

An Easter People

'We are an Easter people - and Alleluia is our song!'

This month the Church celebrates the momentous events of Good Friday and Easter. The Cross and the Resurrection are the culmination of Jesus' earthly work and ministry; they are at the very heart of our faith as Christians, they are at the very heart of the life of our world, they are at the very heart of God's work and plan for all creation.

'We are an Easter people - and Alleluia is our song!'

In countless churches throughout the world, the events of Holy Week and Easter will be remembered and celebrated in our liturgies, as it will be in our own churches here. Through these we seek to be drawn more deeply into the actual events which we celebrate; we seek to

open ourselves more fully to their significance and meaning. For the death and resurrection of Jesus have an ongoing impact and effect - for all people and for all of time. As we seek to share in these momentous events we too experience the pain and desolation of the early disciples as we too contemplate the Cross on Good Friday; we share also in the joy, wonder, triumph and exultation of the Resurrection at Easter.

'We are an Easter people - and Alleluia is our song!'

But this is not just about remembering and celebrating events which happened in the past some 2000 years ago, however important they are.

We need to make connections with our own lives and our own lived experiences today. Crucifixion and Resurrection experiences are met by people all of the time - and we experience them too.

There are sad and painful experiences in life - bereavement, illness, pain, for example. For Clare and me at the moment there is the pain of having to say goodbye to St Francis Church and people of whom we are extremely fond, whose life-journeys we have been privileged to share for nearly eight years.

God does not remove these painful experiences from us in life; he calls us to live through them, seek him in them, and draw closer to him through them.

But God also promises us that the pain of the Cross leads to the joy

of the Resurrection. The loss of bereavement leads to readjustment in the short term, in the longer term to unity in God's Kingdom; the pain of illness leads not necessarily to the curing of disease or symptoms, but it does bring healing and wholeness; for Clare and me, for the people of St Francis Church and for the parish, the sadness of this time leads to a new chapter of our lives, new challenges, new visions, new experiences of God's love and goodness.

With love and prayers and many thanks from Clare and me.

Fr. John

The monthly magazine of the Cowley Team Ministry

Chronicle

April 2004



Ministry of Healing

Healing Services:

St Francis Church

Tuesday 6th April 7.00 pm

St James Church

Thursday 15th April 7.30 pm

The ministry of healing is available at St James' Church every Sunday during the 10 o'clock service. Please go to St Luke's Chapel after you have received Communion where members of the Healing Team will be available to listen and to pray in complete confidence.



RALPH CADLE



Ralph Cadle died peacefully on March 14 after a long battle with cancer. Ralph, a regular member of St James, has been an inspiration to so many. Always an optimist, he never felt sorry for himself. After every piece of bad news, he always said, "Well, we'll hope for the best".

St James' Church was full with family and friends to give thanks for his life. The congregation heard of Ralph's life. Over the years he was very much part of the local community. He helped with the Florence Park Community Centre for many years, he helped build the first children's playground in Florence Park, and he helped with the 41st Cub Scouts in Beauchamp Lane.

Ralph was a family man who always had an open heart and an open house for family members in difficulties.

Over the last few years, and especially over the last few weeks, it has been a great privilege to talk and pray with Ralph. He was a man of faith who faced his dying with courage and serenity.

We give thanks for his life and for all that he has given to so many of us.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Stephen

Sundays @ Six at St James

The first Sunday of the month at 6 o'clock

April 4th The Way of the Cross

May 2nd In His presence

June 6th Exploring the Trinity

July 4th Open to God



FAREWELL TO FR JOHN & CLARE

SUNDAY 18TH APRIL

10.30 am Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism

12.00 pm Bring & Share Lunch

Fr John came to St Francis in September 1996 and has been appointed Team Rector of the Upper Wylde Valley Team in the Diocese of Salisbury. We shall be saying goodbye to Fr John, Clare and the boys at this Farewell Eucharist. After Lunch there will be presentations to Fr John and Clare. If you have not already done so, please give any contributions to Helen Doling or Gwen Ranklin.



