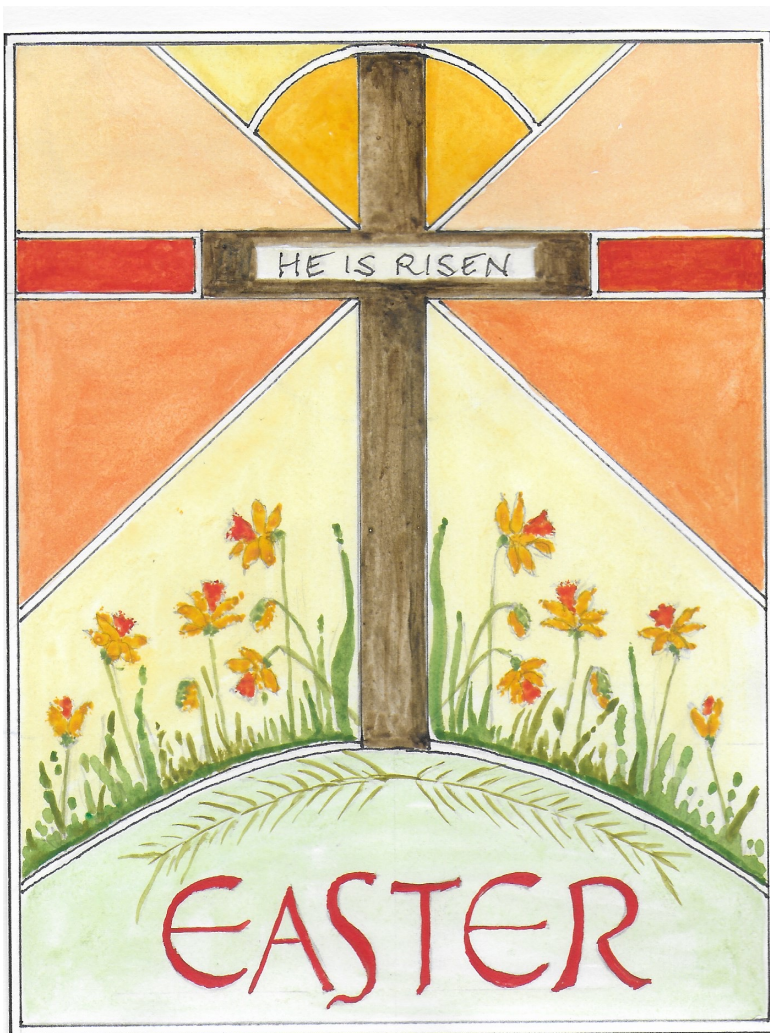


Bollington Church News

The magazine of Bollington Parish Church, St Oswald's



March 2024

Price 50p



Who's who at St Oswald's

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The Parochial Church Council April 2023-2024

Christine Osbaldiston, Jackie Pengelly, Richard Raymond, Elaine Houghton,
Lynda Iverson, Simon Thomas, Chris Ward, Angela Williams

Ex officio: Anne Coomes, Anthea Wilkinson

Deanery Synod: Anthea Wilkinson, Anne Coomes

Diocesan Synod: Richard Raymond

Letter from Nancy

Dear All,

Easter Day this year is on 31st March, and we will climb White Nancy for 7am to celebrate God bringing new life out of death in the Easter promise; once for all in Christ and a gift of joyful renewal of life every new day for us.



Easter is a massive celebration, lasting longer than Christmas. So why do we not build up to it more? We do Lent as a time of spiritual retreat of prayer and study, which is beneficial, but as a build-up to the Easter celebration we do Lent very half-heartedly.

Every child knows how many days are left to Christmas – their Advent calendar counts down for them. Historically and liturgically, Advent is a penitential season similar to Lent, but you won't find many people today giving up chocolate or alcohol before Christmas. You can't buy Lent Calendars – the only Lent Calendars are school-created sticker charts with worthy daily activities such as 'Work hard today.' Children never miss out chocolate Advent calendar days, but I bet they are not excited by the build-up to Easter.

My marketing idea for Lent is a Chocolate Lent Calendar, with each door containing two chocolates. You give up chocolate for Lent, but you can eat one of the chocolates in the calendar - only after you have given the other one away (or you can eat both chocolates if you do your worthy daily activity). The Lent calendar windows are on the outside of a box which is decorated with stories of God's abundance, Jesus feeding the 5,000, Jesus turning water into wine, and inside the box is a massive chocolate Easter Egg to eat at 7am on Easter morning while singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today. Alleluia!"

