



ST ANDREW'S
S H O T T E R Y

*He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed
for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace
was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.*

isaiah 53:4-5

Easter

Services
pages 2/3



2023

£1.50

St. Andrew's Web: <http://www.saintandrewsshottery.org>



Sundays: 8.00am Holy Communion
 10.00am Parish Eucharist*
 5.00pm Evensong (third Sunday)
 6.30pm Every other Sunday

1st Sunday: 10.00am All-Age Family Service (without Communion)

2nd Sunday: 10.00am Parish Eucharist .

3rd Sunday: 6.30pm Atrium.

Tuesdays: 7.30pm Holy Communion

Thursdays: 10.00am Holy Communion.

*This Service will also be on zoom. Do check out our website and on Facebook for links.

Palm Sunday

10.00: **Family Palm Sunday Service** (beginning with procession from the Hospice at 9.30am)

6.30pm: **Healing & Wholeness Service with Holy Communion,**



Monday – Reading of st .Mark’s Gospel .

Tuesday – Holy Communion with ‘Stations of the Cross’ meditation.

Wednesday (Service of Light & Shadows).

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm: Holy Communion with foot washing.

9.00pm: The ‘Watch’ – until midnight

Good Friday



10.00am: Family service with children’s activities.

10.00am Stratford Churches Together Walk of Witness

1.30 to 3.00pm **Before the Cross.** Three half hourly sessions of readings, meditations and music.

Holy Saturday

8.00pm: **Renewal of Baptism promises and the blessing of the Easter Candle.**



Easter Day

8.00am: Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am: Holy Communion

No evening Service



Sunday 21st May
following service

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Our annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 21st May this year, shortly after the 10 am church service.

This is our Annual General Meeting, where we review the year just ended and look forward to the year ahead. All

members of the congregation are welcome and those on the church's Electoral Roll have a vote.

One item on the agenda is the election of Churchwardens and PCC members. We always welcome nominations for new members – if you're interested, just let me or one of the wardens know in good time.

Please join us for this key meeting.

David Millington
Secretary to the PCC



What difference does Easter make?

What if the Easter bunny wins the hearts of children everywhere? Why not strike "Easter holiday" from the vocabulary of our schools and substitute "Spring break"? What difference does Easter make anyway?

It made a lot of difference to a woman named Mary. Let me tell you her story. . . .

Mary washed the dried blood from Jesus' lifeless body as two other followers prepared the tomb cut into Jerusalem's cold limestone. She had been born a native of Magdala, a town along the coast of Galilee. "Little good it did me," she mused. Money had brought the opposite of happiness. She looks back at her teen years as a blur of painful, compulsive acting out. Her parents had thrown up their hands in despair, she recalled. She recollected the gnawing fear, the self-loathing that ate at her very core. And she could remember the caring boldness in Jesus' penetrating eyes as he had confronted the 'demons' that tormented her and commanded them to be gone forever. That had been the last of the frantic, distraught Mary. A gentle, peace-filled Mary had taken her place. Until today.

Today she had seen her Lord die an excruciating death, his body weight hanging limp from the nails driven through his hands and feet, suspended from a cross like a common criminal.

Her heart caught in her throat as she remembered and wept and washed away the caked blood with her tears. She wept, too, as she watched the men lift Jesus' corpse onto the tomb's carved ledge and roll a massive stone across the doorway.

Was all her hope for nothing? What of all the thousands of diseased bodies he had healed? The broken lives he had restored? The promises of the Kingdom of God?

But early Sunday morning she was back at the tomb to finish anointing his body. When she arrived the tomb stood open, stone pushed to the side, ashes of the Roman guards' fire still smoldering. "How can they be

so cruel?" she cried as she ran to tell the apostles. But it wasn't cruelty that rolled away the stone that Easter morning. It was the powerful hand of God as Jesus stepped forth brimming with Life.

Mary saw him, mistaking him for the gardener. But there was no mistaking his familiar voice, Mary." She fell at his feet, tears of grief melting into tears of joy. "Rabboni," she said as she looked into his face. "Teacher."

Yes, Easter bunnies still capture the hearts of children and schools talk about Spring breaks, but you and I know what really happened on Easter.

In an instant history changed forever, because where once the human mortality rate had held steady at 100%, now it skipped a beat as Jesus stepped out of dead statistics into life. Death is the last word no longer, life is!