Holy Week - Time to Reflect

This year, Easter Day falls on 11 April. The week leading up to it, which begins with Palm Sunday on 4 April, is very special in the church year, and is known as Holy Week.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the day when the Church remembers the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The gospels tell us that He had gone up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, and that when He entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

The next highlight of Holy Week falls on Maundy Thursday. Maundy Thursday focuses on one of the final acts concerning Jesus to be related in John's Gospel – the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus. The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

'Maundy' is an unusual word, and relates to this medieval practice of foot-washing. In the Middle Ages, church services were held in Latin. The opening words of a typical service on this day are based on the words of Jesus recorded in John 13: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis' The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command).

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. It is the

most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the Seven

Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Lent ends with Holy Saturday. The Eastern Orthodox churches hold the 'Paschal Vigil' – a late evening service which leads directly into the following Easter Day.

Holy Week and Easter at Saint James

PALM SUNDAY – 4th April

10.00 am Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist - *meet in The Hut*

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

7.30 pm Compline and Reflection

MAUNDY THURSDAY – 8th April

7.30 pm The Maundy Supper

9.00 pm The Watch in St Luke's Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY – 9th April

10.00 am Family Service –
followed by Hot Cross Buns

2.00 pm The Last Hour –
music, readings and address

EASTER DAY – 11th April

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Family Eucharist





Rosanne interviews Lyn Lord

Mention "Time Out" to many of the congregation at St Francis and you're likely to get the rejoinder "Oh Lyn Lord". Now I suppose I'd better explain. Those who know all about it can skip the next paragraph.

Lyn explained that there are quite a number of younger people in St Francis congregation who are too old for SLOG (the slightly older group) and too young to join the groups of retired folk who meet throughout the week for tea, coffee and a chat. So she came up with the idea of a social group which every 6 to 8 weeks could get together and have fun. Their programme so far has included a walk along the river with supper at a country pub and a bowling evening, also, I think at a country pub. It sounds like a great idea and judging by the number of couples and singles she quoted who are joining in it is flourishing.

Right, back to Lyn herself. A country girl, she grew up and went to school in Chalgrove. It was a happy childhood and she recalls how in those days it was safe enough to spend long hours out at play with the other village children riding bikes, making camps and picnicking in the woods and fields. From an early age she was taken to church with the other children from school and she joined the village Sunday School. The youngest

child of a family of four Lyn thinks she may have been a little bit spoilt – at least her elder sister believed so!

Her "when I grow up" ambition was to be a nanny or a hairdresser. At her village school she was best at art and needlework and at secondary school in Wantage she shone at maths and was average in everything else. When she left Icknield School she started work in a bank, hated it, and left within a month. Then followed some very happy years. Still a shy and quiet self-conscious teenager she endured an interview at the Co-op main office in George Street Oxford and was offered a job as an invoice clerk in the Co-op in Cowley Centre. She talks about the lovely friendly atmosphere she encountered there and she made life-long friends from many of her colleagues.

It was at this time too that she met Dave. With friends she used to dance her Saturday nights away at Fingles Club in Wheatley. She spotted Dave across the dance floor and was thrilled when he came over. She describes him as very special then and even more special now after nearly 23 years of marriage. In those days he drove her round the highways of Oxford in his old blue Maxi and took her home to meet his mum and dad. In no time Lyn had established a warm relationship with them,

which she still values greatly.

Three years later – time to find a home and get married but wages at the Co-op were such that she would have to earn more to augment Dave's salary in order to secure a mortgage. So she left the job she loved and went to work in the offices at Unipart. There she found out how cruel and unfeeling a group of women and girls can be. She stuck at the post because the money was good but it was hard. Lyn hates cruel gossip.

The couple found their first home in White Road and after 5 years their first son, James was born. A couple of years later baby William completed their family. Lyn talks with pride about her two sons who by now tower over her and carry her shopping. When her children were small she took them along to St Luke's mother and toddler group. On the closure of St Luke's she moved to St James and joined the choir.

