



THE GRAPEVINE

The magazine for the Parish of St Nicholas with St Barnabas' Kenilworth

April 2024

www.stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk



Sunday Services

St Nicholas' Church and Parochial Hall

8.30am Said Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Church,
Book of Common Prayer - on **first and third Sundays**.

10.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas' Church, with singing.
Family Praise - on the **second Sunday**
These services will also be livestreamed on [YouTube](#)



StN Kids on the **first and fourth Sundays at 10.00am** in St Nicholas' Church

6.30pm Choral Evensong on the **second and fourth Sundays** *Summer time*
NO Evening Services at St Nicholas' Church on first, third or fifth Sundays

Online: **Sundays at 10.00am** - livestreamed our Eucharist Service from St Nicholas' Church via our [YouTube channel](#), where you can also watch previous services.
Visit the church website at www.stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk and find the link for **Worship from Home** or [click here](#) for ways to take part in Sunday services on-line.



St Barnabas' Church

11.00am Morning Worship, with hymns on the **first, fourth and fifth Sundays**

11.00am Holy Communion on the **second Sunday**

Café Sunday 10.00am 3rd Sunday, now at **St Barnabas' Church**, Albion Street

Mid-Week Services

Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.45am Morning Prayer at St Nicholas' Church

Tuesday 11.00am 'Leavenses at St Barnabas' Church,

Wednesday 10.00am Mid-week Eucharist - on the **first Wednesday of each month** at St Nicholas' Church,

Thursday 4.30pm Evening Prayer at St Barnabas' Church

Please check newsletter or church notices for changes to regular services



St Nicholas with St Barnabas Kenilworth
*A Parish in the Church of England Diocese of Coventry
and Registered Charity 1126227*
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www.stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Happy Easter!

Reading this you may think me a little tardy with my greeting; after all Easter with all its joy, celebration and hallelujahs (to say nothing of the chocolate eggs) was at the end of March. However, in the church calendar, Easter is more than just a day, a weekend, or a two week break from school. Easter is a whole season that runs right through to May and the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, or Whit Sunday.

Throughout the whole of Easter-time Christians celebrate Jesus' resurrection. It is a time of great joy which is reflected in the words we use in our services and in the hymns we sing. It also flows through into the wider life of the church. The mood of celebration and joy combines with lengthening days, sunshine and blue skies and spring really starts to bloom. You might see the wonderful displays of colour in the flower beds around the church and in the churchyard. You might also like to visit the church when it is open for teas from 2-5pm on the second Sunday of the month. The cakes are certainly joyous!

One of the significant images in the Easter story is the stone that is rolled away from the entrance to the tomb where Jesus is laid. In the Easter story the stone is rolled away so that the whole world can know that Jesus is alive. Jesus is let out of the tomb so that those that believe in him can experience fullness of life.

Christians often talk about inviting Jesus into their hearts or letting Jesus into their lives. That closeness of connection to the Divine is an important part of Christian life. But I wonder if the image of the rolled away stone suggests something more. An equally important part of Christian life is to let Jesus out. Letting Jesus out means allowing love, joy and kindness to flow out from ourselves in the way we treat other people and the world we live in.



Continued from page 3 - The Vicar's Offering

Back in 2019 artist Charlie Mackesy published his book, *'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse'* it is a beautiful depiction of these characters as they journey together and hopes to inspire the reader to live courageously with more kindness for themselves and others.

It contains gems like

*"What do you want to be when you grow up?"
"Kind" said the boy*

Whether we are nine or ninety there is always more growing up to be done, more kindness to show and more of Jesus' love to be let out into the world.

Every Blessing

Eira

Rev Eira



This month's cover:

Sam, one of our newest servers, with the Crucifer for the Palm Sunday procession - see page 5 for more photos

THE GRAPEVINE

Dear readers ...

We hope you enjoy this edition of
The Grapevine magazine.

The Online edition is free. A small number of printed copies of **The Grapevine** will also be available in church for £1.00

The online edition has interactive [links](#) which were all working at the time of the copy date. Should you find one not working, please contact me so that I can correct it.

You will find **'Print out and Play' puzzles** which you may find easier to complete if printed.

If you wish to contribute, my copy date is currently the 25th of the previous month, (see page 31 for details)

Editor





Palm Sunday, 2024

Procession into St Nicholas' Church from Abbey Fields car park



Friday mornings coffee and chat

Each Friday, from 10.15 to 11.30am. Please do come along and catch up with friends while enjoying a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits in St Nicholas' Church.