"I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus said. "He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

May God bless your Easter with life and peace,

Reverend Craig



Turn out the lights, the parties over...

So, this is it, my final article for Searchlight as curate at St Andrew's.

Almost three years ago, I arrived in Stratford upon Avon to start my curacy. We were at the end of the first lockdown, but this didn't stop people making me feel very welcome. I had cards and gifts left at my door daily. Every time I came back to the house I would find more lovely gifts. I felt very loved by people I'd never met.. It was quite an experience.

My time at St Andrew's has been an incredible adventure and huge learning curve. In this time, I have been able to follow my calling and develop as a priest. I have loved being part of the church family and meeting so many lovely people along the way.

One of my real highlights has been opening the doors of the church to so many new people at the Community Beer festival.

As I move on to new pastures I will continue to pray for you all and for the church here in Shottery. You have so many exciting things going on and so many more things in the pipeline it's such a prosperous time for St Andrew's.



As I said this is my last article for the parish magazine and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your love and kindness. You have helped shape me and develop into the priest/man I am today.

God Bless you all.

Revd Mike Stewart





400 Years of Anne Shakespeare.

This year marks the four hundredth anniversary of the death of Anne Shakespeare (née Hathaway), of Shottery and Stratford-upon-Avon. She's long been commemorated through

what has become known as Anne Hathaway's Cottage, which The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has owned since 1892. But this year is special.

Anne was brought up in Shottery, one of ten children. In her mid-twenties she captivated the eighteen-year-old William Shakespeare. They married and had three children: Susanna, and then twins, Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet died in 1596, aged eleven. A year later the Shakespeares moved into the largest house in the borough of Stratford-upon-Avon, New Place, which Anne would manage for the next nineteen years. It had between twenty and thirty rooms, extensive grounds, cottage industries, and, from 1603 to 1611, lodgers, the Greene family. Anne was financially competent and trustworthy. In 1601 she was left forty shillings in the will of Thomas Whittington for distribution among the poor of Stratford-upon-Avon. She survived her famous husband by seven years, died on 6 August 1623, and is buried next to him in Holy Trinity Church.

2023 also marks another quatercentenary, the publication of Shakespeare's collected plays, now known as the First Folio. The Folio is the focus of a new exhibition at New Place. But some of us thought that it was high time that Anne Shakespeare had a book of her own.

I am glad to have instigated and co-edited a collection of poems, *Anne-thology: Poems Re-presenting Anne Shakespeare*. The volume places her centre-stage and encourages us to re-imagine Anne in her own right and afresh for our own times. It contains sixty-seven newly-commissioned poems, one for each year of Anne's life, as well as eleven previously published poems (including Shakespeare's Sonnet 145 which

puns on Hathaway). The poetic voices that sing from its pages are excitingly diverse in their age and background and include some of the finest poets of their generation, for example John Agard, Wendy Cope, Imtiaz Dharker, Carol Anne Duffy, Luke Kennard, Andrew McMillan, Grace Nichols, and Rowan Williams, as well as six poems from local primary-school children. The collection presents a multi-faceted portrait of Anne's identity and dreams. My own contribution, which imagines Shakespeare's thoughts as he walks towards Shrottery, took form as I walked towards St. Andrew's one Sunday morning. You might like to look out for the book in the Shakespeare Bookshop, or on-line. It's being sold in support of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Anne's epitaph has been set to music by a pupil at King Edward VI's School and will be sung as part of the Shakespeare Service on 23rd April. Its words - presumably by her surviving daughters - convey the promise of Easter:

'Mother, thou gavest me the breast, thou gavest me milk and life. Woe's me, for so great a gift my return will be but a tomb. Would that the good Angel would roll away the stone from its mouth, that thy form, like the body of Christ, might come forth! Yet are my prayers of no avail: O Christ, come quickly, that my mother, even though shut in the tomb, may rise again, and seek the stars.'

Paul Edmondson



Towards Shottery

My Anne, I'll walk to Shottery,
my heart will write along the way
our couplet for eternity;

my nightingale, my spiced sea,
your rhyme, your rhythm fills my day;
my Anne, I'll walk to Shottery;

the moon will draw my poetry –
O race of heaven, sing and stay –
our couplet for eternity;

we'll rest beneath your apple tree,
my heart, my crown, my script, my May;
my Anne, I'll walk to Shottery;

that kiss – our bliss – brave ecstasy,
truth tumbled on us as we lay,
our couplet for eternity;

I dream your scent, your mystery:
'I am her Will; she hath her way' –
my Anne, I'll walk to Shottery,
our couplet for eternity.