Lent is to turn us to Christ, to point us to God's amazing generosity, gift and grace which overflows into the world with abundance and renewal of life. To prepare for the Easter feast. How can that not be joyful? May you have a joy-filled Lent and a very Happy Easter.

Love Nancy x

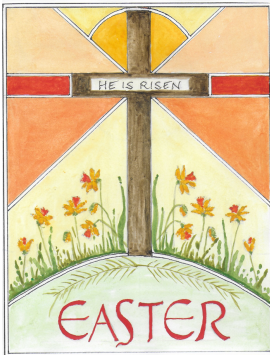


Lent & Easter 2024

Brian Reader comments on the front cover

March this year is a strange month, as most of it is taken up with Lent, with Easter Day falling on the very last day. It starts with St. David's Day and the World Day of Prayer; it also includes Mothering Sunday, and St. Patrick's Day.

This month Ann has produced not one but two illustrations depicting Easter. The first on the cover shows a stark empty cross with spring daffodils around the base, reminding us that on Easter Day Christ is risen from the dead. Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect on our faith and the way we live our lives, and if you have not already tried it, why not join us on the Lent course?



St David died on 1st March 589 and he and his monks followed a simple, austere life. They ploughed the fields by hand, and refrained from eating meat or drinking beer. St David himself was reputed to have consumed only leeks and water – which is perhaps why the leek became a national symbol of Wales.

The Welsh word for daffodil is 'Cenhinen Bedr'. The literal translation of this is 'Peter's Leek', so some suggest that this closely related name could have led to the use of a daffodil instead of a leek. The other likely reason is that daffodils bloom around the 1st of March each year, just in time for St David's Day.

St David's last words to his followers were: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.'

Ann's second illustration (shown towards the back of this newsletter) has a collection of Easter chicks, bunnies and Easter eggs which reminds us of the joy of new birth and spring, after our self-denial during Lent. But don't put your woollies away too early – I can remember snow on Easter Sunday.

BOLLINGTON PARISH CHURCH



ST OSWALD'S

EASTER SERVICES 2024



MAUNDY THURSDAY:

7.30pm Last Supper Holy Communion followed by an hour silent vigil watch ending at 9.45pm after Compline



MESSY CHURCH:

Good Friday March 29th 10.30am-12pm activities, crafts, fish finger lunch and all-age worship



GOOD FRIDAY:

2pm-3.30pm Good Friday Service. Hear again the story of the passion. With distribution of Communion.



EASTER CREATIVITY:

Help to decorate Bollington Parish Church of St Oswald's for Easter. Lots of helpers old and young needed to have fun and proclaim the joy of Easter – bring daffodils, tulips, lilies, Easter baskets, bonnets, chicks, bunnies, eggs etc. Be creative! Holy Saturday morning 30th March from 10am



EASTER DAY ON WHITE NANCY:

The Bollington tradition of a crowd gathering for Easter on White Nancy is back! 7am Easter Day early morning (15 mins) to light the Easter Fire, proclaim the risen Christ and eat Easter Eggs. Everyone welcome including dogs and muddy children.



EASTER DAY IN CHURCH:

10.30am in Church Easter Holy Communion with candles followed by Easter Egg Hunt. Sunday 31st March

ALL ARE WELCOME



The 'Numbers Crunch'

Finance report from Richard Raymond

The start of a new year signifies the end of an old year, and for a church treasurer and many other treasurers across the charity sector this means compiling the year end accounts.

During the year the figures for church income and expenditure have been carefully logged in a spreadsheet, out of which the accounts emerge. At each PCC these interim accounts are presented and questioned and debated.

At the end of the year, all the details of receipts and payments are totalled to produce the year end accounts. These figures must all balance and must all be supported in terms of paperwork so that the accuracy of the treasurer's work can be proved. The PCC will be asked to approve the accounts and a final check on all the calculations and figures will be made by an independent assessor.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, the treasurer will present the accounts for approval by the meeting.

This process has two very important outcomes. The first is that the congregation and those organisations and people who have contributed to the church's finances can see how the money has been spent. Also, they can have confidence that there is transparency in all the transactions.

