

# The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

“Jesus himself came up and walked along with them, but they were kept from recognising him” (Luke 24: 15-16).

The disciples, on the Emmaus road, did not recognise Jesus even though they had heard about the angel at the tomb saying that he was alive. They were not prepared for his appearance, perhaps they were too bruised by events to take it in. Punch drunk by the force of the blows that had hit them, reeling from the shock of great change, and unable to adjust to it. Their minds not simply unwilling, but unable to take it all in. There are people like that today. People so battered by circumstance, so ground down by poverty or tragedy, that good news is almost impossible to accept.

We too experience it in one way or another. Someone said that change is the only certainty in today's world. Few of us like change; it makes us insecure. We prefer the known, the familiar. It is sometimes hard to make sense of some of the social, moral and political changes we're living through. The pressures of coping increase and it is difficult to see any good in many of them, but it is important to realise that Jesus is walking with us through the changes.

It is important too to recognise that sometimes he is in the change itself; the Holy Spirit may create change to stretch us, make us face reality and grow. The Cross itself was change, radical change, and without it there would be no future for the two walking to Emmaus, nor for us.

Sometimes his presence helps make sense of the changes that come; sometimes even with him it is hard to understand their purpose, but his presence is the essential thing to hold on to.

With him, things make sense, eventually, without him, they never will.

With all good wishes,

Andrew

### **The Day I Asked The Lord Chief Justice Of England For A Holiday**

Back in the 19th century, the choristers of Salisbury were treated very badly. They were worked very hard, and had no time off, and were often hired out to sing at other churches. Conditions became so bad that when the Assizes were held in the City, the Bishop's Chorister went to Court and petitioned the assize judge to grant them a holiday. He must have been a good advocate because the Assize judge granted his request, but only for one year. The plea for a holiday had to be renewed every year. And so this request became a tradition, with the Bishop's Chorister in office during the Easter Assizes making his request to whoever the circuit judge happened to be.

In 1950, it fell to be my lot! We had all seen the Judge earlier, as he always attended the cathedral for Sunday morning service whilst the Assizes were held. He looked grim and severe in his full judge's wig and gown, and it was with a great deal of trepidation that I stood outside his residence in the Close after Monday evensong and rang the bell.

It was opened by his usher, a junior barrister. " Ah," he said, "you must be the young man who wants a holiday.....follow me and I will take you to the Lord Chief Justice!" With knees quaking I was shown into a room where a shortish man in a black jacket and pinstripe trousers was sipping a drink. "Well Marshall "he said to the young barrister, "is this the young man who wants a holiday?" He smiled at me and said,"We will get this part over very quickly" and I was aware of a kindly but lined face, with twinkling eyes and a very friendly smile which I hadn't expected. I delivered my speech and my request in the time honoured manner, and waited for his reply. He stood up, gravely looked at me, and then said "I grant your request for one year only". Then, a beaming smile, and he shook me by the hand, and said " Now, will you have something to drink with me...I suppose you are too young for a glass of sherry....Marshall, a glass of ginger beer for The Bishop's Chorister". He asked me my name, and if I played rugby, and where would I go to school when my voice broke. In fact, he chatted to me for well over 5 minutes until it was time for me to take my leave.

Five years later as an articled clerk studying law, I soon became aware of the awesome reputation of Lord Goddard, The Lord Chief Justice of England, but also I remembered a kindly, almost fatherly gentleman, who put a very nervous thirteen year old at ease in his presence.

*Nigel Yeoman*



## **Something to mull over.....**

In a mother's womb were two babies.  
One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?"

The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd! Walking is impossible!! And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore?"

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover if there is life, then why has no one has ever come back from there? Answer me that one!!! Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? Hahaha! That's laughable. If Mother exists then tell me, where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

Thought provoking isn't it...?

*(Article provided for the magazine by Perry Jeandren)*

## **NEWSROUND**

**General Synod welcomes move towards communion with Methodist Church** - The General Synod has recently welcomed a report containing proposals which could bring the Church of England and the Methodist Church in Great Britain into communion with each other.

