

A letter from Rev'd Aled Seago, Curate

Dear Friends,

The apostle Paul writes to a church in Corinth that, without the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, being a Christian is totally pointless. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then we must stop; close our building, cease our groups, burn our Bibles, not appoint a new vicar, and go off and do something else with our time.

Is the resurrection *that* big in our thoughts?

Rightly, as believers, we speak often of the cross; the place where Jesus made "a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world." The cross is where Jesus Christ took the punishment for our sin, in our place, and satisfies the right anger of God. And thus, we are placed in eternal relationship with the God of the universe. This is certainly a marvellous thing, that deserves to occupy our thoughts.

But what of the resurrection?

I confess for me it is often an afterthought; an addendum as I explain the Christian message.

But if Paul is right (which I of course believe he is), then we need to speak more of the comfort and hope we have of the resurrection. Because Jesus rose, and we are in him, *we will be raised too!*

Though we experience loss often, death still has that ability to shock us, surprise us. Why? As the writer of Ecclesiastes put it, "God has put eternity into the human heart." Ecclesiastes 3 is the passage I speak on most often as I take funerals – so I have spoken on it I think nearly 30 times since I was ordained.

We are made for living forever, which we have spoiled in sin, yet is given to us in Jesus, who carves the path ahead for us, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky. Let us lift our Lord's name on high this Easter!

"And we are raised with him, death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered!" – Stuart Townend.

Happy Easter from all of us at St George's and St Martin's,

In Christ,

Aled

April Lectionary

Date	Church Calendar	Reading 1	Reading 2
5 th	Palm Sunday	John 3: 22-36	Luke 23: 32-43
10 th	Good Friday	Ephesians 2: 1-10	Luke 23: 44-56
12 th	Easter Day	1 Corinthians 15: 0-58	Luke 24: 1-12
19 th	2nd Sunday of Easter	Ephesians 1: 1-10	Luke 24: 13-35
26 th	3rd Sunday of Easter	Testimonies	Testimonies

New Incumbent The churchwardens are very pleased to announce that subject to all formal legalities being fulfilled the Rev'd Matthew Swires-Hennessy, currently Associate Minister at St Peter's, Farnborough will be the next incumbent of Poynton Parish Church, St George with St Martin.

Matthew aged 39 is married to Kate who is a doctor working in A&E.

The date of the institution / induction service is not yet known. We anticipate it will be between July and September.



Coronavirus

The Leadership team are meeting regularly to monitor the situation and noting specifically the guidelines being published by the Church of England and the UK Government. A statement on how this affects the Parish, will be available and up-to-date, on both our church web site and Facebook page and also displayed on the entrance door to the church and hall at both St George's and St Martin's.

Almighty and All-loving God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we pray to you through Christ the Healer
for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19
in UK and across the world.
Give wisdom to policymakers,
skill to healthcare professionals and researchers,
comfort to everyone in distress
and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and
distress.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
who showed compassion to the outcast,
acceptance to the rejected
and love to those to whom no love was shown.
Amen.

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power
and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life
from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now
to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19.
May they feel Your power of healing through the care of
doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from
people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a
sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others
from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and
friends and bring peace to all who love them.
Amen.



With Christian Aid celebrating 75 years, Dr. Rowan Williams writes in the Christian Aid magazine:

"With every day that passes, it becomes more obvious that business as usual is not an option if we are to avoid a catastrophe that will weigh most heavily on the poorest of our human family."

He invites us all to stand together, give, act and pray, to stop this climate crisis.

Christian Aid Week 2020 6th - 11th May

Do put the date in your diary and support Linda Bell, our parish organiser.

Light of Christ

Light of Christ,
Light a fire of love in my heart,
Love to my family and my friends,
Love to my neighbour and the stranger,
Love to my community and all humanity,
Love for all creation and to each creature.
Let that love burn and never be extinguished.
Let it flame out and bring warmth to others.

Light and love of Christ,
You brighten our dark days,
You warm our cold hearts,
You burn away all hatred,
You enlighten and protect us.
Light of Christ,
Light a fire of love in my heart.

David Adam

And now we meet David Capener

My name is David Capener and I am married to Sarah and we have four children: Richard, Hannah, Charlotte and Olivia (I know I am biased, but they are great), we also have a much loved dog, Harvey. In the daytime, my job is a Head teacher of a Church of England Primary school and it is a job that has many responsibilities and times of real challenge, but is also a great blessing, especially to be able to share and live out the good news of Jesus. I have been in teaching for over 28 years now, and I still enjoy the job - when working with children, even when there are challenges, they just have the ability to bring moments of delight and humour.



