
CROSSPIECE



The Parish Magazine of St James's Church, Cambridge

April — May 2019

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Spring
Blossom
on Queen
Edith's
Way

Words from the Vicarage

Dear Readers,

How we experience the world is determined by a number of influences. One very powerful influence is what we have been brought up to believe. As we grow we may reject various conditions that we no longer hold to be true or valuable; we absorb new experiences and they will either affirm or challenge the values that we were told about when we were young. In my twenties I remember reading William Blake's 'Songs of Innocence and Experience' and understanding that in Blake's poetry was the urge to experience life for all it might offer, that it was inevitable that we would experience hurt and pain in order to know love and joy. You can't pluck a rose without risking pricking your finger.

The Easter story of Christ's Passion, of his entrance into Jerusalem, amidst the high expectations of his followers, of his arrest and trial, of his crucifixion and his rising to new life, offers a story of joy, disappointments, sorrow, followed by joy again. It taps into the way our lives are lived in great cycles of experiences.

Christianity is a mystery religion; the story of Christ's resurrection is a mystery and asks a lot of our belief and imagination. It still amazes me how we have 'normalised' Christianity to such an extent that we view being a Christian as conforming to the establishment, despite the fact that at the heart of the faith is a story about a person who defies what is normal and established - he controls the weather, walks on water, and raises the dead. How on earth have we turned all of that into something so commonplace that to go to church means being seen as conforming to the establishment?

Christianity began as a minority cult, a group of Jewish people who wanted to follow the practices and teachings of Jesus. Over many generations it has become something both awesome and awful, joyful and joyless. My desire is that Christianity can be experienced as a series of real and mysterious parables that illumine our minds and open our hearts to the possibilities of love. May that be true for each of us this Eastertide.

Revd Steven Rothwell



Soup and Conviviality

The third and final pastoral lunch of Winter 2018 – 19 took place on Thursday 14 March. Twenty people from the congregation and the local community gathered in the Study Centre to enjoy each other's company, and the lunch of home-made soup and bread rolls – a choice this time between tomato and lentil, or spicy parsnip. There was a happy buzz of conversation from the start, as people renewed acquaintance with old friends or made new ones. They were served by members of the pastoral group, who circulated between the tables with the serving trolley to make sure that all needs were met.

The soup course was followed by a dessert of apple or apricot crumble, with custard or cream; there was the option of fresh fruit for those who preferred it. There is no speaker or activity provided at these lunches, which are purely social occasions, but the conversations did not flag. Pastoral group members sat with the invited guests, and we were delighted that Steve joined us for some of the time and enjoyed a bowl of soup.

During the Summer, starting in May, we will provide teas every two months. We have found that different people come on each occasion, so that a total of more than forty different folk have attended a lunch or a tea-party during the past two years. There is no charge for a lunch or tea-party, but guests have donated generously towards the cost of the food provided.

On April 2nd we will introduce a new pastoral activity. This will be a free drop-in Friendship Café, suitable for all ages (apart from unaccompanied children), where there will be tea, coffee, and biscuits for all comers. A variety of simple games and jig-saw puzzles will be available

for those who would enjoy them, but people tell us that they most enjoy the opportunity to chat with one another. See the flyer on page 9 for more details of this new enterprise and come along to support it. We hope that this will be an opportunity to engage with more folk from the wider Queen Edith's community and not only those who are churchgoers.

Mary Calladine

Thank you to our Authorised Lay Ministers Mary Calladine and Rosemary Monk and their team for organising the pastoral lunches this winter.

The photos below and left were taken by Jennifer Day to show the friendly atmosphere and lively conversations at the March pastoral lunch.



Peace of Mind - at a Price

I have bought myself a stairlift. It is wonderful, the best toy I have ever possessed. Each morning I feel like one of those gods in a 17th century opera descending onto the stage slowly and majestically from on high. Like Jacob's angels on their ladder I could go up and down all day. I'm thinking of charging visitors for a ride.

Age UK is associated with a stairlift company which I approached first of all for a quotation. I have a high regard for Age UK, they have done a superb job making my home and garden more old-age friendly. A nice lady came to demonstrate the machine on her iPad, to measure up and to tell me the cost which seemed reasonable. And then she came to the "good news", after the free warranty had expired in two years I could purchase another which would give me a troublefree mind and cost only £240 per year. To which my response was outrage and the sales interview came to a rapid end. A couple of days later the Sales Manager rang to ask if I had made up my mind and to whom I repeated what I had said to his sales' representative: "It seems to me that this is not so much help the aged as exploit the aged". Except I used a shorter and more vivid word than 'Exploit'.

