. The answers can only be found as we seek to engage the scriptures and the teaching with the reality of life. Easter reminds us that life is there to be lived. God sets us free to live this life and to live it in hope.

Happy Easter!

*Daniel Hartley*



# The Bishops' Letter – March

This month Bishop Peter writes:

## “Easter is at the heart of our faith”

In April I will be visiting our link Diocese of Argentina. While there I'm hoping to visit my good friend Agustin Marsal, the parish priest of 'The Good Shepherd' Devoto and formally Diocesan Missioner. At the turn of the century Agustin led a transformative mission in my parish and people still speak about it today. Agustin would regularly say that we needed as Christians, to constantly live in 'hope' and 'expectation'. That's what I have as we look to the future vision and strategy of our Diocese.



We have a number of challenges and opportunities before us and we go forward in hope, expectation and the knowledge that God is journeying with us, leading us to a new and bright future as we proclaim afresh the good news of the risen Christ. Through our witness others will come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour, have new and transformed lives. We are already seeing that in a number of places across the Diocese and so we look to the future, not just with real hope and expectation, but real joy and thanksgiving.

Easter is the great event that lies at the heart of the Christian faith and if there's one word that encompasses its meaning and significance it's "hope". 1 Peter 1:3 speaks of the resurrection of Jesus Christ giving new birth into a living hope. It's a hope that addresses the desire of the heart for all those with a sense of spirituality and searching for meaning and purpose beyond what the material world has to offer, all those searching for God. St Augustine puts it like this "Our hearts were made for you O Lord, and are ever restless until they find their rest in you".

Our Easter celebrations recall Jesus' Resurrection from death to life and in doing so we now have hope that death is not the end for us. Life is but one part of the journey, an expectation of a new and everlasting life for all who truly turn to Christ. Could we really expect or hope for more?

**+Peter**



## THE STAND IN

It's not me; I didn't do it. Is it always *someone else* when the teacher asks 'who made this mess', or Mum says 'who broke this?' And if we hadn't done it, would we offer to clean up the mess or pay for what is broken out of our pocket money? Even though it wasn't our fault and we hadn't done anything wrong?

The answer is probably 'no'. Why should we? It wasn't our fault! It wouldn't be fair! But then things often aren't fair. It wasn't fair that the crowds in Jerusalem that first Easter shouted 'release Barabbas', a convicted criminal. They could have shouted 'release Jesus' – Jesus hadn't done anything wrong after all.

Jesus told us 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends' (St John's Gospel, chapter 15, verse 13). Jesus gave up his life for us. And others have followed his pattern, like Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest in a German concentration camp took the place of another prisoner and was killed instead of him.

## WHO? ME?

The answers to this Bible quiz are all words that begin with the letters **M E** ... answers at the bottom of the page

1. Was with Daniel in the lions' den? (Daniel, 3)
2. Is another name for Malta where St Paul was shipwrecked? (Acts, 28)
3. Who did Jesus call blessed, and said they would inherit the earth? (Matthew, 5)
4. Proverbs 17 says that a merry or cheerful heart is like what?
5. What were James and John doing when they first met Jesus? (Mark, 1)
6. Jesus compared the Kingdom of Heaven to yeast mixed with what? (Luke, 13)
7. King Saul's eldest daughter's name (I Samuel, 14)



### When did medicine first appear in the Bible?

When God gave Moses the tablets.



1. Meshach
2. Melita
3. the meek
4. good medicine
5. mending their nets
6. three measures of flour
7. Merab



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# Easter Crafts for Children At St. Mary's Church



For Primary School Children

Easter Crafts for Children 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm  
Palm Sunday - 24th March 2013

£2.00 per child

Please complete this slip and bring it with you to the church if you wish to come to the craft session.

I give my consent for my son/daughter to attend the Easter Craft session at  
St. Mary's Church – Ecclesfield on Sunday 24th March 2013

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian)

Contact number in case of emergency: ☎ \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the space below to give details of any allergies that affect your child, and any other relevant information.



## Ecclesfield Ladies Group.

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February we welcomed Michael Waldron to our meeting. The title of his address was 'What Year'. Ah, we thought this will be easy.

He told us that his pictures started in 1948, and sure enough a wedding photo came up on the screen of his Mother and Father, who were married that year, also London staged the Olympics for that year and rationing was still in operation. The next photo was of two babies Aah!, dare we have a guess at what year this was, needless to say most of us were wrong. We did however find out that man ventured into space at the same time that Linda and Michael started to grow up and the dates got harder, even though the fashions were hilarious, their wedding photo was beautiful with Linda wearing a lovely white coat with a fur trimmed hood. After we had guessed the year for each photograph we were given national events that happened during the same year. Thank you Michael for an amusing evening.

