

APRIL 2024

From the Editors

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

Welcome to our April edition.

We now enter the season of Easter. The sadness of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day have passed and we can reflect what a risen life means to us. Can we transcend, at least in some part, the cares and anxieties of the world on a daily basis? There is much trouble in the world and it is easy to become overly involved to the detriment of our spiritual, mental and physical well-being.

It is good to take some time out in the day for prayer, meditation and reflection on what it is to be a Christian in these tumultuous times. This month, on the 23rd of April, we remember The Patron Saint of England, St. George who famously slew the dragon of sin. Let each one of us reflect on the sins we commit and slay them by the more gentle methods of prayer and reflection.

The sun has now passed the equinox and this will hopefully bring us better weather when we can get out and about and enjoy the wonder of God's bounty. Have a happy April. Let us hope there aren't too many April showers.

"The April rain, the April rain,
Comes slanting down in fitful showers,
Then from the furrow shoots the grain,
And banks are fledged with nestling
flowers;
And in grey shawl and woodland bow-
ers
The cuckoo through the April rain
Calls once again."
- Mathilde Blind, *April Rain*



Good Friday and Easter Sunday services

The Churches Together in Penwortham Good Friday Walk of Witness was well attended and the church was full for the short service of hymns and readings following the walk. Our Vicar Chris remarked that it was best Good Friday service he had witnessed in his time here at St. Mary's. This was in no small part down to Rhoda our organist who planned the service and provided the reading and music. We thank her for her devotion in allowing us to reflect on the Passion of Christ. Thank you! Thanks also to those from the other churches who volunteered to read.

Easter Sunday is always a rousing affair when we celebrate the Risen Lord. The hymns are stirring and joyful. Two of our parishioners, Eileen and Ron celebrated their 90th birthdays and we were blessed with cake! May they have many happy returns.

Church Electoral Roll

Registration for inclusion on the Church Electoral Roll has now closed. The amended roll will be available after the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM).

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

This year the APCM will be held on Sunday 28th April after the 10.15 service and all are welcome. This is an important meeting when Churchwardens and PCC members are elected for the coming year. It is also an opportunity to hear what has happened in the life of the church in the past year and also to hear about the state of our finances. Copies of the Annual Report and Financial Statement will be available in the week before the APCM.

Cop Lane School Prayer Spaces

During Holy Week, Cop Lane School created Prayer Spaces in Year 1 class room. These were comprised of small gazebos, six in all. Each one had some aspect of the story of the birth, life and death of Jesus.

Students were encouraged to reflect on the life of Jesus and to perhaps consider how they would have acted in those times. The staff and children put an amazing amount of work into this which enables them all to understand the rich heritage of our Christian faith. Particular thanks go to Mrs Wendy Teague who does so much to promote Religious Education at the school.

Christian Aid Week 2024. 12th - 18th May.

Christian Aid Week has changed over the many years it has been running. The effect of Covid and changes to the way people pay for things means that house to house collections are no longer the money spinner it used to be. We will still be delivering envelopes to be returned to collection points but we will also be looking at other ways to raise money for people like Aline, who lives in Burundi. Burundi is one of the smaller countries in Africa, it sits south of Rwanda, West of Tanzania and East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is home to the source of the Nile. It also:

- Is one of the 5 poorest countries in the world, 70% of the population live in poverty
- Is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa
- Has a very low average age due to a very high birth rate
- Depends heavily on agriculture for its income
- Has 52% of children under 5 suffering from chronic malnutrition

Like almost everyone anywhere, people in Burundi are suffering from the effects of inflation and the cost of living crisis. This obviously has a greater impact on people already living on a low income, without any reserves to fall back on. This is where Christian Aid are able to provide support, helping communities such as Aline's to set up savings and loan schemes so they can set up or expand their own businesses.

This allows individuals to develop a steady income and become more resilient to shocks and changes.

