

The Newsletter of St.Giles', Newcastle, with St.Thomas', Butterton.

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www.stgilesnewcastle.org.uk

April 2021

Parish News



*Holy
Week
Services*

*Climate
Change*

NEW SERIES
The Good Shepherd

**Both
Churches
open for worship.
See page 4**

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The Rector writes...



Were you baptised as a baby or an adult? For me, it was the latter. In the Pentecostal Church in which I grew up, we had full submersion adult baptism (I was plunged under the water). It was exciting stuff. I was sixteen when it happened, and it has left a lasting impression. But what is baptism about? For the Bible, baptism is about – wait for it – death. Yes, you read that correctly. Baptism is about dying.

Death is one of our great enemies. It takes away all that is beautiful – our loved ones, our youth and vitality, even our enthusiasm for life. The Bible says that sin is like death, sucking the true, the good, and the beautiful away from life. Every moment of selfishness, of violence, of greed is a life-hoover. But on Good Friday, Jesus, the Author of Life, gave himself up for us on the Cross. He died. He shared in our condition. What's more, he took upon himself all the sin of the world. In dying, the sin on him was killed with him.

In baptism, we are sharing in Jesus' death. We are saying, 'We're dying to the old way of doing things. We're dying to that old life of sin. The old life is at an end.' In the words of St Paul, 'Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire and greed' (Col. 3.5). It's strong language. It's saying that our sin can't be managed: it needs to be killed! This is what the Holy Spirit is doing: killing the sin that kills us.

But death is not the end of the story. For on Easter Day Jesus rose from the dead. He really rose from the dead. This ain't no metaphor. He took on sin and death and overcame it. Think of it almost like a person with an exceptionally strong immune system being injected with a virus. Yes, they're infected. But their immune system is so strong that it overcomes and defeats the virus. What's more, their blood can now be used as a vaccination to help others consumed by the virus.

In baptism, we are not only sharing in Jesus' death – we're sharing in his rising again. The Holy

Spirit who brought Jesus from the death is working with us, creating a new life to rise up within us, almost like a vaccine. Because the Holy Spirit is killing our sin, it gives room for the new life of the Spirit to grow within us. Think of it as the Holy Spirit killing the weeds so that the flowers might grow.

The first lockdown began in Lent last year. You could say it's been the longest Lent on record! Since the first lockdown we have been afflicted by our old enemy, death, in a way we haven't experienced in generations. The St Giles and St Thomas that entered the lockdown is different from the one that is coming out. Not only have we irreplaceably lost dear brothers and sisters, but many of the old ways of doing things have died too. We won't be able to return to many of the things we took for granted. For example, we have suffered a big financial loss which means that the PCC are having to make many hard decisions. This means that we will need to have a time when we collectively can grieve for who and what we've lost. In baptism we share in Jesus' death – but he also grieves with us, understanding our suffering.

But the Long Lent is almost over. We will be re-opening both churches for Easter. And we will celebrate (COVID restrictions applying, naturally). Christ's resurrection means that death does not have the last word. All that is true, good and beautiful will have a place in God's new creation, of which Jesus' resurrection is but the first-fruit. The Spirit didn't stop breathing out new life after creation, nor after Easter, nor after Pentecost. and still breathes out new resurrection life today. The question is: are we willing to breathe in the Spirit's new life? Are we willing to journey with the Spirit to the places of new life? Are we willing to embrace the good future the Spirit has in stall for us? Are we willing to say, in the words of a hymn, 'Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders'?

This Easter is a time of grieving, for all that has been lost since the Long Lent began in 2020. But let it not stay as a time of mourning. Let us remind ourselves that in our baptism we share in Jesus' resurrection. Let us embrace with arms wide open the future God has prepared for us. Let us breathe in the new life of the Spirit. And who knows? We might even find we enjoy it.

Details of Services: See page 4

Our Cover: *Sheep graze in the beautiful Derbyshire Peak District which is the area in which our new series, 'The Good Shepherd' is set. Hopefully we will be able to celebrate the wonderful Easter message that 'He has Risen' in our chosen Church together, as Covid cases subside and rules ease.*

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From the Editor -

Welcome to our Easter issue, an issue with a 'GREEN' theme. Easter, a time of reflection and celebration, but most of all a time to think of new life and (hopefully) a better way forward.