On the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> February Pam Prior gave a picture show on her cruise to the Baltic on Cunard's new Queen Elizabeth's Maiden Voyage. The first stop was **Oslo** where we saw the Vigeland Sculpture Park with huge figures of intimate family life with mother, father and child in one sculpture and many more. **Copenhagen** was our next stop with its brightly coloured buildings and sea front with the Little Mermaid statue. We then arrived in **Travemunde / Lubeck** Germany where thousands of people stood on the harbour side waving Union Jacks to welcome the ship on its maiden voyage. **Stockholm** was our next port of call where in the Vasa Museum was a replica of a 17<sup>th</sup> Century warship which was so heavy it sank in the harbour with all its owners, builders and their families on board. In **Helsinki** we saw Finnish architecture of Jean Sibelius which looked like hundreds of organ pipes of different sizes put together and The Rock Church blasted into solid rock with a copper dome. **St Petersburg** was the next Port of call and here you have the Hermitage Museum with its Gold Room where you were locked in and could not take photos. Then on to see the Ballet Swan Lake in a very old theatre, afterwards you were given a glass of wine and a snack. The next day spent walking round St Petersburg which was very busy. **Tallinn** in Estonia is one of Europe's most magical medieval capitals, the castle was built as a defence fortress in 1229 – enlarged in 14<sup>th</sup> century had housed Danish Governors, Swedish and Russian Governor Generals, German generals and government offices. Looking out at an almost theatrical tableau of gabled roofs and fairy tale turrets.

**Ghent** – Very attractive buildings, St Michael's Cathedral and a visit to the Chocolate factory.

PB.

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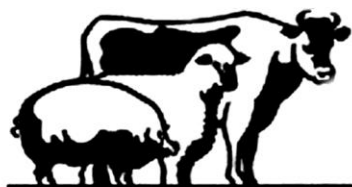
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# Will You Remember Them

## **Christian Man Killed In Pakistan After Refusing To Convert To Islam.**

A Christian man in Pakistan suffered fatal gunshot wounds in an attack believed to have been carried out because he resisted pressure from Muslim colleagues to convert to Islam. Younas Masih (55) died Tues. Feb 5<sup>th</sup> following a shooting five days before. He was attacked in Baluchistan as he made his way home by a gunman who shot him five times. He was rushed to hospital in a critical condition, the bullets were removed, and he received treatment in intensive care before succumbing to his injuries. Younas' Muslim colleagues had been pressuring him to convert to Islam. Repeated threats and blackmail attempts had been made against him but he had remained firm in his faith. On the day of the shooting, another attempt to persuade him to convert was made and further threats were made. Younas' son tried to register the attack on his father with the police, but they refused to file a First Information Report, which launches a criminal investigation in Pakistan. The family has made repeated appeals for justice which have been ignored. They feel abandoned by the authorities.

Christians are an extremely vulnerable minority in Pakistan, which is 95% Muslim. They suffer discrimination and persecution because of their faith, and rarely experience help from the authorities.

Christian women and girls are also vulnerable to being kidnapped and sexually abused. Victims may be forced to convert to Islam and marry their Muslim abductors. It is estimated that 700 cases of this outrage, which is used by some Muslims as a means of spreading Islam, occur every year, and the authorities do little to prevent it.

Pakistani Christians often live in grinding poverty, with many working as labourers or in brick factories, where they are often "bonded labourers", which is almost the same as being slaves. Christians often find it difficult to get jobs owing to discrimination, and their children are unable to have an education. Many Christian families remain trapped in crushing cycles of poverty and illiteracy.

### **Please Pray For**

- The family and friends of Younas that they may know Gods' protection and peace and continue to live out their faith at this time.
- That those who have sinned against a Holy God by their actions may be convicted by Him and repent of their sin.
- All Christians in Pakistan who are suffering persecution simply because they are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Especially the Christians who live and worship in the Methodist Church at Quetta, Baluchistan.

***JD***

# In Memory of Cyril Buttrick

Who died on the 29th September 2012 aged 91.

Cyril was a member of St. Mary's Church for many years and the following article was found amongst his papers after his death, his family have given permission for the article to be printed in the Parish Magazine.



## Memories of Cyril Buttrick

The WW2 Years

As well as British there was Dutch and Australians.

One "Aussie" had been recruited despite he had a false leg! This however came to prove to be very useful as a model for more "legs" which were now required. They were made with wood, wire and other oddments.

Our Japan sentries varied — some were friendly — others not so but they all had 'nicknames' according to our ratings!

One day an important Jap officer appeared — he was seated on a large easy armchair, on the back of a lorry. He was in full uniform complete with large sword. However he went to their camp and ignored us. Perhaps they were due for a "pep talk"?

Although we were all troubled with various ailments various pastimes were organised. One was created — "Being a Concert Party". A large platform was made with mud, which was baked hard in the sun. A concert was given by one of the "female beauties called 'Betty'," who was most attractive. However a Jap guard appeared and went behind the scenes — just to "make sure".

In this base camp away from the railway line we were allowed to do whatever we liked — i.e. Sundays only. There were C of E and Catholic services in the open air.