I was licensed as a Reader in 2013. Both at my previous church (St. Mary's, Cheadle) and St. George's I had been encouraged by the leaders to get involved in leading and preaching. Despite being in teaching and quite happily waxing lyrical in front of 30 or 300 children, it was definitely outside my comfort zone- speaking to adults is a completely different order (especially adults you know and they know you). To be honest I resisted for a while and then when I started I was very self-conscious, would write out word for word what I was going to say, even when leading and would not sleep well the night before. One of the curates at my previous church was blunt, 'Are you more bothered about what other people think or what God may want you to do?' It may not sound it, but it was helpful question.

God has been good and has helped me to understand that it is not about me at all, it is about Him. When leading, my role is to help everyone in the congregation focus on worshipping God by making sure all is in place, any notices etc. are to make things as accessible as possible and to make everyone feel welcome. When preaching, my responsibility is not to say what I think, but to preach God's word faithfully and to support everyone in understanding and applying God's word –and really that is the work of the Holy Spirit...mine is simply to preach.

I still feel a sense of responsibility when leading, and especially when preaching, but I do feel it is what God wants me to do and has equipped me for. I consider it a great privilege and blessing to have the time to really get into a passage and try to understand it and see what God may want to say through the passage. I am blessed in that Sarah, my wife, is a 'willing' filter when I first have a read through of the draft version of a sermon I may be preparing...it is invaluable to have her encouragement and support.

I think as Lay Reader I am able to bring 'real life' experience to leading and preaching, living and working in the world and encountering all sorts of situations. Of course ordained ministers also live in the real world, but I think Lay Readers come from a wide range of backgrounds and combined with the ordained ministers we are able to add to the leading and preaching. My licence is just up for renewal and I am keen to continue as long as I feel it is God's calling for me...I would appreciate your prayers, that I would be faithful to God in ministry and life, would do it in His strength and for His glory.

Items for inclusion in the May 2020 copy of *Grapevine* to be submitted to Editor, Susan Warrington (s.warrington@uwclub.net), or to the Church Office by Tuesday 31st March 2020 and for the June 2020 issue by Tuesday, 5th May 2020

**Grapevine production on hold
until further notice**

The Joy of Ice Cream for the Joy of Freedom. Just-Ice is Served!



Late last year it was suggested to me by a contact at Chester Diocese that I should visit an exciting social justice initiative in Derby. I began to research Just-Ice Derby and their vision captured my imagination and has stayed with me ever since.

Gavin and Sally Murray were heading up a Baptist church near Wimbledon when they felt called to uproot their young family and move to Derby to work amongst victims of people trafficking. They have since created a social enterprise where they have great fun making the best premium ice cream you've ever tasted, using only natural and fair-trade ingredients. And at the same time creating sympathetic employment for survivors of human trafficking, restoring their dignity and giving them hope and a future.

Christine Buckley and I spent a day with Gavin last month. His story – and those of the recovering victims of modern slavery who he has been able to help since setting up Just-Ice – was the most moving and inspiring thing I have heard in a long time. People trafficking is a huge problem with 40.3 million people in forced labour, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude worldwide including here in the north of England, not very far from our own comfortable homes and lives. It is one of the most serious and barbaric crimes, profiting from human misery.

Modern slavery is where one person controls another by exploiting a vulnerability. It is often linked with human trafficking, where a person is forced into a service against their will – usually forced work or prostitution. The control can be physical, financial or psychological.

When I first heard about Just-Ice we were studying the early chapters of Isaiah at church and in home groups and I was struck by the themes coming out of our studies. Themes of injustice in society, of a social elite rising up and becoming obsessed with materialism whilst others were downtrodden.

And God crying out in compassion for people to take notice of his love and justice. As our sermon and study series has moved on to Luke's gospel, we've seen John the Baptist answering the questions of the crowds, the soldiers and the religious leaders by pointing out the same principle: share what you've got. Be fair. Do what you can to bring about justice in the world. And at the time of writing we're learning about Jesus going to those who were on the edges of society. Those who were marginalised, forgotten and ignored such as the man with an unclean spirit in Luke 4 and the paralysed man and the leper in Luke chapter 5. We've even seen Jesus setting out his manifesto in these early stages of his ministry:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me **to proclaim release to the captives**
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4v18-19).

I couldn't help but connect in my head and heart what Just-Ice are doing in setting an example of Christians living out Jesus's compassion in the world, with the very principles we have been learning as a church in our recent Bible teaching.

Just-Ice now have two ice cream cafes in the Derby area and two 'mobile ice cream shops' which they take out to events such as weddings, private functions and summer fun days. Named after William Wilberforce, Wilbur is a specially converted trike which can serve 6 different flavours of ice cream from under his parasol.