The next day a representative from another company - one of the leaders in this field - arrived to go through a similar ritual. I was impressed, especially since the price was several hundred pounds less than the previous day's quote. "And how much does your warranty cost when the free one expires?" I asked. "One hundred and sixty pounds" he replied, but then went on to tell me that his mother-in-law had a stairlift, had no warranty and had never had to make an expensive emergency call. In two days this company's product was installed.

£160 is high, £240 is shockingly high, even more so from an organisation devoted to the welfare of the elderly. I wonder how many vulnerable old folk have purchased this

platinum-plated insurance policy. But even if it had been significantly less expensive than the cheaper one it would not be for me. A little known piece of legislation, The Consumer Rights Act 2015, gives statutory protection for up to 6 years provided the goods should be expected to remain in working order for that time and that they have been properly used and cared for. The right is against the one from whom the goods have been purchased. A stairlift is a robust piece of equipment and I am confident that the Statute gives me all the protection I need.

I have relied on this Act on three occasions - the replacement of a faulty clutch by a small service garage, a hot water tank installed by British Gas and a piece of kitchen equipment bought from John Lewis. What is significant and disturbing is that on each occasion representatives of the company involved have denied any knowledge of the legislation: understandable in the case of a small garage, inexcusable coming from such prestigious companies as British Gas and John Lewis. Not until I informed a senior complaints person at British Gas that I intended getting a local plumber to do the job and then making a claim against them in the Small Claims Court for the costs involved and adding that I was an elderly man reduced to carrying hot water about the house, which was dangerous and might result in further liability for them did I get a response. The engineer was on the doorstep the following morning. The rather superior young man in John Lewis' electrical department was very sniffy when I sought to get a replacement for an expensive and badly designed blender. He gave the impression he thought I was making it all up. When I wrote to the store manager I said the assistant's response had either been less than truthful or he had been badly trained. "Was he dissimulating or were his managers incompetent?" I asked. I received a replacement but I have been waiting for several

(Continued on page 5)

years for an answer to my question. Clearly this is not a popular piece of legislation with retailers, but persistence will wear them down. It helps that I am a barrister who has lectured in commercial law, but you don't have to be a specialist - this legislation is for everyone, as is the Small Claims Court where no legal expertise is necessary.

PS: A few days after purchasing my stairlift I received a phone call from one of their representatives offering me a five-year warranty to take effect after their free one-year warranty expires, the cost was five hundred and ninety-five pounds! I replied that I considered my six-year statutory protection was adequate, to which his response was that a stairlift is a fixture

and unlike white goods is not covered by the Act. This is a patent untruth, made either out of ignorance or with deliberation. Either way I regard it as an attempt to mis-sell me insurance and have reported it to the relevant Ombudsman's service. I have added in my letter to this department that most stairlift customers will be elderly like myself and their actuarial life expectancy could be well below the five-year period covered by such a policy, my own, for example is statistically less. This makes these insurance policies very profitable indeed and it is not surprising that some salespeople may become a little economical with the truth.

Geoffrey Howard

Cambridge Half Marathon

You will know that we have a very sporty family living in the Vicarage, and they are especially keen runners. A few weeks ago Steve took part in the Cambridge Half Marathon and many of us sponsored him. We particularly wanted to back him as he was raising funds for Alzheimer's Research UK. The run started and finished on Midsummer Common in fairly miserable

weather. He was just one of 10,000 runners taking part, and 140 of those were running to raise funds for ARUK. Steve himself raised around £1,000, so the total boost for the charity must have been considerable. He says, 'I'm very grateful for the support and generosity of people'.



Lent Groups 2019

The Lent course this year uses material supplied by the Diocese of Ely, and is based on the Sunday Lectionary readings for Lent. The theme is “Your Call”, and the course is a spiritual journey to make during Lent, exploring in a group together how each of us responds to Jesus's call to follow him.

The first session was titled “The Call to Holiness”, and we studied Romans chapter 10 verses 8 – 13, Deuteronomy chapter 26 verses 1 – 11, and Luke chapter 4 verses 1 – 13. The passage from Romans told us that God's word is near us, “on our lips and in our heart”. We discussed in small groups the questions, “have you ever had a sense of being blessed by an experience?” and “have you ever had a sense that something was a bad idea/dangerously wrong, even though it was not obviously bad?”.