The Japanese celebrated in their own camp, especially when the moon was full. We could hear them making a lot of noise (from too much Saki).

We were not allowed to smoke in the open and notices were posted throughout the camp "No Smoking". Proper cigarettes could only be obtained on the 'black market'. No watches were allowed or any kind of lighting. The skies were



nearly always clear and we could tell the time by the "Southern Cross".

In the still of the night the native drums were always beating. We could not understand them but in the last year they seemed to be repeating the "Victory Vee" call i.e. "Di-Di-Di-Daa".

In July 1945 we were marched to Bangkok to work on the docks.

August/September 1945 sentries spoke about "Big Bombs". Then one morning we woke up and all the Japs had gone – "Scarped" - We were free!

The RAF arrived and took us in their "Dakotas" to Rangoon, then by ship back to England. Then we were demobbed.

---

## Poem - Discovering Ecclesfield

We were comers my husband and me  
To Ecclesfield from Sheffield you see  
Could we stand the change so great?  
We had to, he'd got the date  
Relations were very kind  
To help us and didn't mind  
Sunday was a day of rest  
Church or Chapel which was best?  
The French monks had built around the Church  
So some history there if we care to search  
Dr.Gatty was the Vicar long ago  
A famous daughter too, a writer so  
Books for children was her talent  
Many hours writing she must have spent  
The Chapel was an inviting, interesting building  
Warm for services and good singing  
I feel we'll stay in Ecclesfield  
Happy now with our future sealed.

*A resident in Ecclesfield.*

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Crossword Puzzle - Solution is here.

**ACROSS:** 1, Awaken. 4, Quench. 8, Hit me. 9, Sadness. 10, Semitic. 11, Ridge. 12, Testimony. 17, Psalm. 19, Indulge. 21, Deserve. 22, Ariel. 23, Rose as. 24, Beggar.

**DOWN:** 1, Aghast. 2, Attempt. 3, Eject. 5, Undergo. 6, No end. 7, Hasten. 9, Sacrifice. 13, Samaria. 14, Yelling. 15, Spider. 16, Dealer. 18, Asses. 20, Drake.

# M.U. Meeting - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Speaker: Margaret Myers

Margaret came to share her experiences of her 35 years in Guiding. It all began when she was 4 years old and attended Sunday school in the Gatty Hall. She was asked to be a small attendant for Beryl Stringer who was May Queen that year.

At the age of 7 she joined the Brownies at Trinity Chapel where Joyce Hodges was Brown Owl. She loved everything about the Brownies, the uniform, the singing, games and new friends. At the age of 10 she moved to Guides in the Gatty Hall with Ivy Phillips and Violet Jeffries as leaders. The skills she learnt for her badge work proved to be useful later on in life. Every week there were uniform and badge inspections, shoes had to be polished, everything had to be spick and span.

At the age of 15 Margaret was thrilled to be chosen as May Queen. She was Queen Freesia, and her family helped her to make it really special. Margaret stayed in Guides until she was 18, then a few years later after getting married and having her twin boys, she returned to train as a leader. A highlight of this time was celebrating the Brownie Diamond Jubilee with Joyce and the help of Sylvia Hulley. They entered a competition for all Brownie Packs in Sheffield and were ecstatic to get through to the final in York where they came second.

In 1977, so many girls wanted to join the Brownies, so with the help of Pam Prior she hired the Gatty Hall and the 201<sup>st</sup> Ecclesfield Brownie Pack was born. Older girls came to help as sixes and with the £5.00 given to them for equipment, 20 new girls were enrolled. Later Lynette Atkin and Barbara Croft trained and they developed a good team. Ecclesfield Brownies have to be considered special as it is in the same village where Julianna Ewing (Dr Gatty's daughter) wrote the Brownie story whilst living in the vicarage.

All through her Guiding years Margaret has had the love and support of her Mum and Dad and husband Michael. As she was about to retire a surprise invitation to the Queen's Garden Party arrived as a reward for her service. It was a great day, one she will never forget.

When retirement came in July 2012 it was a very emotional time. All the wonderful memories over all the years, the friendships, the camping holidays, May Queen concerts, and so much more to reflect on. Thankfully Margaret knew the Brownie pack would continue with their new leaders. What a great journey and what a privilege to hear all about it. Thank you Margaret.

