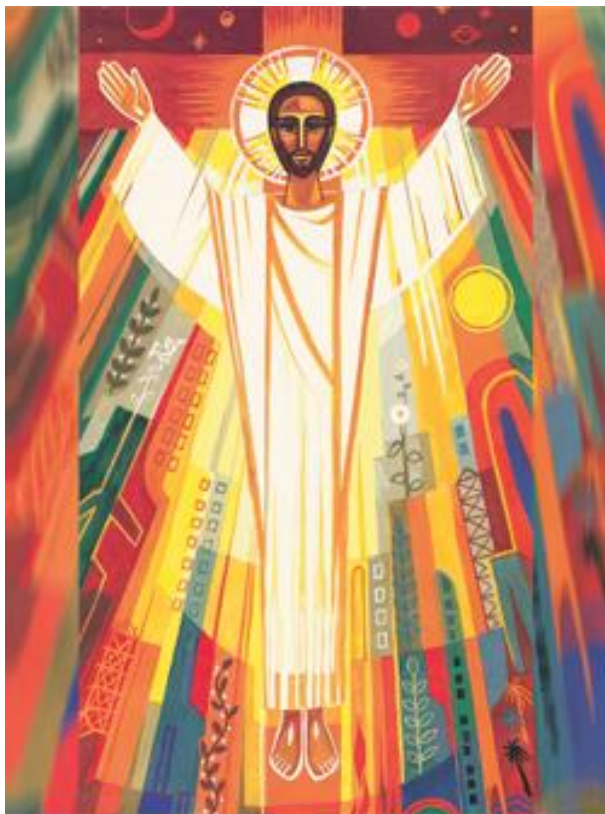


HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

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Christ is risen
allelujah!

April 2024

Holy Trinity Service Times

Services are as follows:

Sunday

8.00am, 10.00am & 6.30pm

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am
Friday 12.30pm**

Saturday

10.00am and 6.00pm

**All services will continue to be streamed,
except for Saturday 6pm and 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



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

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL

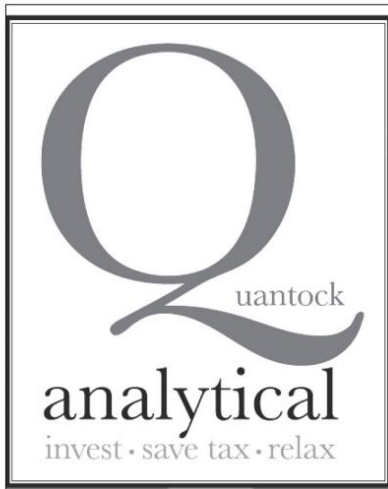
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APRIL



2024

FR JULIAN WRITES...

As Holy Week draws to its close, with the drama and pain of Good Friday, we might wish to reflect on all that has happened since Palm Sunday. Then we started with triumph as we greeted Christ's entry into Jerusalem before we got drawn ever deeper into the Passion of the Lord. There has been a day's spiritual rest as we prepare for Easter in church, spiritually and physically – it's hard work in both respects! With joy, we celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Day, and then...?

I hope that during Holy Week we experienced and learnt more about compassion, 'Suffering with'. We have accepted God's compassion for us, and in a small way, we have shown com-Passion with Christ. But does our Easter joy end with the last bite of hitherto denied chocolate, sugar in our tea – or even gin?! If Christ's passion moved us with compassion, then his Passion is still being carried through in all the suffering around us, near and far, and if we are truly compassionate, then that will lead to a response. It is by the length of our response and its depth which will indicate our Easter joy.

This is what makes Easter an ongoing, real celebration. We're not just recalling events in the dim and distant past, honouring folk lore and tradition, but just as we have shared in the Lord's Passion, so we also share in the reality of his resurrection, and the joy that those first witnesses experienced as they found that the tomb was empty. We won't necessarily share their shock and amazement, because we know how the story ended – we know that Christ is risen. But how joyful are we?

I'm not suggesting that we go around with fixed grins, as if we have coat hangers under our lips, nor the sort of false smile that looks more like rictus. As Shakespeare's Hamlet states, 'One may smile and smile and

still be a villain.’ We know, too, how false smiles fail to convince; true smiles can be seen in eyes. Joy isn’t just an appearance, which can be faked, but an attitude which is natural.

There are many symbols which we associate with Easter. If we’ve tried to buy an Easter card, then ‘religious’ ones usually consist of a church and some suitable words. Otherwise it’s the ubiquitous rabbits, daffodils, lambs and spring flowers. Our immediate response to seeing these ‘in the wild’, is a lifting of the spirit and a cheering of the heart. This is not something we feign, but a natural, joyful response to new life. And that is what Easter is all about, and the reaction it should cause in us.

