

MARCH 2019

## *From the Editors*

Is that Winter over with we wonder? Although the nights are drawing out and temperatures are climbing, March can still surprise us with some cold snaps.

This month we enter the season of Lent when we embark on our journey of spiritual renewal by self-denial and repentance. These can seem like hard things to do but really it's a shift in view. Normally we view the world through a lens of "me" but Lent offers us the opportunity to reflect on who or what we truly are and shine forth our innate qualities of wonder, humour, love, courage and compassion.

Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March which is preceded by Shrove Tuesday (the expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word shrive, meaning "absolve"). In some countries it is called Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) when all the rich and fatty foods were eaten in preparation for the more austere diet of Lent. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of putting the sign of the cross using ashes on the forehead as a sign of repentance.

So during this time of Lent let us wish one another strength and steadfastness as we prepare for Easter Don't forget the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday though.

March also brings us Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday It's always good to remember mothers everywhere for their love, their selflessness and sacrifice. In the UK, the event can be traced back to the church and some historians believe that it evolved from the 16<sup>th</sup> century Christian practice of visiting one's Mother's church for Laetare Sunday (the fourth Sunday of Lent). Based on this tradition, most mothers were reunited with their children on this day when young apprentices and young women in service were released by their employers for that weekend.

"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."  
- William Wordsworth, *Daffodils*



God never made a promise  
that was too good to  
be true.

*D L Moody*

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**St. Mary's News**

**CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2019**

Dear Parishioner,

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force last May which has resulted in certain documents having to be circulated to parishioners. The PCC have confirmed that everybody on the current electoral roll numbering 170 will be given, sent or posted, this letter and attachments. Copies of all these documents will also be available on a table at the back of church for those not currently on the Electoral Roll. In addition to this covering letter the following documents are enclosed as part of the bundle:

An explanatory note (see below) about the Church Electoral Roll – what it is, why you should be included, the benefits and the time span that the roll is open to be completed and returned.

**An electoral roll form to be completed, signed and dated and returned to the PCC Secretary** – details shown above if you want to be included on the new roll. Alternatively, you can leave the electoral roll form duly completed at church for his attention in a sealed envelope. Details of who is qualified to be on the electoral roll are included on the actual form. The PCC Secretary will see that completed electoral roll forms are passed on to our Electoral Roll Officer Jean Moulding.

The specific electoral Roll Privacy Notice explaining what information will be in the public arena if you complete and return your electoral roll form. You should retain this form for your information. We can't use this information on the Electoral Roll form for any other purposes so **please complete the specific consent form** .

**A specific Consent Form (one side) which must be completed and returned to the PCC Secretary** . It can also be left at church in a sealed envelope for his attention together with the completed Electoral Roll form if you wish to go on this roll. This consent form will be kept in a secure locked cabinet with restricted access to our Parish Data Protection Officer Mrs Rachel Tuke, the Vicar and Churchwardens. You can change your consent at any time as long as you inform the PCC Secretary in writing.

If you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, or if you have any queries about it please contact the PCC Secretary (David Thornton 01772 749521 Mobile: 07947 035994)

**Church Electoral Roll**

Every six years a new roll is prepared and those on the previous roll will be informed that they can re-apply. 2019 is the year of the new roll. **Forms will be available in Church from 24th February.**

**WHAT IS THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL?**

- It is a list of people who want to have a say in how St Mary's is run
- It is the people on the Electoral Roll who vote for members of the PCC and Deanery Synod (The PCC is responsible for the smooth running of St Mary's)
- It is NOT the electoral roll for General and/or Local Council Elections

**SHOULD I JOIN THE ELECTORAL ROLL?**

YES if you would call St Mary's your church AND YOU either live in St Mary's Parish OR have been regularly worshipping here for 6 months or more.

**WHAT DO I GET & HAVE TO DO WHEN I JOIN THE ELECTORAL ROLL?**

- You can vote and speak at the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM)
- You can nominate & elect people to be on the PCC & Deanery Synod
- You can be a PCC or Deanery synod member or a Sidesperson.

**Churchyard.**

For many years now a small but dedicated team has met on Thursday mornings to work in the churchyard and keep it looking beautiful and welcoming to worshippers and visitors alike. The team is not getting any younger and we need some help. We thought it might be a good idea to have some sessions on Saturday mornings as well. The work is not onerous mainly keeping the grass cut and looking after the flower beds. If you feel you can help you will be most welcome. The next date is **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** between 9.30 am to 12.00. Refreshments will be provided.