***EH***

# Diary for the Month of March 2013

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 12 noon Baptism
- 6.30 pm Evening Service
- 7.30 pm PCC meets in Church
- 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
- 1.00 pm Mothers' Union in the Gatty Hall /  
Speaker from W.O.R.K
- 7.30 pm Lent Reflection in Church
- 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 7.30 pm Ladies' Group – Norma Priest / Up before the Beak.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 6.30 pm Holy Communion
- 2.30 pm Service at Hartwell House
- 5.30 pm Feoffees Meeting
- 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
- 7.30 pm Lent Reflection in Church
- 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 2.30 pm Service at Hartwell House
- 7.30 pm Ladies' Group – Coffee Evening

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 12 noon Bell Peal
- 6.30 pm Evening Service
- 7.30 pm Mission Team Meeting
- 10.30 am Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
- 7.30 pm Lent Reflection in Church
- 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 7.00 pm Fabric Team Meeting
- 7.30 pm Ladies' Group – Annual Dinner

Monday 18<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

## Palm Sunday

- 8.30 am Holy Communion
- 10.00 am Parish Communion
- 6.30 pm “Olivet to Calvary – led by the Choir”



Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Holy Communion
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Service at Eva Ratcliffe House
	7.30 pm	Holy Communion
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Holy Saturday Service

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**

### **Easter Day**

8.30 am	Holy Communion Service
10.00 am	Easter Liturgy
6.30 pm	Evening Service

## **From the Registers**

### **Baptisms**

3rd February          Dylan Micah Wilkinson

May they know the love of God in their lives and may all  
thing of the Spirit live and grow in them.

### **Funerals**

23rd January	Grace Gregory	90
31st January	Johnny Jezusekn	87
1st February	Phyllis Gledhill	91
7th February	Mary Shortridge	91
8th February	Maureen Helliwell	73
13th February	Barbara Rann	65
25th February	Nellie Williams	84

Grant them, O Lord, refreshment, light and peace

### **Flower Rota**

3rd March	No Flowers
10th March	No Flowers
17th March	No Flowers
24th March	No Flowers
31st March	Easter Flowers

***Palm Sunday***  
(Alice Hinchliffe)



## The Gardening Year – March 2013.

**Flowers:** - all herbaceous perennials should be planted at once. Prune train and tie-up climbers, roses may be pruned during March. In most districts the last week is the safest time, prune strong-growing kinds lightly and weak ones more severely. After flowering, bulbs in bowls will still need some water. It is best to take them from the bowls remove faded blooms and plant in an odd corner of the garden to ripen. Making a Fruit Garden – there are few gardens in which fruit cannot be grown, soil is not as important a situation. Any ground that is capable of producing good crops of potatoes, cabbages and similar common vegetables is also suitable for the cultivation of fruit of all kinds. The real danger to fruit is frost at blossom time, that is to say spring. Protect early flowering trees (Apricot and Peach) with fleece this keeps frosts from damaging the blooms. Most people get the idea that they cannot include fruit in their gardens because of the amount of room it will take up. It is possible to include some fruit in the smallest gardens by making use of what are known as dwarfing stocks and such forms as the single stem cordons, also fan trained trees and espalier trees all these trees can be grown against a fence or wall.

**Planning the Vegetable Garden** – in devising a plan for the vegetable garden a great deal must depend in the shape and size of the plot available. It is for example always advisable to make some provisions for rotational cropping even though it may not be possible to adhere to this rigidly. Rotational cropping is based on two principal facts, first that crops make different demands upon the soil some requiring more of one food, others of another and second that they suffer from different pests and diseases. If the same crop is grown in the same place every year it is more likely to exhaust the soil or to be attacked by some pest than if it is grown in a different place as often as possible. For garden work the three year rotation is the one most commonly adopted. The plot is divided into three approximately equal sections, one of these is devoted to brassicas i.e. cabbages, savoys, sprouts, broccoli etc., another to root crops, carrot, parsnips etc., and the third to peas, beans and other small crops. Let us suppose that the first year these are planted in the sequence brassica on Plot A, root crops on Plot B, and peas and beans etc. on Plot C. The following year all these crops will move on one place the brassicas going to Plot B, the root crops to C and the peas and beans to A. Next year they will move on again so that the root crops will be on Plot A, the peas and beans on B and the brassicas on C. the fourth year they will be back where they started. Onion sets can be planted this month, also early potatoes but be ready to cover them if frost threatens.

*Colin Williams.*

## Holy Days - March 10th - Mothering Sunday

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying:

*God could not be everywhere,  
and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

*Ed*

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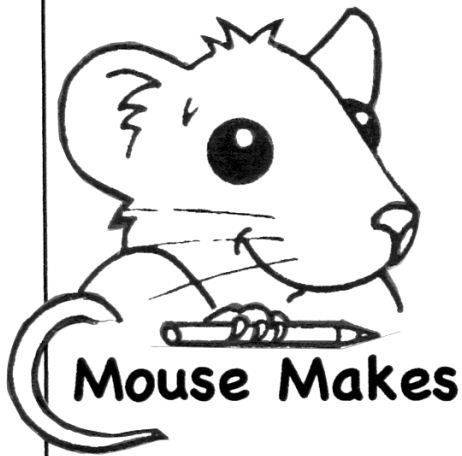
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JESUS IS ALIVE!