During 'Lockdown', we've come to appreciate just how beautiful and amazing our planet is but for how long? In this issue, we feature the Tear Fund Climate Change Toolkit which, as members of a church, helps us think about the way forward to look after God's wonderful creation.

'For the beauty of the earth...' is a well known hymn and just some of it's beauty can be seen in the Derbyshire Peak district, which is the setting for our new series, 'The Good Shepherd'.

St.Giles' churchyard is very pleased to once again be awarded a Green Flag, a fantastic achievement for the 'Green Team' and other helpers, following such a difficult year. In the absence of a churchyard flag pole, our Academy stepped in and allowed us to 'fly it' from their flag pole - a wonderful 'Green'

occasion that the children eagerly played a part in and the 'ceremony' is reported on our 'Academy Activities' page.

Finally, can I wish you all a very Happy Easter, and I do hope that you enjoy reading this 'Green' issue. - Michael Pitstow



Last year St Giles collected over £250 for the Christian Aid walk.

This year the walk is again cancelled, so we are asking our wonderful Christian Aid supporters to do their own walk, at a venue and time of their own choosing. As most of us are doing a daily walk, this should be fairly easy, it does not need to be anything special.

There are sponsor forms available, please contact Janet Iwanicki on (01782) 630069 for more information.

Two New Projects for St Giles

Two linked projects are about to start at St Giles as part of the Five-Year Churchyard Management Plan funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. These naturally follow on from the Mound Project completed in 2016.

The first is the 'Headstone Strategy' to accurately record all the Headstones and Grave Markers in the Church and Churchyard and the second is to explore Genealogy with the use of DNA.

If you would like to play a part in developing these interesting projects please contact Reverend Josh. L.Bailey

Further details from:-

Gillian Elks (01782) 711833
 Julia Nisbeck (01782) 662379
 Or email: david.elks@hotmail.co.uk



We are proposing to have a pumpkin growing competition for St.Giles Church funds over the summer months, with a grand weigh-in sometime in October. We have 30 giant pumpkin seeds which will be planted in early April and once ready these plants can be purchased for a suggested donation of £2.00, more if you would like.

Nurturing instructions will be provided and if you look on the Mr Fothergills website for giant pumpkins you will see that they can grow up to 35 lbs in weight! There will be a prize for the largest pumpkin and hopefully we can sell off pieces of the pumpkin.

Calendars: March / April

Holy Week

Online Services

29th, 30th, and 31st March: 12pm: Holy Week Reflection
1st April (Maundy Thursday): 7pm: Maundy Thursday Evensong
2nd April (Good Friday):
9am: Passion Reading
10.30am: All-Age Worship
2pm: Good Friday Reflections

4th April (Easter Sunday): 10.30am Easter Celebration

Both Churches open for worship

Services in St Giles and St Thomas

1st April (Maundy Thursday): 7.30pm Holy Communion at St Giles
2nd April (Good Friday): 2pm: Good Friday Reflections at St Giles

4th April (Easter Day):

6.20am: Ecumenical Sunrise Service at St Thomas
8am: Easter Day BCP Communion at St Giles
10.30am: Easter Day Family Communion at St Giles
10.30am: Easter Day Holy Communion at St Thomas

April

(All online Sunday services will continue during April at 10.30am)

Sunday 11th April:

8am Holy Communion at St Giles
10.30am Holy Communion at St Giles
10.30am Holy Communion at St Thomas

Wednesday 14th April:

1.10pm Oasis Holy Communion at St Giles

Sunday 18th April:

10.30am Holy Communion at St Giles
10.30am Morning Prayer at St Thomas

Wednesday 21st April:

1.10pm Oasis Holy Communion at St Giles

Sunday 25th April:

8am Holy Communion at St Giles
10.30am: Holy Communion at St Giles
10.30am: Holy Communion at St Thomas

Wednesday 28th April:

1.10pm Oasis Holy Communion at St Giles

PLEASE REMEMBER!