**FOODBANK REQUESTS.**

Penwortham Churches Together Food Bank are very short of the following:  
Hot dogs: corned beef, ham, meatballs, Irish stew, Fray Bentos pies: tinned mince, stewing steak & curries, tinned peas, carrots & potatoes, tinned fruit, & rice pudding, custard, small packs of tea bags, nappies( Size 2, 3 or bigger).  
Please leave anything with the Churchwardens. Thank you.

## *From the Editors*

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### **Blackburn Diocesan conference, 26 - 29 November 2018.**

The theme of the conference, which for the first time included both clergy and laity was "The Mystery Of Faith" #believinglivingsharing. The focus for each of the three 24 hour periods, was 'Incarnation', 'Atonement' and 'Future Hope'. The opening address for each topic was quite challenging both intellectually and theologically. However, I found the Bible Reading address to be much more accessible. Each evening a guest speaker addressed the conference after dinner. The five workshops spread throughout the conference focussed on issues within parishes and church communities. I attended workshops mainly associated with children's work, as that is where my ministry is primarily focussed. The ideas I picked up in workshop discussions will be fed into our Young People's Ministry Group meetings. Although slightly nervous when I arrived at the venue, I quickly settled in and thoroughly enjoyed the 4 days. It helped me progress in my faith journey and it was a privilege to represent the laity of St Mary's. Anyone interested in further information about the conference can either speak with me on a Sunday or visit the Blackburn Diocesan website [www.blackburn.anglican.org](http://www.blackburn.anglican.org) where numerous resources from the conference can be found. Under the 'News and Events' menu on the homepage you will find a 'dropdown menu' taking you to: videos and reports covering conference overview, speakers and workshops.

*Ian Driver*

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY (FAB, SPARKS, )**

WEEK ONE:

**SPARKS**—Cinema Sunday during 10.15am service

WEEK TWO:

**SPARKS**—Stories, crafts & games during 10.15am service

WEEK THREE:

**SPARKS**—Stories, crafts & games during 10.15am service

WEEK FOUR:

**FAB (Faith and Belonging)** All age Family "Messy Church" - Craft, games, family challenge, story & café time—3pm to 5pm in Church

WEEK FIVE; (when applicable)

**SPARKS**— Stories, crafts & games during 10.15am service.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT DEBBIE WIGGINS**

Home: 803038 Mobile: 07824 628206 Email: [wigginsfamily.dw@gmail.com](mailto:wigginsfamily.dw@gmail.com)

**Christian Aid Week 2019 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May**

Christian Aid week this year takes place between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May. We will here in Penwortham be taking part through our house to house collection. Christian Aid week remains the biggest fund raiser for Christian Aid and at the moment house to house collections continue to bring a significant portion of the money raised. I am very grateful to the many collectors who continue to help collect in our area, but there is always room for more people to help.

If you are able to give us a few hours of your time to collect in a small area please do let me know. You don't have to go alone, if you would like to work with someone else to collect in a particular area, then that can be arranged. You can encourage younger people to help by delivering envelopes but anyone collecting must be at least 16 to go unaccompanied.

If you have other ideas for fund raising or would be prepared to help organise a Big Brekkie, then again please do let me know. Any ideas gratefully received.

**Leyland Band Concert also supporting Christian Aid**

At the concert by Leyland Brass Band on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April, there will also be a bucket collection to support Christian Aid. Any money raised on this occasion will be put towards one of the targeted projects Christian Aid runs where the money we raise will be match funded by the EU so whatever we raise will get 3 times the amount from the EU- so each pound becomes worth 4. Please do come prepared to contribute

***Rachel Tuke 01772 460142***



**LEYLAND BAND CONCERT**

**ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH**

**THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 8.00 PM**

**TICKETS £10**

*There will also be a bucket collection to support Christian Aid*

### **BBC to run a 'Year of Beliefs'**

The BBC is going to 'shine a light' on faith and spiritual values in Britain today by running a year of programmes dedicated to religion and ethics.

The move comes a year after the BBC promised to 'raise our game' in the way that it treated religion. That promise followed a year-long review of its religious and ethics output.