Thirteen years ago the family moved to their present home in Temple Road and at about the same time James started school at St Francis First School. It was through the school that links were made with St Francis Church and Lyn says she found her "second family". She is involved in a good deal of church life including "Time Out" which brings us full circle.

When William was a toddler she became a registered childminder. At the moment she cares for two little ones and three “after schools” though not all at the same time! When I arrived for our interview she was busy cutting out shapes for the older children’s afternoon activities. She showed me her playroom and I found it enchanting. I almost wished I had a small child to leave with her knowing that toys, books and everything would be just as right as they should be as indeed would Lyn’s care.

How would you describe yourself as a child?

Quiet, shy, lacking in confidence.

Do you have any memories of childhood which you will never forget?

Running out of the school gates not long after I had started. I just wanted to be at home with my mum and dad, and fishing in the brook in my wellies with a jam jar.

Has God always been a part of your life?

On and offish. I used to go to church with school and Sunday school but God came into my life through my children. When I went to St Lukes Father Ian was there.

I got so much out of the Mother and Toddler Group that I thought I’d like to put something back.

What do you think is good about modern society?

I like the way we can travel easily. Years ago I didn’t travel, now it’s so convenient. I must say I can now use the

internet. Last year I went on a computer course and now I can send e-mails, shop on-line or just browse. It’s a big achievement for me.

And what makes you angry about modern society?

Rubbish – people throwing rubbish!!

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Walking, going along the towpath on my bike. (I like the calm of the water). I enjoy the cinema and I like decorating “special” cakes.

What makes you laugh?

When I go out with a good friend and we try on hats. We just crack up – it’s a girlie thing.

Do you have ambitions for the future?

I would like to move away to the French coast. We don’t know yet whether we’d pull up roots permanently or do six months here in England and six months there.

How about your plans for ten years’ time?

Possibly running our own small gîte somewhere in northern France.

If you could change something in a spectacular way, what would it be?

I’d like to bring peace and calm to every country at war and show the young people of the world that life is not about war.



The Spikenard

Kathleen Gillum



Mary poured out from the jar
 The precious ointment rare,
 Upon the Master's holy feet
 Whilst He was sitting there.
 But one there was rebuked
 her
 For the sense she lacked,
 But Jesus gently praised her
 For the loving act.
 Now some there are like
 Mary
 Who reach out generously,
 They act with love on impulse
 And give unstintingly.
 But there are others watching
 Who have flaw-seeing eyes
 Can't see beneath the surface
 And do not realise
 That many hearts when
 moved by love
 Express themselves in giving,
 And pour a soothing balm
 upon
 The wounds and stings of
 living.

From a church notice-sheet:

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our Sunday School Director, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

In a word ATONEMENT

"I feel cheated; I wanted to see him suffer; I wanted him to stay in prison for the rest of his life."

People often express their feelings in such terms .

They may feel that justice has not been done. While the one who has suffered from the criminal acts of another goes on suffering, perhaps for the rest of their life, the criminal spends a year in prison and then is out in the community, free to repeat the offence.

One suggested course of action is for the offender and his victim to meet. The problem is that the victim has seldom any wish to see the offender. On the other hand the court may sometimes wish the offender to put right the damage he has done, to rebuild a damaged wall.

We need some way in which the damage can be put right, and the relationship restored, where there has been one in the past, as between neighbours or friends, for instance. Where they are not on speaking terms any longer, both may nevertheless wish to restore their one-ness, and for that to happen there needs to be some way for the offender to atone for his errors. He needs to make at-one-ment for the damage done.

And that is what the Atonement is all about in Christian belief. We have certainly broken God's law and wrecked our relationship with him. We need some way of paying for what we have done. The more conscious we are of our offence, the more our conscience knows we need to pay. Yet the cost is beyond our ability to pay. God is the victim of our offence! Yet He has born the cost which we could never pay. He sent his Son to atone for the sins of the whole world. It may not be fair on Him, but it is our only hope for eternity.