● Please remember that you still need to book to attend any services in St Giles, which can be done through our Parish Administrator, Penny Richards, at 07592 035386 or office.stgilesnewcastle@gmail.com. Except for those who have medical reasons, masks need to be worn within the church building at all times. Please refrain from having conversations with others until outside (still maintaining social distancing). Only the bread will be distributed at Holy Communion.

● Although we will have music played, there can be no congregational singing inside.

● Children are welcome to come to services. However, we ask if they could remain with their households (as much as is possible!). We have many JAM Packs at the back of church (a children's activity pack) which can easily be accessed when entering.

● We are unable to offer refreshments. Please also wait till you are outside before you start chatting to everyone!

● We are not stopping our online services for the time being.

● Revised local or national regulations may close our Churches for worship and Private Prayer. We may need to cancel services without much notice. **This is why it is best to book – we can easily let you know if there is a last-minute cancellation.**



Tearfund Toolkit for Climate Change

The current COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how, when the world community decides to act together, great advances and achievements can be made. Countless organisations are working together to get us through this difficult period. Individual responsible actions, including 'Hands, Face, Space' instructions have helped control infection rates. The Climate Crisis requires the same or even greater urgency and individual application if it is to be averted. The good news is that every single person can play their part to help to avert or minimise the crisis - but we must act quickly and decisively. Sir David Attenborough, Al Gore and Greta Thunberg, amongst others, are calling loudly for immediate action so how can we respond? Tear Fund has developed a Toolkit to allow Churches and individuals to help to address the problem.

Here are some extracts from their website
www.climateemergencytoolkit.com

Tearfund Toolkit for Climate Change

As the climate crisis accelerates, millions of lives are at risk. Christians around the world are taking urgent action, to love our neighbours, tackle the climate emergency and save lives. The Climate Emergency Toolkit provides your church or Christian organisation with a route map to respond to the climate emergency. Step by step, it contains simple but powerful actions that will have an impact far beyond your own walls or community, and enable you to influence the decisions of those in power. In November 2021, world leaders will gather in Glasgow for critical talks on how to address the climate

What can I do as a Christian?

emergency. Each church that declares or recognises the emergency shines a spotlight on the crisis, underlining its seriousness and the need for world leaders to agree to significant progress during the talks. Together, we can be a prophetic voice for change.

Prepare. Start the conversation about the climate emergency and begin planning your response. Gather a small team, or work with your existing justice/eco/green group, and keep the leadership of your church or organisation as informed as possible. Conversation is crucial. Take your church or organisation on a journey that helps them see responding to the climate emergency as part of their discipleship and worship. Make space for people to learn more, ask questions and share their reactions to climate change. As soon as you are ready, draft a proposal for your governing body to make a declaration. This will help get your own house in order and should include schemes you are already using, such as Eco Church.

Declare. Recognise, declare or acknowledge an emergency in a way that engages your community and amplifies the need for leaders everywhere to act. This is a critical step and should not wait until you have finalised a plan of action as a church. As part of your declaration, include a commitment to making your plan in the following six months. Whether you 'recognise', 'declare' or 'acknowledge', the crucial part is making a clear, public and formal statement that communicates that your church or organisation understands the urgency of climate change and will not be silent in the

Continued on the next page...

Climate Change continued...

face of injustice. If you're already working through Eco Church or Eco-Congregation, you might find starting with Declare will be most beneficial for amplifying the need for action.

Impact. Increase your impact by partnering with your local community and speak up for the scale of change we need.

Our response to the climate emergency can't stop with just our own actions: this huge crisis will only be addressed if we keep building support for action at every level. When it comes to influencing decision-makers, churches and Christian organisations have a powerful voice. Not only are we involved in and committed to our local communities, but our membership represents the full breadth and diversity of society. By connecting with local campaigners, and using our influence in every direction, we can stand together to bring meaningful, lasting change at the scale this emergency requires.

