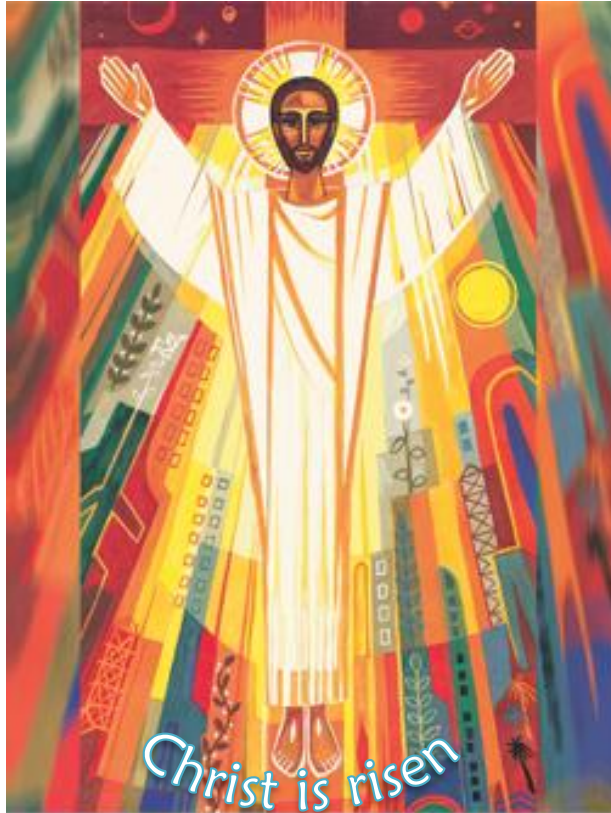


# HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

Including news from The Good Shepherd, Furnham

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April 2026

# *Holy Trinity Service Times*

Services are as follows:

**Sunday**

**8.00am, 10.00am & 6.30pm**

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am**

**Friday 12.30pm**

**Saturday 6.00pm**

**All services are streamed on Facebook except  
Saturday 6pm & Sunday 8am.**

**Service times may occasionally vary – please see  
weekly notice sheet for details.**

To access streamed services:



@ Holy Trinity Taunton



Holy Trinity Taunton

Fr Julian can be emailed directly: [frjulianssc@gmail.com](mailto:frjulianssc@gmail.com)



Please use this QR code if you would like to make a donation to Holy Trinity

# PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	Fr Julian Laurence	01823 337890
HON. ASST. CLERGY	Bishop Michael Langrish Fr James Finnemore	
LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS	Mrs Jane Laurence } Mrs Jenni Llewellyn }	01823 354800 (Church Office)
CHURCHWARDENS	Mr John Godley } Mrs Jenni Llewellyn }	01823 354800 (Church Office)
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN	Mrs Liz Hathway	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER DEDICATED SAFEGUARDING LINE	Ms Melanie Robson	01823 354800
PARISH OFFICE	Administrator: Mrs Pauline Holt	354800
PCC Vice-Chairman	Mr Geraint Jones	01823 284376
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Pauline Holt	(Church Office) 354800
PCC Secretary	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Data Protection	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Organist & Choir Trainer	Mr Simon Gaunt	01984 641584
Editor of 'Outlook'	Mrs Jane Laurence	01823 337890
'Outlook' advertising	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Sacristan	Mrs Jenni Llewellyn	01823 354800
Head of Servers	Mr David Lovelock	01823 354800
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs Margaret Jordan	07972 524557
Church Flowers	Mrs Sylvie Paul	01823 279436

Website: [www.holytrinitytaunton.org](http://www.holytrinitytaunton.org)

Email: [holytrinity01@outlook.com](mailto:holytrinity01@outlook.com) Facebook: Holy Trinity Taunton

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL

*is available for hire for a special function or regular meetings*

To book please contact the Church Administrator

Tel: 01823 354800

Email: [holytrinity01@outlook.com](mailto:holytrinity01@outlook.com)