Paul Edmondson.



Hot Cross Buns Though many places sell them all year round, hot cross buns are traditionally eaten on Good Friday. The cross on the top is a reminder of the cross on which Jesus died, and the spices are a reminder of the spices used in his burial.



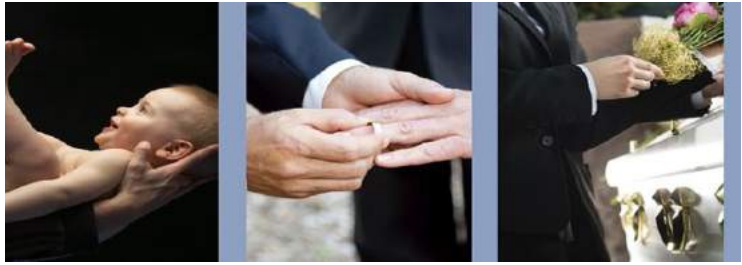
**If a tiny virus can
do this much damage,
imagine what mustard
seed size faith can do.**



**Keep faith
in God,
through
all times. He
will pull us
through.**

Amen

PARISH REGISTERS



Registers for March 2023

Funerals:

- 7th Colin Baker (73)
23rd Edith Payne (96) - burial of ashes

Baptisms:

- 5th Reuben Richard George Hurst





PILGRIMAGE TO OUR OWN COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

I am sure many of you will have joined in worship at our Cathedral but have you had the chance to explore further the history and spiritual depth of the place?

Well, now is your chance. Taking advantage of Rev. Su working there just now we have planned a Pilgrimage to the Cathedral on **Saturday 13th May**. We shall depart from our car park at

10.00am (travelling by car and mini bus).

The programme for the day is set out below:

1100 Arrive and pilgrimage in the ruins

1200 Litany of Reconciliation and Holy Communion

1230 Lunch (bring a picnic or go to local cafes or coffee shop)

1330 Pilgrimage in the new Cathedral

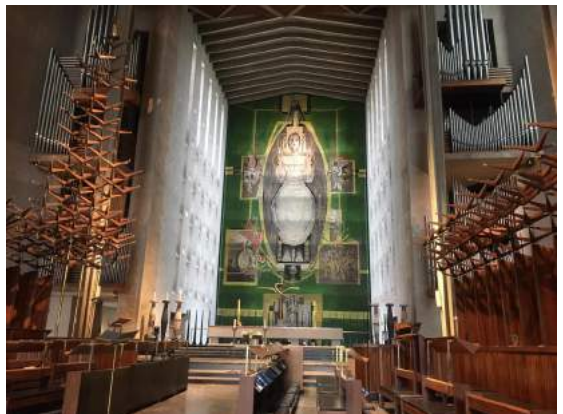
1500 Tea break

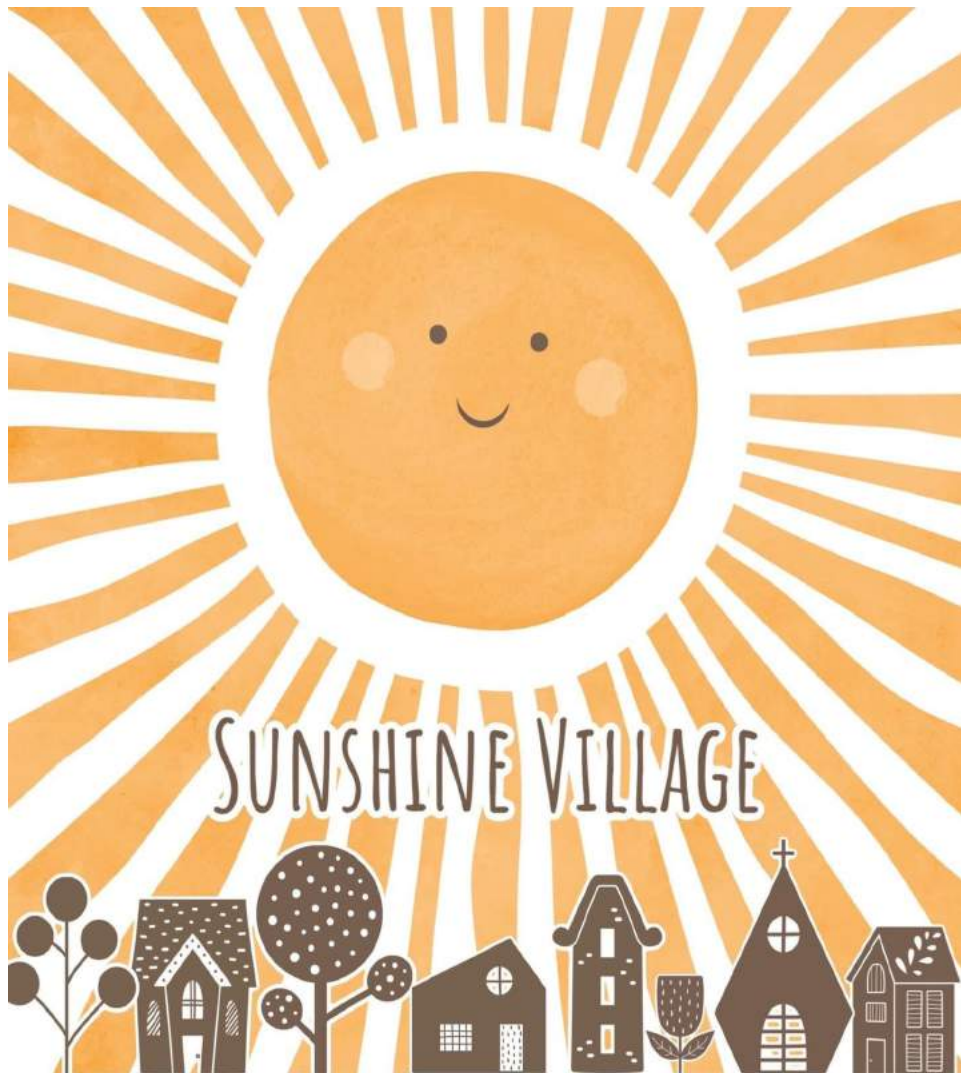
1520 Evening prayer with reflection

1600 Depart

The cost of the day will be £8 per person. This will include a cup of tea or coffee in the afternoon.

A list for signing up will shortly appear in the Welcome Area, or please contact the Parish Office if you wish to participate.





SUNSHINE VILLAGE

An exciting new role-play toddler group at
St Andrews Church, Shottery
Wednesdays (during term time) 9.30-11.15
£3 per session including a snack for children and a
pastry and coffee for their grown-up.
Booking essential via Eventbrite.



We had a very good meeting this month to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our Mothers' Union branch at St. Andrews.

Our Diocesan President, Karen Morris, together with her husband and two other of the Trustees joined members and friends to celebrate Holy Communion. Revd. Craig kindly officiated assisted by Alan Minchin; thanks also to Rosemary Robson for playing the organ. This was also a Membership Service with members affirming to support the aims and objects of the Mothers' Union; Karen presented long service certificates for members - some for over 34 years.

It was also a fine opportunity for her to formally enroll and welcome five new members.

Afterwards, everyone foregathered in the hall for tea and talk. There was plenty of memorabilia on show and M.U. cards and other goods for sale. Audrey Edwards cut the lovely Anniversary Cake (great firework candle incidentally!)

Hilary thanked Karen and the Trustees for coming and gave a few notices about future events including Mothering Sunday posies and Easter cards and gifts.



Karen said they had really been pleased to join in the afternoon, wished us well and closed proceedings with a prayer.

Next meeting - **Monday, 17th April** (please note change of date)

"Art Attack" with Graham Poole.

Daphne Jones



Easter Celebrations

The anticipation of all those chocolate Easter eggs can be almost too much! When the big day finally arrives, these are some sweet ways you can help children understand why they have received Easter eggs, and explain the Easter story while enjoying the chocolate too.

An Easter Egg story. Here's a fun way to connect chocolate Easter eggs with the story of Easter from the bible. Sit down together and enjoy peeling the foil wrapping off a hollow chocolate egg. Hold the egg in your hand. Jesus' tomb was a bit like this egg – with the big stone rolled against the tomb entrance, inside it must have been dark and cramped. It's as if the darkness makes it still Good Friday, the day that Jesus died.