Through his death and resurrection, Christ has conquered sin. A true, theological statement but not one that will immediately cause joy. It needs to be thought through. So let’s do it. The result of sin is death, the separation of God from his children. Pain on both sides. When we’re in pain, then we need hope.

When Jesus died, the curtain in the Temple tore in two, showing that there was no barrier between humanity and God. In the same way, when we draw the bedroom curtains (not forgetting the clocks go back on Easter morning!), then from the dark gloom of the room, yet familiar and comfortable, outside is a new day and a new world awaiting us which fills us with hope and joy as we contemplate it. In the same way, when we see the curtains close at the crematorium at a funeral, that cuts us off from our loved one, but Christ’s resurrection means that we can cross that curtain as there is no barrier any more between us and God, death and life.

Whatever image we might use, Christians have been celebrating the resurrection of Christ for 2000 years, as in his rising is the birth of hope, hope that should fill us all with joy.

With my prayers for a very happy and joy-filled Easter

Fr Julian

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners, at which the Wardens are elected, and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, where reports are given about 2023's activities will both be held on Sunday 19th May at 11.30 in the Church Hall. The reports will be circulated in good time, so that you may have time to peruse them and raise any questions at the APCM. Book the dates now!

BISHOP'S VISIT

The Bishop of Oswestry is paying a pastoral visit to the Good Shepherd, Furnham on Sunday 14th April. It has been our custom for both parishes to worship together on the 5th Sunday of the month, but in March that'll be Easter Day! So the Good Shepherd has kindly invited members of Holy Trinity to join with them on Sunday 14th for a combined Parish Mass, so please put the date in your diary; the precise time of the service is to be confirmed.

APRIL SAINTS – Fr Julian's idiosyncratic selection of saints

The 'octave' of Easter – the 8 days following, are kept as part of our celebration of Easter itself; each one is a feast day, a festival, so we have a bit of catching up to do!

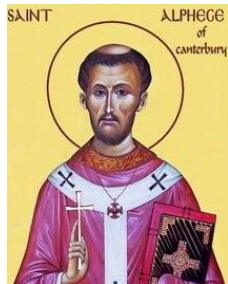
8th: The Annunciation Usually celebrated on 25th March, the day we remember the angel's announcing to Mary that she was to bear Jesus has been transferred to today. The 'Angelus', an ancient prayer greeting to Mary is based on Gabriel's words.

11th: St Stanislaus (1030-1079) Stanislaus was one of the first native Polish bishops. The King, Boleslaw, turned against Stanislaus (who had founded Benedictine monasteries and was a ducal adviser), but the soldiers sent to kill him refused to do so, and so legend has it that king himself martyred Stanislaus in the grounds of his castle at Wawel in Krakow. His



remains were moved to Krakow cathedral in 1245, where they remain today.

19th: St Alphege (953-1012) St Alphege was a monk in Gloucester, before coming Abbot of Bath Abbey, Bishop of Winchester and then Archbishop of Canterbury – the first to be martyred. Although he negotiated between the Danes and King Aethelred the Unready, he was captured at Canterbury by pillaging Danes and held to ransom - £3000, a fantastic amount. Alphege refused to be ransomed for that sum, so was chopped with an axe then beaten to death. Among the places that held relics (bits) of the Saint are Bath and Glastonbury.



23rd: St George (d. c233) Venerated as a patron of many countries, including England, he was Cappadocian/Greek parentage, and became a Praetorian guard, part of the emperor's bodyguard. When he refused to renounce his Christian faith, Emperor Diocletian (who loved persecuting Christians) had him martyred. Traditionally, a sarcophagus in Lydda (Lod) in Israel holds his remains.

25th: St Mark (c12 – c68) Saint Mark, is the person who is traditionally ascribed to be the author of the Gospel of Mark. Modern Bible scholars have concluded that the Gospel of Mark was written by an anonymous author rather than an identifiable historical figure. According to Church tradition, Mark founded the episcopal see of Alexandria, which was one of the five most important sees of early Christianity. His feast day is celebrated on April 25th, and his symbol is the winged lion.