The Children's Society committee are holding **A Spring Tea on Wednesday 10th April** in the Parochial Hall, High Street.

We start at **2.30pm.** and tickets are £10.00 each, to include a Raffle ticket.

For further details, please ring Margaret Rogers on 01926 856353.

Wednesday Study Group

The Wednesday Study group will not meet until 24th April at 2.30pm in St Nicholas' Church.

We have completed the study we had been doing of the book of Acts. We will be starting a new study of **the Holy Spirit**. Anyone who would like to come and join us would be most welcome.

We generally meet in St Nicholas' Church from 2.30 - 4.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Please contact me if you would like to know more.

Heather Alford 01926 858308.



St Nicholas' Church Teas return on Sunday, 17th March, 2.30 - 5.00pm

We welcome you all to come and enjoy pots of tea, filter coffee and homemade cakes, served Café style, in the beautiful surroundings of St Nicholas' Church and outside, weather permitting.

All income goes to Parish Funds.

Every second Sunday of the month, throughout the summer.

Volunteers to help with cake making and serving are always welcome.

Please contact Janet on 01926



Flowers

On 5th March the Bring & Buy sale, held after 'Leavenses raised £100.40p for the flower fund at St Barnabas' Church. Thanks to all who contributed.

If you would like to sponsor the flowers at St Barnabas' please contact Rita on 07450069399. She will be pleased to discuss any colours or type of flowers that you want with you.

'Leavenses

Any money that we raise at '**Leavenses** is sent to a charity three times a year. Due to the generosity of those donating money at '**Leavenses**, we were pleased to be able to send £110 to "**Smile Train**". One in 700 children are born with a cleft palate, which can badly affect children from eating, speaking and breathing. An operation can solve this problem and "**Smile Train**" offers this operation to children all over the world to help them live a normal life.

For those of you who are new to the parish, or if you haven't yet been to our service of '**Leavenses**, you are assured of a warm St Barnabas' welcome! It is a short, informal service, beginning at 11 o'clock, followed by refreshments and chat.

Please contact Lesley for any further information 07817059614

Lego Club

Lego Club is growing in popularity and if you know any children between the ages of 7 and 11, do encourage them to come along on Tuesday evenings, 4.00pm - 5.00pm. Toast and drinks are available from 3.30pm. Parents and carers are also very welcome to join in.

For further information about **Lego Club**, please contact the Parish office on 01926857509.

Tea 4 All

St Barnabas' Church has always had the reputation of being a welcoming, friendly church. For those who would like some company on the first Saturday in the month (not July or January), do come along for "**TEA 4 ALL**" from 2.00pm. This is a free event, with any voluntary donations going to church funds. If you would like to join us for lunch before "**TEA 4 ALL**" the doors will be open for you from 1.00pm.



St. Nicholas' Ladies Group

Dear All

The Ladies enjoyed a very informative evening at our last meeting held in March when we were given a talk from Ian King who is the Warwickshire Community Crime Prevention Officer, If contacted he can visit homes to give advice as to how to protect your home, He sits on planning committees to enable housebuilders to build safer communities (ie no back alleys for criminals to escape through).

Scams are rife at present, he even had one saying that they were his banks fraud department! When they began asking questions about where he lived etc. They had four digits from a card (this can be obtained quite easily when buying goods on line.) This is scamming. No bank will ask for any details whatsoever! If in doubt contact your own bank on numbers given by your bank, do not phone any numbers given over phone to you!

Our next meeting will be on **2nd April in St. Barnabas' Church at 7.30pm.** when **Jo Golby** will give us a talk about "**Tourism**" All ladies are welcome - visitors to pay £3.00 to help pay overheads.

The May meeting will be on **7th May at 7.30pm.** at St. Barnabas' Church where **Kate Harrison** will give a talk about **Foot Care.**

Coffee at the Almanack continues every 3rd Monday of the Month.

Coffee Wives at the Almanack

Coffee Wives takes place at the Almanack every third Monday of month at 10:30am. This is just a social and chat - putting the world to rights!

Our next Coffee Wives are on **Monday, 15th April and 20th May, 10.30am to 12.00 noon.**

Thanking you

Gill Peppitt, Secretary 01926 512209



Smile Line: - From a church magazine:

"The restoration of the churchyard was finally completed by the resurfacing of our driveway. The following Sunday, the church wardens praised everyone who had helped, and gave special thanks to the vicar and his wife who rolled in the gravel."