The second outcome is for the future. A clear presentation of the figures is needed so that the future financial state of the church can be forecast. The PCC will then be able to take the necessary decisions to ensure the financial stability of the church.

**

It was not an accident that 17 of the 36 parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship. - *William James Dawson*

Stewardship is what a man does after he says, 'I believe'. - *WH Greaves*

10th March

Mothering Sunday & Mother Church

There is an old Jewish saying: *God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.*

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

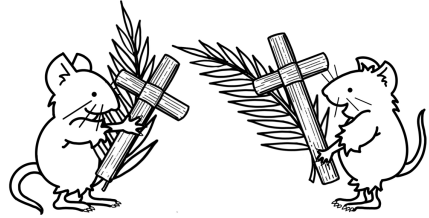
During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families, which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed, and in many ways now resembles the American Mother's Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.



24th March

Palm Sunday - Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to His own people in their capital city, and yet He came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave Him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into His path. They knew His reputation as a healer, and they welcomed Him. But sadly, the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put Him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds, in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

28th March

Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

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

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular

worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

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

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world.

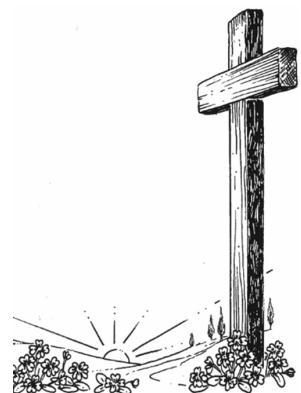
John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were being killed.

29th March

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

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

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of



the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

31st March

EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

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



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

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

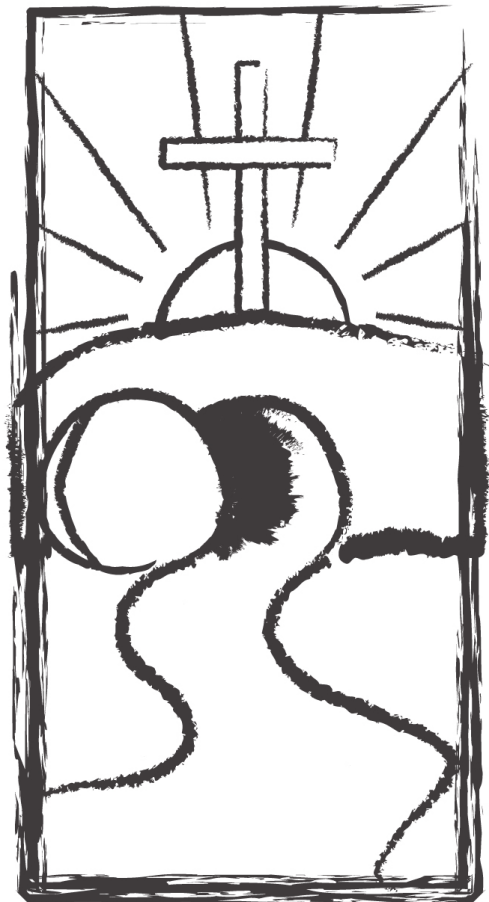
Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest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

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede.

He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring.

Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



The story behind the hymn: ‘Christ Arose!’

Looking at the stories BEHIND some of our favourite hymns.

This Easter marks the 150th birthday of this much-loved hymn, sung each year by millions of Christians worldwide. It all began on a little pump organ in the living room of a college professor in Pennsylvania, back in 1874.

Robert Lowry was professor of literature at Bucknell University, and pastor of a nearby church. He had a passion for poetry and music, and explained his ‘muse’ this way: “I watch my moods and when anything strikes me, whether words or music, no matter where I am, at home, on the street, I jot it down. My brain is a sort of spinning machine, for there is music running through it all the time. Sometimes the words come, and the music follows.”

Easter 1874 was approaching, and on this particular day Robert Lowry had been meditating on the gospel narratives of the Passion and Resurrection. The angel’s words at the empty tomb, ‘He is not here, but is risen’ kept running through his mind. There was something there... Lowry moved to the little pump organ in his living room and gave himself up to the moment. Soon the words and the music for this joyous Easter hymn just fell into place.

