

ST ANDREW'S
SHOTTERY
SEARCHLIGHT



March
2024

£1.50

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



Sundays: 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist*

6.30pm Evensong

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

3rd Sunday: 5.30pm Atrium.

Tuesdays: 7.30pm Holy Communion

Thursdays: 10.00am Holy Communion.

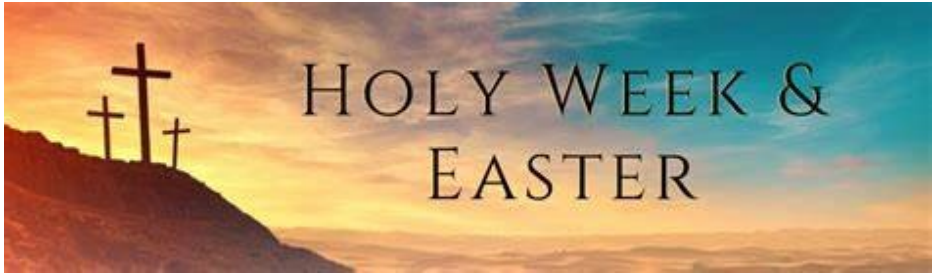
*This Service will also be on zoom. Do check out our website and on Facebook for links.

10 March: 10.00am Celebrating mothers with a Family Service Communion (with the Rainbows and Brownies joining us).

Mothering Sunday



God was walking around Ireland one morning. He was asked what he was doing? "Working from home," he replied.



Palm Sunday 24th

9.15am Palm Sunday procession

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Service for Palm Sunday

Monday 25 7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday 26 7.30pm Celtic Communion with meditation

Wednesday 27 7.30pm 'Service of Light & Shadows'.

Maundy Thursday 28

10am Holy Communion

7.30pm Holy Communion with the washing of feet.

8.30 (approx.) 'The Watch' until Midnight.

Good Friday 29 10.00am Children's Service

1.30-3.00pm 'Before the Cross' - 'The Nail'

(followed by hot cross buns!)

Holy Saturday 30 8.00pm Renewal of Baptism promises and the lighting of the Easter Candle

Easter Day 31 8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

No Evening Service



WHY DOES EASTER MATTER?

What would your answer to that question be? Why does the resurrection of Jesus matter? What difference does it make? Well, it matters because it shows us God's defeat of sin and death and his victory over darkness and everything that would hold us back from knowing God's love, peace and grace. Easter is about love's ultimate supremacy over hatred and evil, it's about the restoration and reconciliation of a broken relationship between a holy God and a fallen world. I want to offer you these thoughts too:

Easter matters because my past can be forgiven.

That's good news. Have you ever been halfway through something and wished you could start over again? A lot of times people feel that way about life. They get halfway through life and wish they could start over. We have all done things we wish we hadn't done, said things we wish we hadn't said, and thought things we wish we hadn't thought. We all have regrets. We all feel bad about things. We all have guilt. Here's the good news - "He has forgiven all our sins and cancelled every debt we owe. Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross." (Colossians 2.14) Jesus has paid for our guilt and wants to forgive us our past. Do you remember having an 'Etch-A-Sketch'? What happens if you messed up the picture? You flip it, shake it, turn it back over, and there's a clean slate. This is God's 'Etch-A-Sketch' verse in the Bible. He wipes our slate clean – the past is forgiven.

Easter matters because my present can be managed.

Perhaps like so many you feel that life is out of control, and you feel powerless to change the situation. We were never meant to live this life in our own power. Paul, writing to the Ephesians says, "How incredibly great is his power to help those who believe him, the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead." (Eph 1.19-20). The same power that

brought Jesus from death is the same power available to us. We don't know what the future holds and feeling out of control can be hard, but even though we may feel life is out of our control, it's not out of God's. He will give you the power to face it, "I'm ready for anything through the strength of Christ, who lives in me.", says Paul (Philippians 4.13).

Easter matters because my future is secure.

Perhaps the number one fear most people face is death, but whether we like it or not, death is a 100% certainty! The good news is that Jesus has paid for our way to a relationship with the God who created us and has paid the way to heaven. As Christians we are not people who have simply accepted a religion, we are people who have a relationship with God through Christ. This is the Christian hope we often talk about. Hope means certainty in the Bible, "We have been born again into a life full of hope through Christ rising from the dead." (1 Peter 1.3)

Does Easter matter? You bet it does! Your past forgiven, your present managed and your future secure.