Members backed a motion welcoming a joint report published last year, which sets out proposals on how clergy from each church could become eligible to serve in the other.

The report, 'Mission and Ministry in Covenant', which was co-written by the two churches' faith and order bodies, also sets out how the Methodist Church could come to have bishops in the historic episcopate. The motion acknowledges

that there is further work to do to clarify a number of areas, including how the proposals would be worked out in practice. It also calls on the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission to update Synod at its next group of sessions in July of this year on this work.

But an amendment to the motion speaks of "confident hope" that outstanding issues can be resolved quickly. Speaking during the debate the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby said: 'I want to support this motion very strongly indeed. 'It seems to me that in voting for it we respond to the word of God in the scriptures where there is a clear command to unity in diversity and in responding to this paper positively we respond to the Spirit who is already working in both of our Churches bringing us together.'

The Bishop of Coventry, the Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth, Chair of the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission, said the proposals would be a step towards 'healing a tragic division in the Church of England' when the two churches separated almost 200 years ago.

The report builds on the theological convergence established by 'An Anglican-Methodist Covenant', signed in 2003, and the subsequent work of the Covenant's Joint Implementation Commission.

In 2014 the General Synod of the Church of England and the Methodist Conference mandated the faith and order bodies to bring forward proposals that would enable the interchangeability of ordained ministries in the two churches.

**The Royal British Legion launches THE SILENT SOLDIER** - The Royal British Legion has announced the launch of its SILENT SOLDIER campaign. The Silent Soldier is the near life-size silhouette of a First World War 'Tommy'

which can be fixed to a wall or attached to an upright pole in public or private spaces.

It is anticipated that the Silent Soldier will be displayed across the UK by businesses, Churches and local authorities as a reminder of the sacrifices made by men and women of the armed forces during the First World War.

Churches are being invited to endorse the Silent Soldier concept and to sponsor and display one or more silhouettes throughout the period from September 2017 to late 2018 when the nation will be commemorating the Armistice and the end of hostilities.

The Silent Soldier silhouettes have at their base the words "1914-1918 Lest We Forget".

Silent Soldier silhouettes are cut from black cut dibond and are tough and weatherproof: they are supplied with bolts and with angle iron posts for free-standing display.

## **ST. GEORGE, OUR PATRON SAINT WHO ISN'T ENGLISH!**

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere



in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and

hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.

*David Winter*

## **How passion flowers got their name**

Why is the passion flower known as the passion flower? This beautiful climbing plant that grows in many of our gardens is not native to the UK, but comes from South America. It was first discovered Spanish missionaries working there, centuries ago. Drawings were sent back to Europe, and in 1609 an Italian priest interpreted the flower to represent the crucifixion, otherwise known as the Passion.



He decided that the five petals and five sepals could represent the ten disciples who remained steadfast (Judas and Peter both abandoned Jesus). The corona could be seen as Jesus' crown of thorns. The stigma could be seen as the cross or nails, and the five stamens could be seen as the number of wounds Jesus received.



*A Sunday School teacher asked her pupils 'Does anyone know any of the miracles that Jesus performed?' One youngster put his hand up and said 'Yes, He cured people who had leopards.'*



## CALENDAR FOR APRIL

### EASTER DAY

Sun	1	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer
Wed	4	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Fri	6	10.30 am	<b>Coffee Morning in hall</b>

### EASTER 2

Sun	8	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Matins ( <i>Sunday Club in hall</i> ) Evening Prayer
Wed	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Fri	13	9.30 am	Baby Group <i>in hall</i>

### EASTER 3

Sun	15	8.00 am  10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion NO FAMILY SERVICE Parish Communion Evensong (not Choral)
Wed	18	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	19	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Fri	20	10.30 am	<b>Coffee Morning in hall</b>