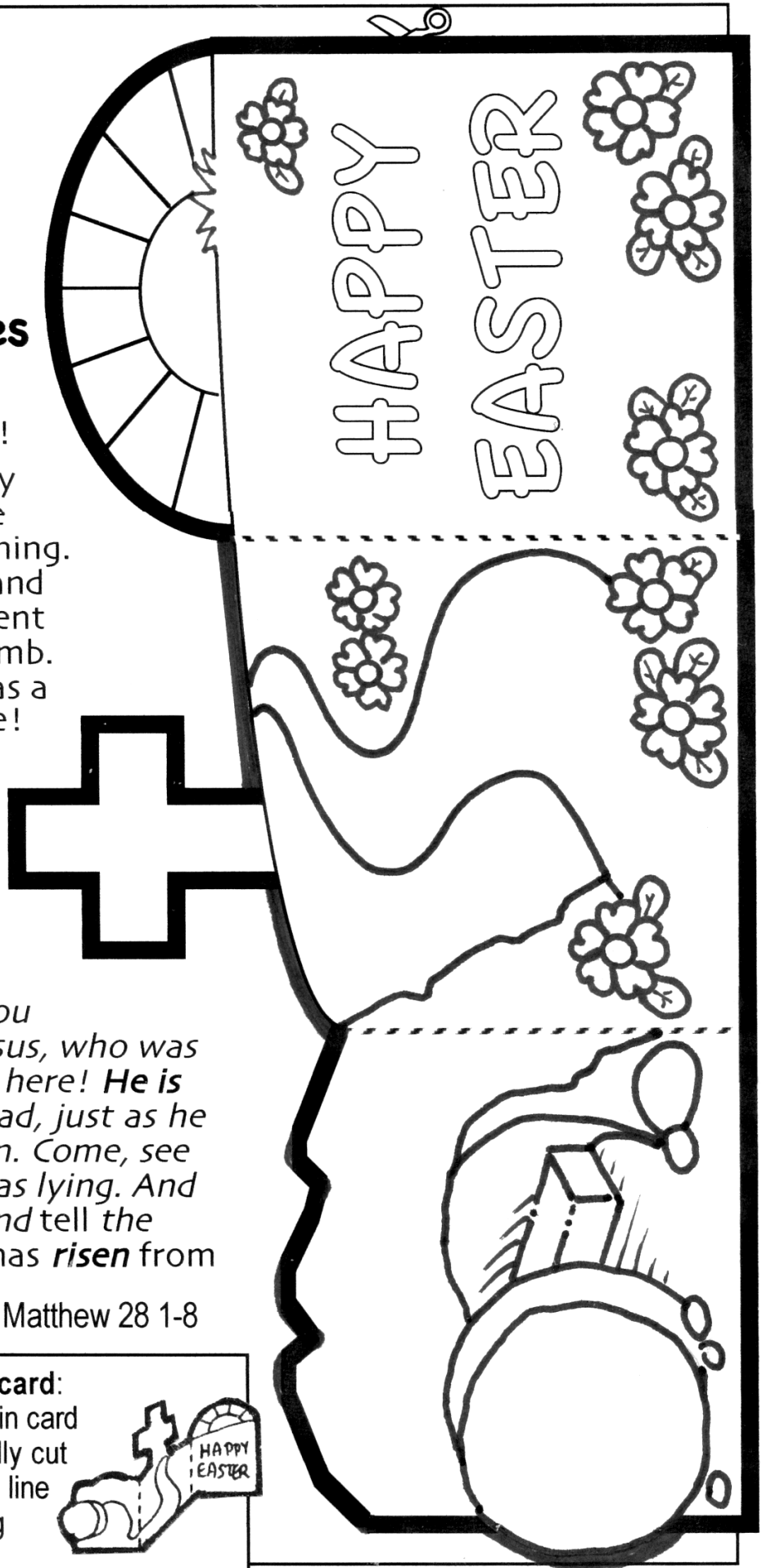
 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an **angel** of the Lord came down from **heaven**, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it....

*"Don't be afraid"* he said. *"I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! **He is risen** from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell the disciples that he has **risen** from the dead."*

**See:** Matthew 28 1-8

**To make the Easter card:**

Glue this page onto thin card then colour in. Carefully cut around the thick black line then zig-zag fold along the dotted lines.



# A Tale of Two Easters

Having observed Easter at St Mary's on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2006 a group of us went on a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St Paul, flying to Greece at the end of the week. We arrived at our hotel outside Thessaloniki (Greece) on the afternoon of 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2006 which was Holy Saturday for the Orthodox Church.

Having settled in our rooms, stretched our legs with an afternoon walk and dined together that evening many of the group went to the local church to experience the Service of the Resurrection. Outside the church two ladies were selling candles and several were purchased by the group. We sat inside the church just outside the main body of the church so as not to intrude on the 'comings and goings' of the congregation. Towards midnight the church became very full and we moved outside into the courtyard, outside however was just as crowded as inside, it was as if everyone had turned up just for this one service. Even the road was full to overflowing.