These questions led to some interesting discussions. Some felt that feeling blessed is an everyday occurrence, while others found it less so. We also thought that the Holy Spirit works through our own intuition, and that this is partly based on life experience, but might sometimes be a divine warning, none the less, we should be ready to take risks for God, and not always play safe and avoid difficult situations. We also spoke of finding blessing in hard times, and a sense of our particular talents being used by God.

The Deuteronomy reading, reminding the

Israelites of God's actions in their release from slavery in Egypt, and journey through the wilderness to the “promised land”, and explaining the obligation of sacrifice, or giving in response to thankfulness, proved more contentious and led to a lively debate. Some of us felt that this was a difficult passage, speaking as it did of Israel's God-given right to conquer and subdue (even massacre) the indigenous people of the region, and leading directly to the most extreme forms of Zionism today. Or in a Christian context leading to a “prosperity gospel” - i.e. “trust in God, and he will give you material blessings”.

We also felt that some folk would not be able to look back on their life journey with thankfulness, for example if they were homeless, street-sleeping drug addicts, or even an elderly person developing dementia, and feeling a loss of control of their lives.

Maybe we should have concentrated on the simple message of giving thanks for our own blessings, by giving sacrificially for others in more unhappy or desperate circumstances; but it is important to be prepared to think through difficult ideas and to question simplistic interpretations.

We left with some spiritual exercises to practise during the coming week. This first week of the course, I attended the Wednesday evening group, where there were nine of us, led by Steve Ridley. On Tuesday morning there had been three attendees plus vicar, Steve, leading the group. It will be interesting to see how our thinking and spiritual awareness develops as we approach Easter.

Mary Calladine



Choral Evensong at St James'

Out of the English Reformation grew one of the greatest gems of Anglican worship: Evensong. The words of the Book of Common Prayer, some of the finest English prose, form a profound spiritual liturgy. When musical settings are added, the sublime art form of Evensong takes shape.

On March 17th, Edward Westrip as part of his preordination training, led a traditional choral evensong at St. James's. For a few of the congregation (and choir), the service was novel. For the older worshippers, particularly those frequenting college chapels, the words may have been familiar since childhood. The choir, ably conducted by Nick Lee, reveled in a varied choral bonanza.

After an introit, Edward read with great dignity and a sense of the rhythm of the text the penitential sentence and bidding: a greater emphasis on a humble approach to worship than found in modern liturgies. But the mood lifts through psalm and scripture to the outpouring of joy of the sung Magnificat and settles to a quiet-

er calm in the Nunc Dimittis. After the responses and prayers, which were chanted, the rubric quaintly states "in Quires and Places where they sing here followeth the Anthem." The Elgar was most apt for the occasion: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor."

We are most grateful to Edward for letting us share in this beautiful service and congratulate him on his thoughtful presentation. Thanks also to Cheyney Payne for playing the organ.

Choral Music:

Introit: "Thou knowest Lord" Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)

Preces and Responses: William Smith (1603 – 1645).

Canticles: Brewer in D. Herbert Brewer (1865 – 1928)

Anthem: "The Spirit of the Lord" Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Hatty Harris

Poem: A Photo of my eye

how could I harm creation?
the delicate tissue of the soul?
the frond-like vessels that carry blood
and make me whole

it is there but we cannot see it
we need machines to see the heart
the walnut structures of the brain
the tree-like branches of the lungs
where can I start
to praise the make of this art?