Lego Club @ St. Barney's



'As spring moves into summer Lego Club at St. Barnabas Church on Albion Street continues to welcome children weekly to learn a little more about the Bible and enjoy making models in a warm and welcoming community. New friendships have been forged, between carers and helpers, as well as the children, and the atmosphere is a fun one with plenty of food to fill hungry tummies after a long day at school!

We return after the Easter break on 9th April. We welcome all newcomers, as well as returners - there's always plenty of fun, food, friendship, and, of course, Lego, to go round! Come and join us!



Left: Jesus clears the Temple. Below: The Crucifixion of Jesus



Thelma Mitchell

Lego Club @ St. Barney's

Lego Club is back for the new term!



Where? St. Barnabas' Church, Albion Street, Kenilworth

When? Doors open for hot toast and squash at 3.30pm

What? At 4pm - a Bible story and lots of Lego as well as Meccano until 5pm

Who? A warm welcome for ages 5 to 11 years and carers

DATES for this term: 9th April, 16th April, 23rd April, 30th April,
7th May, 14th May, 21st May, 28th May.

(Week of 3rd June, half-term, to be announced)

The Flower Guild

Hello everyone

On a very showery day we held our March workshop. It was great to see so many people come together to share their love of flowers.



Barbara demonstrated a European linear design that expressed a walk through a garden. It had groups of flowers at different heights and in lines. The result was an arrangement that was peaceful and harmonious. This arrangement was gifted to Alison Wiggins.

A group of arrangers executed their own designs with great success.

We are now working towards Easter and hope that the Flower Guilds offering enhances our worship at this important time.

Kind regards to you

Annie

The Flower Guild Workshop in March ...



Of tree and prayer

Following on from my article last month

When I told a friend of my experience of the tree blowing down, he suggested that my felling a tree was impressive, but hardly on a par with parting the Red Sea.

Me, being me, could not let that one go, without finding out if either event had something in common. Well, Moses and me both prayed. Then I started to wonder, if perhaps the parting of the Red Sea was due to a Tsunami. Looking at a map, that did not appear to be likely and I could not remember whether there had been earthquakes as well as locusts!

There was an urgent need to read Exodus again. Of course, there was the answer. The sea parted two ways, not a Tsunami then.

But what the event had in common with my tree was that both Moses and I prayed and in the case of the Red Sea,

'Yahweh drove the sea back, with a strong Easterly wind all night and made the sea into dry land'.

It was a strong Easterly wind, all night which blew my tree down.

I think I am going to buy a weather vane!

Margaret Bull

Eastertide

You can tell it's Eastertide, homemade Simnel cake and a cup of Earl Grey!

Revd Richard



Abbey Fields benches ...

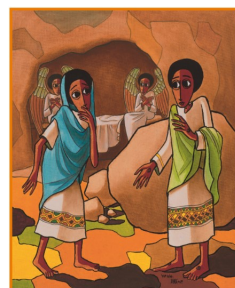
You may see some of the benches in the Abbey Fields being removed by the Council. Don't worry. They are only being taken away to be repainted and will then be returned. The benches will be removed in a few at a time so that there will still be places to rest.

On the 18th and 19th March, we hosted **Discovering Easter** at church.

We welcomed 120 children as well as staff from different primary schools to hear about Holy week and Easter in an interactive way.

There were six stations set up, each one telling a part of holy week (washing the disciples' feet, the last supper, the garden of Gethsemane, the trial, the crucifixion and the resurrection). There were resources, an image depicting the relevant part of the story and questions to help the children think and reflect.

The images were paintings by an artist called Nebiyu Assafa. Beautiful, colourful images showing holy week from an African perspective.



The children really enjoyed the experience and the conversations and questions were really thoughtful, showing how much the children were engaged. The staff commented on how calm the atmosphere was how well the children interacted.

I managed to get a few comments from the children about what they thought:

"It was really fun. My favourite part was the crown of thorns." Piper.

"My favourite part was the last one, with the chocolate!" Megan.

"It was good because you got to do different things." Libby.

It was a successful few days where children could have a more in-depth look at Holy Week and understand why Jesus came to Earth.



Continued on page 13 ➡

Continued from page 12 - Children & Families



A big thank you to Heather Alford, Janet Cherry, Revd. Eira Hale and Denise Williamson for their help and support with the Experience.

As always, we value your prayers and support and please do contact me for any information or to volunteer!

Clare (kids@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk)

Clare Edwards - Children and Families worker

Preparing the Easter Cross -

A commentary by Thelma Mitchell, 24th March



Men at work.



Men still at work.



Men thinking about work.