Alleluia, Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Easter blessings,

Reverend Craig



**PARISH
REGISTERS**



Funeral:

1st February

Margaret Hancox (Burial of Ashes)



'I beg you, bear with one another in love'



**FRIDAY 1st MARCH, 2pm at
The UNITED REFORMED CHURCH.**

The Service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine.

Guest Speaker: Revd. Su McClellan, from Embrace the Middle East.

EVERYONE WELCOME



St Andrews Thursday Lunch



The next lunch is on 14th March in St Andrew's Parish Centre at 12.30pm.

The cost is £8 for a two course meal and coffee/tea, but please bring your own drink if you want to (other than water!).

Anyone and Everyone welcome.

Please reserve your place in advance by adding your name to the sheet in the church foyer (available about 2 weeks before the event) or phone Fran on 07906355064, and let us know of any dietary requirements, or if you have difficulty getting there.



Yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future, so today is your chance to live for Jesus.

Coffee Morning
With Bring and Buy
Everyone Welcome
 2nd, 16th and 30th
 March.
 10am till noon.
In PARISH CENTRE




Paddy and Seamus work at the Guinness factory and Seamus has a horrible accident and dies at work. Paddy agrees to tell Seamus' wife the bad news. He knocks on the door and Seamus's wife answers. "What's happened Paddy?" Paddy frowns. "I'm sorry to say poor Seamus fell into the Guinness vat and drowned, I'm so sorry." She started to cry and asked Paddy: "Did he at least die quickly?" Seamus shook his head, "No, he got out 3 times to go to the toilet."





Monday, 12th February, our second meeting of the year, and Hilary Capron led our opening prayers; we particularly remembered our long-standing member Vera Hawkins who had recently died. At 103, she was still knitting beautiful toys and garments for Coventry based Coffee Tots.

Hilary welcomed the Revd. Joy Hance who had come to talk about Praying with Music. Joy explained that this was secular music and some of her own favourites which she had found helped in her prayers concerning, for instance, welcome, return, penitence, confession, faith and praise. As the songs ranged from Secret Garden, Freddie Mercury's "Dreaming", Neil Diamond's "Amazing Grace", West Life's "You Gave me up" and Tina Turner's "Simply the Best", it led to a pretty lively afternoon and Hilary thanked Joy for giving us plenty of food for thought in the way we can pray.

In reviewing the 2024 programme, Hilary mentioned the following :-

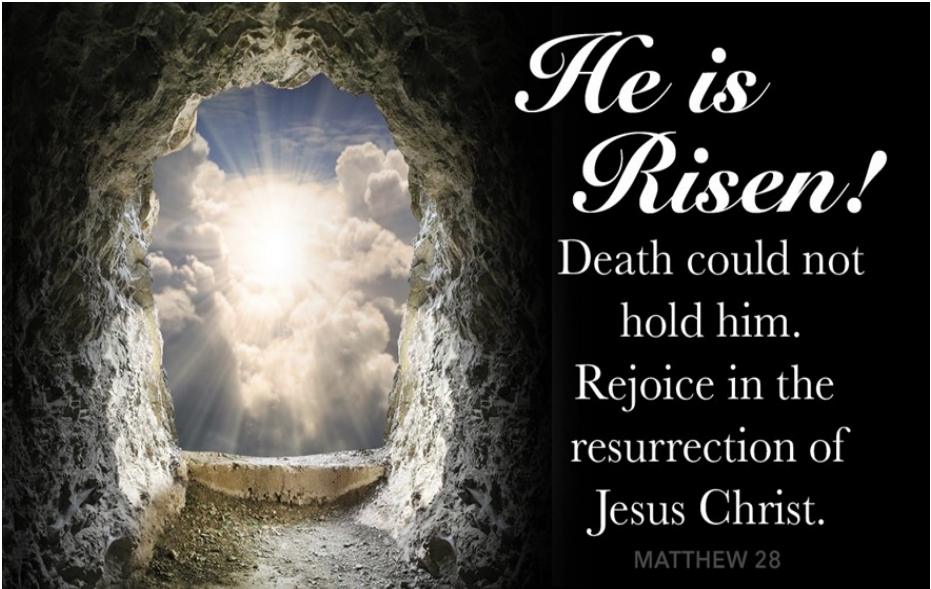
- Sat 9th March - preparation of Mothering Sunday posies.
- 8th April - Easter Gardens to be made as gifts.
- 8th July - Outing to Hillers
- August - no meeting but Tea and Cake afternoon with donations going to AFIA