Linda Appleby

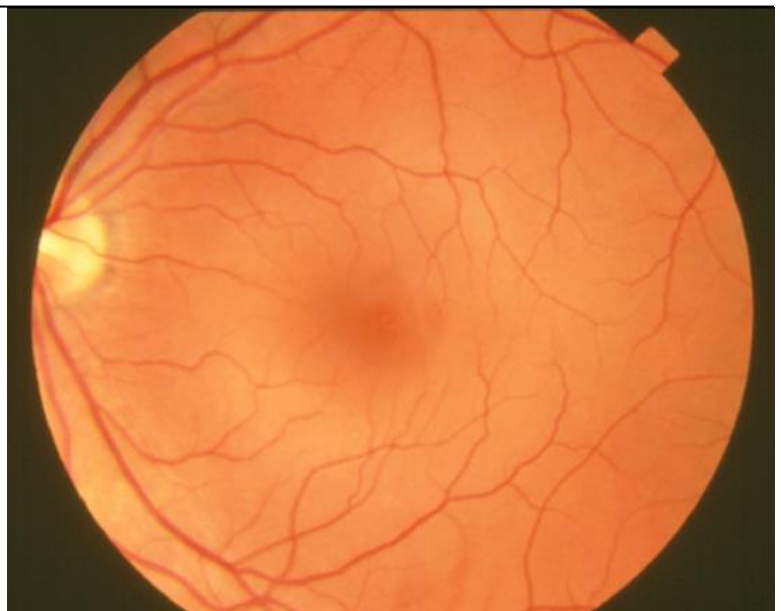


Image of a normal retina from the National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health (USA). Reproduced under Creative Commons.

Exploring Churches: Lange Nacht der Kirchen and Ride, Drive and Strive

Last year I was in Vienna in late May and was intrigued to hear about (and sorry to miss out on) the 'Lange Nacht der Kirchen' (Long Night of Churches). This is an annual event, now held across the whole of Austria, where churches of all denominations are invited to open throughout a specific evening, in some cases until midnight. In 2018 it took its motto from 1 Chronicles 9:27 - "And they would spend the night near the house of God".

The churches participating include some normally closed to the public and represent a very wide range of Christian communities, including Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. Many host discussion sessions, special services, childrens activities, concerts or drama events, as well as providing hospitality and tours for visitors. It encourages opportunities for ecumenical exploration of beliefs and worship styles as well as buildings.

The Lange Nacht is aimed not only at current churchgoers but also local residents and visitors from further afield who are interested in finding out more about a particular church or taking part in the many and varied cultural activities of the evening. By chance I will be arriving in Vienna again on the relevant day in May this year and will be looking at the programme with interest.

Hearing about the Lange Nacht made me think about the density of churches and chapels in and near Cambridge, many of which I have never entered in the nearly two decades over which I have been a resident or regular visitor.

A more local opportunity for exploring church buildings is provided by the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust 'Ride Drive and Stride'. This event invites those with a church connection to visit as many churches as possible within a single day (typically the second Saturday in September, coinciding with Heritage Open Days), raising sponsorship money per church visited to be shared between the Trust and a nominated church.

Parallel but separate 'Ride and Stride' events are organised by similar organisations in other counties, such as the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and Friends of Essex Churches Trust. The emphasis on walking and cycling between the visited churches has echoes of pilgrimage. My mother was an enthusiastic cycling participant in the Oxfordshire version for many years, visiting both urban and rural churches across a wide area.

Cambridgeshire churches are encouraged to open their doors and provide hospitality for visitors during the day, though there is less focus on exploring other aspects of church activities and the level of coordination between neighbouring counties seems limited. The Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust uses the money raised to give interest-free loans and grants to support repairs and improvements to places of worship in Cambridgeshire.

While one day I would like to participate in the 'Ride Drive and Stride' through St James', I wonder whether there might also be an opportunity to follow the Austrian Lange Nacht example in Cambridge. It could be a joyful and creative celebration of the many and varied churches within the city, opening physical and metaphorical doors to the wider community as well as facilitating ecumenical dialogue.

Christina Hood

Details of the 2019 Ride Drive and Stride should appear on the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches website nearer September (www.camhct.uk).

24.05.19
LANGE NACHT
DER KIRCHEN



Friendship Cafe'

at

*St James's Church, Wulfstan Way,
Cambridge, CB1 8QJ*

Everyone Welcome

Tuesday 2nd April 2019

2 to 3.30 p.m.

Drop in for a 'cuppa'



Chat about old times, or current affairs

Or try a board game or jigsaw



Suitable for any age



No Charge

Opening on the first Tuesday of each month

Holiday Lunch Club

On 8th April St James' will host its third holiday lunch club, in partnership with Cambridge City Council. Family activities start at 12 noon with lunch provided from 1 pm.

More information can be obtained from Patrick Brown on 07920 210959 or Patrick.brown@cambridge.gov.uk

A Spring-Clean at St James's Church

As in more domestic circumstances, inevitably in a Church there comes a time when a Spring-Clean becomes necessary. So recently a diligent band of parishioners, led by our Churchwarden, gathered at St James's on a Saturday morning to exercise this earthly ritual. Ecclesiastical nooks and crannies were investigated, preserving the wanted and useful items found while judiciously disposing of much else. A lot of scouring and dusting was done. *Crosspiece* offers grateful thanks to the team.