But on the first Easter day, Jesus came alive again, and burst out of the tomb. Good Friday is broken once and for all, and new life is set free. At this point, feel free to smash the egg and start eating the pieces. While you eat, keep going with thinking through the story.

But the trouble was, that nobody saw it happen. The soldiers who were guarding the tomb had fainted in fear, and the next thing we know, Mary arrives at Jesus' tomb and finds that it's empty. The actual moment of the resurrection happened in private. All that excitement and joy and nobody to share it...

On Easter Sunday we focus on Mary's story. There in the garden, the resurrection had already happened, but she was trapped in her own Good Friday – her grief and sadness kept her in the dark. If you have another chocolate egg, peel off the wrapping together and hold it in your hand. Just like the first egg, it's like Good Friday is still happening. It still felt like Good Friday to Mary. When we read Mary's story we can tell the exact moment when the resurrection happened for her – it's when Jesus calls her name and she recognises him. Suddenly all her sadness is turned to joy. Mary's Good Friday is gone once and for all, the new life is set free in her.

You can smash and eat your second egg now. Over the next few weeks, churches all over the world read more stories of how Jesus' friends discovered that he was alive again: their own Good Fridays turned to Easter, all in different ways.

If you have lots of chocolate eggs, you could use these stories to help you eat them:-

- Jesus' closest friends were trapped in a Good Friday because they were afraid, but Jesus came to them and said: 'Peace be with you', and all their fear disappeared.
- Thomas's Good Friday was all about doubt, but his doubt turned to new faith and confidence when he saw Jesus for himself.
- Some friends of Jesus were on a journey when Jesus met them on the road, and helped them understand what had happened; he stayed with them for supper and as he broke the bread to share, they recognised him. Their Good Friday confusion turned to Easter recognition.
- Peter was Jesus' best friend, but he was stuck in Good Friday because he'd betrayed Jesus just when he needed his friendship the most. Peter's Easter moment came when Jesus gave him three chances to say 'I love you' to make up the three times that he had turned his back.

Sometimes we can get stuck in Good Friday too – you could use this prayer (perhaps as you eat a little bit more chocolate) to help you enjoy the new life of Easter – or pray it for people you know who are having a hard time at the moment.

Dear Jesus, Be with us in our Good Fridays, and lead us into the new life of Easter. Amen



When it rains look for a rainbow,
When it is dark look for stars.
Oscar Wilde

No one is perfect that is why
pencils have erasers.
Wolfgang Riebe

A wise man learns more from his failures than
his successes.

The Three Days,
by Win Smith.

Friday was the darkest day
On that hill so far away.
Jesus hung on a wooden cross
His head was pierced with a crown of thorns,
His bleeding side, his dry stung mouth
And his gentle face now grey with pain.
His Father's will he knew he had done.
The darkness came
Day turned to night
And in that darkness Jesus died.

Saturday dawned
Quiet and still
The tumult passed, and the crowd had gone.
Mary his mother bowed down with grief
Her son lay dead
A rock tomb his bed.

Sunday dawned
The third day.
Alleluia --He is Risen
Not dead
But Risen.
He did this for us
To take our sins away,
To heal the world.
Oh, let us pray
Thy Will be done.



No lunch club in April.



**Thank you
for your
Donation!**

The charity collection in February for PARKINSONS UK realised £426.



Coffee Morning
With Bring and Buy
Everyone Welcome
15th and 29th April
10am till noon



Stamp!

It was cold, dark January evening and I stood apprehensively by the parish centre doors, anxiously wondering how the evening was going to pan-out. Up until this point, Stamp had just been an idea, a dream, an aspiration to bring together children from around Stratford who just love to sing and to share that joy together. And the time had now come to see if we really could make that dream a reality.

We need not have worried as before long, twenty-five amazing children bounced through the door full of energy, enthusiasm and ready to sing. What a great night it was! The children came from a range of different schools around Stratford and so plenty of time was given to enabling them to make some new friends though play and team-building activities and then, of course, lots of fun music. And they have returned week after week, bringing new friends along the way.



Stamp is a new hybrid concept with the simple objectives to bring children together and have fun, experience the joy that music and singing can bring and provide opportunities to socialise and make new friendships. Over the weeks we have found our feet, refining the format to suit the children.