(Away from it All - a M.U. holiday scheme - to provide a coach outing for Coffee Tots.)

NEXT MEETING - 11th MARCH - Anniversary Communion to be led by the Revd. Mary Cramer who would also be talking about the Women of Holy Week.

Daphne Jones.





He is Risen!

Death could not hold him.

Rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

MATTHEW 28

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus weighed 4.2 kg? Cause they had a weigh in the manger.

How did Jesus' crucifixion save us? It's 'cause he nailed it!

Today on Twitter, I lost a follower. Now I know how Jesus feels everyday.

You know those people using bibles on their phones? They are using phony bibles.

Deja Vu – When you think you're doing something you've done before, it's because God thought it was so funny, he had to rewind it for his friends.

If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?

I'm not a bad guy! I work hard, and I love my kids. So why should I spend half my Sunday hearing about how I'm going to Hell?

My Baggies Cycle Challenge April 8th-10th

As some of you will have seen on Facebook, in April I am cycling 160 miles from Rotherham to West Bromwich in aid of the Albion Foundation. There will be about 20 others making the same journey. Why Rotherham? Well, on 10th April,



Albion are playing at home to Rotherham Utd. so the intention is that we arrive in time for the match that evening.

My mum's family came from West Bromwich, Sandwell, which sadly is one of the most deprived areas in the country and I want to play my part in helping some of the people there live better, happier and longer lives.

The Albion Foundation is the official charity partner of West Bromwich Albion Football Club and uses the power of football to deliver a measurable difference in the local community.

Many of the Albion Foundation's programmes encourage active lifestyles and offer a variety of ways for the people of Sandwell to become more active and improve their health. On average, being obese deprives an individual of nine years of their life. 69% of adults in the Sandwell region are overweight which is higher than the UK average. An extensive range of programmes and activities are offered to encourage adults and children to become fitter and healthier. Fit Baggies has supported around 950 people over five years and collectively they have shed at least 1,728 lbs with a 100% loss rate!

The Albion Foundation also works with primary and secondary children to make positive behaviour change. Their programmes help to address the root cause of challenging behaviours, supporting pupils to develop

and get the most out of their school experience. There are around 8,000 pupils with Special Education Needs (SEN) needs in the local region. Unfortunately, pupils in Sandwell are 61% more likely to be temporarily or permanently excluded compared to the national average. Behavioural issues can have an impact on all school children as classes are disrupted, but for pupils struggling personally with these challenges, the impact can be far-reaching with limited qualifications affecting their employability and long-term prospects. The Albion Foundation programmes help to address the behaviour that may result in an exclusion and give these children a better start in life. In the last year alone, over 450 children in schools across Sandwell have been supported, with staff delivering over 110 hours of support per week. Of the pupils they have worked with, 85% reported an increase in their confidence and 85% demonstrated an improved attitude.

The Memories Group is a weekly session for people in the local region suffering with Dementia or Alzheimer's. There are around 3,300 people living with the illness in Sandwell and this is expected to double over the next 30 years. The Albion Foundation have teamed up with the NHS to create the 'Memories Group', a programme for football fans suffering with Alzheimer's and Dementia. The free-to-attend weekly session at The Hawthorns, offer a safe and welcoming space for anyone locally who is suffering with these diseases.

Over 15,500 people over 65 live alone in the region and many are lonely most or all of the time. To help deal with this, the Albion Foundation runs weekly Buddies sessions for free, which are often the entry-route for people seeking companionship to address their loneliness. Over 200 sessions have already been delivered!

So many people in the area benefit from the work and support given by the Albion Foundation and have their lives enhanced by the experience. I have only touched on just some of the activities they operate as there are many more!