So what series should we look out for? Here are just some:

On BBC 1, *Earth's Sacred Wonders* will look at the rituals and monuments of faith around the world; *Medical Ethics* will be a documentary filmed at Great Ormond Street Hospital; and *Pregnant and Platonic* will be a documentary on people who have children without being in a romantic relationship.

On BBC 2, *Inside the Vatican* will show a year in the life of the Vatican community, including Pope Francis; and the popular *Pilgrimage* series will return.

The Bishop of Repton, the Rt. Revd. Jan McFarlane, who chairs the Sandford St Martin Trust, welcomed the BBC's plans. Especially "bringing issues of faith, belief and ethics to as wide an audience as possible."

### **Bishop responds to climate concerns raised by World Economic Forum**

The Bishop of Dudley, Graham Usher, has described a risk report, recently published by the World Economic Forum as 'significant,' warning that those in the world's most deprived areas will be affected most severely by Climate Change.

Bishop Graham said: "It is significant that the threats posed by climate change have been recognised by the world's top economic experts.

"While this report serves to strengthen calls for urgent action to protect and sustain God's creation, it also highlights the peril of inactivity and delay, which particularly places the economically poorest people in our world at risk of devastating consequences."

Bishop Graham Usher is a member of the Church of England's Environmental Working Group.

### **Bishop welcomes Universal Credit announcement**

Following comments by the Work and Pensions Secretary, Amber Rudd, on changes to Universal Credit, the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on issues relating to children and young people, said:

"As a just and compassionate society, we believe that every child is a blessing and deserves to be treated equally.

"So I very much welcome today's announcement that the two-child limit policy will not be extended to children born before the policy came into effect in April 2017. I also welcome the Government's more considered approach to moving people on to Universal Credit from the old benefits system.

"I look forward to working with Ministers to continue reviewing these policies as part of a broader, coherent strategy to reduce child poverty, helping parents to give their children the best possible start in life."

### **Church of England invests £35 million in new Christian communities**

The Church of England is to fund a bold series of projects to spread the Christian faith – from a new congregation in a nightclub area to a weekday church - as part of a £35 million investment in mission.

The biggest investment so far by the Church of England's Renewal and Reform programme is intended to help it reach tens of thousands of people including in city centres, outer estates and rural areas.

The grants will pioneer new types of churches - which may be far from the traditional image - along with outreach by the Church of England, from a social media pastor to work with school and community choirs.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "Hearing and responding to the good news of Jesus Christ unlocks new joy, new belonging, new purpose and new life. "These projects show the dynamism and drive of the Church of England's mission to share this good news with people throughout our dioceses and parishes.

"We are committed to this work because we want everyone to know how much they are loved by God through Jesus Christ, and how they can find that love for themselves."

The areas which will receive the funding boost include Birmingham, Bradford, Gateshead, Ipswich, Leeds, Portsmouth, **Preston**, Rotherham, Southend and Stockton-on-Tees.

Several of the grants will boost the Church of England's presence in areas with high student populations. In Durham, St Nic's Church, in the centre of the city, will seek to engage with the further education sector, building on existing work amongst university students.

Debbie Clinton, Director of the Church of England's Renewal and Reform programme, said: "From a church in a nightclub area to weekday congregations and a social media pastor, the Church of England is not afraid to try something new to ensure it continues to serve every community in the country.

"We believe that everyone should have a chance to experience the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of belonging to a Christian community wherever they live, whether in an urban city centre, an outer housing estate or in remote rural areas."

#### **TV**

The mind is like a television...when it goes blank, it's a good idea to turn off the sound.

#### **Experience**

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

## Calendar

3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT</b>	
	8.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
	10.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 1) with Sparks (Cinema Sunday)
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	
	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation
	7.30 pm	Imposition of Ashes
7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00-12.00 noon	Churchyard Maintenance
	10.00-12.00 noon	Open Church
	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice
10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
	8.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
	10.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 1) (with Sparks)
13 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation
14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00-12.00 noon	Churchyard Maintenance
	10.00-12.00 noon	Open Church
	L7.30 am	Bell Ringing Practice
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
	8.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
	10.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 1) with Sparks
20 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation
21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00-12.00 noon	Churchyard Maintenance
	10.00-12.00 noon	Open Church
	7.30 am	Bell Ringing Practice
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
	8.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
	10.15 am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
	3.00 –5.00 pm	<b>FAB</b> (Faith and Belonging)
17 <sup>th</sup>	6.30 pm	Christian Meditation
18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	10.00-12.00 noon	Churchyard Maintenance
	10.00-12.00 noon	Open Church
	7.30 pm	Bell Ringing Practice