Initially we meet in the parish centre and enjoy games such as air hockey, table football, Twister and giant Jenga and then move into the church for our singing. So far, we have covered favourite musicals, gospel, tongue twisters and rounds and each week just gets better. We are continually amazed by the speed in which children pick up new music and the enthusiasm that they bring to it too!

During this part of the evening, raffle tickets are awarded for a range of positive reasons such as great singing (of course!), good ideas, brilliant listening or even just a big smile!



Finally, we move back to the parish centre for our tuckshop and prize giving. The tuckshop provides a wide range of choices, everything priced at 50p. Any profits made from this are fed straight back into Stamp to buy new music and hopefully, in time, a uniform for us all!

The raffle tickets are drawn and 4 lucky winners each week, receive a gift voucher entitling them to 1 free gift from the tuck shop the following week!

We also award our 'Stamper of the Week' trophy at this point, celebrating individual special achievements. One special moment for us was when one little girl told us that the week she won the trophy, she took it in to school for her 'show and tell' and sang her favourite Stamp song to her classmates.

The first half term really couldn't have gone any better and far exceeded our expectations. We felt, that although it wasn't part of our initial plans, a show really is a must. And so.... It is a great pleasure to announce that on Saturday 24th June 2023, Stamp will be performing live on stage at St Andrews Church!

The children were absolutely delighted to hear this and gave a spontaneous round of applause following the news we even plan ice creams in the interval!



It is such a joy to be with the children each week and I feel very lucky to have this exciting opportunity. I can't wait to see what the future holds for us.

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED.

A CASTING OF the eagle sculpture of Coventry Cathedral's great lectern stands outside Dallas Trade Mart as a memorial to President Kennedy. In Dallas USA, on the platform below the column on which the eagle is perched is written a phrase from a poem by William Blake: ***'When thou seest an eagle, thou seest a portion of genius. Lift up thy head.'***

There is also a dedication plaque on which is written: ***'Placed in memorial by the friends of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy who awaited his arrival at the Dallas Trade Mart, November 22, 1963'.***

The assassination of President Kennedy took place in Dealey Plaza, Dallas as he was on his way to give a speech to 2,600 people at a sold-out luncheon in the Grand Courtyard of Dallas Trade Mart. The Coventry Cathedral eagle was proposed as a suitable memorial for the President by Mr John Stemmons, the Chairman of Dallas Trade Mart, because it had so impressed him when he visited Coventry the previous year.

Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley blessed and dedicated the eagle during a service held at the memorial in October 1964. He paid tribute to President Kennedy as ***"a great leader"***.



The Eagle was created by Elisabeth Frink (1930-93), pictured above left, and was her first major commission. Even while she was a student at Chelsea College of Art, Frink had an interest in the possibilities of sculpting animals. One of her earliest works, ***Bird, 1951***, was purchased by the Tate Gallery.

The design for the Coventry Cathedral lectern evolved out of her previous

bird works and studies she made of the birds at London Zoo. If you look carefully at it you see how in order to create the feathers, she set kindling sticks into the plaster with which she was working.

The Cathedral architect, Basil Spence, wrote that Elisabeth Frink... ***“has designed and carried out a magnificent bird which looks as if it has just settled there after a long flight”.***

Martin Williams.

Chairman, Cathedral Friends.

It was the week after the resurrection, and disciples were still scattered about Jerusalem and the surrounding villages. John searched high and low for Peter and finally found him still hanging out in the upper room. “Peter, Peter!” he said excitedly. “I have good news and bad news. Which would you rather hear first?”

“By all means give me the good news. We’ve had enough bad news lately,” Peter said.

“The good news is Christ is risen,” John said.

“That’s great!” said Peter. *“Now what’s the bad news?”*

John looked around anxiously and said, *“Well, He’s really steamed up about last Friday.”*



Two donkeys were walking in Jerusalem, when one donkey said to the other, “Just yesterday I was here carrying Jesus and the people were singing and shouting and throwing down their clothes for me to walk on, and today they don’t even recognize me”. The other donkey replied, “that’s how it is my friend.....**Without JESUS you are nothing**



I have previously shared with you the success of our Pumpkin Party and Crazy Christingle family events at St Andrews; both fully booked and full of energy. Following very positive feedback from volunteers and families attending, we then looked to emulate this format on a monthly basis and thus introduce to you, 'Chocolate Church'.