# Taunton Funeral Service

*A helping hand at a time of need*



**Independently and Family Run - 24hr service**  
**Private Chapels of Rest**  
**Caring Personal Service**

**01823 321077**

55 Bridge Street,  
Taunton, TAI 1TP

**01984 624149**

Broad Meadow View, West Road,  
Wiveliscombe, TA4 2TB

Golden  
Charter  
Funeral  
Plans



E: [info@tauntonfuneralservice.com](mailto:info@tauntonfuneralservice.com)

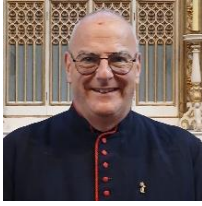
W: [tauntonfuneralservice.com](http://tauntonfuneralservice.com)

## THURLOXTON MANOR HOUSE



Small, non-institutional residential care home for up to 5 elderly people to live comfortably in their own space alongside our family. Home cooked meals shared together in the farmhouse kitchen.

**Contact Emily: 07915 175358**  
**[emily@thurloxtonmanor.co.uk](mailto:emily@thurloxtonmanor.co.uk)**



**FR JULIAN WRITES...**



The Vicarage is a mess at the moment. Not because we're untidy and can't be bothered, but the very opposite. We're preparing to retire and move to a very much smaller property in North Norfolk, and so as well as the emotional trauma of leaving, there are the practical considerations, too, summed up in the one word 'downsizing'. What we are focusing on immediately is deciding on what is going and what is coming with us. Books, primarily. But we having to think about what (if anything) goes to auction, charity shops, house clearance. It has been 32 years since I accepted the post here, and leaving for the unknown will be very hard indeed.

We are preparing to celebrate Easter. As this magazine comes out, we are about to begin Holy Week, with all its sombre dignity, the emotion and the tiredness, physical and spiritual. We will all feel a sense of disturbance; our routines and daily lives interrupted as we follow Jesus along the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows. As we join with him at the last Supper, share the pain of Good Friday, and then the waiting. It is easier for us than the first disciples because we know that Easter happens, that from the ending of one thing comes the beginning of something else, not the same but different.

However well we know the story, however the number of times we have been part of it in the annual cycle of the Church's year, we cannot but be affected by what we are involved in. We are not voyeurs looking on from varying distances. We are not looking back in a detached way into the realms of far distant history. We are not re-enacting the past. We are active participants, now, today, here. We're not just joining in, we are involved. We are the crowd crying 'Hosanna', the disciples sharing the Last Supper, those shouting 'Crucify him!' We are those who drift away from Calvary. We are also those who hear the words, 'He is risen'.

Cynics may say that the light at the end of the tunnel is an oncoming train, so the hope of light coming out the darkness, the images of Calvary contrasted with the empty tomb, may seem to some to be a false reassurance, rather like being told, 'it'll be all right' without any conviction or evidence.

When it comes to the resurrection of Christ, the empty tomb, we should have enough evidence and conviction, enough to transform our lives and the world in which we live. There is the scriptural evidence. Not just the accounts of the first Easter morning in the gospels, but also the making real of God's promises, his covenants towards his creation over millennia. There's the evidence of how those early disciples and the women witnesses were transformed from grief to joy. The empowerment of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The lives of faithful saints and holy, ordinary people, the last 2000 years; their refusal to disbelieve that Christ has conquered sin and offered a new, redeemed, way of living. It **will** be all right!

We all know from experience that life is a mixture of times when things are good, times when things are bad. Times when we seemed overwhelmed. When we seem to be subsumed into the darkness of despair and uncertainty. When we no longer feel in control. When we should remember that there can be no resurrection without crucifixion. When we realise these are the times the risen Christ is helping is to carry our cross; he's been there, done that. The times when he comforts and reassures by saying 'I am risen'.

The joy of Easter isn't just a chocolate-fest, fluffy lambs, cute chicks and beaming bunnies. Well, I'm afraid it may be for some, but for us who have followed the events of Holy Week, the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) it is not only the culmination of anticipation, but is the knowledge that in the words of Mother Julian, 'All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.'