Rosa is a double horse box, which has been lovingly restored to be able to serve 10 ice cream flavours for an outdoor venue. She is designed for a garden setting or alongside other street food vendors. She also has the benefit of being able to serve milkshakes made from Just-Ice artisan ice cream and delicious waffles with an ice cream topping of choice. Of course, the cafes serve coffee, snacks, homemade soup and light lunches as well as the delicious home-made ice cream.



Just-Ice say this about their values:

OUR VALUES ARE Freedom, fairness, fun and friendship

*We are a family business who love using the joy of ice cream for the joy of **freedom**.*

*Only **Fair trade** vanilla, chocolate and sugar is good enough for us and we only use natural delicious ingredients in our ice creams and sorbets.*

*We bank with Reliance bank and are working for a carbon neutral footprint to ensure we are trading as ethically and **fairly** as possible.*

*We have a whole lot of **fun**!*

*We believe that no one should be forced into slavery. We intend to be a voice for those that have no voice, create community and **friendship** through providing employment and stability for survivors of modern slavery.*

If you're enthused by Just-Ice's vision as Christine and I were, check out www.just-ice.org or follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JustIceCreamUK>. And please do have a word with one of us.

Gavin & Sally's vision is to expand Just-Ice into their neighbouring counties through franchise opportunities with like-minded partners. Could it be a future project for Poynton I wonder?

Jo Rodman

All things were made through Him and without Him was not anything made that was made

Air, birds, creeping things, day, elephants, frogs goas, hippos, ice, jaguars, kangaroos, light, mankind, night, oranges, penguins, quadrupeds, rain, snow, trees, universe, vegetation, water, x-ray fish, yuccas, zebras.

A brief alphabetic view of God's diverse and awesome creative power.

Rosanne Alcraft



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A Date for your Diary



Mike and Chris Bird (14 Milton Drive)
are holding a

Coffee (ONLY) Morning

Saturday 4th April 2020

10.30 - 12.30

in support of MIND
Everybody welcome.

Do come along and support this very worthwhile cause
also

The Birds would like to thank those who came along to the Poetry Group on the first Wednesday in each month. However, as so few attended they have decided to close the Group. Thanks for your support.

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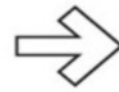
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An Easter Anthem

When you prayed beneath the trees,
it was for me, O Lord:

When you cried upon your knees,
how could it be, O Lord?

When in blood and sweat and tears,
you dismissed your final fears,
When you faced the soldiers' spears,
you stood for me, O Lord?

When their triumph looked complete,
it was for me, O Lord.

O Lord! When you faced the mob alone,
you were silent as a stone,
and a tree became your throne;
you came for me, O Lord.

When you stumbled up the road,
you walked for me, O Lord;
When you took your deadly load,
that heavy tree, O Lord;
When they lifted you on high,
and they nailed you up die,
and when darkness filled the sky,
it was for me, O Lord.

*Words are by Christopher Idle
and Music by Lloyd Larson.*



A Special Lenten Fast

Give up harsh words	use generous ones
Give up unhappiness	take up gratitude
Give up anger	take up gentleness and patience
Give up pessimism	take up hope and optimism
Give up worrying	take up trust in God
Give up complaining	value what you have
Give up stress	take up prayer
Give up judging others	find Jesus within them
Give up sorrow and bitterness	fill your heart with joy
Give up selfishness	take up compassion for others
Give up being unforgiving	learn reconciliation
Give up words	fill yourself with silence and listen to others.

Anonymous Latin America

Daisies

There is an old saying "when you can stand on seven daisies at once then Spring has come." I like daisies with their bright yellow middles and tiny petals. If you look closely, you'll see that not all the daisies in any lawn will be white, some of them are edged with pink. When I was little I asked my Mum why and she told me this story to explain why.



'On that first Easter morning, when Jesus walked in the garden and was seen by Mary and the other women who thought he was a gardener, his bare feet touched just some of the daisies in the grass. And because he still had the wound in his feet his blood touched the daisies and marked their petals pink'.

I love this story and still to this day I feel sorry for the daisies that Jesus didn't touch - because when Jesus touches our lives all things change and Spring comes into our hearts forever.

Cross

A
structure
or symbol,
consisting of
just two intersecting lines or pieces
that are at right angles to each other,
forming a cross.
Made of wood,
Rough beams
fixed.

A
structure
utilised
to crucify
wrong-doers, who were nailed or tied to it.
A cruel death, laboured breath, tortured thirst.
Such agony,
suffering,
a slow death.

The
emblem of belief
for Christians.
A reminder of Christ's death on the cross.
A full and complete sacrifice for all.
God's only son.
Atonement
for all
sin.

Three
beams on
Jesus's cross.
Two structural,
one a beaming radiance of pure light.
The light of the world sending God's message
of divine love
across the
entire
world.

