

# ***CHURCH MATTERS***

The monthly newsletter of the Church of Ireland  
United Parish of Whitehead & Islandmagee.

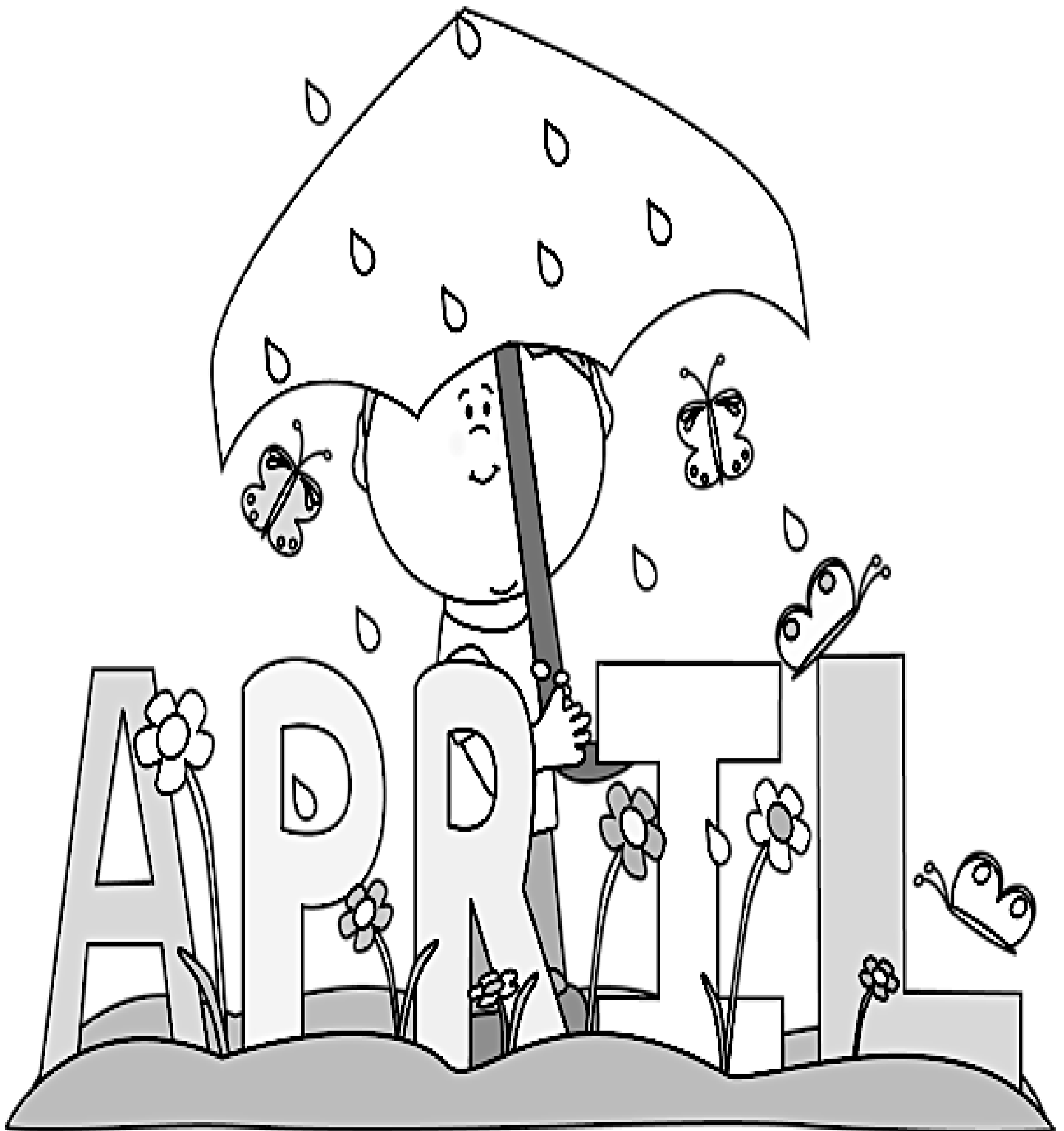
***Here everyone matters***

***April 2024***



**ST. PATRICK'S  
& ST. JOHN'S**

UNITED PARISH OF  
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE



# April Services & Readings

## HOLY WEEK

**Our Holy Week evening Services will be at 7:30 p.m. in St Patrick's**  
Come and share with us as we worship together and read from the story of Jesus last week on earth. We will be reading from, and learning from, St John's story of Jesus last days - to be found in the Gospel According to St John chapters 12-13; and on Good Friday chapters 18-19

### **Monday 25th Irish Vigils**

John 12:1-11 - Jesus Anointed at Bethany

### **Tuesday 26th - Compline**

John 12:20-36 - Jesus Predicts His Death

### **Wednesday 27th The Litany**

John 13:21-32 - Jesus Predicts his Betrayal

### **Thursday 28th Holy Communion**

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 - Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet and Gives a New Commandment

### **Friday 29th The Three Hours - 12noon to 3:00 p.m.**

John 18:1-11 - Jesus Arrested

John 18:12-18 - Jesus Taken to Annas, Peter's First Denial,

John 18:19-27 - The High Priest Questions Jesus , Peter's Second and Third Denial

John 18:28-40 - Jesus before Pilate,

John 19:1-16 - Jesus Sentenced to be Crucified by Pilate,

John 19:17 - 27 - Jesus Crucified,

John 19:28-37 - The Death of Jesus

### **Friday 29th - Late Evening Office**

John 19:38-42 - Jesus Burial

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - EASTER DAY**

6:30 a.m. Dawn Service at the Castlevue Car Park, Whitehead

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One

10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion Two

Sunday Readings - Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18

Readers for first Lesson - Colin de Fleury / Maureen Reid

7:00 p.m. No evening service on Easter Day

Weekday Readings: Exodus 12-14; Psalms 15-28; 1 Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 4:16 - 5:10

### **Sunday 7th April - 2nd Sunday of Easter**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer  
Sunday Readings - Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, John 20:19-31  
Readers for first Lesson - Bobby Herron / Ann Thompson  
7:00 p.m. Compline  
Weekday Readings: Exodus 15-17; Psalms 29 - 42; 1 Peter 1 - 5

### **Sunday 14th April - 3rd Sunday of Easter**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. - Messy Church  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer  
Sunday Readings - Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; Luke 24:36b-48  
Reader for Lesson - Jane Robinson / Alan Haywood  
7:00 p.m. Compline  
Weekday Readings: Exodus 18 - 24; Psalms 43 - 56; Colossians 1 - 4

### **Sunday 21st April - 4th Sunday of Easter**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Morning Prayer  
Sunday Readings - Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; John 10:11-18  
Readers for first Lesson - Trevor Peoples / Joy Kerr  
7:00 p.m. Compline  
Weekday Readings: Exodus 32-40; Psalms 57 - 70; 1 Thessalonians 1-4

### **Sunday 28th April - 5th<sup>h</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
11:30 a.m. Family Service  
Sunday Readings - Acts 8:26-40;  
Readers for first Lesson - The Rector  
7:00 p.m. Compline  
Weekday Readings: Leviticus 8 - 19; Psalms 71 - 84; 1 Thessalonians 5  
- 2 Thessalonians 2

### **Sunday 5th May - 6th Sunday of Easter - Rogation Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion One  
10:30 a.m. & 12 noon Holy Communion  
Sunday Readings - Epistle Acts 10:44-48; Gospel John 15:9-17  
Readers for first Lesson - Corrine Logan / Jim Reid  
7:00 p.m. Compline  
Weekday Readings: Leviticus 25-26; Psalms 85 - 92; 2 Thessalonians 3

# A message from our Rector

All is well. God is in his heaven and all is well - or so we like to think.

During March we were very busy. A Table Quiz; Mothering Sunday Messy Church, in Church (with over 80 people involved in two Church services); a link service with St Patrick's in Washington DC (which went really well); well attended Holy Week services ( which will only be happening after I write this) and our Easter celebration of the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will be looking for a quiet April to make up for this.



All of these things are part and parcel of our Church life.