### EASTER 4

Sun	22	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Matins ( <i>Sunday Club in hall</i> ) Evening Prayer
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Tues	24	10.00 am	Craft Group <i>(in hall)</i>
Wed	25	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Thurs	26	3.30 pm	Magazine collation
Fri	27	9.30 am	Baby Group <i>(in hall)</i>

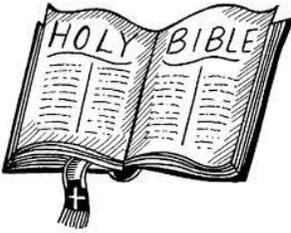
#### **EASTER 5**

Sun	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
		6.30 pm	Joint Service at St. Peter's, Parkstone
Wed	2	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Fri	4	10.30 am	<b><i>Coffee Morning in hall</i></b>

## **BROWNSEA ISLAND**

Reading the very interesting article in the February and March magazines reminds me of my late father Leslie. During the 1950's he was the District Valuer for the area and we lived in Minterne Road. One of his jobs was to undertake periodic valuations of property which included Brownsea Island. On several occasions he had the need to visit Mrs Bonham-Christie to carry out his work. The thing was that he was the worlds worst sailor who could get seasick just by looking at the sea! The visits, which normally seemed to take place in winter, involved taking a small boat to the island. When he returned he would have to go straight to bed to recover! It is possible that Mrs Bonham-Christie regarded the visit as unnecessary, but she always made him welcome.

*George Perrins*



## **SUNDAY READINGS**

### **IN APRIL**

#### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April - EASTER DAY**

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 25.6-9

*Isaiah's prophecy comprises a vision of the Messianic banquet at which God, the host, reveals himself to his guests as their saviour and messiah.*

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 10.34-43

*Peter says that deeds, not nationality, constitute the means by which God accepts his disciples and the Jews have no exclusive claim upon God's love.*

GOSPEL: John 20.1-18

*When Mary discovers the empty tomb she is dismayed. Jesus then appears to her and she goes to tell the disciples what he has said.*

#### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April - Easter 2**

FIRST READING: Acts 4.32-35

*The company of believers shared their possessions, holding everything in common. Thus they testified to their belief in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.*

NEW TESTAMENT: John 20.19-end

*The other disciples tell Thomas they have seen Jesus but he doubts them. When Jesus appears again this time Thomas sees him and believes.*

#### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April - Easter 3**

FIRST READING: Acts 3.12-19

*Peter tells the people who were amazed at the healing of a lame man that it is the power of God through the name of Jesus which healed him.*

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 John 3.1-7

*God lavishes his love on us as we are children of God.*

GOSPEL: Luke 24.36-48

*Jesus appears to his disciples after the resurrection and shows them his hands and his feet.*

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Easter 4**

FIRST READING: Acts 4.5-12

*When he is charged by the High Priest, Peter gives credit for healing the sick to Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ who is the only means of salvation.*

NEW TESTAMENT: John 10.11-18

*Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep.*

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April - Easter 5**

FIRST READING: Acts 8.26-end

*The Ethiopian official is eager to understand the scriptures. He is instructed by Philip and is then baptised.*

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 John 4.7-end

*God's love and ours. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.*

GOSPEL: John 15.1-8

*Jesus uses the familiar image of the vine to signify the covenant of faith between God and Jesus' disciples.*



## **THE PROBLEM OF LONELINESS**

To be or not to be.....that is the question - alone or feeling lonely. For years before Shakespeare and through to today, the question - well what are you going to do? is banded about whether one is retiring, bereaved or moving to another area to live. It probably never crosses one's mind whilst one is travelling through life's milestones - family with parents and siblings, schooling and college/university, family, armed services, caring for relatives then "you're on your own". What are you going to do? This subject is being studied widely because it is very apparent that loneliness leads to isolation then to disability with health deterioration a major problem unfortunately leading to an earlier passing than one's peers. It is also shown from follow-up surveys that even a small amount of activity - physical and/or mental can slow and prevent this deterioration with little or no cost.