Kenilworth LIONS Grand Show 2024

Saturday, 8th June 2024

Abbey Fields, 12:30 - 21:30

Come and join the Kenilworth Lions for a fun-filled day out for all the family. Well supported with stalls, events, refreshments and entertainment. Free entry and car parking is available.



Thank you Richard and Heather



At the Palm Sunday morning service, Churchwardens Tim and David presented Reader Heather and Reverend Richard with donations received in thanks for their tremendous work during the long interregnum.

A message from Heather

I want to say a very big **Thank You** to all who contributed to the gift that I received on Palm Sunday morning. To say that you were generous would be a complete understatement; your generosity is overwhelming.

Both Richard and I did our bit, but I cannot possibly not give much of the credit for our continuation of activities to the many, many people who faithfully contributed to our fellowship during the interregnum; without all of you lovely folk Richard and I would have been unable to steer the ship.

Thank you all so much.

Heather X



The Kenilworth Show will not be held this year due to unforeseen challenges in securing a long-term site caused by HS2 works but an alternative venue is being sought for next year.

Why not sponsor the Flowers at St Nicholas' Church?



Celebrate a special occasion, a birthday, wedding anniversary, etc. or in memory of a loved one.

Flowers can be sponsored through the Flower Guild or contact the parish office.

(Contact details on Who's who, pages 34-35)





ST NICHOLAS CHURCH KENILWORTH.

St Nicholas' Mothers' Union are having an outing to **Croome Court and Park** in Worcestershire on **Wednesday, 15th May**.

We leave Kenilworth at 9.30 am. from the lay-by on Bridge Steet and return about 5.30 to 6.00 pm. We can also pick up from St John's.

The cost is £30.25, but if you are a National Trust member it will be only £16.00 .

We do need to know if you would like to join us by **17th April**, with the money please. Cheques should be made payable to St Nicholas Mothers' Union.

Everyone is very welcome. Please ring Mary Leeson on 855199 or Margaret Rogers on 856353 if you are interested.

Margaret Rogers

A Quick Quote ... with elections in mind

"The trick in campaigning is to give them platitudes without fear or favour, and straight-from-the shoulder generalities." *Anon*

flourish: The experience of one family

If you have ever been in despair and don't know who to turn to? That was our family a few years ago. My Daughter's school suggested Flourish as an organisation who might be able to help with one-to-one mentoring. I hadn't heard of the charity but after some googling an amazing organisation emerged.

The 12 weeks of one-to-one support was creative, varied, person centred and after a few weeks started to help our Daughter emerge. You may have to wait but that will be for the best mentor to be matched to your Daughter. Longer term it has helped with confidence, self esteem, friendships and generally navigating life particularly as a young person.

So you are not alone and we are so fortunate to have such an amazing organisation locally.



Easter in the garden

I hope you all enjoyed a blessed Easter. We are now at that time of year when the nights are shorter, the clocks have sprung forward and we can look forward to getting out in the garden without the need for webbed feet or wellingtons.

The creation cycle of new growth is in full swing; my orchard of plum trees, (a slightly grand label for half a dozen fruit trees), are in full blossom with a mass of white flowers attracting both birds and insects. The Resurrection story is one of new life and growth and one of hope.

That first Easter took place in a garden, the garden of Gethsemane – and in John's Gospel he tells us that Mary Magdalene 'mistook' Jesus for the gardener – surely John is referencing the dawn of a new Garden of Eden; there is a rich artistic tradition illustrating this scene – I

particularly like the one from the Metropolitan collection, Jesus is even depicted holding a spade to reinforce the point. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/468532>

Jesus asks Mary why is she looking in the ground for him, he is from above and he is risen.

My message and my wish to each of you is that this Easter season brings new opportunities for spiritual growth, to meet with the risen Jesus in ways that are as new and as bewildering, (in a good way), as they were for Mary from Magdala on that first Easter dawn.



Reflecting Faith: Easter Sepulchres

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

Over the last few months I've been looking at churchyards, grave memorials and the lychgate where the coffin may be rested on its entry.

This month I am going inside the church building to find something 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.

The items are simply removed before any Easter resurrection service takes place, either on Easter Saturday evening or early Easter Sunday morning.

This month

See if you can find an Easter Sepulchre near you. Look at the decoration and consider all the different symbolisms it is trying to convey. If you cannot find one, then think what you would want to convey today?

Cat's eyes ...

Nigel Beeton writes: 90 years ago, on 3rd April 1934, a very clever man named Percy Shaw patented a device that he'd invented called a 'cat's eye' – a pair of reflectors mounted on a well between the white lines in the centre of a road or between lanes on a dual carriageway (which were few and far between in 1934!)