The celebration and thanksgiving for our mothers and for our mother church on Mothering Sunday was made all the better by the inclusion of many of our children and younger families. It was great to see them welcomed and made to feel an important part of our worship. It was also great to do things a bit differently, as often that makes us look more closely at what we do and its meaning. For me the Prayer Net is the big take away from that service. Rather than listening to the thoughts and prayers of others, as we sit or kneel with our eyes closed, we became active in our prayers. It was not a matter of having the right words to say, nor yet of having the right ideas for our prayers, it was just the simple act of getting up and attaching a ribbon to the net. The colour indicates the topic of your prayer and the words and thoughts in your heart are understood by God. This is some thing that we will do again as we all offer our own prayers. In the future, when we do it again, you can even bring your own ribbon with you to add your own prayer for whatever it is you want to bring before God. Strangely a colleague, who saw our Prayer Net and asked me what it was about, has said "I am stealing that idea, it sounds like a fantastic way for people to be involved in prayer together."

Our link service, on St Patrick's day, with St Patrick's Church in Washington DC is a great chance to share in worship with others. To find that they value our prayers for them and the chance to share as part of the world wide Church. It would be much easier to share a Church service with people in a church in Carrickfergus or in Larne, or even with other churches in Whitehead and Islandmagee, but it is just not the same. Here

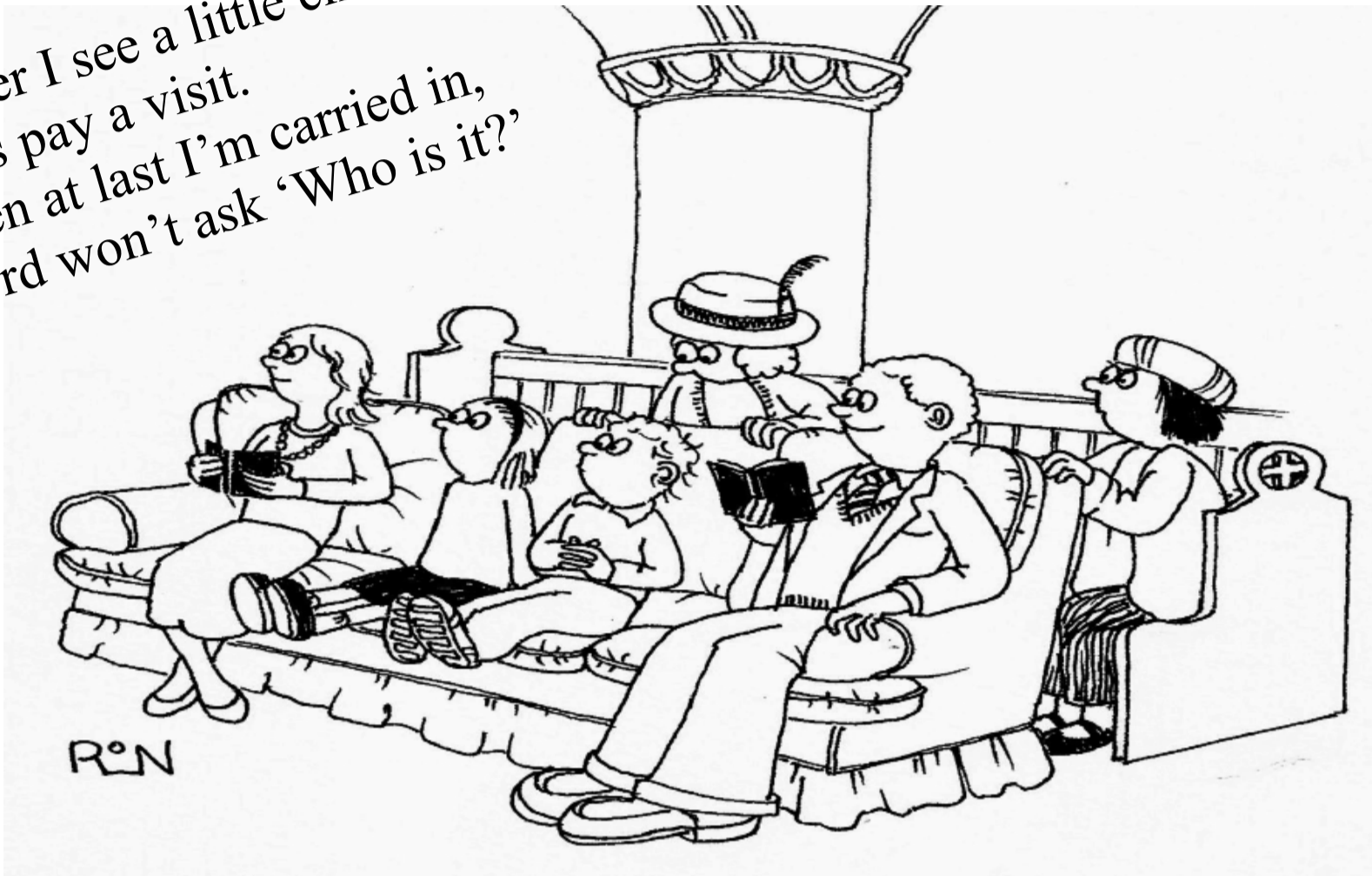
we had the opportunity to share with people who are willing to make the effort to share with us, people we will not bump into on our daily or weekly travels. People whose lives are different from ours but who share our faith in Jesus Christ. The service went well and there were no technical issues (10 hours of work that week to make sure it all happened properly).

Holy Week (not happened yet - or just about happening) is a chance for us to prepare our selves for Easter. For some all the Easter preparation they do is to buy some chocolate eggs, plan some time away and may be send a card or two. Easter is THE most important Christian festival. Christmas was barely celebrated until the time of Queen Victoria. But Easter has always been celebrated. Christmas is the restatement of he promise and Easter is the fulfilment. Without Easter Christmas is just the birth of a child. Without Christmas Easter is still the fulfilment of God's promise of forgiveness. We have the whole period of Lent to prepare for Easter, and that preparation culminates in Holy Week. Once again we will walk through this last week of Jesus' life, listening to what he said, reliving what he did as we seek to revive our understanding of exactly what it was that he did for us. We should all attend at least one of the Holy Week services, ideally more but at least one. We should take the time to pray and prepare ourselves to give humble and hearty thanks for what Jesus has done for us, if we believe it to be important. To do this we need to take the time to consider what he has done for us, what he has taught us and what it all means - this is the purpose of our Holy Week services.

Easter day is different this year. The clocks change on Easter day - moving one hour forward and making the Dawn Service an hour earlier! As said, Easter is the most important of the Christian festivals. Without Easter we would not be here - literally. The world would be a radically different place. Christianity would not have happened as it did. Jesus would have been seen as a prophet, no different to Elijah or Elisha. The influence, both good and bad, that the Christian church has had on the world would never have happened. Civilisation, art, music, science, literature, exploration, colonisation and so much more - all of these things would have been different and the world would be a different place. Our whole life as we know it is dependant on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead - reason enough to give thanks, even if not for our promised salvation. Every blessing to you all this Easter. Mark.

## Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,  
I always pay a visit.  
So when at last I'm carried in,  
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'



*Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class*

## The Hand of Christ

The hand of Christ rests gently on my head,  
Love's blessings flow from God's eternal heart into my veins.  
The Spirit's breath pulsates within my soul  
And in the life that Christ has won for all on Calvary's hill  
I step out gladly into God's Creation,  
There to praise the holy Name of God,  
In triune-majesty forever reigning.

O God most high,  
Most Holy Father, blessed Son,  
and gracious Spirit, Three-in-One.  
We bow before the eternal throne  
and, in the strength of love received,  
we give your love in blessing  
to your world.

By Sam Doubtfire

*Of all the things that will surprise us in the Resurrection morning, this I believe, will surprise us most: that we did not love Christ more before we died. — J C Ryle*

## **Have you time to give a hand?**

Our church exists and is special because we each contribute whatever talents we have to help our church's ministry in Whitehead and Islandmagee.

You may be good at helping to raise funds, or have expertise in electrics or woodcraft, gardening, IT, or cookery? Or perhaps you have musical talent and can sing in the choir, or work with children or assist us with catering, painting, or polishing the brasses?

We are not looking for you to sign your life away, but if you are willing to offer the odd hour to give us a hand we would love to hear from you.

