



Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill Magazine

Easter 2013, Issue 41

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NOW WHAT ?

Thoughts on reading John 12

The stories of Christmas and Easter are well known as part of the popular culture of this country. Regardless of whether they would profess to having faith or belief people know these stories really well.

At Christmas time, children and adults alike love to hear about the baby being born in the stable. We don't know for sure if there were any animals present when Jesus arrived, but that doesn't stop us picturing the cosy scene of horses, sheep and cattle amongst the straw. And there must have been a donkey. Isn't that how Mary arrived in Bethlehem?

And then carrying through the theme, the Easter story begins with a donkey. Now the cute little baby, wrapped up cosily at Christmas, loved and treasured by his young mother, adored by the shepherds and revered by the wise men has grown into a man.

But this time, the story isn't so pleasant. It starts well when the man Jesus is lauded as a Saviour. Palm branches are laid in front of him and shouts of Hallelujah fill the air. Yet within days, the crowd have turned on him, the authorities want him arrested and tried and even his friends betray and deny him.

And for the non-believer that's the end. The baby was born, the man died, the story told over the space of about four months. Of course, there is the mysterious post script to

the story. What happened to the body? The crucified Jesus was buried in a tomb and a stone rolled across the entrance. Then when his friends went back after the Sabbath, the stone had been moved and the body was gone. Great story. But what now?



At Morning Prayer a couple of weeks ago, the New Testament reading was from John chapter 12. This is a lovely passage which contains a number of well known bible stories.

At the start of the chapter we read about the woman pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet and wiping it away with her hair. The next event recorded in chapter 12 is the triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. And after the donkey has been returned to its owners the crowds continue to be drawn to Jesus, they want to see the man who had raised his friend Lazarus from the dead.

But it was the following words in verse 21 that spoke out to me. "Some Greeks sought out Jesus' followers with a request. They wanted to see Jesus." These people had heard about this amazing man and were hungry to hear more.

And over two thousand years later, can there be any better response to hearing the Easter story? If you already know Jesus—seek him out. And if you don't yet know the risen Lord—ask one of his followers. You really need to hear what happens next in the story.

From the editor

As well as editing the magazine another role I play at Holy Trinity is leading the Communication and Public Relations Action Group (CPRAG).

A standing agenda item at our meetings is "Encouragement". Under this item we consider who might benefit from receiving an encouragement card sent on behalf of the whole church family. Sometimes CPRAG members nominate an individual, couple, family or group; sometimes the suggestions come from other action groups. And now and again we will find a note in the CPRAG pigeonhole with a suggestion.

Over the last few years we have sent out around two dozen cards. Sometimes the cards have a knock on effect. A person will receive a card and feel the need to encourage someone else in turn.

In an interregnum, the work of the church carries on. And you're all doing a great job!

If you would like to acknowledge the contribution of someone to the life and work of Holy Trinity, do drop me a note and CPRAG will get a card out to them. Or why not come along to a CPRAG meeting? Come and see what we're getting up to and help us to encourage our brothers and sisters.

RF

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"People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred; forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway.

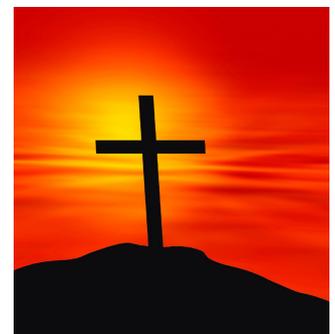
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway."

Mother Theresa

Dying to Live—An ode for Easter

The Christ died so that we may live
 All our sins He will forgive
 Nailed high upon an awful cross
 The watchers thought He was at a loss
 Suffering unbelievable, torturous pain
 He had to lose so that
 we might gain
 And take away greed,
 envy and arrogance
 And other attributes of
 negative substance
 He bore our sins on the
 tree
 So that we might die to
 sin and live righteously



And just when they thought He had nothing to lose
 From the cold, empty tomb so He arose
 A cessation of sinning
 And a brand new beginning
 Whoever is in Christ is a new creation
 So, be joyful and filled with elation
 The old life has gone
 And the new one has come
 All our sins He will forgive
 The Christ died so that we may live!