Understanding your Carbon Footprint, that is how much carbon we are responsible for introducing into the atmosphere which then affects the climate, is a first step to understanding your own contribution to the Climate Crisis. This results from burning gas or fuel in your boiler, your car, the air and road journeys you make and the food and products you buy. You can access various web sites to calculate this eg <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk> Reducing your carbon footprint in any way will be a start to helping to reduce the considerable threats from Climate Change.

◆ If you would like to engage with the Tear Fund Climate Change Toolkit as a Church and help St Giles and the local community tackle the Climate Emergency with a Christian perspective, please get in touch with Reverend Josh Penduck.

L Bailey

Take-a-Break

Mouse Makes
Can you find these names of Jesus in the word search?

SON OF GOD
Matthew 3:16-17

KING OF KINGS
Revelation 17:14

PROPHET
Luke 24:19

PRIEST
1 Timothy 2:5

ROCK
1 Corinthians 10:4

LORD
1 Corinthians 1:9

AMEN
Revelation 3:14

LIFE
John 11:25-27

MESSIAH
John 1:41

SHEPHERD
John 10:11

LIGHT
John 8:12

WORD
John 1:1-50

BREAD
John 6:35

CREATOR
1 John 1:3

CHRIST
Matthew 16:16

SAVIOUR
John 3:16-17

HOLY ONE
Mark 1:24

VINE
John 15:5

DOOR
John 10:9

THE WAY

WAY
John 14:6

LAMB
John 1:29

Word search words: V L I F E W D, D I A L A R O C K, C M H M O M S R E H C, H E O B R E A D O O R, R S L W D N V I N E E, I S Y A P R I E S T A, S I O Y P R O P H E T, T A N J E S U S T D O, S H E P H E R D E D B R, K I N G O F K I N G S, D S O S O N O F G O D, L I G H T

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Smile-A-While



"It'll be alright vicar, you've got to face a real live congregation in your Church at some time."

Medium Sudoku

			5	7		3		
3			2					
	8	5						
1			6	2	3		7	
		3				5		
6	7	5	3					4
					7	4		
				8				3
	4		6	1				

Church Newssheet bloopers

◆ Due to the Vicar's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

(Donated by D.B.)

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

Academy Activities

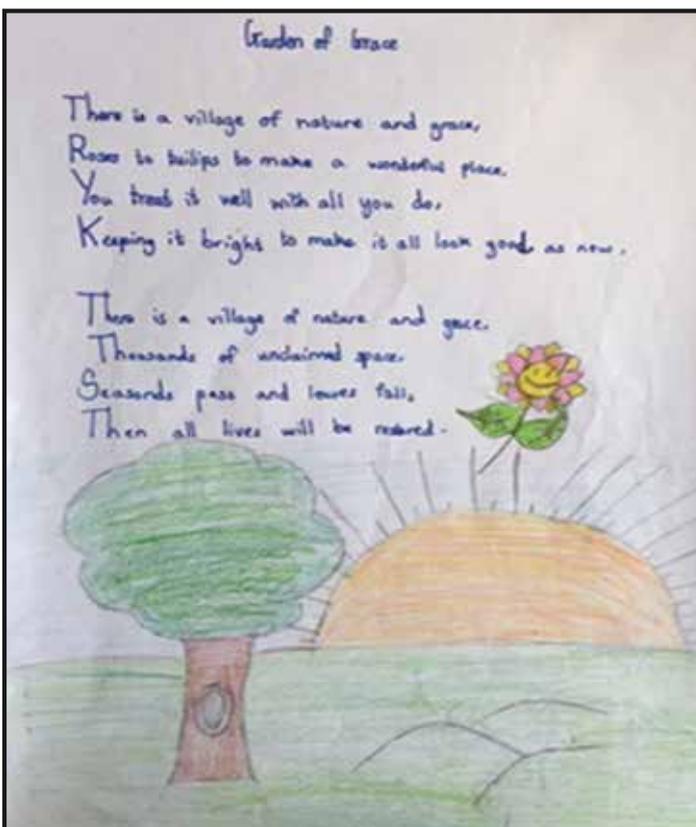
St.Giles' and St.George's C of E Academy