Let us know what you would be willing to do, using the enclosed form, and once completed please drop it off in the basket at the back of church so that we can be in touch.

Whatever you do for our church is not only appreciated, it really makes a difference and we couldn't manage so well without you.

### **Wildflower Seeds Appeal for St John's Graveyard**

Can you help by donating a packet or two of seeds so that we can create wild flower patches in the graveyard? Not only will it make the graveyard look nicer, but it will also encourage wild insects and pollinators

Mowing the grass around cathedrals and churches is a relatively modern practice. Before the invention of the lawn mower in 1830, and its adoption by Victorian gardeners, the ground would have been covered with diverse plants, managed by passing feet, cutting with a scythe and grazed by wild or domestic animals.

But now there is a move away from uniformly flat, green spaces around churches, and a growing trend for letting the grass grow. Wildflower seeds are often added as appropriate and the area becomes an attraction in its own right.

A 'letting the grass grow in May and wildflower seed planting project' would promote biodiversity, help reconnect people with nature, provide a focus for worship, education and campaigning, and act as a witness to the care Christians have for all of God's creation.

So if you can donate some wildflower seeds please bring them with you to church for the attention of Jim Reid (Glebe Warden) at St John's Church or Sandra Thompson (Church Treasurer) at St Patrick's Church.

Many thanks

# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 7:14-10:29, 12:21-23, 29-33, 14:5-29

God told Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt, but he refused. God then showed his power over Egypt (and its gods)...

The Nile turned blood red (Hapi)

Frogs (Heket)

Gnats (Geb)

Swarms (Khepri)

Death of livestock (Hathor)

Boils and sores (Sekhmet)

Hail (Seth and Nut)

Locusts (Nepri)

Darkness (Ra)

..but Pharaoh still said 'No!'

God told the Hebrews to prepare to leave, and each family to kill and cook a lamb. He told them.



Mark your house door with the lamb's blood.



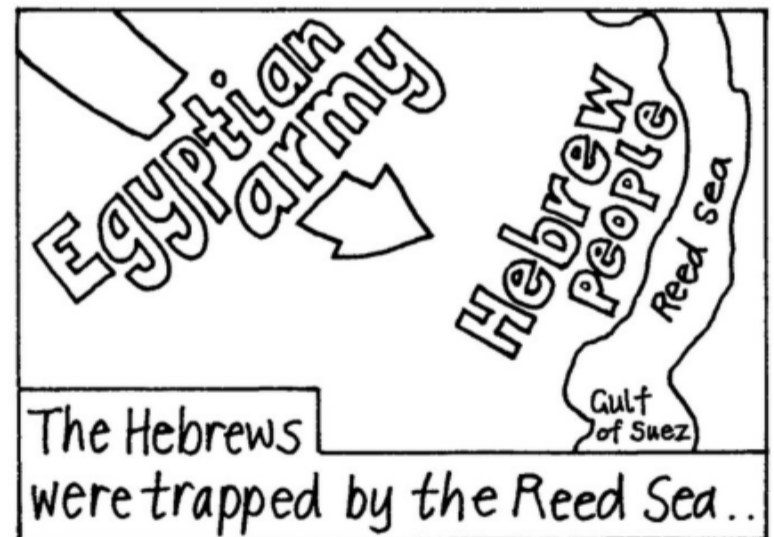
That night, in each un-marked house, the eldest son died.



The Hebrews left Egypt...



but Pharaoh followed with his army.



The Hebrews were trapped by the Reed Sea..

God made a cloud to hide them from the Egyptians..



and sent a wind. By morning the sea bed was dry and they walked across..



..but as the Egyptians followed, the water flowed back.



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t	f	v	v	d	a	r	k	n	e	s	s
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Nile  
locusts  
army  
slaves  
gnats  
sea  
family  
darkness

door  
lamb  
wind  
water  
swarms  
Hebrews  
frogs  
livestock

house  
power  
Egyptians  
Pharaoh  
hail  
blood  
cloud  
death

## Ukraine is paying for our security ‘with money and blood’ – Archbishop Justin Welby

The Church of England General Synod has issued a call to reaffirm support for Ukraine, as the Archbishop of Canterbury said he could not be “neutral” in the face of the aggression of Vladimir Putin.

Archbishop Justin Welby, who visited Ukraine ahead of the second anniversary of the Russian full-scale invasion, said the country is “paying for our security with money but also with blood”.

He also said the current international situation is possibly more dangerous than at any time since the run-up to the Second World War, other than the Cuban Missile Crisis,.

He was speaking as Synod overwhelmingly supported a motion calling on all UK political parties to affirm their continued support for Ukraine and supporting the work of churches and others working for “peace, justice and reconciliation” in Ukraine.

Archbishop Justin highlighted recent warnings about the global situation. “We are on the edge of something that none of us have seen in our lifetimes, and it involves powers with nuclear weapons,” he said.

“I am not neutral - I will listen to both sides and I hope we all will, - but Ukraine is paying for our security with money but also with blood.

“We are paying with money. It is so utterly different.



“They are defending the international rules-based order and settling that question, to use a phrase of Bismarck’s, with iron and blood.

“As someone said to me three weeks ago in Ukraine - a soldier who had just come back from the front, battle-shattered needing trauma treatment ... ‘we have the 21st Century drones and the First World War bayonet and we are using both equally’.”

He spoke about developments in military technology including the development of AI-assisted drone attacks.

“This is an immensely dangerous time, and we have probably not seen a time as dangerous, apart from Cuba, since 1938,” he said.

“And what we do looking forward will put into a shadow all the other things we discuss, what we do as a nation.”

Opening the debate, Mark Sheard, chair of the Church of England’s Mission and Public Affairs Council, highlighted the “staggering numbers” of people killed and injured and said support for Ukraine must be for the “long term”.

Mr Sheard, who recently retired as Chief Executive of World Vision, the Christian relief and development agency, spoke of his personal experiences of meeting refugees fleeing Ukraine and the mounting challenges of mental health, psychosocial support and rehabilitation for those affected by the war.

“We should not forget that behind each statistic there is an individual, made in the image of God, whose life has been shattered or destroyed,” he said.

“The reality of war is suffering and loss and its effects will last long after the guns fall silent.

“Our response therefore cannot be fleeting - we need to be there for the long term. Our response must evolve as we better understand the war’s costs – whether that be helping individuals, families

and communities deal with PTSD or supporting efforts at community reintegration.”

He added: “Synod, I recognise that as we pass the war’s second anniversary there is a risk of fatigue with the war’s slow attritional grind. “We can feel overwhelmed by a series of crises around the world – Gaza and Sudan, Myanmar and Nagorno-Karabakh to name but a few.

“We can feel disheartened by electoral politics in the US and what it means for the war effort in Ukraine, the future of Nato and our own wider security.

“But Synod, I take comfort and encouragement from Galatians 6:9 – ‘Let us not become weary in doing good; for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up’.”



## 1 April - All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1<sup>st</sup> April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.