Cop Lane School will be holding a dress down day and I will be taking part in 70k in May. This is a challenge from Christian Aid to cover 70 km's in any way you like that is under your own steam. I will be doing a combination of swimming and walking to cover at least that distance. I have also approached Total Fitness to encourage as many members as possible to join in and get themselves sponsored. I would encourage any of you who feel able to, to join in too. You could do so individually or as part of a group of like minded people. If you aren't able to participate yourself, please do sponsor me or another participant. Alternatively you can just make a donation online.

If you would like to read more about Aline and the work Christian Aid are doing in Burundi you can find it here <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/alines-story>

Rachel Tuke



**Families
in our local community
are going hungry
and
need your help**

Registered Charity: 1200224

Churches Together in Penwortham operate
PENWORTHAM FOODBANK

*AT PENWORTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
KINGSFOLD DRIVE PR1 9EQ*

EVERY FRIDAY**
BETWEEN 0930 AND NOON

**DONATIONS OF NON-PERISHABLE FOODS ARE URGENTLY
REQUIRED**

*We thank all who have donated food in the past but we need further
supplies: particularly pasta, pasta sauce, tins of soup, tins of baked
beans and canned fruit*

**BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO THE FOODBANK ON A FRIDAY
MORNING**

OR

ARRANGE A BANK TRANSFER/STANDING ORDER* TO:

Account name: Churches Together in Penwortham
Sort Code: 30-96-85 Account No: 00415955 (Lloyds Bank)

OR

MAKE A DONATION (cheque or cash)*

*We are registered for Gift Aid so if you are able to make a financial donation and are a UK taxpayer then please let us have your contact details so we can arrange for a Gift Aid form to be sent to you.

**opening times vary over the Christmas period

Diocesan News

Introducing our next Bishop of Burnley

A priest who has broad experience of both chaplaincy and teaching, as well as in the ministering and leading of others to help God's church to grow, has been chosen as the next Suffragan Bishop of Burnley.

Edinburgh-born Rev. Dr Joseph Kennedy, 55, is currently Vicar of Oxton St Saviour in the Diocese of Chester. He was educated at Edinburgh University (Mathematics and Theology) and then Oxford University where he trained for ordination; later beginning his ministry in Oxford Diocese.

The Bishop-designate is married to Emily who is Head of External Financial Reporting for Oxfam and they have two children: David, 13 and Mary, 7.

(Full biography at end of this story.)

Rt Rev. Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn, made the appointment following consultation with a representative group of people from the Diocese.

It was approved by His Majesty The King and posted to the Downing Street website at 10am today.

Joe succeeds Bishop Philip himself, who was his immediate predecessor as Bishop of Burnley.

The date of Joe's Consecration Service later this year at York Minster will be Friday, July 19 at 11am. This will be followed by his

'Installation Service' on Sunday, September 8 at 4pm in the presence of civic, faith and community leaders from across Lancashire at our Cathedral in Blackburn.

The new Bishop of Burnley-designate was introduced today by Bishop Philip at Burnley Faith Centre.

Joining them were fellow episcopal colleague, Rt Rev. Dr Jill Duff, the Suffragan Bishop of Lancaster; all members of Bishop Philip's Vision and Strategy Team; invited civic, faith and community leaders and choir members from St Peter's CofE Primary School.

Bishop Philip said: "I am delighted to welcome Rev. Dr Joe Kennedy as our next Bishop of Burnley. He has overseen a period of significant congregational growth in his current Parish and loves to see lives changed by the Gospel.

"Please now be praying for Joe and his family as they prepare for this huge upheaval in their lives."



Church News

Bishop welcomes MPs' recommendations for end-of-life care

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, has responded to the publication by The Health and Social Care Committee of its report on *Assisted Dying/ Assisted Suicide*.

Bishop Sarah, a former Chief Nursing Officer for England, said: "In over 20 years of working in the NHS, I witnessed first-hand the critical role that palliative care plays for patients and for their families. Particularly in my time as a cancer nurse in the capital, the difference I saw it make was deeply moving and inspirational in equal measure. This country has some of the best palliative care services in the world - but they are currently underfunded and overly-reliant on charitable donations.