29th: Catherine of Siena (147-1380) Born Caterina di Jacopo di Benincasa, was an Italian mystic and pious laywoman who engaged in papal and Italian politics through extensive letter-writing and advocacy. Canonized in 1461, she is revered as a saint and as a Doctor of the Church



due to her extensive theological authorship. She is also considered to have influenced Italian literature. She is the author of 'The Dialogue of Divine Providence' and died as a result of her rigorous fasting.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

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

- 1 Mon in Easter Week
- 2 Tue in Easter Week
- 3 Wed in Easter Week
- 4 Thu in Easter Week
- 5 Fri in Easter Week
- 6 Sat in Easter Week



7 EASTER 2 *Theme: The Victory of Faith*
Readings: Acts 4.32-35; 1 John 1.1-2.2; John 20.19-31

11 Thu S. Stanislaus, Patron of Poland, Bishop & Martyr (1079)

14 EASTER 3 *Theme: Our Advocate with the Father*
Readings: Acts 3.12-19; 1 John 3.1-7; Luke 24.36b-48

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

20 Sat S. Beuno, Abbot (640)

21 EASTER 4 *Theme: The Good Shepherd*
Readings: Acts 4.5-12; 1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18

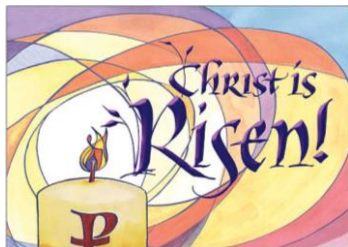
23 Tue S. George, Martyr, Patron Saint of England (304)

24 Wed S. Adalbert of Prague, Bishop, Missionary, Martyr (997)
S. Mellitus, 3rd Archbishop of Canterbury (624)

25 Thu S. MARK THE EVANGELIST

28 EASTER 5 *Theme: Christ the True Vine*
Readings: Acts 8.26-40; 1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8

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



The Brightest Light

*The veil of darkness transformed to the
brightest light. The most dreadful end became
the most beautiful beginning.*

*The depths of despair fade to reveal
hope everlasting.*

The curse of death defeated by eternal life.

Anon



Save the Date!

8TH JUNE 2024

This year's Summer Fair at Holy Trinity will be at 11am to 2pm. Our usual stalls will be there and we hope you will be able to help in any way you can to make this a successful fundraiser for our Church.

We have a few stalls which need kindly volunteers to man them, so please let us know if you can help.

More details will be in next month's magazine, however if you require any further information before then please contact John Godley, or Cheryl Grindle. Thank you.

THE GOD OF LOVE by Andrew Mayes

The God of love for humankind
Became as one with us in mind
And body, so the world could see,
That through his love all lives could be
Completely changed, and re-defined.

He healed the sick and gave the blind
Their sight; the streets with people lines
To praise him, yet so cruelly he
Was crucified upon the tree,
And suffered death the most unkind,
The God of love.

But after just three days they find
The power of love they cannot bind-
He rose again, and thus the key
He turned, that henceforth also we
To everlasting life assigned,
The God of love.

Contributed by Jane Laurence

Spotlight on...



Joseph Otemade

Hi Joseph, very many thanks for agreeing to be our first volunteer in a new series of 'Spotlight on' where we aim to feature a different member of the congregation each month and try to get to know a little more about each other in our Church family! So, lets go...



Tell me, how long have you lived in Taunton, do you have any family and what do you do for a living?

'I came to Taunton only last year straight from Nigeria where my real name is Oluwole, but the name I use here is Joseph. In Nigeria I am a Quantity Surveyor by profession but here in the UK I am an HCA. My wife is called Folake (Grace) and we have a son and a daughter and are beginning to settle and find our way here now.'

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

'In my spare time I like to listen to my audio Bible, but mostly I like to spend time with my children, showing interest in what they are watching on television or the games they are playing and teaching them new things. My family is very important to me'.

What would you say is important to you?

'I love to see my patients smile. Sometimes they are so incredibly poorly and over time you see how they recover and become well again. I think my new work is wonderful and a role where you can give of yourself rather than just your academic ability. I have made some good friends - I will never forget them'.

What does your faith and Holy Trinity mean to you?

'In Nigeria I was a Methodist. I have found that the service and the hymns in Holy Trinity are familiar and I am comfortable in this Church. I did try other Churches in Taunton but this is where I am most at home. It is here, in this country where I first took Holy Communion.

To me, the Church service is for everyone but it is important to find your own way from the sermon and present yourself to God for a new experience and to listen and understand what it is that He is demanding of you so that you can walk in His steps’.

Thankyou Joseph for talking to us, you and your family are most welcome here and we must say it is beginning to feel like you have always been with us.