Shortly before midnight, all lights in the church were extinguished and church would have been lit only by the Eternal Flame on the altar. Shortly after midnight, the Priest carrying high above his head the icon of the Resurrection and the congregation with lit candles in hand came out shouting "Christos Anesti" (Christ is risen). The Eternal Flame, the light of the Resurrection, is passed on to those holding candles nearest them and the Eternal Flame passes from person to person. Before long the church, courtyard and road were filled with flickering candlelight.

The night air was filled with shouts of "Christos Anesti" and the reply which is "Alithos Anesti" (Truly He has arisen), church bells rang non-stop. Displays of fireworks and multi-shot crackers were set off, along with car horns and almost anything that would make a noise. And, amongst Greeks and visitors alike good wishes were exchanged. No one worries about their candle going out on the journey home they simply re-light it from someone else's candle so that the Eternal Flame continues to burn. To see the church begin to glow brighter as each candle is lit and then see the masses of people walking home through the streets fills me with a spiritual feeling of being part of something much bigger than myself.

It is the custom in Greece to carry the Eternal Flame home and use it to make the sign of the cross on the top of the door frame in smoke. The smoke cross is left there throughout the year, symbolizing that the light of the Resurrection has blessed the home. The candles are then used to light icon candelabra, and are

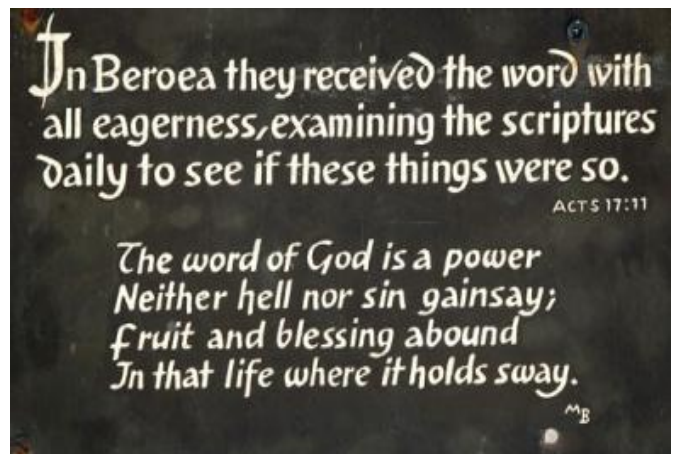
put on the table for the midnight meal. The sight of hundreds of candle flames moving from church to homes on that night is beautiful, indeed.

Once back at the hotel and with candles safely put in trays of sand we gathered around the table in the hotel reception for a traditional meal to 'break the fast', many Greeks strictly observe the Lent traditions of abstinence.

The 'break the fast' meal includes the Easter soup (made from lamb's offal), sweet bread, and the red shelled eggs. But before the eggs are eaten, there's a traditional challenge: "tsougrisma." Holding your egg, you tap the end against the end of your opponent's egg, trying to crack it. Eggs were available in very large quantities since the game continues on the next day with more friends and visitors. Good luck is said to rest with anyone whose egg survives the game.

On Easter Sunday, after breakfast we went on our way to Beroea (Veroia) this is where the Book of Acts says that Paul went after fleeing Thessalonica (Acts 17:10).

We arrived at the shrine in Veroia around lunchtime to the all-pervading smell of lamb roasting on spits and cooking in wood burning ovens on the balconies of local apartment buildings. The main attraction of the day is whole roasted lamb or goat (kid) which represents the Lamb of God at Easter. On the wall outside the shrine is a plaque which reads:



Later on we stopped at a large taverna overlooking the plain of Thessaloniki. Where we dined on chunks of spit roasted lamb, yet more red shelled eggs, dishes of salads, sweets, Greek wines, ouzo, and other drinks flow freely, and preparations for the meal turned into festive celebrations even before the eating began. As we left the taverna the chefs, still roasting lambs on spits ready for the evening gave us a wave and a thumbs-up, which we returned in the traditional manner.

The Greeks make a big thing of observing Lent and celebrating Easter, far more than we do and much of the week after Easter is spent feasting with family and friends. Perhaps one day I will get the opportunity to celebrate Easter somewhere in Greece again – who knows?

**PFL**

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## No Time for Prayer?

What is this life if, full of care  
We have no time to spend in prayer?  
No time to meet our Father, dear  
And hear the words we need to hear?  
No time – because we're rushed to death  
And fail to feel the Spirit's breath?  
No time – because our lives, absurd  
Preclude from time spent with His word!  
No time within our full employ  
To know our Lord's transcending joy?  
What is this life if, full of care  
We have no time to spend in prayer?