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

Looking at your Church

Cathedral attendance has continued its post-pandemic bounce back

Attendance at Church of England cathedrals has continued to bounce back following the pandemic, according to the latest statistics.

Figures show that adult usual Sunday attendance rose 60% between 2021 and 2022 for the 42 Church of England mainland Cathedrals to 12,300 adults. A total of 28,200 people including children attended services every week, according to Cathedral Statistics 2022.

Ever the year there were 584,000 attendances at specially arranged services – not included in average weekly attendance – such as school services. The number of special services stood at 2,100. The total reported attendance at Christmas services stood at 104,000.



Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement. He had an influential role in the court, because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a '*fool for Christ*' (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

A foolish message:

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.' (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

A foolish community:

'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

A foolish ministry:

'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.' (2:4,5). Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

'A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.' (William Shakespeare).

Smile Line:

Sometimes women are overly suspicious of their husbands ...

When Adam stayed out very late for a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged.

"You're being unreasonable," Adam responded. "You're the only woman on earth." The quarrel continued until Adam fell asleep, only to be awakened by someone poking him in the chest. It was Eve. "What do you think you're doing?" Adam demanded.

"Counting your ribs," said Eve.

Zoo of the New (Poems to read now)

Selected by: Nick Laird and Don Paterson

Publisher: Penguin Books

This book, as the sub-title on the front cover explains, is “A Book of Exceptional Poems from Sappho to Paul Muldoon”. If you are a bit tired through familiarity with older anthologies, such as the Oxford Book of English Verse, this book may be just the anthology for you to dip into, with its wide range of poems selected from over five centuries of verse.

Nick Laird and Don Paterson are well qualified for the mammoth task of selecting the poems. Both have had several collections of their own poetry published by Faber and Faber. Nick Laird is at present Writer-in-residence at New York University, and Don Paterson is the only poet to have won the T S Eliot prize twice. He has also been awarded the Queen’s Gold Medal for Poetry.



Only a few scraps of Sappho's verse survive from about 750 BC, but the sentiments are surprisingly modern: It's no use, Mother dear,

I can't finish my weaving
You may blame Aphrodite
Soft as she is she has almost
Killed me with love for that boy.

Towards the end of this collection is “The “Whitsun Weddings” by Philip Larkin. This is a description of the wedding parties at different stations, waving off the bride and groom. It is a distant, matter of fact and yet questioning view of what he is watching. Too long to reproduce here, but a fine poem and worth hunting out if you don't know it. But amongst poems new to you there will also be many old favourites.

Laird and Paterson have produced a anthology full of delight and surprise. It is an extraordinary achievement and a will give years of enjoyment as the the full scope of this collection is more and more explored



Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society

The Abbey Museum is OPEN

**Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays
throughout the summer**

2:30 - 4:30pm

FREE ADMISSION

Two floors of interesting artefacts,
photographs and Kenilworth History.

Situated in the Abbey Fields between the
Tantara Gatehouse and the play area



For information email contact@khas.co.uk
Or visit the KHAS website at www.khas.co.uk

This Month in History 1724

300 years ago

On **7th April 1724** the German composer **Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion** was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

Later in the month, on **22nd April 1724**, **Immanuel Kant**, the German philosopher was born. One of the leading philosophers during the Age of Enlightenment.

The Parish Pump

Smile Line: - What headstones are for

In the 1950s, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, visited the church of Scotland in Dumfries. As she was walking though the graveyard after the service, she asked the Lord Provost who was with her, why the headstones were so large? He replied "To hold them doon, Ma'am."

God in the Arts: Music - April 2024

'Glorious the song when God's the theme': Allegri's Miserere

This month, Revd. Michael Burgess looks at great works of music

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 1, 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.

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.

8th April

Lady Day or The Annunciation



This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly

cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from His birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked – He was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar – it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice – humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

Friends of Abbey Fields - New Website

Have you seen the new website for the Friends of Abbey Fields? It is full of information and news of upcoming events. Well worth a visit

<https://www.friendsofabbeyfields.org.uk/>

Continued from page 22 - God in the Arts

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.'

Revd Michael Burgess - The Parish

On why a church should always resist change

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace,' the vicar of St James the Least of All, to his recently ordained nephew, Darren...



The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

On the Way to Work

BRF, By Chris Gillies, £12.99

Does your work give you a sense of purpose? How about its difficulties and problems? Does God have something to say about the way you work?