On the second Sunday each month, we open our doors to children and their families from 3-5pm to explore Christian Values and stories through games, crafts and of course, chocolate! The afternoon concludes with a meal enjoyed together.

In February we ran our Valentines Special, of course focusing on the value of love. Activities included making chocolate lollipops, hot chocolate shots, heart shaped bird feeders and jars of kindness to name but a few.

We then assembled in church to learn about this central Christian value through chocolate and Maths (an interesting combination!) before enjoying a meal of sausage pasta and garlic bread followed by fruit cheesecakes.

There were 80 places available for this event and we were completely sold out (with a waiting list) the same morning that tickets went live!



Following a success can be hard and so it was with a little apprehension that I planned March's Chocolate Church, 'The DIY Big Picnic'.

I needn't have fretted. Ambitiously advertising 90 tickets this time, we sold out again within hours! I was absolutely thrilled to recognise the majority of names on the bookings, confirming that people had indeed decided to return to Chocolate Church!



The Big Picnic was based around the feeding of the 5000 and we started in church with Craig telling the story to the children before embarking on our afternoon's activities in the parish centre.

We provided a DIY picnic station where children chose and made their own sandwiches and selected the other items for their picnic bags including crisps, drinks and fruit.

Another activity invited children to make their own pudding for their picnic bags – a chocolate biscuit decorated with mini loaves and cereal fishes.



In addition, children made chocolate coated fish sweets, chocolate cheerio fishes, salt dough bakery items and even painted on real bread (try it; it's fun!)

Whilst our lovely volunteers worked to clear the hall and get it ready for the 'Big Picnic', we met again in church for a Chocolate Champions League: Adults v Kids. We played fishfinger tennis, tortilla frisbee and even tuna skittles to establish this month's champions (Yes, it was the children!)

The afternoon was concluded by spreading the picnic rugs in the parish centre and sharing our wonderful DIY picnic together.

WHAT HAPPENS IN HOLY WEEK?

Holy Week describes the days leading up to Easter, the most important event in the Christian calendar.

During it Christians remember the last days of Jesus' life as he entered Jerusalem and ate the last supper with his disciples before being arrested, beaten and executed. The week culminates with a joyous celebration for Easter Sunday, marking Jesus' rise from the dead. Many churches celebrate Easter with a public procession of the cross

Here are the significant moments of the week and what Christians do to celebrate them:

Palm Sunday: Also known as Passion Sunday, this marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As one of the few events described in all four Gospels, services normally include a reading focusing on the crowd's celebration and laying palm leaves down for Jesus' donkey to ride over.

Holy Monday to Wednesday: The days between Sunday and Thursday are known as Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday. What happened on these days is disputed and they are not generally widely celebrated.

Maunder Thursday: The day before Jesus' crucifixion is marked by the Last Supper where Jesus lays out the model for Holy Communion. It is here that Jesus predicts his double betrayal by both Judas and Peter and also his own death and resurrection.

As well as celebrating Eucharist many churches also mark the occasion through the corporate washing of feet, remembering how Jesus washed the disciples feet before their final meal together.

Good Friday: The day of Jesus death is solemn and mournful in the Christian calendar with many churches fasting on this day.

Sometimes reenactments take place with a cross being carried through public places marking Jesus' journey from Jerusalem to Golgotha where he was executed.

The day often ends with a quiet service in the evening, around the time when Jesus is believed to have died.

Easter Saturday: The day between Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection was the Jewish Sabbath day. The gospels note how the body had to be buried before sundown on Friday to avoid the day of rest.

Easter Sunday: The final day of Holy Week is a time of huge celebration and festivities for Christians. It marks Jesus' rising from the dead and the ultimate end of death.

The day is the focal point in the Christian year and marks the central belief of Christianity – that God came to earth in human form, was crucified, died and was buried but on the third day rose again, defeating Satan and death.

The next
PILGRIM COURSE
will start on **Wednesday 19 April 2023**
and run for 6 weeks.

This fourth book in the Follow Stage, *The Beatitudes*, explores the Christian vision for the world, including openness to God, thirsting for what is right, peace-making and living as citizens of God's Kingdom.