"This is why I welcome the report's call for the Government to ensure universal coverage of palliative and end-of-life services, including hospice care at home, and its recommendation that the Government commits to an uplift of funding to guarantee support for hospices in need of financial help. I also welcome the call for better mental health support for terminally ill people.

"In 2022, the Church of England's General Synod members voted overwhelmingly to oppose a change in the law and the DPP's guidelines on Assisted Suicide and called for adequate funding and resourcing of palliative care services. This is about offering compassion and direct support for the terminally ill, to ensure the highest possible standard of care for all."

General Synod backs code of conduct for Parochial Church Councils

General Synod has voted in favour of a motion asking the Archbishops' Council to explore a Code of Conduct for Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and lay volunteers.

The motion, brought by the Diocese of Chelmsford, sought to address an imbalance of accountability in relationships where lay volunteers currently face no significant consequences for persistent departures from acceptable standards of behaviour.

An introductory paper explained that, whereas clergy are subject to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) process, there remains no proportionate and accessible means by which laity can be held to account for their actions.

Introducing the motion, the Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale from Chelmsford Diocese said: “When [things] do go wrong, there is currently no way to change the composition of a PCC. There is a lack of clear accountability.

“We seek a review into a code of conduct to encourage healthy cultures, and to give a possible remedy for intransigent behaviours that damage people, the church, and hinder our ability to share the good news of Christ Jesus.”

General Synod backs action to tackle biodiversity crisis

The General Synod has backed a series of measures to promote biodiversity on C of E land, from churchyards as havens of wildlife and plants, to the stewardship of agricultural and forestry land.

Members of the Synod welcomed progress already made by the Church Commissioners, the National Church Institutions, dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, and schools to manage their land for climate and nature.

The Synod approved further action to increase biodiversity including work towards drawing up environmental policy and land management plans for Dioceses and the recording of biodiversity in church green spaces.

The Synod also backed a request for the Church Commissioners to report back within three years on their progress in enhancing and supporting biodiversity across their agricultural and forestry land.

Introducing the debate at the Synod, the C of E’s lead Bishop for the Environment, Graham Usher, said: “We are one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world - 2% of species are already extinct - 41% of species have declined since 1970, 26% of our mammals are at risk of extinction and 97% of UK’s wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s.

“We need to act now to help the diversity of life on this single island planet home we share.”

Bishop Graham said that churchyards are home to a range of wildlife. In many parishes the churchyard is the only remaining ‘species-rich’ grassland untouched by post Second World War cultivation and development. He added that in urban areas, churchyards are often the only green space.

“Our churchyards should be places of the living, not just the dead,” he added.

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Science and Society: How Can We Approach New Ethical Issues?

Science tells us how the world works, and technology offers applications of that knowledge, but neither can tell us what we ought to do. All scientific discoveries or new technologies can be used to either help or harm others. For example, a smartphone can be used to stay in touch but also enables bullying.

It is important to get past our initial reactions: the 'yuk!' or 'wow!' These feelings may well change once we learn more about the science and other factors behind a new development.

Ethical thinking can be divided into three main categories. The **consequentialist** approach is demonstrated in Proverbs, when Wisdom calls young men to consider the outcome of their actions. Utilitarianism is a form of consequentialist ethic that tries to maximise the greatest good for the largest number of people affected, but unchecked it leaves minorities out in the cold.

Duty or law-based ethics start with intrinsic values, asking what is the correct course of action, or our duty? These values might be God-given, such as the Ten Commandments, or worked out by human reason. It is possible, however, to do harm while obeying the law, especially if someone asks 'What can I get away with?' Also, what happens when rules collide? For example, who should be treated first when resources are limited?

Virtue ethics are about building character, growing in wisdom and the fruit of the Spirit. There are plenty of biblical principles to guide virtuous living, such as the idea that we are 'made in the image of God' which supports the value of every human life (e.g., Genesis 1:26–27, Genesis 9:6, James 3:9–10), but the right decision can vary depending on circumstances.

So how can we make ethical decisions about new technologies? **The five Cs** bring together a number of different types of ethical thinking into a helpful framework for decision-making.