As God's children we aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best we can be

Tel: 01782 91764 www.stgilesstgeorgesacademy.co.uk Headteacher: Mrs C Pointon BSc PGCE (Oxon)

Young Environmentalists raise our Church Green Flag

On Thursday 25th February, St Giles' and St George's Academy held a Green Flag ceremony to celebrate the award given to St Giles' church. Headteacher Mrs Pointon and Staff, Reverend Josh Penduck and Laurie Bailey were accompanied by senior pupils who read poems they had composed on the subject of the environment and an enthusiastic choir sang the song ' Everywhere Around Me' which praises God for his work of creation. Raising the Green Flag at the Academy reflects the ongoing co-operation between St Giles and the Academy to acknowledge and promote the need for everyone, young and old, to strive to protect our environment.



Garden of Grace (opposite)

There is a village of nature and grace,
Roses to tulips make a wonderful place.
You treat it well with all you do,
Keeping it bright to make it all look good as new.

There is a village of nature and grace,
Thousands of unclaimed spaces.
Seasons pass and leaves fall,
Then all lives will be restored.

The Good Shepherd

by Judith Thompson

Part 1

* NEW SERIES *



Forty six years in the meat trade and forty years in qualified nursing, combined:- for what? My husband had retired early and I was part time at a nursing residential home for the elderly, due to retire in the near future. Both of us doers, not used to sitting at home watching the world pass by. The children all three had flown the nest and produced four grandchildren living close by. We had always taken our weeks holiday on a farm in Wales self-catering and enjoyed it greatly. So when the opportunity came up to buy a small piece of land high up in the Derbyshire Peak District, we could see no difficulties. We acquired it to house equipment for round bailing and wrapping that our youngest son wanted, to supplement his income, his trade being dry stone walling, a pursuit that both parents enjoyed helping him with. Grand on the warm balmy days of summer, not so good on wet cold days, when the stone is frozen and fingers are non existent with cold. Feet in three pairs of socks in wellies one foot deep in mud, getting stuck and rooted to the spot trying to turn holding a thirty pound piece of lime stone, that is both frozen and slippery, caught by a gust of wind and blown over, or on very hot days, when it is energy sapping and midges are constantly biting, and all you want to do is sit down and watch nature.

Do you know it takes one ton of lime stone to build one square metre of wall? Back braking, but very rewarding when you see the completed length straight, neat and animal friendly. In the summer the walls are used by the sheep to shelter behind out of the sun, or the driving rain. In winter they give protection from the drifting snow, if the sun has been out they retain the warmth, and throw it back onto the stock. The lime stone in Derbyshire comes in all sizes and shapes, the best for walling are, flat stones a foot square and six inches deep, but they are few and far between, and there is need for very

large stones, adding strength to the finished wall, the art of building is to be able to use which ever stone you pick up, in the area of the wall, that you are at, this is the art, I have not mastered this yet. My job is to supply the very small stones or round ones in the middle of the wall, back filling, so that there are no holes. I am told by my husband that this is the most important job, I think this is just flannel. Anyhow the wall can't get built without it, so it is important. The limestone in this area was produced from the breakdown of coral reefs millions of years ago, and very often you are privileged to see shells of all shapes and sizes in the stones as they break. You will probably be the only person on this planet to see the detail and beauty of this creation.

Things made in such detail and yet not noted. It reminds me of when I was doing my training examining minute cells under the microscope and seeing such detail, not a hotch-potch of mixed up things, but precise, order and perfection. This also reminds me of the colour and beauty of areas never seen, outer space, the dark depths of the ocean where light has never penetrated, insides of blood vessels, and the linings of our gut the list is endless, but order and beauty are everywhere. "God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."

The choice of land was quite prophetic, (see *picture below*), we viewed it over the valley, it was a dark afternoon, following a day of walling, it looked like



Continued on the next page...