And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'



*...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!*

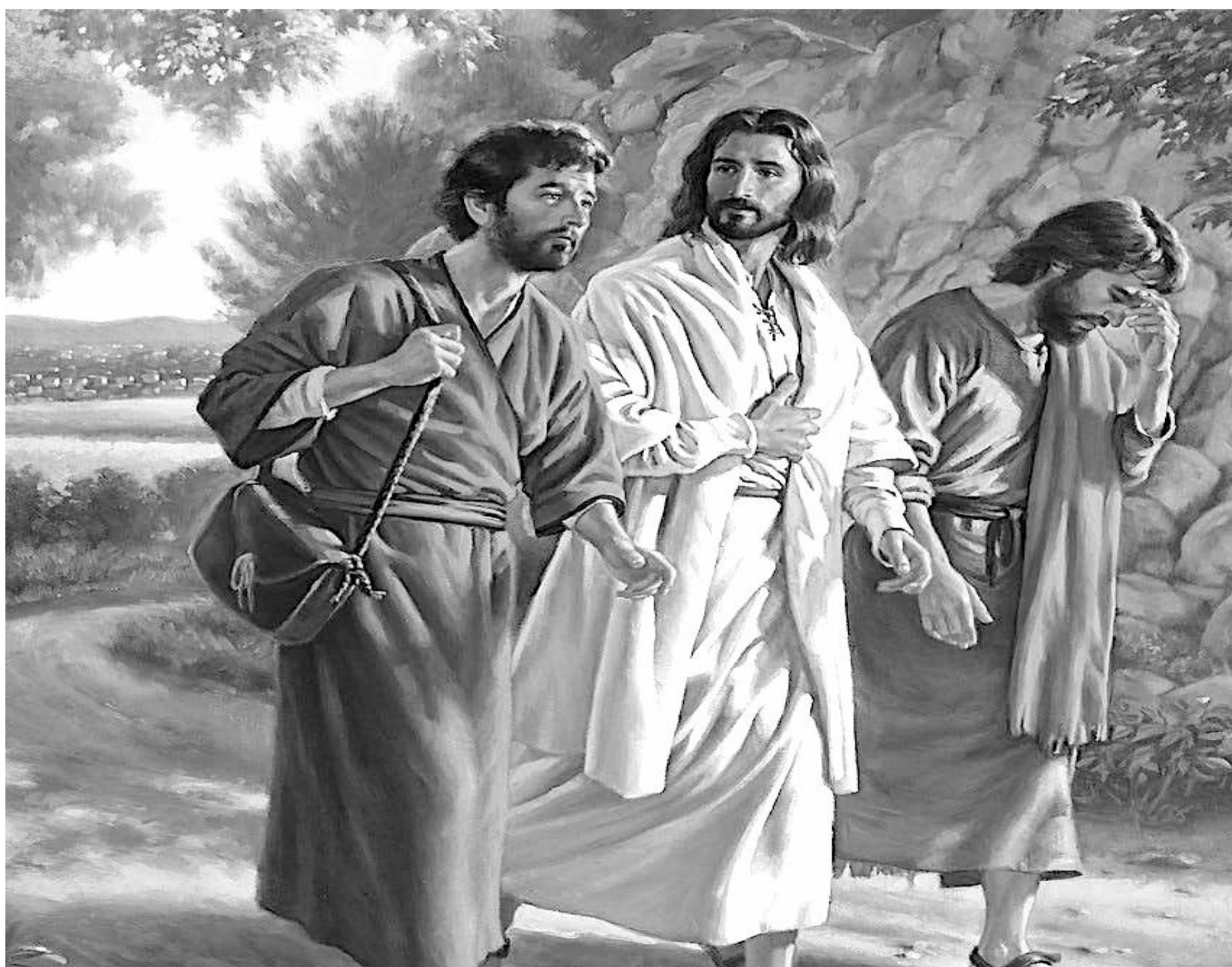
## The Easter Glow

*In the aftermath of Easter, we consider the road to Emmaus.*

For three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – He was *gone!*

Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two distraught and frightened disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The ‘scattering’ process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ’s arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: “It is written ‘I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered’” (Matthew 26:31).



The dream was over. “Let’s go home - back to Emmaus.” *Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview.* As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely *crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!*

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, “Let me fill in those bits for you.” Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – ‘ *Why.... it’s Jesus. !’*

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem no longer distraught or afraid but elated with new found joy. They can’t keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean - would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!

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## **Prayer for April 2024**

*based on John 20: 19-end*

Almighty Father,

In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh the new life Jesus’ resurrection makes possible.

Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.

Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.

Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.

We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.

**Church Mice**

Karl Zorowski



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# Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury

## Warning...This speech makes for sober reading

*In his Presidential Address at the February sessions of the Church of England's General Synod, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, spoke of the suffering across the world. The following are some short extracts from his address:*

*“In September 2023, Antonio Guterres, Secretary General the United Nations declared the world is coming off its hinges. How should we the followers of Jesus Christ respond?”*

*“Church of England Bishops at consecration commit to all sorts of things, some probable, some improbable, but they don't commit to suffer. By contrast, the Chaldean Church tells its Bishops that they will be the first to suffer...”*

*“And to add to what the Secretary General of the United Nations said, as Lord Cameron said recently, when he looks around at the world today as Foreign Secretary, all the lights are flashing red. We live in a world of suffering. And unlike in the past, it is a world where we are aware of the suffering.*

*“In Europe, the Ukrainian Russian war is frozen. And the suffering of the people in Ukraine has increased, not least because it has been replaced as the principal concern by the havoc and horror of the Levant and all that is going on in that area.*

*“But there is much more. Sudan... Myanmar... northeast India... the South Pacific... the Philippines... Korea... Pakistan... Nigeria... Mozambique ...Haiti....Israel..Gaza..*

*“Pope Francis a few months ago described what is already happening as a third world war. Right or wrong, he is describing a state of global uncertainty and great change.*

*“Like all such periods, minorities are blamed for uncertainties, conspiracies are assumed where there is uncontrollability and leaders are criticised where the future is hard to see.*

*“In 1939, George Bell wrote an article on the behaviour of the Church in a time of war. 'What should the Church do in a time of war?' it was*



entitled.

*“His simple conclusion was that the right strategy... is to be even more the Church. We must be even more the Church with all our challenges and difficulties and as we work through them ...*

*“Suffering and enemies are faced best in communities that trust across divides, rather than in self protecting, and reinforcing huddles, because the very act of trusting across the divides builds our resilience and our ability to see the best in others...*

*“At the end of April, we will have a meeting of primates of the Anglican Communion in Rome. There we will look at what the Communion could do to remain in a variable geometry of unity, but also an unvarying commitment of love in Christ. Those two expressions vary in geometry of unity and unvarying commitment of love in Christ offer us all a way forward in holy obedience to God.*

*“God is our refuge. God is our refuge, not our politics and our organisations. They are realities of any structured life, of any institution, they're not evils, but God is our refuge, they never will be.*

*“God is greater than our fears, than our enemies and in our failures. God is unbreakably faithful to covenant and promise. When that is our comfort and peace, then in this world, at this time, off its hinges, we can in all our troubles, be truly the Church we should be, truly God's Church in God's world.”*

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## Called to be Fools!

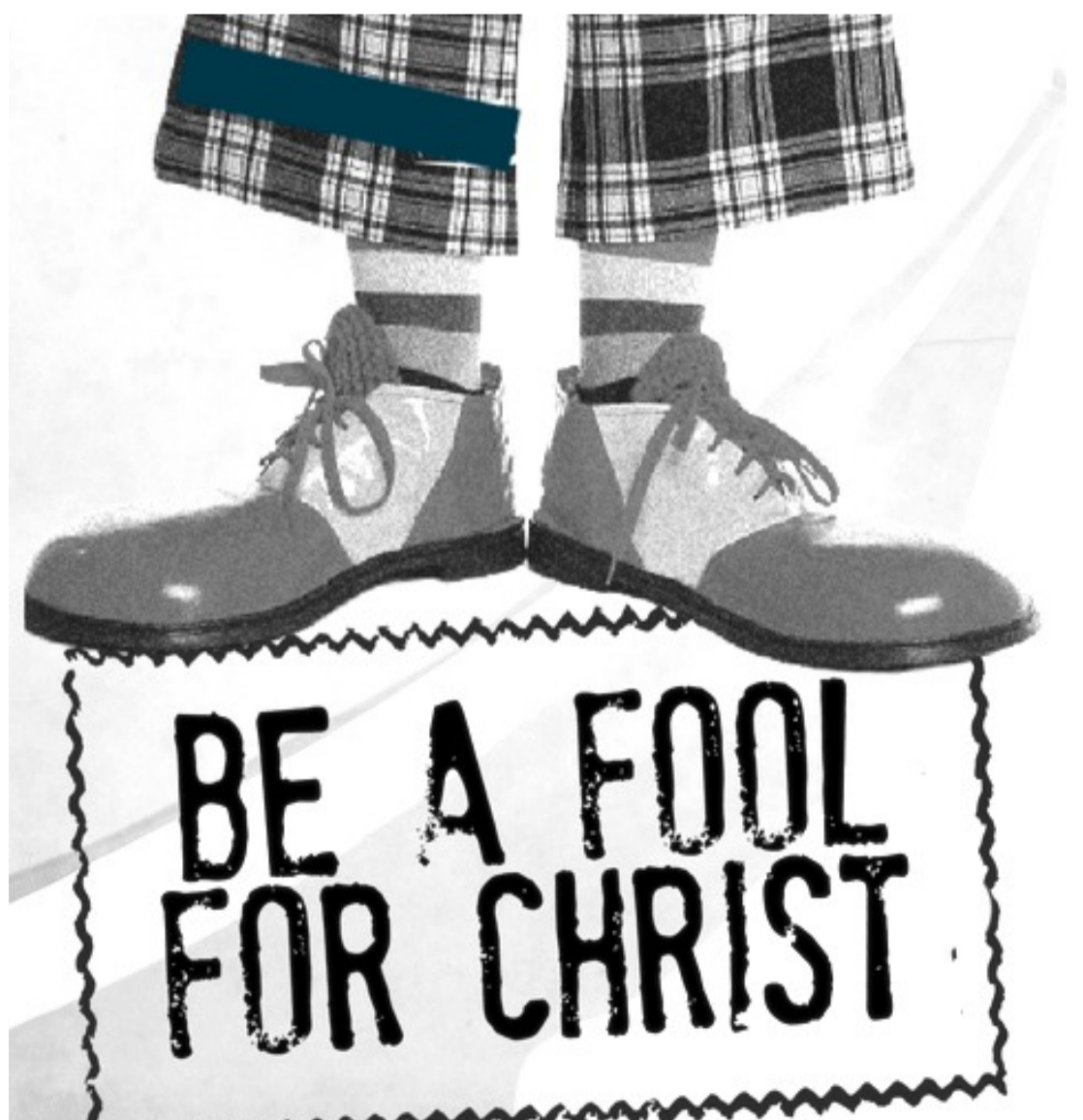
April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month and it does provide more than a chance to play tricks or act silly.