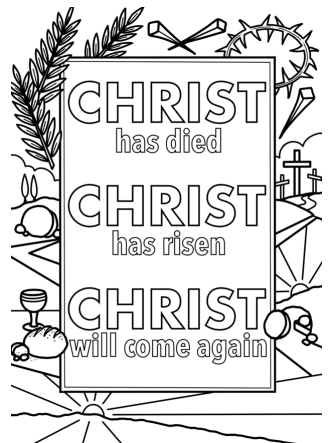
Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay - Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

*Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty
triumph o’er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

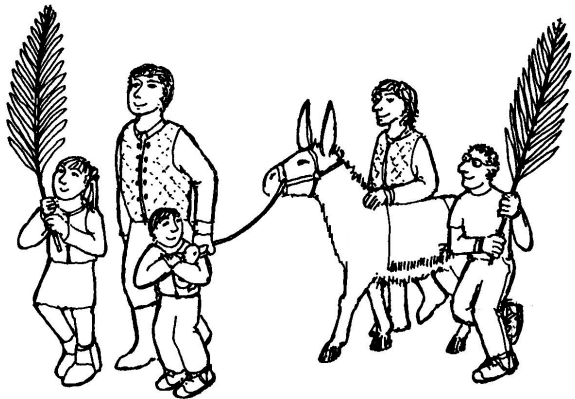
Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Saviour!
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!



Why we should be like donkeys

Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They can survive on poor fodder, can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?



On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So, Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work He has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Bible: Exodus

This month we are looking at Exodus, the second book of the Old Testament. Its name means departure, reminding us that Israel's flight out of slavery in Egypt is the major focus of the book.

Exodus is a book of two halves! The first part (chapters 1-19 & 32-34) is the story of an oppressed people who are delivered from slavery into a life of freedom. The second half (chapters 20-31 & 35-40) consists of detailed instructions about the life and worship of God's people.

The book introduces us to their *salvation* or deliverance, as *story*. God's promises to Abraham are fulfilled as the people journey to the Promised Land. He also renews His covenant with them at Sinai, expressed in the Ten Commandments (20: 1-17).

At the heart of Exodus is the person of God Himself. In chapter 3 God reveals His name as YHWH or '*I am who I am*' (3:14) to Moses. This is the name by which God is known throughout the Old Testament, expressed in the title '*the LORD*'. To know God's name is to know Him, as well as His character ie His justice, truthfulness, mercy, faithfulness and holiness. He is the God who controls history, delivering the people out of Egypt, while the death of the Passover lamb points us to Jesus' death on the cross (1 Corinthians 5:7).

God's promises of help remain true for us today: '*Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today*' Exodus 14:13.

**

Good to think about....

The shortest distance between a problem and its solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. - *Anon*

Treasures in heaven are laid up only as treasures on earth are laid down. - *Anon*

All in the month of ... March

It was:

750 years ago, on 7th March 1274 that St Thomas Aquinas, Italian Dominican friar, Catholic priest, philosopher, and theologian, died.

500 years ago, on 19th March 1524 that Florentine explorer Giovanni de Varrazano became the first European to reach the Atlantic coast of North America. He reached North Carolina, Canada, and then Florida.

250 years ago, on 16th March 1774 that Matthew Flinders, British navigator and cartographer, was born. He led the first inshore navigation of Australia, and was the first person to call the country by that name.

150 years ago, on 30th March 1874 that Charles Lightoller, British naval officer, was born. He was Second Officer on the RMS Titanic, and the most senior member of the crew to survive the sinking in 1912. He was also a commanding officer in the Royal Navy during WW1, and took part (as a retired volunteer) in the Dunkirk evacuation in WW2.

125 years ago, on 6th March 1899 that the German pharmaceutical company Bayer patented aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid).

100 years ago, on 25th March 1924 that Greece became a republic. The monarchy was abolished, and the Second Hellenic Republic was proclaimed.

90 years ago, on 9th March 1934 that Yuri Gagarin, Soviet cosmonaut, was born. He was the first man in space. (Died 1968)

80 years ago, from 24th to 25th March 1944, that the Great Escape took place. 76 Allied prisoners of war broke out of the Stalag Luft III prisoner-of-war camp near Sagan, Germany after digging three tunnels. Three of the prisoners escaped, 73 were recaptured, and 50 were executed. The event was dramatized in the film *The Great Escape*.

75 years ago, on 10th March 1949 that the 1948 Arab-Israeli War ended. Israeli victory.

70 years ago, on 1st March 1954 that the USA tested the most powerful nuclear device it has ever detonated – a thermonuclear hydrogen bomb codename Castle Bravo, at Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands.