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Len's Life

In Len's last missive, he recounted how others had started to recognise in his young self the propensity for him to lose control of his temper in stressful situations. In a memorable set-to, poor George was flung across the room after upsetting Len. Read on...

Soon after George Daniels hit the floor, he sold his business and I never saw him again. Whether he learned anything from our unfortunate encounter I will never know.

This period of my life was not pleasant for me, but it was not until 1998 that I realised what my problems were, when I was diagnosed with recurring clinical depression. This was something which had been with me from earliest childhood, but I had never appreciated this. All that I can say is that I did not really want to live and was convinced in my own mind that I would not reach 30 years of age. Obviously a higher authority had other plans for me. On two occasions at night, I took the shop van out with the intention of crashing it, but each time something or someone stopped me.

I was very much of a loner not having, I thought, any true friends. I was prone to accidents when driving and had a series of them through until 1959, none really serious, but enough to wreck the insurance premiums.

I had not taken a holiday since starting work in 1953, so in 1956, Bill Pickles decided we should go to Paris, and we duly booked a ten day holiday. To quote from a book I have read, "Many Adventures Followed", none of which will be expanded upon here. We flew from Rochester Airport in a De Havilland Dove, a twelve seater plane with just a pilot. The journey lasted about 4 hours!

When we returned, we nearly didn't make it as the information at the airport was sketchy and the tannoy announcement was, of course, in

French. We did fortunately eventually recognise our names being called.

The return journey was on board a De Havilland Rapide, a seven seater, which was overloaded and once again had only a crew of one. We came back via Shoreham and I never thought we would get airborne. We arrived back at Rochester in a fierce thunderstorm and after three attempts to land, the pilot aborted and told us he would land at Southend and we would be issued travel vouchers to get us home. I must admit to being a bit scared when webbing started stripping from the plane during the storm.



This was the year that I turned twenty one and my parents had a

party for me. Most of the guests were people that they knew although a few of my brother's school mates and an auntie by marriage and others came along. I had spent much of my spare time up to this point in cinemas and theatres both straight and music hall and had got to know a clarinet player quite well. When not in the theatre, he had a small dance band so I booked him to play at the party.

My auntie and her friends played music at a Holiday Camp at Leysdown. They camped out there for the summer season, weekends only as a rule, but if the season was busy, they stayed there during the week as well. As my auntie knew I enjoyed singing, I was invited along to join them whenever they had a booking. Me, being very shy and insecure as I was, I know, you won't believe that, but it is true, I mulled it over and decided to give it a whirl. They were also members of the local branch of the Royal Air Forces Association and it was not long before I also became an Associate Member, but that will be the start of another part of my life.

So until the next time, Every blessing to you all.

Len

COFFEE TIME WITH DAVE



Easter

He has died. He has risen. Alleluia!

The joy of Easter is upon us. Out of the snowflakes and into the snowdrops; what a wonderful thought. And hopefully I have lots more good thoughts for you. Please read on.

Good Friday is a very special day, though impossible to fully comprehend. It is a day for reflecting on "debt". A debt that has been paid for us all. I'm sure, if on this day we all had our mortgages or rent paid for us. we would all be extremely excited!

In a spiritual way, we have had much more repaid than that. We have, if we believe the Easter message, been rescued, saved and redeemed now and for evermore.



Many people have passed on this wonderful message.

Charles Wesley said it was like chains coming off. The message is unique, just like the messenger.

And how do we receive this gift? In the words of Jesus the master, by becoming like little children.

Lord thank you for your gift to me.
Lord, thank you that you died and rose for me.

I accept my debt is paid in full for ever.

Nothing more to pay.
Only lots to receive.

Dave Portman



The computer swallowed Grandma, Yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'control and 'enter' and disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely, the thought just makes me

squirm.

She must have caught a virus or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin and files of every kind;

I've even used the Internet, but nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Mr Google my searches to refine.

The reply from him was negative, not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'Inbox,' my Grandma you should see,

Please 'Copy, Scan' and 'Paste' her and send her back to me.