Holy Week at Saint Francis

Holy Week is a vital part of the Church's year. The whole congregation is encouraged to share with us as we recall, encounter, and seek to enter deeply into the events of this critical period of our Lord's life and work.

PALM SUNDAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.30 am Parish Eucharist and Procession
5.30 pm Stations of the Cross
6.15 pm Silent Prayer before the Cross

Monday in Holy Week

9.30 am Holy Eucharist
8.00 pm Night Prayer & Address

Tuesday in Holy Week

7.00 pm Healing Service

Wednesday in Holy Week

9.30 am Holy Eucharist
8.00 pm Night Prayer & Address

MAUNDY THURSDAY

10.00 am Children's Activity Morning
7.30 pm Sung Eucharist followed by
The Watch until midnight

GOOD FRIDAY

10.00 am Children's Activity Morning
11.15 am Way of the Cross - for young people - of all ages
2.00pm An Hour at the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY

9.15 am Morning Prayer (followed by breakfast)
7.30 pm The Easter Vigil

EASTER DAY

8.00 am Holy Eucharist
10.30 am FAMILY EUCHARIST



Jesus said to his disciples - "Watch, and pray"

THE NEW CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2004/5

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting last month the following were elected to the Parochial Church Council:

- * *Churchwardens:* Gwen Ranklin and Norah Shallow
- * *(Deanery Synod:* Gwen Ranklin, Leslie Williams, Pat Chung)
- * *PCC Members:* Una Dean, Rosanne Butler, Pat Giles, Margaret Martin, Marlene Shreeve, John Shreeve, June Smith, Eva Tustin.
- * *also PCC members.*



St Mark

April 25th



Mark, the son of Mary, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and his 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second

gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14.51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him.

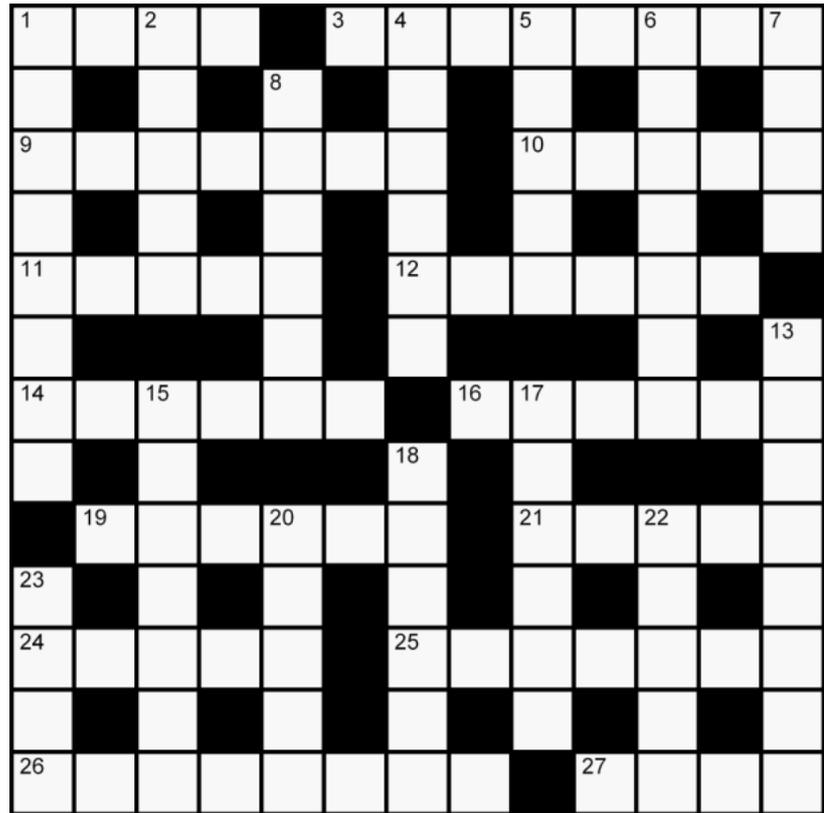
Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist, the lion, is much in evidence at Venice.