Pauline Holt

HOLY TRINITY ²⁰⁰ Club WINNERS

February 2024

| | | |
|-----|---------------|--------|
| 1st | Liz Hathway | £54.50 |
| 2nd | Pat Franklin | £32.70 |
| 3rd | Julie Harland | £21.80 |

CHURCH GARDENING

Hopefully the weather will improve at some point and we'll be able to get out and make a start on the Church grounds.

We need to get the grounds in order for the Summer Fair on 8th June so I suggest meeting on the 30th April 2.00pm, weather permitting. Thereafter the 4th Saturday in the month. Cake and a drink will be provided.

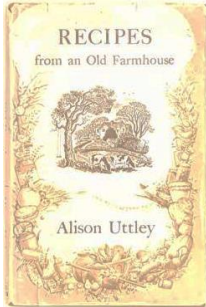
Don't forget tools are limited so if you can bring your own please do, also if you are able to take away any garden waste that would be appreciated as the green bin soon fills up. I would recommend wearing gardening gloves.



Wendy Burge

A RECIPE FOR APRIL

EASTER BISCUITS



Amongst other books, Alison Uttley the creator of the Little Grey Rabbit series, produced a charming cookbook *Recipes From An Old Farmhouse* originally published in 1966 by Faber and Faber. I have a copy given to me by a friend some years ago. With its evocative illustrations this delightful book about life in an old farmhouse in the early part of the twentieth century is a complete joy. Mrs Uttley describes how, as Good Friday approached, friends and relatives descended bringing news and hearty appetites. Her mother made hot cross buns which were not sold in the nearby village and what she calls Easter cakes which I know better as Easter biscuits although I must admit that when I came to live in Somerset over forty years ago I had never heard of them, they were neither made nor eaten in South Wales where I grew up. Anyway, here is Mrs Uttley's family recipe for these biscuits. I know some people like to add oil of cassia to the mix but it is, of course, optional.

Ingredients

4oz/120g butter
8oz/240g plain flour
4oz/120g granulated or caster sugar
1oz/30g currants
½ tsp mixed spice
Lemon juice
1 egg

Optional ingredients

Brandy
Oil of cassia



Method

- Rub the butter into the plain flour. Mix in the granulated or caster sugar, currants, mixed spice and a squeeze of fresh lemon juice.
- Beat up one egg with a tablespoon of brandy (optional) and mix everything together being careful not to over handle the dough.

- Using a sprinkling of cornflour on your board or work surface roll out the paste fairly thinly and cut into rounds of about 3/4ins (7.5/10cm) or smaller.
- Place on non-stick parchment lined trays and bake for ten to twelve minutes in a fairly hot oven but watch to make sure they don't overbake and burn.
- Leave on the tray for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool. They should be - according to Mrs Uttley - both sweet and crisp.

Alys Williams

BIBLICAL SMILE LINES

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Q. How do we know if Peter was a rich fisherman?

A. By his net income.



(Answers at end of magazine)

1. What flower is considered an Easter symbol?
2. Easter always falls between which two dates?
3. In Eastern Christianity, the end of Lent is called what?
4. In countries including Greece, Mexico and Spain, what are burned during Easter bonfires?
5. When was the first recorded use of decorated Easter eggs?
6. When were Cadbury Creme Eggs introduced?
7. Where is the largest Easter egg museum in the world?
8. In what country did the tradition of the Easter bunny originate?
9. Where is Easter Island located?
10. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake and what do they represent?

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CHURCHWARDEN

Well, where does one start. A coldish day in February, 2024, with more rain and windy weather forecast in the next few days.



The 'beans' have to be counted in the Office, in the morning, following the previous week's collections, raffles, soup lunches, Gift aid donations/Stewardship contributions, bell ringers donations and coffee donations at the Sunday morning 'after service' getting together.

The Church tower clock is running two minutes fast, and the hour strike is striking the wrong hour being displayed on the clock dial.

There is a young man sitting in the Church on his own.

One of the main roof drains is blocked on the North side of the main building and needs to be rodded out, to allow the water to escape easily, instead of overflowing onto the flower bed and path to the Parish Hall.

The hand drier has stopped working in the disabled WC, in the Parish hall and needs to be mended or replaced. The extractor fan has stopped working as well, and needs either replacing, or the existing one to be mended.

The young man is still sitting in the Church, on his own, and has a large airplane bag with him with his belongings in it. He wants to charge his mobile phone. There is a debate about what the young man is doing here and what should we do about the situation.

The PCC secretary wants to know when the Report of the Quinquennial Inspection, that has been carried out recently, will be presented to us.

The extractor fan in the disabled WC has been put back in its mounting. It needs to be connected to the lighting circuit, so it only comes on when the WC is in use. The PIR in the unit has stopped operating.