Weaving together biblical perspectives with academic research and his own experiences of working in different settings, Chris Gillies lays the theological foundation for work, and examines biblical role models from both Old and New Testaments. He concludes by exploring common issues we wrestle with in our work.



FACING FEAR 365

Daily reflections
for hope, peace
and courage

Dan Blythe
& Rocky Nti

Facing Fear 365 – daily reflections for hope, peace and courage

By Dan Blythe and Rocky Nti, SPCK, £13.99

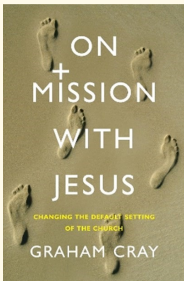
Every day we face a choice: to give into fear, or meet it with faith?

From health concerns to comparison-rife social media, the world offers us plenty of reasons to live in fear. Yet God offers us countless reasons to live life to the full, facing cowardice and stepping forward with courage.

This book of 365 daily reflections can help you cultivate courage to fight fear with faith, as you begin each day.

On Mission with Jesus – changing the default setting of the church

By Graham Cray, Canterbury Press. £18.99



January 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the start of the Fresh Expressions movement, which has since spread internationally and denominationally from its origins in the Church of England. Graham Cray was its first national Leader.

In the last 20 years, countless new forms of church have emerged through Fresh Expressions, the Church Army, New Wine, and various pioneer networks. This book offers a theological understanding of the missional nature of the church, which will inform local practice and assist ministerial and pioneer training..

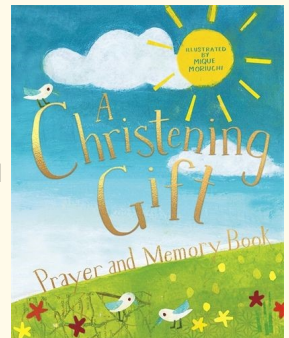
A Christening Gift Prayer and Memory Book

Various authors, SPCK £8.99

This book could be a good gift for a grandparent, godparent, or family member, to give to a young child.

It is an illustrated gift book to commemorate a young child's christening. It includes a collection of prayers, Bible verses, and pages for recording details, memories, and messages of the special occasion.

Parents can add their own memories, with spaces for photos and special blessings from the guests, as well as recording key milestones in their child's early years.



Word Search for 24th April

St George of the Golden Legend

St George is Patron Saint of England, but he never actually came here. He was a Christian officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror. George was therefore martyred in Palestine about 300 AD. His courage became legendary, and St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages. In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine tells the story of how St George helped rescue the people of Sylene in Lybia from a dragon, especially the princess, who had been offered to the dragon as a sacrifice. With the dragon dead, and the princess returned to her father the King, the people of Sylene converted to Christianity.



E	G	E	N	L	E	G	E	N	D	S	N	N
R	G	C	A	E	P	L	R	R	Y	E	H	E
E	O	O	I	A	I	E	P	O	M	E	E	D
I	E	U	T	V	R	R	M	M	R	S	E	L
D	A	R	E	C	I	F	F	O	A	R	I	O
L	O	A	L	N	G	D	M	I	Y	X	E	G
N	L	G	C	E	I	R	N	T	L	L	E	T
L	C	E	O	D	E	T	R	E	V	N	O	C
I	S	R	I	I	E	A	S	X	R	N	E	E
S	G	D	D	N	M	N	H	E	L	P	E	R
E	R	L	A	D	T	E	N	G	L	A	N	D
N	O	G	A	R	D	H	R	O	M	A	N	E
S	R	O	E	L	R	L	I	L	E	D	P	O