Clarify the facts and key questions.

Consider our choices: what could we achieve?

Constraints: External - what must we do? ; Internal - how should we behave?

Compare the pros and cons of each approach.

Choose what is best, with all parties in mind.

Finally, we have to recognise that the information available to us will change over time, our knowledge of God and His Word will keep growing, and we cannot avoid making mistakes - so our ethical decisions will need to be revisited and revised from time to time.

God in Music

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess continues his series looking at great works of music.

‘Glorious the song when God’s the theme’: Allegri’s Miserere

In the 1980s thanks to Godfrey Smith, a columnist for *The Sunday Times*, there was a series of letters about particular pieces of music that have the TQ – the Tingle Quotient. As we listen, the music sends a shiver of excitement up and down the spine and opens out for us a new world of beauty and wonder.

The letters started with a novelist writing about his travels across the Sahara. In moments of desolation and loneliness he would think of music that meant the most to him and which he thought he might never hear again. Then a schoolmaster in Rochester wrote of a production of ‘*Romeo and Juliet*’ where the funeral scene virtually brought the house down. Juliet entered a darkened school hall, lit only by glimmering candles with music sung that brought the audience to tears.

For both novelist and schoolmaster, the work that had that TQ factor was Allegri’s *Miserere*. It provided consolation in the cold desert nights, and it created the impact in that production of Shakespeare’s play. Other readers supplied their list of TQ music, and always the *Miserere* was in the top five. I suspect that this music strikes the TQ for many of you as well.

Why is it, I wonder? We can provide an answer by talking of the contrast between the plainsong sung by the men’s voices and the responses from the choir that lead to that small group of solo voices where the treble or soprano reaches a high C and comes down the scale to the cadence. We can point to the intriguing history of this work for the setting by Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652) was the exclusive possession of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. To copy the music was a crime punishable by excommunication.

In spite of this, a 14-year-old Mozart heard the piece in 1770 and wrote it down from memory, paying another visit to verify some of the notes he had copied down. The Emperor, Leopold I, the king of Portugal, persuaded the Pope to grant him a copy. When it was performed in his own imperial chapel, he was disappointed. He even thought the Pope had palmed him off with an inferior work. Then he realised that the beauty and magic of the music lay in its being sung in the Sistine Chapel where the plainsong and the high C cadences could ring out among the pillars and arches of that great building.

Matters of Faith

The *Miserere*, or Psalm 51 is the heart-felt cry of the Church for mercy. As one of the penitential psalms, it is a very personal expression of sorrow for sin and a moving appeal to God for mercy and restoration. In Allegri's setting that high C is reached as the individual acknowledges his sin, and again as he cries for mercy and finally as he proclaims that his tongue will sing of God's grace and righteousness. A single voice in the music scales the heights of heaven to represent all of us as we turn to God with that same awareness of sin, that same plea for mercy, and that same affirmation that we will then turn to God with thanksgiving and the offering of a humble and contrite heart. And so with the psalmist and with Allegri, we can pray 'Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness.'

Editor: The Revd Dr Jo White considers a very ancient feature found in some churches

Reflecting Faith: Easter Sepulchres

This month we are going inside the church building to find a somewhat different and only really found in older churches that have survived re-ordering and renovations: the Easter Sepulchre. A sepulchre is essentially a place of burial – a tomb – but in churches it can also be a receptacle for religious relics. Easter Sepulchres can be very grand affairs. I'm aware that many writers say that they are constructed in wood, but I have only seen stone ones. They can be plain or intricately carved. They can be low to the ground or reaching up to the roof. Each style, of course, reflects both the richness and generosity of the patron, as well as their theology. Some have 'layers' of carvings, with the angels at the top, then the patriarchs, followed by the Fathers of the Church and so on. Others are very simple and almost plain. They are normally set into or against the northern side of the sanctuary in which stands the altar, and which is traditionally considered to be the 'holiest' place in a church building. Their use is given in their name – on Good Friday some consecrated bread and wine and often a crucifix (rather than an 'empty' cross) is placed inside it and people take it in turns to 'stand watch' until Easter Sunday morning, when it is taken out with great ceremony and often paraded through the building. The reason is to reflect the death of Christ, His being placed in a tomb and His subsequent resurrection. Today's ceremonies are usually less ostentatious, and whilst folk often take turns keeping watch on the Maundy Thursday, reflecting the disciples being asked to stay awake whilst Jesus went and prayed alone in the Garden of Gethsemane, less is made of the Sepulchre watch.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-23, 29-33, 14:5-29

God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)...