The whole notion of foolishness has a long tradition with deep meaning in the Christian tradition. Grounded in Paul's words to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 4:10, where Paul writes, "We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honour, but we in disrepute." Paul was talking about the sacrifice that he and others were making to share the good news about what God had done in Jesus.

This term "fools for Christ," was eventually taken up as a badge of honour. It was a title given to those people who had made the "foolish" decision to give up what they had in the world and to take up some sort of simpler and less affluent life. The dessert fathers and mothers (ancient wise leaders who lived in the wilderness and prayed, reflected and wrote about their life with God) gave much attention to the idea. The term was rooted in scripture and lived out in the life of the church. It came to mean "someone who had made apparently foolish worldly choices out of a desire to follow Jesus."

Of course, Jesus was the ultimate fool. Unwilling to make logical choices all along the way, Jesus' life stood out as an oddity. That's what made him so interesting to the crowds. That's what made it so hard for Pilate to figure him out. That's what got him killed.

Let us each reflect on our lives and discern how we are doing at following the risen Christ. Sometimes the things Christians do may look a bit crazy in the eyes of the world. But then again, there may be no greater badge of honour for



us than to be so committed to following Jesus that people look at us and call us “Fools for Christ.

Here's what St Paul wrote on the subject about being ‘fools for Christ’...

‘As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a *‘fool for Christ’* (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

*A foolish message:*

*‘For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.’ (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God’s wisdom and power for our lives.*

*A foolish community:*

*‘But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.’ (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don’t need God.*

*A foolish ministry:*

*‘My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.’ (2:4,5). Paul’s ministry didn’t rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.*

*‘A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.’ (William Shakespeare).*

# THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE GOSPEL



ST. PATRICK'S  
& ST. JOHN'S  
UNITED PARISH OF  
WHITEHEAD & ISLANDMAGEE.

# JOIN OUR CHOIR



St Patrick's Church of Ireland in Whitehead, is looking for singers to join the newly formed Church Choir led by Loreto McAuley.

**We welcome singers of all skill levels.  
Rehearsal before Sunday morning service.**

For more info contact Rev Mark Taylor, Tel: 077 1961 9286

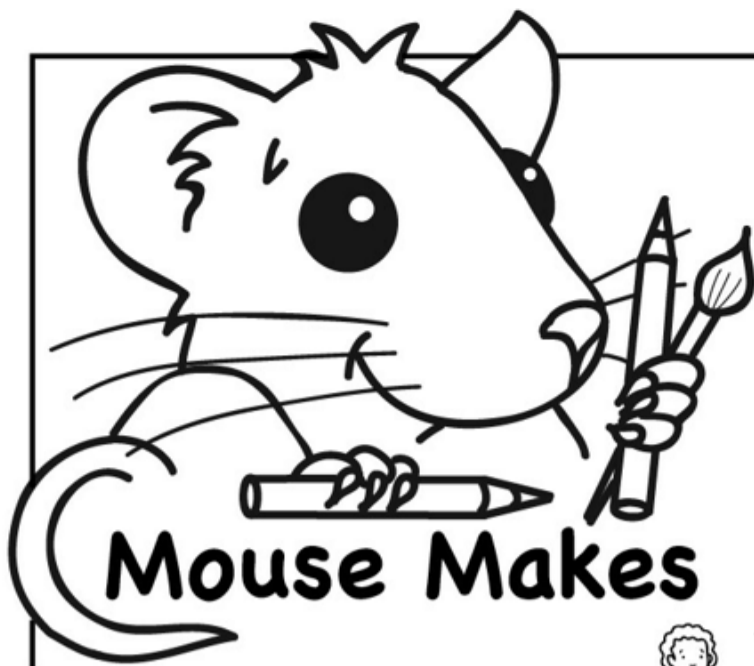
We are an inclusive, affirming and welcoming Church

## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.



He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



**READ**

the story in **John 21**



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

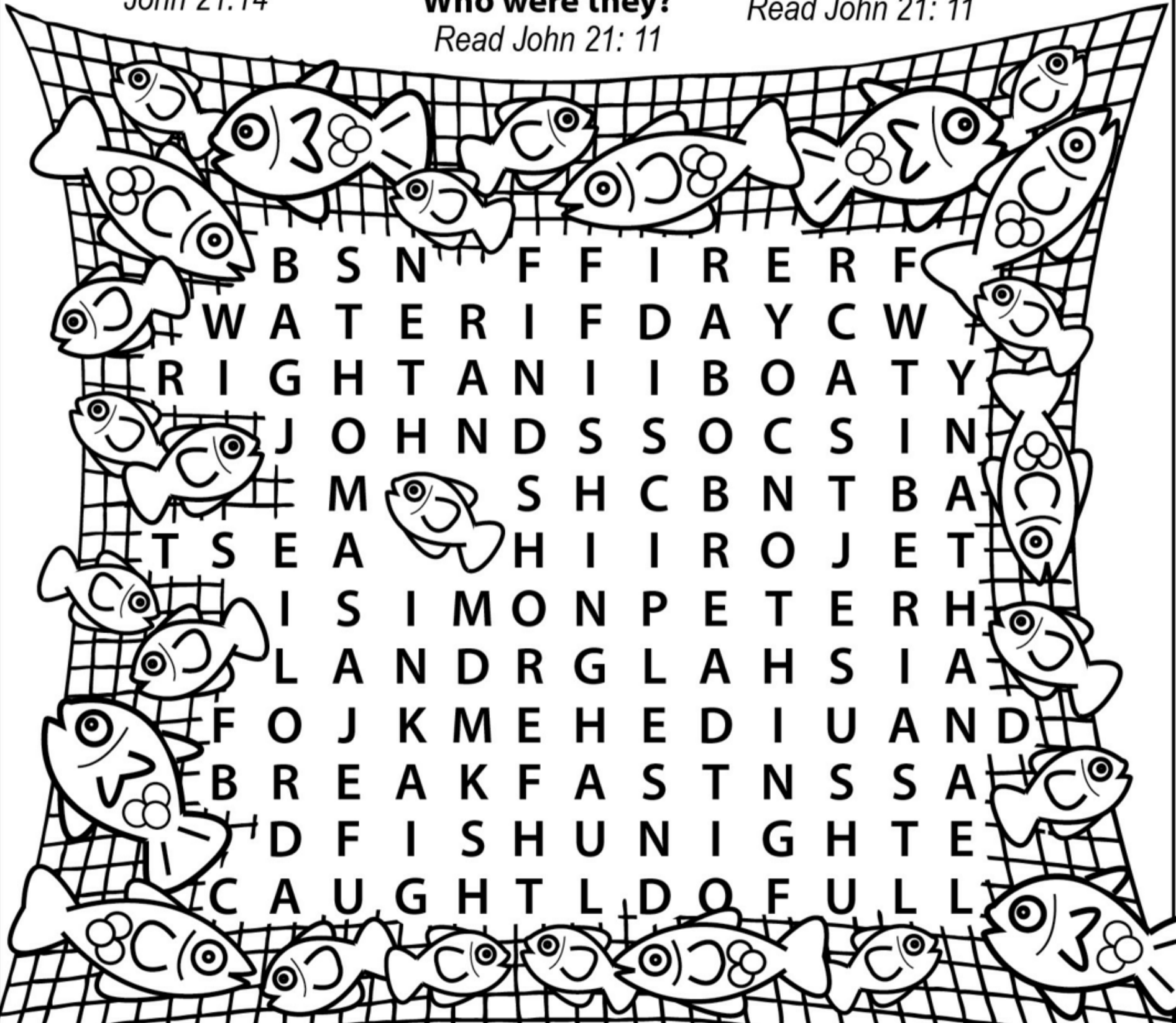
Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEAL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