With my prayers and good wishes for Holy Week and a truly joyous Easter.

*Fr Julian*

## WHY AND WHAT...?

This is a very busy time of the year for sacristans, and we owe a huge deal of thanks to Jenni and those who help her ready the church for worship. It is a busy time because in the lead up to Easter, there are many changes in hangings to be made.



During Lent, we have penitential purple (or violet) as the season's colour. So all the vestments and hangings are of that colour; the only break is Mothering Sunday when Rose is permitted. That's the easy part...

On Palm Sunday and the first three days of Holy Week, we move to red, not signifying the Spirit, but the blood of martyrdom, especially thinking of Jesus' impending death. Some churches have a deeper red, called 'Passion' red, rather than the bright red of Pentecost. I have the fabric, but no time to make vestments! Change of hangings...

Maundy Thursday calls for a simple white, as we think about the giving of the eucharist at the last supper, the service starting off as celebration. The reredos will be simply veiled, until all the altars are stripped, except the Altar of Repose, where Good Friday's Holy Communion is prayed before, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and reserved. Then the ministers wear red for Good Friday.

Holy Saturday sees the church waking up in expectation of Easter. As well as flowers, vestments and hangings reflect the joy of the resurrection: white or gold. More work for the sacristan, but then a rest! After the red of Pentecost, back to green, except for Trinity Sunday, when it's white. And then – sighs of relief! – green (largely) until Christ the King in November.

There is also black, formerly used at funerals, but given way now to purple for penitence. And (curved ball) in the medieval 'Sarum' rite, there is the possibility of 'Lenten array' – unbleached linen – which is generally used as it isn't that much different to the white of Easter. And what is very rarely used in Advent is blue (I do have a set!).

Simples! Unless you're a sacristan...

# FROM THE REGISTERS

## Holy Baptism

Chibuifem Jasmine Nwafor was baptised on Sunday 1st March. Please pray for her, her parents and Godparents and welcome her into the family of Christ.

## EASTER DRAW

To win a prize in the Easter Draw please choose a square on the £1-A-Square board, add your name and telephone number to the square for a £1 a go. There are at least 10 prizes to be won and the Draw will take place on Easter Sunday in the Hall after the 10am service. Good Luck!



## OUTLOOK

HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON  
Including news from The Good Shepherd, Funtun

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April 2026

This issue of *Outlook* is that last one that I am producing. I have been involved in the preparation of the church's magazine for almost 30 years and in more recent years as editor. However, the time has now come for me to pass the reins on to others.

Holy Trinity is, I believe, unusual in that it has had a monthly magazine for almost 150 years. It is a sad fact that many churches do not have a magazine these days, let alone a monthly one. So I'm very pleased to say that the magazine will continue as two volunteers have come forward to take it on. They are Pauline Holt and Jenni Llewellyn. I hope you will give them your support and allow them time to work out how it is done and to develop their own style.

In future please would you give Pauline or Jenni any articles or email them to Pauline at the church address: [holytrinity01@outlook.com](mailto:holytrinity01@outlook.com)

Thank you for your support over the years. Long may *Outlook* continue!

Jane Laurence

# CALENDAR FOR APRIL

The Sundays, readings and themes, and Saints days for April are listed below.