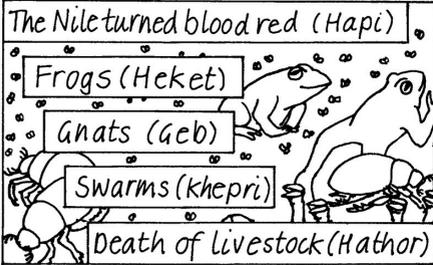
The Nile turned blood red (Hapi)

Frogs (Heket)

Gnats (Geb)

Swarms (Khepri)

Death of Livestock (Hathor)



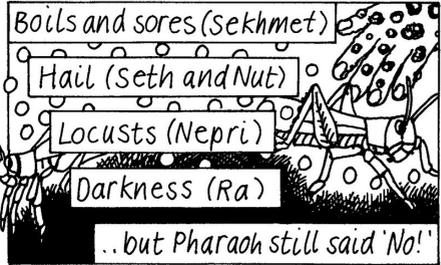
Boils and sores (Sekhmet)

Hail (Seth and Nut)

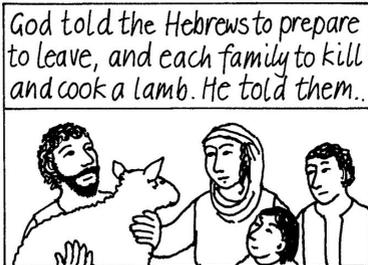
Locusts (Nepri)

Darkness (Ra)

.. but Pharaoh still said 'No!'



God told the Hebrews to prepare to leave, and each family to kill and cook a lamb. He told them..



Mark your house door with the lamb's blood.



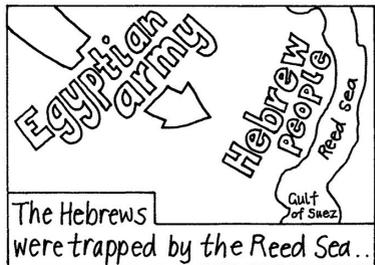
That night, in each un-marked house, the eldest son died.



The Hebrews left Egypt...

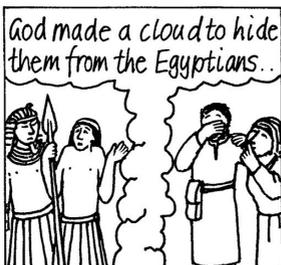


but Pharaoh followed with his army.

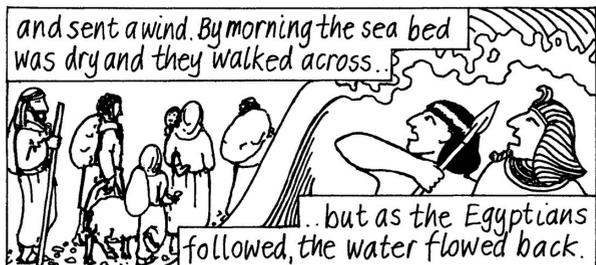


The Hebrews were trapped by the Reed Sea..

God made a cloud to hide them from the Egyptians..



and sent a wind. By morning the sea bed was dry and they walked across..



.. but as the Egyptians followed, the water flowed back.

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues a new series which will run for the next two years.

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Deuteronomy & Joshua

The setting for these books is Israel's entry into the promised land after 40 years of wanderings in the wilderness. Deuteronomy gives us Moses' addresses on the plains of Moab, as the Israelites prepare to enter Canaan. The book of Joshua recounts the crossing of the Jordan and the victories that give the people control of Canaan.