March's Solution

M	A	R	K		E	G	Y	P	T	I	A	N
A	O	R			O	L	S					E
N	U	M	B	E	R	S		A	T	L	A	S
A	A	P			P			N	A			T
S	I	N	C	E		E	X	T	E	N	T	
S			N		L					D		G
E	I	G	H	T	H		E	L	I	S	H	A
H			A			P		A				T
	S	L	I	C	E	S		M	Y	R	R	H
S			S	I	R		A		E		A	E
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April's Crossword



CLUES

Across

- 1 Second gospel of the New Testament (4)
- 3 Tribe of Israel named after a grandson of Jacob (8)
- 9 Archangel said to have healed the earth when it was defiled by the sins of the fallen angels (7)
- 10 Characteristic of farming or country life (5)
- 11 Circulate or distribute (5)
- 12 The coldest season of the year (6)
- 14 If not (6)
- 16 Sister of Mary and Lazarus (6)
- 19 A spike formed by the freezing of dripping water (6)
- 21 First of the twelve Minor Prophets of the Old Testament (5)
- 24 Present for acceptance or rejection (5)
- 25 Accept as true (7)
- 26 Moving with great haste (8)
- 27 Cleanse with soap and water (4)

Down

- 1 Showing kindness and compassion (8)
- 2 Strong cords (5)
- 4 Gives permission (6)
- 5 Brother of Moses and founder of the Jewish priesthood (5)
- 6 Creature responsible for tempting Eve (7)
- 7 Devoted entirely to God (4)
- 8 Draft or saddle animals in desert regions (6)
- 13 In which town in Galilee did Jesus spend his youth? (8)
- 15 Chief spirit of evil (7)
- 17 For a short time (6)
- 18 Firstborn son of Jacob and Leah (6)
- 20 Bear the weight of (5)
- 22 The queen who visited King Solomon in Jerusalem (5)
- 23 The builder of the Biblical Ark (4)

Sunday Services

ST JAMES' CHURCH, BEAUCHAMP LANE

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Sung Eucharist (<i>exc 2nd Sunday</i>) All Age Eucharist (<i>2nd Sunday</i>) Cowley Asian Christian Fellowship
1.00 pm	Evening Service
6.00 pm	[<i>1st Sunday of the month</i>]

ST FRANCIS' CHURCH, HOLLOW WAY

8.00 am	Holy Eucharist
10.30 am	Parish Eucharist [<i>Family Eucharist -</i> <i>2nd Sunday of the month</i>]

Mid-Week Services & Meetings

Monday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Tuesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	12.00 pm	Eucharist - <i>St James</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	8.00 pm	St Francis Discussion Group – <i>4 Long Close</i>
Wednesday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
	10.10 am	Mothers and Toddlers – <i>St Francis</i>
	12.00 pm	St James Prayer Group – <i>13 Clive Road</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
Thursday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	9.30 am	Eucharist - followed by coffee – <i>St James</i>
	11.00 am	St Francis Prayer Group
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	7.00 pm	Eucharist – <i>St Francis</i>
Friday	9.00 am	Morning Prayer – <i>St Francis</i>
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer – <i>St James</i>
	7.00 pm	Friday Club – <i>alt Fridays at St Francis</i>
Saturday	9.15 am	Morning Prayer & Breakfast – <i>St Francis</i>

Arrangements for Baptisms, Banns of Marriage, Weddings, Confessions and Home Communion can be made with any of the clergy.

Days Off

Stephen has Friday off; Fr John and Mark have Mondays. Except in emergency, please try and respect these days of rest. Sr Margaret Anne works within the parish on Tuesdays, Thursdays and on alternate Sundays .

Parish Directory

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