1 Wed in Holy Week

2 MAUNDY THURSDAY *Theme: The Last Supper*

Readings: Exodus 12.1-4,11-14; 1 Cor 11.21-26; John 13.1-17&31b-35

3 GOOD FRIDAY *Theme: The Crucifixion*

Readings: Isaiah 32.13-53.12; Hebrews 4.14-16 & 5.7-9; John Passion

4 HOLY SATURDAY

5 EASTER DAY *Theme: The Resurrection*

Readings: Acts 10.34-43; Colossians 3.1-4; John 20.1-18

6 Mon in Easter Week

7 Tue in Easter Week

8 Wed in Easter Week

9 Thu in Easter Week

10 Fri in Easter Week

11 Sat in Easter Week

12 EASTER 2 *Theme: Our Easter Joy*

Readings: Acts 2.14a & 23-32; 1 Peter 1.3-9; John 20.19-31

19 Wed S. Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr (1012)

20 Thu S. Beuno, Abbot (640)

21 Fri S. Anselm, Monk, Writer, Archbishop of Canterbury (1109)

23 EASTER 3 *Theme: Christ Travelling Alongside*

Readings: Acts 2.14a & 36-41; 1 Peter 1.17-23; Luke 24.13-35

24 Mon S. Adalbert, Bishop, Missionary, Martyr (997)

S. Mellitus, 3rd Archbishop of Canterbury (624)

25 Tue S. MARK THE EVANGELIST

28 Fri S. Peter Chanel, Priest, Missionary, Martyr (1841)

29 Sat S. Catherine of Siena, Teacher (1380)

30 EASTER 4 *Theme: The Good Shepherd*

Readings: Acts 2.42-47; 1 Peter 2.19-23; John 10.1-10



# **HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES**



*Come Worship With Us!*

**Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday**

7.00pm Holy Eucharist & Address

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper & Passion Vigil

**GOOD FRIDAY**

10.00am Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

(Followed by Hot Cross Buns in the Church Hall)

2.00pm Last Hour Before the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY**

8.00pm Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter

**EASTER DAY**

8am Said Eucharist

10am The Parish Mass

6.30pm Solemn Evensong & Benediction



**EASTER PARTY**



*Fr Julian and Jane warmly invite everyone to celebrate  
Easter with them at a party in the Church Hall  
following the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.*



# Spotlight on...



## **David Lovelock**

*My visitor this month was Dmytro who dragged along our very own Thurifer David Lovelock.*



*David, thank you for talking to me today tell me, how long have you lived in Taunton, do you have any family and what brought you to where you are today?*

I was born on Boxing Day so mum always said I owed her a Christmas dinner, I hope we have managed to repay that debt over the years! I was raised in Deal not far from Dover, the eldest of four boys.

I went to the Parochial Church School in Deal and after taking the Kent Test, went on to Sir Roger Manwoods school which was founded in 1563. This was followed by Selwyn College, Cambridge where I studied law.

In our second year we were required to find a firm where we could complete our articles. I had never felt comfortable in big cities and although London beckoned, I preferred to focus on County towns. I looked at various possibilities but it was Taunton that caught my eye. I liked the feeling of the town and felt at home, it had some fairly large firms and very good bread pudding served at the railway station!

At work I made some good friends, received some good training and met my wife. We married in 1994 and moved to just outside Dorchester but the move did not prove convenient workwise for either of us, so back to Taunton we came and it was here that our two sons were born.

*What do you do in your spare time, what are your hobbies?*

I am not really one for hobbies and pastimes but I was very involved in eleven-a-side football until my mid-forties and then moved onto five-a-side until lockdown, when I called it a day.

We enjoy keeping our garden tidy and using our National Trust membership. We are particularly fond of days out to Horner near Minehead, it's a lovely drive and after dropping down the hill there is a super tea shop when you get there.

I am not that interested in holidays abroad although my wife loves them, so we compromise and try and do a mixture of away and at home with particular favourites being southern Bavaria and the highlands of Scotland. Having two boys we learned that activity holidays were definitely the best option.

We are fortunate to have an annex to our home and when the Ukrainian war took hold there was an initiative by the Council for families to host refugees. Our sons were grown and we had the space so put our names down, but heard nothing for quite a while. Things then moved forward and in October 2022 our guests arrived, Dmytro who was four and his mother. Dad followed a year later when the situation allowed, and the arrangement has worked very well and felt the right thing to do. Although both families have their own space, we eat together and have done lots of lovely things as an extended family. Dmytro has lots of interests but is fond of films and TV and this has proved a very effective way of helping his English although his school, Holway, has been excellent ever since he arrived.

*What would you say is important to you and what does your faith and Holy Trinity mean to you?*

When I first set about finding a County town in which to settle, beside finding a good firm to join, my priorities were finding a football club and a high church.