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Prayer for families on Mothering Sunday

Father,  
You are love. If we had to draw you, we might  
draw one big heart overflowing with love in  
every direction. And Lord, as your much-loved  
children we want to reflect your characteristics.  
Thank you for those who do. Thank you  
especially at this time for mothers – and others  
who love and teach how to love. Thank you for  
the special relationships of love you make  
possible within families. And when those  
relationships go wrong, help us to reach out with  
a forgiveness that comes from knowing we are  
forgiven; with a love that comes from knowing  
we are loved. And how much you do love us!  
So much that you gave us Jesus, your only Son,  
so that by trusting in him, we could be in a right  
relationship with you. What a parent! What a  
family we belong to! Thank you,  
In Jesus name,  
**Amen.**

*By Daphne Kitching*

## From a prayer of St Patrick

May Christ shield me today.  
Christ with me, Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,  
Christ when I stand...

## Easter

Chocolate eggs and cuddly bunnies  
Mark the start of Easter time.  
But where's the cross, the Lord's great passion  
That took our sin both yours and mine?

Once a babe but now a king  
Born of David's royal line  
See the crown of tangled thorns  
Rammed upon the head divine.

Jeering now they strip and beat Him  
Nail Him to a cross on high  
Throwing dice they shout and mock him  
Watching there for Him to die.

Little did they know the outcome  
That it was the Father's plan  
That the Son should give His life  
Our sacrifice, the Paschal Lamb.

Taken down and wrapped in spices  
In a borrowed tomb He's laid,  
Stone rolled hard against the entrance  
Guards and seal securely made.

The women and disciples seek Him  
He who death could not hold down  
Risen now, forever living,  
Wearing now the victor's crown.

He the firstfruits of the Father,  
Secures for us a heavenly place  
What great joy and celebrations  
When we see Him face to face.

*By Megan Carter*

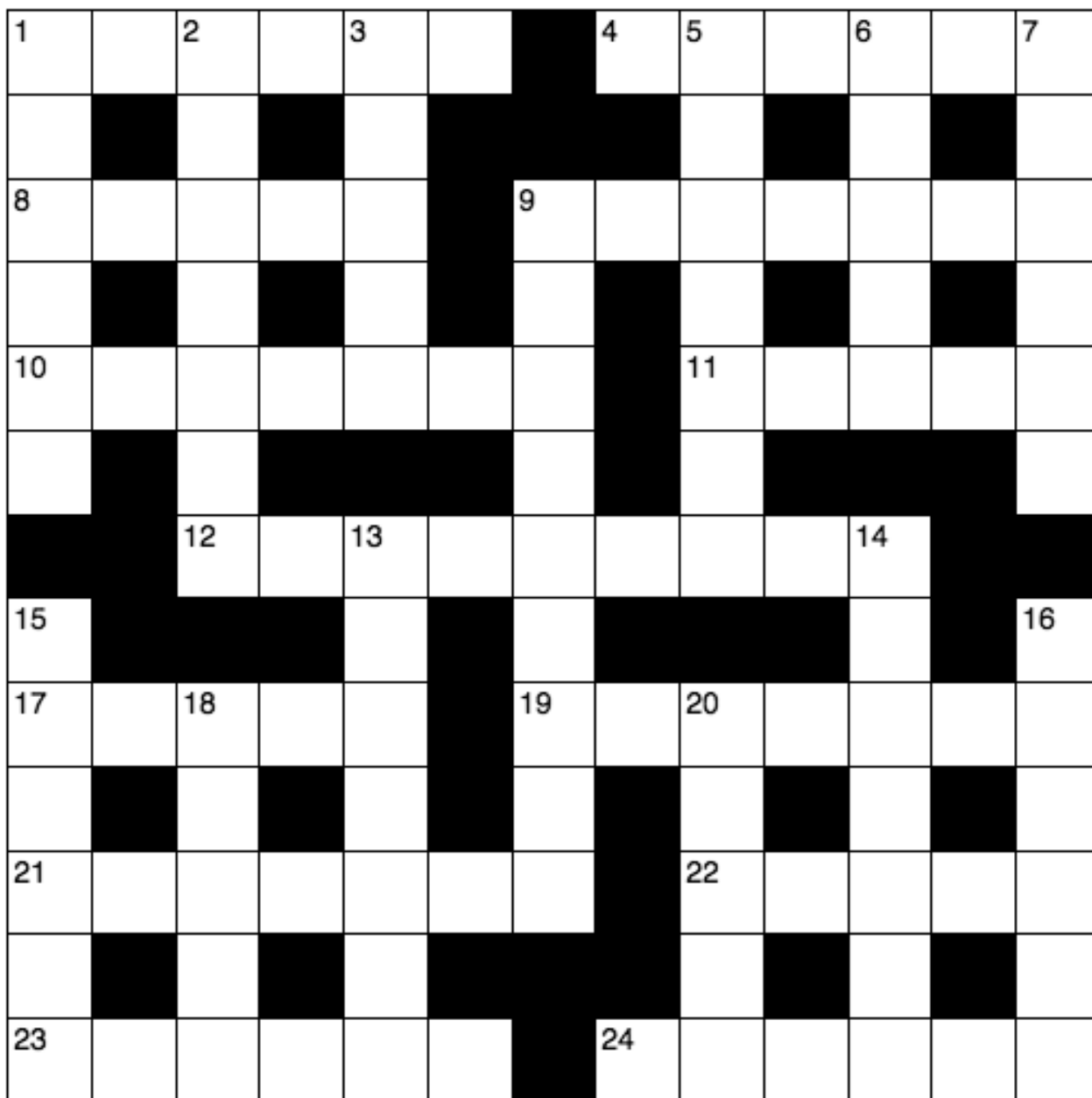
# Crossword Puzzle

## Clues Across

- 1** Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4** Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8** ““They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9** Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10** Jewish (7)
- 11** Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12** ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17** Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19** ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21** ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22** Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23** ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24** Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