The Good Shepherd continued...

thunder, we had had some rain and more was threatening. We could see the buildings and the fields from where we had parked. They were green compared with the surrounding land. We had prayed hard about our change of life, and we're waiting on God to give us a lead. As we waited watching the scene before us, a huge rainbow covered that area of the valley, it was beautiful. When we got home I opened the bible for words of wisdom and read 1 Kings 5 & 6 which speaks about Solomons Temple a construction similar to a poled barn, as was one of the buildings on this piece of land. I also read Isiah 23:10 Go and farm the land you people (GNB). Isiah 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd : He shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. (KJ)

The land was coming up for auction, and we were leaving it in the hands of the Lord, if we got it at the price we could afford we should be very pleased, and this could be Gods answer.

This series continues next month.



- ◆ All those who have lost loved ones during the Covid outbreak.
- ◆ All those working in surgeries and vaccination centres across the world.
- ◆ All those waiting for operations or treatment.
- ◆ All those worried about having the vaccines.



Holy Week

Towards the Joyful Day

Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday (April 1st), is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of 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). 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.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Good Friday, the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday (April 2nd), is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9 a.m. in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins

Continued on the next page...

Towards the Joyful Day continued....

in this observance of Good Friday.

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.

Easter, the most joyful day of the year

Easter Sunday will be celebrated on April 4th. It is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical

dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.



Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Parish Pump writers

Easter Morning

(John 20:1-18)

Who is it you are looking for?
Who?

Mary,
Looking for her Lord,
Early in the morning,
While it was still dark,
Looking for Jesus,
Expecting His death-wrapped body,
Finding, instead, the stone of surprises and loss.

The men come and go,
But Mary stays and weeps
For the love of her Lord.
Looking, looking into the darkness,
She weeps.

Angels in white turn her to the light,
And the possibility of grace.

And in the speaking of her name, the world changes.

Mary,
Looking, looking no longer,
The Lord lives, gloriously,
For Mary.

He lives for all who look.
Who is it you are looking for?
Who?

By Daphne Kitching

Can it be Easter Already?

Can it be Easter already?
Can that be really so?
The carols and the Christmas tree
Don't seem that long ago!

Can it be Easter already?
Do April showers splash?
The weeks gone by since Christmas day
Have gone in just a flash!

Can it be Easter already?
The time of Lent has passed
The forty days and forty nights
Went by so very fast.

If it is Easter already,
That time has sped away.
Perhaps it's time to ponder, pause
And savour every day!

By Nigel Beeton (Parish Pump)

Planting your Spring Garden

For the garden of your daily living...

Plant 3 rows of peas.

- 1 Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul.

Plant 4 rows of squash...

- 1 Squash gossip
- 2 Squash indifference
- 3 Squash grumbling
- 4 Squash selfishness

Plant 4 rows of lettuce...

- 1 Lettuce be faithful
- 2 Lettuce be kind
- 3 Lettuce be patient
- 4 Lettuce really love another.

(Donated by a *Parish News* reader)



Newcastle News

Castle House tel: 01782 717717

www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/news

Brampton Museum's BiG Project

After being awarded almost £250,000 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund a new and exciting phase in the life of a much-loved museum and art gallery will get underway next week. Work is set to start on 1 March when contractors Sandycroft move on to the site. The BiG construction project is set to be completed by August 2021 with the museum opening to the public late 2021/early 2022.

The 'Brampton is Growing' (BiG) project will see Brampton Museum's existing building sensitively extended and modernised to provide new spaces for visitors of all ages. The new learning and exhibitions spaces, and a range of interior improvements, will allow more diverse audiences and more meaningful and enjoyable visits.

Cabinet member for leisure, culture and heritage, Jill Waring, said: "Before the BiG project got underway, we listened to the views of our visitors and local community groups as well as the schools who already regularly use the museum to understand what was wanted and needed. We will now see these aspirational plans and activities taking shape."