The church I had grown up in was St Andrews in Deal, also in the high church tradition, and where I became a server at age eight. I have now been serving at the altar for well over fifty years. My transition from Deal to Taunton was almost a straight transfer as a lady parishioner in our church knew Eve Smith who was a Holy Trinity parishioner so the introduction was made. I had only been coming to Holy Trinity for about two weeks when Fr Michael spotted my Guild of the Servants of the Sanctuary lapel pin, and that was that!

I have always been a Christian, my family were churchgoers and Holy Trinity is a big part of my life and my personal faith is very strong. I can't imagine being anywhere else.

*Thank you David and Dmytro it was lovely to see you and learn all about how you came to Taunton (sorry I had no bread pudding though!)*

Pauline Holt

## SUMMER FAIR

**13th June 2026**

**11am-2pm at Holy Trinity Church**

Please take note of the date and time for this year's Summer Fair. If you would like to help or have any ideas for new stalls, please see John Godley or Cheryl Grindle. Thank you.



### **THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB**

will be visiting the following:

12 April	Pickeridge Golf Club
10 May	Pickeridge Golf Club
14 June	Pickeridge Golf Club
12 July	The Greyhound, Staplefitzpaine
9 August	Pickeridge Golf Club
13 September	The Merry Monk, Monkton Heathfield
11 October	Pickeridge Golf Club
8 November	Rumwell Farm Shop
13 December	Pickeridge Golf Club

All bookings are for 12.15 except for 10 May which is 12.30. Please sign the list at the back of Church if you would like to join us. If you need a lift please ensure you arrange this before signing up.

Wendy Burge

## THE ANGELS OF GOD ARE REJOICING

### A prayer by St Hippolytus of Rome

St Hippolytus (c170–c235AD) was one of the most important Christian thinkers of the second and third centuries. He was a biblical commentator and theologian who was distinguished for his learning and eloquence. His writings included A Refutation of All Heresies, Song of Songs, and The Apostolic Tradition. Not much is known about his life but it is agreed that he was a bishop but of an unknown diocese. He was exiled to Sardinia for being elected as an antipope (someone who claims to be the pope when he isn't), the first in the history of the Church, but was later reconciled to the Church before being martyred for his faith.



*Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate  
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen  
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing  
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty  
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead, the first of the sleepers,  
Glory and power are his forever and ever.*

Jane Laurence

## UNDERSTAND CHURCH LANGUAGE

**AMEN:** The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

**CHOIR:** A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Parish to lip-sync.

**HYMN:** A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** The last song at Mass often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

**INCENSE:** Holy Smoke!

**JONAH:** The original 'Jaws' story.

**PEW:** A medieval torture device still found in some churches.

Contributed by Fr Julian

# A RECIPE FOR APRIL

## LEMON DRIZZLE SIMNEL SLICES

Lemon drizzle meets almondy simnel cake in this Easter traybake. Originally simnel cakes were made for Mothering Sunday but in more recent times they have become associated with Easter. This is a slightly lighter version of a simnel cake with the addition of lemon which makes it a nice fruity treat.

Although a traybake, this recipe still has the traditional 11 marzipan balls on top, representing the twelve apostles minus Judas. However, the traybake should be cut into 16 pieces, so there will be some pieces without a marzipan ball!

### *Ingredients*

250g Butter, softened  
250g Caster sugar, plus 50g for the topping  
2 Large Lemons, zested and juiced  
3 Large Eggs  
200g Plain flour  
100g Ground almonds  
½ tsp Baking powder  
50ml Milk  
100g Mixed dried fruit  
300g Marzipan, chilled  
50g Icing sugar  
Oil for the tin



### *Method*

- Pre-heat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan)/gas mark 4. Oil and line a 20cm x 30cm baking tin with baking parchment.
- Beat the butter and sugar with most of the lemon zest until pale and fluffy.
- Add the eggs one at a time, mixing constantly, then add the flour, almonds and baking powder, and keep mixing until you have a smooth cake batter. Stir in the milk and dried fruit.