## The Rectory St James the Least

### **On why a church should always resist change**



My dear Nephew Darren

I am not the least surprised you have got yourself into trouble; innovation is never to be encouraged. New ideas tend to cause revolutions. The move from incandescent lightbulbs to energy saving ones may ultimately change the Church of England.

Change is something everyone claims to be in favour of – provided it has no measurable effect on their own lives. I remember as a young curate once suggesting that at the Harvest Supper, tables might be enlarged so that eight people could sit together rather than the traditional six, thus helping more people get to know one another. The response would have been similar if I had suggested we travel to London to murder the Prime Minister. I was firmly told that tables for six had been perfectly adequate for parishioners in Queen Victoria's day. For the rest of my curacy, I was regarded as a revolutionary, to be watched carefully.

So, at your last visit to our church, to suggest that our 11am Mattins might be moved to 10.30am, in order to encourage those who wanted to have more of the day free to themselves, certainly lobbed a hand grenade among the post-Service coffee cups. The only person who was mildly in favour was Colonel Wainwright, who quickly realised that it would give him an extra half-hour at the gin and tonics before lunch.

Should you ever feel that people lack imagination, you should watch them in action when they find reasons for resisting an unwelcome suggestion. One said that the time couldn't be moved, since it would then be too early for the local bus – omitting to mention that none of our congregation travel to church by bus and that the service doesn't run on Sundays anyway. Another pointed out that it would confuse

those who didn't attend church – not explaining why if they never attended, it mattered what time the Service was. A third, rather touchingly mentioned that it wouldn't give the rector time to enjoy his breakfast after the rigours of the 8am Service.

Your suggestion did, however, serve one useful purpose; it brought our congregation together in united opposition. They may not necessarily always know what they are for, but they certainly know what they are against. For that, I thank you.

Your loving uncle

*Eustace*

Sooo... I shipped the  
dog to Canada.



Oh... don't worry. I poked some air holes and did express shipping so he should be there in no time.



### BOOK REVIEW

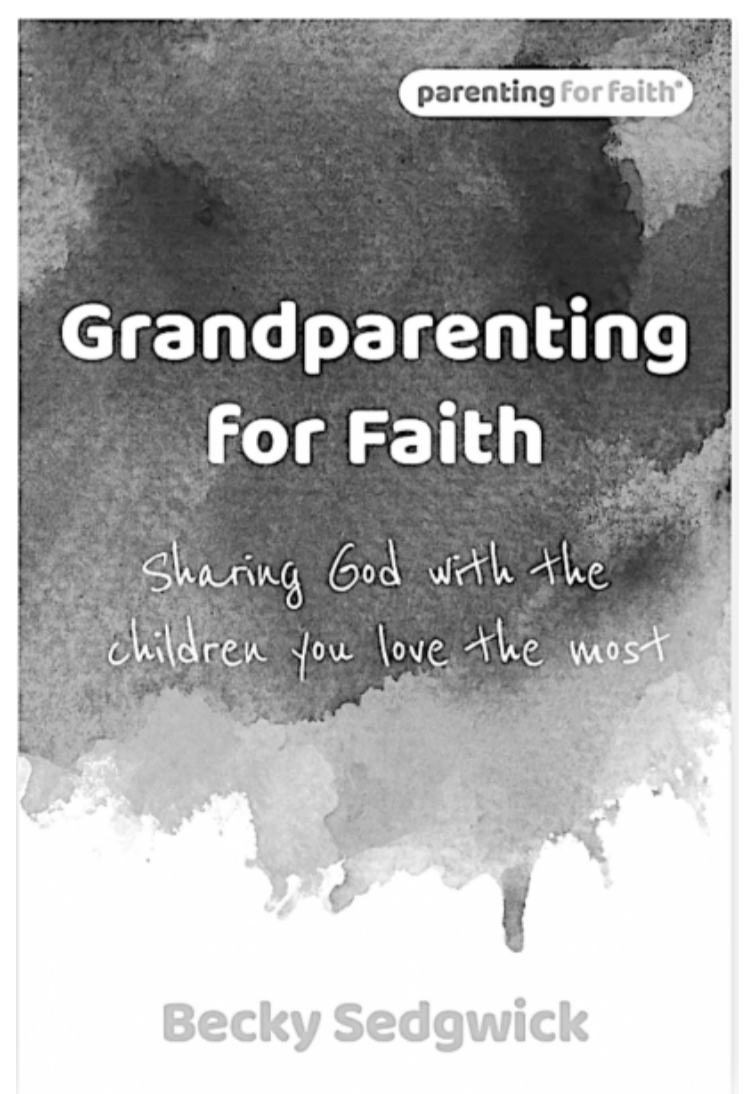
## Grandparenting for Faith: sharing God with the children you love the most

By Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99

Grandparenting brings the opportunity to walk spiritually alongside our grandchildren, offering tools and skills for the journey.

Whatever your circumstances, God has positioned you to be a unique voice, speaking into your grandchildren's lives, helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them.

This book will help grandparents to encourage and equip their grandchildren to know God better.

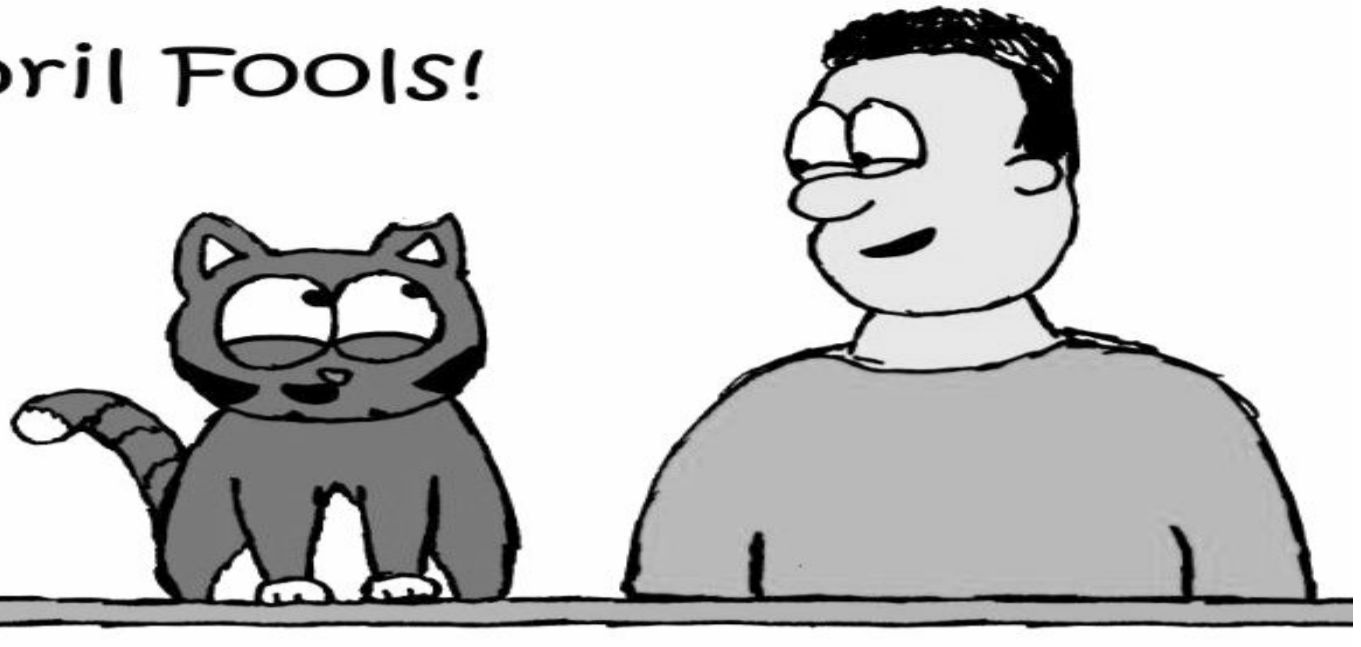




Ha! Gotcha!