The Easy one

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

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The Medium one

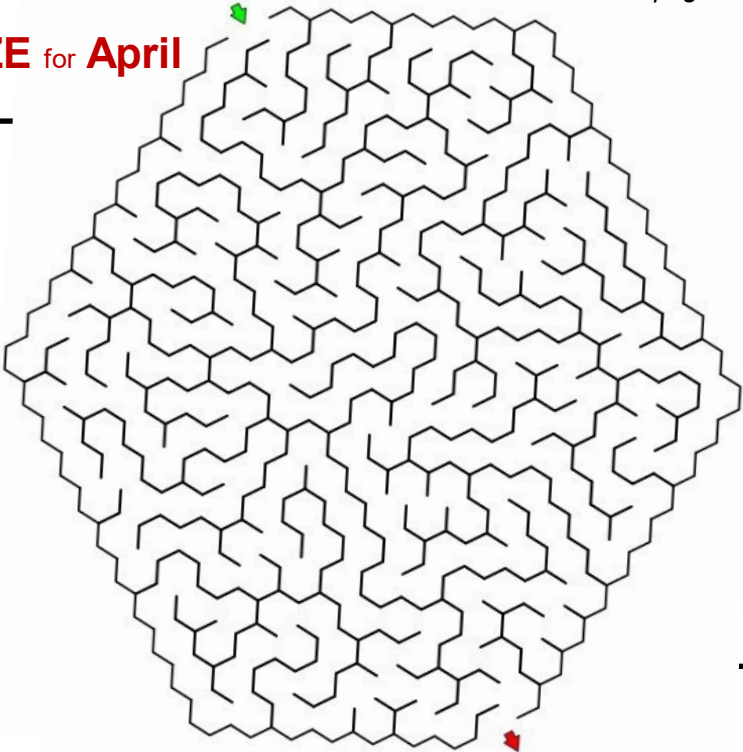
					6			3
		1		7				
		5	2			4		
7	6				3			1
		8		9		2		
9			1				7	4
		3			7	5		
						9		
1			9					

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Print out and Play Puzzle pages

Solutions on page 32

The MAZE for April



1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8												
9				10								
11	12					13		14			15	
16		17				18		19		20		21
22				23						24		
25												

Crossword Clues

Across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)

Crossword Clues continued (for crossword on page 28)

- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

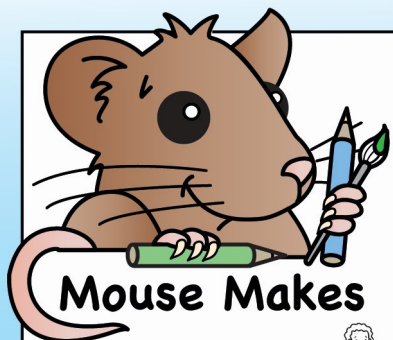
The Parish Pump

Solution on page 31 

Smile Line ...

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

The Parish Pump



Mouse Makes

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.



He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



READ

the story in **John 21**



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there?
Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch?

Read John 21: 11



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY
FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET
RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

Smile

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

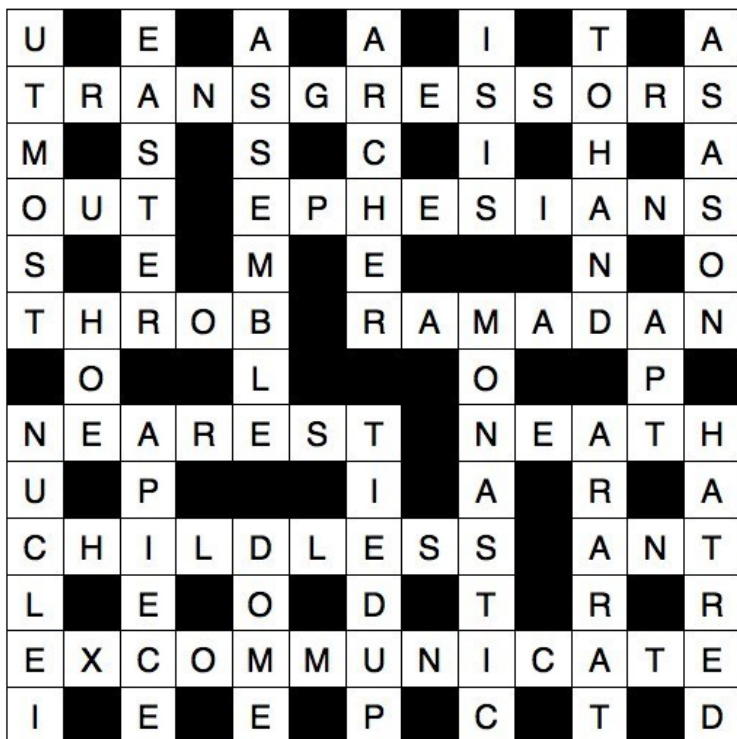


Seen in a West Country church ...

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?'