Just for fun

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?' From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

Mission Action Group News

News from MAG (*Mission Action Group: Alan Sanders, Mary Pritchard, Phil Hall, John Knight... and various others associated with us. If you would like to be a member, or a linked-in associate, you would be most welcome: please have a word with one of us!*)

As MAG is primarily concerned with the overseas mission of the church, and our parish involvement in it, we try to arrange a visit from one of our linked partner families each year when we can. We were therefore delighted that Mike and Rachel Hill, on Home Assignment from Cambodia (with Overseas Mission Fellowship) and currently based in Birmingham, were able to worship with us this last weekend, March 17th. We feel sure if you were here you now know quite a bit more about Cambodia, and hope you also enjoyed hearing from Mike on how God dealt with Hagar (in Genesis, in the morning) and Jonah (in the evening). I have also been told that the middle and older Sunday Groups also enjoyed Rachel's visits to them on Sunday morning, and that there were lots of questions asked.

Our link with the Hill family is over 12 years old now, so they have got to know us (and vice versa) quite well. For a while in the early days of "Open the Book" Mike came over from Birmingham every fortnight for a couple of terms to be part of one of the teams. *(Commercial Break!! – we can still use more volunteers for Open the Book so if you are 16+, male or female and available during mornings and/or afternoons in school terms, do ask someone and give it a try! You do NOT need to learn lines – we use the books to tell the stories.)*



A photo of a Kathmandu resident from one of our mission partners.

Another of the blessings of a long term partnership is personal friendships with individuals – Mike is visiting Martin today as I write this, while he is down in Bristol, and Mike and Rachel have been able to visit us more informally on two other occasions while home this time. Before they go back in the summer there will be a "Back to Cambodia" event at their Birmingham church, on a Saturday in May, details of which we will put in the news sheet nearer the time. Individuals or families would be most welcome to go to this.

I (Phil) am delighted to have three new names to add to the list for Mike and Rachel's newsletters which we receive every 4-6 weeks. I forward them by email to most recipients, but if necessary can do named paper copies which can be collected from

the book table at the back of church. If any others are interested, please have a word with me.

Talking of which, we are putting "snippets" from our other partners, who are in Nepal, Lebanon, Australia, and USA (Tom Adams), in the news sheets on an occasional basis, especially when there are either requests for specific prayer or news to share. All of them also send letters – at varying intervals – so if you would like to receive any of theirs as well, again, let Phil know.

Thank you all for your support! Focussing on world mission is encouraging, as in many countries the churches are flourishing far more than they are here, and in fact many are now sending missionaries to Britain! Jesus is truly LORD – throughout our whole world! Praise Him!

The Archbishop's Enthronement

Justin Welby was enthroned on Thursday 21st March 2013 as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury at Canterbury Cathedral. Here are some facts about the ceremony you may not be aware of.

1. Why does he have to knock?

By tradition, the new archbishop must knock three times on the door of Canterbury Cathedral to allow admittance. A young member of the congregation, questions him to find out who he is and why he has come. He responds: "I come knowing nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified, and in weakness and fear and in much trembling."



2. What part do the royals play?

Queen Elizabeth II is Supreme Governor of the Church of England. While Archbishop Welby waits outside, a mandate from the Queen is read authorising his enthronement. The Prince of Wales also attends the enthronement.

3. Why is there a Primate of England and a Primate of All England?

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, plays a key role in the ceremony, bidding Archbishop Welby to take the Declaration of Assent - his agreement to the doctrines of the Anglican Church. Dr Sentamu is styled Primate of England and the archbishop is Primate of all England. These confusing titles are believed to date from a papal ruling at the end of the 12th Century to settle the row over who is the superior of the two archbishops, granting superiority to Canterbury, but making York a primate too. A similar compromise was decided on for Ireland (between Armagh and Dublin) in the 14th Century.

4. What is the book he kissed?

The new archbishop swears to observe the customs of Canterbury Cathedral on the Canterbury Gospels, said to have been brought to England by the first Archbishop, St

Augustine, in 597.

5. Why two thrones?

The archbishop is enthroned on two different seats - first in the diocesan throne as bishop of Canterbury, then in the Chair of Augustine as Primate of All England. He will be enthroned by a woman -

Archdeacon of Canterbury, the Venerable Sheila Watson - in the diocesan throne.

6. What's special about the Chair of St Augustine?

It has been used for enthronements at least since the 13th Century. The archbishop is seated in it by the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, the Very Rev Robert Willis.

7. Anything notable about the guest list?

For once, organisers believe all the primates - heads of the provinces of the worldwide Anglican Communion - will attend the ceremony, a remarkable display of unity in a worldwide movement currently going through some difficulties.