April Fools!

**See page 39**



## Prayer Walking in our community

*Prayer walking is just what it sounds. You pray as you walk.*

What is the point? Think of it as stepping out as God's children, to intercede for those who are living in your community. Be intentional about praying for God's blessings on what you see and feel.

Simply praying: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done..." is an excellent start.

Prayer walking is NOT about being seen to be praying, you are not doing it to 'show off'. It is about seeing your neighbourhood with compassion, and then praying for God's mercy and blessing to be upon it.

So, as you go along, you can pray quietly, or in silence. If you do want to pray out loud, take a friend along, so that it will seem merely as if you are chatting. In fact, when you do a prayer walk, it is best not to do it alone. Always try and go with someone else. After all, Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs.

On your prayer walk, try and be aware of what God is saying to you as you move around the community. As the former Archbishop of York, Lord Sentamu, once advised: "If any Bible verses pop into your head or if you have any pictures, visions or words of knowledge, turn these into prayer."

At the end of the prayer walk, share with others what you prayed for, and heard from God. Write any impressions down, so you can keep track of how you have prayed for your area.

Again, to quote Lord Sentamu, "If you feel that God has highlighted specific needs or challenges, think about how to take action. Could you or the church be part of God's solution practically, as well as prayerfully?"

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# Rhubarb & Custard Scones Recipe

From BBC Good Food

Preparation and cooking time 20 mins. **Cook:** 22 mins plus chilling time.

**Makes 6**

These delicious scones feature one of Britain's best loved flavour combinations: rhubarb and custard. Serve with clotted cream for an enjoyable afternoon tea in the garden



## Ingredients

- 300g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
- 50g custard powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 50g caster sugar
- 95g cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 150-175ml whole milk
- 1 egg, beaten
- clotted cream, to serve

## **For the rhubarb compote**

- 250g rhubarb, roughly chopped (or use chopped frozen rhubarb)
- 100g caster or granulated sugar
- 1 lemon, zested
- ½ tsp vanilla bean paste
- drop of red food colouring gel (optional)

## Method

1. Mix the flour, custard powder,  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp fine salt, the baking powder and sugar together in a large bowl. Rub the butter into the dry ingredients using your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

2. Gradually mix in the milk using your hands until you have a smooth dough – you may not need it all. Gently roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface to a 2cm thickness. Transfer to a baking tray lined with baking parchment, cover and chill for 30 mins to firm up, or up to 1 hr if you want to get ahead.

3. Meanwhile, make the rhubarb compote. Tip all the ingredients into a large saucepan along with 2 tbsp water (omit the water if you're using frozen rhubarb). Simmer over a medium heat for 10-15 mins, stirring occasionally until the rhubarb has softened and is almost collapsing, and the mixture has thickened. If you're using frozen rhubarb, you may like to stir in a drop of red food colouring to enhance the pink colour. Transfer the compote to a bowl and leave to cool completely.

4. Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7 and remove the dough from the fridge. Line a baking tray with baking parchment. Stamp out three or four scones from the dough using a 7cm round biscuit cutter (see tip below). Arrange the scones on the prepared tray, leaving a 2cm gap between each.

5. Roll the remaining dough out again as in step two, then stamp out as many scones as you can (you should get about six in total). Transfer these to the tray as well, then brush all the scones with the beaten egg (see tip below). Bake for 10-12 mins until the tops are golden brown, then leave to cool completely on the tray. Serve with the rhubarb compote and clotted cream. *Best eaten the day they're made.*



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## **The pet crisis**

More than half of us in the UK own a pet. That is 17 million households. But we are abandoning them at an alarming rate. The RSPCA warns we are offloading our animals at “unmanageable levels,” and stretching their welfare services to the limit.



The turning point was the pandemic. Stuck at home during lock down, we went animal-mad, and our pet dogs soared from nine million in 2019 to 13 million in 2022.

But four million puppies purchased during the pandemic was not a good idea. Since then, a fifth of all those puppies have been reported as having behavioural problems such as clinginess, aggression, or being very hard to train.

On top of that, the cost-of-living crisis has left many people struggling to even feed their pet. According to the Office for National Statistics, the cost of owning a dog is estimated to have jumped by 12.8 per cent – around £256 – over the past year to total around £2,500.

All in all, it is the ‘perfect storm’. The RSPCA received 20,999 reports of abandoned animals last year. That is 5,000 more than in 2020.

### **You can do something to help....**

Either support one of the many animal welfare organisations in Northern Ireland such as the UCPSA with a donation, or you might even consider re homing an animal that has been abandoned.

Adopting a pet is incredibly fulfilling and great fun, but it is a serious decision that needs serious thought. Before re homing a pet, it is important that you are aware of what your preferred pet will need and whether or not you can make the commitment to them. Please do not rush into adopting an animal but seriously consider it and think about the following questions:

**Do you have time for a pet? Can you afford a new pet?**

**Where will they sleep? Do you live in rented accommodation?**

**Where will you leave your new pet during the day?**

**Will you be able to exercise them daily?**

**If you go on holiday, where will your pet go?**

The USPCA are always happy to receive enquiries about animal adoption, so if you would like to find out more about how you can help and to register your interest, just contact their centre by calling 028 3025 1000. Or visit their Website: [uspca.co.uk](http://uspca.co.uk)

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## 50 years of ABBA!

Fifty years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1974, the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song *Waterloo*. It was the first time that Sweden won the contest. ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

The victory, in Brighton, was just the first step on the road to conquering the world, as far as pop music was concerned. The songs, written mainly by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, were matched by the passion, exuberance and good looks of singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid 'Frida' Lyngstad, who later married them – and even later, divorced them.

The name of the group came from the initials of the four Christian names. Some have suggested a link to the biblical Abba and looked for Jewish themes in their songs, but this is wishful thinking. While Anni-Frid (who was born Norwegian) may be Christian, Björn is definitely an outspoken atheist. In fact, ABBA is the name of a Swedish canned fish company that had to give permission for the singers to use it – a decision they are unlikely to have regretted.

Both *Waterloo* and ABBA achieved worldwide superstar status quickly – no small feat for a group performing in a language that is not their own. The film *ABBA – the Movie* and the musical *Mamma Mia* and its sequel, featuring their compelling songs, were huge successes. It is estimated that the musical has been seen by more than 60 million people worldwide.

ABBA hit the jackpot again when their revolutionary new project, *ABBA Voyage*, launched in 2022. In it, Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid perform their love songs digitally with a live 10-piece band, in a purpose-built ABBA arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. Not bad for four divorcees in their 70s.



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# ***April Church Activities***

## **Together in Faith Group**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> April 7.30pm**

Meet in the Boucher Room, Parochial Hall at St Patrick's Church.

## **Book Club**

Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of the month  
(Contact Paddy Rodgers tel 07720 404071  
for venue & date )

## **Wednesday Morning Fellowship**

### **Group** (Monthly)

Next meeting will be on WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> April  
at 11am  
in the Boucher Room.

New members welcome. We start with refreshments and fellowship . 'We will be looking at The Lord's Prayer'.