I really appreciate how blessed I am to live in Stratford-on-Avon and that I'm fit and well and have a loving family and friends to support me. This is my chance to do something to help those who are not so

fortunate or well off. Any financial help, you can give me, however small, I will truly appreciate.

Online there is a JustGiving page set up called Baggies Cycle Challenge and my details are under Robert Macvie. I have promised to raise £600 plus!

God bless you.

Bob Macvie

I MAKE NO APOLOGY.....just me marking St. Patrick's day.

Mrs Murphy said: I don't think my husband has been faithful to me".

"Why's that?" said Mrs O'Toole.

My last child don't look anything like him".



Murphy had a rope hanging from a tree in his garden. Shamus asked him what it was for.

"It's my weather guide" said Murphy, "If it's swinging back and forth, it's windy and if it's wet, it's been raining.

Murphy was told by the Doctor he had two weeks to live, so he chose the last week in July and the first week in August.

"We're looking for a Treasurer for the Christmas fund", said Paddy.

"Didn't you take on a new one last month?" said Murphy.

"That's the one we're looking for", Paddy replied.

The Dublin pensioners club go on a mystery tour every Wednesday and to make it interesting they have a sweep to guess where they are going. Shamus, the coach driver, has won five weeks on the trot.

An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman were taking part in a survey about tea-drinking habits.

'I always stir my tea with my left hand,' said The Englishman.

'I always stir my tea with my right hand,' said The Scotsman.

How about you?' the Irishman was asked.

'Oh me?' said the Irishman, 'I always use a spoon.'

Lent Quiet Day

Saturday 23 March

10.00am- 4.00pm

St Andrew's Church

“THE GARDEN”



Led by The Revd Joan Whyman & The Revd Joy Hance

Lunch is provided at a cost of £5 (pay on the day)

Please put your name on the sign-up sheet
before Sunday 17 March.

Charity of the Month

Our charity collection on 10th March will be for PRACTICAL ACTION

Practical Action works around the world, putting ingenious ideas to work so people in poverty can change their world.

Our ultimate goal is a world that works better for everyone.

A world where smallholder farmers can earn a decent living while working in harmony with the environment. Where parents can cook nutritious family meals without risking their health. And where businesses, schools and clinics have the electricity they need to help their communities succeed.

We're working towards a world where people in slum communities and refugee camps live in safety and dignity. Women entrepreneurs have the confidence and the skills to build profitable businesses. And people on the front line of climate change can adapt to the challenges of extreme weather and thrive.

The communities we work with face significant challenges. The effects of climate change, environmental degradation, and the ongoing pandemic make this a critical time. But we see the opportunities for positive change and we know that our goals are not only achievable, but have never been more relevant. Big change starts small.



We combine three approaches to help people solve some of the world's toughest problems. We work as:

- **Problem-solvers**, working hand in hand with individuals, communities and local organisations to tackle the causes of poverty
- **Knowledge sharers**, getting fresh answers and practical resources into the hands of the people who need them most
- **Expert advisers**, providing professionals and policy makers with development advice

This combination of different ways of working enables us to turn small solutions into big change for millions of people.

Almost three billion people don't have clean, safe cooking facilities and close to one billion people lack access to the electricity that could power their progress, improve their health, education and opportunities to earn a better living. That's why we're innovating in clean cooking and renewable off-grid electricity solutions that can help people lift themselves out of poverty.

We're working with rural communities, displaced people, energy providers and decision makers to harness the transformational power of clean, affordable energy.

We ensure that energy access is not only widely delivered but also includes those that are often hardest to reach. A key focus of our work is to catalyse off-grid energy access markets, for example through working with energy businesses and entrepreneurs (particularly women), as well as communities.

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.



Why did God make mothers?

Here are the answers some seven year olds gave to the following questions

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the cellotape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring
3. God made my mum just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

What kind of little girl was your mum?

1. My mum has always been my mum and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mum eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that mum didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mum doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such an idiot.
2. Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mum is, but only because she has a lot more to do than Dad.

If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.



THE WAR AGAINST GOD.

Easter 2024. The war against God is as fierce as ever.