Rosanne Alcraft



April 2020

Services will be held in St George's **Church** unless otherwise stated.

Thursday 2nd	10.30 am	Midweek Holy Communion
Sunday 5th	9.30 am	Parish Communion
Palm Sunday	10.00 am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
	11.00 am	All age Service
	12.30 pm	Churches Together in Poynton cross dedication
	6.30 pm	Prayer First
Monday 6th		No meetings

For Easter Services please see page 5



Monday 13th		No meetings
Thursday 16th	10.30 am	Midweek Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	9.30 am	Morning Prayer
2nd Sunday of Easter	10.00 am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Monday 20th	7.00 pm	Property
Thursday 23rd	10.30 am	Midweek Holy Communion
St George's Day		

24th-26th April - Parish Weekend Away— cancelled

Sunday 26th	9.30 am	Parish Communion
3rd Sunday of Easter	10.00 am	Morning Prayer at St Martin's
	11.00 am	Morning Prayer
Monday 27th	7.00 pm	Children + Youth
	8.15 pm	Prayer Ministry
Thursday 30th	10.30 am	Midweek Holy Communion

May 2020

Sunday 3rd	9.30 am	Parish Communion
4th Sunday of Easter	10.00 am	Holy Communion at St Martin's
	11.00 am	All age Service
	6.30 pm	Prayer First

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

The family and friends of those who have recently died

4 th March	Elaine Milner	aged 71
10 th March	Lois Rachel Wallach	aged 83
17 th March	Sheila Giddings	aged 85



Easter Weather has some impact on farming according to old country custom:

"Rain on Good Friday or Easter Day,
A good crop of hops, but a bad one of hay."

But equally,

"If the sun shines on the altar during service on Easter Day
there will be a good harvest".

Apple growers relied on this observation of the early blossoms:

"If the blossom comes in March
For apples you may search.
If the blossom comes in April
You may gather a bag full.
If the blossom comes in May
you will gather apples every day."

The first computer dates back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with limited memory - just one byte. And then everything crashed.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Robin Roth (manager of Traidcraft) wrote an interesting reflection about 'Healthy Soil'. Robin had met Vandana Shiva, who runs a small model farm, north of Delhi.

On the farm she encourages farmers to take seeds from the seed bank, use them for free, sell the crop and return a percentage for storage and use the following year. The aim of the process is seed diversity, which prevents large companies from decoding the genetic sequence of a seed and patenting it (thereby enabling them to charge farmers to use it).

Shiva is an alternate Nobel prize winner, a serial litigator against, (and frequent vanquisher of) Monsanto, a public crusader against corporate malpractice and adored defender of farmer rights across India.

Asked by Robin "What is the most important thing for a small farmer - the thing she needs more than anything else to ensure survival." She replied quietly "Healthy soil." Questioned further by Robin "What about a secure income - or a good price for the crop - surely that's more important?"

She replied again 'Healthy soil.'

Another Fairtrade pioneer scooped up a handful of living, breathing sweet smelling earth and said to Robin "There are more living organisms in this handful of earth than there are stars in the universe. If you spray this with pesticide you will kill nearly all of them. Then you don't have soil any more, you have dust."

If we are serious about Fairtrade we need to be serious about all farmers everywhere.

From Sidmouth Parish Church Magazine

Ark 2

God asked Noah to build another ark. "You must be joking" said Noah. "No", replied God, "and this time I want it five storeys high". "What ever for?" said Noah, aghast. "How will you fill such a big ark?". "With carp" replied God. "Carp?" queried Noah, "Why?" "Because you will be building a five storey carpark."

How Would you Get There

A 'Transport of Delight

1. What crossed the English Channel for the first time in 1785?
2. Ill-fated luxury ship?
3. Would teachers of acting use this?
4. Two forms of old currency?
5. Was this a good looking taxi?
6. Chocolate bar without frills?
7. A taxi in a boat?
8. You can throw this away?
9. Is this a sleeping ruminant?
10. It might contain gravy?
11. A backless shoe?
12. Bitterness for a very time?
13. Be dull with an 'h'?
14. Promotion of a new product?
15. Part of a walkway to the mountain top?
16. A salad ingredient for space?
17. Push your way onto this?
18. A bride's apparel?
19. Squeeze it for toothpaste?
20. A pile of hay we definitely hear?
21. A hundred seeks divine revelation?
22. Vagrant doesn't have a quiet end?
23. Maybe you wouldn't do a long trip in one of these?
24. Was this available to all in Ancient Rome?

Answers in next month's edition of Grapevine

Tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, the largest fire in history, floods, war and now a virus that seems unstoppable, causing untold fear and panic around the world and people are fighting to take God out of everything???

Seems to me God is sending an awfully loud message!!!!

Sent in by Pam Timperley