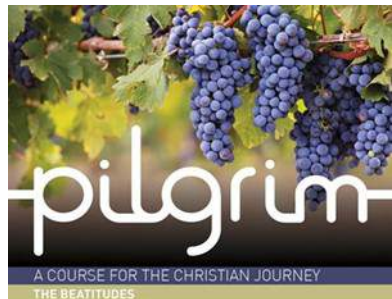
The course will meet at

5 Plover Close, Stratford on Avon, CV37 9EN, at 7.30 pm.

Please let Revd Joy Hance

joysmail@talk21.com

or 01789 414603, know if you are interested in coming by **9th April**, so I can order the right number of books.





**Our charity collection on 9th April will be
for Ripple Effect
(formerly Send a Cow)**

The new name for Send a Cow

What We Do

Our proven approach brings smallholder farmers together to learn new skills and share knowledge so they can improve their livelihoods and thrive.

Farmers working alongside Ripple Effect learn more, grow more and sell more. They can feed their families nutritious food, and by having a surplus to sell can invest in their farms, send their children to school and build sustainable agri-businesses.

We have already worked with 2.5 million people, and our target is to reach another 5 million by 2030.

We are on course to reach our 2030 targets to engage project participants who are:

- 67% women farmers
- 15% living with a disability (or a family member)
- 20% young people (age 15-30)
- 8% living with HIV / AIDS

Where We Work

We have been working on the ground with farming communities in Africa since 1988, adapting our approach and developing our expertise in key areas of work.

Ripple Effect currently has country programmes in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, and works in partnership in Zambia.

The Urgent Need

Rural Africa is rich with opportunity, with resourceful people and land which can produce enough food to feed the continent and beyond.

But families face poverty that is extreme, cruel, and worst of all – unnecessary. The knowledge and skills needed for farmers to grow and sell effectively are often lost or haven't adapted to changed conditions. Climate crisis, conflict and pandemic threaten to push millions back into extreme poverty.

Our practical programmes are targeted where the need is greatest, with the knowledge and benefits shared by everyone.

Why We Do This Work

- 73% of the population of Burundi live in poverty
- 38% of children in Ethiopia are malnourished
- 77% of women in Kenya had no say in what crops are grown, at the start of our projects
- 69% of Ugandans depend on subsistence farming
- 50% of farmers in Rwanda have less than 0.35ha of land
- 79% of Zambians are below the poverty line

Sustainable Agriculture

We train farmers in sustainable, agroecological principles and processes that have a climate-positive impact, to make their land highly productive and bio-diverse. Farmers draw on traditional knowledge and new innovations to adapt to a changing climate and build food security and financial resilience. We have specialist experience in farm systems and integrated animal management.

Our Solution

It starts when we bring farmers together with community trainers and experienced peer farmers to share ideas and learn new skills. The focus is on practical approaches that help them grow more and sell more, so they can invest in their farms and their families' futures. But we don't stop there. The effect grows, because for every family we work with, three more families benefit too. Farmers share what they learn with their neighbours and communities. Then those farmers do the same: everyone is included, and everyone thrives. It's efficient, effective and builds a momentum that spreads far beyond our programmes.

Who We Are

We are a partnership of resourceful farming families working with our experienced and committed African staff, who are based in our Country Programmes and our Africa Hub in Nairobi, with support and fundraising from our offices in the UK and US. We are currently working with just over 790,000 people, the most we have ever reached.

Will You Help Us?

Your donation will support the families we work alongside so they can learn, grow and sell more, releasing the potential in their land and lives. And because each family promise to pass their knowledge on to others in their community, soon hundreds, then thousands are thriving.

The cash collection and donations via the card reader in church on that day will go to the charity. If you would like to make a donation and are unable to be in church on the day please make cheques payable to : Shottery St. Andrew PCC, and send to Anne Challis at 259 Alcester Road, Stratford-upon-Avon. CV37 9JG, or if you prefer to do a bank transfer, within 5 days of the charity Sunday, the details are as follows:-
Shottery St. Andrew PCC Sort Code 40-43-19 Account number 80739758 using the charity name as your reference.
Thank you.



Creation is Tiring Too!

God is talking to one of his angels. He says, "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created 24 hours of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?"

The angel says, "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God says, "I think I'll call it a day."



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Diary of a cross in the pocket.

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