The photo shows Maureen carrying out some high-level dusting.



MONDAY 15 APRIL, 7.30 pm

Stations of the Cross

Using 14 pictures to aid us we will meditate on Jesus' journey to the Cross

**GOOD FRIDAY (19th April),
10 am - 12 noon**

Easter Fun

Activity morning for children and families

Contacts at St James's Church**Priest in charge:**

The Revd Steve Rothwell

email: s.rothwell3@btinternet.com

Churchwarden:

Pam Butler, 07745 591235

email: pambutler27@hotmail.com

Pastoral Assistants:

Mary Calladine 246742

Rosemary Monk 246421

Church Office:

246419, Mon, Wed & Thur 9.15 am - 1.15 pm

e-mail: stjameschurchcambridge@yahoo.co.uk

Website: <http://stjamescambridge.org.uk>**Director of Music:**

Nick Lee nk127@cam.ac.uk

The Music Group:

Grae Worster on mgw1@cam.ac.uk

Church & Community Activities**Choir practice:****(Mon)** Juniors 6.30pm; Whole choir 7pm**Beavers (6-8 yrs):**

Brendan Murrill 07561 137493

Cubs (8-11 yrs) at QE School

Stephen Harrison 07548 765421

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**DEADLINE FOR JUNE-JULY ISSUE of
*CROSSPIECE***

Friday 17th May

The Editors welcome articles, news items and photographs for inclusion in the magazine. If possible these should be in digital form, photos and words in separate files. However we can accept typed or handwritten items and photographic prints.

St James's Church, Cambridge: Calendar for April - May 2019

*Morning Prayer is said on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9.30 am.
Everyone is welcome.*

April

2nd 10.00 am Lent Group 3/5
2.00 pm Friendship Cafe
3rd 10.15 am Eucharist at Dunstan Court
7.30 pm Lent Group 3/5
5th 1.30 pm Meditation Group
6th 5.00 pm Youth Group

7th 5th SUNDAY OF LENT

8.00 am Eucharist (BCP) followed by Lent breakfast
10.00 am All Age Eucharist
Local children on school holiday
8th Holiday Lunch Club
9th 10.00 am Lent Group 4/5
3.30 pm Funeral in church
10th 10.15 am Eucharist
7.30 pm Lent Group 4/5

14th PALM SUNDAY

8.00 am Eucharist (no Lent breakfast)
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Palm Procession
15th 7.30 pm Stations of the Cross
16th 10.00 am Lent Group 5/5
7.30 pm Taizé Service
17th 10.15 am Eucharist
7.30 pm Lent Group 5/5
18th 7.30 pm Eucharist of the Last Supper & Vigil
19th 10.00 am 'Easter Fun' activity morning for all ages
20th 7.30 pm Vigil Service

21st EASTER DAY

10.00 am All Age Eucharist followed by Easter egg hunt
22nd *Bank holiday*
24th 10.15 am Eucharist
26th 1.30 pm Meditation Group
27th 10.00 am Bring & Buy Coffee Morning with Book Stall

28th 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School

May

1st 10.15 am Eucharist at Dunstan Court
2nd *CHURCH IN USE FOR POLLING PURPOSES*
3rd 1.30 pm Meditation Group
4th 5.00 pm Youth Group

5th 3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00 am PMC led service "Seeking God's Way Together" with Communion

6th Bank Holiday

7th 2.00 pm Friendship Cafe
8th 10.15 am Eucharist
10th 1.30 pm Meditation Group

12th 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
15th 10.15 am Eucharist
16th 7.30 pm Men's Beer Ministry at Queen Edith Pub
17th 1.30 pm Meditation Group

19th 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
22nd 10.15 am Eucharist
23rd Archdeacon's Visitation to the Deanery, with evening service at St John's Hills Road
24th 1.30 pm Meditation Group
25th 10.00 am Bring & Buy Coffee Morning with Book Stall

26th 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist with Sunday School
27th *Bank Holiday. Local children on school half term week.*
29th 10.15 am Eucharist
30th 7.30 pm (tbc) Ascension Day service at St John's Hills Road, led by Revd Steve Rothwell
31st 1.30 pm Meditation Group