- Put half the cake batter into the tin and level the surface.
- Coarsely grate half the marzipan onto the batter to create an even layer, then cover with the rest of the batter, trying not to disturb the marzipan too much.
- Level the top and bake for 35-40 mins or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. If any wet cake mixture clings to the skewer, return the cake to the oven for 5 mins, then check again.
- Mix the remaining caster sugar with a quarter of the lemon juice, then drizzle over the cake while still warm. Leave the cake to cool in the tin.
- Mix the icing sugar with enough lemon juice to make a drizzly icing – 2-3 tsp should be enough. Divide the rest of the marzipan into 11 even lumps and roll into balls. Drizzle the icing over the cake, top with the marzipan balls and sprinkle with the remaining lemon zest.
- Will keep for five days in an airtight container.

Contributed by Jane Laurence

## EASTER FAITH IN ATHEIST RUSSIA

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'



At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!'. It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him?

*From the Parish Pump*

## THE BABBLING BROOK (From The Brook, an Idyll)

By Alfred Lord Tennyson 1802-1892

Alfred Tennyson was one of 11 children, and was born in Somersby Lincolnshire, the son of the Rector. He attended Louth Grammar School and went to Trinity College Cambridge, but did not complete his degree. He married Emily Sellwood in 1850. He had become engaged to her much earlier, but fearing he carried a family trait of epilepsy called off the engagement, but happily discovered that this was not so and they then married. He wrote many well-known and popular poems, The Lady of Shalott, The Charge of the Light Brigade and In Memoriam, to name just a very few. Tennyson became Poet Laureate after William Wordsworth and was a friend of Queen Victoria. He was created Baron Tennyson of Aldworth in 1883, and is better known as Alfred Lord Tennyson.



*I come from haunts of coot and hern  
I make a sudden sally  
And sparkle out among the fern  
To bicker down the valley.*

*By thirty hills I hurry down  
Or slip between the ridges  
By twenty thorps, a little town  
And half a hundred bridges.*

*Till last by Phillip's farm I flow  
To join the brimming river,  
For men may come and men may go  
But I go on for ever.*

*I chatter over stoney ways  
In little sharps and trebles  
I bubble into eddying bays  
I babble on the pebbles*

*With many a curve my banks I fret  
By many a field and fallow,  
And many a fairy foreland set  
With willow-weed and mallow*

*I chatter, chatter as I flow  
To join the brimming river  
For men may come and men may go  
But I go on for ever.*

*I wind about, and in and out  
With here a blossom sailing  
And here and there a lusty trout  
And here and there a grayling.*

*And here and there a foamy flake  
Upon me, as I travel  
With many a silvery waterbreak  
Upon the golden gravel.*

*And draw them all along, and flow  
To join the brimming river  
For men may come and men may go  
But I go on for ever.*

This poem reflects on the permanency of the natural world (when left and maintained in its natural state) against the impermanency of mortal man. The life giving brook supports meadows, plants and fish and an environment to nurture and feed us humans. It also raises important issues for us today about culverting over streams, covering meadows and farm land with concrete and tarmac so that the brook becomes 'Life less' and it's life enhancing environment destroyed.

Pat Hitchcock

**HOLY TRINITY <sup>200</sup> Club WINNERS**

**February 2026**

1st	Lindsay Edmunds	£61.25
2nd	Jason Stevens	£36.75
3rd	Julie Harland	£24.50

**MAGAZINE DEADLINE:** Wednesday 15th April 2026

# *NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, FURNHAM*

## **THE EMPTY TOMB**



The disciples were devastated by Jesus' death. The events of the Passion had overwhelmed them. They didn't know what to think or believe. They'd seen Jesus, to whom they'd been committed, scourged, crucified and buried. They were left bereft. Their minds were numb, unable to assemble thoughts about Jesus' teaching of the resurrection. They were not expecting it. They retired to the Upper Room, stunned and afraid.