8. Why does he wearing second-hand robes? Archbishop Welby's vestments for the enthronement are a tribute to the late Bishop of Peterborough, Ian Cundy, who died aged 64 in 2009. These were bought as a gift for Bishop Cundy from the students and staff at Cranmer Hall, Durham. "During Bishop Ian's last three years in Durham, Justin Welby was one of his students,"

9. What do the symbols on his robes mean? The vestments' design is based on the first miracle that Jesus did at the wedding in Cana - the blues and purples represent water changing into wine, as

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We are here to take
the love of Jesus in
actions and words to
all people

MAGAZINE DEADLINES AND PUBLICATION DATES

Summer Edition

Deadline for copy **7th July 2013**
Publication date **21st July 2013**

Harvest Edition

Deadline for copy **22nd September 2013**
Publication date **6th October 2013**

Christmas Edition

Deadline for copy **1st December 2013**
Publication date **15th December 2013**

Easter Edition

Deadline for copy **30th March 2014**
Publication date **13th April 2014**

Annual Subscription £2. See Rachel Ford.



The church at the heart of the
community

We're on the web
www.holytrinity.org.uk

For details of Services and Regular Activities
at Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill,
see back cover.

Christians in Sport



Even though the weather has tried to hold us back recently, sport is forever taking us forward with tremendous excitement.

In tennis Andy Murray is trying hard to win another Grand Slam. The trouble is there are so many great players around at the moment. At present Djokovic is the top player who has all the attributes of a true champion plus the titles to prove it.

In the Premier League, Sir Alex Ferguson is showing why he is probably the greatest manager of all time. He deals with the European Champions (Chelsea), he is way in front of the current Premier League champions with all their millions (Manchester City) and possibly heading for another Premier League title.

A short time ago I was listening to the great pentathlon champion Daley Thompson. He was reflecting on how he started out as a

sprinter / runner. One day a coach invited him to "fill a space" in a pentathlon event. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The story reminded me of how Jesus after we come to know him encourages us to do things that maybe are new to us.

The fine weather is coming; what can we do that we haven't done before? Either spiritually or physically.

I hope you find something that brings you great enjoyment, because that's what Jesus wants for us.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10.

God Bless. Dave Portman

Services and Regular Activities

During holiday times, please check with group leaders which weekday activities are taking place.

Sunday Services

1st Sunday

10:45 a.m. Family Service
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

2nd Sunday

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship* and Holy Communion
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

3rd Sunday

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship*
6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

4th Sunday

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship*
6:30 p.m. Hungry for God

5th Sunday

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship*
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

*With Junior church, young people's groups and FROGGIES for pre school children.

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well as baptismal waters. The three fish suggest the Holy Trinity, while serving as a reminder to Christians to be partners in mission as fishers of men. The robes were designed and made by Juliet Hemingray.

10. Any significance to the date?

21st March is the anniversary of Archbishop Welby's predecessor Thomas Cranmer during the reign of Queen "Bloody" Mary in 1556. He is revered as one of the chief spiritual inspirations of the Church of England and the originator of the Book of Common Prayer. It is also marked by the Church as the anniversary of the death of St Benedict.

Tuesday

1:15 – 3:00 p.m. Tots Are Us
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Tuesday Club
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Bell ringing



Wednesday

9 - 11:00 a.m. Tots Are Us

Thursday

9.00—11.30 a.m. Coffee and Crafts (Addenbrook Court)

11:30 a.m. Midweek worship followed by lunch

7.15—8.45 p.m. TNT youth group

Friday

9 – 11:00 a.m. Tots Are Us

Saturday

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting

Every weekday

8:30 and 11 a.m. Prayer

8.30 a.m.– 1 p.m. Open Door

Marriage and Baptism enquiries

Tuesday evenings from 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Just for fun II

I start a new job in Seoul next week.. I thought it was a good Korea move.

I was driving this morning when I saw an RAC van parked up. The driver was sobbing uncontrollably and looked very miserable. I thought to myself 'that guy's heading for a breakdown'.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OLD HILL

Halesowen Road

Cradley Heath

B64 6JA

Phone: 01384 411592

Email:mail@holytrinity.org