### **Also**

**Every Week the following 2 groups meet:**

## ***Circus Skills Class***

***Tuesdays @ 10.30am - Parochial Hall***

## ***Indoor Bowling Club***

***Tuesdays from 7pm - Parochial Hall***

***New people always welcome to join in***

## **Parish Announcements**

***The General Easter Vestry meeting will be held on Weds 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in the Boucher Room***

---

### **Counters for April**

7<sup>th</sup> April Colin de Fleury    14<sup>th</sup> April Sandra Thompson  
21<sup>st</sup> April Brian Joyce    28<sup>th</sup> April Bill Rafferty  
5<sup>th</sup> May Bert Thompson

---

### **Sunday Refreshments Rota**

7<sup>th</sup> April Joan & Jack McKinney    14<sup>th</sup> March Messy Church  
21<sup>st</sup> April Scotty Heyes    28<sup>th</sup> Heather Cupples  
5<sup>th</sup> May Inez & Brian Moore

**Refreshments coordinator Priscilla Carlisle    Tel 07787561517**

---

### **Game On Meeting in April**

Meeting in the Library on Wednesday

10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> April at 1.30pm

New participants always welcome . And if you are a bit shy, just come and see what games we play first. Of course there will be tea and biscuits served.

---

### **Brasso Club this month**

**Meets on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 10am**

Bring rubber gloves, some old rags and an old tooth brush if you have one. We use the main church door to enter the church, not the church hall entrance.



come  
as you  
are

We would love to see you.  
Why not join us at 10.30am on Sunday

# You Are Welcome Here

No matter:

- Where you've come from or are going;
- What you believe or doubt;
- What you are feeling or just not feeling;
- What you have or don't have; and
- No matter whom you love!



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# Youth Fellowship

Youth Fellowship / Sunday Brunch will be held on

**SUNDAY 7TH APRIL**

.All young people of secondary school age or older are really welcome. We meet in St Patrick's at 10.30 and join in the first few minutes of the morning service before moving to the hall for snacks, Bible study, prayer and fun. If you want to find out more, contact Stephen Martin ([Stepheneddu@gmail.com](mailto:Stepheneddu@gmail.com))

Given the approach of exam season, we'll take a pause after that until September. Thanks to everyone who has been involved this year and we look forward to seeing you along with some new faces (please pray for this) in September.

Stephen Martin  
Youth Fellowship Leader

## ***Guide Dog Event***

***In St Patrick's Church Hall***

***On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 1pm***

***Coffee Morning &  
Guide Dogs Road Show.***

Call Gary Wilson for more details Tel - 028 9523 2732

ADVANCE NOTICE    ADVANCE NOTICE

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

*Dear Reader*

*I hope you enjoy reading this month's magazine which is a mixture of serious and fun topics.*

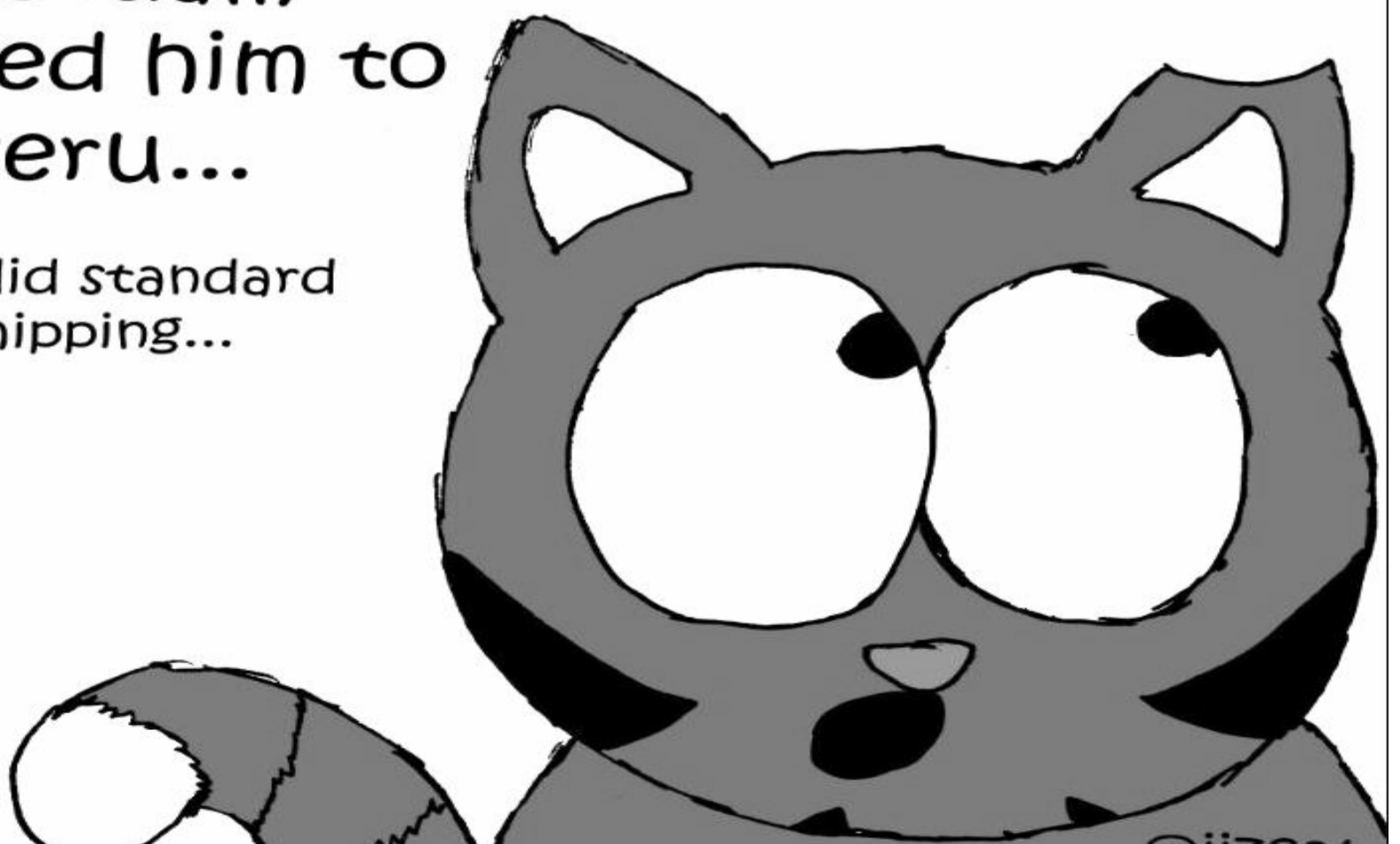
*A Special Thank you to everyone who supported our Lenten Lunches which were most successful this year, and watch out for the cheque presentations to our 9 chosen local charities coming up soon*

*Please spread the word about all that's happening in church and encourage family and friends to attend these activities.*

*Stay well and God Bless.*

I actually  
shipped him to  
Peru...

and did standard  
shipping...



# **WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH**

**Rector: Revd Canon Mark Taylor,**

72 Riverforde T: 028 9337 3300 E: mark205@btinternet.com

**Mobile: 07719 619286**

**George McNeill Diocesan Lay Reader**

Facebook: St Patrick's & St Johns Whitehead & Islandmagee

Twitter: @Whitehead\_Col

Email: churchofirelandwhitehead@gmail.com

Website: **[www.whitehead-islandmagee-parish.co.uk](http://www.whitehead-islandmagee-parish.co.uk)**

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People's:	Mabel Allen	Pauline Riddle

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Sandra Thompson - Hon Treasurer 07912478331

Ann Mulholland; Bill Pollock; Alison Higginson;

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Priscilla Carlisle; Austin Jenkins - Graveyard Manager St John's

## Sunday School Leaders

St Patrick's: Frances Taylor      St John's: Sara Henderson

## Youth Fellowship Leader

Stephen Martin - stepheneddu@gmail.com

Safeguarding Trust Evelyn Powers 9337 2535 Valerie Kincaid 9335 3748

Flowers: St Patrick's: Judith de Fleury 07855736510

St. John's: Ann Thompson 9338 2295

FWO & Gift Aid Sec: Sandra Thompson 07912478331

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