## Clues Down

- 1** Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2** ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3** Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5** ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6** ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7** Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9** ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13** One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14** Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15** Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16** One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18** Donkeys (5)
- 20** Raked (anag.) (5)



Crossword Puzzle - Solution is on page 14.

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# Why does the date for Easter Sunday change every year?

Ever wondered why Easter Sunday can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25 and why the Orthodox Church Easter Sunday is only sometimes the same but more often than not different? There are as many misunderstandings about the calculation of Easter dates, as there are reasons for the confusion. What follows will hopefully clear up at least some of the confusion.

## **The Short Answer**

At the heart of the matter lies a very simple explanation. The early church fathers wished to keep the observance of Easter in correlation to the Jewish Passover. Because the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ happened after the Passover, they wanted Easter Sunday to always be celebrated subsequent to the Passover. And, since the Jewish holiday calendar is based on solar and lunar cycles, each feast day is movable, with dates shifting from year to year. From here onwards the explanation grows more complicated.

## **The Long Answer**

Today in Western Christianity, Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the Paschal Full Moon date of the year.

From 31 AD to 325 AD Easter Day was celebrated either: On or just after the first day of the Jewish Passover (no matter on which day of the week that Easter Day occurred). Or - On a Sunday close to or on the first Passover Day. Both of these methods existed continuously throughout this period. However, a change was brought about beginning in 325 AD with the Council of Nicea, and the Western Church decided to establish a more standardized system for determining the date of Easter. In reality, the date of the Paschal Full Moon (PFM) is determined from historical tables, and has no correspondence to lunar events.

As astronomers were able to approximate the dates of all the full moons in future years, the Western Christian Church used these calculations to establish a table of Ecclesiastical Full Moon dates. These dates would determine the Holy Days on the Ecclesiastical calendar. To read more visit - [www.assa.org.au/edm](http://www.assa.org.au/edm)

Though modified slightly from its original form, by 1583 AD the table for determining the Ecclesiastical Full Moon dates was permanently established and has been used ever since to determine the date of Easter. Thus, according to the Ecclesiastical tables, the Paschal Full Moon is the first Ecclesiastical Full Moon date after March 20 (which just happened to be the vernal equinox date in 325 AD). So, in Western Christianity, Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following the Paschal Full Moon.

The Paschal Full Moon can vary as much as two days from the date of the actual full moon, with dates ranging from March 21 to April 18. As a result, Easter dates can range from March 22 through April 25 in Western Christianity.

### **The Orthodox Easter** (Eastern Christianity)

Orthodox churches became fully autonomous in 1054 AD and celebrate their Easter always on the basis of the Julian calendar and the "19 PFM dates" table. The Julian calendar date Thursday October 4, 1582 was followed by the Gregorian calendar date Friday October 15, 1582. The 10 dates October 5 to 14 were removed.

Consequently, their Easter Sunday dates are identical up to 1582 and from 1583 onwards often differ from those of Western churches.

In some years the Orthodox Easter Sunday occurs on the same day as the Western Easter Sunday. For example, this occurred in 1990 because the Western Easter Sunday date of (Gregorian calendar) April 15, 1990 is the same as the Orthodox Easter Sunday date of (Julian calendar) April 2, 1990. In most years, Orthodox Easter follows Western Easter by one or more weeks.

*Editor*



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Leader - Mrs J Hutchinson  
Tel: 0114 257 8609

## **Ecclesfield Brownies**

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1st Wednesday of month 1:00 pm  
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Thursday 7.30 pm - Contact: Linda Waldron 246 3091  
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Tuesday 7:30 pm Contact: Mr Phil Hirst 286 2766

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## 257 0002

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# The Best Things About Ecclesfield

At St Mary's Church the bellringers ring  
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You can go to the Library to have a look  
And pop inside to borrow a book.

Monteney School is the place that's cool!

In the village there's Santander  
My pocket money's safe in there.

In the opticians you'll find Alex

And you can get amazing specs!

In Ecclesfield Park you can play on the swings,  
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At the Scouts Hut you can camp in a tent  
With 25th Ecclesfield Cubs, I'm glad that I went!

But best of all is Grandma's home  
Where I am always most welcome.

By Leo Johnson Age 8