The Parish Pump

Crossword solution, from page 28



The Parish Pump

Easy Sudoku April solution

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

Medium Sudoku April solution

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

George
Patron
Saint
England
Officer

Roman
Army
Diocletian
Terror
Martyred

Palestine
Courage
Example
Helper
Evil

Soldier
Hero
Golden
Legend
Dragon

Princess
converted

Word Search from page 26 - Answers and solution



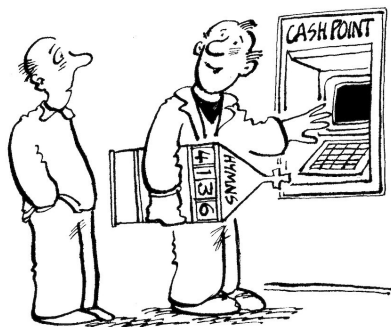
The GRAPEVINE

Contributing to The Grapevine

There are 11 monthly editions of the magazine with December and January being a double edition. If you wish to contribute an article for **The Grapevine**, it would be most welcomed. The deadline for all copy is currently the 25th of the preceding month when all items should be with the editor (Tony Shakespeare) at 7 Rosemary Mews, School Lane or email: grapevine@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk



Smile



**Between you and me, it's the only
way I can remember my PIN
number.**

Church Newsletter

Make sure that you receive the Church Newsletter, delivered by email, for church news, updates, details of services and things taking place within the parish.

We use mailchimp to send out our weekly newsletter. *(It may go into your spam or junk folder if you cant see it).*

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please *unsubscribe* via the link at the end of the newsletter

If you are not receiving the newsletter and would like to, please go to the website, www.stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk scroll down to bottom of the page, add your email address in the box and click subscribe.

Subscribe to our newsletter

Enter your email address below to receive our weekly newsletter. Your address will not be used for any other purpose.

Email Address *

Subscribe

**The Parish Church of St Nicholas,
Abbey Fields, Kenilworth, CV8 1BP
And St Barnabas' District Church,
Albion Street, Kenilworth, CV8 2FY**
Registered Charity Number 1126227

Postal and Parish office address:

St Nicholas' and St Barnabas'
Church,
The Parochial Hall, 28, High Street,
Kenilworth, CV8 1LZ



Who's Who?

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vicar@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Clergy Team **Revd. Richard Moore** 07539 431186
richard@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Readers Heather Alford 858308

Pastoral Assistant c/o parish office 857509
Pastoral Care Coordinator pastoralcstn@gmail.com

Churchwardens Tim Wilkes 857299
 David Morgan tbc

Parochial Church Council Secretary
 Mark Lovegrove 07532 490990
markdlovegrove@btinternet.com

Gift Aid Officer Jane Kempton janekempton@hotmail.com

Administration

Parish Administrator Debby Bailey 857509
Parish Office office@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Dail Lloyd 07975 807330
safeguarding@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Bellringers Cathy Weir cathy.weir68@gmail.com

Organist & Choir Master James Hunt c/o parish office 857509

Flower Beds Janet Cherry 857931

Flower Guild Annie Ralphs annieralphs@virginmedia.com

Who's Who? *(continued)*

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Website Controller: Andy and Liz Cherry
web@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Magazine Editor Tony Shakespeare 07861 762477
grapevine@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Diocesan website www.dioceseofcoventry.org

Prayer and Fellowship

For detail of our various groups, contact the office who will be able to pass your details onto the group leader.

Parish Office

The Parish Office is located in the Parochial Hall, High Street.

The Office is open and you can contact Debby, the Parish administrator during the usual office hours

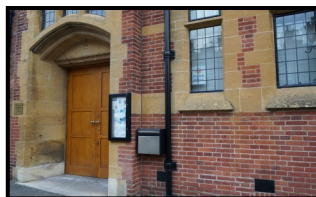
11am – 2pm on Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday. Otherwise, if you have an urgent enquiry which needs responding to in a time sensitive manner please contact the churchwardens or Revd Richard Moore.

Email or telephone:

01926 857509 | office@stnicholaskenilworth.org.uk

Our postal address is: **St Nicholas' and St Barnabas' Church,
The Parochial Hall, 28 High Street, Kenilworth, CV8 1LZ.**

To post anything by hand, there is a post box outside the Parochial Hall



Why not celebrate a special occasion, a birthday, wedding anniversary, etc. or in memory of a loved one by **sponsoring the flowers at St Barnabas' Church.**

Sponsor forms are on the notice board at St Barnabas' Church. or ring Rita on 07450069399, or speak to her in church.

23rd April

St George's Day



Life and Martyrdom of St. George (Georgia, XVII c.)

Public domain photograph of 13th-14th-century medieval illuminated manuscript.

St George in Newcastle
Stained glass from the church
of St John the Baptist in
Newcastle.



fun



StN kids is back!



games

Every 1st and 4th Sunday in the
month

Bible stories

10 - 11am

songs

crafts

St Nicholas parochial hall

High Street Kenilworth

dancing

St Nic's Holiday Club 2024

Monday August 5th - Friday August 9th

SAVE
THE DATE