From the earliest time of the Creation The Bible - God's Word written -shows a pattern of rejection of the ways of God resulting in much suffering along the pathway of the human journey. Since the time theologically described as mankind's original sin and fall from grace, the story of rebellion against God's ways has been forever part of the historical narrative of humankind showing that in each generation God seeks out those who will choose to hear, obey and work with and for Him which will lead to a chosen family who will enjoy God's presence for eternity.

Nation going to war against nation, kingdom against kingdom, famines and earthquakes in many parts of our planet, Christians being hated, arrested, persecuted and killed all over the world, many people turning away from Jesus Christ in betrayal of Him and others, along with false 'prophets' both religious and secular and sin so rampant - this is the world we are seeing today. Sound familiar ? If so, you will have probably read / heard the beginning verses of chapter 24 of St. Matthew's Gospel.

It is impossible to deny that darkness and evil are rife today and, as Christians, we can at least take comfort that this is foretold in Holy Scripture. As deep as the darkness may feel, the light of Christ is always guiding us towards the 'narrow gate' and to eternity with God (Matthew 7: 13 - 14) but, very sadly, we are also told very few will actually find it. Why is this ?

The 'gate' is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself and those who reject Him are those who do not find the 'gate'. This, of course, can raise the objection about those who have never been able to hear the Gospel. The justice of God is beyond our human understanding but in His love for us He provides His answer to that objection in Romans 2: 14 - 16.

At the 'end of the age' it is those who have actually *heard and then rejected* the Gospel of Jesus Christ who will, by their own choice, spend eternity without Him and the Kingdom He offers. It was C.S. Lewis who once famously observed that "Hell is *locked from the inside*".

And so (borrowing from the famous harvest time hymn) let us all joyfully cry out "Come, ye faithful people, come" to celebrate Easter and our glorious redemption and salvation wrought on the cross of Calvary by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deo Gratias.

Alan Minchin.

An Irishman and an American were sitting in the bar at Dublin airport. "I've come to meet me brother," said the Irishman. "He's due to fly in from America in an hour's time. It's his first trip home in forty years". "Will you be able to recognize him?" asked the American. "I'm sure I won't," said the Irishman. "After all, he's been away for a long time". "I wonder if he'll recognise you?" said the American. "Of course he will," said the Irishman. "Sure, an' I haven't been away at all!"



PRAYERS FOR LENT

Thank you for the gift of this season. Thank you for knowing our hearts and our need for rhythms in our lives and drawing us into a deeper communion with you throughout the coming 40 days.

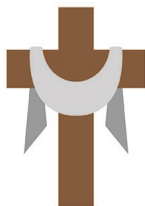
Lord, it can be disheartening to read on Ash Wednesday that all come from dust, and to dust all return, yet we know that there is more to our stories. We know that you created man and woman from the dust at the very beginning of time (and that you breathed life into them to transform them into living creatures. We know that you are in the business of resurrection-- your very Son went to the cross to show us that no death is final and that ultimate transformation comes through your gift of salvation. Though we were made from dust, and our bodies will return to dust again, we can live in eternal glory with you through the blood of your Son.

May we remember the gift of salvation in this season.

May these weeks leading up to the tragedy of Good Friday and the glory of Resurrection Sunday remind us of who you are, how you love us, and who you have created us to be as your followers.

May we walk through this season intentionally, removing distractions that take our gaze away from your glory. May we quiet the noise that pulls us from adoration of you and puts our attention on lesser things. May we simplify where we have been stressed, may we surrender what has been burdensome, may we repent of what has been sinful, Lord Jesus.

May we see your goodness and your glory in new ways throughout this season of Lent. May we know the depths of your love for us more fully. May we feel the pain you endured for our sake, Jesus, and may we rejoice that you conquered every bit of evil when you rose to life again. Draw us closer to your heart, so that we might know you better and understand you more completely. **We pray that we would not only give things up for Lent but also give you glory through Lent, Lord.**



Blessings come in many forms; some we see, some we feel. On this holy day, open your heart to the intangible **gifts** that life offers.

1. **Easter** is not just about painted eggs and bunnies. It's a testament to the **enduring human spirit**, which, against all odds, continues to rise and shine.

1. Every sunrise gives us a new beginning, just as every **Easter** offers us a chance for redemption. **Grasp that chance**, and let your spirit soar.