Then Mary Magdalene arrived saying Jesus had risen and had spoken to her. In what follows, the story of John the beloved disciple, is an interesting one. He and Peter immediately run to the tomb. John, the younger one, outruns Peter. After arriving first, he stoops, looks in and there is the bewildering sight of the untouched shroud which no longer contains the body of his Lord. Peter arrives and stumbles in. John, meanwhile, waits outside in quiet reflection, piecing together in his mind the sayings of the prophets and teachings of Jesus. Gradually these sayings were coming back to him in an enlightened understanding. The truth of the resurrection was dawning upon him. The darkness of this Good Friday desolation was giving way to a new light breaking in on his consciousness. It is summed up in just four words, 'He saw and believed'. (John 20 v 8)

Later, Jesus appears to his disciples several times with important things to say. In John 21 v 22 & 23, we have the only clue to his future role - to wait for the coming of the Lord. The beloved of God must live his life waiting upon God, receptive to the revelations of his love.



St John lived long, we know little of his ministry, and he died a natural death. When he wrote his gospel, 60 years or so after the resurrection, there were several well-known written accounts of the work of Jesus, and the Christian faith was well established. His writing imparts a greater sense of vision than the other gospel

narratives. Here are the fruits of his waiting upon God; love's revelations to the beloved as he contemplated Jesus in the events he saw and had shared in.

One could say that this process of waiting upon God began as John waited beside the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. We all need to be drawn to that empty tomb, to ponder the wonder of God's gift of salvation, to 'see and believe', and rejoice.

June Roberts

### ***PLEASE REMEMBER***

#### **Tuesday Morning Mass**

Mass at the Good Shepherd on the first Tuesday of every month starting on Tuesday 7th April at 10.30am.



### **THE CALVARY**

You may recall Jane Nicholas' interesting article about the planned restoration of the Calvary in an earlier edition of the magazine. Now the Calvary has been safely transported to the restorers in Wellington for the work to commence.

The plan is for the Calvary to be back in position outside the Church for Remembrance Sunday weekend when Bishop Paul will rededicate it.

Laura Wishart



## CHARD PROJECT ROMANIA 2025/26



The autumn trip was great. Florin was amazing, taking 2 weeks holiday to do visits. Some families are in such poverty it defies description. It was a privilege to hug *Viorica*, a gypsy lass I've known 20 years. She's improved 'her hut' as she knows God cares for them. She had her 9th baby, a dear little girl, Carla with her.

*Elena* was star of the show. After her 'annual stump surgery' she needed a new prosthesis. Her family never ask so Florin didn't know. When we visited mum was tearful, they'd only 5 days to get £1000. We emailed home - and covered it. *Praise the Lord for His provision.*

We visited a man who'd lost a foot and couldn't work. Sitting in his bare yard he looked so very dejected but cheered up when he saw Florin. His medical expenses are met through Health Seica.

The *Bread4Buia* school visit was lovely. The children are all SO happy to have 'their bread' (and nibble it !!).



Florin took me on an 'adventure' to find 'foreigners' he'd never seen! *Alexandra* has Cerebral Palsy but is so cheerful & loves her animals, stroking them, be they sheep, or horses twice her size! Babies in the 90's, were left to die in orphanages. Her mum was

determined she'd have a 'life', and she lives it to the full through Family Sponsorship.



*Gina* is so much better, but still monitored for cancer cells, which could return anywhere, anytime. Not an easy thing to live with. She returned to work on March 1st. Thank you all for your help, please do pray for her.

Florin and I met Kevin Hoy (CEO, Smiles Foundation) & his manager Adi Matis. We had a great day together looking at Project Romania work in the villages of Comuna Seica Mare.

*January 13th* – Kevin visited Chard Project Romania and chatted with all the trustees (he was here for Christmas with his family, yet spared time to come and see us). He attended the Chard Churches Together meeting and all enjoyed his stimulating talk, asking questions afterwards. We were impressed with the work his very dedicated Christian charity does; the way in which they have been enabled to find support and finance, and how the Lord has led them. He offered to ‘take us on board’. All Project Romania trustees are now over 80 and we do have difficulty in keeping up with everything. Thus, his offer was most welcome and when we met later in the week, we unanimously agreed that this was the way the Lord was leading us forward, and the best for Comuna Seica Mare. Our aims are the same - that the Lord will be glorified and people will continue to receive loving Christian help. ‘Smiles’ will retain our name ‘Project Romania’ and work closely with Florin.