A recent television programme showed the effect of introducing 5 year olds into an old peoples home where selected residents were matched with a child from the group and all were encouraged to do activities. One elderly bachelor said at the beginning that he could not see or understand what a 5 year old could do for him and he was too old to understand the child. At the end of the series this same gentleman was actually on the floor pretending to be a sleeping lion who roared when the children touched him!

So ....how is motivation stimulated especially if one is alone without your beloved partner, without the timetable of being employed, now the children have flown the nest or maybe you've both retired and have different interests? If you can recognise that you have time on your hands, are just fiddling around, passing the time "thinking", perhaps "stuck" with nothing to do. Curiosity is always there in the back of one's mind - it is sometimes called being nosy! and

there must be an interest that you've carried along all your working life and never had the time to develop - computer

skills, ancestry, learning a foreign language, learning a new sport - perhaps winter sports are not the first sport to start at retirement age but certainly dancing could be - as instanced by the increase in popularity since "Come Dancing" on television started. But maybe nothing springs to mind and the more you think about doing something, nothing appears. Maybe you are of a shy, slightly introverted personality, reticent about meeting new people, maybe you've done the bucket list - been there, done that got the T-shirt! Could you tell someone or write about your experiences? - even pass the article to Joanne for the magazine. Do you enjoy a pastime like gardening, plant growing, woodwork, general repairs in the home, do you bake - can you make a cake for a tea/coffee meeting - what's your favourite recipe? do you knit/sew/make garments?

A Loneliness Community meeting was held at the end of February to discuss what/how to overcome this awful feeling of isolation in many people - surveys show that Canford Cliffs has one of the highest number of lonely people! There are leaflets in the church giving details of activities - walks even cycling timetables, activities held in the Village hall, in church - Transfiguration, Holy Angels, All Saints, and others, in the Libraries in the Village and in Branksome on the Ashley Road. There is also information on Poole Community Transport - a support group to provide voluntary drivers for members of the scheme who are not able to use public transport and cannot use their own transport. Please ask about the leaflets if you cannot see them - more are available. At this meeting there were many interesting avenues discussed on how to motivate people into being just a little more active to improve their health - the major obstacle for Voluntary groups seems to be Health and Safety restrictions. However, here at Transfiguration church, under the guidance of Andrew, our Vicar, there are several options for people to come and share - Art group,

Craft group, coffee mornings, baby group, choir as well as the services on Sundays and during the week for festival celebrations and Wednesday mornings at the church of St Nicholas in Panorama Road. Sadly, the gardening group is no longer because no-one is able to regularly do what is necessary to keep the grounds controlled. However, if anyone has a suggestion/offer even, please discuss with Andrew. If readers would like to meet to discuss sharing the running of another group, please let someone know about it. We have very successful fetes during the year, Christmas parties and Christingle services. Can this camaraderie be repeated with another subject at another time in the year? With everyone pulling together, it is possible.

*Grace Martin.*

## **CONCERT AT THE LIGHTHOUSE**

The Broadstone Choir are working with four other local choirs: The Orlando Singers, Wareham Choral Society, Purbeck Arts Choir and Briantspuddle Singers, forming the Dorset Guild of Singers, approximately 200 in total. They are joined by a professional orchestra and soloists to perform Edward Elgar's magnificent choral work **The Dream of Gerontius**. The Guild is delighted to welcome internationally renowned tenor Joshua Ellicott to the demanding role of Gerontius.

Written in 1900 the work was based on a poem by Cardinal John Henry Newman. It is a spiritual tale of a devout man's journey to heaven.

Do not miss the opportunity to experience this profoundly moving and dramatic work which will be performed at the Lighthouse, Poole on **28th April**, 7.30pm. Tickets from The Lighthouse Box Office on 01202 280000 @ £16.75 or Tom

Moore 01202 707998 (tommoore12@outlook.com) @  
£15.00

## **Mary and Me**

But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus...' (read the story in Luke 1)

This month brings us the Annunciation, when we recall the moving encounter of the angel with Mary, as told in the gospel of Luke. Mary's reaction can encourage us in our own walk with God.