31<sup>st</sup> **MOTHERING SUNDAY** (The Fourth Sunday of Lent)  
8.15 am Holy Communion (Order 2)  
10.30 am Service of the Word (No Sparks) (Parade)

**8th Penwortham Scout Group - Penwortham Farmers Market**

Penwortham Farmers' Market is held at St Teresa's Scout Hut, Queensway, Penwortham, PR1 0DS on the first Saturday of the month. The market sells local produce which includes Eggs, Cheese, Meats, Vegetables, Fruits, Fresh Fish, Jams, Plants, Chocolate, Cakes, Pies, Veggie Curries, Soaps, Crafts and much, much more.



**Sign in church**

The new curate had put some signs around the church. They read:  
Keep your eyes on me preaching! Stop reading these signs!

**Query**

If you can quote lines out of the Bible, are you well-versed in it?

**Grannie**

After church, the mother asked her young son if he had enjoyed Sunday School. "Oh yes," he replied. "My new teacher is pretty cool – she is Jesus' grand-mother." Startled, his mother asked what made him think that. "Obvious, she never stops talking about Jesus," he replied.

**Adam & Eve**

At Sunday School the children were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Little Josh was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down and looking scared. "Josh, what is the matter?" Josh whispered "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

**Mix-up**

What do you get when you cross an atheist with a Jehovah's Witness?  
Someone who knocks at your door for no apparent reason.

**Happy**

Never miss an opportunity to make others happy, even if you have to leave them alone in order to do it.

## ***All in the Month of March***

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It was:

**400 years ago**, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1619 that Richard Burbage, English actor, died. A major shareholder in the Globe Theatre, and a friend and business partner of William Shakespeare.

**200 years ago**, on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1819 that Sir Joseph Bazalgette, British civil engineer, was born. He created London's sewer network as well as several notable bridges, embankments and streets.

**150 years ago**, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1869 that the first recognisable periodic table of the elements was published by Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev.

**100 years ago**, on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1919 that Nat King Cole, the American jazz/swing/pop singer and pianist was born. (Died 1965)

**80 years ago**, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1939 that Howard Carter, the British archaeologist and Egyptologist died. He discovered the tomb of the pharaoh Tutankhamen in 1922.

**Also 80 years ago**, that the fictional superhero Batman made his first appearance, in *Detective Comics no. 27*.

**75 years ago**, from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> March 1944 that World War 2's 'Great Escape' took place. 76 Allied prisoners broke out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging tunnels. 73 were recaptured and 50 executed. The event was dramatised in the classic film *The Great Escape*.

**60 years ago**, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1959 that the Barbie doll was launched at the International Toy Fair in New York City, USA.

**50 years ago**, on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1969 that British gangsters Ronald and Reginald Kray (the Kray twins) were found guilty of murdering the criminals Jack McVitie ('Jack the Hat') and George Cornell. They were sentenced to life imprisonment.

**40 years ago**, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1979 that The Camp David Peace Accord was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, ending 30 years of war.

**30 years ago**, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1989 that Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Webb while working at CERN.

**25 years ago**, on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1994 that the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.

## ***Charities***

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### **Children's Society**

It is now time for the Children's Society boxes to be opened. I would appreciate the boxes being brought to our house at 44, Central Drive. If this is not possible I will call to collect them. Thank you for your support.

**Linda Glaister**

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## Organisations

### Guild of St. Mary

At our AGM in January J. Kirby, A. Yates and B. Richards agreed to remain as our President, Secretary and Treasurer. The rest of the committee agreed to stay on for another year and were all re-elected.

Anne Hall is still our Card/Flower Secretary so please ring her on 746834 to let her know if any member is ill or celebrating a special occasion.

We lost our lovely, long-standing Guild member Alice Halliwell on Friday February 8<sup>th</sup> age 96, 15 years after her beloved sister Susan died age 78.

New members from ladies of the parish are always welcome to join us at Priory Lane Community Centre, especially at our Open Evenings.