The young man is still here and has nowhere to go this evening, for sleeping accommodation. Moves are made to contact the local housing and rough sleeping authorities. Someone is going to come back to us later. No one does.

The Electrical system is being tested for its 5 yearly inspection. This is for the main building and the two halls. The electrician needs access to all parts of the premises.

One Churchwarden goes home for lunch, even though it is well past dinner time and does some jobs at home that need to be done.

The church car park is getting rough treatment from the school mums, using their transport to pick up the kids from Trinity School.

Numerous phone calls are made to decide some emergency action for the young man in the church. The authorities cannot or will not, provide any accommodation for the evening. Some food has been bought for the young man. He is very grateful. A request is made later, for a small tent, for the young man to use this evening, as a last resort. It is getting colder and he cannot stay on the church premises overnight.

One is found in someone's garage, along with an old sleeping bag and a floor mat to lie on. The young man leaves the church and heads off towards Holway Hill, recreation park area, with the tent, sleeping bag and his belongings.

The church is closed and locked up for the evening.

Another day.

John Godley

JUMBLE/TOY/BOOK SALE

Many thanks to those who donated good for sale, attended or purchased items.

Grateful thanks as always for the small dedicated band who helped set up on the Friday and ran stalls and helped pack away.

A profit (including donations) of £121.20 was made.

Wendy Burge

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Wednesday 10th April 2024

ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

It was:

- 300 years ago, on 7th April 1724 that the composer J S Bach's St John Passion was performed for the first time in a Leipzig church.
- 200 years ago, on 19th April 1824 that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets he died of sepsis/fever while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. Aged 36.
- 175 years ago, on 10th April 1849 that American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin.
- 100 years ago, on 23rd April 1924 that the British Empire Exhibition opened in Wembley, London.
- 90 years ago, on 3rd April 1934 that British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud.
- 75 years ago, on 4th April 1949 that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was founded.
- 70 years ago, on 26th April 1954 that the Soviet Union transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine. In 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, but it is not recognised internationally.
- 65 years ago, on 9th April 1959 that Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, died. Regarded as 'the greatest American architect of all time.'
- 50 years ago, on 6th April 1974 that the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest.
- 40 years ago, on 17th April 1984 that British police officer Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead during a demonstration outside the Libyan Embassy in London. This led to an 11-day siege by the police.
- 30 years ago, on 6th April 1994 that the Rwandan genocide began.
- Also 30 years ago, on 26th April 1994 that the first post-apartheid multiracial elections were held in South Africa. Nelson Mandela was elected president, and took office on 10th May.
- 20 years ago, on 1st April 2004 that Google launched its free email service, Gmail.
- 10 years ago, on 14th April 2014 that the Boko Haram Islamic terrorist group kidnapped 276 female students from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Some of the girls escaped, some were rescued, or have been reported dead. But over 100 are still missing, fate unknown.

From the Parish Pump



THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

will be visiting the following:

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 14 April | The Greyhound, Staple Fitzpaine |
| 12 May | The Maypole, Thurloxton |
| 9 June | Pickeridge Golf Club |
| 14 July | Rumwell Farm Shop |
| 11 August | Hankridge Arms |

All bookings are for 12.15. Please let me know if you want to come along, on the previous Sunday. If you have booked a space but are unable to attend please let me know as soon as possible.

Wendy Burge

CHURCH COLLECTIONS AND STEWARDSHIP

| | <i>January</i> | <i>February</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Loose plate collections | £123 | £164 |
| Stewardship envelopes | £666 | £974 |
| Stewardship by Bankers Order | £1713 | £2424 |
| Donations – other | £120 | £0 |
| Donations – Special (restricted) | £0 | £0 |
| Collections Gift Aided | £430 | £10 |
| Hall Rents | £736 | £0 |
| Sunday Raffles | £63 | £103 |

EASTER QUIZ ANSWERS



1. Lily
2. March 22 and April 25 (Easter is the Sunday after the first full Moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox)
3. Lazarus Saturday
4. Effigies of Judas
5. In the 13th century
6. 1963
7. Poland (The Muzeum Rolnictwa w Ciechanowcu)
8. Germany
9. The Southeast Pacific
10. Eleven, the apostles (minus Judas)



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| CHURCHWARDENS | Mr John Godley } Mrs Jenni Llewellyn } | 01823 354800 (Church Office) |
| DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN | Mrs Liz Hathway } | |
| PARISH OFFICE | Administrator: Mrs Pauline Holt | 354800 |
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