First of all, her trust and knowledge. Our trust in someone is built up only over time and depends on our knowledge of that other person. Mary trusted the angel immediately, so she must have known the Jewish Scriptures, and the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. This enabled her to recognise God's will in the voice of the angel. For us today, the better we know the Bible, the more we will be able to recognise God's calling on our own lives.

Secondly, her obedient willingness. Mary never asked 'why', she only asked 'how.' 'How will this be,' she said, 'since I am a virgin?' As soon as the angel told her, her response was 'let it be to me according to your word.' How could she react so quickly in this way? Because 'I am the Lord's servant.' Mary was only a young teenager, but she had already determined in her heart that she would follow God. She was his servant before this call came to her. For us

today, we need to be already in a relationship with God before we can hear His specific call on our lives.

Thirdly, her testimony. After the angel left Mary, she 'got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.' And Elizabeth rejoiced with her! 'Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished.' Today, we each of us need Christian friends with whom we can share our faith, and be encouraged.

Finally, Mary worshipped. Her magnificent song of love shows her genuine love for God: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour...' As for us, may our relationship with God be so real that we delight to praise and worship him. And may we allow God to carry out His plans for our life to full term as well.

*(adapted from an article by Norma Murrain of Silverfish Jewellery)*

### **Sir Ken Dodd endorses Book of Common Prayer**

Comedian Sir Ken Dodd, has given his backing to the Book of Common Prayer as his "guide to life".

A self-professed life-long devotee of the Prayer Book, Dodd described it as "beautifully-written".

Deeply rooted in the Bible, The Book of Common Prayer was created in 1549 as the traditional service book of the Church of England.

However, its 1662 revised version remains in use today as written by its author, Thomas Cranmer.

Sir Ken says he fondly remembers it from his choir days at the Church of St John the Evangelist in Knotty Ash in Liverpool and says it is, "in many ways, very up-to-date". The 89-year-old says while he enjoys the traditional language of the book - he would like to see it modernised so younger people can connect with it.

He thinks a combination of both, could be just what it needs, stating it would mean, "more to those struggling to cope with some of life's most basic problems, like keeping up with payments on the mortgage or the car, or coping with the care of sick children."

Nevertheless, he admits it would be a challenge for anyone to update a book that old.

Ken Dodd's terrific song:

Happiness, happiness, the greatest gift that I possess  
I thank the Lord I've been blessed  
With more than my share of happiness  
To me this old world is a wonderful place  
And I'm just about the luckiest human in the whole human race  
I've got no silver and I've got no gold  
Just a whole lot of happiness in my soul  
Happiness, happiness, the greatest gift that I possess  
I thank the Lord I've been blessed  
With more than my share of happiness  
Happiness to me is an ocean tide  
Or a sunset fading on a mountain side  
Or maybe a big old heaven full of stars up above  
When I'm in the arms of the one I love  
Happiness is a field of grain  
Lifting its face to the falling rain  
I can see it in the sunshine, I breathe it in the rain  
Happiness everywhere

*(article provided by Tom Moore and written by a Premier journalist)* I would just like to point out that the ASB and now Common Worship are attempts to modernise the language of the Book of Common Prayer. *(Andrew)*

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

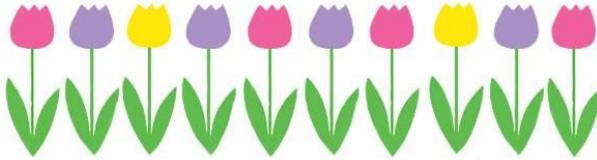
## **Baptism**

1<sup>st</sup> April

Lara Grace Beeny

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	The Guild
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Susanne King
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Wendy Bales
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Wendy Bales



## **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

The deadline for the May edition of the  
Church Magazine is  
**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April**