65 years ago, on 9th March 1959 that the Barbie doll was launched at the International Toy Fair in New York City. 9th March is Barbie's official birthday.

60 years ago, on 6th March 1964 that American world heavyweight boxing champion Cassius Clay was given the name Muhammad Ali, after joining the Nation of Islam.

50 years ago, on 29th March 1974 that the Terracotta Army was discovered in Shaanxi, China by a group of farmers who were digging a well. The 8,000 life-sized warriors, plus chariots and horses were buried with the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang (247 BC to 221 BC) to protect him in the afterlife.

40 years ago, 5th March 1984 to March 1985 that the 1984 miners' strike took place. 6000 coal miners in Yorkshire began a strike, to protest against pit closures and job losses. By 12th March the strike in Yorkshire became a national one, involving tens of thousands of miners.

30 years ago, on 12th March 1994 that the first women priests in the Church of England were ordained.

25 years ago, 21st March 1999 that Ernie Wise, British comedian and actor (Morecambe and Wise) died.

10 years ago, on 18th March 2014 that Russia annexed Crimea following a controversial referendum in which its citizens voted to secede from Ukraine. Many of those loyal to Ukraine boycotted the referendum, and it was declared illegitimate by the United Nations and western governments.

Also 10 years ago, on 29th March 2014 that the first same-sex marriages in England and Wales took place.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

We continue our new series, looking at Christians in the Church calendar.

St David, guiding the Welsh through turbulent times

On 1st March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David - or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined, and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.

It's likely that David was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'Bishop David'.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia, David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales.

At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy - indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as Archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi - *brefi* in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously, in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

The date of David's death is disputed - either 589 or 601. It wasn't until the 12th century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries - including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It's traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St David's Day (*Gwyl Dewi Sant* in Welsh) - but there seems no particular reason for it.

Book of Remembrance for March

3 rd March	George Haworth
6 th March	Harold James Gumm
9 th March	Joan Lee
9 th March	Graham Garland
9 th March	Fred Walker
10 th March	Mary Oldfield
10 th March	Kenneth Allen
14 th March	Elizabeth Chadwick
15 th March	Jack Johnson
18 th March	Kenneth George Wilcox
19 th March	Baby Euan George Rogers
19 th March	Katheryn Ruth Pimblott
22 nd March	Emma Jackson
25 th March	Patricia Hilary Wood
26 th March	Robin George Samuel Webster
26 th March	Lesley Holmes
27 th March	David Gaskill
29 th March	Audrey Beresford Cameron
30 th March	Emily Holmes
31 st March	Margaret Ainsworth



Would you like to include the name of a departed loved one? An entry costs £10. Please contact Ann Stringer on 01625 574325

From the Registers

BAPTISM

11th February Bobby Ron Joe Barnes

FUNERALS

7th February Anthony Jackson

8th February Alan Garforth

9th February Jean Palmer

Regular midweek activities

Every Tuesday during term time, 9.30-11.00am, Little Owls

Every Thursday at 10.30am, Holy Communion

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Get the magazine: please ring Ann Stringer on 01625 574325.

Deadline: Material for the April issue to reach Anne by 18th March.

Giving to St Oswald's:

Our bank account name is **'The Anglican Parish of Bollington PCC'**.

Our account number is **39536416** and the sort code is **01-05-41**.

Or talk to Richard Raymond, our treasurer, on 01625 612025.

Worship in March - ALL WELCOME!

For more details of these services please see page 5

Sunday 3rd 9.15am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship

Sunday 10th **Mothering Sunday**
10.30am Parish Communion

Thursday 14th **Lent Lunch**
12 noon

Sunday 17th 10.30am Parish Communion

Sunday 24th **PALM SUNDAY**
9.15am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship with special guest – a local donkey!

Monday 25th **Holy Week Peace Workshop**
2pm–4pm Study, prayer & reflection with folk from St Gregory's RC, St Christopher's, & Bollington Life Church.

Thursday 28th **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7.30pm Last Supper
Holy Communion & silent vigil

Friday 29th **GOOD FRIDAY**
10.30am to noon – Messy Church
2pm-3.30pm Good Friday Service

Saturday 30th 10am Decorate church for Easter

Sunday 31st **EASTER**
7am Dawn Service
on White Nancy
10.30am Easter Holy Communion