At the AGM in March our chairman recommended that this merger goes ahead and the members present voted unanimously for that. We can now

- ✚ look back and celebrate 35 years of God’s work in Comuna Seica Mare... *AND*
- ✚ look forward with great anticipation - to the next 35 years

***What will the Lord do for that community - and ours? Exciting times.***



*Please remember Rob, Wendy & Ellis in your prayers at this difficult time. They live in Bahrain. Every day at 3pm there is a beautiful 20-minute Zoom prayer time for the region.*

*For the link, please email [goodshepherdchard@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherdchard@gmail.com)*

## ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

*It was:*

- 400 years ago, on 9th April 1626 that Francis Bacon, philosopher and politician, died. He served as Attorney General of England and Wales and then Lord High Chancellor of England (1617-21).
- 125 years ago, on 3rd April 1901 that Richard D'Oyly Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London and founded a touring opera company.
- 100 years ago, on 21st April 1926 Queen Elizabeth II was born.
- 80 years ago, on 2nd April 1946 that Sue Townsend, writer and humourist, was born. Best known for her Adrian Mole novels.
- 75 years ago, on 2nd April 1951 that General Dwight D Eisenhower became NATO's first Supreme Allied Commander.
- Also 75 years ago, on 17th April 1951 that the Peak District National Park was established. It was Britain's first National Park.
- 70 years ago, on 18th April 1956 that American film actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier and became Princess Grace of Monaco.
- 65 years ago, on 12th April 1961 that Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space and to orbit the Earth.
- 60 years ago, on 10th April 1966 that Evelyn Waugh died. This satirical novelist, biographer, and travel writer is best known for *Decline and Fall*, *A Handful of Dust*, and *Brideshead Revisited*.
- 50 years ago, on 3rd April 1976 that the UK won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest with *Save Your Kisses for Me* by Brotherhood of Man.
- 40 years ago, on 11th April 1986 that Halley's Comet made its closest approach to Earth during its most recent visit. It will return to Earth's vicinity in 2061 and 2134.
- Also 40 years ago, on 26th April 1986 that the Chernobyl disaster took place in Ukraine, then within the Soviet Union. It was the world's worst nuclear power plant accident, killing 31 people.
- 15 years ago, on 29th April 2011 that Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton were married at Westminster Abbey in London.
- 10 years ago, on 20th April 2016 that Victoria Wood, comedian, actress, singer and songwriter died.
- Also 10 years ago, on 22nd April 2016 that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was signed..

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# SOUNDS OF EASTER

Above the hubbub of the surging crowd comes a loud, insistent ring.

Metal on metal, hammer on nail.

Hands, raised to bless and heal – lie bleeding ...

and still ... palms open, accepting pain.

Feet, that walked miles to bring love, peace,

hang limp ... lifeless, pinned to the bark of a tree.



A dull thud ....

a roughhewn cross drops into a deep hole.

A faint cry ....

"Father, forgive, for they know not what they do".

A gasp ....

the man hanging there, labours to breathe.

A rattle of dice ....

soldiers, playing for a seamless cloak, whilst 'doing their job'!

A voice ....

"My God, my God ... why have You forsaken me?"

A whisper....

from the watching crowd, "Who is this man?"

Heaven is silent.

The sun is hidden. Thunder rolls around the heavens.

Lightning streaks through the skies.

Screams echo across the hillside. Darkness envelops all.

Once more the voice cries out, strong – triumphant.

"It is finished! Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit.

A soldier ... looking up ... whispers "Surely, He was the Son of God".

The earth is still, the powers of darkness defeated.

Angels watch ... and worship ... awaiting resurrection.

*The plans of the Almighty are fulfilled, in the sounds of Easter.*

Contributed by Dawn Fletcher  
(from the Good Shepherd, Furnham)