The plans involves converting an unused courtyard into a brand new temporary exhibitions gallery that will be used to reflect the vibrant history, arts and culture of the borough. There will also be an accessible-to-all, bright and spacious education and activity space with views looking out over the park, a new research and volunteer work room, a new shop and a refreshment area. The extended space will allow more of the museum's extensive collection to be displayed, telling new stories about the borough, and the long-needed storage areas will ensure the collection is safe for generations to come. Funding for this stage of the BiG Project has come from Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Newcastle-under-Lyme Civic Society, Red Industries Landfill Communities Fund, Appetite and the Friends of Brampton Museum.

● **RAILWAY** - Proposals have been drawn up to re-establish the railway line between Newcastle and the West Coast Mainline at Madeley, with new stations near Pool Dam and Silverdale, to serve Keele University. The project is being proposed by Moorland & City Railways Ltd and is backed by Newcastle MP Aaron Bell. They are now hoping to secure an initial £50,000 from the government's Restoring Your Railway Fund, which would allow a more detailed business case to be developed.

Newcastle News continued...



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Take-a-Break Answers

9	6	4	1	5	7	2	3	8
3	7	1	2	8	6	4	5	9
2	8	5	3	9	4	1	7	6
1	5	8	4	6	2	3	9	7
4	9	3	8	7	1	5	6	2
6	2	7	5	3	9	8	1	4
8	3	6	9	2	5	7	4	1
5	1	9	7	4	8	6	2	3
7	4	2	6	1	3	9	8	5

MAY'S PARISH NEWS

Please email all items to the Editor: -
pitstowm@aol.com

Closing date:
 Tuesday, April 13th.

PLEASE NOTE:
 Services and other items in this issue may be subject to change if the Covid regulations are changed.

● **TREEMENDOUS GIFTS FROM JAPAN** - Residents and visitors in Newcastle can enjoy a delightful display of beautiful blossoms from Japan for years to come thanks to an initiative celebrating a long standing international friendship.

Thirty Sakura cherry blossom trees are being planted shortly on open space at Sandy Lane – a popular place for recreation – after the Council successfully applied to the Sakura Cherry Tree Project, a national donation scheme, to help celebrate 30 years of involvement in Britain in Bloom.

The independent, volunteer-led group is gifting the popular ornamental tree, known for its colourful and fragrant explosion of showy flowers in the spring, to create a lasting legacy of the Japan-UK Season of Culture – an enhanced period of relations – symbolising the strong relationship between the two countries. It's been made possible by donations from Japanese businesses.

The Council has received three varieties of pink and white cherry trees of Japanese origin called “Beni Yutaka”, “Somei Yoshino” and “Tai Haku”.

Cllr. Trevor Johnson, Cabinet member for environment and recycling, said: "These beautiful trees can last for more than 30 years so it's a poignant way to celebrate three decades of involvement in the country's largest horticultural campaign."

"This will play a small part in helping the Council to reduce its carbon footprint to zero by 2030 – as part of its newly adopted Environmental Sustainability Strategy – and delivering our commitment to creating urban carbon capture woodlands in the borough."

● **INVESTMENT BID** - Newcastle is bidding for up to £25 million of investment from the government's Towns Fund, and a newly-published town investment plan (TIP) lists nine different project which could receive funding, and draw in another £110 million from the public and private sectors. One of the more eye-catching proposals is for a £2.8 million 'Astley Centre for Circus and Performing Arts' – named after the 18th century, Newcastle-born father of the modern circus.

The TIP includes plans to upgrade Newcastle Bus Station; Investment in town centre gateway sites, including the previously announced plans to redevelop the former Zanzibar site with older people's accommodation and demolish the Midway car park to make way for 126 new homes – £18.5 million, Digital infrastructure improvement, including a Town Deal-funded £2.5 million voucher scheme to help users connect to a new gigabit broadband network – £12.5 million, Electric charging infrastructure, featuring 40 new charging spaces at car parks and taxi ranks – £680,000.

Newcastle was one of 101 towns across England which were selected for a Town Deal as part of the government's plans to 'level up' left behind areas. If Newcastle's Town Deal funding bid is approved by the government later this year, construction work on the various projects would be carried out between 2022 and 2025. According to the TIP, the plans would give a return on investment of £297 million over five years.

Item sources include the Newcastle Borough web-site.