On March 25<sup>th</sup> NHS Community Nurse Carolyn Hayhurst will talk to us about avoiding falls in the home – steady on!

*Ann Yates*

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## The Parish Thanks

### ALTAR FLOWER

March

3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Dickinson, in memory of Betty Dickinson

10<sup>th</sup> Vacancy

### *During Lent,*

*flowers are placed in the Memorial Window only*

17<sup>th</sup> Vacancy

24<sup>th</sup> Vacancy

### ALTAR LINEN

March

Mrs Barbara Collins

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## History Corner

### FROM THE ARCHIVES : MARCH 2019

#### The Vicar's Notes

That the Season of Lent coincides with the Season of Spring is not without its significance. Both bring with them RENEWAL.

#### Confirmation

On Tuesday, February 25, the Lord Bishop of Whalley administered the rite of Confirmation to 96 candidates. The day was a beautiful one, the sun pouring in on the newly-confirmed, flooding with glory the Church, as we pray the wonderful sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit will fill and guide henceforth the hearts of and lives of those confirmed.

#### CMS

A Lantern Lecture will be given in St Leonard's School on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> on behalf of the Church Missionary Society.

Mrs Burton's Mothers' class will meet on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at Penwortham End Sunday School at 3 o'clock

## Matters of Faith

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**Please pray....**

*For those recently baptised*

27th January      Ezmae Aoife Cummins, the daughter of Sean Kevin David  
Cummins and Justine Alana Cummins

*For those who have recently died*

Alice Halliwell



### HIGH DAYS AND HOLY DAYS

#### **1st March - St David's Day: time for daffodils**

1<sup>st</sup> March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery! We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps!?) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> March - SHROVE TUESDAY: Pancake Day**

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting. So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup> March.

### **6th March - ASH WEDNESDAY: mourning our sins**

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

## ***Matters of Faith***

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### **17th March - St Patrick: beloved apostle to Ireland**

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ. Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

### **31<sup>st</sup> March - Mothering Sunday and Mother Church**

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

## Miscellaneous



"The vicar's looked at the weather forecast and is preparing us for another roof-appeal."

### Rebels with knitting needles

The young are rebelling again – this time, it seems, against the digital age. A recent study of 18-to-21-year-olds found that 83 per cent prefer to read a printed book rather than a tablet. They are also discovering the joys of knitting, fishing, and fruit picking, doing cross-words, and gardening.

Privilege Insurance, which conducted the research, said it was great to see the younger generation "defy stereotypes and expectations."



### Give your garden birds a feast!

March is a hungry time for birds, but you can easily help them. Here are some things they will love:

Seed and grains like nyjer, millet, oats, and sunflower seeds.

Unsalted peanuts fit for human consumption. (cut them up, or the chicks could choke)

Cooked pasta, rice and boiled potatoes.

Apples, pears and soft fruits, cut small.  
Grated cheese, unsalted uncooked bacon rind,

Raisins and sultanas (be careful! These are poisonous for dogs)

Suet and fat balls.

Mealworms and waxworms.

**Miscellaneous**

Easy Sudoku

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

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A Little Harder

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

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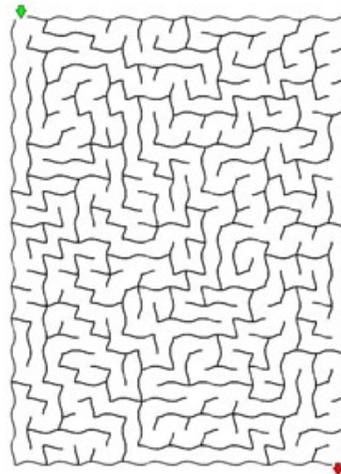
Last Month's  
Easy Solution

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

Harder Solution

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

**ONE THING  
YOU CAN'T  
RECYCLE IS  
WASTED TIME**



**Unique**

Always remember you're unique. Just like everyone else.

**We are getting smaller**

Well, at least our families are!

In 1961 there were 16.6 million households in the UK with an average of 3.0 persons.

In 1981 there were 20.6 million families with 2.7 persons each.

By 2001 we were 24.5 million households, with 2.4 people in each.

By 2021 we'll have 28.3 million households, though still with 2.4 persons in each.

*The figures come from the Office for National Statistics, Household Projections, Table 401.*