2. The stories of **Easter** teach us that sometimes, to find your purpose, you must travel through darkness. But remember, it's the **journey that shapes us**, not just the destination.

4. In every corner of our lives, there are small miracles waiting to be discovered. This **Easter**, take a moment to recognize and **celebrate those miracles**.

5. From the caterpillar to the butterfly, nature showcases the magic of metamorphosis. Let the message of **Easter** guide your own **personal transformation**.

6. Life's challenges may seem insurmountable at times. But on this day, remember the power of resilience and faith. Like the springtime flowers, **always reach for the sun**.

7. The spirit of **Easter** is the spirit of hope. In the face of adversity, may we remember to always **carry that hope in our hearts**, letting it guide our steps.

8. Our journey is filled with moments of doubt and uncertainty. But let **Easter** be a reminder that there's always a **dawning of a new day**, a chance for renewal and rebirth.

9. In the cycle of life, after every end, there is a new beginning. Embrace the **promise of fresh starts** this **Easter** and make every moment count.

10. May the message **of Easter** inspire you to face every challenge with grace,

knowing that **every setback is just a setup** for a grander comeback.

11. **Easter** is a celebration of the miracles that happen when we believe. Let it inspire you to chase after your dreams, **knowing that they're within reach**.

12.. Amidst the festivities and fun, may we never forget the profound message of rebirth and renewal that **Easter** embodies. In every challenge, there's an opportunity to **rise anew**.

13. Each day is a gift, each moment a chance. This **Easter**, may you be reminded to cherish every second, to live with passion, and to **shine your light brightly**.

14. Celebrate this day with love, joy, and gratitude. **Easter** reminds us of the boundless possibilities that exist, if only we have the courage to **embrace them**.



The **Red Dragon of Wales** (y ddraig goch), although perhaps of Chinese origin, was introduced to Britain by the Romans some eighteen hundred years ago. Initially a military standard, in time this mythical beast developed into the flag of a nation. The Welsh may be the only people to have entered this millennium with the "same" flag as they entered the current one. Today despite the dominance of its neighbour England, the people of Wales have never ceased to be Welsh. The language culture and flag have all survived. The Welsh flag is seen perhaps now more than ever before in its history.



The **leek** had been recognised as the emblem of Wales since the middle of the 16th century. Its association with Wales can in fact be traced back to the battle of Heathfield in 633 AD, when St. David persuaded his countrymen to distinguish themselves from their Saxon foes by wearing a leek in their caps.



I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth



I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Aspects of Easter

Easter, time of hot cross buns,
Of chocolate eggs and sweets,
Of daffodils and primroses,
Of the first warm, outdoor treats.
A tune of growth and rising sap,
The first hint of greening trees,
Tulips, daisies, new-born lambs,
Such springtime joys as these.

Easter in the garden brings
The new season's bring portrayal.
Yet on Maundy Thursday we remember
Gethsemane's betrayal.

A kiss, a trial, a crown of thorns,
A wooden Cross of Shame.
A man who died for our salvation,
Our sins forgiven in His name.
Another morning in the garden,
Where the stone was rolled away,
Where Mary's grief was turned to joy,
On the first Easter Day.

Easter, time of Resurrection,
That ends the Lenten fast,
Of gardens and deep thankfulness
That spring has come at last.

L M Wadlow.



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Book Group: Revd. Craig Grocock (as above)

Cell Group: Becks Bartlett - rebecca@rockstile.co.uk 07971161717

Children & Family + Illumin8 (Sunday School) Caroline Penn—07595883948

Choir: Director of Music: Rosemary Robson—296134 or

therobsonfamily@hotmail.com

Choir Conductor: Larry Robson (as above)

Gift Aid Secretary: Anne Challis. challis.stratford@talktalk.net

Housegroup: Revd. Joy Hance—414603 or joysmail@talk21.com

Listening and Prayer Team: Susie Fletcher – 01789 298738

Mothers' Union: Hilary Capron—hilary@caprons.co.uk 762904.

Organist: Matt Penn

Parish Centre bookings: Parish Office

Parish Safeguarding: David Millington 269598 or dmillington3@hotmail.com
and Liz Talbot: liztalbot3@gmail.com