The theme of Deuteronomy is God's covenant and his call for His people's obedience, loyalty and love. The 'shema' (Heb: 'hear'), expresses this response to God: *'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.'* (Deut. 6:4-6).

The book contains instruction on how to live intentionally as God's people in response to His love and mercy. Total loyalty to God is also crucial, with the worship of any other gods being totally rejected. It is also widely quoted in the NT eg. Jesus' temptations (Deut. 8:3, 6:13, 16).

The book of Joshua, with its description of the conquest of the land and the destruction of cities and peoples, reminds us that God's love and purposes for us are worked out in the messes, storms and sins of our daily lives. As God says Joshua: *'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.'* (Joshua 1:9).

Joshua (*'The Lord saves'*) is the same name as Jesus Himself. Jesus overcame all powers of evil to bring God's people into their eternal 'rest' (Heb 4:1-11).

The probability of life originating by accident is comparable to the probability of the complete Oxford dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory. - Edwin Conklin

Miscellaneous

Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, considers driving....

Speed cameras and Moses

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (1 Timothy 2:2)

It is not often you get Moses and the local police popping up in the same sermon. I was thinking about the Bible passage that has Moses' second attempt at the Ten Commandments, one of God's greatest gifts to the world.

God had given Moses the laws, but he broke them in disgust when he found the people were behaving so badly. God asked him up to the mountain again and then gave him a second set. "Keep taking the tablets"!

I was walking in my village and wondered why the traffic was driving so peacefully and slowly. When I got to the lay-by to catch a bus into town, I saw the explanation. There was a police van fitted with a speed camera. The cars were driving slowly, well within the 30mph limit. I nearly went up to the officer to thank them, and to ask if they could come every day.

It was a good illustration for the sermon I was preparing. We do not want to get caught ourselves! We expect everyone else to obey the law, but often find exceptions when we are late or have an important errand. We repeatedly make mistakes but have a loving and gracious God.

As Christians we should be good drivers, and in my case a good pedestrian and road user. We should take an interest in local affairs and find out how parish and town councils deal with these issues. We should pray for people in authority and the police-officer who spent a long Saturday morning looking at slow traffic!

The bravest thing you can do when you are not brave is to profess courage and act accordingly. - Anon

Miscellaneous

The government wants to improve your teeth

Fluoride is to be added to more of our drinking water, to help improve the nation's teeth. It is part of the new NHS Dental Recovery Plan, the biggest expansion of the health measure since the 1980s.

At present, only five water companies add fluoride to water in the UK. They are mainly in the North-East and West Midlands, and less than 10 per cent of Britons. The initial expansion will provide fluoride to 1.6 million more people, in areas including Northumberland, Teesside, Durham and South Tyneside.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in water. It has been proven to make teeth stronger and reduce decay. Sir Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer for England, has claimed that adding fluoride to water supplies could reduce cavities by 17 per cent among the richest and by 28 per cent among the poorest.

Strict bedtimes could make children's brains 'bigger and healthier'

A family routine and a strict bedtime could help your child develop a healthier, bigger brain.

On the other hand, a disruptive family life with poor sleep patterns could mean your child has slower brain development, poorer cognitive function, and below average academic achievement.

Those are the findings of a new study from Colorado State University. It found that children thrive when the family has a weekly 'family time' together, when homework is done at the same time every day, the family eats dinner together every night, the child is expected to carry out regular household chores, and when bedtime is at a consistent time, accompanied by a bedtime story or similar calming ritual.

The underlying need is for the child to get enough regular and deep sleep. Children with disrupted families get disrupted sleep, and therefore are more likely to have thinner regions of the brain in the amygdala as well as parts of the left and right frontal cortex. These areas control skills related to language, behaviour, sensory perception, and emotional processing.

*"Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them."
Dalai Lama*

Miscellaneous

All in the month of APRIL

It was:

300 years ago, on 7th April 1724 that the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

200 years ago, on 19th April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a leading figure in the Romantic movement, he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.

175 years ago, on 10th April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin. He immediately sold the rights for \$400, which is about \$12,000 today. The company he sold it to made millions from it.

150 years ago, on 5th April 1874 that Johann Strauss II's operetta Die Fledermaus was performed for the first time, in Vienna.

100 years ago, on 23rd April 1924 that the British Empire Exhibition opened in Wembley, London.

90 years ago, on 3rd April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud. He set up a company to manufacture them in 1935 and in 1937 he was awarded a government contract to mass produce them for national use.

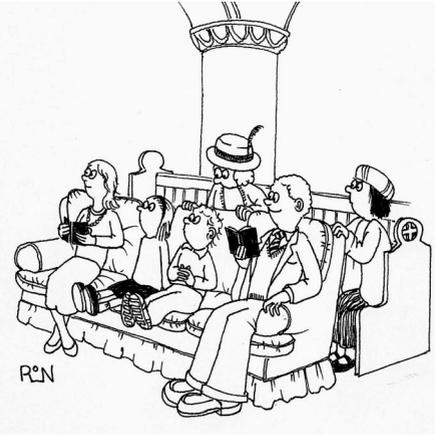
75 years ago, on 4th April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.

70 years ago, on 26th April 1954 that the Soviet Union transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine. In 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, but it is not recognised internationally, and a number of sanctions were imposed on Russia as a result.

60 years ago, on 15th April 1964 that twelve men convicted of carrying out the Great Train Robbery in England in August of 1963 were jailed for a total of 307 years. They were given some of the longest sentences in British criminal history.

50 years ago, on 6th April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

40 years ago, on 17th April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London. This led to an 11-day siege by the police.



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class



"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."

Emmaus

(Luke 24:13-32)

In the breaking of the bread
Our eyes were opened,
We knew Him then.
The Lord was with us
In Emmaus,
There was no doubt.
He was alive and with us,
The scriptures made sense.
What a difference!

But thinking back
To that journey –
To the grief that overwhelmed us,
The discussions, disagreements
And debilitating disappointment –
A different opening of the eyes,
We never *were* alone.

Before the word and bread,
Because of the word and bread
He was there,
He is here,
Always,
Walking with us.
By Daphne Kitching

Cat's eyes

When you drive on a road late at night
And the dark is affecting your sight;
At that time of day
It's easy to stray
Too far with your car to the right!

But we've been protected from tears
For most of the past ninety years,
Since a man who was wise
Invented cat's eyes
So the edge of your lane now appears!

Now drivers, protected from frights
By mirrors reflecting our lights,
May shout 'hip-hooray!'
At all times of day,
And drive with no fear of the nights!
By Nigel Beeton

Wages

Seen on a church notice board: 'Despite inflation, the wages of sin remain the same.'

Who?!

Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.

So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

Heaven

Seen in a parish magazine: "We shall be meeting on Wednesday, when the subject will be 'Heaven - how do we get there?' Transport by bus is available at 6.45pm opposite the King's Arms.

Choir

Seen in a parish magazine: 'Next Sunday the choir will give a recital, after which the church will be closed for repairs.'

Who is he?

A musical concert was about to be performed in a prison. The Governor was talking to a titled lady guest, explaining that the orchestra was made up of murderers, embezzlers and other hardened criminals. The lady then pointed to a man in the corner, holding a trombone. "He looks a tough customer," she whispered. "Whatever has HE done?" The Governor paused and smiled. "Ah, actually, he is the chaplain."

Do it

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and *then* cross them off!

Problem

I don't have a problem with caffeine. I do have a problem without it. ^[L]_[SEP]

Beyond

I'm living so far beyond my income that we may almost be said to be living apart. ^[L]_[SEP]

What am I?

I'm not old. I woke up, I lifted my arms, I moved my knees, I turned my neck. Everything made the same noise: Crrrrrraaaaaacccccckkkk! So I've come to the conclusion that I'm not old, I'm crispy!

Picture Parable

The Tale of the TWO BUILDERS



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES

PROD! PROD!

THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.

SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.

BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME....

...AND THE WIND BLEW....AND THE RAIN FELL....

...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION!